Holding on to place
Spatialities of resistance in Israel and Palestine: the cases of Hebron, Silwan and al-Araqib

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Abstract

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict centres on ensuring the control of land and territory; space thus plays a critical role in the power relations between the parties involved in the conflict. Acknowledging space as a central tool of domination used by the Israeli authorities, the following question arises: how is space mobilized by those opposing this control? This thesis endeavours to shed light on the way in which space can become both a resource for and an outcome of protest, with an emphasis placed on the way it is used in and produced through practices of resistance.

This research will utilise a comparative approach, relying on material collected in the course of fieldwork conducted between 2012 and 2014 in Israel and Palestine. The three "sites of contention" analysed here include the H2 area in Hebron (the Old City under Israeli authority), the "core" neighbourhoods of Silwan (Wadi Hilwe and al-Bustan) and the unrecognized Bedouin village of al- Araqib, in the Negev desert. Through the prism of these three case studies, the thesis will tackle different strategies built around the materiality of space, place, sense of place, territory, landscape, network and scale.

Jury:

Prof Philippe C. Schmitter (EUI), Prof Donatella della Porta (EUI, co-supervisor), Marion Lecoquierre (candidate), Prof Eitam Y. Alimi (Hebrew University), Prof Paul Routledge (Universiyt of Leeds, co-supervisor)

Bio

Born in France in 1985, Marion Lecoquierre holds a M.A. degree in Geography from La Sorbonne (Paris), where she graduated in 2008. Her Ph.D. research associates geography to the study of contention. It is entitled *"Holding on to Place – Spatialities of Resistance in Israel and Palestine: The Cases of Hebron, Silwan, and al-Araqib"* and relies on an ethnographic account of the practices of resistance, both collective and individual, deployed in the three sites of contention mentioned above, and the way they use and produce space.