

Invitation

The Institute of Balkan Studies & Centre for Thracology of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences is pleased to organize a conference on **"The City in the Balkans: Spaces, Faces, Memory"** to be held in **Sofia on 2nd - 4th of October 2019**. It will be dedicated to the 150th Anniversary of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

The city as a unique historical and modern phenomenon is continuously attracting the interest of people who inhabit it. Being the center of public life, it is not only a stage but also a real actor. Scholars and scientists from different disciplines research its political, social, and cultural dimensions in one context or another. The theme of the conference continues the Balkan studies' tradition in Bulgaria with internationally renowned contributions to urban studies from Antiquity to nowadays. At the same time, it is relevant to the present and the future as it focuses on issues of great public importance.

The aim of the conference is to bring together scholars who analyze the state of art in the research on the topic and to highlight the desiderata in scholarship. Secondly, it is important to propose a new interpretation of some familiar images, objects, events and processes, as well as to discuss the applicability of innovative research approaches. Particular attention will be paid to the importance of history in all its social functions for the modern development of cities.

The multidisciplinary theme of the conference addresses representatives of various fields in the humanities and social sciences. Of course, environmentalists, urbanists and experts in the digitization of cultural and historical heritage can also make valuable contributions to the subject. The conference will include papers examining historical aspects of the topic, as well as those who theoretically approach the history and present of the city in the Balkans.

Key issues, which encompass but do not exhaust the diversity of topics of the conference, will be:

- ✓ Local traditions and foreign influences
- ✓ European modernity in the Balkan context
- ✓ History and urban memory in the nation-building processes
- ✓ Sites of memory
- ✓ Identities, boundaries, communities in the city
- ✓ Public and private urban spaces
- ✓ The faces of the city
- ✓ The city and the village
- ✓ City and nature
- ✓ Everyday life and festivity in the city
- ✓ Socialization of urban cultural and historical heritage in the digital age.

Applications which include the title of the proposed paper (English) and a summary (up to 300 words) should be sent **by 23rd of June 2019** to: conference2019@balkanstudies.bg

Working languages are Bulgarian and English. Approved proposals will be announced by 30th of June 2019. No participation fee is required. Participants are responsible for organizing and paying their travel costs to the venue of the conference, as well as the accommodation and the daily allowances.

The papers will be subsequently published in a peer-reviewed volume.