



**Max
Planck
Institute**
for the Study of
Religious & Ethnic Diversity

INSIDE

OUT

OUTSIDE

**SHIFTING
IN**

**ARCHITECTURES
OF REFUGEE
IN HABITATION**

**Abstracts
& Bios**

Thursday
Jan. 24

Panel 1 LIVING AND COMMONING 12:15 - 13:45

Dominique Peck (HafenCity University of Hamburg)
Living Rooms in a Model Project

Vasiliki Makrygianni (IT University of Copenhagen)
Commoning Personal Space: Moving Populations and Housing Practices in Greece During a Crisis Era

Asli Varol (Campus Cosmopolis eV)
Living With Germans

Moderator

Chris Walker (People Systems International)

Dominique Peck

HafenCity University of Hamburg

Dominique has been a research assistant in the Urban Design teaching and research programme since October 2015. He is alumni of the programme and has worked in the field of urban and traffic planning and in changing collectives with economists, musicians, theatre makers, architects and artists in art and cultural projects. He teaches and does his doctorate in the field of project management in urban design and was co-project leader in the model project Building a Proposition for Future Activities.

Living Rooms in a Model Project

The contribution shows how shifting and interrelated definitions, ideas, promises and forms of realisation of "living" have enabled and structured the model project Begegnungshaus Poppenbüttel 43 / Building a Proposition for Future Activities. The project was conceptualised and structured from 2015 to 2018 simultaneously with and on the site of the urban development project Ohlendieckshöhe in the Hamburg Senate Programme Accommodation with a Housing Perspective (Unterbringung mit Perspektive Wohnen - UPW). Actors from politics, administration, civil society, private companies, the HafenCity University Hamburg and refugees, who were accommodated in Hamburg, partially co-produced the project structuring phase o. In this phase o, small forms of notation - protocols, models, sketches, diagrams, memos, notes of conversations, etc. - are practical to get into work with definitions, ideas and promises of living. The dissertation Re-Positioning Project Management in Urban Design translates these small forms of notation into a project archaeology. Following the call to the workshop, the contribution aims to enable questions from this project archaeology along the following vector: If the motif is to give room to shifting forms of living rooms, how do actors who gather around this motif come into play?

Vasiliki Makrygianni

IT University of Copenhagen

Vasiliki has a background in Architecture Engineering and her PhD thesis focuses on global/world cities and migrants' emancipatory and innovative practices. She currently works as a researcher at the interdisciplinary project DIGINAUTS at the IT university of Copenhagen where she investigates the digital practices of migrants on arrival sites and en-route to Europe. Her primary research areas include critical urban theory, feminist methodologies and theory of intersectionality and migration studies. Current research interests focus on Science and Technology Studies (STS), digital space and social media and feminist technoscience.

Commoning Personal Space: Moving Populations and Housing Practices in Greece During a Crisis Era

As several scholars engaged with the commons point out, commoning practices derive from a prepositional line of thought that does not seek only to understand deadlocks but also to change capitalism's determinism and give perspectives beyond neoliberal tragedies and death-scapes (Caffentzis 2004, 2010; Chatterton 2016, 2017; De Angelis 2004, 2017; Federici 2010, 2011; Harvey 2012; Vasudevan 2011, 2017). Such practices create spaces that are neither stable nor enclosed but frequently mobile, penetrative and porous and break the binaries between private and public. Within these new spatialities, personal space (not in terms of property but of the individual's space of reference) has vital importance. Under this scope, moving populations through their commoning practices challenge preconceived notions of migrants' and refugees' status, change the dynamics between indigenous and newcomers and become active participants of the production of space. While migrants inhabit various urban spaces, they reclaim centrality, antagonize death-scapes and enclosures and re-evaluate citizenship. This presentation focuses on such practices and spaces in Athens, Greece that reflect the return of the persecuted to the city core and entail the opening of contemporary metropolises.

Asli Varol

Campus Cosmopolis eV

Asli studies architecture at the University of Arts Berlin and is currently working on her master thesis. Her focus is on opportunities for socially balanced urban development, especially through participatory and appropriation processes. Since 2015 she has been involved as one of the initiators and planners in the initiative Campus Cosmopolis.

Living With Germans

Campus Cosmopolis is an initiative of Berliners with and without the experience of seeking asylum, who realize a place for self-determined living and learning in the middle of the city. At the centre of the project is a comprehensive participation process with the future residents, who already contribute to the formation of a vibrant and solidary group before moving into the common house. How can we ensure the integration and empowerment of users who are excluded from the current planning practice? How can we disable existing power-asymmetries in a design process and ensure a space of equality for co-production and democratic decision-making? How do these conditions change planning practice and the role of planners?

Thursday
Jan. 24

Panel 2 INSTITUTIONALIZED SHELTER 14:30 - 16:00

Shahd Wari (MPI-MMG)

Similarities and Differences of Refugee Accommodation Structures in Göttingen and their Influence on Quality of Life

Gregor Brune (Architect)

Transforming a Hospital to Accommodate Refugees: Challenges in Hann. Münden

Toby Parsloe (Cambridge University)

Consolidating Shelter: The Spatial Development of Long-term Institutionalised Accommodation for Refugees in Berlin

Moderator

Sakura Yamamura (MPI-MMG)

Shahd Seethaler-Wari MPI-MMG

Shahd is a post-doctoral researcher at the department of Socio-Cultural Diversity of MPI-MMG. Her focus in the project Asylum Seekers' Needs and Aspirations is the spatial needs of asylum seekers in the refugee accommodations in Lower-Saxony, and the role of architecture and infrastructure of accommodation facilities in the daily lives and future trajectories of asylum seekers. She studied Urban Planning and Urban Management at TU Berlin, and Architecture at Birzeit University in Palestine. Her PhD research focused on the perception and use of public space by Palestinian immigrants and refugees in Berlin.

Refugee Housing Centers in Göttingen: Spatial Layouts, the Public-Private Spectrum and Appropriation of Space

In the mid-sized city of Göttingen, asylum seekers and refugees have been accommodated in housing centers with a wide variety of architectural and structural designs, spatial layouts, private, public and communal spaces, and with very differential access to urban infrastructure, services and resources. This diversity in the extent and quality of access influences the attitudes and perceptions of different individuals and groups towards their host cities, the fulfilment of their needs and the quality of their lives.

This paper presents selected refugee accommodations in Göttingen, focusing on the importance of their architectural design and spatial layouts in allowing/hindering access to information, services and resources for different people. Furthermore, it analyzes the role of different types of physical and social spaces in these housing centers in the daily lives of their inhabitants in this temporary phase of their lives, and explores their agency in perceiving and (re)appropriating these spaces for a better fulfillment of their needs.

Gregor Brune Architect

Gregor Brune from ab+b is a Göttingen based architect and head of an office of 14 employees. His office has years of experience in housing projects of all kinds. During the refugee crisis in 2015 and 2016 they have worked on two refugee-related projects in and around Göttingen which started, in the case of the Hann. Münden project, with a thorough survey of the local social structure. Gregor Brune and ab+b aim to maintain a balance of the particular interests of project stakeholders including costs, schedule, sociocultural responsibility, sustainability and quality of design.

Living in Shifting Architectures?

This presentation aims to present the architect's experience with two institutionalized accommodation centers for asylum seekers and refugees in the Göttingen district.

It will further define the architect's understanding of architecture and will touch upon the challenges of working with housing accommodations from his point of view. The presentation also addresses the notion of refugees as residents/clients, and the importance of refugee agency through their participation and appropriation of space.

Toby Parsloe Cambridge University

Toby is a second year PhD candidate in the Centre for Urban Conflicts Research based in the Department of Architecture at the University of Cambridge. His research examines the spatial implications of the 'urban camp' that has manifested in European cities since the so-called 'refugee crisis' of 2015, with a particular focus on Berlin and wider Germany. He has previously worked in the UK civil service and for the Mayor of London's office. His long-term goal is to help bridge the gap between academia and built-environment policy making in order to address the most pressing contemporary urban issues.

Consolidating Shelter: The Spatial Development of Long-term Institutionalised Accommodation for Refugees in Berlin

Three years have passed since German Chancellor Angela Merkel's historic decision to allow over 1 million predominantly Syrian refugees to enter the country. Contentious debates and provocative images of makeshift emergency shelters defined the early days of the so-called 'European Refugee Crisis' in 2015. However, there has been a worrying lack of recent debate over the long-term implications of physically accommodating such a large population when thousands of refugees continue to live in long-term institutionalised shelter.

This presentation explores the development of the accommodations in Berlin, wherein 27,000 refugees continue to live. It treats the provision of shelter as a process of consolidation that has evolved through the influences of government, various institutions, Berlin's citizens, and the refugees who must live within such structures. It argues that, although shelter quality has improved, they remain spaces that exclude refugees from broader urban systems, while considering the extent to which these structures can be considered 'camps.' Berlin emerges as an ill-prepared and inflexible western European city that in many ways failed to address the issues posed by contemporary mass migration of displaced people. This is particularly alarming in an increasingly uncertain era where similar situations are unfortunately set to become more common.

Thursday
Jan. 24

Panel 3 IN/FORMAL 16:15 - 17:45

Lina Sánchez Steiner (Independent Architect)
Formal and informal long-term housing solutions for and from refugees: The case of Leipzig (Germany) and Mocoa (Colombia)

Maja Momic (HafenCity University of Hamburg)
Dwelling as a Fugitive Practice

Moderator **Farhan Samanani** (MPI-MMG)

Lina Sánchez Steiner Initiative FairCity

Lina holds a degree in architecture from Javeriana University, Bogotá, Colombia (1999) and worked in different urban planning offices, NGOs, the IOM and the research center CINEP, where she developed her research focus on refugees, internal displacement and housing conditions. She completed her PhD in urban studies at the Bauhaus-University in Weimar in 2011 with a thesis on: „The refugee-city. Forced displacement and urban spatial transformations in Colombia“. Her work has been awarded with the first prize of the Colombian Architecture Biennale 2014 in the category Research. She worked four years as a Post-Doc in Colombia at the Universidad del Norte and since 2015 lives again in Germany. Here she has researched about the refugee housing situation in Leipzig and currently works as a consultant with migrant organizations. She is cofounder of FairCity, a young initiative (2018) of urban planners of different nationalities that promotes fair urban life.

Formal and Informal Long-term Housing Solutions For and From Refugees: The Case of Leipzig (Germany) and Mocoa (Colombia)

More and more people are forced to leave their homes. According to the UNHCR 60 million people worldwide are fleeing from war, conflict and persecution. In Germany, the authorities registered in 2015 more than one million asylum-seekers. According to the Norwegian Refugee Council, Colombia encounters 6 million internal displaced persons (IDPs) as a result of the long-during civil war. How do housing provision in German and Colombian cities work? Where and how live refugees and IDPs? What role does urban planning play? Refugee issues are a crucial aspect of contemporary urban development and the short and long term settlement of migrants is a complex process, which involves beside the refugees themselves also local authorities and NGOs. The presentation will introduce the case studies of Leipzig and Mocoa where two different long-term residential development processes take place. Furthermore the challenges and potentials for urban planning will be discussed.

Maja Momic HafenCity University of Hamburg

Maja is a PhD Candidate at the Department of Urban Design, HafenCity University Hamburg. She graduated in Architecture from the University IUAV of Venice with a Master's thesis on collective housing models. Her research interests concern the interrelation between dwelling practices and social transformation processes. In the course of her PhD project "Dwelling as a fugitive Practice?" she explores refugees' dwelling practices in Hamburg by using a mix of architectural and ethnographic methods.

(Im)mobilities in Everyday Life: Different Patterns of Refugees' Dwelling Practices in Hamburg

This paper seeks to identify and trace the diverse dwelling patterns emerging through the everyday practices of refugees in Hamburg, and to examine their role in the processes of the production and negotiation of urban space. It portrays the situations of refugees accommodated in the state-run camps on the one hand, and those not eligible for state-provided shelter on the other, thus offering a differentiated intersectional perspective rather than just working with binary categories.

The (re-) tracing of dwelling patterns unveils the interrelations between policies and regulations that determine refugees' de jure possibilities and restrictions, their spatial translations (functional order, built spaces), and the appropriation practices through actual users and uses. The paper henceforth critically discusses the issue of refugees' rights by presenting examples of refugees legally permitted to rent apartments but unable to do so due to the shortage of affordable housing, those self-organising within housing projects despite their legal status, as well as those who are – by necessity and/or choice – engaging in collective struggles for access to affordable housing and urban citizenship side by side with local activists, thus illustrating the notion of rights as a relative category and a potentiality. Finally, the paper explores the ambivalent relation between mobility and immobility based on the example of different dwelling patterns (e.g. subjects on the move constrained by detention, outsourcing dwelling functions across the city, etc.), and thus demonstrates how movement and change can be examined only in relation to immobility and relative settledness.

Friday
Jan. 25

Panel 4 IN & OF SPACE

09:00 - 10:30

Zsófia Glatz (Community Living; Architecture for Refugees)
Bence Komlósi (MOME Budapest; Architecture for Refugees)
Identity and Space - Inclusive Cities by Newcomers and Welcoming Societies

Emily Kelling (Technical University Berlin)
Dagmar Pelger (HafenCity University Hamburg)
In/visible Housing: the New Spatialities of Precarious Housing of Homeless (former) Refugees in Berlin

Ibrahim Al-Salamah (Stuttgart University)
Hala Saifo (Stuttgart University)
Refuge and Space: An Abstract Evaluation of Space's Impact on Daily Refugee Life

Moderator **Maja Momic** (HCU Hamburg)

Zsófia Glatz

Architecture for Refugees

Zsófia is an architect with a doctorate from the BUTE Hungary. Since 2010, she lives and works in Zurich. In 2012, she co-founded the Community Living organisation, whose main purpose is to collect and share knowledge about community-based housing for a sustainable and resilient housing movement in Hungary. She is also a co-founder of the association Architecture for Refugees. Her research deals with co-housing, affordable housing, the role of housing in social integration, the state of co-housing in Eastern European countries with a focus on Hungary and the comparative analysis of co-housing best practices from Europe.

Bence Komlósi

MOME Budapest

Bence is an architect with a strong theoretical and practical background in the field of bottom-up developments, collaboration, democracy, shared housing and refugee crisis. He studied on the BUTE in Budapest, ETSAB in Barcelona, ETH in Zürich and MOME in Budapest. He is a PhD candidate where he does his research on the field of self organised shared-flats in Budapest. He is co-founder of the Community Living organisation in Hungary and the Architecture for Refugees and Architecture for Refugees SCHWEIZ NGOs. He develops collaborative strategies for inclusivity and for democracy. He believes that together we are stronger.

Identity and Space - Inclusive Cities by Newcomers and Welcoming Societies

The exclusivity and current spatial, economic and social segregation of cities are alarming. New strategies are needed to develop welcoming and inclusive structures where all the different interest groups are included in the short- and long-term developments. Stakeholders from marginalized social groups such as migrants and refugees have no voice and power to be heard and therefore cannot participate in the decision making processes. Welcoming cities and societies have to recognize the value of migration and start including the experience and knowledge of newcomers.

Spaces for equality have to be built where everybody will find their identity; the importance of diversity has to be recognized; and future cities have to be developed together. Equality-based decision making processes in the problem definition-, solution development-, implementation and maintenance phases have to be established where everybody - not only the privileged - has their voice. It would bring more understanding and acceptance into the societies.

Ibrahim Al-Salamah Stuttgart University

Ibrahim graduated as a Civil Engineer from the University of Al-Furat, Syria in 2013. He is currently pursuing a Master's degree at the University of Stuttgart. His past experiences include working as a site engineer at AGM company in Syria for two years, holding a UNHCR focal point position for a year, a trainee at Daimler in Germany, being fellow of Transsolar Academy in Germany, and being a refugee representative at the University of Stuttgart.

Hala Saifo Stuttgart University

Hala graduated as an Architect from Damascus University, Syria in 2014. She is working currently as Junior Architect (AiP) at Isin+Co Generalplaner Architekten Consultants in Aalen.

Refuge and Space: An Abstract Evaluation of Space's Impact on Daily Refugee Life

Refugee' camps design and location have a significant impact on both living experience and refugees' well-being. Camp's location influences the way that refugees normally receive the city where a camp located too far or too close to their activities will reduce the interaction with the city where they live. This interaction is further related to the quality of living space. Refugees' camps in most cases are not designed as residential buildings but as another building type that quickly transferred into residential buildings. Therefore, a very low gradual transfer between private and public spaces was observed in these buildings, meaning that there's a lack of related housing facilities such as green or recreational areas. Along with the camp's location and quality of living space, the managerial issues have an additional impact on the living experiences, where camp's inhabitants have limited power to organise or arrange their living space. Hence, refugees usually have nothing else their beds which can be considered as their place or a space that they can influence or organised the way they like. The lack of shared places within these camps such as living rooms was noticed. Thus, refugees cannot easily host family, friends and newly gained friends which hinders their way of socialising.

Emily Kelling TU Berlin

Emily has been researching and teaching at the Chair for the Sociology of Planning and Architecture at the Technische Universität Berlin since 2013. She is writing her PhD dissertation about informal housing in London. She has been a guest researcher at HafenCity Universität Hamburg, Universidad de Chile and the Bartlett Development Planning Unit of University College London. Previous studies include Urban Development Planning at University College London and Liberal Arts and Sciences at Universiteit Maastricht.

Dagmar Pelger HCU Hamburg

Dagmar (not present) completed a degree in architecture in Karlsruhe and Delft. Since 2013, her research has focused on the history, theory and practices of Spatial Commons as an alternative mode of urban space production. She teaches in the fields of urban design, landscape and architecture at the Technische Universität Berlin, HafenCity Universität Hamburg, the KIT Karlsruhe and the University of Gent.

In/visible Housing: The New Spatialities of Precarious Housing of Homeless (former) Refugees in Berlin

Berlin is facing a huge housing need: tens of thousands of people are registered as homeless by the authorities, which have the duty to find them accommodation. Many of the homeless are refugees with a (preliminary) permit of residency. Due to an insufficient public housing stock, the dominant mode to find shelter is to give vouchers for hostels. The size of the phenomenon and money involved justifies our framing as hostel industry – which, nonetheless, remains hidden in the spatiality of the city and in public discourse.

In the talk, I will present the results of an interdisciplinary research studio between Sociology and Urban Design. We investigated the hostel industry in Berlin aiming to reveal its spatial, organizational and social structures: how does it function and how is this spatially organized? Our results point to the relevance of the fact that the phenomenon is hidden for the possibility of its existence in the first place. Moreover, they highlight the dire consequences for the people involved, regarding their dwelling practices, their negotiation of privacy, and their movements through the city.

Friday
Jan. 25

Panel 5 QUESTION OF THE "CAMP" 10:45 - 12:15

René Kreichauf (Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Freie Universität Berlin)
Campization – Legal Paradigm Shifts, Asylum Laws and the Production of Spaces of Exclusion

Irit Katz (LSE)
City, Camp, Shelter, Home: Recreating a Place in a Displaced World

Ayham Dalal (TU Berlin)
Planning the Ideal Refugee Camp? A Critical Interrogation of Recent Planning Innovations in Germany and Jordan

Moderator

Somayeh Chitchian (MPI-MMG)

René Kreichauf VU Brussel
FU Berlin

René is a PhD student and Research Fellow at the Brussels Graduate School for Urban Research (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) and at the Graduate School of North American Studies (Freie Universität Berlin). His PhD project investigates the arrival and integration of forced migrants in European and North American cities. His publication and research activities further focus on urban transformation trends, declining cities, small town studies and urban ethnic politics. René Kreichauf received the 2017 IMISCOE Rinus Penninx Best Paper Award for his work on refugee accommodation practices in European cities.

Campization – Legal Paradigm Shifts, Asylum Laws and the Production of Spaces of Exclusion

In the aftermath of large refugee arrivals in 2015, EU regulations and national asylum laws were tightened, especially those regarding reception and accommodation. This contribution introduces the concept of "campization" to explain the impact of law and policy changes on the socio-spatial configuration and functions of refugee accommodation in European capital regions. Based on ideas of "legal violence" and on qualitative research concerning case studies for Athens, Berlin, Copenhagen and Madrid, I discuss the links between the tensioning of laws, the reduction of living conditions and the (re-)constitution of large accommodations as means of socio-spatial exclusion. I argue that refugee accommodation in European cities has increasingly been transformed into large, camp-like structures with lowered living standards and a closed character. This is shown by the structural, functional, and socio-spatial characteristics of the accommodation in the four case studies, as well as the legal and political objectives that determine the campization of accommodation. The contribution lastly highlights changing notions and forms of containment, exclusion, and temporality as part of campization, and links this process to current trends in asylum and urban development.

Irit Katz London
School of
Economics

Irit is an architect and scholar interested in the ever-changing spatial constellations through which political, social and cultural transformations are staged and reworked. She co-edited the book *Camps Revisited* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2018) and completing her forthcoming monograph *The Common Camp* (University of Minnesota Press) on the significant role of the camp in reshaping territories and populations in Israel-Palestine. Her research won numerous awards, including the RIBA President's Award for research and the SAH/Mellon Author Award. She holds teaching positions at the Cities Programme at the LSE and the Department of Architecture at the University of Cambridge.

Ayham Dalal TU Berlin

Ayham Dalal is an Architect and Urban Planner based between Berlin and Amman. He has a master's degree in Integrated Urbanism and Design from Stuttgart and Ain Shams Universities in 2014. In 2015, he joined the Department of International Urbanism and Design (Habitat Unit) at the Technical University Berlin as a PhD Candidate. Since 2018, Ayham has been working as a researcher for the "Architectures of Asylum" project that investigates appropriation practices in refugee camps in Jordan and Germany. He is also a Research Fellow at the Institut français du Proche-Orient (IFPO) in Amman and Beirut through the LAJEH project.

City, Camp, Shelter, Home: Recreating a Place in a Displaced World

From the rapid construction and demolition of institutional and informal migrant camps to the immediate appropriation of prefabricated emergency shelters by their dwellers, the built environments created by and for people 'on the move' could be equally described as 'spaces on the move'. These spaces change according to two complementary movements: the attempt to move forward and the necessity to move inward. Borderscapes, cities of transience, and camps, are created, transformed, disappear, and recreated as part of the effort of irregular migrants to cross countries and borders and the attempt of major powers to block, accommodate and/or contain their movements, while emergency shelters and their immediate surroundings are created and appropriated as minor acts of necessity of refugee and irregular migrants to spatially carve lines of flight from their difficult realities inward into space. Based on the Deleuze and Guattari's notion of 'minor becoming' and on Arendt's concept of 'world-building', this paper argues that through these spaces the right to seek refuge by moving across national borders is simultaneously perused with the right to adequate shelter and to having a proper place in a displaced world. These simultaneous movements—forward and inward—create complementary political acts, the first struggles for the right to move and the second for the right to remain. Both acts, I argue, are the spatial manifestation to the fact that human life, in its singularity and unretrievable time of existence, cannot be put on hold.

Planning the Ideal Refugee Camp? A Critical Interrogation of Recent Planning Innovations in Germany and Jordan

With the increase of refugee movements since 2014 in Europe and the Near East, the debate of how to plan appropriate shelters and emergency accommodation has gained a new momentum. Established techno-managerial approaches have been criticised as inappropriate and the professional community of planners and architects was increasingly drawn into debates for alternative solutions. This article traces the "innovations" that promise better, more effective, and more humane emergency shelters using the examples of the "Tempohomes" in Berlin as well as the Jordanian refugee camps of Za'atari and Azraq. In both cases, planners were employed to address the ambivalent reality of protracted refugee camps and include "lessons" from failures of earlier solutions. While the article acknowledges the genuine attempt of planners to engage with the more complex needs and expectations of refugees, a careful look at the results of the planning for better camps reveals ambivalent outcomes. As camps acquire a new visual appearance, closer to housing, which mixes shelter design with social spaces and services as essential parts of the camp; these "innovations" bear the danger of paternalistic planning and aestheticisation, camouflaging control under what seems to be well-intended and sensitive planning. The article focuses on refugees' agency expressed in critical camp studies to interrogate the planning results. While recent critical refugee studies have demanded recognition of refugees as urban actors which should be included in the co-production of the spatial reality of refugee accommodations, new planning approaches tend to result in a shrinking of spaces of self-determination and self-provisioning of refugees.

Friday
Jan. 25

Panel 6 BY & FOR? SHIFTING ARCHITECT(URE)S 13:15 - 14:45

Nassim Mehran (Humboldt University of Berlin)
The Post-conflict Spaces: Architecture Beyond Architects

Aya Musmar (Sheffield University)
The Madafah: Who is Hosting Whom? The Everyday Life of Za'atri Refugee Camp and the Architectural Encounter

Rachel Lee (LMU Munich)
Pre-Fabrications: Otto Koenigsberger and Refugee Settlement in India

Moderator

Sabine Mohamed (MPI-MMG)

Nassim Mehran Humboldt University of Berlin

Nassim is an architect and currently a Ph.D. candidate in Urban Sociology at the Humboldt University of Berlin. Her focus is mainly on the urban and spatial dimensions of conflict, refuge and migration and the process of spatializing social/urban identities. In addition, she is working also on the correlation between living spaces and the mental health of people.

The Post-conflict Spaces: Architecture Beyond Architects

The continual worldwide phenomenon of war and armed conflicts have resulted in the production of post-conflict spaces including spaces of displacement. As a result, the spatial dimension of conflict got extended beyond its location. Displacement of refugees and asylum seekers resulted in the emergence of interlacing territories and the production of new identical, psychological, virtual and socio-spatial borders within the host country. Either the forcibly displaced people were accommodated in the purposely built camps outside the urban areas or in the re-purposed buildings within the cities' peripheries, the temporal and socio-political complexities and the fast paces of changes make the nature of these spaces restless and anxious and disturb the previous local socio-spatial equations. This study will focus on the emergence of the re-purposed building of accommodations within the city domains in Germany after the summer 2015 and will discuss how and why the spontaneous process of appropriation in these accommodations should be evaluated and assessed beyond the material and spatial realm and architects' task. It also describes how the type of architectures, selected as refugee accommodations played a critical role in bringing limits and opportunities to architects and refugees for further spatial interventions.

Aya Musmar Sheffield University

An Arabic-speaking feminist. PhD candidate at Sheffield School of Architecture (SSoA). My research looks into Za'atri refugee camp, in Jordan. It aims at investigating humanitarian response there by understanding the spatial configurations of the camp environment. Following a practice-based approach, I explore my research question by situating myself in the everyday life of humanitarian procedures. Prior to and during my PhD, I worked in Za'atri refugee camp for more than a year. I was the first facilitator for Women Community Gatherings in Za'atri refugee camp and a project officer that coordinated and supervised three main programs in the community engagement program with one of the INGOs.

The Madafah: Who is Hosting Whom? The Everyday Life of Za'atri Refugee Camp and the Architectural Encounter

*(Madafah-مضافة): a noun in Arabic that designated 'the place of guests'. Derived from the verb, (Daf-ضاف) which translates to 'hosted'.

This research takes place in Za'atri camp for Syrian refugees in Jordan. Following a feminist/practice-based approach, it aims at offering a critical reading of the Madafah as a space where refugees exercise political agency. I explore the spatiality of the camp from the position of Jordanian NGO representatives working in the field. I argue that NGO representatives' implementation of their humanitarian tasks in the field was conditioned by their attendance to the Madafah. By asking, 'who is hosting whom?', I aim to interrogate how the dynamics associated to the power positions of the 'host' and the 'guest' are played between refugees and NGO representatives, respectively (Derrida and Dufourmantelle 2000). The contrast that my question aims to allude between the host (refugees) and the guest (NGO representatives) yearns to challenge the image of the refugee in conventional humanitarian discourses as stripped of agency.

Rachel Lee LMU Munich

Rachel holds a post-doc position at the LMU Munich on the ERC-funded research project Relocating Modernism: Global Metropolises, Modern Art and Exile (METROMOD), where her research focuses on the artscape in Bombay (now Mumbai) in the first half of the twentieth century. In 2014 she completed her doctoral dissertation 'Negotiating Modernities: Otto Koenigsberger's Works and Networks in Exile' at the Habitat Unit of the TU Berlin. She works at the interface of architectural and urban research, teaching, curating and art practice. Her research explores the histories and heritages of colonial and postcolonial architecture and urbanism at their intersections with migration and exile, transnational practice, mobility and gender.

Pre-Fabrications: Otto Koenigsberger and Refugee Settlement in India

After the National Socialist Party grabbed power in Germany in 1933, Otto Koenigsberger, a recently qualified architect of Jewish descent, was forced into exile. From his native Berlin, his exilic trajectory had stations in Cairo, Davos, Bangalore and New Delhi before he settled in London in 1951. As both a refugee and an architect, Koenigsberger inhabited an unusual position that gained significance during the refugee crisis that followed the Independence and Partition of India and Pakistan in 1947. In Delhi, where the population had almost doubled over the previous decade, causing a severe housing shortage, some 500,000 refugees sought shelter. As well as camps outside the city, Delhi's verandahs, gardens and pavements were filled with displaced people while communal violence raged in the streets. In 1948 the federal government employed Koenigsberger to provide architectural and urban planning solutions to the shelter crisis. He elected to develop prefabricated, self-build housing and planned new towns that aimed to stimulate regional growth and involved the participation of the refugee population in their construction. This paper will explore Koenigsberger's approach to providing habitats for refugees, thereby attempting to assess the implications of his own position as a refugee architect.

Friday
Jan. 25

Keynote Panel

15:00 - 16:30

Anooradha Iyer Siddiqi (Barnard College, Columbia University)
Decoloniality in the Camp and the University

Respondent

Romola Sanyal (LSE, London)

Moderators

Maja Momic (HCU Hamburg)
Somayeh Chitchian (MPI-MMG)

Keynote

Anooradha Iyer Siddiqi
Barnard College, Columbia University

Anooradha Iyer Siddiqi is an architectural historian and Assistant Professor on the faculty of Barnard College, Columbia University. She specializes in histories of architecture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with focus on African and South Asian questions. Her work examines migration, urbanism, and modernity, and she is interested in problems of historicity and archives, decoloniality, heritage politics, and feminist historiography.

Prof. Siddiqi's book manuscript Architecture of Migration analyzes the history, visual rhetoric, and spatial politics of the Dadaab refugee camps in Northeastern Kenya. Through the architecture of refugees and humanitarian spatial practice, material culture, and iconography, the book examines long entanglements of migration and coloniality, drawing from historical, ethnographic, and visual approaches over several years of research in East Africa, South Asia, and Europe.

Decoloniality in the Camp and the University

If we take seriously the concerns and problematics of decolonizing the mind, we might begin by looking for sources of knowledge in the refugee camp. Camps have long been sites of empirical research: in their darkest form, as sites of detention and concentration, and in their putatively lightest, as liberatory vehicles for the rescued and their saviours. What if camps did not serve empiricist ends of knowledge, but instead, theoretical ones? If so, then the humanitarian would become the student, the refugee the professor, and the architecture of the camp that of the university. This lecture imagines *this* architecture.

Respondent

Romola Sanyal LSE

Dr. Sanyal joined LSE in 2013 from the Development Planning Unit at UCL. She has previously taught at Rice University, Texas, and Newcastle University. She is interested in architecture, urban geopolitics, urban theory, housing and citizenship rights. Her main interests and expertise regard the social and political implications of architecture, urban geopolitics, urban theory, housing and citizenship rights. She has written on the politics of space in refugee settlements, looking at processes of 'informalisation' in the global south with particular focus on Lebanon and India.

Dr. Sanyal's current research work looks at the urbanization of particular areas in Lebanon through humanitarian aid that has come in response to the Syrian refugee crisis. Dr. Sanyal obtained her PhD at the University of California, Berkeley.