



INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE AND THE TRACES OF INDUSTRIALIZATION IN URBAN SPACE

We would like to invite you to **international conference on industrial heritage and traces of industry in urban space** organised by the University of Silesia in Katowice, member of **Transform4Europe Alliance** in **Katowice** on **6-7 May 2025**.

In numerous locations, industrial heritage sites are subject to a process of deterioration, are demolished as vestiges of a bygone era, or are perceived as an undesirable element in the urban development process. The significance of these sites from a cultural perspective and their potential are frequently recognised only after the fact. Conversely, there are also cities and regions where the value of industrial heritage and its manifestations in the urban landscape are recognised, utilised and exhibited.

In the context of industrial heritage, the conference will consider cultural, social, natural and economic responses to the transformation of space, changes in the landscape, and processes of environmental degradation and revitalisation occurring as a result of the widely understood practices of industrialisation.

We are interested in the records of the processes of creating post-industrial heritage in the regions of Europe, especially in urban space. We want to devote attention both to the transformations that affected industrial cities, descriptions of the consequences of industrial change and its effects on ecology and biodiversity, as well as to the processes of successive industrializations, successful and unsuccessful attempts at industrialization. We will also look at how this has changed the landscape and the city.

Consequently, we want to focus on the **overt presence of industrial heritage in culture**, and secondly, to **examine various forms of suppression, silence, latency or use, construction and recovery** (e.g., sites of mines, steel mills, refineries).

Reflection on industrial heritage and traces of industry in urban space necessitates a combination of **interdisciplinary research** (ranging from naturalistic findings to the description of industrial material culture).

In the context of interdisciplinary dialogue, we propose the observation of the following problems by scientists from the T4U alliance:

- the contemporary significance of material industrial heritage in the development of the urban area;
- the presence of industrial heritage in suburban areas;
- the utilisation of industrial heritage in the present socio-economic conditions;
- the characterisation of stages and factors in the development of industrial heritage in a specific area (case study);
- the social perception of the industrial past of the region;
- the opinions on the adaptation of post-industrial sites to serve new functions,- trends in the use of post-industrial sites,
- realised and latent traces of industry in urban space,
- the relationship between industry and environmental degradation.

The following areas require further investigation:

- the relationship between industrialisation and the emergence of new social problems;
- the successful and unsuccessful attempts to industrialise urban space, and the hopes and fears associated with industrialisation;
- the material cultures of industrialisation;
- the environments of post-industrial ruins;
- the emotions surrounding industrial heritage and post-industrial nostalgia;
- the sensuality of post-industrial sites;
- imagined industrialisations and the literary, cultural, natural, artistic and social discussions about them;

- industrial heritage and ecological thought; and the health and development costs borne by people living on post-industrial sites.

Should you wish to participate in the conference, you are asked to fill in the online registration form: <https://formularze.us.edu.pl/form/index/5837> by **14 February 2025**.

Submissions will then be reviewed by the conference organisers, who will select those that best correspond to the theme of the meeting. The organisers will provide further organisational information to participants by **28 February 2025**.

There are no participation fees.

Accommodation for 2 nights will be provided to all participants.

All additional details of the programme will be provided after the registration is closed and speakers are selected.

In case of questions, please write to: industrial.heritage@us.edu.pl