
Abstracts

Freia Anders / Alexander Sedlmaier, Other claims and other cities: contested and shifting boundaries in informal housing and squatting

This essay focuses on squatters as historical agents in transgressing urban boundaries, thereby contributing to a reshaping of urban environments and public spaces. Bringing together research on informal housing in various urban contexts in both the Global North and South, it examines conceptually how squatters and urban activists have transgressed real property, public-private, socioeconomic and zoning boundaries, and in so doing challenged conventional notions of space and urban authority. Our approach avoids rigid definitions of informality based on illegality in favor of an analysis of boundary shifting as a result of spatial claims that are simultaneously deemed illegal while enjoying varying degrees of legitimacy due to persistence and acceptance. Adopting a historiographic and comparative perspective, the essay shows how such practices have responded to urban planning and development that produced these boundaries in the first place, often creating ever more privatized, gentrified, and securitized spaces and communities. Informal dwellers have, explicitly or implicitly, addressed the social questions underlying the use and distribution of urban space. This perspective helps to address historical processes of negotiation and contestation that have contributed to the emergence and shifting of boundaries demonstrating the malleability of dividing lines in the urban fabric. Squatters' small-scale attempts at taking the city into their own hands therefore have the potential of challenging modes of planning and development dominated by elite technocrats and private capital interests.

Ronja Oltmanns, „Wer die Mißbräuche des Asylrechts nicht bekämpft, der fördert [...] Ausländerfeindlichkeit.“ Die Instrumentalisierung der rassistischen Anschläge und Pogrome Anfang der 1990er Jahre für die faktische Abschaffung des Grundrechts auf Asyl

The de facto abolition of the basic right to asylum as stipulated in the German constitution by the Bundestag in 1992/93 has for a long time been assumed to be closely related to racist attacks on migrants in Germany in the early 1990s. However, until now neither historical nor other research has been carried out with the aim of corroborating the assumption in a scientific way. This article attempts to do so by evaluating the debates on the right to asylum which have taken place in the Bundestag between 1985 and 1993 by way of a ‘topos analysis’ (after Martin Wengeler). It investigates how the discussion of the basic right to asylum changed and which role the racist attacks played in this. The discursive changes are then analyzed against the backdrop of changing migration regimes and placed into historical context. Our analysis shows that both majority political parties in the German Bundestag, CDU/CSU and SPD, used the racist attacks as an argument to justify the de facto abolition of the basic right to asylum.

Sabrina Apicella, Rough Terrains: Wages as Mobilizing Factor in German and Italian Amazon Distribution Centers

Amazon’s overarching significance and clout in distribution in Europe has led to demands for equal wages for all workers in Amazon’s distribution centers across the continent. Amazon’s wage structure is critically analyzed within this context. The article then moves on to look at findings on workers strike motives, based on quantitative and qualitative data from Amazon workers in Leipzig and Rheinberg (both Germany) as well as Castel San Giovanni (Italy). The integration of both perspectives allows for discussion of a European-wide campaign for wealth redistri-

bution and an international Amazon strike strategy that takes workers' dissatisfaction with factory-like labor processes into account.

Gruppe Blauer Montag, Vom Notstand der Arbeitsgesellschaft

This is the first of four articles in the journal discussing the consequences of the COVID-19-crisis in the light of changing working and living conditions, increasing precarity, rising unemployment and intensifying class struggles. Written as a result of the discussion of a left-wing collective during the first weeks of the pandemic, it sketches the relevance of care work and the health sector in general, but also highlights forms of self-organization as outcome of an increasingly polarized social structure of capitalist society. The text also points to some strategical questions relevant to international discussions: What will be the future role of mediating organizations such as trade unions and how will social movements be influenced by regimes of increasingly authoritarian governance?

Wolfgang Völker, Auf Freiwilligenarbeit ist kein Verlass, schon gar nicht im Notstand

As a comment to an aspect of the article of Gruppe Blauer Montag, the text underlines why a difference should be made between voluntary work and self-organization for mutual solidarity and neighborly help. The article describes voluntary work as a form of governance of the authoritarian and lean activating state and focuses on the importance of (social) rights as opposed to private charity in order to satisfy basic needs of people—not only in times of pandemic.

Peter Birke, Coesfeld und die Folgen: Arbeit und Migration in Zeiten der Pandemie

The COVID-19-crisis highlighted the plight of migrant workers in agriculture as well as the meat industry, internationally, but also in Germany.

Two circumstances characterized this situation: On the one hand, mass infections in these industries, as in the meatpacking plants in the German city of Coesfeld, exposed exploitation at the point-of-production and bad living conditions. On the other hand, workers began to protest and demand improved conditions, as was the case with Romanian agricultural workers in Bornheim near the German city of Bonn. The author analyses both cases in the context of an unabated segregation and fragmentation of the working class thereby identifying a wider spectrum of common demands within a transnational perspective.

Willi Hajek / Lou Marin, Die sozialen Bewegungen in Frankreich in Zeiten der Pandemie

In this interview, Willi Hajek and Lou Marin discuss the current development of strikes and social movements in France under the condition of the *confinement* until 1 June 2020, and against the backdrop of the strong mobilizations of the *Gilets Jaunes* and the movement against the pensions reforms of the Macron government during the Winter of 2019/2020. The interview strongly focuses on local experiences in Marseille during this period. However, the discussion also engages with aspects relevant to an international perspective looking into the movements' contributions to the constitution of a transnational social movement.

Saïd Belguidoum, Der Hirak und die Krise des neopatrimonialen Systems in Algerien. Auf dem Weg zu einer zweiten Unabhängigkeit?

Since February 22nd 2019, Algeria has entered an unprecedented phase in its history. The massive, peaceful and determined mobilization of the population against a regime in place since independence (1962) is the expression of a revolution in progress, embodied by the Hirak ('the movement'—the name the citizens' movement has given itself). Our contribution proposes a reading of Algerian society through the crisis

of the neo-patrimonial State and the social contract on which it relies. Starting from the analysis of the nature of the system in place and the changes that the country is undergoing, the objective is to show how social redistribution is grounded on a fiction allowing the maintenance of a clientelistic system benefiting an oligarchy. The HIRAK opens on a new historical temporality whose main characteristics we hereby present.

**Ahlich Meyer, Die Schwelle des Zeugnisses überschritten.
David Roussets *L'univers concentrationnaire* liegt endlich
auf Deutsch vor**

In 1946, writer and activist David Rousset (1912–1997) published a report on German concentration camps titled *L'Univers concentrationnaire*. He was—in the words of Jorge Semprún—the first to “cross the threshold of testimony” and make an attempt at a comprehensive analysis. After the Second World War, Rousset was equally active against the Soviet camp system. For inexplicable reasons, his writings have been ignored in Germany for decades, although they are indispensable for understanding totalitarian rule. There now exists a faithful German translation that does justice to Rousset’s linguistic force. Jeremy Adler’s epilogue draws attention to France’s existentialist and communist-dominated post-war intellectual milieu, but does not address problematic aspects of Rousset’s philosophy of the survival of horror. What is also missing is a historical contextualisation of the book as a document of early research on National Socialism and totalitarianism.

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Gruppe Blauer Montag is an autonomous political collective based in Hamburg and surroundings. It has been existing since the beginning of the 1990's and focuses on working conditions, unemployment and precarity and (international) class struggles (both from an activist as well as a theoretical perspective).

Willi Hajek, trade union activist living in La Ciotat (near Marseille). He is an active participant in the *Gilets Jaunes* movement.

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