

Dr. Yair Wallach

University Lecturer, at the Department of the Languages and Cultures of the Near and Middle East, School of Oriental and African Studies – London

Title

How do we measure sharing?

Abstract

The literature on divided cities has much to say on conflict and the dynamics of violence. But it typically has little to say on the dynamics of sharing space in these cities. But even in the most violently divided cities there are moments and sites of encounter which are nonviolent of nature. Sharing space in a divided city could mean very different things: from frequenting the same shop to standing in a traffic jam together. How can we measure and evaluate these patterns and instances of "sharing space"? Could we quantify them at all? I will think through this question using Jerusalem as a case study.

Biography

Yair Wallach is the Pears Lecturer in Israeli Studies in the Department for the Languages and Cultures of the Near and Middle East, SOAS, the University of London. His field of interest is modernity in Israel/Palestine, looking at both Arab Palestinian and Jewish-Israeli society, focussing on urban space, as well as visual and material culture. Before joining SOAS he was a research associate in the "Conflict in Cities" research project at Cambridge University, where he looked at "shared Space" in Jerusalem and other divided cities.