

ENGLISH ABSTRACT

Title: Complexity and ambiguity of NGO's intervention into informal settlements in Lebanon

Since 2011, Lebanon is concerned by a major wave of migration from Syria. Consequently, a large population of Syrians is living in slums, squatting empty buildings or any kind of precarious housing. Besides its political (?) pluralism, Lebanon is concerned by an unstable political situation, with a progressive deinstitutionalization of the Lebanese State, and tensions between local, regional, and global interests. In this context, some areas have developed, with or without support of the authorities, local governance and community regulations.

International organizations seeking to intervene with these communities are confronted to a local context, marked by power issues. Some local actors became intermediaries between NGOs and communities. This situation creates an ambivalence towards the intervention of those NGOs. Pre-existing power issues can be enabled and the authority of certain actors may be strengthened. How can we analyze the ambiguous relationship that international organizations are developing, attending to ensure their presence among vulnerable populations, while avoiding supporting the authority of certain actors?

Presentation of the speaker:

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