

## Call for Papers

Workshop “Peripherization: the making of spatial dependencies and social injustice”

6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Critical Geography

"Crises -- Causes, Dimensions, Reactions"

Frankfurt, Germany, 16-20 August 2011

<http://www.iccg2011.org>

Workshop “Peripherization: the making of spatial dependencies and social injustice”

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Increasing disparities between rural areas and urban agglomerations with regard to socio-economic development, migration from villages and small- and medium-sized towns to cities, the rising economic and political dependency of marginalized areas and their inhabitants on urban agglomerations, and the decline of rural settlements are phenomena that can be observed in Eastern Europe and many other regions of the world. The discursive framing of the rural *other* and the social stigmatization of “the rural” (and that which remains of it) are practices which accompany, if not even foster and legitimize, a politics of neglect concerning the areas and people outside metropolitan areas. At the same time, inhabitants of these neglected areas pursue strategies to work around or to resist their dependency on cities and re-imagine and re-represent the rural and of rurality. While the work of Henri Lefebvre is influential in the human geography literature on the city and urban neighbourhoods, at present few researchers are utilising his theoretical approach to explore processes through which rural space is produced in remote regions far from urban agglomerations and economic growth.

This workshop draws attention to peripheral rural regions and processes of “peripherization”. “Peripherization” is understood as referring to the growing economic, infrastructural, and political disconnection of rural areas. This approach echoes debates on core/periphery, world system, and dependency, and makes it possible to discuss spatially-structured and spatially-perceived dependencies as a form of social injustice. However, the term of “peripherization” needs to be linked to other approaches of uneven development and social injustice. From our perspective, such theoretical work should be based not only on empirical studies of European contexts, as this is the case in current research on “peripherization”. Rather, it is necessary to explore the phenomenon with reference to a wider range of regions.

This workshop will bring together researchers working in the fields of human geography, sociology, political science, social anthropology, planning studies, area studies and related fields in order to discuss case studies on the making of peripheral space. The aim of the workshop is to discuss processes of “peripherization” and the consequences of spatially-based dependency and social injustice. We will analyse the impact of the global “crisis” on peripheral rural regions, assess whether there is a “rural crisis” accompanying the “urban crisis” and if so, define the nature of that crisis. Drawing on case studies, we aim to move towards a more theoretical understanding of “peripherization” from a cross-disciplinary perspective. Thus, we seek to identify the potentials and limitations of this particular approach and assess the academic as well as the political benefits of “peripherization” as an analytical tool.

We invite contributions dealing with peripheral rural regions and their dependency on urban agglomerations. Contributors are free to focus on one or more of the following areas: aspects of rural economies, land use and land tenure relations, rural planning, housing, gender, migration, nature-societal relations, infrastructure, images and imaginations of the rural and cultural representations of rurality. In order to facilitate a productive discussion, the number of papers will be strictly limited and presenters are requested to send their abstracts by January 10, 2011 and full papers by July 15, 2011.