This project is focused on the shifting meanings of infrastructures of cities currently being radically redefined through modes of technological innovation, geographical rescaling and concomitant mobilities. The workshop brings together scholars from the fields of Anthropology, Sociology, History, Geography and Economics in order to critically discuss what is involved in the transformation from the modernist era organisation of urban space into current conditions of urbanity, and to speculate as to what may be further developments and consequences of this. Within this setting the workshop asks particularly about the changing modes of sovereignty as traced in various dimensions of city dynamics.

In the era of late socialism and late modernist capitalism, urban space was the very obvious product of the dictates of the state. In socialist cities, political decisions at the state level + infrastructure modernisation generated particular modes of habitation, work and citizenship. In the case of Visaginas, a new town built to service the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant starting from the mid 1970s, in many ways this looked like a success story of modern urbanism: the town is close to a cheap energy source and place of work, pedestrian-friendly, with a well-planned micro-district structure, a highly developed school and culture infrastructure, pleasantly embedded in nature, with decorative architecture features in well designed public spaces, etc. Problems started when the nuclear technology exploited in Visaginas was deemed inappropriate in the new scalar context of the EU after the Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe. Thus, after the end of state socialism in 1991 the inhabitants of Visaginas were confronted with a set of major changes in a complex setting of multi-lateral and multi-scalar influences. We consciously organize the workshop in Visaginas. While its history is rather specific, our discussion of the various scales in which urban space is produced changed will place this particular case in a broader European context.

Among the questions we would like to address in Visaginas are: what do current practical re-uses, symbolic re-interpretations and political re-instrumentalisations of urban infrastructures reveal about an emergent social order? What kinds of relations between infrastructure, welfare, work and politics are today developing in the towns and cities of the European periphery against a backdrop of a complexity of spatial scales, transforming nation-states, long-term economic austerity and increasing international instability? What kind of outcomes should we expect from the fact that in the states of Central and Eastern Europe, the EU is a highly visible player investing in new infrastructure projects and encouraging active citizenship at the urban level?
May 4th

1 pm
arrival of non-Lithuanian participants, Ecotel, Slucko g. 8

2 pm
Community Management, Gentrification & Public discourse:
Jekaterina Lavrinec (Vilnius), Laimikis.lt
Inclusive neighbourhood development: from creative community initiatives to the alternative topologies
Ecotel, Slucko g. 8

4 pm
Felix Ackermann (Warsaw)
A modern infrastructure.
The Vilna power plant as an example of earlier XXth century crowd funding
Museum of Energy and Technology, Rinktinės g. 2

5 pm
Public Key Note
Asta Vonderau (Mainz/Stockholm):
The Making of State and Infrastructure: Implementing the Cloud in Sweden’s North
Comments: Andrei Sciapanau (Vilnius) & Benjamin Cope (Vilnius)
Museum of Energy and Technology, Rinktinės g. 2

6 pm
reception,
Restaurant Neries vingis, Upės g. 5

May 5th

7 am
Transfer to Train station from Ecotel, Slucko g. 8

8:04 am
Transfer to Visaginas by train from Vilnius train station

10:30 am
Check-in at the Hostel “Kolegija Vaigulkia”

11 am
City Tour led by Participants of the Summer School on Sources of Urbanity
dinner Kavinė, Vilties g. 16

1 pm
Workshop Introduction
Siarhei Liubimau (Vilnius):
Urban change from the angle of border studies
Felix Ackermann (Warsaw) & Benjamin Cope (Vilnius):
Infrastructure, Sovereignty and Urbanity in the Baltic Region
Tautinų kultūrų ir bendrijų namai, Vilties g. 1

2:30 pm
Epistemologies of Urban Change after 1989
Felix Ringel (Berlin/Wien):
Sidestepping Decline by Re-Appropriating the Future? - On Postindustrial Urban Regeneration, Sustainability and Temporal Agency
Jens Adam (Berlin):
The remaking of Post-Industrial Spaces in an Anthropological view
Comment: Olga Sasunkevich (Vilnius)
coffee break

4 pm
Comparing Urban Regimes in Post-Nuclear Cities
Alexandra Kasatkina (St. Petersburg):
“Infrastructural Citizenship” and “State-Scale Approach”: Local Activism of the Atomic Industry Veterans in Obninsk
Jevgenija Gubkina (Kiyv):
The post-nuclear town of Slavutych: Late Soviet architecture as nationalized heritage?
Comment: Andrei Sciapanau (Vilnius)

4:30 pm
Mapping Visaginas
Exhibition opening:
Results of the Summer school on Sources of Urbanity
Viktoria Stalyba (Vilnius), Design project presentation: Who is Visaginas
Visagino kultūros centras, Vilties g. 1

7:30 pm
reception Art Pizzerija, Veteranų g. 9

May 6th

8 am
breakfast in Kolegija Vaigulkia, Festivalio g. 7

9 am
Modernist Infrastructures and Local Participatory Urbanism
Andrey Vozyanov (Regensburg):
Urban Electric Transport in Ukraine since 2005 - the path of participation and enthusiasm-dependency
Tauri Tuvikene (Tallinn):
Making urban mobility infrastructures via activism? Some reflections from Tallinn, Estonia
Comment: Andrei Karpeka (Minsk)

10:30 am
Agenda-setting from Above vs. Urbanism from Below?
Indrė Ruseckaitė (Vilnius):
Between Architecture History, Architectural Work and Urban Activism in Post-Soviet neighborhoods
Jonas Büchel (Riga):
City culture and communication: Urban participation and social movements in times of the economical crisis
Comment: Elena Archipovaitė (Vilnius)

12:30 pm
lunch at Kavinė, Vilties g. 16

2 pm
Urban Participation in Changing Political Configurations
Miodrag Kuč (Berlin):
The Periphery becomes the Center: The Moabit Zentrum für Kunst und Urbanistik
Tina Veihelmann (Berlin):
Wolves are back and we are still here
Surprising News about Shrinking, Growth and Projections in East Germany.
Comment: Terezie Lokšová (Prague)

3 pm
An Agenda for the post-post-socialist town?
Open questions towards Infrastructure, Sovereignty and Urbanity
Moderation: Felix Ackermann (Warsaw)

5 pm
train back to Vilnius