



Annual Theme: Refugees in the City

EUME

Europa im Nahen Osten
Der Nahe Osten in Europa

Urban Studies Seminar
2015 - 2016

Chaired by Prof Ulrike Freitag and Dr Nora Lafi
Monday, 4 July 2016, 5 pm

The Toponymy of Refugee Camps in Palestine: Ramallah and Al-Bireh as urban Mirrors of Displacement

Lecture by Dr Raed Bader (Birzeit University)

Twice a month,
Mondays 5 pm - 7 pm

Venue:

Conference Hall
Zentrum Moderner Orient
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The majority of the Palestinian cities of the West Bank and the Gaza strip experienced first in 1948, and then with the arrival of new waves of Palestinian refugees during the years that followed, important transformations at all levels: urban, political, social and economic. In all Palestinian towns, names of the Palestinian refugees' villages and cities before 1948 are visible everywhere; and are now part of the urban landscape. These names help to keep track of the Palestinian collective past. What was the impact of refugees in the Palestinian municipalities on the denomination of those public places: streets, squares, neighbourhoods, public gardens and mosques?

There are five Palestinian refugee camps in Ramallah and Al-Bireh. All were founded after the 'Nakba' of 1948. Names of neighbourhoods or small quarters are often associated with the origin of the first refugees: the villages and cities where they came from. Administrative division of these camps by UNRWA did not take into consideration the names used by the refugees, instead they favoured the use of numbers and Alphabetic letters when referring to neighbourhoods of the camps. Over the past six decades, many of the refugees new generation moved to live inside the cities of Ramallah and Al-Bireh. There, they finally succeeded in reviving the memory of their villages and towns devastated in 1948. They named streets and places close to their new residence using the names of villages and towns of their origin.

Raed Bader, holds a PhD in Contemporary History from Aix-Marseille University (Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme). His dissertation was supervised by Prof. Robert Ilbert and dedicated to the question of slavery in colonial Algeria (1830-1906). He was granted a Fernand Braudel fellowship from the Foundation of the Human Sciences Institute and the City of Paris for the year 2007/08. He also worked as a researcher at the Institute for the Study of Islam and the societies of the Islamic world (IISMM), at the EHESS, and with the French Institute for International Relations (IFRI) in Paris. Since 2009, Raed Bader teaches at the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies of Birzeit University. His research focuses on colonial history, refugee and forced migration issues, the Afro-Palestinians of Jerusalem and the Palestinian Digital Archive. Among his latest publications: "The Palestinian Digital Archive between Anarchy and Anti-Method: A Critical View" in R. Heacock (ed.), *Globalizing Palestine: The Palestinian Digital Archive in an International Perspective*, 2016; "Noire Algérie : esclavagisme, colonialisme et mission civilisatrice", in Leyla Dakhli and Vincent Lemire (eds.), *Etudier en Liberté les mondes méditerranéens*, Sorbonne, 2016.