

**Urban Studies Seminar  
2015 - 2016****Annual Theme: Refugees in the City****Chaired by Prof Ulrike Freitag and Dr Nora Lafi****Monday, December 14th, 2015, 5 pm****A Case Study of the Syrian Displacement  
in Beirut: Sabra and Chatila****Lecture by Marwa el-Chab (EHESS) and Rajaa Bechara  
(Ana Aqraa)****Twice a month,  
Mondays 5 pm - 7 pm****Venue:**Conference Hall  
Zentrum Moderner Orient  
Kirchweg 33  
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The Syrian crisis in Lebanon is growing steadier every day. According to the UNHCR, the Syrian population accounts for one quarter of the population currently residing in Lebanon. One of their dire needs, which requires to be addressed, is the education of Syrian refugee children. Many have lost track of schooling for months and even years. This descriptive presentation looks closer into the case of Sabra and Shatila, the sadly famous Palestinian camps where many Syrian refugees have resettled, and into a specific educational plan deployed by Rajaa Bechara, with the support of Ana Aqraa Association and the UNICEF. The growing population of Syrian refugees is implying drastic changes in the camps, whether they are economic, social or urban. The Education Workshop plan carried on by Rajaa, which took place in the Wata El Msaytbeh public school facility located close to Sabra and Shatila, attempted to bring a relief to the educational needs of Syrian refugee children settled in these camps.

**Marwa El Chab** is a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris. Her research interests include the dynamics of capitalism, sub-Saharan migrations, post-colonialism and Lebanese networks. Her research received support from the Social Science Research Council in New York in 2012, and from the Bucerius Institute, in Hamburg in 2013. In the context of this specific presentation on Syrian refugees in Sabra and Shatila, Marwa chose to voice the experience of her mother, Rajaa Bechara, in this field.

**Rajaa Bechara** has been for the last 29 years a teacher at the Wata El Msaytbeh public school in Beirut, Lebanon. She also works for Ana Aqra association. Ana Aqra Association's goal is to respond to the educational, social and cultural needs of underprivileged children in the early years of learning. Rajaa's professional implication in a Lebanese public school allows her to witness the daily difficulties and struggle of the lower social class in Beirut for education, among them the refugees, Syrians and Palestinians. In 2012 she initiated Education Workshops involving approximately 2000 Syrian refugee pupils with the support of Ana Aqra Association and UNICEF.