

# CATference 2022

Budapest, 27 June – 1 July 2022

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

### (Post-)socialist infrastructures in the making

#### Session organisers:

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Socialist urbanisation, in a broad sense, was underpinned by construction of infrastructures that reconfigure links for people, things, neighbourhoods, cities and regions (Tuvikene, Sgibnev & Neugebauer 2019). Using grand projects and large-scale systems, countries and cities attempted to forge new, better ways of living and provide foundations for continuous economic development. Socialist infrastructures persist and have continuous impact on today's urban realities, while at the same time they are being slowly replaced and updated according to current needs. What is particularly interesting goes beyond classifying urban infrastructures as socialist/post-socialist/capitalist or the like.

The focus of this session are understandings of infrastructural transformations that emerge from the particular geographical and historical trajectory of (post-)socialist cities. Building on the notion of infrastructure as processual (Merriman 2016) and relational (Star 1999), we want to bring these examples to bear on new ways of conceptualising infrastructures, for instance through practice theory (Watson & Shove 2022), STS, new materialist ontologies or digital studies. In these approaches, aggregation, threading, and scaling up matter, technology is always political, material objects come to the forefront of creating cities (Blok & Farías 2016), post-socialist publics are designed (Korn et al. 2019), and things are mediated by data and algorithms (Le Dantec & Di Salvo 2013).

This session aims to bring together these various interests in infrastructures in the making, particularly taking place in post-socialist and transforming cities (with no definite geographical boundary). Both empirical and conceptual contributions are welcome.

#### Discussed issues may include:

- What are the new ways of conceptualising infrastructures that come from studying post-socialist examples?
- How to understand infrastructuring of post-socialism?
- What are the changing roles of infrastructures in the post-socialist urbanisation?
- What lessons can we draw on urban transformations by studying (post-)socialist infrastructures?

Abstracts of max. 300 words should be sent to: **demetra.kourri@manchester.ac.uk** and **karol.kurnicki@lancaster.ac.uk** before 15 May 2022. Submission through the CATference system is also required ([https://tgf.elte.hu/cat2022\\_abstract\\_submission?m=7422](https://tgf.elte.hu/cat2022_abstract_submission?m=7422)).



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