Gilda BERRUTI*, Maria Federica PALESTINO

WASTELANDS AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MANAGING NAPLES’ SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

Abstract. Circular economy offers new visions of how diversely urban spaces could be inhabited and managed. While the generation and management of waste is being treated through innovative practices, disused industrial, rural, and infrastructural areas are resistant to becoming included in a closed-loop cycle. They, in fact, establish wastelands that need to be completely re-imagined as a precondition for the transition. The fact of shifting the definition of a ‘neglected area’ into a ‘waste-land’, in line with the metaphor of urban metabolism, could be of tactical importance for generating alternative policies and practices. In exploring how the transition impacts Naples’ urban region, the paper argues that turning wastelands into resources has the double potential of rehabilitating spaces and challenging the governance model in use, overcoming barriers in multiple sectors.

Key words: wastescape regeneration, multilevel governance, waste circularity, transition management.

1. INTRODUCTION

Circular economy, one of the pillars of sustainable transitions promoted by the EU, suggests new visions of how people should live in urban space and, consequently, how it should be managed. The roots of such mostly conceptual visions are strongly dependent on the powerful metaphor of urban metabolism. It helps not only in the imaging and organising of strategies for the transition process, but also...

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The 9th edition of the contest was organised under the patronage of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the Embassy of Israel in Warsaw, and the Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences. It differed from earlier editions mostly due to the pandemic reality which forced the organisers to move all the activities around the contest online. The jury faced an incredibly hard task as the number of submissions exceeded those from previous years with as many as seventeen Ph.D. thesis and seventeen M.A. dissertations. Many of them discussed topics which were extremely rarely researched or which have never been researched before. A majority of them focused on the 20th century and the Shoah, though there were also entries which discussed earlier centuries, as well as some which focussed on other scientific fields such as literary studies, sociology, history, art, political studies, and the history of law. The 9th edition differed a lot from the 8th edition as in 2018 it was micro-history as well as local history, together with literature studies, which dominated. There were also numerous entries on anti-Semitism, and Jewish identification both withing the Jewish world and in non-Jewish communities.

In the Ph.D. thesis category, two ex aequo winners, i.e. Karolina Panz, Ph.D., for her work on the micro-historical perspective applied to the Holocaust victims from the city of Nowy Targ, which she defended at the University of Warsaw, and Mikolaj Smykowski, Ph.D., for his study of the Shoah’s ecology and a critical post-camp landscape anthropology study using the example of the Chełm nad Nerem camp, which he wrote at the Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań. The runner-up was Jan Borowicz, Ph.D., University of Warsaw, for his dissertation on Holocaust perversions and the position of the Polish witness.

In the MA dissertation category, the winner was Krzysztof Bielawski, M.A., the University of Warsaw, for his work on the destruction of Jewish burial grounds in Poland after 1933. The runner-up was Joanna Zych, M.A., the War Studies Academy, for her dissertation on a comparative analysis of Zionist armed organisations before 1948. The second runner-up was Katarzyna Kiejrys, M.A., the University of Warsaw, who wrote a thesis on American anti-Semitism in the colonial era.

Graduates of both M.A. and Ph.D. studies willing to participate need to submit their works in Polish; if a dissertation is written in a foreign language, it needs to be defended at a Polish university. The submission needs to be supported by

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2 Zagłada żydowskich mieszkańców Nowego Targu w perspektywie mikrohistorycznej.
3 Ekologie Zagłady. Krzyżakowe studium z antropologii krajobrazu poobozowego na przykładzie Byłego Obozu Zagłady w Chełmnie nad Nerem.
4 Perwersje holokaustowe. Pozycja polskiego świadka.
5 Destrukcja cmentarzy żydowskich na terenach obecnej Polski po 1933 roku.
6 Zbrojne organizacje ruchu syjonistycznego przed 1948 r. – analiza porównawcza.
7 Old Sentiments in the New World. Patterns of American Antisemitism from the Colonial Times through the Nineteenth Century.
Majer Balaban’s competition for the best MA and PhD thesis on Jewish History...

a letter of recommendation from the graduate’s scientific tutor. Contest winners receive a diploma along with a cash prize. Additionally, they are offered the opportunity to present their paper at the Jewish Historical Institute seminar. They are also asked to submit an article to the Institute’s quarterly: *Kwartalnik Historii Żydów*. Many of the recognised works have been published as monographs, some by the Institute’s publisher.