



Migration and Urban Activism in 20th Century Europe

International Conference
Rome, 17–19 April 2024



Cities are made by people who inhabit them. European cities over the 20th century have been strongly shaped by domestic and international migration as well as urban social movements, civil society action, and political protest of various forms. This conference at the German Historical Institute in Rome is designed to illuminate the historical relations between these two factors in urban

history: migration and urban activism. It brings together scholars discussing the history of urban developments subject to activism by migrants, against migrants, and for migrants. These three perspectives shall contribute to a more systematic understanding of important processes in our cities to which European historiography hitherto has paid relatively little attention.

Fig.: Italian internal migrants in a building occupied by the movement for the right to housing in Rome, 1969.
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Conference venue

Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom
Istituto Storico Germanico di Roma
Via Aurelia Antica, 391
I-00165 Roma
www.dhi-roma.it

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Please register for in-person attendance



International conference of the German Historical Institute in Rome, University of Vienna (Department of Education), Osnabrück University (Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies), Sapienza Università di Roma and Utrecht University.

Wednesday, 17 April 2024

14.30 Reception

15.00 **Opening: Migration, Urban Space and Forms of Activism**
Martin Baumeister | Roma - Bruno Bonomo | Roma
Olga Sparschuh | Wien - David Templin | Osnabrück
Christian Wicke | Utrecht

I - Migrant Activism

Chair: Bruno Bonomo | Roma

15.30 Markian Prokopovych | Durham
Locating Transmigrants in Vienna and Budapest around 1900. Spaces, Institutions, Informal Networks

Michael Goebel | Berlin
**Local Struggles over Global Order.
Migration and Anticolonialism in Interwar Paris**

16.40 Coffee Break

17.00 Sarah Jacobson | Berlin
**Organizing from the Neighborhood.
Southern Italian Migrants and Housing Occupations in 1970s Italy and West Germany**

Simon Goeke | München
**Solidarity, Gastronomy, and Exile Politics.
Leftist Anti-Junta Resistance and the Alternative Lifestyle in Munich during the 1960s and 1970s**

Grazia Prontera | Salzburg
Navigating Political Spaces. The Role of Migrant Activism in Munich's Local Consultative Body during the 1970s and 1980s

19.00 *Keynote*

Panikos Panayi | Leicester
Racists, Revolutionaries and Representatives in London: From Hostile Environment to Multiculturalism

20.30 Conference Dinner (for participants only)

Thursday, 18 April 2024

9.30 Reception

II - Urban Activism against Migration

Chair: Christian Wicke | Utrecht

10.00 Stefano Gallo | Napoli
Internal Urban-Oriented Migration in 20th Century Italy. Exploring the Social Consequences of Administrative Discrimination

Andreas Weigl | Wien
From the Referendum "Austria First" to the "Sea of Lights" (Lichtermeer). Urban Activism on Immigration after the Fall of the Iron Curtain in Vienna

11.20 Coffee Break

11.40 Malte Borgmann | Berlin
"We want to live peacefully again". Anti-Migrant Protest and its Influence on the Accommodation of Asylum Seekers in West Berlin

Carsta Langner | Jena
"A Danger to Upscale Living" – Local Engagement against the Accommodation of Migrants in the Postsocialist Society of East Germany in the 1990s

13.00 Lunch Break

15.30 Excursion: Migration and Activism in Contemporary Rome: from the Pantanella Factory to Spin Time

19.30 Pizzeria Dinner (for participants only)

Friday, 19 April 2024

9.30 Reception

III - Urban Activism for Migrants

Chair: David Templin | Osnabrück

10.00 Daniel Renshaw | Reading
The Church Army and Jewish Communities in Urban Britain, 1900–1914. Poverty, Proselytization and Prejudice

Brian Shaev | Leiden
Civil Society Activism for Migrants in Dortmund, 1945–1968

11.10 Coffee Break

11.30 Giulia Zitelli Conti | Roma
Firstly Lumpenproletarians, then Immigrants. The Migration Issue in the Struggle for Housing in Rome in the Post-War Period

Tahire Erman | Ankara
Contested Spaces in the Turkish Urban Periphery. Leftist Interventions in Informal Neighborhoods of Rural Migrants

12.45 Lunch Break

Final Discussion - Urban Activism and Migration

Chair: Olga Sparschuh | Wien

13.30 Commentaries
Alexander Sedlmaier | Bangor
Alessandra Gissi | Napoli

14.30 End of the Conference

