

BERLIN, ALEXANDERPLATZ

*Transforming Place
in a Unified Germany*



Gisa Weszkalnys



berghahn

NEW YORK · OXFORD
www.berghahnbooks.com

CONTENTS



List of Figures	ix
Acknowledgements	x
Glossary	xii
CHAPTER I	
Introduction	1
<i>Where?</i>	3
<i>Berlin (in) Alexanderplatz</i>	7
<i>Inventing East and West</i>	12
<i>Anthropologies of the City</i>	18
<i>Anthropology's Objects</i>	23
CHAPTER II	
Constructing a Future Berlin	31
<i>Suspect Debates</i>	32
<i>The Capital</i>	40
<i>Topographies of Immorality</i>	44
<i>The European City</i>	49
<i>Solids and Voids</i>	53
<i>Emptiness</i>	61
CHAPTER III	
The Disintegration of a Socialist Exemplar	68
<i>Diagnosing the 'Weak Heart of the City'</i>	70
<i>Inversions of Sociality</i>	74
<i>Failures of Government</i>	76
<i>A Dangerous Place?</i>	78
<i>A Problem of 'the Social'</i>	81
<i>Producing Disorder</i>	84

CHAPTER IV	
Promising Plans	89
<i>On (Not) Planning</i>	90
<i>Assembling Alexanderplatz</i>	95
<i>Premises and Promises</i>	99
<i>New Hybrids, Old Ambivalences</i>	106
<i>Postponing Failure</i>	111
CHAPTER V	
The Object of Grievance	114
<i>A Time of Citizens</i>	115
<i>Citizens Summoned</i>	117
<i>Citizens Made</i>	121
<i>Governing Perceptions</i>	124
<i>Legitimate Concerns</i>	130
<i>A Citizenly Engagement with Place</i>	133
CHAPTER VI	
A Robust Square	138
<i>The Place of Young People</i>	141
<i>Networking Alexanderplatz</i>	146
<i>Potentialities</i>	149
<i>Experts and Citizens Revisited</i>	151
<i>Perspectival Disparities</i>	154
<i>The Universal, the Particular and the Robust</i>	159
CHAPTER VII	
Whose Alexanderplatz?	162
Notes	173
Bibliography	178
Index	203