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## Abstract

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“The Bare Necessities” brings together social anthropologists and historians to examine the evolution of provisioning systems since the Second World War to the present. Through ethnographic and historical case studies, we aim to explore the practices of planning for “the bare necessities” of life: water, food, shelter, heating and clean air. The papers focus on moments of transition between different regimes of provisioning for the basic needs, and on the frictions, tensions and contradictions that have accompanied these transitions historically. We critically engage with the concepts of “planning” and “scale” to investigate how in various historical contexts after 1945, bureaucrats, scientists, academics, farmers, refugees, racialized minorities or prison managers have planned for the basic needs, and how they have responded to challenges and disruptions in their possibility to do so. Our workshop will highlight how confrontations between different systems of provisioning can also become moments of constitution, appropriation and contestation of knowledge regimes, forms of rationality and visions of the future.

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## Organizers

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Emily Brownell  
Alina-Sandra Cucu

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## Venue

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MPIWG Main Conference Room  
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science,  
Boltzmannstraße 22, 14195 Berlin

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## More about Us

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“Histories of Planning” is a project unfolding in Department III – Artefacts, Action, and Knowledge. It focuses on knowledge production in action, thus emphasizing the entanglements and dynamics of knowledge forms in their historical “making.” As things have to work out and ends have to be met, humans identify physical realities and discuss how to handle them. They spell out cognitive capacities, validate knowledge, apply or dismiss ideas and practices. Different histories of planning are explored to see how individuals, communities, and states envisioned and fashioned spheres for creativity and negotiation that were then developed, experimented on, and stabilized to make things work.

**Cover Image:** PHC Bruce Wallace (1991),  
PD-USGov-Military-Navy



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

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## The Bare Necessities

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Histories of Provisioning from the  
Second World War to the Present

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Workshop  
June 7-8, 2018

Department III: Artefacts, Action  
and Knowledge. Histories of Plan-  
ning Research Theme.



**MPIWG**

Max Planck Institute  
for the History of Science

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# June 7

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10:00-10:30

**Introductory remarks:** DAGMAR SCHÄFER, EMILY BROWNELL, ALINA-SANDRA CUCU

10:30-12:00 **Round table 1**

Struggling for Definitions

Discussant: BU YUN CHEN

CRISTINA RAȚ

Drawing lines to separate the needy: The construction of poverty lines and eligibility thresholds for social protection in Romania after 1990

HADAS WEISS

Provisioning for old age in Germany

MARA MĂRGINEAN

Sweet needs. Sugar, knowledge production and planning in postwar Romania

12:00-13:00 Lunch break

13:00-14:00 **Round table 2**

“Life-as-lived”: Scales, Histories, Potentialities

Discussant: TAMAR NOVICK

TRISTAN PARTRIDGE

Beyond the bare commons: Securing an indigenous community irrigation system in Ecuador

JENNIFER LEE JOHNSON

Same as it never was: Enkejje, Haplochromines, or just trash

14:00-14:30 Coffee break

15.30 – 16.00 **Round table 3**

Practices of Provisioning in Marginal Spaces

Discussant: ON BARAK

PREM KUMAR RAJARAM

Provisioning in the interstices: Refugees and Roma in Hungary

NAFSIKA PAPACHARALAMPOUS

‘Let’s eat them Together’. Food procurement practices of domination and resistance in the city of Athens

CHRISTOPHER ERIC GARCÉS

Penal democracy as human experimentation with ‘bare necessities’

19:00 Dinner

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# June 8

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10.00-12.00 **Round table 4**

Basic Needs between the State and the Market

Discussant: STEFAN TETZLAFF

GUILLAUME YON

Ensuring the supply of electricity in a postwar nation: Hydropower, long-term marginal cost pricing, and marketing policies at Électricité de France in the 1950s

MAJED AKHTER

Infrastructure Booms and their remnants: Towards a politicized history (and future) of large dams in Pakistan

MEERA GOPAKUMAR

Science and state entangled: The politics and rationality of health policies in India

PRAKASH KUMAR

Provisioning for famine: United States congressional delegation in India

12:00-13:00 Lunch break

13:00-15:00 Final round table and closing remarks