

The camp: researching violence, exclusion and temporariness (III ed)

The camp is emerging at the crossroads of urban studies, architecture, geography, anthropology, and humanitarian practice, reflecting both the spatialisation of biopolitics and the urbanization of emergency. Camp studies have challenge various paradigms and urban dimensions putting knowledge, protocols in crisis. This seminar series, in its second edition, is intended to offer an interdisciplinary reflection on the dispositif of the camp reflecting on the tensions between permanence and temporariness, exception and normalization, politicization and depoliticization. The seminars are part of the Urban and Regional Development PhD teaching program but open to everyone who wish to attend and contribute. Sessions will be in English. The series is part of a transdisciplinary research lead by Prof. Camillo Boano around such specific site of enquiry, struggle and subjectivation and benefit from the involvement of experts and scholars who from different geographies, epistemologies and methodologies have investigated the political significance of camp and its broader spatial implications. Registration is needed writing to camillo.boano@polito.it . All seminars are in Sala Vigliano at Castello del Valentino and online at https://didattica.polito.it/pls/portal30/sviluppo.bbb_corsi.waitRoom?id=27675&p_tipo=DOCENTE

24 February 2023 (14,00 – 17,00) Sala Vigliano and online

Prof. Camillo Boano “Violence, camp, cartographic reason, and the architecture of abolition

03 March 2023 (9,00 – 12,00 Sala Vigliano and online), James Shraiky (UCL)

Abstract: Enterprising in Protracted Camps; The Case of the Shatila Refugee Camp

The United Nations estimates that there are over 65 million displaced people around the world, 22 million of whom are housed in numerous camps across the global south, with unknown numbers contained in holding zones in the global north. Camps are systems designed only for emergency phases, intended to offer an immediate lifeline, though many end up becoming impromptu cities which provide long-term living conditions, which range from functional to inadequate. As time passes, camps evolve and are constantly reshaped as inhabitants try to build a future for themselves rather than remaining in a temporary state. In many long-term encampments, refugees have taken matters into their own hands, challenging their dire living conditions by redefining spaces and their use of time in camps. They independently build permanent housing structures, redefine camp social infrastructures and boundaries, set up businesses, employ other refugees, and revive their economic livelihoods; these actions exemplify the potential for thriving despite the many challenges refugees face. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to understand refugee camp spatiality from the perspective of camp-residents’ enterprising practices. Refugees – in a protracted state and residing in the Shatila camp in Lebanon – photograph intimate details of everyday life, and document how they practice enterprising concepts within the time-space of the camp.

Dr. James Shraiky is a Senior Consultant Fellow at the Institute for Global Prosperity. He leads the citizen science projects, as part of PROCOL UK. Before coming to UCL, James was the director of interprofessional initiatives and a professor at Arizona State University in the USA. His recent work has included 1) researching high child mortality rates in Central Africa and building a wellness campus in Rwanda, 2) exploring questions of conflict, violence, and international development for Syrian refugees in Greece and Turkey, and 3) redefining education in Haiti and the initial work on a health sciences campus in Port-Au-Prince. James researched and

implemented over 50 health, policy, pedagogical, and design projects worldwide, in Congo, Rwanda, Australia, Poland, Syria, Turkey, and North America.

21 March 2023 (14,00 – 17,00 Sala Vigliano and online), Lorenzo Mauloni (Polito)

The camp as a lens: reading bordering policies and migrants governance from makeshift spatialities in Rome. Since the beginning of the so-called refugee crisis of 2015, several migrants' makeshift encampments sprout across several European cities, especially along the corridor leading toward northern Europe. Italy represents the first access to Europe in the Mediterranean route, but the country is considered most of the time a transit one for migrants. However, after 2015, the strengthening of the bordering practices and the control operations led to a change in migrants' mobility patterns, whose spatial effects were also clear in the surroundings of Tiburtina Railway Station in Rome, an important passage point in Italy. Here, migrants gathered around major makeshift solutions, where people on the move met with those outside a failing receiving system, thus confining migrants into a life on the street. Starting from these spatialities, the presentation will shed light on the urban governance of migrants by offering a diachronic reading of the constellation of camps that emerged around the station, highlighting the internal dynamics of the place in terms of marginalization. From there, the field experience will be contextualized by offering the empirical material of a year-long engaged ethnography, discussing positionalities and ethics.

Lorenzo Mauloni is a Ph.D. candidate in Urban and Regional Development at Politecnico di Torino. His research interrogates migrants' life in the streets of Rome, looking at the emerging subjectivities and the urban life shaped in relationship with the European and Italian migration governance. The research builds on a one-year-long field experience joining a solidarity-based grassroots organization, establishing a one-to-one relationship with the protagonists of the research, and positioning between activism and academic scholarship. Lorenzo's background comes from previous experiences made in similar challenging contexts between South Africa, India, and Colombia, both for research purposes and joining local aid groups as a practitioner working on development projects.

24 March 2023 (9,00 – 12,00 Sala Vigliano and online), Layla Zybar (KU Louven)

Shifting geographies of “Presence”: (In)voluntary Displacements and Territorial Biographies from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The triade of Power, Refuge and Territory have always dwelt in a locality, where the (in)fragilities of the human and the non-human intertwine and shape the (in)habitable. In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), forced displacements and (re)placements have been consequences of the ways in which this triade materialises. The KR-I's territorial biographies bear historical and contemporary narratives of how specific groups' “presence” has been periodically reshaped through the elimination and delineation of spatial practices. For the displaced and those who seek refuge, such elimination echoes beyond the political: the KR-I's geography encapsulates their unanchored presence in various spatial forms, rationalised between disciplinarity, development and humanitarianism frames. This presentation aims to construct the KR-I territorial biography between 1970-2020 from a forced displacement lens. Based on historical tracing and ethnographical fieldwork, the chapter takes Arbat town and the adjacent displacement sites constellations (camps and settlements) as an example. It showcases how this geographical strip is representative of the ways in which spatial (dis)possessions, (in)voluntary dislocations and relocations have been layering the KR-I's (urban) landscapes. To

narrate this territorial biography, the chapter first sheds light on the contextual and political particularities and triggers that resulted in forced population movements in this strip. Next, it brings to the fore the initial rationale behind setting each site and how these rationales changed through time and shifting (political) powers. By the end, the chapter concludes that many displacement-receiving sites, similar to the KR-I, continuously subvert their meanings and functions, swinging between spaces for oppression and places for hospitality and possible progressions.

Layla Zibar is a (post) doctoral researcher at the department of architecture at KU Leuven University (Belgium) and lecturer at Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg (Germany). Her work and research interests pivot around inclusion, forced migration, (post)conflict reconstruction and urbanism. Over the years, her academic and professional interests aim to comprehend and unfold the interrelations between crises, involuntary displacements, urbanization processes, homing and lived experiences. Layla holds a dual PhD degree in Architecture & Urbanism (2023) from BTU (DE) and KU Leuven (BE), an MSc. in Urban Design, Community Development, and Architectural Engineering (Cairo University/Egypt 2016), a BA in Architectural Engineering (Aleppo University /Syria 2010).

31 March 2023 (14,00 – 17,00 Sala Vigliano and online), Hanadi Samhan (UCL)

Sovereignty and verticality in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon- Even though Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are building higher and increasingly transforming their temporary horizontal territories into vertical ones while constructing a thick imbricated volumetric territory. In this, refugees are filling this thick relational space with meanings, imaginations, representations, and dynamics that are worth exploring. The thesis investigates the volumetric dimension of camps territory bringing a voluminous understanding of the territory together with that of refugeedom. It aims to view the camp as, and through, volume, bringing the new language of voluminous concepts of sovereignty (Bille, 2019, 2020; Bonilla, 2017; Campbell, 2019; Rahman, 2019) together with that of refugeehood (Doraï, 2010; Martin, 2015; Sigona, 2015) thereby challenging the flatness of camp thinking as a bounded territory, and - exploring the camp as a distinctive ‘Imaginative’ urban space. My research uses Sloterdijk’s (2011) spherological lens to examine the volumetric nature of the camp. For Sloterdijk, humans always exist in a sphere(s) that sometimes we see, other times we imagine and often we cannot imagine because we have not seen an image of what it could be like. Sloterdijk’s spherology, as a volumetric form, examines space as a material condition of different scales made by relational forces having centrifugal forces that make the whole together (i.e., an *onion made of distinctive separated layers but forming a whole*) and an Imaginative space imbued with meaning and unseen images (i.e., moving into the imaginative and unseen dreaming universe while entering the materiality of a bedroom). In a serological lens, an incremental act of construction denotes, beyond its symbolic meaning of resistance, a multi-scalar materiality of geopolitical dimension (relational forces) and an imaginative space of sacred (unseen) meaning. Such an understanding of the camp remains unattended not only in social theory but also in architectural explorations. Investigating this can reframe the process and the notion of sovereignty within Palestinian refugee camps, their host country in Lebanon and potentially move instead toward a deeper interrogation of the sacrality of such spaces.

Hanadi Samhan is a Lebanese urban practitioner, PhD candidate at the DPU and a tutor at the Bartlett School of Planning, UCL. She has an extensive experience in urban development in the MENA region. Her research investigates Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon through their volumetric dimension.