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Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO)
Volkswagenstiftung



Spaces of Unnationalism

7–8 November 2019
Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33
14129 Berlin

Convenors

Farhan Karim (ZMO)
Duanfang Lu (University of Sydney)

Contact & Enquiries

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Concept Outline

Nationalism has arisen as a significant driver in political movements and a key ideology of modern society since the late 18th century. There has been a substantial body of literature on the effects of nationalist force upon the spatial and aesthetic culture of the built environment. In recent decades, more and more studies have revealed that nationalism is not an all-encompassing, all-pervasive force. There are substantial 'outside' spaces that are not fully transformed or affected by nationalism but instead create fissures in the latter – spaces that we identify in this workshop as the “spaces of unnationalism”.

We are interested in developments, negotiations and conflicts in identity politics that have shaped architecture and urban spaces, but do not adhere to the normative ideologies and structures of nationalism. We are seeking to explore how unnationalism as a new lens will allow us not only to revisit the existing scholarship on built environments by attending to forces that have served to diminish the importance of nationalism and national identities, but also to develop new territories of knowledge on the production and operation of spaces that have challenged nationalism's role in justifying and consolidating domination, inequality and power hierarchy.

Day I – 7 November 2019

9:00–9:45

Arrival and Light Breakfast

9:45–10:00

Welcome

10:00–10:30

Opening Remark

Duanfang Lu (University of Sydney)

10:30–12:00

Session 1

Abidin Kusno (York University)
Dystopia Jakarta

Wendy Pullan (University of Cambridge)
A Cuckoo in the Nest: When Nationalist Conflicts
Enter Cities

12:00–13:30

Lunch break

13:30–15:00

Session 2

Florian Urban (Glasgow School of Art)
The Ascension Church in Warsaw-Ursynów – Postmodernism
and the Nation in Late Socialist Poland

Noam Shoked (Tel Aviv University)
A Change of Plans: The Visions of Two Israeli Architects for
the West Bank



15:00–16:00

Coffee Break

16:00–17:30

Keynote and Discussion

Esra Akcan (Cornell University)
Translatability and Open Architecture as Antidotes of
Nationalism: A Response to the Travel Ban

17:30

Small Reception and Light Snacks

Day II – 8 November 2019

9:00–10:00

Arrival and Light Breakfast

10:00–12:30

Session 3

Yat Ming Loo (University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China)
Migrant Place and Memory as Method: Decolonisation
Project and The Heritage Park of Kuala Lumpur Chinese
Cemeteries

Rachel Lee (Institut für Kunstgeschichte, LMU München)
Exiles in Bombay and the Princely States

Farhan Karim (ZMO)
Refugees at Home: Bihari Camp and Liminal Urbanization

12:30–13:30

Lunch Break

13:30–15:00

Session 4

Stefan Maneval (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
Mass Accommodations for the “Guests of God”: Hajj-Pilgrims’
Experiences of Transnational Unity in Jeddah and the Saudi
Nation State

Bülent Batuman (University of Bilkent)
Faith versus Ethnicity: Spaces of “Alevism” as an Emergent
Urban Identity in Turkey

15:00–15:15

Break

15:00–15:30

Discussion, Wrap Up Session

15:30–16:30

An Architectural Tour of Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient
conducted by Dr. Silke Nagel

19:00

Dinner outside ZMO (for participants only)