



Urban Studies Seminar 2011 - 2012

Chaired by Prof. Ulrike Freitag and Dr. Nora Lafi

Annual theme: Urban Sociability and Urban Movements (Middle East, North Africa, Iran, Turkey)

ZMO-EUME-Colloquium

Twice a month,
Mondays 17:00-19:00

Venue:

Conference Hall
Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33
14129 Berlin-Nikolassee

Participants are asked to register
at the following address:

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The seminar is a joint activity of
the Zentrum Moderner Orient
(ZMO) and 'Europe in the Middle
East - The Middle East in Europe'
(EUME).

EUME is a project at



which is funded by



Senatsverwaltung für Bildung,
Wissenschaft und Forschung

For more information please visit

www.zmo.de
www.eume-berlin.de
www.forum-transregionale-studien.de
www.h-net.msu.edu/~mediter

Monday, May 21st, 2012, 5 pm - 6.30 pm

A Journey to the Other Iraq

Lecture by Francesca Recchia

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq still shows the indelible signs of the civil war and decades of ethnic persecution by Saddam Hussein. At the same time, the National Geographic listed it in their 2011 top 20 travel destination and the regional Government redesigned its identity as the Other Iraq. This history of stratifications, denials and contradictions is preserved and revealed by the built environment. The talk is a treasure hunt that will take us from Erbil's shopping centres and gated communities to Ba'ath political prisons; from the villages of Ma'asker Salam, Top Khane and Raparin to the settlement of Wlaxlw, built using the debris and rubble left over from the Iran-Iraq War.

Francesca Recchia is an independent researcher and writer who has worked and taught in different parts of the world, including India, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Netherlands, Italy, Sweden, Pakistan, Palestine. She is interested in the geopolitical dimension of cultural processes and in recent years has focused her research on creative practices in countries in conflict. Her work is grounded on a radically interdisciplinary approach that combines Visual, Social, Cultural and Postcolonial Studies. Francesca was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Bartlett School of Planning, University College of London, a PhD in Cultural Studies at the Oriental Institute in Naples and a Masters in Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths College, University of London. She is now working as a research consultant with Tactical Technology Collective and is a regular contributor to *Domus*. Among her recent publications are: 'Within the Circle of Fear. Field-notes from Iraqi Kurdistan' in *Sarai Reader 08: Fear* and 'Memory and Place. Perspectives from Iraqi Kurdistan' in *Third Text Asia*.