



Twice a month,  
Mondays 5 pm - 7 pm

**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 Zentrum Moderner Orient  
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For more information please visit

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

## Urban Studies Seminar 2012 - 2013

Chaired by Prof. Ulrike Freitag and Dr. Nora Lafi

Annual Theme: Cities as Laboratories of Change

Monday, December 10th, 2012, 5 pm - 7 pm

### Waqf and Urban Space in a Time of Change: the Case of 19th Century Beirut

Lecture by Joseph Rustom

The important economic and demographic changes that Beirut witnessed starting the middle of the 19th century had significant repercussions on its urban space. Much of what had to that date survived from the medieval urban fabric was in less than a half of a century totally remodeled in order to adapt the rising port city to *al-dhawq al-'asri* [modern taste] following the example of *al-buldān al-mutamaddina* [the civilized countries]. An accurate inventory of the Sunni *waqf* of the year 1278 *hijri* [1862 A.D.] found in the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul allows today to spatialize data relating to the city's built environment, its main activities, and the distribution of its residents. The resulting maps highlight several aspects of change occurring in Beirut during that period: The development of new methods of space production based on real-estate speculation, the creation of new institutions for the management of the city at the expense of age-old structures, the narrowing of community space, and the consecration of the individual as a new urban actor.

More generally this study questions the greater stress given to how social processes shape geographies than to how geographies strongly impact social processes and forms.

**Joseph Rustom** is a Lebanese architect with twelve years of experience in the field of cultural heritage conservation. Since 2008, he is preparing a doctoral thesis in urban history at the Brandenburg Technical University on the impact of religious endowments on urban projects in Late Ottoman and French Mandate Beirut. Since 2005, he is lecturer in cultural heritage studies at the Faculty of Architecture of the Académie Libanaise des Beaux Arts (ALBA).

Rustom received his architecture degree from ALBA, a Master's degree in Cultural Heritage Studies from the Université Marc Bloch - Strasbourg and in Urban Archaeology from the Université François Rabelais-Tours.