

HIBA BOU AKAR

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Columbia University, New York

Assistant Professor of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, 2017-ongoing
& Director and founder, Post-Conflict Cities Lab at GSAPP, 2018-

Hampshire College, Amherst, MA

Assistant Professor of Urban Planning and Middle Eastern Studies, 2012- 2016.

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Mahindra Humanities Center, 2014-2015.

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley, CA

PhD, City and Regional Planning, Designated Emphasis in Global Metropolitan Studies, 2012.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, MA

MCP, Master in City Planning, 2005.

American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon

BArch, Bachelor of Architecture, 2000.

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

Ford Foundation Grant, Urban Research and Practice in Post Conflict Settings in the Middle East, 2018-2020

Rockefeller Foundation, Academic Writing Residency, Bellagio, Italy, 2019

Columbia University, Humanities War and Peace Initiative Grant, 2019 -2020 (collaborative project)

Harvard University, Radcliffe Institute Exploratory Seminars Grant, 2015 (collaborative project)

Arab Council for the Social Sciences Research Grants, 2013 & 2015 (collaborative projects)

Al-Sultan Dissertation Fellowship, UC Berkeley Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2011

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP), Gill-Chin Lim Grant Award, 2011

Distinction, PhD Candidacy Exams, Dept. of City and Regional Planning, UC Berkeley, 2009

National Science Foundation (NSF), Research Grant, Geography, 2009

Social Science Research Council (SSRC), International Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2009

The Wenner-Gren Foundation, Dissertation Fieldwork & Engaged Anthropology Grants, 2009 & 2014

The Middle East Research Award (MERC), 2009

The Berkeley Fellowship, for doctoral studies, UC Berkeley, 2006-2012

MIT-Mellon Inter-University Program on NGOs and Forced Migration, Research Grant, 2005

MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning Fellowship, for master's studies, 2003-2005

First prize of 'Areen Awards for Excellence in Architecture, AUB, 2000

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Bou Akar, Hiba. *For the War Yet to Come: Planning Beirut's Frontiers*. Stanford University Press, 2018.

- Winner of the 2019 Anthony Leeds Prize, sponsored by the American Anthropological Association - Society for Urban, National, and Transnational / Global Anthropology (SUNTA) section.
- Winner of the 2019 Nikki Keddie Book Award, sponsored by the Middle East Studies Association.

Reviewed in *Public Books*, *Urbanization, Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* (forthcoming), *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Environment and Urbanization*, *Anthropology Quarterly* among others. Also reviewed in *Al-Akhbar Lebanese daily newspaper*.

Bou Akar, Hiba and Mohamad Hafeda (eds.) 2011. *Narrating Beirut from its Borderlines*. Berlin: Heinrich Böll Foundation.

Articles and Chapters:

Bou Akar, Hiba (forthcoming 2019). "Lacework Zoning in a Beirut Periphery: The Sectarian Politics of land Use," in Sclar, Elliott, Bernadette Baird Zars, Lauren Ames Fisher, and Valerie Stahl, eds. *Zoning: A Guide for 21st-Century Planning*, p. TBA. Routledge.

Bou Akar, Hiba and Roosbelinda Cárdenas. 2018. "Writing about Violence: A Joint Reflection from Latin America and the Middle East," *Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP)*, 284/285, p. 46-51.

Bou Akar, Hiba. 2015. "From Poor Peripheries to Sectarian Frontiers: Planning, Development, and the Spatial Production of Sectarianism in Beirut" in *Territories of Poverty* ed. by Ananya Roy and Emma Shaw Crane, pp. 264-288. Athens: University of Georgia Press.

Bou Akar, Hiba. 2012. "Contesting Beirut's Frontiers" in *City & Society* 24(2), pp.150–172.

Fawaz, Mona and Hiba Bou Akar. 2012. "Practicing (In)Security in the City" in *City & Society* 24(2), pp. 105-109.

Bou Akar, Hiba. 2011. "Ruins and Construction, Crosses and Flags: The Political-Sectarian Spatiality of a Beirut Frontier" in *Narrating Beirut from its Borderlines*, ed. by Hiba Bou Akar & Mohamad Hafeda, pp. 78-98. Berlin: Heinrich Böll Foundation. Republished in *Global Prayers* (2013), ed. by Becker et al., pp. 244-257. Zurich: Lars Müller publishers.

Bou Akar, Hiba. 2005. *Framework for the Participation of NGOs in the National Initiative for Secure Housing, Land Tenure, and Good Governance in the ESCWA Region*. Beirut: UN-ESCWA.

MIT-Tsinghua Beijing Studio Team. 2005. 'City on the Rail,' in *World Architecture* (3), pp. 17-22.

Guest Editor

Fawaz, Mona and Hiba Bou Akar. 2012. *Special Issue: Security in/of the City*. *City & Society* 24(2): 105-195.

Public Scholarship

Bou Akar, Hiba. 2018. "Planning for a War Yet to Come (In Arabic)." *Producing Inequality Through Planning the Lebanese Territories*, p. 25-27. Legal Agenda.

Cárdenas, Roosbelinda, Hiba Bou Akar, and Ana Tijoux. 2018. "Desde El Sur ¡Hasta La Victoria Siempre! (Interview)." *NACLA Report on the Americas* 50, no. 4 (October 31, 2018): 430–34.

Bou Akar, Hiba and Hun Kim. May 16, 2016. City Talks with Ananya Roy: On Urbanism, Poverty, and the Whiteness of Theory. *Jadaliyya Cities*.

Simone, AbdouMaliq and Hiba Bou Akar. February 5, 2014. Counting the "Missing People" of Omdurman: Theatrics in Khartoum, Sudan. *Jadaliyya Cities*.

Bou Akar, Hiba and Nada Moumtaz. November 15, 2013. On Why Struggles over Urban Space Matter: An Interview with David Harvey. *Jadaliyya Cities*.

Bou Akar, Hiba. September 30, 2013. Urbanists Can Never Afford to be Apolitical: An Interview with Nezar AlSayyad on Urbanization in the Middle East. *Jadaliyya Cities*.

Interviews

Sectarianism, Proxies, and De-sectarianisation (SEPAD): Interview with Hiba Bou Akar. (Podcast). 2019. *The Richardson Institute, UK*. <https://player.fm/series/richardson-institute/sepapod-with-hiba-bou-akar>

For the War Yet to Come: Interview with Hiba Bou Akar (Podcast). 2019. *MIT Alumni Association*. <https://alum.mit.edu/slice/alumni-books-podcast-war-yet-come>

Urban Interventions for the Wars Yet to Come. Interview with Hiba Bou Akar. *MERIP* 290, pp. 20-23. <https://merip.org/2019/07/urban-interventions-for-the-wars-yet-to-come/>

"Book argues sectarianism key player in Lebanese urban development," *The Daily Star*, published March 19, 2019. <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2019/Mar-19/479163-book-argues-sectarianism-key-player-in-lebanese-urban-development>

New Texts Out Now: An interview with Hiba Bou Akar. *Jadaliyya NEWTON* May 16, 2019. <http://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/38664/Hiba-Bou-Akar,-For-the-War-Yet-To-Come-Planning-Beirut%E2%80%99s-Frontiers-New-Texts-Out-Now>

Conversation with Hiba Bou Akar, chair of the Think Housing Competition Jury, *Thoughts on Affordable Housing in Lebanon*, p. 24-29. Public Works Studio, 2019.

RESEARCH PROJECTS (key selection)

On the Revolution and its Spatialities

The Ford Foundation, 2018-2020

Studying the ways in which protestors of the Lebanese October 17 revolution used spaces in Beirut's center and its peripheries for collective mobilization

Urban Research and Practice in Post Conflict Settings in the Middle East

The Ford Foundation, 2018-2020

Partnering with AUB's recently established Urban Lab at the Maroun Semaan Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Public Works, a Beirut-based non-governmental organization, and with regional support from Columbia GSAPP's Studio-X Amman, the project will bring together planning research and practice expertise from Beirut and the MENA region to address urban research and practice in post conflict settings.

Mapping Beirut from its Tenant's Stories

Arab Council for the Social Sciences, Research Grant with Public Works Studio, 2015-2016

Conducting participatory action and ethnographic research in six neighborhoods in Beirut to document and study the implications of the government's abolishment of rent control on class and sectarian segregation. Outcomes are publicly exhibited, published, and used by housing rights' advocates in the city.

Planning Beirut: For the War Yet to Come

UC Berkeley Dissertation, Department of City and Regional Planning, 2006-2012

Studied transformation of Beirut's peripheries into contested frontiers of political-religious difference by examining, through ethnographic and archival research, the articulation of urban planning and zoning schemes, land and housing markets, and infrastructure projects with militarization, contestation, and war.

Narrating Beirut from its Borderlines

Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin, Germany and Beirut, Lebanon, 2010-2011

Led a team of researchers and students examining space-making practices around issues of religious and political difference in Beirut, resulting in a co-edited book.

Role of NGOs in Secure Housing, Land Tenure, and Good Governance

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Examined roles, challenges, and potential projects for NGOs in housing and land tenure in West Asia.

TEACHING AND ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Columbia University, GSAPP

Assistant Professor, Spring 2017-

Courses: Planning History and Theory, On Spatial Exclusion and Planning, Advanced Planning Theory
Advising master's and PhD students.

Hampshire College, School of Critical Social Inquiry

Assistant Professor, Fall 2012-Spring 2016

Selected Courses: Geographies of Exclusion, Urban Ethnographies of the Middle East, The Politics and Poetics of Space, Mapping the Middle East. Advising undergraduate theses.

AUB, Department of Architecture & Design, Graduate Programs in Urban Planning & Policy

Visiting Scholar, Fall 2016 and Spring 2010

Courses: Urbanism and Geographies of Exclusion respectively.

AUB, Graduate Program in Urban Planning

Master's Theses Reader, 2012-ongoing

Yasmine Farhat (2019), "Sectarian Territorialization in Beirut;" Amer Mohtar (2016), "Contesting The Aramoun Master Plan" (2016); and Lana Salman (2014), "Post-Conflict Master-planning."

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Dar Al-Handasah, Shair & Partners, Dubai, UAE and Beirut, Lebanon
Urban Planner, 2006

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Project on Housing and Land Tenure
Research Consultant, 2005-2006

AUB's Facilities Planning and Design Unit, Beirut, Lebanon
Project Manager and Planning Consultant (2002-2003 and 2005 respectively)

UNESCO & World Bank's Baalback Cultural Heritage and Urban Development Project, Lebanon.
Research Consultant, 2002-2003

Bawader Architects, Beirut, Lebanon. Architect, 2000-2002

INVITED TALKS (last five years)

- 2020 Invited Book Talk. Rutgers University, Department of Geography. New Jersey. February 21.
- 2020 Invited Book Talk. Social Science Research Council. Brooklyn, New York. January 28.
- 2019 Invited Book Talk. Sciences Po, Cities are Back in Town Seminar, Paris, France. October 2.
- 2019 "On Violence and Planning," Atlantic Crossings Workshop, Columbia's Paris Global Center. October 4.
- 2019 "Sedimentary Urbanization," Rockefeller Foundation, Bellagio Center, May 15.
- 2019 Invited Book Talk. Harvard University Center for Middle East Studies, April 11.
- 2019 Invited Book-making Talk. Harvard University's Mahindra Humanities Center, April 12.
- 2019 Invited Book Talk. George Washington University, Institute for Middle East Studies, April 4.
- 2019 Invited Book Talk and Launch. Asfari Institute & Urban Lab. American University of Beirut. March 14.
- 2018 "Zoning and the Materiality of Conflict," *Urban Security Assemblages Protection Beyond the State And Beyond the Human* conference, University of Amsterdam, February 8.
- 2018 "For the War Yet to Come," DePaw University, Indiana, September 18-19.
- 2018 "The Lacework of Zoning," Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University, Oct. 18.
- 2017 "The Lacework of Zoning," Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University. Oct. 20.
- 2017 "Urban Interventions for the War Yet to Come," Studio X, Amman, August 10.
- 2017 "Exploratory Workshop: Civil War," UC Humanities Research Institute, UC Irvine, June 1.
- 2017 "For the War Yet to Come," Global Metropolitan Studies Urban Salon, NYU. April 25.
- 2016 "Geographies of the War Yet to Come," Department of Geography, UC Berkeley. March 17.
- 2015 "Planning for the War Yet to Come," Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University. March 31.
- 2014 "On the Doubleness of Ruins," Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, November 17.
- 2014 "Planning Beirut: For the War Yet to Come," Department of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT. Feb. 13.

CONFERENCES (last five years)

- 2019. Author Meets Critics: Hiba Bou Akar' For the War Yet to Come. Panelists included: AbdouMaliq Simone, Ruth Gilmore, Asher Ghertner, and Mona Atia, AAG, Washington DC, April 6.
- 2018 "Planning Without Development," ACSP, Buffalo, October 27.
- 2018 "Planning Without Development," AAG, New Orleans, April 12.
- 2017 "Urbanization of Violence: Contested Access to Housing in Beirut's Peripheries," The Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Washington DC, November 19.
- 2017 "On Violence and Planning," Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP), Denver, Oct. 13.
- 2017 "Arrested Futures?" Association of American Geographers Conference (AAG), Boston, April 2017.
- 2016 "Sedimentary Urbanization," Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Studies, Harvard University, Nov. 17.
- 2016 "From Development to Planning," AAG, San Francisco, March 30.

2015 “On Ruins and their Post-War Geography,” MESA, Denver, Nov. 22.

2014 “Ethnographies of Planning Interventions” (Organizer/Presenter), ACSP, Philadelphia, Oct. 31.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Think Housing Competition, Chair of Jury, Lebanon, 2019-

ACSP GPEIG Gill-Chin Lim Best Dissertation, member of selection committee, 2019-2021.

Jadaliyya Cities Co-editor, 2013-ongoing. < <http://www.jadaliyya.com/Category/153/>>.

International Conference Co-organizer (selection):

“Urban Activism in the Arab Region,” with Public Works. March 2020, Beirut, Lebanon.

“Financialization of Land and Property,” March 2020, City Debates, AUB’s Depart. of Architecture and Design.

“*Territories of Social Justice: Violence, Ruptures, and the Mapping of New Spatial Claims,*” November 2016, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University;

“*Urban Social Movements,*” March 2017, City Debates, AUB’s Depart. of Architecture and Design.

“*Security [Of/In] The City,*” March 2010, City Debates, AUB’s Depart. of Architecture and Design.

Manuscript and Funding Proposal Reviewer for IJURR, Environment and Planning A, Cultural Anthropology, Antipode Book Series, Cities, Urban Geography, Gender, Place, and Culture, PoLAR, City & Society, City and Community, European Research Council, International Journal of Middle East Studies, Mediterranean Politics, Research Foundation-Flounders (FWO), and Berkeley Planning Journal.