

URBAN GOVERNANCE AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN WORDS AND STONE. MEDIEVAL URBANISM IN CENTRAL EUROPE RECONSIDERED 1200-1600

a) Course overview

Cities and towns have been established to fulfil central functions in the production, exchange and consumption of commodities, as well as to serve as administrative centers for a certain district, region or realm. Therefore, they are characterized by populations larger, denser and more complex than that of the surrounding countryside. In order to efficiently manage this complexity, cities were given or gradually acquired a certain degree of autonomy and developed their own governing bodies and institutions, with varying degree of participation by inhabitants of different social and legal standing. The system of governance necessitated the use of administrative literacy and the appropriate shaping of the physical environment, including its open spaces, buildings and ornaments.

Within this general framework, each settlement developed its own structure of governance, built form, and symbolic display of power and authority. The general principles and issues will be studied in the course on examples and case studies from Central Europe, with site visits in Budapest (and its medieval constituents), Brno and Prague, their spatial setup, town halls, defenses, seigneurial residences, mints, churches, monasteries and archives. Course participants will be invited to present their own examples. Besides being the setting where the course takes place, Central Europe as a region offers a new insight on questions on autonomy and governance, the medieval expressions of seigneurial and civic power in the secular and religious spheres, and their modern interpretations, uses, and abuses.

The course will consist of four types of activities:

- (1) thematic lectures given by one of the faculty members,
- (2) workshops analyzing a specific type of written or visual evidence under the guidance of two or three faculty members,
- (3) thematic city walks in Budapest, Brno and Prague, visiting sites and buildings exemplifying the issues discussed in the lectures and workshops, guided by course faculty and other resource persons, and
- (4) seminars where participants of the course present their research topics and receive feedback.

Key topics include (a) the urbanization of Central Europe and the topography of governance; (b) the legal background of urban autonomy; (c) secular architecture and the display of authority; (d) sacred architecture and civic identity; (e) the political principles and everyday practice of civic participation and municipal administration. Each topic will be explored from multiple angles through the four activities that will allow the presentation of the latest result in social history, art history, history of literacy and political thought; hands-on experience of working with primary sources with an interdisciplinary methodology; live experience of site visits of relevant features of medieval urbanity embedded and reused in the modern urban fabric; and the discussion and development of the participants' own research projects.

The last three days of the course will be organized in Prague, coordinated with the Centre of Medieval Studies, Prague, with a stopover in Brno. Besides a few indoors presentations, the main emphasis will be on site visits demonstrating some long-term developments in all parts of Medieval Prague as well as post-WWII approach to restoring lost cultural heritage

Our agenda fits into a broad trend of international research. Historical, archaeological and architectural investigations, as well as studies on political thought have investigated medieval and early modern cities and towns on their own account. These research results have stimulated academic debates on the creation and growth of towns; on the role of seigniorial power, civic initiatives and external forces in these processes; and on the role of migration, colonization and cultural transfer in the spread of urbanization – just to name a few. The course will also discuss the impact of the key elements of medieval and early modern civic identity, buildings and symbolism on modern cities. The city walks will allow the assessment of how the elements of present townscapes reveal the development of past periods; how can the results of historical analysis can be conveyed to town planners and to the general public; and how knowledge about past processes may limit illiberalism and influence contemporary policy issues.

b) Tentative course schedule

Sunday (18 July) – Arrival in Budapest

Monday (19 July)

9.00 – 9.45

- SUN Orientation: SUN Office

9.45 – 11.15

- *Introductory lecture*: Central Europe and its Cities: the expansion of a concept in space and time (Katalin Szende)

11.30 – 13.00

- *Workshop (source analysis)*: Town plans – the topography of governance (Felicita Schmieder, Katalin Szende, Zoë Opačić, József Laszlovszky)

14.00 – 15.45

- *City walk*: Central Pest and the Display of Urban Governance: Town Wall, Meeting Place, Leaders of the Community in Ecclesiastical Spheres (József Laszlovszky).

16.00 – 17.30

- Visit to the CEU-ELTE Medieval Library, Múzeum körút 8. (Balázs Nagy, library curator)

Tuesday (20 July)

9.30 – 11.00

- *City walk*: Royal Buda – Crown, Gown and Town. Interaction of Royal, Ecclesiastic and Urban Power Zones (József Laszlovszky)

11.30 – 13.00

- *Lecture*: “Ius teutonicum” in German cities - the legal development of free burghers and urban autonomy between kings, princes, and church (Felicita Schmieder)

14.00 – 15.30

- *Workshop (source analysis)*: Legal sources: Grants of privilege, law codes, statutes (Felicita Schmieder, Katalin Szende, Susanne Rau)

16.00 – 17.30

- *Seminar*: Discussion of participants’ presentations (all faculty)

Wednesday (21 July)

9.30 – 11.00

- *City walk*: Civic Buda – from the shambles through the town hall to the synagogue (András Vég, Budapest History Museum)

11.30 – 13.00

- *Lecture*: Planning for Display: the Town Square in the Central-European City (Zoë Opačić)

14.00 – 15.30

- *Workshop (source analysis)*: Town halls (Béla Zsolt Szakács, Zoë Opačić, Katalin Szende)

16.00 – 17.30

- *Seminar*: Discussion of participants' presentation topics (all faculty)

CEU-ELTE Medieval Library open until 19.00

Thursday (22 July)

10.00 – 12.00

- *City Walk*: Market Place or Town? Topographical and Architectural Aspects of Urban Governance in Medieval Óbuda (József Laszlovszky)

13.00 – 14.30

- *Lecture*: Sacred Architecture in the Urban Context in Medieval Central Europe (Béla Zsolt Szakács)

15.00 – 16.30

- *Workshop (source analysis)*: Churches and monasteries as highlights of the urban fabric (Zoë Opačić, Béla Zsolt Szakács, József Laszlovszky)

CEU-ELTE Medieval Library open until 19.00

Friday (23 July)

9.30 – 11.00

- *Lecture*: Urban republicanism: the political principles of the late medieval and early modern Central European city (Ferenc Hörcher)

11.30 – 13.00

- *Workshop (source analysis)*: Urban republicanism in practice: trust in writing, trust in governance through municipal records (Ferenc Hörcher, Susanne Rau, Katalin Szende)

14.00 – 15.30

- *Lecture*: "Good Government": civic participation in pre-modern cities? (Susanne Rau)

16.00 – 17.30

- *Seminar*: Discussion of participants' presentation topics (all faculty)

Saturday (24 July)

- *Excursion to a site outside Budapest (TBD)*

Possible destinations:

- Visegrád: castle, palace, small town
- Esztergom: 'metropolis' as a loser?
- Vác: Hungarians, Germans, Ottomans and a cathedral lost and found
- Szentendre, Open Air Museum: communities of the countryside: villages, market towns

Sunday (25 July)

6.00 departure to Prague

10.30 – 16.00 Sightseeing in Brno: town hall, mint, castle, churches

19.30 arrival in Prague

Monday (26 July)

- Prague: Hrad (royal palace, the St Vitus cathedral)
- Malá Strana
- *Seminar*: Discussion of participants' presentation topics (all faculty)

Tuesday (27 July)

- Prague: Charles Bridge, the medieval synagogues
- Old Town, Town Hall, and Wenceslas Square with Můstek
- Bethlehem Chapel
- Workshop in Center for Medieval Studies, Prague
- *Seminar*: Discussion of participants' presentation topics (all faculty)

Wednesday (28 July)

- Prague, New Town, Emmaus Monastery
- Vyšehrad
- closing session

Thursday (29 July) – Departure from Prague

Schematic schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Slot 1	Orientation Intro, Lecture <i>Szende</i>	Walk: Buda royal <i>Laszlovszky</i>	Walk: Buda civic <i>A. Vég</i>	Walk: Óbuda Roman-Med. <i>Laszlovszky</i>	Lecture: <i>Hörcher</i>
Slot 2	Workshop: Town plans <i>FS, KSz, SR, JL</i>	Lecture <i>Schmieder</i>	Lecture <i>Szakács</i>	Walk: Óbuda contd.	Workshop: Documents <i>FH, SR, KSz</i>
	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break
Slot 3	Walk (Pest) <i>Laszlovszky</i>	Workshop: Legal source <i>FS, KSz, SR</i>	Workshop: Town halls <i>BZsSz, ZO,</i>	Lecture <i>Opacic</i>	Lecture <i>Rau</i>
Slot 4	Visit to CEU- ELTE MedLib	Seminar presentations <i>Participants</i>	Seminar presentations <i>participants</i>	Workshop: Churches <i>ZO, BZsSz, JL</i>	Seminar presentations <i>participants</i>
Evening program			MedLib open		MedLib open

	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Slot 1	Free program	Travel to Prague	Prague Hrad	Charles Bridge Town Hall	Prague New Town
Slot 2	Excursion outside Budapest	Brno town hall, mint	Prague Hrad	Wenceslas Square, Můstek	Emmaus monastery
	Lunch	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break
Slot 3	Excursion outside Budapest	Brno castle, churches	Prague Malá Strana	Bethlehem Chapel	Vyšehrad

Slot 4	Excursion outside Budapest	Travel to Prague	Prague Malá Strana	Workshop CMS / Seminar presentations <i>participants</i>	Closing session
Evening program		Travel to Prague	Seminar presentations <i>participants</i>		

c) Bibliography

(i) background reading for designing the course

- Buzás, Gergely; Laszlovszky, József & Mészáros, Orsolya (eds.) (2014). *The Medieval Royal Town at Visegrád: Royal Centre, Urban Settlement, Churches*. Budapest: Archaeolingua, 2014.
- Czaja, Roman, Zdzisław Noga, Martin Scheutz, and Ferdinand Opll (eds.). *Political Functions of Urban Spaces and Town Types through the Ages. Making Use of the Historic Towns Atlases in Europe*, Cracow – Toruń – Vienna: Böhlau, 2019.
- Eersels, Ben and Jelle Haemers (eds.), *Words and Deeds. Shaping Urban Politics from below in Late Medieval Europe*. Turnhout: Brepols, 2020. (Studies in European Urban History 48)
- Faszination Stadt. Die Urbanisierung Europas im Mittelalter und das Magdeburger Recht*. Ausstellungskatalog. Ed. Kulturhistorisches Museum, Magdeburg. Sandstein Verlag, 2019.
- Ferrari, Michele C. (ed.), *Saints and the City. Beiträge zum Verständnis urbaner Sakralität in christlichen Gemeinschaften (5.–17. Jh.)*. Erlangen 2015 (FAU Studien der Philosophischen Fakultät. 3)
- Freitag, Werner (ed.), *Die Pfarre in der Stadt. Siedlungskern - Bürgerkirche - Urbanes Zentrum*, Köln-Weimar-Wien: Böhlau, 2011 (Städteforschung. Reihe A/ 82)
- Gruber, Elisabeth, Mihailo Popović, Martin Scheutz and Herwig Weigl (eds.), *Städte im lateinischen Westen und im griechischen Osten zwischen Spätantike und früher Neuzeit. Topographie – Recht – Religion*. Wien: Böhlau, 2016.
- Johanek, Peter (ed.), *Sondergemeinden und Sonderbezirke in der Stadt der Vormoderne* (Städteforschung. Reihe A. 59), Köln: Böhlau, 2004.
- Keene, Derek, Balázs Nagy and Katalin Szende (eds.), *Segregation – Integration – Assimilation. Religious and Ethnic Groups in the Medieval Towns of Central and Eastern Europe*. Farnham: Ashgate, 2009.
- Lecuppre-Desjardin, Elodie and Anne-Laure Van Bruaene *De Bono Communi: The Discourse and Practice of the Common Good in the European City (13th-16th c.) / Discours et pratique du Bien Commun dans les villes d'Europe (XIIIe au XVIe siècle)*. Turnhout: Brepols, 2010.
- Nagy, Balázs, Martyn Rady, Katalin Szende, András Vadas (eds.), *Medieval Buda in Context*. Boston – Leiden: Brill, 2016.
- Opačić, Zoë (ed.), *Prague and Bohemia: Medieval Art, Architecture and Cultural Exchange in Central Europe* (The British Archaeological Association Conference Transactions, 32), Leeds, 2009.
- Pauly, Michel and Alexander Lee (eds.), *Urban Liberties and Civic Participation from the Middle Ages to Modern Times*. Trier: Porta Alba, 2015

- Pils, Susanne Claudine, Martin Scheutz, Christoph Sonnlechner and Stefan Spevak (eds), *Rathäuser als multifunktionale Räume der Repräsentation, der Parteilungen und des Geheimnisses*. Innsbruck, Wien, Bozen: Studien Verlag, 2012.
- Rosanvallon, Pierre. *Good Government. Democracy beyond Elections*. Harvard University Press, 2018.
- Rau, Susanne. *History, Space and Place*. London: Routledge, 2019.
- Rau, Susanne and Gerd Schwerhoff (eds.), *Topographien des Sakralen. Religion und Raumordnung in der Vormoderne*, Hamburg and München 2008.
- Rau, Susanne. *Mapping Spatial Relations, their Perceptions and Dynamics: the City Today and in the Past* (Lecture Notes in Geoinformation and Cartography) (ed. with Ekkehard Schönherr), Cham 2014.
- Schmieder, Felicitas. *Die mittelalterliche Stadt*, Darmstadt: WBG, 2005, 2. Auflage 2009, 3. Auflage 2012.
- Šedivý, Juraj. "Mittelalterliche Rathäuser im mittleren Donaugebiet. Von Räumen der örtlichen Eliten zu Symbolen der städtischen Massen," in *Political Functions of Urban Spaces*, pp.161-198.
- Simms, Anngret and Howard B. Clarke, eds., *Lords and Towns in Medieval Europe. The European Historic Towns Atlas Project*, Farnham: Ashgate, 2015.
- Szende, Katalin. *Trust, Authority and the Written Word in the Royal Towns of Medieval Hungary*. Turnhout: Brepols, 2018 (Utrecht Studies in Medieval Literacy 41)
- Timmermann, Achim. "Wer nicht recht tut den fure ich von recht': Wroclaw's Late Gothic Pillory in Context," in *Medieval Art, Architecture and Archaeology in Cracow and Lesser Poland*, 219-234. Ed. Roznowska-Sadraei, Agnieszka - Weclawowicz, Tomasz, Leeds: British Archaeological Association - Maney, 2014.
- Town and Fortifications/Stadt und Befestigungen*. Castrum Bene 10 (2007), <http://castrumbene.hu/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Castrum-Bene-10-2007.pdf>

(ii) class reader for participants (a preliminary reading list for the course)

- Isenmann, Eberhard, "The notion of the common good, the concept of politics, and practical policies in late medieval and early modern German cities," in: *De Bono Communi*, pp. 107-148.
- Laszlovszky, József and James Plumtree. "»A castle once stood, now a heap of stones...« The site and remains of Óbuda in medieval chronicles, national epics, and modern fringe theories," in *Medieval Buda in Context*, pp. 92-114.
- Laszlovszky, József and Katalin Szende. "Cities and towns as princely seats: Medieval Visegrád in the context of royal residences and urban development in Europe and Hungary," in *The Medieval Royal Town at Visegrád*, pp. 9–44.
- Magyar, Károly. "Royal Residences in Buda in Hungarian and European Context," in: *Medieval Buda in Context*, pp. 133-168.
- Majorossy, Judit. "From the Judge's House to the Town's House. Town Halls in Medieval Hungary," in *Rathäuser als multifunktionale Räume*, pp. 155-210.
- Naegle, Gisela, Peace and war, repression and liberty. urban autonomy and princely expansionism in the medieval Holy Roman empire, in: *Edad Media: Revista de Historian* 19 (2018) 74-113
- Opačić, Zoë, "City as Sacred Space – Sacred Spaces in the City: a Response," in *Städte im lateinischen Westen und im griechischen Osten zwischen Spätantike und Früher Neuzeit. Topographie – Recht – Religion*, ed. Mihailo Popović, Martin Scheutz, Herwig Weigl and Elisabeth Gruber, Vienna: Böhlau, 2015.

- Opačić, Zoë, “The Sacred Topography of Medieval Prague,” in *Sacred Sites and Holy Places: Exploring the Sacralisation of Landscape through Time and Space*, eds. S. Walaker Nordeide and Stefan Brink, Turnhout: Brepols, 2013.
- Rau, Susanne and Richard Rodger. “Thinking spatially: new horizons for urban history,” *Urban History* (2020), 1–12.
- Schmieder, Felicitas, “Various ethnic and religious groups in medieval German towns? Some evidence and reflections,” in *Segregation – Integration – Assimilation*, pp. 15-31.
- Schmieder, Felicitas and Katalin Szende, “Cities and Towns in Medieval Central Europe,” Chapter 12 in *The Oxford Handbook of Medieval Central Europe*, ed. Nada Zečević and Daniel Ziemann, Oxford: OUP (forthcoming)
- Szakács, Béla Zsolt, “Town and Cathedral in Medieval Hungary,” in: *Hortus Artium Mediaevalium XII* (2006), 207-220.
- Szende, Katalin. „Town Foundations in East Central Europe and the New World in a Comparative Perspective,” in *Medieval East Central Europe in a Comparative Perspective. From Frontier Zones to Lands in Focus*, ed. Gerhard Jaritz, Katalin Szende. London: Routledge, 2016, pp. 157-184.
- Végh, András, “Buda-Pest 1300 – Buda-Pest 1400. Two Topographical Snapshots,” in *Medieval Buda in Context*, pp.169-203.