

Section 8 – Relazioni internazionali

Panel 13. Space in Politics/the Politics of the Space in the Middle East

Chairs: Rosita Di Peri, Daniel Meier

The “use” of the space in politics is historically documented and experimented. For the case of the Middle East, it appears evident, looking for example at the period of the European colonial penetration, that the political use of space/spaces, has played a crucial role: In the redefinition of borders and the consequent delimitation of territories on which to exercise sovereignty; but also on those, apparently insignificant, interstitial spaces where the imposition of regulatory plans or a colonial toponymy of places have completely altered space perception and fruition (Bourdieu 1977; Ferguson 1988).

The renewed attention to the spatial dimension of politics, the idea that politics is not just something that has a reflection on individuals but also on the territories on which they insist, obviously has to do with the transformation of the notion of State on the one hand and with that of sovereignty on the other hand (Cohen-Kliot 1992). Mechanisms of political control over spaces through processes of bordering and ordering, for example, have increasingly offered the impression of stability and conservation in an ever more fluctuating international system.

Starting from these considerations, the panel intends to propose a reflection on the role of space in politics and on the politics of the space/s, primarily focusing on MENA region. The panel encourages papers that:

- tackle the theoretical issues underlying the debate on the use and the role of space in politics and of the space's politics from various disciplinary angles;
- deal with the political use of the space in MENA countries with particular attention to those aspects that interweave the internal / external dimension.
- reflect on the domestic use of spaces and places, how it has changed in the contemporary era and how and to what extent it has been used and has had an impact on mobilization movements, on the transformation of the communities' spatiality, on the management of the state sovereignty, etc.