International Summer School on Sources of Urbanity in Former Mono-functional Towns

Visaginas August 14-26

August 13, Sunday

20.30 >>> Check-in

21.00 >>> Dinner

August 14 Monday

9.00 >>> Breakfast

10.30 >>> Siarhei Liubimau and Benjamin Cope: *Summer School Introduction*

10.45 >>> Individual introductions by participants and tutors

12.00 >>> Andrei Stsiapanau: *Ignalina NPP and the establishment of nuclear technopolitics in Lithuania*

13.00 >>> Sandwiches

13.30 >>> Excursion to the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant Information Center

16.00 >>> Meeting with Victor N. Shevaldin, former General Director of the Ignalina NPP (1991-2010)

18.00 >>> Presentation of books *Mapping Visaginas and Mapping Vilnius* by the EHU Laboratory of Critical Urbanism

19.30 >>> Dinner

August 15, Tuesday

9.00 >>> Breakfast

10.00 >>> Methodological fieldwork guide

- Inga Freimane *Without a wing, without a heart, without a face: Intimacy-geopolitics in Visaginas*
- Siarhei Liubimau *Vocation and urbanity*
- Iryna Lunevich *Citizen Empowerment and Urban Planning from an STS Persapective*
- Felix Ackermann *Towns as historical infrastructures*

12.30 >>> Sandwiches

13.00 >>> Town tour by Inga Freimane, Benjamin Cope and Siarhei Liubimau

17.30 >>> Benjamin Cope and Siarhei Liubimau: *Presentation of Visaginas Public Library Project*

18.30 >>> Dinner

August 16, Wednesday

9.00 >>> Breakfast

10.00 >>> Discussion of first ideas for individual projects

11.30 >>> Mapping and visualization workshop

- Benjamin Cope *Experiments in mapping methodologies and forms*
- Siarhei Liubimau *Visualizing scale and boundary in social research*
- Dalia Čiupailaite *From documentation to immersion: approaches to photography as a tool for (re)mapping a city*

13.00 >>> Sandwiches

13.30 >>> Photography workshop

18.30 >>> Dinner

20.00 >>> Evening program - informal discussion and criticism of photography workshop results

August 17, Thursday

9.00 >>> Breakfast

10.00 >>> Visualizing modernity workshop: Re-imaging Visaginas 1970s < > 2010s

- Ben Cope *Views from above and modernity in Visaginas*
- Alla Pigalskaya *Already made modernity? Visual environment in Visaginas 1970s < > 2010s*

11.30 >>> Visualizing modernity workshop

13.00 >>> Sandwiches

17.00 >>> Visualizing modernity workshop

18.30 >>> Dinner

August 18, Friday

9.00 >>> Breakfast

10.00 >>> Visualizing modernity workshop

11.30 >>> Visualizing modernity workshop: discussion of results

13.00 >>> Sandwiches

13.30 >>> Library workshop

- Dalia Čiupailaitė *It takes two (and more) to tango: the changing ideas, buildings and users of the library in the 21st century*
- Žemartas Budrys and Eugenijus Kaminskis *Library as a place for a meaningful discovery*

15.00 >>> Library workshop

20.00 >>> Dinner

August 19, Saturday

8.00 >>> Breakfast

9.00 >>> Role-play game / slow individual fieldwork

20.00 >>> Dinner

August 20, Sunday

9.00 >>> Breakfast

10.00 >>> Surrounding lake walk / slow individual fieldwork

18.30 >>> Dinner

August 21, Monday

9.00 >>> Breakfast

10.00 >>> Consultation of individual projects

13.00 >>> Sandwiches

13.30 >>> Work on individual projects

18.30 >>> Dinner

August 22, Tuesday

9.00 >>> Breakfast

10.00 >>> Consultation of individual projects / work on individual projects

13.00 >>> Sandwiches

13.30 >>> Finalizing individual projects

18.30 >>> Dinner

August 23, Wednesday

9.00 >>> Breakfast

10.00 >>> Library workshop

- Miodrag Kuč *New institutions for new times / Creating a cultural monster*
- Vladyslav Tyminskyi *Can one building trigger the development of a whole city? The second life of a Zhytomyr water tower*

11.30 >>> Library workshop

13.00 >>> Sandwiches

13.30 >>> Library workshop

18.30 >>> Dinner

August 24, Thursday

9.00 >>> Breakfast

10.00 >>> Library workshop: discussion of results

11.30 >>> Putting together presentations for final discussion

13.00 >>> Sandwiches

13.30 >>> Putting together presentations for final discussion

17.00 >>> Final discussion

20.30 >>> Dinner

August 25, Friday

9.00 >>> Breakfast

10.00 >>> Follow up

12.00-14.00 >>> Departure to Vilnius

16.00 >>> Check-in to Downtown Forest Hostel (Paupio str. 31A)

Cultural program in Vilnius

August 26, Saturday

>>> Cultural program in Vilnius

August 27, Sunday

>>> *Departure* >>>

TALKS:

Ignalina NPP and the establishment of nuclear technopolitics in Lithuania

Andrei Stsiapanau

From the first years of its construction until its full decommissioning in 2009, the Ignalina NPP played a key role in shaping relationships between the population and the authorities in nuclear terms. If the scientific mobilization of the 1980s was against the INPP construction on the territory of Lithuania, then political and nationalist responses at the end of the 1980s were deeply linked to issues of national identity and sovereignty. During the 1990s, antinuclear claims were translated into terms of energy independency and sufficiency, and then became an issue for EU admission. In the late 2000s, after the second reactor was shut down, antinuclear claims reappeared in the context of the debates about the revival of a national nuclear program. The Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant is not an ordinary case of nuclear decommissioning. It is a case of the establishment of nuclear technopolitics in Lithuania, and thus of the shaping of the relationships between political institutions and the public, ethnic groups and the authorities, scientists and politicians, and individual and collective action as they engage with nuclear things.

Without A Wing, Without A Heart, Without A Face: Intimacy-Geopolitics in Visaginas

Inga Freimane

In 2014, local residents routinely presented Visaginas as a city 'without a wing', 'without a heart', and 'without a face'. This paper explores these metaphors of lacking something and being incomplete, of being displaced and disfigured. These articulations are directly related to a politics of memory, where certain narratives about the past are employed in negotiating subjectivity and agency in the present. Attending to the power dynamics that these metaphors reveal poses the questions of how the 'intimate' is linked to the 'geopolitical'. 'Intimacy-geopolitics' is defined here following the work of feminist political geographers (Pain and Staeheli 2014) that challenges the attribution of 'politics' to rigidly defined national, inter-national and global scales. Instead, the approach focuses attention on the apparently apolitical scales of body, home and intimate relations. It argues that 'intimacy' is inseparable from the apparently placeless and disembodied sphere of 'geopolitics'. 'Ordinary' people and their experiences of living through change are thus considered as 'geopolitical', and producing power dynamics of their own.

Vocation and Urbanity

Siarhei Liubimau

This talk problematizes empirical settings of Visaginas by unpacking the question of how the deindustrialization of a mono-functional town with a skilled workforce affects the practices of the transmission of professions, professional attitudes and vocational projects within the socialization milieus of families and educational institutions. Visaginas was built very recently, in Soviet Lithuania in late 1970s and 1980s for the workers of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant and for their families. The INPP and the nuclear industry generally were markers of privilege in the USSR and presupposed a range of mechanisms of conversion of high-level professional status into high-level social status. The closure of INPP and the town's gradual loss of its core function have provoked a question about the preservation of the town's relatively high quality of human capital and urbanity. This talk proposes to discuss the empirical realms, as well as the conceptual instruments, through which to work with this question.

Citizen Empowerment andUrban Planning from an STS Perspective

Iryna Lunevich

*STS - Studies in Science, Technology and Society

The presentation will bring to the focus the complex relations between technical and social components in cities. It will take a closer look at a number of the STS (Science, Technology and Society studies) theories and explain why it might be relevant to apply them to the analysis of the ongoing process of urban reconfiguration. It will demonstrate that the process of urban planning is not merely a technical exercise, but a political process that involves many stakeholders and interest groups. The second part of the presentation will aim to engage with the problem of public participation in urban planning and decision-making. It will focus on the case of the 'Active Citizen' platform that was launched by the Moscow city authorities in 2014 in order to stimulate the involvement of Muscovites in the urban decision-making process. It will discuss its effects on the ways in which the Moscow city administration, urban planners, architects and citizens collaborate with each other.

Towns as Historical Infrastructures

Felix Ackermann

As a historian trained in cultural analysis and historical anthropology, I do research on the production of knowledge about urban spaces. In previous work in Visaginas, I learnt how to relate changing forms of statehood and various dimensions of infrastructure to each other. In my remarks, I will talk about the relationship between the processes of reading physical traces of infrastructures and communication with inhabitants of Visaginas. Finally, I wish to address the special challenges posed by discussing different observations in a mixed academic group.

Experiments in mapping methodologies and forms

Benjamin Cope

This talk presents and reflects on some examples of projects that experiment with methodologies and forms of mapping. If, during modernity, the making of maps was a monopoly held by the nation state, today global technological firms lead the way in opening up new modes, scales and speeds of the provision of spatial information. This change has profound social implications that are only beginning to emerge, but it is certainly interesting to note that the post-socialist epoch has coincided with this change in instances and modes of mapping. In presenting student projects that reflect critically on and experiment with the relations between information and space, the talk aims at opening discussion of the potentials and difficulties of critical mapping in the context of today's Visaginas.

Visualizing scale and boundary in social research

Siarhei Liubimau

This presentation will focus on qualitative research projects that reflect on the issue of cities' causation and on recent cases of change in modes of cities' causation. More specifically, it will address the question of how cities are bounded and re-bounded collectively under various structural conditions. On the one hand, this presentation aligns with current discussions about what geographical scales are, and shows how these discussions can be grounded in qualitative social research. On the other hand, it contributes to the attempts to understand how urbanization processes establish social difference

via spatial forms. In terms of methodologies of data collection and techniques of displaying research findings, the author will discuss the ways in which maps are a helpful instrument for visualizing geographical scale and boundary in arguments based on qualitative social research.

From documentation to immersion: approaches to photography as a tool for (re)mapping a city

Dalia Čiupailaitė

"Stories are in one way or another mirrors. We use them to explain to ourselves how the world works or how it doesn't work" (Neil Gaiman). An image is a story and a mirror. It might be distorted; it always reflects just a small piece of anything we hold it towards. In this presentation, I'll offer a review of ways to undertake photographic research in order to analyze the city. I'll place emphasis on the theoretical and methodological reflectivity of a researcher in the application of the tricky thing that is an image. In so doing, I will present questions of objectivity and subjectivity in epistemological approaches to photo-research, and suggest the potential value of different methods in analyzing aspects of conceptual questions related to the urban as a place and a process, and in helping/allowing/aiming to reveal different perspectives.

Views from Above and Modernity in Visaginas

Benjamin Cope

In his article "Adventures on the Vertical: From the New Vision to Powers of Ten", Mark Dorrian argues that a key element of modernity was the emergence of two new types of view from above: that of the microscope and that of the aerial view. These new scales of vision, the micro and the macro, offered new possibilities of scientific analysis (and thus of the construction of knowledge), but also engendered new anxieties and new schemes for control. By the post-war period, Dorrian argues that the ability to play with a multiplicity of scales had become primarily a question of geopolitical interests. This lecture reconstructs Dorrian's argument as a basis for analysing the role of views from above in the production of Soviet modernity in Visaginas.

Already Made Modernity?: Visual Environment in Visaginas 1970s <> 2010s

Alla Pigalskaya

The city of Visaginas built in the 1970s in the spirit of modernist ideas was realized in very difficult cultural and historical circumstances (the existence of the LSSR in the USSR was by no means cloudless). Today, the city also does not correspond to the vision that is projected onto it (as evidenced by multilingualism in today's Visaginas, against Lithuanian as the national state language). The lecture focuses on the visual traces of the implementation of the modernist city project in Visaginas, such as typefaces, texture and details, with particular reference to how models relate to copies, and originals to repetition. This analysis is connected with the development of visual identity as a concept in design, a concept which also went through a significant evolution in the 1970s.

It takes two (and more) to tango: the changing ideas, buildings and users of the library in the 21st century

Dalia Čiupailaitė

In the talk I'll present ethnographic research on the Vilnius University Scholarly Communication and Information Center, which is a part of Vilnius university library. The library constitutes the first attempt in Lithuania to change the notion of an academic library as an archive and sanctuary of knowledge and redefine it through architectural intervention, in line with ongoing changes in the library paradigm in the western world. In my talk, I explore the multiple interchanges (and miscommunications) of the library as a building, organization and institution in relation to reading/working practices.

Library as a place for a meaningful discovery

Žemartas Budrys and Eugenijus Kaminski
The Vilnius County Adomas Mickevičius Public Library has a goal to become a leader in cultural communication. Currently, it focuses on attracting non-users that fall into its potential target audience of working professionals. This is a challenging task and requires revision not only of the library's communication, but also of the services provided by the library. The shift from a library as a function-information provider to a library as service is needed, providing a place and services for people with specific interests and hobbies.

New institutions for new times / Creating a cultural monster

Miodrag Kuč

From the initial idea to blend a contemporary art-residence with a socio-cultural centre almost 5 years have passed. Today, ZK/U (Centre for Art and Urbanistics) constitutes an institutional hybrid and platform for critical urban pedagogy. The next development phase is challenged by the complexities of multiple usage, neighbourhood conflicts and the struggle for basic public funding. How to bridge global discourses with local practices? How to reach solidarity in the process of urban learning?

Can one building trigger the development of a whole city? The second life of a Zhytomyr water tower

Vladyslav Tyminskyi

The presentation will be focused on applying the methodology of strategic design and (spatial) planning to the adaptive reuse of currently abandoned buildings that have lost their initial functional purpose, yet could become development drivers for a whole city in revised and redefined contexts. Based on the example of the strategic development project of a former water tower in Zhytomyr (Ukraine), emphasis will be placed on the methods of a systemic and multiscale analysis, scenario-based design and prototyping in real-life urban conditions.

TUTOR AND LECTURER BIOS:

>>> **Felix Ackermann** is a historian and anthropologist trained in cultural and urban studies, who from 2011 – 2016 was DAAD assoc. professor for applied humanities at the European Humanities University (EHU). In his Vilnius research, he focused on the spatial dimension of the production of knowledge in different academic disciplines dealing with urban spaces. Since 2016, a research fellow at the German Historical Institute Warsaw, where he is writing a history of imprisonment in Lithuania and Poland in the period of the partitions.

>>> **Žemartas Budrys'** fields of interest encompass philosophy, sociology, arts, ecology and urban development. He has a strong background in analyzing cultural issues, which is intertwined with a knowledge of and respect for nature. This gives him a sensitivity to the world coupled with a sense of coexistence and sustainable living, whereas it is cultural studies that informs his understanding of human life and social living. He has worked in art, culture, and research and innovation spheres. In his recent work at Homo Eminens and Vilnius University, he has been focusing on uses of this contextual knowledge.

>>> **Benjamin Cope** is acting director of the EHU Laboratory of Critical Urbanism. He teaches Courses on Localised Cultural Industries, Critical Cartography and Gender and Space at EHU.

>>> **Dalia Čiupailaitė** is a sociologist and photographer interested in urban studies and sociology of architecture. She teaches courses in sociology, focused on media, urban sociology and the built environment, at Vilnius University and on photography as a research tool in critical urban studies at EHU, as well as conducting training for architects on social aspects of architecture. Currently, she's focusing on public and academic libraries as social and knowledge infrastructures in terms of their architecture, organization and users.

>>> **Inga Freimane** is a PhD student at the Northumbria University in Newcastle. Her research focuses on spaces of activism in the context of the ongoing war in Eastern Ukraine. Writing about the war from the perspective of feminist political geography, Inga considers the emotions and bodies of activists as a primary unit of geopolitical analysis. This interest in emotions, embodiment and politics follows from ethnographic work conducted in Visaginas three years ago.

>>> **Eugenijus Kaminskis** uses research as a way of seeing the world and society in reflection. His academic and professional path combines various perspectives, ranging from arts and philosophy to cultural economics and community development. He has applied quantitative and qualitative research skills within various projects on national and EU levels, in both private and public sectors. Recently, in the framework of the program "Create Lithuania", Eugenijus was working as a consultant for the Lithuanian Ministry of Economics and the Ministry of Culture on solving the problem of cultural activities not being adapted to the specific needs of different local communities. By involving communities into cultural life in the regions, taking cultural and historical context, local traditions and common interests into consideration, Eugenijus helped to introduce the concept of creative placemaking, and design a creative placemaking strategy for policy makers and a practical guide for cultural operators. This opened new paths for creative partnerships, local entrepreneurship, animation of heritage and community involvement in local cultural life.

>>> **Miodrag Kuč** is an interdisciplinary artist and urban theorist trained as an architect / urban planner in various cultural settings. His work explores the role of ephemeral structures in uncertain urban conditions and the spatial appropriations of marginal social groups. He is founder of the studio ParaArtFormations, which moves at the intersection of urban studies, performative-planning, artistic interventions and micro politics. Currently, he works as project coordinator at ZK/U (Centre for Art and Urbanistics) Berlin, exploring new ways of knowledge production through the lens of critical urban pedagogy.
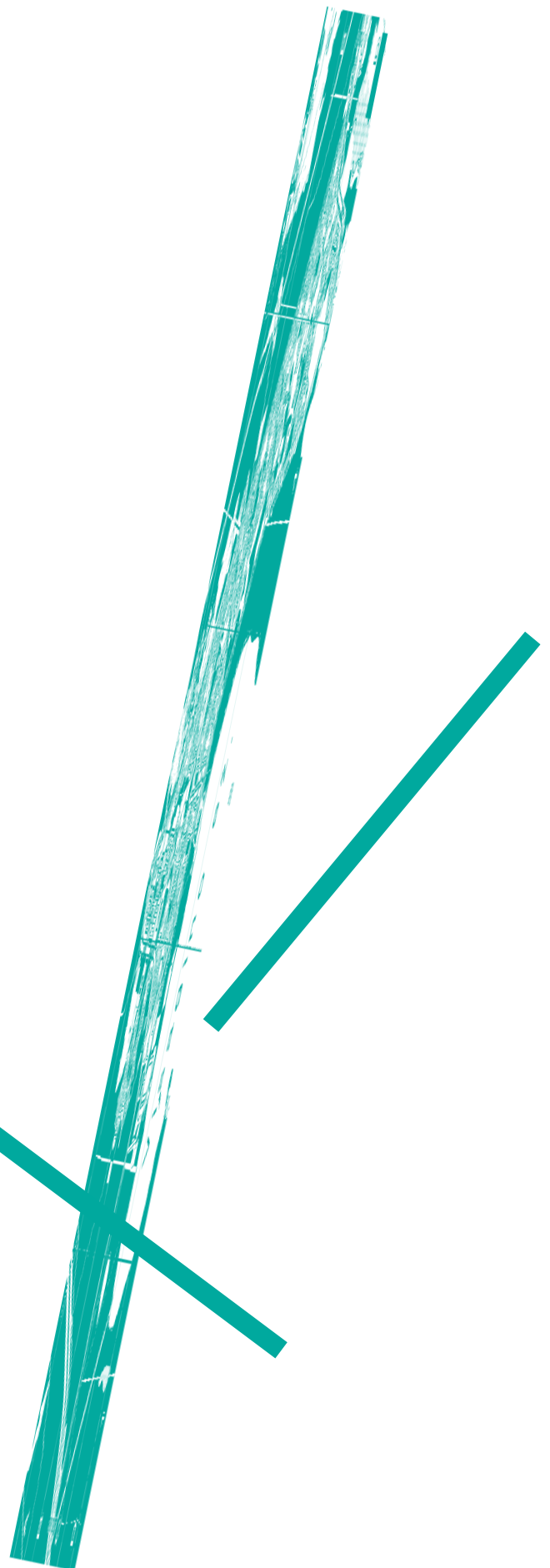
>>> **Siarhei Liubimau** holds a PhD in sociology (2010, Polish Academy of Science) and works at the EHU Department of Social Sciences. He researches, writes and thinks about various effects of relations between state border regimes, space uses and meaning making.
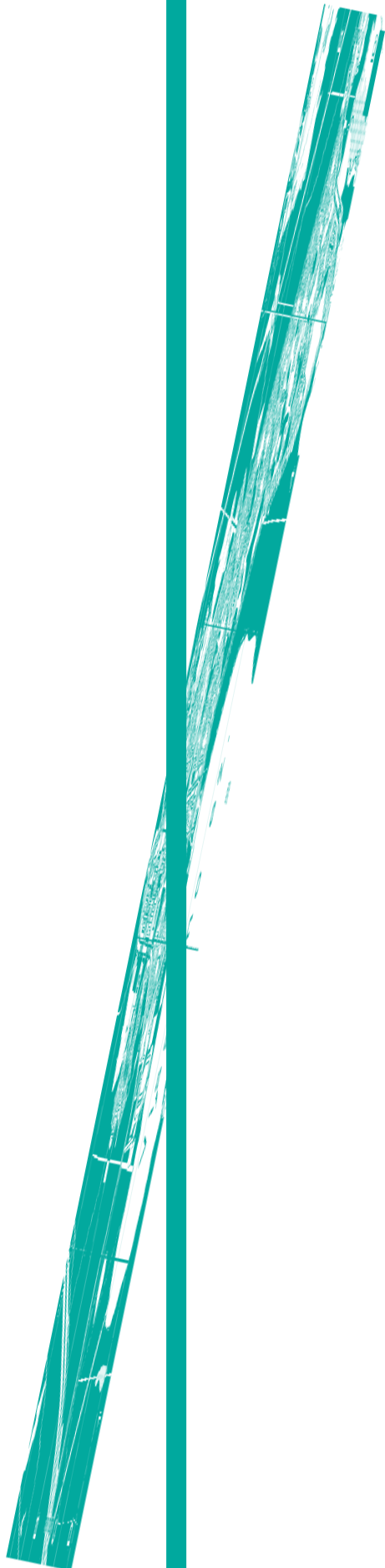
>>> **Iryna Lunevich** graduated from EHU with an MA in Critical Urban Studies and Maastricht University with an MA in Science and Technology Studies. In 2014-2015, she studied at Strelka Institute for Architecture, Media and Design (Moscow, Russia) where she worked on a project about sustainable food systems in urban areas. Her research interests focus on the ways smart technologies impact on the experience, management, and governance of contemporary cities. Currently, she works as a program curator of the Moscow Urban Forum.

>>> **Andrei Stsiapanau** is a researcher and associate professor at the European Humanities University. His main research interests lie in the field of the comparative studies of different technopolitical regimes in Russia, Belarus and Lithuania with regard to projects of nuclear power plant construction.

>>> **Vladyslav Tyminskyi** is a strategic designer, urban planner, and researcher. Starting from 2015, he is a Program Director and Co-curator of Education at CANactions School for Urban Studies (Kyiv, Ukraine). In 2016-2017, he worked for two projects of GIZ in Ukraine: "Integrated Urban Development" and "National Urban Development Policy" in the positions of Chief Urban Researcher and External Consultant on Urban Development respectively. In 2016, Vladyslav worked as an Urban Designer and Planner at Van de Wetering Atelier für Städtebau (Zürich, Switzerland) and was a Guest Tutor at École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Marseille (ENSA-M, France). In 2015, he graduated from STRELKA Institute for Media, Architecture and Design (Moscow, Russia). In 2013, Vladyslav was an Executive Editor and Author of articles for the book "Urban Studies: Politics and Practices of Urban Renewal", supported by the Heinrich Boell Foundation in Ukraine. Since 2012, Vladyslav has been working on his Ph.D. thesis "Strategic Spatial Planning as an Approach to Post-Soviet Cities' Development".