

soziologische vorträge



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Sommersemester 2014
Institut für Soziologie

soziologische stadtforschung

Globalization and City-Making

Dienstag, 8. April 2014, 17:30-19:00, Seminarraum 3

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Migrants, City-Making and Displacement in Vienna and Linz

The competitive positioning in various fields of power puts pressure on cities to attract capital, to revalue urban spaces and property, and to support the settlement of a “post-industrial” economy. Culture-led urban renewal is often used as a strategy to meet these challenges.

Yet also migrants contribute to the differential positioning of cities – both as agents and subjects. The paper therefore addresses the following questions:

How are migrants positioned by urban regenerators and city leaders?

Which roles do they play in urban regeneration processes and resistances as well as reformulations of these processes?

Based on fieldwork material collected in Vienna and Linz, I will address these questions by putting a special emphasis on migrants and displacement.

Florian Huber holds a PhD in Sociology and is researcher at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna. He is teaching at the Department of Sociology (University of Vienna) and the University of Applied Sciences. He is also a founding Member of the Section on Social Inequality at the Austrian Sociological Association.

Caroline Rozenholc

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The neighbourhood (of Florentin): a window to the globalisation of the city (of Tel-Aviv)

The southern neighbourhoods of Tel Aviv – the poorest and most diverse ones – are a rich fieldwork for reflecting on the processes of globalisation in cities. Swinging between long-term neglect and new trends of investments, the neighbourhood of Florentin is one of them. Assembling activities, populations and uses, Florentin’s atmosphere is often described as “cool” and “exotic” but also as “authentic”. This paradox between authenticity and radical urban changes can be understood by digging in the urban history of Tel-Aviv. Interviews with inhabitants and public officers, municipal archives, street-art analysis and participation in local associations, allow to re-read the city and its most contemporary developments. Florentin thus functions as a prism through which to observe the place, the city and some of the fast transformations of the Israeli society.

Caroline Rozenholc, PhD, is a social geographer. She has been teaching Urban studies in Poitiers, Limoges and Clermont-Ferrand Universities and is now Associate Teaching Fellow at Paris-Val de Seine National School of Architecture in Human and Social Sciences. She collaborates to several international research projects on migration and urban changes.