

Demolishing and Redeveloping History in Post-Socialist Poland

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Zapraszamy do oglądania nagrania seminarium z udziałem dr. Jaro Stracula, które odbyło się 20.05.2015 w IEiAK UW.

[Demolishing and Redeveloping History in Post-Socialist Poland, Jaro Stacul](#) [1]

Useful information **Date of publication:** 02-06-2015

Source: [Youtube](#) [2]

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In recent years social scientists have increasingly drawn attention to the significant role that materials play in political life. Yet while materials have come to animate political debate, they also figure prominently in the endeavors of actors and institutions to create new social worlds and political orders. Drawing upon research conducted in the Polish city of Gdańsk, on the Baltic Sea, the paper examines the discourses surrounding the proposed redevelopment of the shipyard that was the birthplace of Solidarity, the mass social movement that contested the legitimacy of the Socialist state in the 1980s. It illustrates the ways in which an area formerly devoted to the production of material goods will be turned into a place for living, leisure, and business through the construction of luxury apartments, offices, supermarkets, and a shopping mall. In advocating the project, both state and municipal institutions set out to turn the shipyard into an icon of the victory of capitalism over Socialism. Yet at the heart of the project lies a paradox: even though the proposed redevelopment figures prominently in the Polish state's attempts to craft a new social and political order, when it will come to completion and what form it will actually take still remain open questions. The paper pursues the argument that although the production of new built environments is central to the politics of the post-Socialist state, in fact the existence of such environments is bound up with the production and circulation of information.

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Links

[1] <https://etnologia.uw.edu.pl/en/file/demolishing-and-redeveloping-history-post-socialist-poland-jaro-stacul>

[2] https://youtu.be/fBI9eZP1yZg?list=PLVi6w9hRT7I7SMqqjKEfB_qxGKec-fkQs