



Annual Theme: Refugees in the City

EUMEEuropa im Nahen Osten
Der Nahe Osten in Europa**Chaired by Prof Ulrike Freitag and Dr Nora Lafi****Urban Studies Seminar
2015 - 2016****Monday, 2 May 2016, 5 pm**

From Asylum Activists to Community Leaders

How Palestinian-Lebanese refugees shaped the Arab community in West Berlin 1975-1989

Lecture by Livia Gerster (FU Berlin)**Twice a month,
Mondays 5 pm - 7 pm****Venue:**Conference Hall
Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33
14129 Berlin-NikolasseePlease register
at the following address:
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During this lecture, Livia Gerster is going to present the results of a series of interviews she conducted with various community leaders of Palestinian-Lebanese origin in Berlin. All of them originally arrived in Germany as refugees after the massacres of Palestinians that occurred at the beginning of the Lebanese civil war in 1975/1976. In West Berlin – which refugees could easily access through East Berlin – they fought against restrictive asylum policies and deportations of refugees back to Lebanon. By doing so they also took part in the formation of the Arab community in West Berlin and established against all odds advisory centers, associations and language schools. The presentation aims at understanding the personal motivation that drove them, but also the social, ideological and political logics that shaped their mobilization as well as civic and communal activism.

Livia Gerster is a student in Global History (M.A) at Freie Universität Berlin. She holds a B.A degree in Arabic Studies and History of the University of Leipzig. Her Bachelor thesis, prepared under the supervision of Prof. Gertel in the Economy and Society of the Modern Middle East was entitled: "Strategies of Livelihood in Rural Morocco. Vulnerability of single women in the High Atlas". She spent two semesters in Cadiz while preparing it. In 2012-2013 she was an intern in Abu Dhabi (German School) and Paris (at the office of the German TV station ZDF). She then spent one semester at the Beirut Arab University in Lebanon and two months at the Al-Quds University in East Jerusalem. In addition to her study, she works with the Berlin based newspaper Tagesspiegel and the foreign policy think tank DGAP. She is currently doing a three month internship with the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung in Frankfurt-am-Main.