

ALAN 2015 – 3<sup>RD</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ARTIFICIAL LIGHT AT NIGHT  
SHERBROOKE, CANADA, MAY 29–31, 2015

# LIGHTING CONFLICTS: HIGH NOON AHEAD?

SESSION VI  
MAY 31, 2015

# LIGHTING CONFLICTS

## OVERVIEW

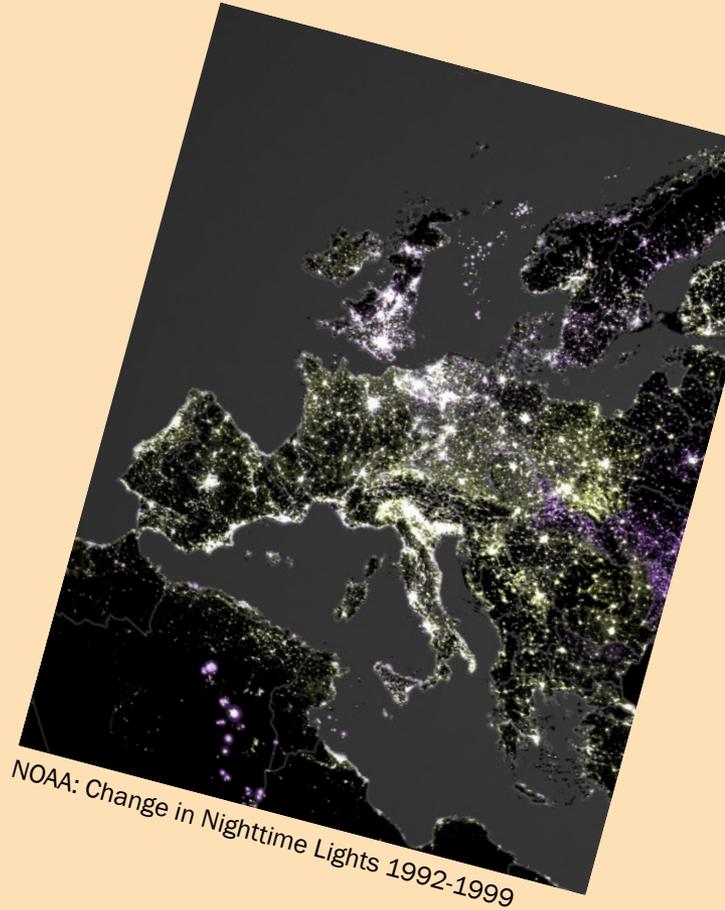
- **Lighting conflicts:**  
*An issue on the rise*
- **A theoretical approach:**  
*Classifying conflicts*
- **An empirical approach:**  
*Much ado about nothing?*
- **A comparative approach:**  
*Light & sound – light pollution & noise pollution*



# LIGHTING CONFLICTS: ON THE RISE!

## SOME CURRENT POTENTIAL SOURCES OF CONFLICT

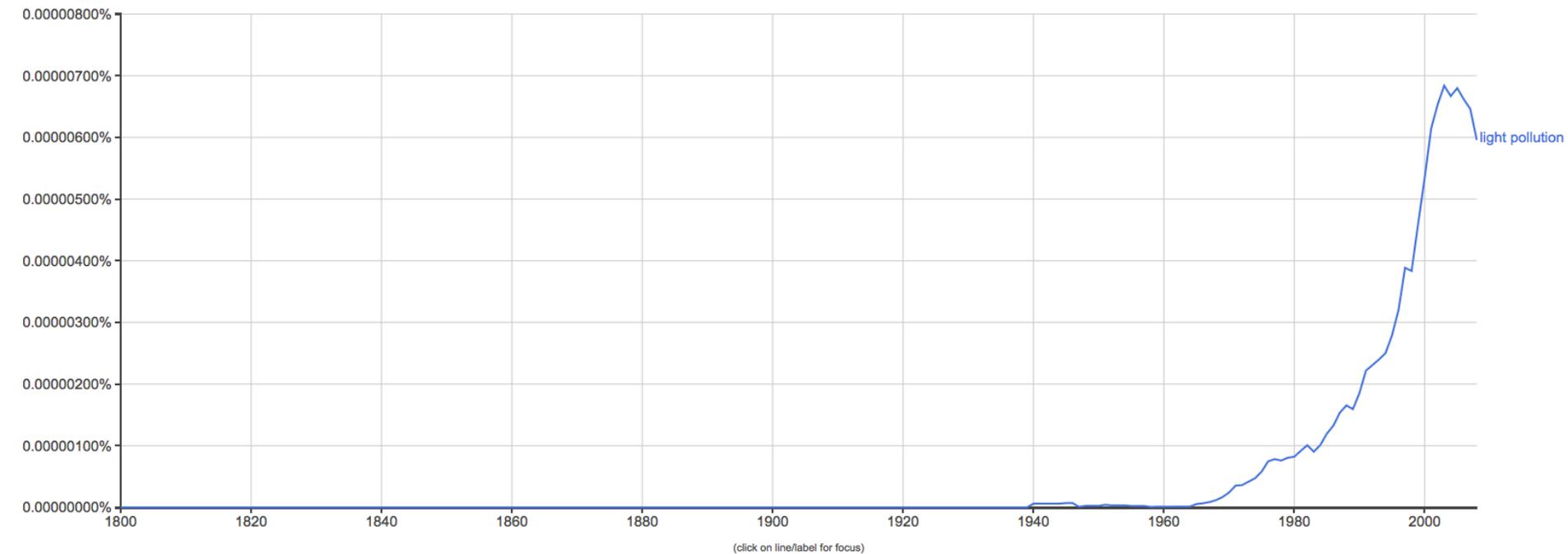
- Increasing awareness of negative impacts of (too much) light



# LIGHTING CONFLICTS: ON THE RISE!

Google books Ngram Viewer

Graph these comma-separated phrases:   case-insensitive  
between  and  from the corpus  with smoothing of  [Search lots of books](#)



# LIGHTING CONFLICTS: ON THE RISE!

## SOME CURRENT POTENTIAL SOURCES OF CONFLICT

- Increasing awareness of negative impacts of (too much) light
- Increasing levels of brightness
- New vs. old technologies
- New forms of governance of lighting



# THEORETICAL CLASSIFICATION

## ANALYSING LIGHTING CONFLICTS

Conflicts might be analysed according to different parameters:

- Occasion/reason
- Object of conflict
- Involved actors
- Location & spatial scale
- Duration & dynamics
- Severity

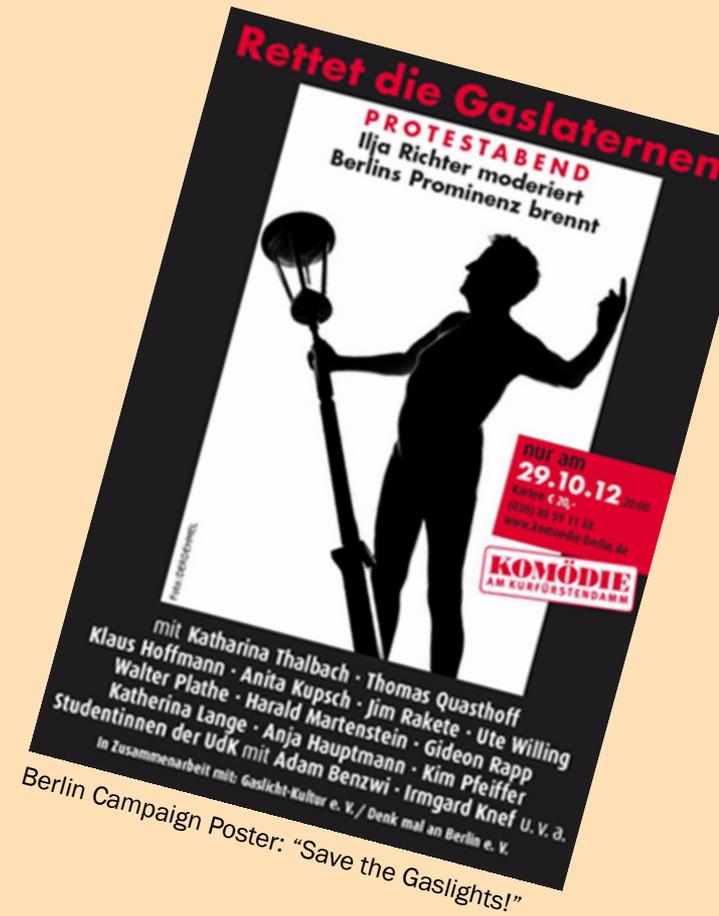


Public lighting in Bremen, Germany

# THEORETICAL CLASSIFICATION

## CONFLICTS CONCERNING THE PRESENCE & “SHAPE” OF LIGHTING...

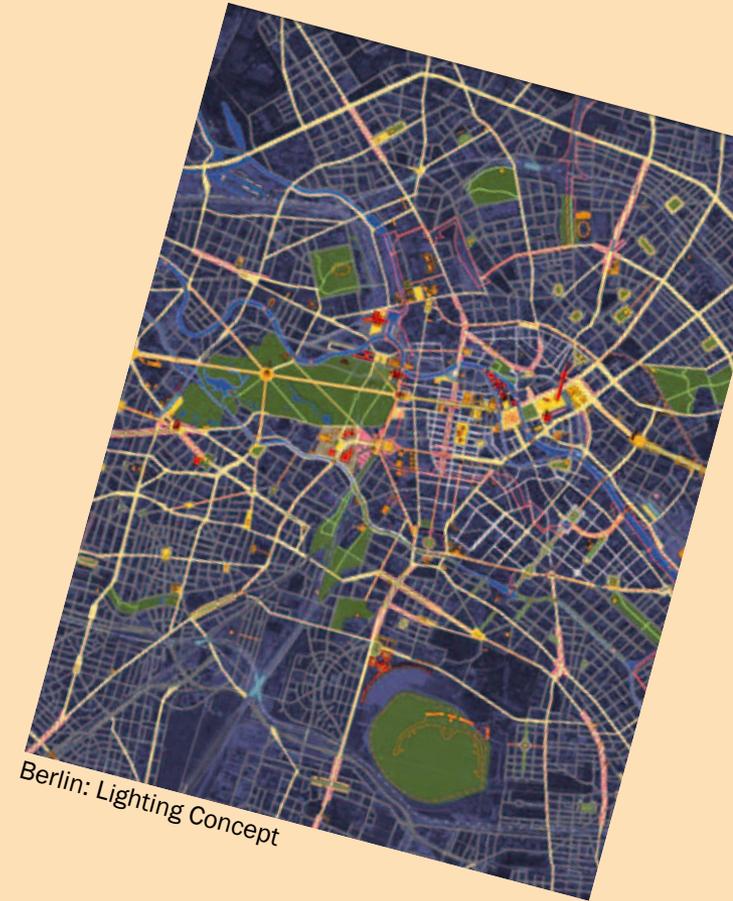
- Employment & spread of lighting
- Quantity & quality of light
- Design – luminaires & lighting
- Technical aspects



# THEORETICAL CLASSIFICATION

## CONFLICTS CONCERNING *THE REGULATION OF LIGHT...*

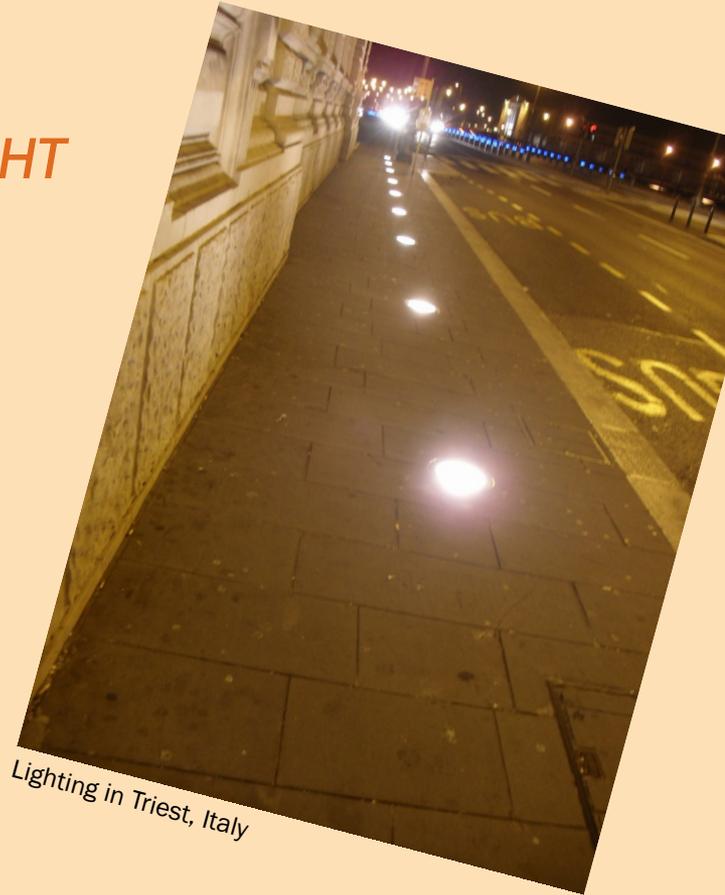
- Criteria
- Actors of regulation
- Type of regulation & enforcement



# THEORETICAL CLASSIFICATION

## CONFLICTS CONCERNING *THE PERCEPTION & INTERPRETATION OF LIGHT*

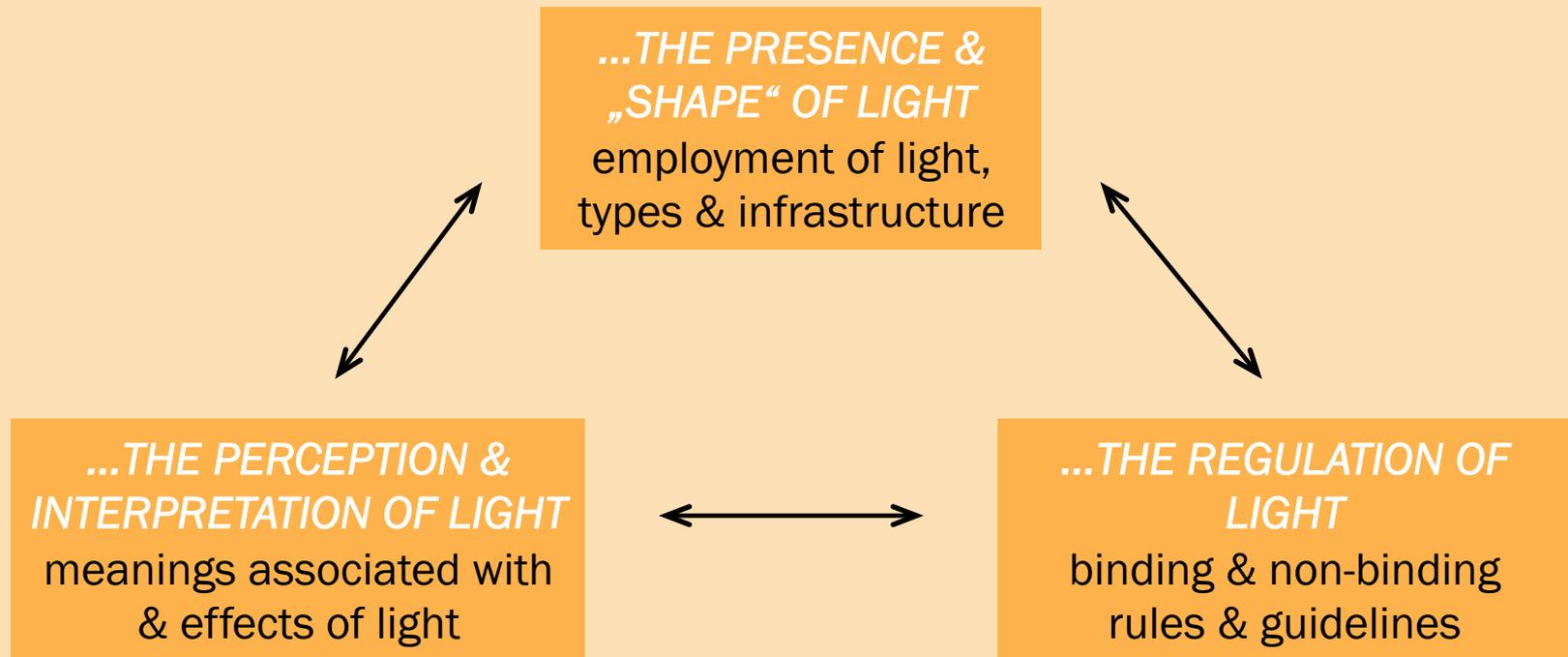
- Light pollution
- Security
- Progress/modernity



Lighting in Triest, Italy

# THEORETICAL CLASSIFICATION

## CONFLICTS CONCERNING...



# ... OR MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING?

## EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE

- General web search: few results
- Systematic search in a German data base on legal issues (juris): few results
- Systematic search in selected German newspapers: few results
- Working in the field: anecdotal evidence



# LIGHT & NOISE

## HYPOTHESES

- There are relevant similarities between light and sound, light pollution and noise pollution.

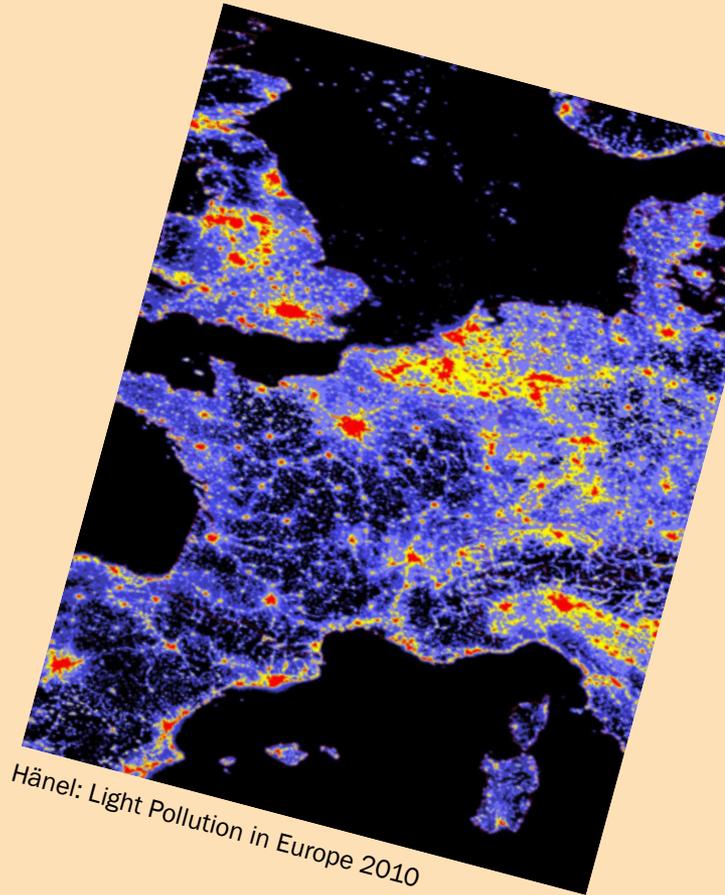


Sign "No artificial ambient sounds", Linz, Austria

# LIGHT & NOISE

## ANALOGIES BETWEEN NOISE & LIGHT AS SOURCES/OBJECTS OF CONFLICT

- Wording & depiction
- Problems of definition & measurement
- Externalities
- Valuation:
  - Symbols of modernity vs. anti-urban discourses
  - Ambivalence towards silence & darkness
- Slow development of regulation
- Hope for technical solutions



Hänel: Light Pollution in Europe 2010

# LIGHT & NOISE

## HYPOTHESES

- There are relevant similarities between light and sound, light pollution and noise pollution.
- The debate on noise pollution, the respective conflicts and their regulation are much more established.

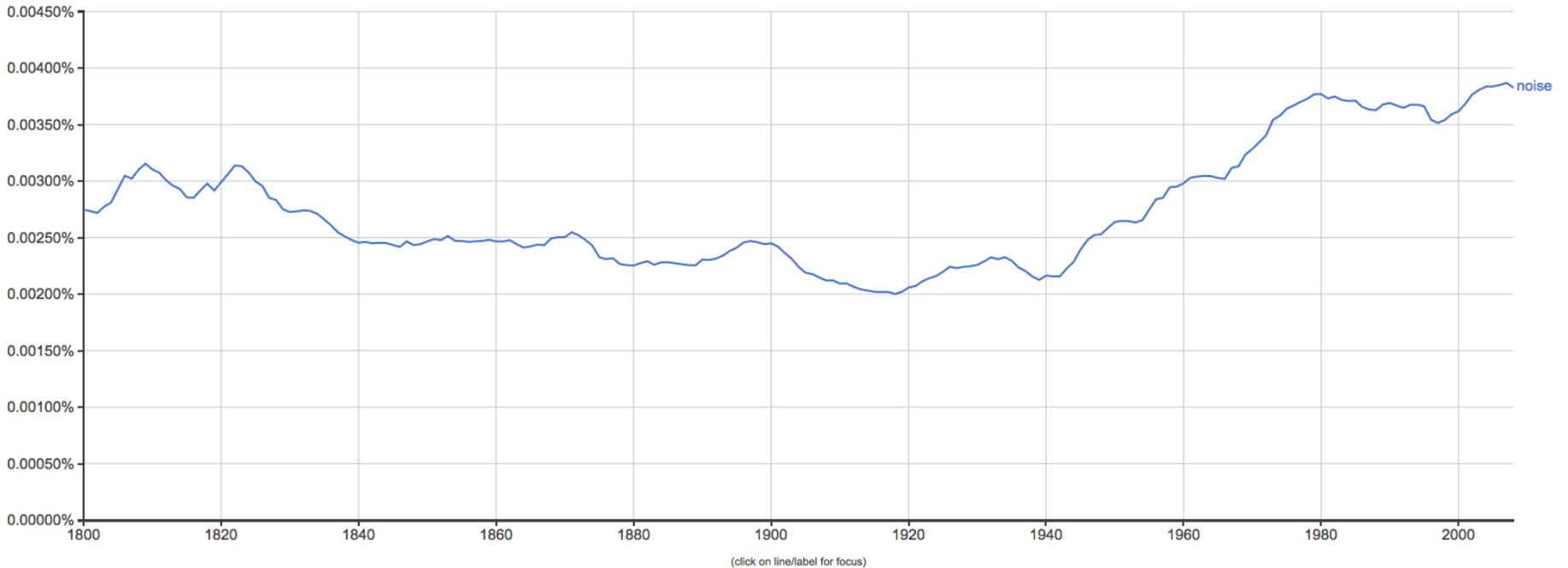


Sign "No artificial ambient sounds", Linz, Austria

# LIGHT & NOISE

## Google books Ngram Viewer

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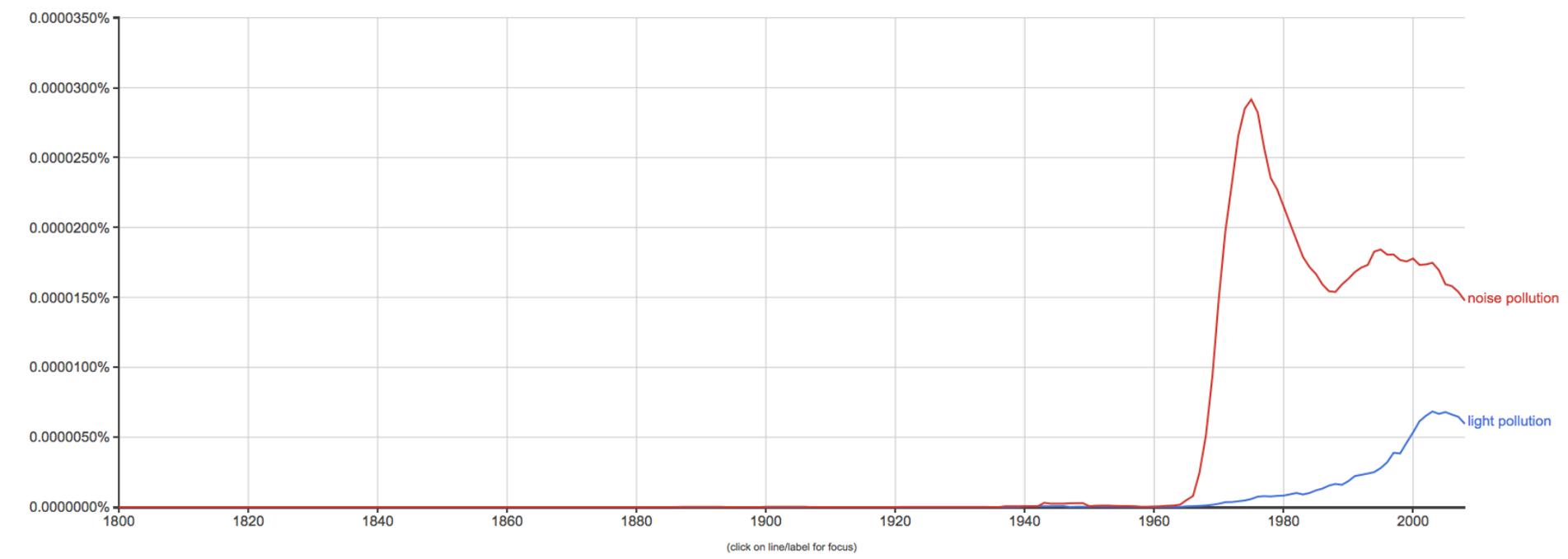


# LIGHT & NOISE

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Josiane Meier & Dietrich Henckel  
TU Berlin, Chair of Urban and Regional Economics

# LIGHT & NOISE

## HYPOTHESES

- There are relevant similarities between light and sound, light pollution and noise pollution.
- The debate on noise pollution, the respective conflicts and their regulation are much more established.
- The debate on light pollution will develop similarly to that on noise pollution – bringing more conflicts with it.



# CONCLUSIONS

- The debate about light (and light pollution) is on the rise – leading to an increase in conflicts.
- There is a huge variety of (potential) lighting conflicts, making them difficult to grasp.
- A systematic empirical foundation proves difficult – however, anecdotal evidence points toward an increase in and a diversity of existing conflicts.
- The debate about lighting, light pollution & the regulation of light will likely develop similarly to that about noise.

# THE INTERMEDIATE SOLUTION? ;-)



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THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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SESSION VI  
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LOSS  
of the NIGHT



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