

Sahera Rasheed Bleibleh, PhD
Assistant Professor
Architectural Engineering Department, College of Engineering
United Arab Emirates University
P.O. Box: 15551, Al-Ain, U.A.E.
O: +971-3-713 5193, F: +971-3-713 4990
sahera.bleibleh@uaeu.ac.ae

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Architectural Engineering Department, College of Engineering, Al-Ain, U.A.E.
August 2013- present.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Urban Design and Planning, 2007-2012 – Awarded the Department of Urban Design and Planning Faculty Medal Award at the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.
Dissertation: *Everyday Life: Spatial Oppression and Resilience under the Israeli Occupation. The Case of the Old Town of Nablus, Palestine.*

Master of Science, Urban and Regional Planning, 1997-2000
An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine
Thesis: *Parameters of Peoples' Satisfaction towards Streets. The Case of Rafidia Street in Nablus, Palestine.*

Bachelor in Architecture, 1992
An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine.
Project: *Jerusalem International Airport, Palestine.*

PROFESSIONAL AND TEACHING POSITIONS

Director of Built Environment and Public Health at the Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders (INND), July 2014- present
Visiting Scholar/Lecturer, Urban Design and Planning Department and Comparative History of Ideas, University of Washington, Seattle. WA, June 2012-August 2013.
Visiting Scholar, Urban Design and Planning Department, University of Washington, Seattle. WA, 2012.
Teaching Assistant, the Human Experience of Space, Landscape and Architecture Department, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, Fall 2010 and Winter 2009.
Lecturer, Building Construction and Design Studio, Dept. of Architecture, Birzeit University, Ramallah, Palestine, January 2006-August 2006.
Lecturer, History of Architecture, Design Studio, Technical Drawing, and Visual Training, An-Najah National Community College, Nablus, Palestine, 1995-1996.
Lecturer, Climatic Design, Dept. of Industrial Engineering, An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine, 2000.

GRANTS, AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS (Selected)

2014-2015: Seed Research Project – College of Engineering – United Arab Emirates University. “*Cultural Modernity in Urban Space: Indigenous Performance of the Everyday in Dubai’s Architectural Wonders*”

2013-2014: Open Society Foundations Scholarship Programs - 2013Alumni Grant Program (AGP) for a project

entitled “*Nablu: Narration of Everyday Life Under the Israeli Occupation*”.

- 2013-2014: The Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS) *Principal Investigator* for a research to implement a project entitled *Humanitarian Effects: Assessing Social and Physical Inequalities in the Urban Space of Jenin Refugee Camp*.
- 2011-2012: Department of Urban Design and Planning Faculty Medal Award for “*exceptional work in theory/research and promise for continuing to provide intellectual leadership in the profession.*” University of Washington, Seattle.
- 2007-2012: Open Society Foundations, and USAID scholarship: Palestinian Faculty Development Program (PFDP) Ph.D. Scholarship.
- 2011: The Palestinian American Research Center Fellowship (PARC) - Dissertation Research in the City of Nablus, Palestine.
- 2011: The Graduate School Fund for Excellence and Innovation (GSFEI)-Travel Scholarship to the Fourth Annual NSSR Interdisciplinary “Memory: Silence, Screen, and Spectacle.” The New School, NYC.
- 2010: The Graduate School Fund for Excellence and Innovation (GSFEI) -Travel Scholarship to Space of History/Histories of Space Conference, Berkeley, CA.
- 2006: Honor Award, the Municipality of Nablus and the UNESCO: Architectural Competition: Design of Public Spaces and Urban Facilities in the Old City of Nablus. This competition is in conformity with the UNESCO/UIA regulations for competitions.

COURSES (Selected)

- Urban Planning and Infrastructure.
- Contemporary Issues in Urban Development.
- Housing and urban design
- People Responding to War and Conflict: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Impact of War on 4Hs: Home, Human Health and Built Environments.
- The Spatial Experience of Everyday Life
- Resistance in Fragments: Art and Spatial Memory
- Post-Disaster Reconstruction: Therapeutic Model of Planning

PUBLICATIONS (Selected)

- Bleibleh, S. (February 11, 2014). Walking Through Walls: The Invisible War. *Space and Culture*. (An Arabic translation is published in issue no.8 of *Omran, The Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies*, Spring 2014)
- Bleibleh, S. (2014). Voices from Within, in ed. Suleiman, Y. (2014). *Being Palestinian: Personal Reflections on Palestinian Identity in the Diaspora*. Edinburgh: Polygon at Edinburgh. (Forthcoming)
- Bleibleh, Sahera (2014). Everyday Life Under Uncertainty: A Narrative of Silent Resistance (under review).
- Bleibleh, S. and Gilbert, S.G., Voices Through Walls: How Walls Undermine Human Rights and Humanity (under review, 2014).

STUDENTS SUPERVISION

- Supervisor of M.Sc. Thesis of Architect Mariam Al-boloushi entitled: Exploring Power Representation of Prototype Governmental Buildings: The Case of Police Stations in Al Ain City.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS (Selected)

- Bleibleh, S. and Gilbert, S., Voices Through Walls: How Walls Undermine Health and Well Being. American Public Health Association (APHA) – Nov 2014 New Orleans.

- Bleibleh, S. and Perez, M., Violent Developments: Reconstruction, Politics and the Israeli Occupation in the Jenin Refugee Camp. A panel at the American Anthropological Association Producing Anthropology (AAA) – December 2014 DC.
- Bleibleh, S. (2014). The Tradition of the Oppressed: Between the Resilience and Frustration of Everyday Under the Israeli Occupation. International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments (IASTE), “Whose Tradition?” to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, December 14-17, 2014.
- Bleibleh, S., (2014). Walking Through Walls: the Invisible War. The Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies (Beirut Branch). Oral History: concept and approach and search fields in the Arab sphere conference. February 20-23, 2014.
- Bleibleh, S., (2014). Everyday Life Under Uncertainty: A Narrative of Silent Resistance. Environmental Design Research Association EDRA44, to be held in New Orleans, May 28-31, 2014.
- Bleibleh, S. and Amad, E., Warfare and Cultural Heritage Polices. 4th World Congress for Middle East Studies (WOCMES) at METU in Ankara, Turkey, August 18- 22, 2014.
- Bleibleh, S., (2013). Sense of Place, Trauma and Healing. Environmental Design Research Association EDRA44 to be held at the Omni Providence Hotel in Providence, Rhode Island, May 29-June 1, 2013.
- Bleibleh, S., (2013). Walking Through Walls: Urban Warfare and Everyday Life. American Ethnological Society/Association for Political and Legal Anthropology, Chicago, April 11-13, 2013.
- The Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS) workshop, Beirut, Lebanon, March 16-17, 2013.
- Bleibleh, S., (2013). Walking Through Walls: The Invisible War. The Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS) conference, Beirut, Lebanon March 18-19, 2013.
- Bleibleh, S., (2012). Everyday life, Place Making, and the Uncertainty. The case of The Old Town of Nablus under the Israeli Occupation. (*poster published*): Environmental Design Research Association EDRA43 Washington, Seattle from May 30-June 2, 2012.
- Mandour, A. and Bleibleh, S., (2011). Political Spatiality. FIG Working Week on Bridging the Gap between Cultures. Marrakech, Morocco, 18-22 May 2011.
- Bleibleh, S., and Huang, Sh., (2010). Everyday utopias, politics, and tradition: lessons from Occupied Palestine. (Accepted for presentation at the International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments (IASTE), Lebanon but was not granted a visa to deliver it).
- Bleibleh, S. (2010). (Article online) Everyday Urbanism between Public Space and “*Forbidden Space*”: The Case of the Old City of Nablus, Palestine. UC Berkeley: The Proceedings of Spaces of History / Histories of Space: Emerging Approaches to the Study of the Built Environment: <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/699616jk>
- Bleibleh, S. and Yaseen, F., (1997). Operational Handbook and Code -Accessibility in Schools for Disabled, Engineers Association, Jerusalem, Palestine. (Funded by Diakonia—people change the world—and NAD).
- Bleibleh, S. (2012). Occupied Space and Socio-Spatial Practices beyond the Myth: The Case of the Old Town of Nablus under the Israeli Occupation. (Abstract accepted): The International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments (IASTE), 2012, “The Myth of Tradition,” Portland, Oregon, October 4-7, 2012.
- Bleibleh, S. (2011). Commemorating Spatial Memories...The Nurturing of Debris in the Old Town of Nablus, Palestine. The Fourth Annual NSSR Interdisciplinary “Memory: Silence, Screen, and Spectacle.” The New School, NYC. March 24-26, 2011.
- The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning ACSP PhD workshop, (August 2009). University of Washington, Seattle.
- Fourth Biennial Ph.D. JAMBOREE (June 2009), PhD workshop, The School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP). University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
- Spanning Time and Place, (March, 2009). Everyday Urbanism between Public Space and ‘*Forbidden Space*’, the Old City of Nablus, Palestine. An Interdisciplinary Student Conference on Near and Middle Eastern Studies.
- Development and Reconstruction in Palestine (March 2006). An Introductory to International Bodies in Construction of Cultural Heritage, An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine.

- Cultural Heritage Preservation in Palestine, (February 2006). Thinking Global acting local: An Introductory to International Bodies in conservation of Cultural Heritage, Jericho, Palestine. Co-authors: Eman Assi, and Lana Rabadi.
- UIA Conference, (June 2005). There Is No Outside: The Case of Jerusalem City, Istanbul, Turkey. Co-authors: Mohamed Alaa Mandour, and Lana Rabadi.
- Arc Cairo, (March 2004). The Apartheid Wall and its Impacts on the Sustainable Physical Planning and Management in Palestine. University of Ein Shams, Cairo, Egypt.
- The Oxford University Arab Culture Society, (March 2004). The Apartheid Wall and its Impacts on the Sustainable Physical Planning and Management in Palestine, London, UK.
- Architecture, Energy and Environment (HDM), (Sept-Oct 1999). Comparison of two Systems of construction in Nablus City, Palestine, The traditional style and Modern Style, Lund University, Sweden.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP (Selected)

- A lecture via *Skype*, jointly with Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, *Voices Through Walls: A Toxic Tour of Gaza*, (October 28, 2013), INND (Institute of Neurotoxicology & Neurological Disorders) & Middle East Studies Lecture series, Global Studies and the School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, University of Washington Bothell, Seattle, Washington.
- A member of the Program Committee for Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) to review conference materials.
- A public talk, jointly with Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, *The Frustrations of Everyday Life in Palestine Under the Israeli Occupation*, (August 19, 2013), INND (Institute of Neurotoxicology & Neurological Disorders), Seattle, Washington.
- Review committee member, May 2013. The Global Supplementary Grant (GSGP)-The GSGP supports PhD students around the world pursuing PhD studies outside of their home regions.
- A guest speaker at *Militarization and Occupation*, Anthropology of Place (5) seminar, (November, 8, 2012) University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.
- A guest speaker at *Memory and Trauma*, Memory and Violence seminar, (November 6, 2012), University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.
- A lecture *Space and Tactics of Oppressed/Occupied Everyday Life in Nablus*, (October 31, 2012) Middle East Studies Lecture series, Global Studies and the School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, University of Washington Bothell, Seattle, Washington
- Radio interview with Steven Gilbert (Saturday, June 2, 2012) by Mike McCormick on KEXP radio station (KEXP.org) to talk about war impact on people, built environment and toxicology in Palestine with focus on Nablus and Gaza
- Planner, Master Plan of Tulkarem City (1997-1998), Urban Planning Center at An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine
- Trainer, Rehabilitation and Design Criteria for Disabled Engineers Association, Jerusalem, Palestine 1996-2007.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Director of Built Environment and Public Health at the Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders (INND), July 2014- present
- Sr. Architect, Khatib and Alami Consolidated Engineering Company, Ramallah, Palestine, July 2006 - August 2007.
- Municipal Management and Development Specialist, the World Bank Office, Middle East and North Africa, West Bank and Gaza, March 2004-June 2006.
- Sr. Engineer Consultant, Emergency Municipal Support Program, the European Commission Ramallah, Palestine, January 2003-February 2004.
- Sustainable Needs Assessment Consultant (Monitoring and Evaluation), Local Rural Development Program, United Nation Development Program-PAPP, Ramallah, Palestine, November 2002-January 2003.

- Architect, Neighborhood Playgrounds Construction, United Nation Development Program- PAPP, Ramallah, Palestine, February 2002-Jauary 2003.
- Project Manager, Energy Codes for Buildings, United Nation Development Program - PAPP, Ramallah, Palestine, May 2000-December 2002.
- Senior Designer and Director, Tubeileh Engineering Office, Nablus, Palestine, 1996-2001.
- Architect, Tubeileh Engineering and Contracting Company, Nablus, Palestine, 1993-1996.

COMMITTEES, ASSOCIATIONS AND LEADERSHIP

- Member, the Middle East Studies Association (MESA)
- Member, the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA)
- Member, the International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments (IASTE)
- Urban Design and Planning Steering Committee Student Representative, 2010-2012
- Secretary General, International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS- Palestinian Chapter) 2003-2006
- Member, International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS- Palestinian Chapter)
- Member, the Engineers Association (Jerusalem Branch), Architectural Division.
- Technical Committee for Rehabilitation of the environment for persons with disabilities, Engineers Association, Jerusalem, Palestine
- Board of Trustees, Safety on Roads and Environment protection Center, Ramallah, Palestine
- Member, the Palestinian Architectural Association, Jerusalem, Palestine

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Architecture and Environmental design
- Urban design, built environment and human behavior
- Spatial representation, art, anthropology and everyday life
- Socio-spatial resilience, communities, community participation
- Planning, cities, urban morphology, and public space
- Socio-political, cultural contexts, history, memory and trauma in areas of conflict

SKILLS

Team-based interdisciplinary research, SPSS, Atlas TI, Windows platform programs, GIS, and AutoCAD (2D and 3D)

LANGUAGES

- Arabic (Native)
- English (Fluent)
- French (Beginner)