

CHRONICLE

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THE 15TH CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR URBAN HISTORY: INEQUALITY AND THE CITY
ANTWERP (BELGIUM), 31 AUGUST – 3 SEPTEMBER 2022

In 2022, the European Association for Urban History continued the tradition of interdisciplinary scientific conferences focused on topics and research aspects from the field of urban history. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic in Europe the International Committee of the EAUH had decided to postpone the 15th EAUH Conference in 2020. The improvement of the pandemic situation in 2022 made it possible to organize the conference from 31 August to 3 September at the University of Antwerp in Belgium.

The main ambition of the EAUH 2022 Conference – Inequality and the City – was to reconsider the historical relationship between urbanization and inequality since cities are indeed perceived as loci of inequality, in the past as well as today. With this intention, lectures reflecting on the complex relationship between social inequality and the city from a multi-dimensional perspective were given in almost 90 sessions. The goal of the conference was to capture the problem of inequality not only from a perspective of economic and social historians but also in terms of spatial dynamics, gender, race and class relations, demographic structures, housing and sanitary conditions, labour markets, social security systems, literacy and education, crime, public transport, ecological concerns and so on.

After the opening ceremony with keynote speech and reception a number of stimulating lectures were given over four time slots per day (two on the first and last days). Each day was also ended with a communal keynote lecture and naturally there were cultural activities and main reception as well as a post-conference tour in Antwerp.

The Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice was as regular represented at the conference. Martin Pekár, in cooperation with Andrea Pokludová from the University of Ostrava, prepared a session *Lost Neighbours* within the project VEGA 1/0109/22. This session focused on Jewish communities in the formation process of modern civil society after 1848 in the context of the everyday problems with integration, assimilation and multiculturalism during society-wide modernization that the “new” Jewish communities faced. The aim was to present the results of the research on majority–minority interaction in the urban environment as a necessary precondition for any detailed understanding of the social background of the anti-Semitism and its consequences in the form of anti-Semitic policy during the Holocaust. In the mentioned session, Zuzana Tokárová from the Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice spoke with the contribution “The Social Status of the Interwar Municipal Elite of Jewish Origin During the Holocaust (on the Example of the Town of Prešov)”. She presented the interim results of the research within the project APVV-19-0358 in the framework of which she analysed the social status of the Jewish members of the interwar municipal non-political elites during the Holocaust with the intention to capture the (declining) vertical social mobility of members of the former elite.

Thanks to the excellent work of the organizers, the quality of the presented contributions and interesting discussions the 15th EAUH Conference was a stimulating and extraordinarily successful scientific event. We can only look forward to the 16th EAUH Conference: Cities at the Boundaries, to be held in 2024 in Ostrava (Czech Republic).

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