



The 39th World
Congress of the
International Institute
of Sociology
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www.iisoc.org/iis2009

REGULAR SESSION INFORMATION

Title of Session: The spirit of place, trauma and topophilia

Name of Session Convener(s): Zbigniew Rykiel

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Comments: -

Session Abstract (up to 250 words): Place is an essential notion for social sciences. The spirit of place or genius loci was defined as a manifestation of the identity of a place that appear meaningful. Topophilia, defined as a relationship between a human being and a place or dependence of the human being on the place indicates a subjective relation of an human axiology with his/her milieu.

Under globalisation, quickly growing capitalist and post-communist cities under transformation badly look for their new identities or the spirits of places. Having got their traditional, hardly remembered, identities, they are waiting to be re-discovered as cultural values to their inhabitants. Topophilia fills a spirit in what has been lost and resulted in trauma while transforming in the still life. Any location without its spirit of place is merely a dead non-place for the respective local community.

The purpose of this session is to develop the ideas of place, its spirit and topophilia, and to relate them to that of trauma by research being in progress now. Papers are looked for that will open up the relationship between homeliness and alienation of space, the mechanisms for the acquaintance of space, spatial indifference, perceptual chaos, territorial indoctrination, symbolic profanation, violence and conquest as traumatic event vis-à-vis building new local identities by re-discovering the spirit of place. Also those which develop the topophilia would be welcome.

General information

During each afternoon of the congress, there will be room for a large number of parallel regular sessions. Each session is 90 minutes long and consists of an oral presentation of 4 to 6 papers. Session conveners are expected to administer and chair their session at the 2009 IIS World Congress.

Starting in mid-December, calls for papers to participate in approved sessions will be posted on the website. Interested participants will contact the session convener (you) directly with an abstract no later than February 28, 2009. The session convener should take in all submissions and select the best 4 to 6 papers to be presented and forward this information, including e-mail addresses of accepted authors, to the IIS Secretariat no later than March 15, 2009.