



## **ILLIBERAL CITIES: MANIFESTATIONS OF AUTHORITARIANISM AND CONTESTED SPACE**

January 20-21st, 2025

Georg Simmel Center for Urban Studies, Humboldt University of Berlin

The workshop is organized by the Urban Futures at Risk (UFaR) research group

Venue: Main building, Room 2249 A, 1st mezzanine floor

Unter den Linden 6, 10117 Berlin

## PROGRAM

### Monday, January 20th

12.45 - 13.15 Registration

13.15 - 13.30 **Opening and Welcome Speech by:**  
**Ignacio Farias**, Director of the Georg Simmel Center for Urban Studies  
**Ülkü Doğanay**, in the name of the Urban Futures at Risk research group

13.30 - 15.00 **Session 1: Contesting Authoritarianism: Local Democracy and Illiberal Transformations**

**Chair: Ülkü Doğanay** (Georg Simmel Center for Urban Studies, Humboldt University)

**Radosław Markowski** (SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Warsaw): *Alternatives to Liberal Democracies (ALDs): Causes and Consequences*

**Levent Köker** (R., Faculty of Law, Gazi University, Turkey): *Autonomy, Authority and Legitimacy: Challenges and Prospects for Local Democracy in Turkey*

**Gergely Olt** (Institute for Sociology, HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences, Budapest, Hungary): *Captured by Illiberal Political Power – Post-Socialist Hungarian Cities and Neopatrimonialism*

15.00 - 15.30 Coffee break

15.30 - 17.15 **Session 2: Authoritarian Strategies and Local Governance: Challenges to Democracy and Autonomy**

**Chair: Oleg Pachenkov** (Georg Simmel Center for Urban Studies, Humboldt University)

**Tsypylma Darieva** (Center for EastNO European and International Studies, Berlin): *Manifestation Of Authoritarian Urbanism In Baku, And The Urban Linguistic Landscape*

**Deniz Gedik** (Institute of International Law, Intellectual Property and Technology Law, Technical University, Dresden): *Dialectics of Authoritarianism and Autonomy: The Appointment of Trustees in Turkey*

**Ulaş Bayraktar** (Mersin University & Kültürhane, Turkey): *Mission Impossible: Structural Challenges of Democratising Local Politics*

**Mariya Petrova** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig): *From Emergency Beautification to New Public Transport - Ritualisation of Infrastructural Renewal as a "Performative Shift" in Uzbekistan's Authoritarian Urban Governance*

17.15 - 18.00 Welcome Reception  
(at the workshop premises)

**18.00 - 19.30 Think & Drink Colloquium:**

**Andrey Semenov** (Nazarbayev University, Astana):  
*Authoritarian Urbanism in Eurasia*

The keynote is chaired by Oksana Zaporozhets

**Tuesday, January 21st**

**09.30 - 11.00 Keynote Lecture:**

**Daniela Zupan** (European Cities and Urban Heritage,  
Bauhaus University, Weimar): *Authoritarian Urbanism:  
Conceptualization and Contemporary Manifestations*

The keynote is chaired by Oksana Zaporozhets

11.00 - 11.15 Coffee break

**11.15 - 13.00 Session 3: Urban Frontlines:  
Negotiating Democracy, Infrastructure, and  
Resistance**

**Chair: Olena Kononenko** (Georg Simmel Center for  
Urban Studies, Humboldt University)

**Ülkü Doğanay** (Georg Simmel Center for Urban Studies,  
Humboldt University) & **İnan Özdemir Taştan** (Forum  
Transregionale Studien): *Local Politics at the*

*Crossroads: The Promise of Democracy and  
Authoritarian Pushback in Turkey*

**Ayşegül Can** (Karlsruhe Institute for Technology):  
*Violence Against Istanbul and Strategies for Resistance*

**Wladimir Sgibnev** (Leibniz Institute for Regional  
Geography, Leipzig): *Modernisation of public transport  
infrastructures and its resistances in Central Asian cities*

**Oksana Zaporozhets** (Georg Simmel Center for Urban  
Studies, Humboldt University): *Contradictory  
Digitalization in Russia: Contesting Authoritarian Digital  
Infrastructures, Undermining Citizen Digital Networks*

13.00 - 13.45 Lunch (catering served at the workshop  
premises)

**13.45 - 14.30 Session 4: BOOK LAUNCH**

**Reclaiming Democracy in Cities**, ed. by Gülçin  
Coşkun, Tuba İnal-Çekiç, Ertuğ Tombuş (Routledge,  
2024)

**Speakers:**

**Tuba İnal Çekiç** (Urban and Spatial Sociology, Technical  
University-Darmstadt), **Ertuğ Tombuş** (Center for  
Comparative Research on Democracy, Humboldt  
University), **Oleg Pachekov** (Georg Simmel Center for  
Urban Studies, Humboldt University)

14.30 - 14.45 Coffee break

**14.45 - 16.15 *Session 5: ROUND TABLE “MAKING CITY POLITICAL AGAIN”***

**Moderators:** **Oleg Pachenkov** (Georg Simmel Center for Urban Studies, Humboldt University) & **Oleksandra Nenko** (University of Turku)

**Participants:**

**Lela Rekhviashvili** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig); **Lisa Vollmer** (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space, Berlin-Erkner); **Anna Steigemann** (University Regensburg/ Technical University Berlin); **Vitaly Bovar** (Russian oppositional city-level politician in exile); **Nader Talebi** (Berlin Institute for Empirical Integration and Migration Research, Humboldt University)

16.15 - 16.45 Coffee break

**16.45 - 17.30 *Closing Session: Wrap Up & Next Steps - Discussing Potential Collaborations***

*Workshop organizers: Ülkü Doğanay, Oksana Zaporozhets, Oleg Pachenkov*

*Student assistants: Fiona Papajani, Ferdinand Rinke*

