

Conference
November 3–5, 2018

في المدينة الحديثة

Contemporary Amman and the Right to the City

Location: Columbia Global Centers | Amman, 5 Mohammad Sa'ad Al-Batayneh Street, Amman

A city of four million inhabitants today, Amman's expansion has become disproportionate to its urban history. Developing from a small rural settlement at the end of the 19th century, the capital city evolved into a regional crossroad at the end of the 20th century, and has today become a symbol for the consolidation of Hashemite rule. Often referred to as the city of refuge, Amman has experienced an impressive urban growth over the past fifty years driven by forced displacements, changing geopolitical conditions, and large influxes of capital. The city has been perpetually co-produced by its diverse populations, yet both urban policies and market forces continue to extend and reinforce the divisions of urban geographies based on gender, class and origin.

Despite the growing power of nationalist politics and of neoliberal agendas in shaping the urban trajectory of the city, the simultaneous rise of Amman's residents associations, youth initiatives and codified everyday practices of resistance have allowed inhabitants to reshape their physical and conceptual interactions within the city, and to practice alternative imaginaries for shared livelihoods. At this important historical juncture, and fifty years since the publishing of Henri Lefebvre's seminal text in 1968, this conference seeks to reposition the notion of the right to the city in relation to the particularities of Amman within the context of a global movement toward localized urban projects of direct democracy.

Organizing Committee: Myriam Ababsa, Nora Akawi, Jawad Dukhgan, Nadine Fattaleh, Falestin Naïli, Norig Neveu

Saturday, November 3rd

18:00 – 19:30 **Commoning the City**
Stavros Stavrides (National Technical University of Athens), Struggles In and For Common Space: Beyond the City of Enclaves, and **Pelin Tan** (University of Cyprus), Threshold Infrastructures and Spaces of Solidarity

Sunday, November 4th

14:00 – 14:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks by **Nora Akawi** (Columbia University) and **Falestin Naili** (Ifpo Amman)

14:30 – 17:30 **Living in Amman: Housing, Access, and Resources**

Myriam Ababsa (Ifpo Amman): Social Housing Policies versus Market Housing Dynamics in Amman;
Nabil Abu Dayyeh (German Jordanian University): Land for Public Urban Space in Jordan: A Legal and Administrative Predicament;
Jose Ciro Martinez (University of Cambridge): Site of Resistance or Apparatus of Acquiescence? Tactics in Amman's Bakeries;
Majd Musa (University of Sharjah): Global Influences on the Built Environment of Amman.

Response by **Rami Daher** (German Jordanian University)
Moderated by **Falestin Naili** (Ifpo Amman)

17:30 – 18:00 Break

18:00 – 19:30 **Urban Citizenship: Planning and the Politics of Presence in the Age of Forced Population Displacement**
Mona Fawaz (American University of Beirut) in conversation with **Safwan Masri** (Columbia University)

Monday, November 5th

10:00 – 13:00 **Co-Producing the City: Migrant and Refugee Agency in Amman**

Zachary Sheldon (University of Chicago): Urban Spaces of National Politics: The Iraqi Elections in Amman;
Luigi Achilli (European University Institute – Firenze): Political Economy and Nationalism Amongst Palestinian Camp Dwellers in Amman;
Daphne Caillol (University Paris VII): Employer and Employee Relationships in Domestic Workspace: Impact on Urban Experiences of Migrant Domestic Workers in Jordan;
Gozde Ege (University of Washington): From Crisis to Ordinary Precarity: Palestinian Youth as New Practitioners of Humanitarian Governance in Amman, Jordan.

Response by **Jalal Al Hussein** (Ifpo Amman)
Moderated by **Ahmad Al-Mousa** (Columbia Global Centers | Amman)

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 17:30 **Urban Social Practices in Amman**

Norig Neveu (CNRS / IREMAM): Orthodox Clubs and Associations in Amman: Cultural, Educational Activities and Regional Networks;
Betty Anderson (Boston University): An Ethnographic Mapping of Amman;
Aseel Sawalha (Fordham University): "We're Ammanis": New Urban Relations Among Affluent Young Adults in Jordan;
Ala' Al-Hamarneh (University of Mainz): "It is our neighborhood": Right-to-the-City Initiatives from Al-Weibdeh to Fuheis in Amman Metropolitan Area.

Response by **Lucine Taminian** (The Academic Research Institute in Iraq)
Moderated by **Nora Akawi** (Columbia University)

17:30 – 18:00 Break

18:00 – 19:30 **The Rights of Future Generations**
Adrian Lahoud (Royal College of Art, London) and **Lumumba Di-Aping** (Rights of Future Generations Working Group) in conversation with **Felicity D Scott** (Columbia University)

19:30 – 20:30 Closing reception at Columbia Global Centers | Amman