CITY DEBATES 2013
RETHINKING INFORMALITY: DESIGN TACTICS / PLANNING STRATEGIES
ARCHITECTURE LECTURE HALL
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN
APRIL 22-24

DAY 1: MONDAY APRIL 22ND
6:00-6:30 OPENING / INTRODUCTION
Makram Suidan, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, AUB
Mona Fawaz, Associate Professor and Coordinator, MUPP/MUD, AUB
6:30-8:30 KEYNOTE: NEEMA KUDVA, CORNELL UNIVERSITY - Critical Interventions: Advancing Equity in the Informal City
8:30 CONFERENCE, OPENING DINNER FOR PARTICIPANTS

DAY 2: TUESDAY APRIL 23RD
9:30-11:00 MAKING HOMES ELSEWHERE
Ismael Sheikh Hassan (Architect, Urbanist and Activist, KULeuven) - Urbanism and Palestinian Camps: situating an elusive subject
Nishat Awan (University of Sheffield) - Mapping the informal territories of diasporic space in London
Sylvain Perdigon (AUB) - Where and when does in-formality begin? Notes on the scales and materials of private worlds in the Palestinian camps of Tyre
Discussant: Munira Khayyat, AUB
11:00-11:30 COFFEE BREAK
11:30-1:30 STATE INTERVENTIONS: BETWEEN DISCIPLINING AND UPGRADING
Razan Abdulwahab (Municipality of Aleppo/ Independent Consultant) - Typology and development strategy for Informal Settlements in Aleppo
Sari Hanafi (AUB) - Enclaves and Fortressed Archipelago: Violence and Governance in Lebanon’s Palestinian Refugee Camps
Khaled Abdelhalim (American University of Cairo) - Tools for Participatory Upgrading of Informal Areas: the Egyptian Experience
Lucas Oesch (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva) - Managing informality and temporariness in Amman: The upgrading of informal settlements and Palestinian refugee camps
Discussant: Omar Abdul Aziz Hallaj, AUB / Independent Consultant
1:00-2:30 LUNCH BREAK
2:30-4:00 RETHINKING DESIGN TOOLS AND INTERVENTIONS 1
Philipp Misselwitz (Technical University of Berlin) - Open Source Urbanism: Temporary Use and other DIY Approaches to Producing Place and Cities
Natasha Stius (Ljubljana, UCL, DPU) - Architects in Practice: The Jagnjun Experience (Globales, TBC)
Monika Halkort (Independent Researcher) - Expressive Sovereignty: A case study on the political economy of data in the reconstruction of a Palestinian refugee camp.
Discussant: Marwan Ghandour, AUB / Independent Consultant
4:00-6:00 MARWAN GHANDOUR (AUB/Iowa State University) - Building Informal Design Strategies for Ein al-Hilweh (Saida/Lebanon) Adjacent Areas
Exhibition and Discussion with Students involved in the design studi

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY APRIL 24TH
9:30-11:00 RETHINKING THE FORMAL/INFORMAL DIVIDE
Yasar A. Adanalı (Development specialist and researcher, Stuttgart University) - Moving Beyond the Dichotomy: Urban (In)formality in Istanbul
Omar Nagati (Architect/Urban Planner, Berkeley) - Informality Revisited
Jana Nakhal (MUPP/MUD, AUB) - Mapping practices for better living the informality
Discussant: TBC
11:00-11:30 COFFEE BREAK
11:30-1:30 RESISTING STATE STRATEGIES MAKING HOME ELSEWHERE
Gerardo Servodio (University of Oregon) - Informal Transnational Migrant Networks and the Creation of Shadow Places/Homes
Agnieszka Debicka (University of Warsaw) - How Globalization Endangers Informality
Dawn Chatty (University of Oxford) - Informal Settlements, Statelessness and Tribal Identity on Lebanon’s Eastern Borders
Discussant: TBC
2:30-4:00 RETHINKING DESIGN TOOLS AND INTERVENTIONS 2
Sandi Hilal (UNRWA, visiting Al-Quds / Bard College Palestine) - The roofless house in Fawwar Refugee camp
Peter Kellett (Newcastle University / Addis Ababa University) - Inside the Informal City: ethnographic research and everyday housing practices
Camillo Boano (DPU, UCL) - Not-to-Design and the challenge of informalities: defending architecture?
Discussant: Karim Najjar (AUB)
4:00-5:00 WRAP-UP, CLOSING PANEL
Mona Harb, MUPP/MUD, AUB
Robert Saliba, MUPP/MUD, AUB
Omar Abdul Aziz Hallaj, AUB / Independent Consultant
City Debates is the yearly conference organized by the Masters in Urban Planning & Policy and Masters in Urban Design at the American University of Beirut. Started in 2002, the series brings together professionals, academics, and students from Lebanon and beyond to discuss emerging issues in the field.

Over the past few years, City Debates has addressed issues such as Cultural Heritage and the Political of the Present, and students from Beirut and beyond to explore issues of contemporary relevance to the urbanization of the region.

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Rethinking Informality: Design Tactics/Planning Strategies

Biographies

Khaled Abdelhamid graduated as an architect/publisher from the University of Jordan in 1991, and holds a M.A. in Architecture, Housing Studies from the University of New Hampshire in 1996, and Ph.D. in housing planning and practice from the University of Central England in Birmingham, UK in 2003. Abdelhamid has more than six years for German International Cooperation (GIZ-Egypt) in participatory upgrading of informal areas and has also been a consultant to UN Habitat for projects in Jordan, Syria, Palestine and the Middle East and contributed to Habitat regional reports. He is also a lecturer at the Department of Architecture at Helwan University and currently is an assistant professor at the University of Manchester, he has also been serving as an assistant professor of urban planning and design at the American University in Cairo.

Chatty Zayed is an architect with extensive experience in community development and settlement upgrading. Abdelhamid has been particularly involved in the development of the city of Alexandria where she has worked both in public agencies (Directorate of Tourism and Antiquities) and private firms, as a professional consultant, at the University of Alexandria and the Banking Corporation of Egypt, and at the American University in Cairo. She is also a Research Associate and Post-Doctoral fellow at the GIZ project “Informal Settlements in Egypt: Appropriation and Architecture” (2010-2013). Her research is focused on the development of informal settlements, the impact of urban development on the informal and the role of citizens in shaping their environment. She has also edited several books, including “Urban Informalities and Architecture” (2010), “Migrating Arabs in Lebanon” (2010), “The Informal City: Identity, Resistance and Transformation” (2013) and “Beyond the Informal: The Role of Architecture in Shaping the Future of Informal Settlements” (2015). She is the author of numerous journal articles and book chapters, and has been a consultant to UN-Habitat and the GIZ project on Informal Settlements in Egypt.

Sarh Hanafi is a Professor of Sociology at the American University in Cairo, and is the editor of the Middle East Review of Sociology (Arabic). He is also a member of the Executive Board of the International Sociology of Education and the Arab Sociological Association. He has recently published “Playing in the Sand: Female Children’s Education in the Arab Region” (in Arabic) (2007), “Gender and Education in the Arab Region” (2009), and “The Future of Education in the Arab Region” (2010). His recent books include “Women in the Arab Region” (2010), “Education and the Arab World” (2010) and “The Arab World: A Sociological Perspective” (2011). Hanafi has also published numerous articles and chapters in various journals and books, and has served as a consultant to various international organizations and the United Nations. He currently serves as Chair of the Department of Sociology at the American University in Cairo, and is a member of the editorial board of the International Sociology of Education Review and the Arab Sociological Association. His current research focuses on gender and education in the Arab world, and he is currently working on a book on the role of education in promoting social change in the Arab world.