



Spatial Contests and Urban Governance in Cairo

Since the late 1970s, Cairo, like other major Arab cities, has undergone significant and wide-scale socio-spatial transformations. These transformations have arisen out of processes of informal urbanisation, on one hand, and neo-liberal projects of urban remake, on the other. Through informal appropriation of space, urban popular forces fashioned new forms and modes of living the city. Meanwhile, regimes of urban governance anchored in neo-liberal logics - entwining capital accumulation and securitisation - have brought forth geographies of dislocation and segregation. Against this backdrop, the city has been reconfigured through complex and multiple spatial contests involving ordinary citizens, government, and real estate developers, among others. This talk will examine spatial contests entailed in neo-liberal regimes of urban governance and in citizens' struggles against these regimes. Its central thematic concerns are: informal urbanisation, regimes of neo-liberal urbanism, and the practices of urbanity embodying the socio-spatial hierarchies of the new urban geographies.

Readings:

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Secor, Anna. 2004. "There Is an Istanbul That Belongs to Me": Citizenship, Space, and Identity in the City," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 94, 2: 352-368.

Tonkiss, Fran. 2005. *Space, the City and Social Theory*. London: Polity