

THURSDAY, 21 April

10.50 - 12.10 Parallel Sessions

Representations of tram closures (part 2)

[Metro — La cave]

Convenors

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The lost "tram capital": the tram system in St. Petersburg

Nowadays, many cities around the world are rethinking their public transport systems. St. Petersburg (Russia) is no exception. By the end of the 1980s, St. Petersburg had the world's largest tram system. Since the 1990s, the city's extensive system has shrunk sharply. Tramway lines and rails continue to be removed regularly.

The main goal of this study is to identify the historical transformation of the tram system in St. Petersburg. The study showed that the main threat to the St. Petersburg trams had been the closure of tram depots. The area occupied by tram depots, especially in the central part of the city, has high investment attractiveness for the construction of new residential properties.

Empirically, this study draws upon analyses of tram routes maps and official documents. The trams routes is depicted on various maps created and distributed by the local administration in maps presented in official documents, official media, on the information stands of the city. This research is based on an understanding of the map as a power resource that conveys the worldview needed by the city administration as the map client.

In the last twenty years, the number of tram routes has been reduced from 65 to 37. These days, most of these routes run from residential areas to subway stations. The tram is no longer an "independent" transport but a supplement to the subway system. The city administration highlighted several main drawbacks of the tram rails design in urban streets, especially in the city centre: the destruction of the adjacent road surface, increased noise, vibration spreading to buildings and facilities.

Adam Borch, Åbo Akademi University

Peter Dürrfeld's Linie 4 og andre noveller (1984) and Memories of the Copenhagen Tram

I propose to do a paper focused on a collection of short stories by Danish author Peter Dürrfeld (1942-) entitled *Linie 4 og andre noveller* (1984). All stories in the collection evolve around the Copenhagen tram network which had closed twelve years earlier, in 1972. In the collection, Dürrfeld creates intimate links between the city's trams and memories of childhood and adolescence (positive and negative).

Jason Finch, Åbo Akademi University

A Number 9 Demonstrates Why Trams Would Not Survive': How Public Transport Closure Representations Serve Political Ends