



Housing, Land & Property Rights in Syria

Study Presentation & Discussion

19 September 2019

10.00 - 12.00

Hotel Martin's Brussel EU
Boulevard Charlemagne 80, 1000 Bruxelles

Program

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| From 9.30 | <i>Registration & Coffee</i> |
| 10:00 | <i>Welcome Address</i>
Thomas Claes ,
FES Director „Economic Policies for Social Justice“, Tunisia |
| 10:05 | <i>Introduction into Housing, Land and Property Rights and Social Justice in Syria and Beyond</i>
Hannes Baumann , University of Liverpool |
| 10:20 | <i>Locating dispossession and HLP rights in the war in Syria</i>
Leila Vignal , University of Rennes |
| 10:35 | <i>Documentation of Syrian ownership rights and the challenge of reconstruction</i>
Edwar Hanna , Syrbanism |
| 10:45 | <i>Commentary on the importance of HLP in the broader context of reconstruction in Syria</i>
Salam Said , Freie Universität Berlin |
| 11:00 | Q&A |
| 12:00 | <i>Buffet Lunch</i> |

Background Information:

As violent conflicts have engulfed various Arab countries, the region has become a focus for discussions on displacement and its effects on housing, land and property (HLP) rights. Wars have destroyed much of the physical fabric and entrenched communal differences in Syria, Libya, and Iraq. The future of HLP rights in these countries is linked to the kind of state emerging from a post-war political settlement, and how it addresses the tasks of 'reconstructing' the economy and re-imagining national identity.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung conducted a research study to substantiate the socio-political intricacies and local nuances involved in developing a context-specific understanding of HLP challenges. The struggle over socially just HLP rights involves refugees and displaced persons, local civil society organisations, occupants of empty dwellings, war profiteers, foreign powers, external aid agencies and international organisations, state institutions in various stages of disrepair, and also brutal regimes.

Our Speakers:

Hannes Baumann is a lecturer in the department of politics of the University of Liverpool. He specialises in Middle East political economy and is the author of *Citizen Hariri: Lebanon's Neoliberal Reconstruction*

Thomas Claes is the director of the regional project "Economic Policies for Social Justice in the MENA Region" with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, covering economic policies, analysis and reforms for social justice and sustainable development in the region. Thomas is working with FES in Tunis since 2014, taking over the regional project in 2016. He holds a master's degree in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies from FU Berlin.

Edwar Hanna is an architect and urban practitioner with a specialized focus on the role of communication and urban dialogue as participatory tools for social justice and post conflict reconstruction. With an MSc in Development Planning and Urban Design from UCL and a previous BSc in Architecture Edwar has an interdisciplinary approach to project design, implementation and research. He co-founded the platform Syrbanism in 2017 and led participatory peacebuilding projects in more than ten war-torn countries around the world.

Salam Said is an economic researcher and lecturer at various German universities. She earned her BS in Economics from the Damascus University in 1999 and her PhD in Economics and Social Sciences from the University of Bremen in 2010. Since 2009, she has been researching and teaching Arab Economies, Arab Trade Policies and the Political Economy of Syria. Said also worked on several development projects as a scientific coordinator and published numerous academic articles and research papers.

Leïla Vignal is an Associate professor in Human Geography at the University of Rennes. Her research interests center on cities, globalization and transnationalism in the Arab World. Since 2011, she has also researched and published on several aspects of the transformation of Syria in the conflict, with a special focus on destructions and economic, territorial and demographic changes.