



جامعة في المخيم
Campus in Camps

Campus in Camps
PRESS KIT

english version texts
update to December 2012

for further information please contact
info@campusincamps.ps

Campus in Camps explores and produces new forms of representation of camps and refugees beyond the static and traditional symbols of victimization, passivity and poverty – *Sandi Hilal, UNRWA Camp Improvement programme*

It is a place for reclaiming the capacity and the freedom to learn – *Munir Fasheh, mentor*

Campus in Camps aims at transgressing, without eliminating, the distinction between camp and city, refugee and citizen, center and periphery, theory and practice, teacher and student – *Alessandro Petti, Campus in Camps director*

Campus in Camps is a collective process that generates reflections, approaches and tools adaptable to anyone through communal learning. Even in the uncertain conditions and future that surrounds us, the seed has been planted, and its qualities will continue to spread – *Diego Segatto, project coordinator*

It is the place where everything around us has new meanings and dimensions which are connected to the reality of our lives – *Ahmad Lahham, participant*

It is the only place where the doors of creativity are open – *Nedaa Hamouz, participant*

A place where we meet to learn to unlearn and become co-authors of what we say and define – *Isshaq Al Barbary, participant*

It's a new narration, a different view of the past, and a new future. It is the place I was searching for... where I feel the strength to represent my opinion about camps and refugees – *Aysar Dawoud, participant*

It is a trip into reality, where we can work on ourselves without outside influences. It is where I found the spirit I had been searching for – *Ayat Al Turshan, participant*

Campus in Camps is to look at the present, toward the future both theoretically and practically, with a sense of the ideal but grounded in the real. It's the bridge that we build with our hands between the past, the present and the future – *Murad Owdah, participant*

We meet here to discuss what refugees should do with their potential – *Qussay Abu Aker, participant*

It's a small window into refugeehood in an environment which totally misses this concept. Campus in Camps is the only place with ability to expand this small window and help us overcome this ignorance of refugeehood – *Bisan Al Jaffari, participant*

About Campus in Camps

Campus in Camps is a two-year experimental educational and project-based program, engaging the participants from the West Bank's refugee camps in an attempt to explore and produce new forms of representation of camps and refugees beyond the static and traditional symbols of victimization, passivity and poverty. The program aims at transgressing, without eliminating, the distinction between camp and city, refugee and citizen, center and periphery, theory and practice, teacher and student.

This initiative stems from the recognition that refugee camps in the West Bank are in a process of a historical political, social and spatial transformation. Despite adverse political and social conditions Palestinian refugee camps have developed a relatively autonomous and independent social and political space: no longer a simple recipient of humanitarian intervention but rather as an active political subject. The camp becomes a site of social invention and suggests new political and spatial configurations.

In recent years the refugee camp have been transformed from a marginalized urban area to a center of social and political life. More notable is that such radical transformations have not normalized the political condition of being exiled. For decades, the effects of the political discourse around the right of return, such as the rise of a resolute imperative to stagnate living circumstances in refugee camps in order to reaffirm the temporariness of the camps, forced many refugees to live in terrible conditions. What emerges today is a reconsideration of this imperative where refugees are re-inventing social and political practices that improve their everyday life without normalizing the political exceptional condition of the camp itself. After more than sixty years of exile, the camps are now viewed as the village of origin: a cultural and social product to preserve and remember. What is at stake in this program is the possibility for the participants to realize interventions in camps without normalizing their conditions or simply blending the camp with the rest of the city.

Campus in Camps aims at providing a protected context in which to accompany and reinforce such complex and crucial changes in social practices and representations. We believe that the future of the refugee camps and their associated spatial, social and political regime force us to re-think the very idea of the city as a space of political representation through the consideration of the camp as a counter-laboratory for new spatial and social practices.

The institutional framework and the organization

Campus in Camps is a program by Al Quds University (Al Quds/Bard Partnership) and hosted by the Phoenix Center in Dheisheh refugee camp in Bethlehem. It is implemented with the support of the GIZ Regional Social and Cultural Fund for Palestinian Refugees and Gaza Population on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), in cooperation with UNRWA Camp Improvement Programme.

The initiative, begun in January 2012, young participants in a two-year program dealing with the question of finding new forms of visual and cultural representation of the refugee camp after more than 60 years of displacement. The aim is to provide young motivated Palestinian refugees who are interested in engaging their community the intellectual space and necessary infrastructure to facilitate these debates and translate them into practical community-driven projects that will incarnate representational practices and make them visible in the camps. Normally the university campus and the refugee camps are 'extraterritorial islands' often excluded from the rest of the city. Campus in Camps aims to transgress the borders between the 'island of knowledge' and the island of 'social marginalization'.

The program is divided in two one-year components. The first year is centered around experimental educational cycles lead by local and international academics, artists, cultural practitioners, anthropologists, architects and activists. The curriculum is radically conceived through an on-going discussion between the participants and the invited guests. Rather than an instructional model of learning, *Campus in camps* offers a space for collective learning, in which knowledge emerges not from external sources but rather a group effort. For this reason the structure is constantly reshaped in order to accommodate interests and subjects emerging from the interaction among the participants, the invited guests, and the social context at large. During the second year the participants are asked to develop and carry on personal actions and community-driven projects with the aim of translating the collective reflection into new and visible practices in the camps.

programme director	Alessandro Petti
in collaboration with	Sandi Hilal (UNRWA, Camp Improvement Programme)
participants	Marwa Allaham, Qussay Abu Aker, Alaa Al Homouz, Saleh Khannah, Shadi Ramadan, Ahmad Lahham, Aysar Dawoud, Bisan Al Jaffarri, Nedaa Hamouz, Naba Al Assi, Mohammed Abu Alia, Ibrahim Jawabreh, Isshaq Al Barbary, Ayat Al Turshan, Murad Owdah
mentors	Michel Agier, Sari Hanafi, Munir Fasheh, Ilana Feldman, Mohammed Jabali, Ayman Khalifah, Wilfried Graf, Tareq Hamam, Ruba Saleh, Vivien Sansour
team project	Ghassan Bannoura, Yasser Hemadan, Ala Juma, Diego Segatto
project activators	Brave New Alps, Matteo Guidi, Sara Pellegrini, Giuliana Racco
english and arabic instructors	Tala Abu Rahme, Thea Piltzecker, Daniel McKenzie, Iman Simon, Ayman Khalifah

CYCLES, LECTURES AND SEMINARS

Cycles

Local and international guests are asked to interact with the participants in a form of dialog for one month or more. At the end of the cycle, the guests together with the participants organize a public presentation. The form in which the public presentations are conducted, (seminar, exhibition, performance, text, etc...), is independently determined by the participants and the guests themselves.

Munir Fasheh

The House of Wisdom

February-June 2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/the-house-of-wisdom

Diego Segatto

Camps of Knowledge: Back to the Future

February-April 2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/camps-of-knowledge

Tarek Hamam

International Law and Human Rights

February-April 2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/international-law-and-human-rights

Gudrun Kramer, Wilfried Graf, Oday Karsh, Thomas Ernstbrunner

Conflict transformation

April-June 2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/conflict-transformation

Ayman Khalifah

Culture and Representation

July 2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/ayman-khalifah

Vivien Sansour

Agri-culture and resistance

August-September 2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/agri-culture-and-resistance

Sandi Hilal

The UNRWA Camp Improvement Programme

September-October 2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/camp-improvement-program

Dan McKenzie - Tala Abu Rahmeh - Thea Piltzecker - Iman Simon

Power and language

February-December 2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/language-and-power

Lectures

Local and international guests are asked to present single lectures on specific cases and topics which are normally part of more wide academic research. The challenge of bringing the classical academic lecture structure into Campus in Camps experience is to encourage new form of dialog and criticism between different learning approaches.

Ilana Feldman

Political Life and Humanitarian Assistance: Palestinian Refugee Claims and Conditions

04.06.2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/ilana-feldman/

Linda Quiquix

Mapping Modern Palestine: The 'Colonial Template' in Palestinian Politics

09.07.2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/linda-quiquivix/

Beatrice Catanzaro

A needle in the binding and other stories Context as field, relations as tools

20.07.2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/beatrice-catanzaro/

Basel Abbas & Ruanne Abou-Rhame

Navigating the Dialectics of Desire and Disaster in the Contemporary Palestinian Landscape

06.08.2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/basel-abbas-and-ruanne-abou-rahme/

Tariq Dana

Palestinian Civil Society: What Went Wrong?

22.09.2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/tariq-dana/

Aysar Al Saifi

The Last Lesson

06.10.2012 | <http://www.campusincamps.ps/projects/ayasar-al-saifi/>

Felicity D. Scott

Voluntary Primitivism

05.11.2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/felicity-d-scott/

Seminars

A local or international guest is leading a one-day workshop with the participants on specific cases and topics which are normally part of more wide academic research.

Mohammed Jabali

Autobiography of a city

22.03.2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/autobiography-of-a-city/

Ruba Salih

Idea of Return

April 2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/ruba-saleh/

Michel Agier, Thomas Keenan

Global-scape of camps and the politics of neutrality

May 2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/michel-agier/

Moukhtar Kocache

Facts and Fiction / Myths and Reality: Pragmatism and Politics of Funding and Resource Mobilization

July 2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/moukhtar-kocache/

Hanan Toukan

Reclaiming the Political: Visual Production and the Transformative Politics of Everyday

29.07.2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/hanan-toukan/

Shadi Chaleshtoori

Deconstructing Citizenship: Subjects, Status and States

10.11.2012 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/shadi-chaleshtoori/

Jeffrey Champlin

Placing Antigone

01.12.12 | www.campusincamps.ps/projects/jeffrey-champlin/