

Dr. Konstantin Kastrissianakis
Centre for Urban Conflict Research, University of Cambridge

Title

Identifying urban territorial assemblages: The articulation of territorialities

Abstract

This paper will present the methodologies used to reveal what are termed “urban territorial assemblages” in order to analyse the territorialities of different groups in the context of imminent war in Beirut. Since the Ta’if agreement, which brought the warring factions of a 15 year-long civil war in Lebanon to agree to a permanent cease fire, the former militias turned political parties continued to organise the Lebanese capital through a sectarian territorial logic. After the assassination of Rafiq Hariri in 2005 and the increasing polarisation between Sunnis and Shi’as in Lebanon, Beirut’s inhabitants adapt to the certainty of a looming violent conflict with foreboding and sharper sectarian urban segregation. Looking primarily at the case of Hezbollah’s hala al-Islamiyya (Islamic sphere), this paper will present how the strategies of the party of God articulate an urban assemblage through post-war reconstruction, clinics, schools and charitable institutions as well as real-estate development in a context of competing territorialities.

Biography

Konstantin Kastrissianakis has recently completed his PhD at the Department of Architecture in Cambridge as part of the Conflict in Cities and the Contested State research project, as well as member of the Centre for Urban Conflicts Research. He holds an undergraduate degree in Social Anthropology and Economics from SOAS, London, an MA in Political Science from the Institut Politique de Paris, as well as an MA in Housing and Urbanism from the Architectural Association, London. He has worked for international organisations in Europe, the Middle-East and Africa, and worked for KCAP Architects & Planners on strategic planning for the city of Perm in Russia.