Call for papers: *Provincializing European Cities*. Editors: Noa Ha (Technical University Dresden) and Giovanni Picker (University of Glasgow)

Please find attached and below a call for papers for an edited volume on European cities beyond Eurocentrism. We are interested in empirical, theoretical and methodological papers by scholars from the entire spectrum of the humanities and social sciences. The aim of this edited volume is to open up new, critical and global perspectives on urbanism in Europe, and to contribute to debates on geographies of knowledge production.

The volume is planned to be published by Manchester University Press, and builds on the session *Provincializing European Cities* that we are convening at the Annual Conference of the International Sociological Association Research Committee on Urban and Regional Development (RC21) in New Delhi, September 18-21, 2019. The volume will include a number of papers which will be presented at that session.

The deadline for paper submission (c.a. 8000 words) is **September 10th, 2019**. Full papers are preferred, but 1-page abstracts will also be considered. We will let you know if your paper/abstract was accepted by September 30th, 2019.

Rationale

Theories of European urbanity are primarily grounded on Max Weber's *The City* (1922), in which the author draws a historical sociology of Western European urban contexts, especially focusing on the birth of Northern (Western) European urban centres that he considered foundations of modern democracy and citizenship. One of the effects of substantially relying on Weber's seminal study is that the role of European capitalist expansion and colonial oppression in contributing to Europe's wealth and power is virtually never addressed in contemporary studies of urban Europe. Moreover, looking at European cities from an international and comparative perspective has almost exclusively coincided with comparisons with US cities, to such an extent that urban Europe has very often been defined exclusively in contrast to urban US – and *not* in a global perspective.

Although a number of historical works on the making of European cities do adopt a global perspective (e.g. Clark 2009; Hollenberg and Lees 1995, King 1990) it is significant that the

five centuries of European colonial expansion predicated upon land grabbing and the exploitation of enslaved people, that was coeval to the modern formation of gendered and classed racial thinking, seem to occupy a marginal space in the understanding of cities in Europe. This is the more significant as colony-metropole routes were indeed bi-directional: the exportation of European urban planning in the colonial empire is apparent and shaped cities and spaces of encounter all over the globe within imperial entanglements. In a parallel move, Central and Eastern European cities are put on the margins of urban theory by relying on Weber's largely orientalist work (Isin 2002; 2005; Zimmerman 2006) and refusing to consider philosophies and praxes of Socialist urbanism as part and parcel of modern models of urbanity (Ferencuhova and Gentile 2016; Tuvikene 2016).

Both these omissions - i.e. overlooking colonialism and excluding Central and Eastern European urbanism - are fundamental to the becoming of a metropolitan urban spaces in Europe, and the points for departure for the intended contributions to this book.

Critically intervening in this relatively solidified theoretical, historical and methodological environment, and inspired by Chakrabarty's approach in *Provincializing Europe* (2000), we hope to forge new, critical and global perspectives on European cities. While Chakrabarty's argument influenced a number of research areas in the humanities and social sciences, it does not seem to have affected the scholarship on European cities. Similarly, while some works on specific European cities do acknowledge the importance of a global perspective which interrogates colonialism (e.g. Keaton 2006; Ha 2016; Hentschel 2015; Picker 2017; Zwischenraum Kollektiv 2017, El-Tayeb 2012), most scholarship on urban Europe seems to have remained exceptionally immune from emerging Urban Studies interventions on the opportunity to go beyond West-centric perspectives and methods.

Against this background we welcome empirical, theoretical and methodological papers addressing the following and related questions:

- What are the limitations and potentials of contemporary approaches from global perspectives to cities in Europe for understanding urban transformations on the continent?

- How do Eurocentric approaches to urban Europe contribute to forge theoretical and historical imagination on capitalism, class, race, labour, gender and ability/disability?

- How could global geographies of (urban) knowledge production benefit from critical and global approaches to urban Europe?

- What can postcolonial, decolonial and more generally critical race perspectives contribute to global and comparative analyses of European urbanities?

- What implications does a singular "European-City" ideal type have on theorizing the urban in Europe and beyond?

- How could concepts such as internal colonialism and settler colonialism contribute to understanding cities in Europe today?

Submission

Please send your paper (c.a. 8000 words) or one-page abstract by **September 10th, 2019** to Noa.K.Ha@tu-dresden.de and Giovanni.Picker@Glasgow.ac.uk. Please include **(1)** proposed title, **(2)** affiliation (if any) and **(3)** short bio.

Publication schedule

A first round of feedback will be sent to authors by late December 2019, with resubmission by mid-February 2020.

We then plan to invite all authors to a workshop at TU Dresden in Spring 2020 to discuss all the papers.

The final version will be due in June/July 2020.

Following proofreading and copyediting, the submission of the volume is planned in the Fall of 2020.

References

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Best wishes,

Noa and Giovanni