

# ONLINE SYMPOSIUM

## Contemporary Urbanism & Arab Cities

### *Between Challenges & Future Prospects*

*Speakers from:*

**Palestine**

**Egypt**

**Iraq**

**Jordan**

**Lebanon**

**Tunisia**

This Symposium originated out of a need for a platform to exchange knowledge on Arab cities among Arab academics and students of Architecture and urban planning. It will offer an opportunity to discuss challenges facing contemporary urbanism in Arab cities.

*Informality*

Examining the challenges and potentials of the sporadic, bottom-up development of localities in Arab cities within the unique framework of social construct and power dynamics specific to each case.

*Refugees and displacement*

Exploring the opportunities and threats of rapidly shifting population patterns in the Arab world due to domestic, interregional, and international migration and displacement; and discussing the corresponding trends in Arab urbanism in light of modernization, political turmoil, and resource shortages.

*Post-war urbanism and development*

Addressing the implications of socioeconomic and political turmoil on Arab urbanities within the world of post-war development and accelerated pace imposed by new realities and immediate urban response.

*Neoliberalism and urban fantasies*

Investigating how emerging patterns of excessive privatization and gentrification, from high-end business towers to gated communities, have imposed exclusionary effects on low-income groups through practices of marginalization and inequalities in contemporary Arab cities.

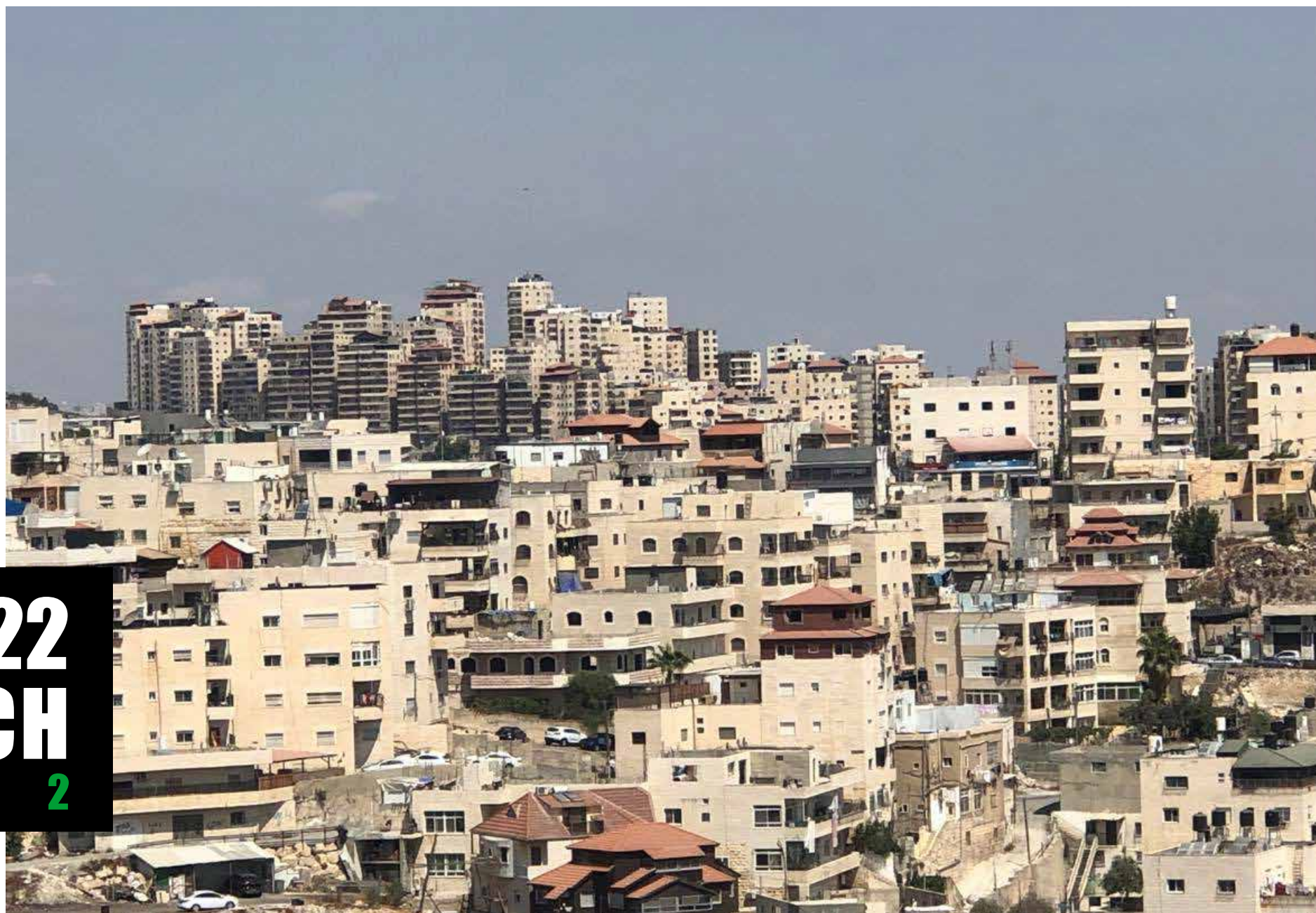
*Scientific Coordination:*

Dr. Shaden Awad  
from Birzeit University  
&  
Dr. Hassan Elmouelhi  
from TU Berlin

**15:00 - 19:00**

*Palestinian Time  
(UTC +2)*

**21 & 22  
MARCH  
2022**



# MARCH 2022

## Contemporary Urbanism & Arab Cities

### Between Challenges & Future Prospects

21  
MONDAY

**Opening** 15:00 - 15:10 **Welcome note** by Prof. Dr. Elke Beyer from Habitat Unit at TUB  
Dr. Manal Al Bishawi from the Architectural Engineering Dept. at BZU

**Introduction** by Shaden Awad and Hassan Elmouelhi

**Session 1: Refugees & Displacement** Moderated by: Hassan Elmouelhi

15:10 - 15:30 **Sahera Bleibleh** - Palestine/ United Arab Emirates University  
"Home and Spatial Memory: Narratives of Refugees' Everyday Place"

15:30 - 15:50 **Layla Raswol** - Iraq/ Duhok University  
"Urban profile of refugees, internally displaced people, Duhok Governorate, Kurdistan region, Iraq"

15:50 - 16:10 **Oifa Ben Medien** - Tunisia/ Carthage University  
"Sub-Saharan migrants in Tunis, integration mechanisms and territories"

16:10 - 16:30 **Ayham Dalal** - Jordan/ TU Berlin  
"Planning the Ideal Refugee Camp? Between Innovations and Appropriations"

16:30 - 16:45 **Discussion**

**Session 2: Neoliberalism & Urban Fantasies** Moderated by: Shaden Awad

17:00 - 17:20 **Tala Alaeddine** - Lebanon/ Public works- coordinator of the research department  
"Mapping Public Land in Lebanon: Counter Claims to Privatization Policies"

17:20 - 17:40 **Hassan Elmouelhi** - Egypt/ Habitat Unit-TU Berlin  
"Reflections on Neoliberal Urbanism in the Arab Region. Special focus on Cairo Case"

17:40 - 18:00 **Kareem Rabie** - Palestine/ University of Chicago  
"National Planning and the Days After: Housing and the State Process in Palestine"

18:00 - 18:15 **Discussion**

**Session 3: General Lecture on Land Governance**

18:25 - 18:55 **Ombretta Temptra** / UN Habitat/GLTN-Arab Land Initiative

18:55 - 19:10 **Discussion**

22  
TUESDAY

15:00 - 15:05 **Introduction** by Shaden Awad and Hassan Elmouelhi

**Session 1: Post-war Architecture** Moderated by: Lana Judeh

15:05 - 15:25 **Robert Saliba** - Lebanon/ American University in Beirut- AUB  
"Beirut 1975-Now: Morphologies of Destruction, Dialectics of Reconstruction"

15:25 - 15:45 **Yara Sharif** - Palestine/ University of Westminster  
"Absurd-City", "Subver-City"

15:45 - 16:05 **Natasha Aruri** - Palestine/ K Lab- TU Berlin  
"Takhayali [imagine. fem] Otherwise!  
Neocolonialisms, spatial narratives, resistance"

16:05 - 16:20 **Discussion**

**Session 2: Informality** Moderated by: Iyad Issa

16:35 - 16:55 **Marwa Soliman** - Egypt/ Urban Development Fund (Government)  
"From ISDF - Informal Settlements Development Fund - to Urban Development Fund:  
the Development Journey"

16:55 - 17:15 **Rawan Attour** - Jordan/ GIZ Jordan  
"Improving Living Conditions of Disadvantaged Areas in Amman"

17:15 - 17:35 **Rula Zuhour** - Palestine/ Architect - Chicago  
"Present Futures: Mechanics of Ethnocratic Colonial Urbanism"

17:35 - 17:55 **Insaf Ben Othmane H** - Tunisia/ Founder Œcumene Spaces For Dignity, MENA region and Africa  
"Habitat Spontanée as a tool for urban development: Reclaiming the urban common?"

17:55 - 18:15 **Sara Nowar** - Jordan/ GIZ Jordan/ Masahit Alhany Placemaking Initiative  
"Masahit Alhany Placemaking: Russeifa, Jordan"

18:15 - 18:30 **Discussion**

18:30 - 18:50 **Closing**

\*\*All times are by Palestinian Time (UTC +2)