



International and Interdisciplinary PhD Summer School: Reconfigurations of city regions and city networks in post-Soviet space

16. – 21.05.2014, South Federal University, Rostov on Don (Russia)

Call for applications

The international research network ira.urban (www.ira-urban.de) and the North Caucasus Research Institute of Economic and Social Problems (South Federal University, Rostov-on-Don) are organizing a summer school for PhD research students in urban-related disciplines. The summer school will provide an open, informal and dense exchange opportunity to collaborate and discuss progress amongst peers and with distinguished senior researchers. Organizers hope to offer useful theoretical and methodological inputs as well as to generate lively discussions on diverse urban questions across various academic disciplines including geography, political science, economy, sociology, planning and beyond. We welcome applications from students at all stages of the dissertation process. The thematic focus of the Summer School 2014 lies on the

Reconfigurations of city regions and city networks in post-Soviet space.

The collapse of the Soviet Union and new nation building, increased globalisation and internationalisation enforcing a speedy economic transformation as well as the demographic change and its socio-economic consequences have had fundamental impacts on the city systems in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. These developments may be grasped in terms of centralisation and decentralisation, convergence and divergence, metropolitanisation and peripheralisation, acknowledging the growing polarisation of the post-Soviet space. Rapidly growing metropolitan regions confront peripheralised cities which cope with shrinkage. At the same time, the functional, socio-economic and political interdependencies among post-Soviet city regions have changed; new flows of goods, people and knowledge have emerged while some Soviet interdependencies were retained or reinforced.

Against this backdrop, we welcome applications of PhD students who deal with the polarization of settlement systems as well as with interdependencies among city regions in the post-Soviet space. Of interest are topics, theoretical and empirical approaches in a wide range, e.g.

- Topics: economic transformations and interregional dependencies among cities; national and regional policies of spatial and urban development, issues of demography and migration, regional and urban governance, strategies of adaptation etc.
- Theory: spatial inequality, peripheralisation, metropolitanisation, city networks, multilevel governance, institutional change, knowledge flows etc.
- Methodology: comparative case studies of post-Soviet cities as well as structural analysis of statistics on the national and city regional level.

The Summer School will take place from the **16th to 21st of May 2014 at South Federal University in Rostov** on Don (Russia). The Summer School includes

- **keynote lectures** of N. Zubarevich (Moscow), A. Haase (Leipzig), J. Radványi (Paris), O. Golubchikov (Cardiff) and N. Vlasova (Yekaterinburg) as well as **plenary discussions**
- **research laboratories** where the PhD students present their research and get critical feedback of the senior researchers

- **methodological trainings** on comparative research and case study designs; quantitative research methods; qualitative und mixed method approaches
- **transferable skills training:** How to tackle the challenges of a globalizing, scientific community?
- **field trip:** Rostov on Don and region.

If you are interested in participating in the international and interdisciplinary urban summer school, please submit your application by the **28th of February 2014** via email to Yuliana Lazova (y_lazova@ifl-leipzig.de). You will receive a notification of acceptance by the **14th of March 2014**. Costs of travel, room and board are paid by the participants. However, they get a grant of 200 Euro for PhD students from Rostov region and 400 Euro for external PhD students.

If you have any questions concerning organizational issues please contact Nikolay Vladimirovich Gontar (passat01@mail.ru).

The application should include a motivation letter, a short CV, and an abstract of not more than 600 words describing your PhD project that you are going to present and discuss in Rostov on Don. (You may present your PhD outline, sample dissertations chapters or journal papers in progress.) Even though the discussions in the context of the summer school will be in Russian, the applicants should understand English well. Please note that the number of participants is limited to 15 PhD students.



I. Brade,
C. Neugebauer,
Y. Lazova



A. Druzhinin
N. Gontar