

**Urban Studies Seminar  
2015 - 2016****Twice a month,  
Mondays 5 pm - 7 pm****Venue:**Conference Hall  
Zentrum Moderner Orient  
Kirchweg 33  
14129 Berlin-NikolasseePlease register  
at the following address:  
Dr. Nora Lafi  
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Phone: (+49) (0) 30 80307- 0**Annual Theme: Refugees in the City****Chaired by Prof Ulrike Freitag and Dr Nora Lafi****Monday, February 8th, 2016, 5 pm****Urban Refugees in the Middle East and  
Germany: A Comparative Approach****Lecture by Prof. Dr. Philipp Misselwitz (TU Berlin)**

Refugee camps or asylum seeker centres have been criticised for their resemblance to spaces of confinement and control, for their tendency to compromise civil rights, and their inability to guarantee civil dignity. Whether organised by global humanitarian organisations or European municipalities – guidelines and policies are set by a techno-managerial logic. But a visit to almost any of the hundreds of refugee camps that exist worldwide confronts us with a complex reality and forces us to rethink our preconceptions. Instead of ordered tent cities, we are more likely to find streets, markets, shops or public buildings surrounded by makeshift buildings: urbanised settings, often only distinguishable from the host environment by the ubiquity of UN flags or the logos of international NGOs. Instead of temporary situations, we find de facto permanent environments that refuse to disappear, ambiguous spaces somewhere between emergency camp and emergent city. The lecture will draw on research conducted since 2008 in urbanized Palestine refugee camps and the more recent experience of urban refugees in Germany. It will argue that space-making tactics that fuel camp urbanization processes should be understood as an expression of agency of refugees and key to a more inclusive, coproduced and civil partnership towards refugee protection. Yet this agency frequently collides with the rationalisation of humanitarian agencies, host municipalities or host governments. How can we learn from these conflicts to rethink refugee accommodation in European cities? How can architects and planners help to enlarge the sphere of self-provisioning and emancipation of refugees, which rebuild lost dignity and enrich our cities at the same time?

**Prof. Dr. Philipp Misselwitz** is an architect and urban planner based in Berlin. He was educated at Cambridge University and the Architectural Association London and received his PhD from Stuttgart University for his research on urbanization processes of Palestinian refugee camps. He initiated an EU funded research project which led to the development and testing of a community-driven planning methodologies (CIP) conducted in Palestinian refugee camps across the Middle East. He worked for the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and as a consultant for United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) before becoming the Chair of International Urbanism at University of Stuttgart (2010-2013). In 2013 he was appointed Chair of Habitat Unit at the Institute of Architecture of the Technische Universität Berlin - a globally networked research and teaching centre. He is a network partner at Urban Catalyst studio, a planning design consultancy group based in Berlin and works as a free-lance curator on projects such as "Refuge" (Rotterdam Architecture Biennale, 2009) or "Space, Time, Dignity, Rights" (World Urban Forum, 2012).