

INHABITING BEIRUT'S CYCLES OF BOOM AND BUST

THIS PRESENTATION SEEKS TO LOCATE URBAN DWELLING WITHIN THE CYCLES OF BOOM AND BUST THAT CHARACTERIZE TODAY'S CITIES. IT FOCUSES ON THE INHABITANCE OF TENANTS, MOSTLY REFUGEES, COERCED TO LIVE IN THE INTERSTICES OF THESE CYCLES, OCCUPYING EITHER RESIDUAL SPACES LEFT IN THE AFTERMATH OF EARLIER (FAILED) INVESTMENTS OR SPACES HELD THROUGH PREDATORY INVESTMENTS IN ANTICIPATION OF FUTURE REDEVELOPMENT. THROUGH IN-DEPTH INVESTIGATIONS OF DILAPIDATED RESIDENTIAL CLUSTERS AND BUILDINGS SCATTERED ACROSS LEBANON'S CAPITAL CITY BEIRUT, THE RESEARCH EXPLORES HOW A TEMPORARY INHABITANCE IS ALLOWED AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF MULTIPLE CAPITAL FLOWS (E.G., INVESTMENTS, AID), CHANGING REGULATORY ENVIRONMENTS, POPULATION MOVEMENTS, AND SHIFTING OWNERSHIP PATTERNS, TRANSFORMING URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS WHILE CONSISTENTLY PRECLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF LIVING OUTSIDE THE DOMINANT EXTRACTIVE INHABITANCE THAT CHARACTERIZES TODAY'S BEIRUT. THE RESEARCH IS PART OF A LARGER INVESTIGATION OF ONGOING TRANSFORMATIONS IN BEIRUT'S HOUSING LANDSCAPE CONDUCTED BY THE HOUSING JUSTICE TEAM AT THE BEIRUT URBAN LAB.

Mona Fawaz is Professor in Urban Studies and Planning at the American University of Beirut where she co-founded the Beirut Urban Lab, a regional research center invested in working towards more inclusive, just, and viable cities. Mona is also Honorary Professor at the Department of Planning in the Bartlett School, at UCL, and she has taught in several European universities and held several international fellowships.

Mona's research stems from the imperative of making cities more just, addressing urbanization through the lenses of informality and the law, land, housing, property and space, always responding to the urge of informing planning theory and practice. Her findings are published in scholarly articles, book sections, and reports. She currently serves as a member of the Editorial Collective of the International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, and she serves on the boards of the journals Planning Theory and City and Society.

MONA FAWAZ

23/05

5 pm (CET)

The seminar will be online, [register at:](https://polito-it.zoom.us/join/9876543210)
<https://polito-it.zoom.us/join/9876543210>

More info at
www.beyondinhabitation.org



Politecnico
di Torino



UNIVERSITÀ
DI TORINO



Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning
Excellence MIUR 2018-2022