



# URBAN PLANNING IN THE MIDDLE EAST: FROM A DESIRED FUTURE TO A TOOL FOR CONTROL

Traditional Islamic city, Transitional modernized Islamic city, and Modern megacity are three narratives that have been adopted by Western scholars in order to study the Middle Eastern cities. These narratives describe the nature of planning in the Middle East with regard to modernization and industrialization project. While the narratives conform partially to the built form of Middle Eastern cities, they do not speak for the lived spaces of these cities.

Planning in the Middle East emerged from one main source and aim of creating a 'desired future' but throughout time its contributive factors have been multi-branched and diverged. This explains why the region can accommodate different cities like Beirut, Cairo, Dubai, Istanbul, Tehran, and Tel Aviv. Although the urban landscape of these cities are becoming similar, adopting European and American models, the lived-space of these cities are telling different stories from ethno-religion conflicts in Lebanon and Israel to tensions between modernity and Islamic doctrine of the State in Iran.

Through presenting different case studies the seminar suggests that one cannot refer to planning discipline only from the perspective of modernization but first as a tool of control, governmentality, sovereignty, and demographic engineering.

## PROGRAM:

- **3:00 – 3:15 INTRODUCTION**  
**Hossein Maroufi (SPUD)**  
*Introduction of the general frame work and seminar program*
- **3:15 – 4:45 KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**Erez Tzfadia** (senior lecturer at the Department of Public Policy and Administration at Sapir College)  
*'Grey Urbanism': Informality as control*  
**Hossein Maroufi** (PhD student in Spatial Planning and Urban Development - DIAP)  
*The role of politics and power structure in production of space in Iran*
- **5:00 – 6:00 DISCUSSIONS**  
Discussants: **Francesco Chiodelli (DIAP)**  
**Luigi Mazza (DIAP)**

**FRIDAY 14th of OCTOBER 2011, 3:00 pm**

Venerdì 14 Ottobre 2011, h 15:00

Spazio Aperto Dottorati, Edificio Nave (Piano -1)  
Via Bonardi 9, Milano