Main Session 1: "The Times are Changing: Cities, Seasons and Urban Life Around the World"

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Time period and Geographical Area: All periods and open to all regions

Many cities around the world are affected by seasonal changes. Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter lend distinct atmospheres to cities in some climate zones, while wet and dry seasons shape urban life in other climatic regions. This main session at the 15th International Conference of Urban History/EAUH in Antwerp will explore the variable effects of seasonal changes in cities around the world. We invite contributions that cover any time period and place because we hope to offer a global perspective with a potentially broad diachronic approach. For the panel, we are equally interested in conceptual and empirical approaches towards seasonal changes as they influence(d) the temporal rhythms and seasonal flows of people, animals, plants, goods, resources in and through cities. How did seasonal variations affect such rhythms and flows, how did they enable (but also at times hinder) urban life? By urban life we mean both the everyday practices and institutional framings that undergird these practices and their mobilizations. Possible topics might include, but are not limited to: the urban ecology of seasons, leisure and recreation, seasonal work, urban construction, the migration of plants and animals, urban infrastructural provisions, the arts, sports and fashion, the festivalization of cities, seasonal catastrophes and other environmental consequences of seasonal variations. In addition to more empirically-center papers, we are also interested in how we can conceptualize the impact of seasons and their inherent temporal rhythms on the life of cities and their representations. This panel is intended as the first segment in a two-part series that will lead to a joint publication of an edited volume on urban seasonalities. The second conference will take place in Berlin in 2021.

If you are interested to participate, please submit a 200 word proposal about your proposed topic and how it will relate to the notion of urban seasons, mobility, and the concept of temporality as well as a short CV of the presenters to the conference website (see link below) by October 1, 2019.

For further questions, please feel free to contact us or to consult the conference website:  