



University
of Victoria

ANTHROPOLOGY COLLOQUIUM



History at Large: Demolition Politics in Contemporary Poland

Dr. Jaro Stacul

Assistant Teaching Professor, Anthropology Department, UVic

Monday, December 3rd 2018

11:30 am – 12:50 pm

Cornett Building: A129

In recent years social scientists have increasingly drawn attention to the significant role that materials play in political life. Drawing on research conducted in the city of Gdańsk, the birthplace of the social movement (Solidarność) that questioned the legitimacy of the socialist state in the 1980s, it examines the proposed redevelopment of the shipyard where the movement was formed. It shows that while the redevelopment sets out to create a public memory space, it is rife with contradictions, for it involves the demolition of many buildings associated with the movement to be commemorated. The article suggests that what legitimated the municipal council's authority over its memorial landscapes was not so much its rediscovery of complex local histories, as its ability to reconfigure the local past primarily in 'material' terms, as something that needs to be reordered both materially and symbolically.

EVERYONE WELCOME.

www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/anthropology/undergraduate/colloquium/index.php