



Opening Lecture of the Workshop: „Rethinking Urban Violence in Middle Eastern Cities“

Thursday, December 8th, 2011, 6 pm

Hope, Violence, and the Urban Dimension of the Egyptian Revolution

Venue

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33
Conference Hall

14129 Berlin

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the Urban Studies Seminar.

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By Prof. Khaled Adham

Revolutions are like deep, violent, tectonic shifts; they result from sudden release of human energies that create seismic-like tidal waves of change, which, in turn, gush towards the prevailing political powers and organizational structures, causing their collision and replacement in a relatively short period of time. The signs of these tremors' long-impending ruptures are scattered in the occasional surface eruptions or the acceleration of motion in the various societal tectonic social, economic, and political plates. True, the manner, form, and time of these sudden deep tectonic shifts are merely impossible to predict. But that they will occur is almost certain, particularly when hope diminishes, social injustice prevails, and a momentum to turn things around rises. By elaborating on and highlighting the urban spatial dimension in the recent tectonic events of the Egyptian revolution, Prof. Khaled Adham wishes to show how the revolution was not only played out in specific urban spaces of the city, but its precursors, its surface eruptions, and, indeed, its internal and external causes are to be found in the spatiality of social injustice and the urban apathy of the past regime. The goal, therefore, is to show how the revolution is directly linked, and not just an epiphenomenon, to recent spatial policies and practices.

Khaled Adham is an associate professor at the Department of Architectural Engineering, United Arab Emirates University. He received a bachelor degree in architecture and urban planning from Cairo University in 1992, a masters' degree in architecture from Kent State University in 1992, and a PhD in architecture from Texas A&M University in 1997. His teaching portfolio includes courses in graduate and undergraduate levels for Architectural History and Theory, Urban Design, Urban Planning, and Design Studios. His research interests and activities are centered on the impact of late capitalism on the architectural and urban transformations of Cairo, Doha, and Dubai. He has authored book chapters, articles in refereed journals, and numerous papers in conference proceedings. He serves in editorial boards and acts as a reviewer for international journals and conferences. He has been invited to present his research work at international institutions such as UC Berkeley, Rice University, American University of Beirut, and American University in Cairo.