



# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of GEOGRAPHERS

## ANNUAL MEETING

### Soviet Housing Estates in Vilnius – Socio-Ethnic Structure and Future(-less?) Perspectives

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This study is focused on Soviet housing estates in Vilnius. The aim of the paper is to gain more insight into the social and ethnic profile of the residents and to highlight the trajectories of change. Our findings suppose that socio-economic and ethnic structures of the city is closely related. The urban structure of the city has been radically transformed since the collapse of Soviet Union by the urban sprawl and gentrification of city centre. Occupational structure of Vilnius residents experienced major shift as higher status professional groups concentrated in this metropolitan city. The analysis is based on Lithuanian census data from 2001 and 2011. Census tract level was the dominant scale of the analysis. The results show that although Soviet housing estates are less segregated than other parts of Vilnius, considerable socio-economic differences exist among residents belonging to different ethnic groups. Soviet housing estates are definitely not the most attractive residential areas, and more affluent groups increasingly prioritize residing in other parts of the city. However, that has not turned them into the neighbourhoods with the highest concentration of the least affluent population. Thus, the Soviet housing estates maintain a rather neutral position in the current residential structure of Vilnius.

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