

CITY & CINEMA

HEND ALY

City and the cinema have always been interlinked. While the cinema represents an image of the city, its people and spaces, it simultaneously plays a major role in the production of its space. The relation between the city and the Egyptian cinema, dates to its early days. When *Naguib el-Rehani* in *Salama fi Khair* (1937) mocked the urban elite, *Ismail Yassin* in *al-Attaba el-khadra* (1959), days after arriving from the village bought one of Cairo's most vital squares. *Al Houb Fouk Hadba el-Haram* (1986) and *al-Souraa La Tazeed Aan Sefr* (1992) follow the suffering of *Athar el-Hakim* and *Ahmed Zaki* and *Abla Kamel* and *Ahmed Bedier* to find a house and practice their basic rights of marriage and housing. The city and urban life represented the childhood dream of *Shukri Sarhan* in *Ibn el-Nile* (1951) which turned into a disaster when it came true, while for *Ahmed Zaki*, and his family in *el-Beih el-Bawab* (1987) moving to the city was a way to make a living which started with a harsh welcome but eventually provided him with the city's endless opportunities. *Bushra's 678* (2010) daily commutes in the public bus reflected the suffering of Egyptian women facing harassment, while the public tram provided the child *Doha Amir* in *Hayah aw Mout* (1954) safe transport across Cairo to find the medication of her dying father, *Emad Hamdy*.



This class dives deep into the city and its representation in the cinema. Employing a critical approach of contemporary urban political and economic landscapes, it familiarises the students with the main debates within academia and includes the movies as a lens to look at the broader questions on urban studies. Every week we will explore one of the urban spaces, starting from the railway station to public spaces, neighbourhoods, public transport, universities and waterfronts. We will focus every week on a different space, covering a broad range of issues which we encounter in our everyday life within these spaces. We will read and discuss housing, mobility, rural-urban migration, informality, segregation, inequality, citizenship, poverty, etc.

After week one, which will function as an introductory class, each class will be composed of two parts. In the first part we discuss the readings and engage with academic debates, while in the second part a student/students will give a presentation on the space of the week, followed by a discussion.

BIO:

Hend Aly is an urban researcher and a consultant for the UN-Habitat. She has held various positions in international organisations, governmental institutions and civil society. She holds two post-graduate degrees in political science and urban studies. In her research, she is interested in bringing the political and the urban closer together to better understand the city. She has previously published on urban inequalities and citizenship, neo-liberal urbanism, authoritarianism, new cities, urban branding, urban governance and urban activism. Her research covers diverse cities including Cairo, Brussels, Vienna, Copenhagen, Madrid, Belgrade, Tirana, and new cities namely, NEOM. Her current research focuses on migration integration in an urban context.

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WEEK ONE: ON THE CITY

Core Readings:

Brenner, Neil. 'What Is Critical Urban Theory?' *City* 13, no. 2-3 (2009): 198-207.
Salmi, Hannu. 'Cinema and the City'. In *The Oxford Handbook of Cities in World History*, edited by Peter Clarke, 1790-1825. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Additional Readings:

Millington, Gareth. 'Cinema, Cities and Urbanization'. In *Urbanization and the Migrant in British Cinema*, by Gareth Millington, 19-44. London: Palgrave Macmillan UK, 2016.

Qasem, Mahmoud. 'City and the Film'. Arab Press Agency, 2018.

WEEK TWO: RAILWAY

Core Readings:

Chappell, Sally A. Kitt. 'Urban Ideals and the Design of Railroad Stations'. *Technology and Culture* 30, no. 2 (1989): 354-375.

Additional Readings:

He, Shan. 'Between Permeability and Isolation: A Comparative Urban Life Study of Inner-City Railway Stations and Their Node Precincts in China'. *Athens Journal of Architecture* 2, no. 2 (2016): 107-30.

Schivelbusch, Wolfgang. 'Railroad Space and Railroad Time'. *New German Critique*, no. 14 (1978): 31-40.

Zacharias, John, Tianxin Zhang, and Naoto Nakajima. 'Tokyo Station City: The Railway Station as Urban Place'. *Urban Design International* 16, no. 4 (2011): 242-51.

WEEK THREE: HOUSE/SHELTER

Core Readings:

Brenner, Neil, Peter Marcuse, and Margit Mayer. 'Cities for People, Not for Profit'. *City* 13, no. 2-3 (2009): 176-84.

Additional Readings:

Harvey, David. 'The Urban Roots of Financial Crises: Reclaiming the City for Anti-Capitalist Struggle'. *Socialist Register* 48 (2012): 1-35.

Shawkat, Yahia. *Egypt's Housing Crisis: The Shaping of Urban Space*. Cairo New York: The American University in Cairo Press, 2020.

WEEK FOUR: PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Core Readings:

- Martínez, Cristhian Figueroa, Frances Hodgson, Caroline Mullen, and Paul Timms. 'Creating Inequality in Accessibility: The Relationships between Public Transport and Social Housing Policy in Deprived Areas of Santiago de Chile'. *Journal of Transport Geography* 67 (February 2018): 102-9.
- Stanley, Janet, and Karen Lucas. 'Social Exclusion: What Can Public Transport Offer?' *Research in Transportation Economics* 22, no. 1 (2008): 36-40.

Additional Readings:

- Suescún, Juan Pablo Bocarejo, and Daniel Ricardo Oviedo Hernández. 'Transport Accessibility and Social Exclusion: A Better Way to Evaluate Public Transport Investment', 25. Lisbon, 2010.

WEEK FIVE: PUBLIC SPACE

Core Readings:

- Elnaggar, Yosra G., Yasser M. Moustafa, and Ayman F. Wanas. 'The Wall, An Increasing Phenomenon in Cairo: Main Reasons and Potential Implications'. In *Architecture and Urbanism: A Smart Outlook*, edited by Shaimaa Kamel, Hanan Sabry, et. al, 269-87. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2020.
- Pineda, Victor Santiago. 'What Is Inclusive and Accessible Public Space?' *The Journal of Public Space* 7, no. 2(2022): 5-8.

Additional Readings:

- Fawzy, Rania Magdi. 'Commodification of the Egyptian New Capital: A Semio-Foucauldian Landscape Analysis'. *Space and Culture*, 9 February 2021.
- Hemeid, Bedour. 'The Myth of a Safe Public Space', 9. TU Delft, 2018.
- Lloyd, Kathleen, and Christopher Auld. 'Leisure, Public Space and Quality of Life in the Urban Environment'. *Urban Policy and Research* 21, no. 4 (December 2003): 339-56.

WEEK SIX: NEIGHBOURHOOD

Core Readings:

- Aly, Hend. 'Unequal Citizens: Between the Gated and the Informal in Cairo'. In *Urban Inequalities*, edited by Italo Pardo and Giuliana B. Prato, 73-91. Palgrave Studies in Urban Anthropology. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021.
- Harders, Cilja. 'The Informal Social Pact: The State and the Urban Poor in Cairo.' In *Politics from Above, Politics from Below: The Middle East in the Age of Economic Reform*. Edited by Eberhard Kienle, 191-213. London: Saqi.

Additional Readings:

Elshahed, Mohamed. 'The Prospects of Gentrification in Downtown Cairo: Artists, Private Investment and the Neglectful State'. In *Global Gentrifications*, edited by Loretta Lees, Hyun Bang Shin, and Ernesto López-Morales, 121-42. Bristol University Press, 2015.

R. Mofeed, and N. Elgendy. 'Re-Presenting The Egyptian Informal Urbanism In Films Between 1994 And 2014'. *International Scholarly and Scientific Research & Innovation* 10, no. 6 (2 May 2016): 2044-50.

WEEK SEVEN: MARKETS AND MALLS

Core Readings:

Abaza, Mona. 'The Changing Consumer Cultures of Modern Egypt: Cairo's Urban Reshaping'. *Theory, Culture & Society*, 18, no 5 (2006): 97-122.

Jackson, Peter. 'Domesticating the Street: The Contested Spaces of the High Street and the Mall'. In *Images of the Street: Planning, Identity, and Control in Public Space*, edited by Nicholas Fyfe, 173-88. London; New York: Routledge, 1998.

Additional Readings:

Maneval, Stefan. 'Counterpublics in Saudi Shopping Centres, Beach Resorts, and Gated Communities'. *Middle East-Topics & Arguments* 12, no. 1 (2019): 76-86.

Mele, Christopher, Megan Ng, and May Bo Chim. 'Urban Markets as a "Corrective" to Advanced Urbanism: The Social Space of Wet Markets in Contemporary Singapore'. *Urban Studies* 52, no. 1 (2015): 103-20.

WEEK EIGHT: UNIVERSITY

Core Readings:

Addie, Jean-Paul D. 'From the Urban University to Universities in Urban Society'. *Regional Studies* 51, no. 7 (3 July 2017): 1089-99.

Additional Readings:

Razavivand Fard, Haniyeh. 'Universities' Urban Impact in the Neo-Liberal Context'. In *Neo-Liberalism and the Architecture of the Post Professional Era*, edited by Hossein Sadri, 299-317. *The Urban Book Series*. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2018.

Sun, Cheng, Jianquan Cheng, Aiwen Lin, and Mingjun Peng. 'Gated University Campus and Its Implications for Socio-Spatial Inequality: Evidence from Students' Accessibility to Local Public Transport'. *Habitat International* 80 (2018): 11-27.