



OBSOLESCENCE and RENOVATION

20th Century Housing in the New Millennium

Conference: 14-15 December 2015

Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:

1. Paper / Proposal Title: _ Neighborhood Obsolence and Renovation: the case of Khamovniki District, Moscow _

2. Format: _Film screening_____

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6. Abstract (300 words): _This video presentation explores the importance of changing relative geographic location of neighborhoods for the process of their obsolence and renovation. Urban sociologists from the time of the Chicago School have been highlighting the dynamic social and ethnic characteristics of neighborhoods in the 20th century through such processes as invasion and succession. Changing lifestyles, demographics, construction and environmental standards all contribute to the varying fortunes of different housing areas of cities. This video presentation attempts to focus

on the relatively less discussed political economic as well as urban geographic dimensions in analyzing the decline and rise of urban areas.

The case highlighted is one of Moscow's central districts, Khamovniki. Through most of pre-modern history that was relatively backstage area of the city center, the Kremlin, overshadowed by other, more prominent directions of the city. All that changed with Joseph Stalin and his utopian architectural projects for that area of the city. Their eventual failure to be fully built left the district neglected for any upgrade through most of the late Soviet period, visible, for instance, in the proportion of so-called communal apartments remaining until the very end of the political economic system. Paradoxically, the area's neglect happen to be one of the reasons for its spectacular rebirth in the post-Soviet period. This is where one of the most expensive housing districts in the world emerged, Moscow's Golden Mile. The film attempts to discuss this changing fortunes for the district as a whole as well as for its inner parts: the process continues as a "Silver Mile", another area of most expensive housing is emerging nowadays. Targeted video length: 20 minutes. Language: English__

7. Author(s) Biography (200 words maximum for all authors): __ Dmitrii Sidorov graduated from the Department of Geography, Moscow State University, and continued his post-graduate studies at the universities of Oxford, Wisconsin-Madison, and Minnesota (Ph.D. degree); he taught at the University of South Carolina, University College London among others. He is currently an Associate Professor at California State University Long Beach. Also taught courses in London, and Seoul. Research and teaching interests include urban studies, regional geography, Russia, Europe, geopolitics, visual/videographic geographies, online and field education. _

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