



## Invitation

Thursday, 17 November 2016, 6 pm c.t.

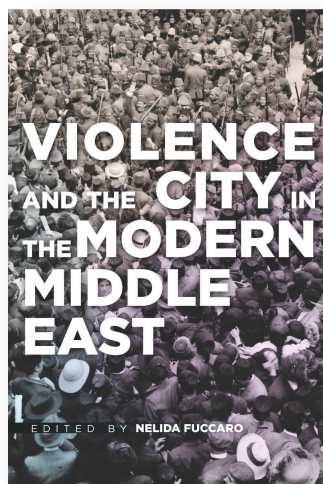
### Venue

Freie Universität Berlin  
Fabeckstraße 23-25  
Room 2.2059

## Book Launch: Urban Violence in the Modern Middle East

Panel discussion with **Ulrike Freitag** (ZMO), **Nelida Fuccaro** (SOAS), **Claudia Ghrawi** (ZMO) and **Nora Lafi** (ZMO)

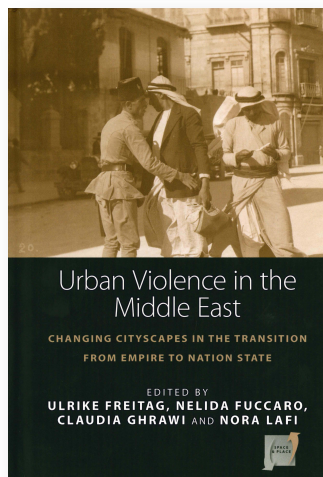
Moderated by **Daniel Schönplflug** (Wiko/FU Berlin)



The uprisings in the Arab World in 2011, the civil war in Syria and the military interventions in Libya and Iraq perpetuated an age-old image of the Middle East as a place of extreme and destructive violence.

By situating violent incidents in particular processes and conflicts, the two collective volumes *Urban Violence in the Middle East*, edited by Ulrike Freitag, Nelida Fuccaro, Claudia Ghrawi, and Nora Lafi in 2015 and *Violence and the City in the Modern Middle East*, edited by Nelida Fuccaro in 2016 seek to counter the notions of a violent Middle East in order to foster a new understanding of violence beyond that of a meaningless and destructive social and political act.

Covering the diversity of Middle Eastern urbanism from the eighteenth to the late twentieth centuries, from the capitals of Cairo, Tunis, and Baghdad to the provincial towns of Jeddah, Nablus, and Basra and the oil settlements of Dhahran and Abadan, the different case studies in the two volumes explore the phenomenon of urban violence in a variety of Middle Eastern contexts in order to unveil general developments and historical specificities. They also ask to what extent the transition from empire to nation-state impacted on the ways in which violence developed and was articulated, and seek to understand it in a broader historical perspective.



**Ulrike Freitag** is a historian of the Modern Middle East with a special interest in urban history and the Arabian Peninsula in its global context. She directs Zentrum Moderner Orient and teaches at Freie Universität Berlin.

**Nelida Fuccaro** is Reader in Modern Middle Eastern History at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

**Claudia Ghrawi** holds a Master of Arts degree in history and political science and studied Arabic in Damascus and Berlin. She works as a research fellow at the Zentrum Moderner Orient and is a Ph.D. student at Freie Universität Berlin.

**Nora Lafi** is a historian of the Ottoman Empire with a focus on Urban Studies. She is a researcher at Zentrum Moderner Orient and teaches at Freie Universität Berlin.

**Daniel Schönplflug** is a historian and teaches at Freie Universität Berlin. He is academic coordinator at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin.

### In Cooperation with:

