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Abstracts

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Abstracts

Stefan Gerber

Universities and (their) Spaces: Theoretical and Methodological Considerations on Regional Historical Approaches to University and Higher Education History

Undertaking a three-step analysis, this article explores the possibilities for the historical investigation of universities and higher education institutions within 'their' own spaces, that is to say, within their specific regional and local contexts. First of all, the author discusses fundamental conceptual and methodological issues emerging from the 'spatial turn' in the social and cultural sciences and the resulting greater attention paid to spaces and constructions of space. In this respect, the author presents different concepts of 'landscape' as being especially fruitful. Following on, the article examines research approaches towards early modern 'educational landscapes' and nineteenth-century 'education spaces' as potential means for linking regional history and the history of higher education. Finally, the contribution sketches out two areas of research which in future ought to receive greater attention, namely universities as 'space creators' and as crucial factors in regional economies.

Margret Friedrich

Regional Needs, Princely Planning, Knowledge Exchange: the University of Innsbruck as an Example of Universities and Spaces in the Eighteenth and Beginning of the Nineteenth Century

The article investigates how the University of Innsbruck has been shaped in its history by particular conceptions of space, but also how it has itself contributed to constructions of space. In order to demonstrate these points, the author analyses several aspects: a) the political entities that were decisive for the positioning, shaping and influence of the university; b) the demands of the church within the educational landscape of the Habsburg domains, which on the one hand was determined by the rulers' call for the greatest possible confessional hegemony of the Catholic Church, and on the other hand by the gradual rolling back of ecclesiastical power in favour of moves towards more centralized, unified state administration and the concentration of monarchical power; c) how the university was seen as a 'house community' with an ordering function within the urban space of Innsbruck; d) the dimensions assumed by the discursively created knowledge space that the university constituted.

Adriano Mansi

“When all is said and done, Padua feels itself somewhat alien to the life of the university”. Relations between Town and Gown in Padua (Padova) in the Period of Transformation from 1961 to 1972

This article analyzes the relationship between the University of Padua and its surrounding region during the 1960s. Reflecting contemporary developments in economy, society, culture and politics, this was a period of big changes for Italian universities, which underwent a transformation from an élite academic system to a mass-based one. Padua provides a good case study for studying these changes because it has long had a large and famous university, while itself being a comparatively small city. During these years, the relationship between the university and the town was particularly difficult, but also especially interesting. First of all, the article investigates the relationship between the respective heads of the university and municipality – chancellors and mayors – and also the university’s impact on the city and its citizens. The paper then focuses on the growth of university buildings and its development within the urban context. Finally, it shows how Padua’s university governance has tried to expand its structures

Timo Celebi

The blank Spaces on the Map of Higher Education and regional Reorganization Efforts through the Combined Higher Education Plan in North Rhine-Westphalia in the 1960s and 1970s

The Combined Higher Education Plan (Gesamthochschulkonzept) in North Rhine-Westphalia (Nordrhein-Westfalen) in the 1960s and 1970s was an expansion of the classical university idea. From 1972 onwards, the social-liberal government in North Rhine-Westphalia founded five ‘combined institutions of higher education’ or Gesamthochschulen in Duisburg, Essen, Paderborn, Siegen and Wuppertal. These new institutions combined the characteristics of universities and polytechnics and were intended to act as ‘centres of strength’ for their regions and to determine anew the relationship between cities and higher education institutions. In line with contemporary trends in education planning, the initiators of the new concept combined higher education and socio-political goals and set themselves apart from the planning methods evident in the foundation of new universities in Bochum, Dortmund and Bielefeld in the 1960s. Signposted under the political slogans of ‘equal opportunity’ and ‘democratization’, the Gesamthochschulen were meant to be set up primarily in places that regional planners had previously identified as ‘spaces without higher education institutions’.

Liise Lehtsalu

Abandoning the Sacred Citadels: Women religious in early modern urban space

This article examines the active engagement of women religious in early modern urban space. Focusing on the implementation of monastic enclosure in the aftermath of the Council of Trent (1545–1563), current scholarship highlights a dichotomy between convent space and urban space in the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries. Subject to enclosure, women religious were limited in their interactions with the laity and thus barred from early modern urban space, even if early modern convents emerged as an imposing presence in that urban space. Considering space as social production and drawing on examples from Bologna, this article contests the dichotomous view of convents in early modern urban space. Rather than separated from the urban space around them, women religious established multilayered social and economic relationships with laity and enjoyed an active presence in early modern urban space.

Adina Guarnieri

The Reception of the Victory Monument in Bolzano/Bozen after 1945

The Victory Monument in Bolzano/Bozen was built in the years 1926–1928 during the fascist era to commemorate the Italian victory in WWI and the annexation of South Tyrol to the Kingdom of Italy. This article outlines the history of the reception of this highly controversial monument, by focusing on the different perceptions towards the memorial among German-speakers and Italian-speakers in South Tyrol respectively. For the German-speaking population, the monument's very presence is felt to be an affront to local culture, whereas Italian-speakers have usually viewed the monument as a memorial dedicated to their sons, fathers, and grandfathers fallen in WWI. During recent decades, this divergence between German and Italian memory cultures in South Tyrol has inevitably led to harsh confrontation and a fevered debate about the conservation or demolition of the memorial. Eventually, a permanent exhibition was inaugurated at the monument in 2014. It is dedicated to the history of Bolzano/Bozen between 1919 and 1945 and it has just recently been honored by the European Museums Forum with a special commendation for its courageous promotion of tolerance between the cultures.