

Wednesday Seminars

LECTURE SERIES IN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

27.05.2026 | 5 p.m. | @ Übungsraum IKSA | NIG, 4th floor

Claire Bullen (Tübingen University)
*Exploring and Narrating the Street:
Notes from Across the Mediterranean*



Based at the Institute for Sociology, Tübingen University and a research associate at LADSIS at Hassan II University of Casablanca, **Claire Bullen's** interest in the urban was sparked when working within an urban regeneration agency in Liverpool in the 2000s. From this time, her research career has centred upon ethnographic explorations of urban life. After a comparative study of Liverpool and Marseille for her doctoral thesis, her research projects and field sites have expanded to Algeria, Morocco, and the broader Arabic-speaking world. Her major interests include studying urban transformations within a global perspective (with a focus on the Mediterranean), socio-spatial diversity, ethnographic and visual methodologies and the politics and geographies of knowledge production. Committed to developing critical and reflexive research paradigms, Claire has increasingly been working with interdisciplinary, international teams.

This presentation draws on research in Marseille (France), Algiers (Algeria), and some preliminary excursions to Tangiers (Morocco) over the last five years. These explorations were carried out as part of a larger research programme that seeks to think through and better understand urban transformations around the Mediterranean Sea. My investigations involve ethnographically-led, interdisciplinary research (anthropology, sociology, architecture, photography) and takes urban streets as epistemic entry points from where to comb through changes in urban systems and processes. In my talk, I will firstly demonstrate the utility of streets as an epistemic object for exploring urban change. Secondly, I will sketch out how I have been working with the Mediterranean as a lens to make more visible power relations in this part of the world. Thirdly, I consider how photographic installations have served as a dispositif to share our study beyond academia, while generating new ethnographic data. I will also point to some of the ethical issues that have been raised by doing so.



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