

ECUW - Astana

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Readings

Natalia Koch, *The monumental and the miniature: imagining ‘modernity’ in Astana*

[Koc10]

- The Astana project hints at the idea of creating a new ‘social order’
- Compared to other ex-soviet countries, Kazakhstan has had a rather smooth political transition

See this link for papers on Kazakhstan, published in Eurasian Geography and Economy
https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C5&q=eurasian+geography+and+economics+kazakhstan&btnG=&oq=eurasian+geography+and+economics+kazk

Natalia Koch, *Bordering on the modern: power, practice and exclusion in Astana*

[koch2014bordering]

Keywords: modernism, emotional landscapes of control

- What were ordinary residents’ and citizens’ role in the capital-city making project of Astana?
- In creating modernity, what or who were the city planners and residents trying to ‘exclude’
- Astana is built on ‘tabula rasa’
- Excluding the soviet past
 - Astana is built on top of an old soviet city, Tselinograd, which was renamed in 1998
 - To build Astana, a lot of run-down soviet era buildings and neighbourhoods (eg. wooden) were torn down, and the soviet idea of standardisation was no more. Argument was sanitisation, and prettification (buildings all looked the same, 5 story brown)

Seminar 2 - Data and research strategies

- Present how you found empirical data on city, and how you analysed this data

References

- [Koc10] Natalie Koch. “The monumental and the miniature: imagining ‘modernity’ in Astana”. In: *Social & Cultural Geography* 11.8 (2010), pp. 769–787.