

Stadt Nach Acht-Berlin 09.-11. November New Urban Tourism & The Night

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Abstract Gergely Olt

My case study analyses the transformation of the 'Jewish Quarter' of Budapest into a tourism and night-time economy area called today the 'party quarter'. The functional change of the preliminary residential neighbourhood into a non-stop festival is caused by local contextual factors and global changes in tourism.

The rehabilitation and gentrification of the inner city of Budapest did not follow the course predicted in the early 90s after the social and economic transformation and the inner city remained a socially mixed area. The post-socialist institutional context and the effects of the historical path dependency are well illustrated by the corrupt privatisation of the local authority owned real estate. The housing stock was transformed into the so called 'ruin bars' and the social conflicts emerged after this functional change. The regulation of the hospitality scene was ambivalent in the last 10 years and rules are hardly enforced by the police and other officials while street crime increases year by year. The dilapidated housing stock of the inner city started to lose the long term residential function and the short term touristic use of the apartments are typical now. Night-time tourism displaces the original residents.