



DWELLING TOGETHER
URBAN HOUSING, NEIGHBORLINES AND MULTILOCAL HOMEMAKING

14.06. COMMONING THE MAHALLE. THE NEIGHBORHOOD AS URBAN COMMONS

DR. JULIA STRUTZ

Mahalle/Mahalla/Mohalla/Mahalleh is a repertoire of living together in urban and rural space that can be observed in many societies from the Balkans to Bengal. Despite the diversity of regional and cultural contexts, research about the mahalle shares problematics such as the fluidity of boundaries, residential heterogeneity, its importance for civil society and local solidarity. The mahalle has been studied predominately by historians and seems to belong only to the past as a form of living together that was lost and is now longed for with nostalgia. Seldomly, the mahalle has been approached with the concepts of contemporary urban studies. Yet, I believe that understanding the mahalle as urban commons enriches our understanding of this form of living together in cities and villages, illustrates modes of sharing a neighborhood space relevant for also for today while it points to its residual character as not-yet fully commodified, its function in redistribution and the importance of property relations.



Dr. Julia Strutz (HU/RePLITO/Off-University) conducts research in the fields of memory politics, urban renewal, public space, the urban history of Istanbul, and the various ways this history gains importance in heritage and non-heritage contexts today.

June 14th, 6-8pm at HU Berlin (in-person)
room 315 (third floor) at IAAW, Invalidenstr. 118

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