

TALES OF TRANSFORMATION: WORKSHOP ON POSTSOCIALIST AND POSTCOLONIAL CITIES AS LABORATORIES OF CHANGE 5 – 6 JUNE 2025, INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM CHEMNITZ

Workshop (in English) organised by **Prof. Dr. Cecile Sandten** (TU Chemnitz) and **Jun. Prof. Dr.-Ing. Daniela Zupan** (Bauhaus-Universität Weimar), in collaboration with the Industrial Museum Chemnitz and the Association for Literary Urban Studies (ALUS)

Cities in postsocialist and post-Soviet Europe underwent rapid and profound transformation after the fall of state socialism. These processes affected cities on multiple scales, including the planning institutions, the built environments and the everyday practices. As laboratories of change, postsocialist cities thus provide particularly promising entry points into the study of urban transformation.

In collaboration with Cecile Sandten's seminar "Tales of Transformation: Fictions of the South Asian City" (TU Chemnitz, Chair of English Literatures) and Daniela Zupan's "Tales of Transformation: Postsocialist Cities as Laboratories of Change" (Bauhaus-Universität Weimar), the workshop investigates urban transformations through lectures, site visits, museum tours, and creative research projects. This interdisciplinary exchange enables a comparative lens on urban change across postcolonial and postsocialist contexts. In postcolonial metropolises, literature serves as a vital medium to trace spatial, social, and emotional dimensions of transformation, revealing how cities are imagined, contested, and reconfigured in response to historical ruptures and contemporary pressures – allowing for a broader understanding of urban change across different historical and cultural settings.

The event in Chemnitz forms the second part of a two-part workshop series, following the first installment held in May 2025 at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar.

Registration: Christiane Seyfert
(christiane.seyfert@phil.tu-chemnitz.de)
Venue: Industrial Museum Chemnitz
Zwickauerstraße 119, 09112 Chemnitz

(Photo: Garage Campus, Chemnitz 2022,
Cecile Sandten)



TALES OF TRANSFORMATION: POSTSOCIALIST AND POSTCOLONIAL CITIES AS LABORATORIES OF CHANGE

- Programme for Thursday, 5th of June 2025 -

11:00	Welcome & Coffee
11:45 – 12:45	Dr. Lieven Ameen (Tampere University), Keynote Lecture (Q&A) "Transforming Urban Waterfronts – Dreams, Schemes and Unruly Realities"
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:00	PD Dr. Nora Pleßke (Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg), Keynote Lecture (Q&A) "From Brownfield to Green City: Contemporary Storytelling and Scripting in Urban Transformation"
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee Break
15:15 – 16:00	Museum Tour Exhibition <i>Tales of Transformation</i> / Students' Free Space (presentation preparation, free walks)
16:15 – 17:00	Museum Tour Exhibition <i>Tales of Transformation</i> / Students' Free Space (presentation preparation, free walks)
19:00	Discussion & Dinner (Open Space, Brückenstraße 10, 09111 Chemnitz, <i>tba</i>)

- Programme for Friday, 6th of June 2025 -

09:00 – 09:15	Welcome
09:15 – 10:15	Students' Presentations
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 – 12:30	Students' Presentations
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 16:00	Guided Tour through Chemnitz (viewing transformative spaces)
16:00 – 16:30	Rounding off (sharing of impressions) and Farewell (University Library TU Chemnitz, Alte Aktienspinnerei)