Call for Paper - The Transfer Agreements

The White City Center was established in 2016. Its mission is to expand the knowledge in the field of urban preservation and becoming an educational and research center for the White City. The Urban Conservation Lab (UCLab), which operates within the Center, coordinates research from the fields of architecture, history and urbanism, in order to deepen the urban discourse and create a toolbox for the investigation of modern urban centers.

The White City Center and the Urban Conservation Lab are offering a research grant on the Transfer Agreement.

The Transfer Agreements (“Haavara” Agreements) had a crucial effect on the Jewish community in Palestine during the 1930s, and represents a controversial episode in the relationship between Israel and Germany. The agreement was signed on August 25, 1933, between Nazi Germany and the Zionist Federation of Germany, and expired by 1938. It allowed German-Jews to sell property and real estate with revenues invested in buying goods and building materials. These were then exported from Germany to Palestine, where they were purchased and their worth was returned to the owners who immigrated to the new land.

About 50,000 German-Jews were able to immigrate thanks to the Agreements; the cumulative wealth – amounting to 150 million Reichsmark – was transferred to the country via the Anglo-Palestine Bank and the Haavara firm. In those year, the Nazi regime encouraged the emigration of Jews from Germany, and leveraged the Agreement to secure the export of goods in a time when Germany was under an international boycott.

The flow of immigrants and goods from Germany facilitated the construction boom in Palestine during the 1930s: new Jewish cities were being built and Tel Aviv thrived. Numerous private
residential buildings designed in the principles of the International style sprawled in what has later became known as The White City. Many goods that have reached Palestine under the Transfer Agreements found their way into these buildings.

The Transfer Agreements are a key factor in the story of the immigration of German Jews to Palestine in the years preceding the outbreak of World War II, the relationship between the Nazi regime and the emerging Zionist entity, and the story of building Tel Aviv as a city holding a modernist vision – an episode that encompasses political, economic, social, cultural, architectural and spatial aspects.

Potential research frameworks:

The White City Center invites researchers to submit proposals that address various aspects of the Transfer Agreement, according to one of the thematic outlines listed below (priority will be given to research related to the subject of “materials”). Research focusing on other thematic outlines may also be considered, as long as it is relevant to the Transfer Agreements.

1. Materials - Physical research that traces the original materials used for the construction of the White City buildings (tiles, faucets, sinks, pipes, lintels, glass, screws etc.), including conducting a survey based on case studies, studying the source and origin of the goods (local, Mediterranean, British, German or other) and the mechanisms through which it arrived to Tel Aviv (the Transfer Agreements and other processes). The researcher will be granted free access to the Liebling House – the building that houses the White City Center at 29 Idelson Street in Tel Aviv, which is currently undergoing a comprehensive renovation and thus reveals the original building materials.
2. Archive – a research that focuses on the historical aspects of the Transfer Agreements, based on archival work in Israel and/or Germany (priority will be given to proposals that combine research work in both countries).

3. Immigration – a study that examines the economic, social or cultural aspects of immigration from Nazi Germany to Palestine during the Fifth Aliyah.

4. Commodities – a research that tracks the movement of materials and goods exported from Germany to Palestine (and specifically to Tel Aviv) during the period of the Transfer Agreements.

5. General – Architectural, historical or cultural research related to the Transfer Agreements.

Researchers from the fields of history, architecture and conservation, as well as researchers from other disciplines that relate to the subjects mentioned above are welcomed to submit proposals.

The winning proposal will be awarded €2000 for the purposes of conducting or promoting the research.

**Submission guidelines:**

1. The research proposal shall comprise of up to 600 words, submitted in PDF format.

2. It is possible to add up to 3 illustrations, to be embedded in the text file (not as separate files).

3. The subject of the research and its connection to one or more of the topics listed above should be clearly stated at the top of the proposal.

4. The proposal shall be submitted in English. It is possible to include a Hebrew and/or German translation.
5. The proposal must be accompanied by a CV.

6. The proposal should include an estimated timetable.

7. The judging committee reserves the right to invite a shortlist of researchers to an interview before announcing the recipients of the grant.

The research proposal must be sent via email by **November 16 2017**, to: uclab.whitecity@gmail.com.

The decision of the judging committee will be announced on 31 December 2017.

For inquiries and information, please contact Dr. Rachel Gottesman at: uclab.whitecity@gmail.com.