

The fluid and the ephemeral as transgression: queer mobilities and space-making in Beirut

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This paper proposes to reflect on the transgressive nature and potential of fluid and ephemeral spatial practices. By focusing on queer practices in Beirut, this paper highlights the significant role of mobility in the construction of alternative spatialities and urban centralities to navigate material and immaterial constraints.

In existing literature, contemporary Beirut is defined by its multiscale binaries considered as the sole determinants of its spatial structure, varying from east/west, center/periphery, private/public. Through an analysis of queer practices rooted in mobile strategies and in the politics of the everyday, the aim is to nuance the otherwise seen as fixed and permanent binaries of Beirut. This study builds on previous works by scholars in architecture and cultural geography focusing on marginalized and precarious urban experiences in countering normative discourses on cities and spatialities. Results stress on transgressive practices that reveal territorial reconfigurations and thus propose a critical standpoint from which to rethink the urban knowledge on Beirut through the temporalities of movement in space.