

Posted Cities: Theorizing Postsocialist Cities and Cities of the Global South

Agata A. Lisiak

Humboldt University, Institute of Sociology

agata.lisiak@hu-berlin.de

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ABSTRACT: Although cities of Central and Eastern Europe and cities the Global South are often theorized as radically different, I propose there is a common theoretical platform that facilitates comparisons between them, namely *postcolonial studies*. Whereas application of postcolonial theories in an analysis of urban cultures of the so-called Global South is a generally accepted and academically established practice, it has been repeatedly questioned, rejected, remodeled, and reinvented in the context of postsocialist cultures. In my paper, I discuss the opportunities and shortcomings of the adaptation of postcolonial approaches to Central and East European cities and how it may contribute, in turn, to analyses of urban cultures of the so-called Global South. I argue for particular relevance and practicability of an approach that combines "post" and "neo" perspectives, namely a *(post)colonial* approach according to which Central and Eastern European cities have been shaped by three main centers of influence: the former colonial power (the Soviet Union), the post-1989 (neo)colonizing powers (Western culture and Western/transnational capital), and the national/local/self-referential culture. What I am currently most interested in is the moment when the "colonial" becomes not simply "postcolonial" but also "local" – an investigation I find particularly valid in regard to cultural memory in urban spaces.