

Tram in Industrial Postsoviet Small Town: Case of Krasnoturyinsk

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RSF grant № 21-18-00418 “Small Town Museum:
Multiple Cultures of Memory
(Historical and Sociological Analysis)”





PLAN

1. Tram symbolism
in the early XX century:
both the deadening and
the civilizing sides of
industrialization
2. Kachkanar and
Krasnoturyinsk :
 - empirical research design
 - research findings

Tram symbolism

Filippo Tommaso Marinetti (1909) The Futurist Manifesto

«Then we were suddenly distracted by the rumbling of huge double decker **trams** that went leaping by, streaked with light like the villages celebrating their festivals, which the Po in flood suddenly knocks down and uproots, and, in the rapids and eddies of a deluge, drags down to the sea.»

→ Sounds

→ Lights

→ Suddenness, adventure

→ Power, speed



- Mikhail Dobuzhinsky. Petersburg. Izmailovsky regiment, horse-drawn carriage. 1909.



- Mikhail Larionov. Tram. City street. 1911.

Tram symbolism



Olga Rozanova. City. 1913

Tram symbolism



Ivan (Jean) Pougny
Tram № 5. 1914-1915

Osip Mandelstam (1925) Two trams Klik and Tram



<https://www.litfund.ru/auction/326/96/>

Once upon a time two trams were living in the depot:
Klik and Tram.

They would go out together to operate their routes
In the mornings.

The beautiful street, the mother of all trams,
Loves to cheerfully blink with electricity.
The beautiful street, the mother of all trams,
She sent out the sweepers to sweep the rails.

Because of the clatter and bells at every junction
On the rails, Klik's platform was hurting.
He could hardly keep his flashlights open in the
evening:

He forgot his number, neither 5, nor 3...

The coachman and children were laughing at Klik:
— Here, look at the sleepy tram!

...

• <https://lyricstranslate.com>



Alexander Labas.
Winter in the city. 1922

Alexander Labas.
City Square. 1926



<http://labasfond.ru/works/painting/20-30/>

Nikolay Zabolotsky (1928) *Seryozhka Kolbasnik* [*Seryozhka, the Sausage Maker*]*



"And all of a sudden, the street is filled with ringing, so shrill, that you would want to plug your ears.

Seryozhka looks out of the boat and sees a little iron house rolling down the street, the wheels rattling, and two flashlights shining – yellow and red, and behind the windows it is chock-full of people."

*We are deeply grateful to Igor Loshchilov for referring us to this text and for other useful consultations.

“Mind the Wheels! 200 people died as a result of tram accidents in 1925”



“obsession with decapitation”
(Timenchik 1988: 139)

- Nikolai Gumilev (1920)
The Lost Streetcar
- Mikhail Bulgakov (1928-1940)
The Master and Margarita



Kachkanar and Krasnoturyinsk

Research projects since 2013

Field methods

- go-along and sedentary interviews,
- group discussions,
- observation,
- mental maps,
- photo mapping

Document sources

- materials of local and region media
- archival documents of the soviet period

- Vandyshev M., Veselkova N., Pryamikova E. (2017), Temporal regimes in young post-soviet towns. *Historia@Teoria*, 3(5). pp. 67–83.
- Veselkova N., Vandyshev M., Pryamikova E. (2019) Horror Stories of Young Ural Cities. In: (ed.) Bell K. *Supernatural Cities: Enchantment, Anxiety, Spectrality*. Woodbrifge: Boydell and Brewer Ltd, pp. 165–185.

- Veselkova N. V., Vandyshev M. N., Pryamikova E. V. (2019) “**Go-along**” interview: its structure and genres. *Monitoring of Public Opinion: Economic and Social Changes*. No. 4. P. 4–21.
- Veselkova N. V., Pryamikova E. V., Vandyshev M. N. (2022) **Research Photomapping**: Discussing the Method. *Monitoring of Public Opinion: Economic and Social Changes*. No. 4. P. 39–61.

Veselkova N., Pryamikova E., Vandyshev M (2011) Social Construction of “Monotown” Space: Between Human and Non-Human, In: *Non-Humans in Social Science: Animals, Spaces, Things*. Prague: Pavel Mervart, pp. 151–168.

Kachkanar

- 1723 km east of Moscow
- 253 km north-west of Ekaterinburg

Krasnoturyinsk

- 2085 km east of Moscow
- 376 km north of Ekaterinburg
(the Sverdlovsk region's capital)



Kachkanar

- 1723 km east of Moscow
- 253 km north-west of Ekaterinburg
- was established in 1957
- received city status in 1968
- city-forming enterprise –
the Kachkanar Ore Mining and Processing
Plant (Kachkanarsky GOK)
- population: 37 687 (2021)
- electric public transport – **trolleybus 1972–1985**

Krasnoturyinsk

- 2085 km east of Moscow
- 376 km north of Ekaterinburg
(the Sverdlovsk region's capital)
- was established as Tur'inskie Rudniki in 1758.
- received city status in 1944
- city-forming enterprise –
the Bogoslovskiy Aluminum Factory
- population: 55 910 (2021)
- electric public transport – **tram from 1954**

Krasnoturyinsk

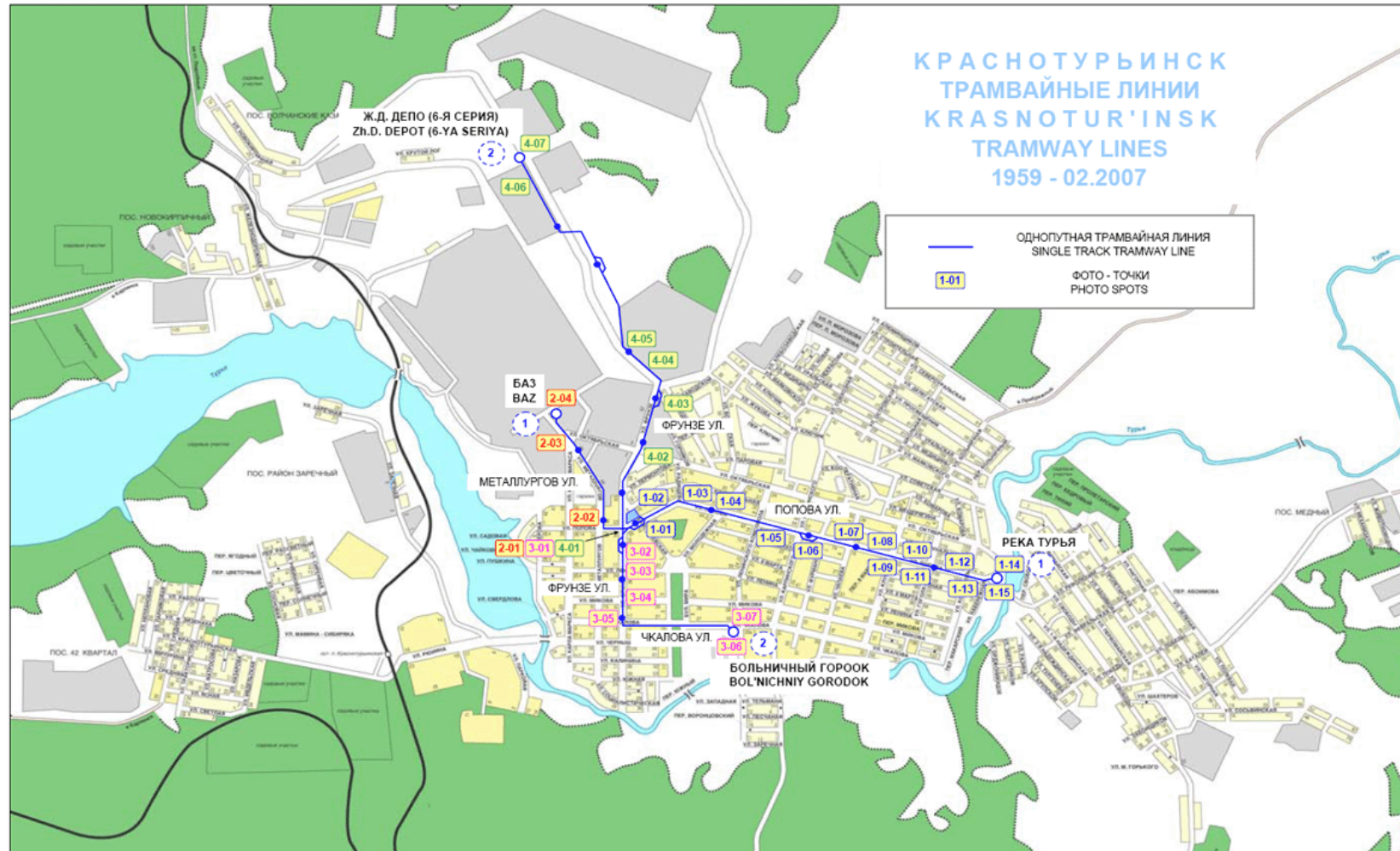
Zarya Urala [Dawn of the Urals]. 1954. Feb.21. No. 23. P. 2.

"When ... the construction of the tram began, Komsomol members and youth took the most ardent part in it. They announced the construction be a youth [endeavour]. Their initiative was supported by all the town workers.

Every day after work, hundreds of metallurgists, builders, and miners came to the street named after Popov, cleared and leveled the route of the future tramline, dug ditches. On some days, several thousand people worked there, including various machines.

The work done was enormous."

Krasnoturyinsk



Two tram lines
were launched in

- 1954
- 1959



“Popova Ul. / Molodezhnaya Ul.

KTM+KTP-1. Eastbound.

In this photo even though the trams are running already,
the city around the tram line is still being built”

KRASNOTUR'INSK TRAMWAY NETWORK

<http://ymtram.mashke.org/gallery.php?g=russia/krasnoturyinsk/1&l=en>

Krasnoturyinsk, the late 1950s



“Frunze Ul. / Lenina Ul.

KTM+KTP-1. Southbound.

Tramway train crosses the city's main thoroughfare.
Traditionally trams don't operate on Lenina Ul”

KRASNOTUR'INSK TRAMWAY NETWORK

<http://ymtram.mashke.org/gallery.php?g=russia/krasnoturyinsk/3&l=en>



In 2011, one of the two tramlines was shut down



Krasnoturyinsk 2013, go-alongs and research photomapping

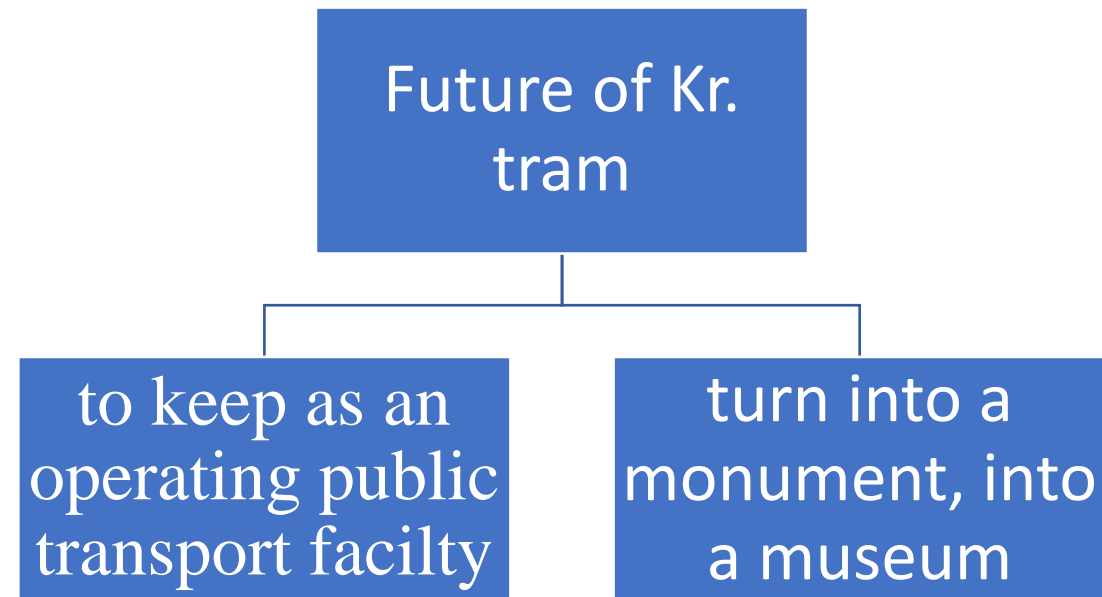


Krasnoturyinsk 2013, 2018
research photomapping





Krasnoturyinsk tram remains
a symbol of the town



Nostalgia and tramfans

“The tramway system was built and owned by the BAZ combine. It was municipalized in 1999 and fell under control of the municipal power authority.

Due to short distances traveled, the small town setting, and single-track lines, local tramway seems to be **an oddity, but this consequently spells heaven for tramfans”**

KRASNOTUR'INSK TRAMWAY NETWORK

http://ymtram.mashke.org/russia/krasnoturyinsk/krasnoturyinsk_descr_en.html



Julia Belousova 2016

<https://krasnoturinsk.su/photos/1177#>



Краснотурьинский трамвай

Краснотурьинск жив, пока бьется его "трамвайное сердце"

Вы участник ▾

"Krasnoturyinsk tram"

"Krasnoturyinsk is alive while its tram heart is beating"

- 2022. Aug. 17
https://vk.com/nash_tramway?z=photo-74156348_457292960%2Fwall-55677892_5085



- 2022. July 18. https://vk.com/nash_tramway?z=photo-55677892_457240080%2Falbum-55677892_00%2Frev





"Gone down in history" Kachkanar trolleybus

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11-3LKiBveE&ab_channel=TravelTogether

<https://i.ytimg.com/vi/11-3LKiBveE/maxresdefault.jpg>

Kachkanar
trolleybus



<https://transphoto.org/photo/14/31/48/1431481.jpg>

... the symbol of a real city

"I-1: ...it's such a good memory, everyone has it, the Kachkanar trolleybus. We had a trolleybus then. <...> it was our pride.

I-4: There was a ring...

I-1: Yes.

I-7: The trolleybus ring remained.

I-2: The trolleybus ring, yes"

Interviewer: And why is it so important that there was a trolleybus, for example, what was in it?

I-1: First of all, it is [because of] our relief here, this uphill climb, [there] should be electric transport, because even here...

I-3: It is much more economical. More advantageous.

*I-1: Economical, yes. <...> And then the trolleybus **is the symbol of a real city**, not just every [settlement]. And we had a trolleybus.*

Kachkanar 2021, group interview