



Twice a month,
Mondays 5 pm - 7 pm

Venue:

Conference Hall
Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33
14129 Berlin-Nikolassee

Participants are asked to register
at the following address:

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www.zmo.de
www.eume-berlin.de
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Urban Studies Seminar 2012 - 2013

Chaired by Prof. Ulrike Freitag and Dr. Nora Lafi

Annual Theme: Cities as Laboratories of Change

Monday, June 10th, 2013, 5 pm - 7 pm

Dubai as a Model? Urban Change and Economic Development of the Omani City of Salalah

Lecture by Steffen Wippel

The presentation intends to study the current urban development of one of the 'secondary cities', which has been neglected compared to the interest shown in the big metropolises of the GCC states. Since the late 1990s, when Oman endeavoured to diversify its economy and create more balanced regional development, Salalah, in the southernmost region of Dhofar, experienced a rapid urban and economic development, with a strong focus on trade and tourism.

Far from being a 'global city', the presentation seeks to understand how long-neglected and remote Salalah developed into a heavily 'globalized' city, which is integrated into specific global and regional flows. Ongoing urban and economic development projects also contribute to the increasing spatial fragmentation of the urban fabric. Parallel to that, efforts are being made to market and brand Salalah and the recently established schemes. This is also reflected in urban and architectural features, which are widely communicated, notably with the help of simulations during the planning and construction stages. The presentation will also ask to what extent Salalah is following the extensively discussed 'Dubai model'.

PD Dr. Steffen Wippel is presently a Senior Research Fellow at the Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO), Berlin, with an on-going research project on two container port cities and their urban and economic development in Oman and Morocco (Tanger-Salalah: Globalising 'Regional Cities'). Parallel to that, he worked on the Sultanate's regional economic orientations at the University of Leipzig, from 2008 to 2011. At the same time he is a lecturer at the Department of Research on the Contemporary Middle East, University of Erlangen, where he finished his habilitation thesis in 2008.

Steffen Wippel published several monographs and is (co-)editor of several publications and a book series on Middle Eastern economics. His latest book *Wirtschaft, Politik und Raum: Territoriale und regionale Prozesse in der westlichen Sahara*. was published by the Hans Schiler Verlag in 2012.