

Title of Research:

Spaces of Hospitality: *Humanitarian Refugee Camps and Islamic Traditions of Integration in Jordan*

Abstract of Research (250 words):

In the wake of the Syrian civil war, from the particular context of Jordan, this project investigates two contrasting cultures of hosting people displaced by war, dispossession, and violence. To do this, I move between two related and yet very different sites in a history of hosting migrants, refugees and exiles. First, I look at institutional practices of humanitarianism, in which Syrians are hosted in camps set up by the UNHCR near the Syrian-Jordanian border since 2012. Then, shifting the lens to Islamic and Arab traditions, I examine practices of hosting active in the shadows of humanitarian institutions, in the context of, an informal camp in the center of Amman. The camp is self-built by Palestinians who have been squatting the land since 1948. In this research, I focus on practices of co-existence and integration shared by Jordanian, Palestinian and Syrian communities in contemporary Jordan. I do this by investigating how ‘spaces of hospitality’ emerge within complex histories of ruptures and altered borders inaugurated by the fall of the Ottoman Empire and the rise of the post-colonial state. I take particular interest in the relationship between refugees and the diverse range of built environments they inhabit and transform - whether ‘universal’ caravans, self-built houses, or even the destroyed houses they left behind -. To study the lived experience of building new lives in new host-nations, my project engages with three distinct cohorts: 1) Syrian and Palestinian refugees in Jordan, 2) host-communities and local organizations providing housing and jobs for Syrian refugees in Jordan; and 3) international humanitarian organizations and governmental ministries and municipalities catering to Syrian refugees in refugee camps in Jordan.