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*Imaginary and Autonomy: urbanisation, construction, and cement production in Palestine*

The core of my thesis deals with the materiality of cement, and it focuses on the urban processes in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt). The Palestinian government began the process of establishing the first cement factory in Palestine in 2015. Cement is central to state-building practices. Mainly when taking into consideration that Palestine is not yet a fully-established state nor does it have full control over its territories, land. The thesis argues that sovereignty becomes manifested through re-imagining the geography of cement. Therefore, cement is not merely a material to bond aggregates (sand and gravel) in the process of construction. Instead, it goes beyond its physical property to be a multi-scale material that links the shattered territories of the West Bank and Gaza together. In other words, cement becomes an actant that redefines new territorial and spatial relations, both on a symbolic and material level. In academic account literature, little attention has been directed to understand the urban political ecology of cement. In this regard, my thesis would be an essential contribution to study cement and its political dimension through the case of Palestine and the state-building. The aim is to investigate the production of cement as one of the vibrant actants in the field of instituting the Palestinian contemporary state-territory relation. It is crucial to understand that cement is embodied within many aspects of the Palestinian conflict. In this regard, cement will allow the understanding of urban processes in relations to the following processes: construction, mining for raw material, securing energy, and the modes of circulation.