Dynamic transformation of urban landscapes – a case of Jewish cemetery in Poznań

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Cognitive Linguistics and Human Geography

- Perception of objects in space and movement through space as the basis of cognition and language (deixis)

  Langacker 1991

- Image schemata

  M. Johnson 1987

- Conceptual metaphors

  Lakoff and Johnson 1999

- In and out of place rules – relations of power
- Is the place natural, genuine, authentic or is it constructed, staged and nonauthentic
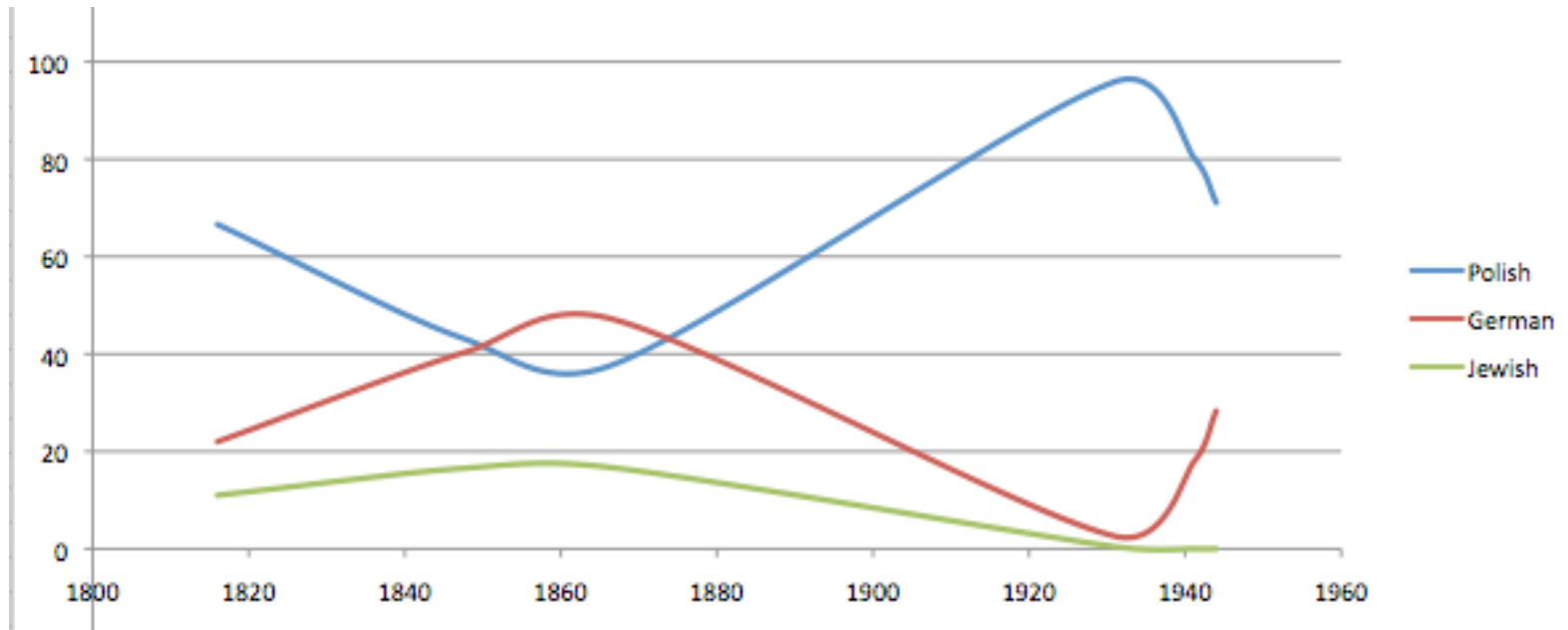
  R. Sack 1993

Case study

Jewish cemetery in Poznań

Socio-historical Context

- 1793-1920 Poznan and Wielkopolska region under Prussian rule
- 1919-1920 Wielkopolska Uprising
- 1939-1945 Poznan and Wielkopolska incorporated into the III Reich as Warthegau
  - expulsions of Poles 38,000 from Poznan, 630,000 from Warthegau
  - 1940 German plans to develop the city, liquidation of cemeteries in the city centre
  - 1944 Allied bombings
- 1945 Poznan liberated / captured by the Red Army
- 1950s liquidation of cemeteries by the Polish administration

The ethnic composition of Poznan 1800-1944

[Topolski 1988-, Trzeciakowska – Trzeciakowski 1982]

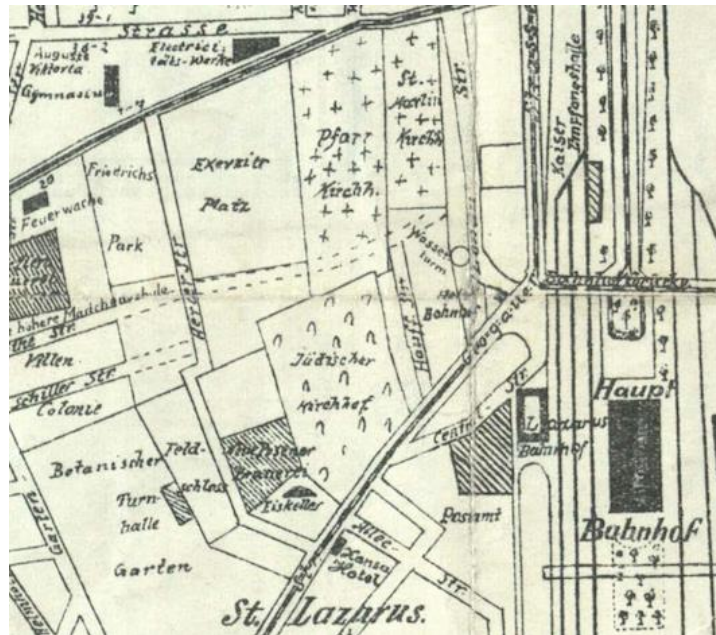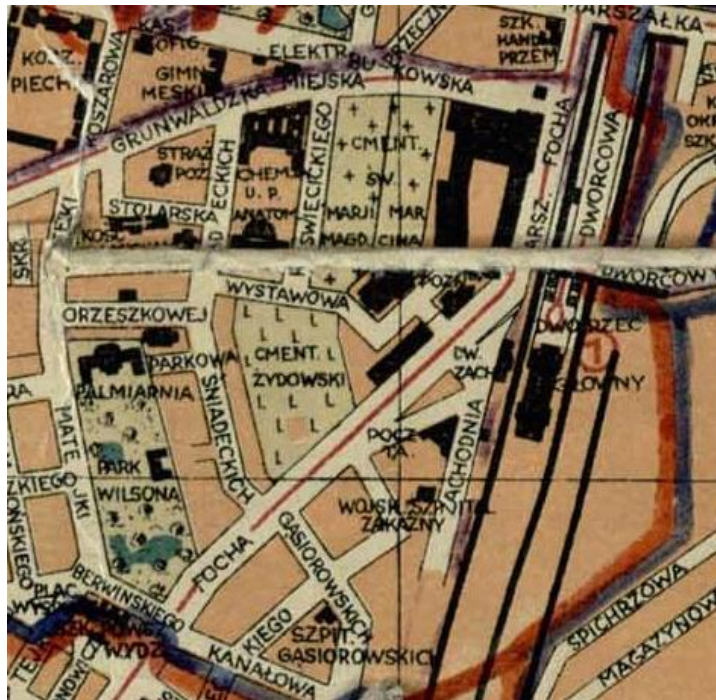# Jewish cemeteries in Poznań – over time and space

Poznań 1913

cultural mosaic:

- Jewish cemetery
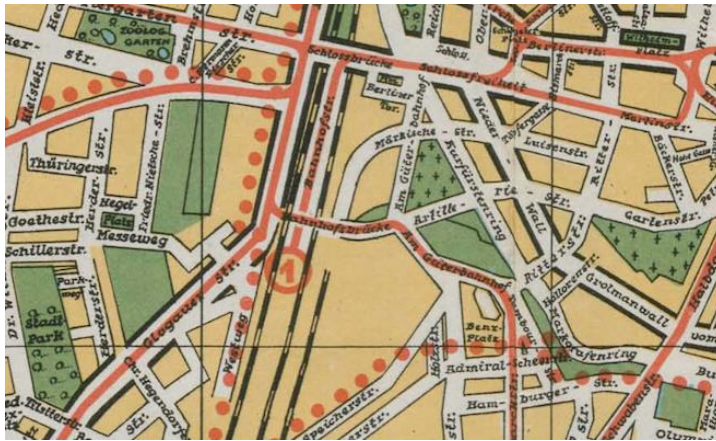- Catholic cemeteries (St Marie-Madeleine, St Martin)

Poznań 1935

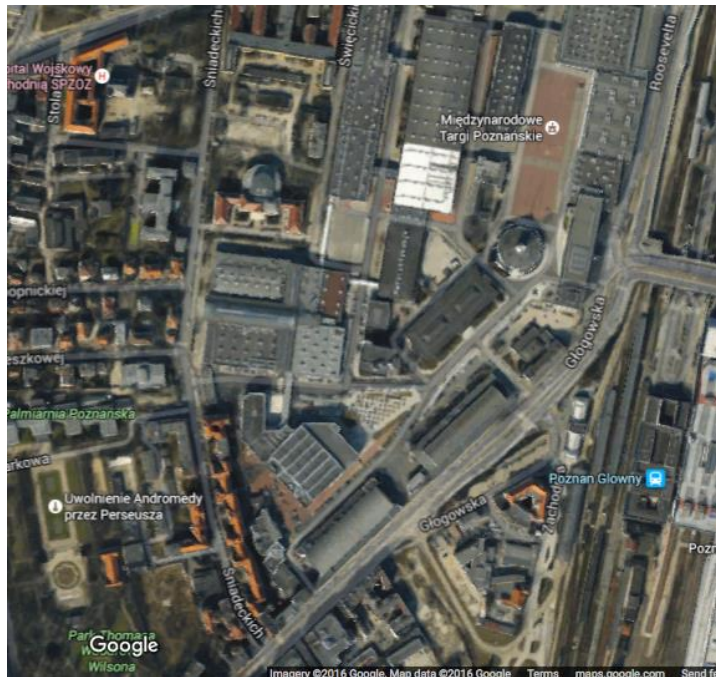## cultural mosaic - continued

Posen 1940

- erasure

Poznań 1951

- beginning of nonmemory

Poznań 2016

- space is value

Implants vs. traces of memory

Międzynarodowe Targi Poznańskie
Image 21 of 25

Image schemata

- "… image schema is a condensed re-description of perceptual experience for the purpose of mapping spatial structure onto conceptual structure. (…) [they are] the basis for organizing knowledge and reasoning about the world." [Oakley 2007: 215]

- they originate in bodily movement through space, object manipulation, perception

- CONTAINER, PART- WHOLE, LINK, CENTER-PERIPHERY, FAR-CLOSE, IN-OUT, SOURCE-PATH-GOAL

The inherent axiological ambivalence of the CONTAINER schema

- CONTAINER as **shelter** – value: safety, security, protection (related image schema: LINK)
- CONTAINER as **prison** – value: (lack of) freedom (related image schema: BONDAGE)

[Krzeszowski 1997: 142-149]

Metaphors based on the CONTAINER schema

- Membership and belonging are being IN the container

Negative polarity of the CONTAINER schema

- BLOCKAGE (keeping visitors OUT of the CONTAINER)
- RESISTANCE
- (IM)BALANCE

- sacrum vs profanum

Positive polarity: Domestication of (traumatic) past

- CONTAINER
- PART-WHOLE
- LINK

Container schema and the power of place and space

- In and out of place refers to territorial control as constitutive of spcial relations and power. Spatial interaction refers to the role of space in natural science causality and its application to human behaviour. Surface and depth, or appearance and reality, refers to the role of space and place as problematizing meaning.

[Sack 1993: 328]

resemiotization

Resemiotization is about how meaning making shifts from context to context, from practice to practice, or from one stage of a practice to the next.

(Iedema 2012: 41)

Rabbi Schlesinger in Janusz Marciniak's „And only lilac tree remains" series

Searching for Graves (Rabbi E. Schlesinger, 11/03/2002), 2003, acrylic, 25,5 x 20,7 cm.

Janusz Marciniak's „And only lilac tree remains" series

Backyard. Jewish Cemetery (2), 2003, acrylic, 42,5 x 35 cm.

Form and meaning in resemiotization

Transformation of meaning in various contexts
and through various genres

vs.

Transformation of space/form through various
meanings and uses

GPR: Ground Penetrating Radar