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Weaponizing Infrastructure: Social Reproduction and the Toxic Ecologies of Settler Colonialism

Lifelines is a DIST funded research project aiming to observe different forms of infrastructures and their system of spaces structuring asymmetric relations of vulnerability and privilege. The project looks at lines of sustainment in different crisis as productive epistemological perspective and as a technopolitical terrain in perennial tensions between crisis and is beyond. The project is led by Prof. Camillo Boano and Prof.

Abstract: Electricity infrastructure, like water, is a vital urban technology for sustaining life in Palestine. Denial of power supply to those whose material world is built on an excessive attachment to electricity means dehumanising experiences, lives at risk, and, sometimes, death. Focusing on the aftermath of the unilateral Israeli Disengagement from the Gaza Strip, this presentation explores the ways electricity, as essential infrastructure of social reproduction, becomes target and weapon in a war that not only harms Palestinian bodies, but also threatens the natural and built environments that ensure their biological existence.

Bio: Omar Jabary Salamanca is an urban geographer and FNRS Research Fellow at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. His research and teaching focus on questions of space, politics and colonial capitalism. He is currently completing a book on the contested politics of infrastructures in Palestine to be published by Verso Books. Prior to joining the ULB, Omar was FWO Research Fellow in the Department of Conflict and Development at Ghent University and a Marie Curie Fellow in the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies at Columbia University. His work can be found at https://ulb.academia.edu/OmarJabarySalamanca.



POLITECNICO DI TORINO

Cristina Bianchetti.



