

URBAN HISTORY REVIEW /

REVUE D'HISTOIRE URBAINE

Emotions and the City / Les émotions et la ville Urban

Call for Papers / Appel à contributions

The *Urban History Review* invites proposals for articles to appear in a special issue on the theme of "Emotions and the City" to be published in the Spring of 2014.

Long neglected in a discipline that tends to privilege the objective and verifiable above the intimate and ephemeral, the emotions have nevertheless begun to attract growing attention from historians. Emotions are central to human existence, and scholars have noted the extent to which they shape identities, inform values and beliefs, and govern social relations. But while emotions originate deep within the individual, it is the broader social and cultural context in which they are felt that has most concerned this emerging historiography. The way feelings of joy or sadness, anger or happiness, for example, are experienced and interpreted varies across time and cultures, and as such bear historicising.

If the scholarship has taken these questions to a diversity of periods and places, a direct focus on the emotional life of cities remains largely missing from the literature. The purpose of this special issue of the *Urban History Review* is to examine the way urban environments give rise to distinct sets of emotional experiences. Throughout history, commentators have used deeply emotional language to celebrate or condemn the city, and urban dwellers have had to contend with a host of positive and negative emotions generated by the fact of living in these dense and animated milieus. How did these emotional experiences shape urban dwellers' memory of, attitudes to and knowledge of the city? And how can we bring the diverse emotions present in the sources to the fore of our analysis, shedding new light on the profoundly subjective implications of life in this eminently public setting?

Contributors may choose to focus on one emotion in particular, or consider a range of emotions associated with cities. Questions they might wish to address include, but are not limited to:

- Are certain emotions particularly prevalent in cities? These may include positive emotions such as happiness or pride, or negative emotions like fear, insecurity or disgust.
- How are emotions evoked or manipulated in representations of city life? How do emotional tones colour both the boosterism of investors and politicians and the anti-urban discourse of reformers and moralists?
- To what emotions do different types of urban spaces give rise?
- How do emotions become associated with particular places or sites?

- What emotions are associated with the pleasures of city life, including entertainment, leisure, consumerism or romance?
- How do exceptional circumstances like war or environmental disaster shape urban emotions?
- How do emotions shape mental maps of the city?

The *Review* is primarily concerned with the historical development of Canadian cities but the geographic scope of submissions is open. Articles offering a comparative perspective are welcome, as are those drawing on other disciplines such as geography, urban studies, architecture, sociology, literature, art history, philosophy or psychology. Proposals should be a maximum of 300 words long. Articles may be written in French or in English, and can range in length from 6000 to 10,000 words. Please follow the Review's guidelines available at: <http://www.urbanhistoryreview.ca/urbanenglish.html>

Timetable

The preparation of this special issue will proceed according to the following timetable:

- September 2012: Call for papers
- October 30th 2012: Deadline for submitting proposals/abstracts
- Mid-November 2012: Announcements made to authors
- May 30th 2013: Deadline for submitting papers ready for peer-review
- June to October 2013: Review of papers
- March 2014: Publication of the special issue

Please send proposals and a short cv to:

Nicolas Kenny

Assistant Professor

Department of History

Simon Fraser University

nicolas.kenny@sfu.ca