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Abstract

Deconstructing the Lebanese-Syrian Borderscape through the lenses of Waiting, Temporality and Refugees' Practices

Fairly nascent in the field of urban studies and planning, this research fills a gap in deconstructing waiting and temporality in informal tented settlements (ITSs) along the Lebanese-Syrian borderscape. Temporary spatial experiences lived by protracted refugees inhabiting ITSs that are considered transient and ambivalent are examined in this research. In unravelling the notions of power and subordination, home-making strategies and the revival of a fragmented collective memory, that modalities of waiting and temporality in contested spaces in ITSs along borderlands are investigated; perceived as liminal, ambiguous and marginalized territories, those spaces transformed into socio-spatial productions are continuously processed and constructed via refugees' multi-scalar societal and relational practices. Furthermore, the waiting experience along borders and in contested spaces is revealed to be a non-static one nor uni-dimensional but rather a multi-dimensional one encompassing social exchanges and cultural practices. Hence, transient populations, like refugees inhabiting ITSs, develop communal activities benefiting host-communities and refugees.