

Socialist Ports in a Global Perspective

A Workshop at the University of Rijeka, Croatia, on May 31-June 1, 2019

A joint workshop by Ulf Brunnbauer (IOS Regensburg), Brigitte Le Normand (University of British Columbia), Sarah Lemmen (University of Kiel), and Vjeran Pavlaković (University of Rijeka).

Call for Papers

Ports hold a special position in economic, social and political aspects of modern societies; ports in socialist countries possibly even more so. In a political system that preferred closed borders, ports symbolized the “gates to the world”; in an economic system that was thoroughly planned, ports became the main contact point for global trade outside of a planned economy. In many ways, socialist ports were places of exception: heightened contact with the rest of the world went hand in hand with heightened control; the relative permeability of ports as border regions allowed for intensified smuggling, black marketeering or defection. Because of their permeable nature, ports – as well as shipyards – may be considered places of increased potential for political protest and dissent.

This workshop aims to discuss the functions, specifics and regional embeddedness of socialist ports throughout the 20th century in a global perspective. We focus on the **locality** (socialist ports as specific economic, political or social locations, as part of a port city, as part of an international network), on the **agents** (e.g. national and local authorities, workers and sailors within a highly international working environment), as well as on **networks** (between ports both socialist and non-socialist, as well as the interface between ports and other entities, such as railways) and on changes and continuities during (economic, political, social) **transformations**. Finally, we inquire into the general **concept** of a “socialist port”.

We invite abstracts (max. 500 words) for papers focusing on socialist ports throughout the world. Workshop participants should be prepared to send in their full papers a month before the workshop.

The organizers will cover the cost of accommodation. Pending the results of funding applications, we hope to also provide a subsidy toward travel costs.

Please send your abstract by Dec. 10, 2018, to Dr. Sarah Lemmen (Lemmen@oeg.uni-kiel.de) and Dr. Brigitte Le Normand (brigitte.lenormand@ubc.ca).