

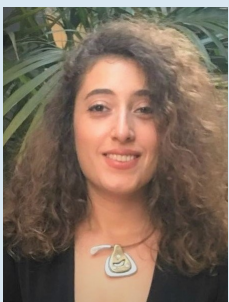


# WEDNESDAY SEMINAR

16.11.2022, 17:00 Uhr, HS-C

IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock

## Lana Salman (Ghent University / Harvard University) Nomadism: The Racialization of Peripheral Life in Tunisia



Lana Salman is a scholar of international development and urban politics and currently the Marie Skłodowska-Curie post-doctoral fellow at the department of Conflict & Development Studies, Ghent University, as well

as non-resident fellow at the Middle East Initiative, Harvard University. Her research focuses on questions of local statecraft, social reproduction, and property relations. Salman puts women at the center of her inquiry by unmaking the boundaries between personal and political, public and private, intimate and global. Her book manuscript *Settlement Politics: Living and Governing Popular Urbanism in Tunisia* takes up these questions with special attention to the 2011 Arab revolutions and their aftermath.

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### kommende Termine

23.11.2022 **Gwen Burnyeat**

[The Face of Peace: Government Pedagogy amid Disinformation in Colombia](#)

30.11.2022 **Eylül İççen**

[Black Box Allegories of Gulf Futurism: The Irreducible Other of Logistical Capitalism](#)

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This talk builds on the petitions poor Tunisians living at the edges of the city addressed to colonial for reparations to their damaged property. Categorizing them as nomads, municipal police attempted, for decades, to destroy their *gourbis*, their makeshift dwellings, and to evict them from the city. Against such assaults, these poor dwellers insisted on their right to stay put and to build homes and lives at the edges of the city. In this talk, I probe the category of nomadism and its material manifestations in the form of *gourbis*, shack dwellings the poor built on empty lands in the city's peripheries. I take up the *gourbi* as a racialized and racializing site and excavate the various modalities of governing its existence: from destruction and removal, to its toleration in a more hygienic form, and finally to its integration into the city's fabric. In doing so, I show that nomadism evolved from a French colonial preoccupation with people's mobility on the territory to a planning problem that tested the capacity of the colonial administration to govern the city's edge. In tracking the evolution of nomadism from a mobility to a planning issue, I also trace the emergence of popular neighborhoods as a problem-space and the conditions under which their presence became an unsolvable problem which carried over from the colonial to the post-independence period.

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