

## EVENT PROGRAM

### Friday March 18, 2022

#### 6:00-7:30pm Keynote Panel

City Debates will inaugurate on Friday 18 March, in the evening, with a keynote presentation by Ariella Masbounji who will present her rich professional experience in urban planning and design practice in Europe and beyond. Ms. Masbounji is an architect-urbanist, holder of the French Grand Prix de l'urbanisme in 2016; she directed the "project urbain" in the ministry in charge of sustainable development. City Debates will unfold on Saturday 19 March, with three panels.

#### *Welcome and opening remarks*

**Mona Harb**, BUL, American University of Beirut

#### *Planning and Design Practices in European Cities, What Pathways for Tomorrow?*

**Ariella Masbounji**, Architect and Urban Planner, Former Inspector General for sustainable development in the French ministry for sustainability

Discussant: **Robert Saliba**, American University of Beirut

### Saturday March 19, 2022

#### 9:30-10:00 Welcome

#### 10:00-11:30 Panel I: A Framework for Urban Recovery

Panel 1 will feature presentations by the Beirut Urban Lab's four co-directors who will examine: (i) how planning can be (re)conceived and practiced in contexts of dysfunctional states and compounded crises; (ii) how professionals can contribute to elaborating integrated recovery approaches and methods in such an environment; (iii) how institutional configurations assemble differently according to political-economy geometries impacting variably urban governance; and (iv) how mapping and visualization tools can be mobilized productively to influence these processes.

#### *Of Planning and Crises*

**Mona Fawaz**, BUL, American University of Beirut

#### *Towards a People-Centered and Heritage-Led Urban Recovery*

**Howayda Al-Harithy**, BUL, American University of Beirut

#### *Who Governs Planning in "Failed" States?*

**Mona Harb**, BUL, American University of Beirut

#### *Mapping and Visualizing amidst Data Scarcity*

**Ahmad Gharbieh**, BUL, American University of Beirut

Moderator: **Joseph Bahout**, IFI, American University of Beirut

Discussant: **Lina Abou Habib**, Asfari Institute, American University of Beirut

11:30-12:00 Coffee break

12:15-2:00 Panel II: Producing Knowledge Platforms

Panel 2 will present the knowledge platforms BUL has been producing, in response to the ongoing urban crises the city has been experiencing for the past three decades, namely: (i) wars, conflicts and disasters that destroy cities, regions and towns, and territorialize the built environment; (ii) the financialization of land that direly impacts affordable housing, urban heritage, public and open space, and the social value of land; (iii) dysfunctional urban governance led by a network of oligarchs, sectarian and corporate interests that hollow-out public institutions and capture rent from public resources for their own benefits. The panel will feature the base platform which established the Lab: the Beirut Built Environment Database (BBED), and the more recent Beirut Urban Observatory (BUO), which is producing a number of urban indicators and initiatives to monitor the process of post-blast recovery—in addition to other platforms. This is a group presentation featuring the work of several BUL researchers.

*On BUL's Knowledge Platforms*

**Hayfa Abou-Ibrahim, Luna Dayekh, Antoine Kallab, Soha Mneimneh, Leila el-Sayed Hussein, Isabela Serhan, Abir Zaatari**, BUL, American University of Beirut

Moderator: TBC

Discussant: **David Aouad**, SARd and IESR, Lebanese American University

2:00-3:30 Lunch Break

3:30-5:00 Panel III. Planning and Design Practice through “Micro-Urbanism”

Panel 3 “Planning and Design Practice through “Micro-Urbanism” will focus on how BUL and other stakeholders have been practicing planning in the context of the Port Blast recovery, through small-scale projects initiatives, experimenting with a micro-urbanism approach. It will discuss the advocacy for the establishment of a Planning Unit in the Governorate of Beirut that would be tasked with elaborating collaboratively an integrated urban strategy for the neighborhoods affected by the blast, starting from the pilot project of al-Masar al-Akhdar which is a proposed green path on the trajectory of the frozen project of the Fouad Boutros highway. It will also present the citizen-science and city development strategy combined approach that led to BUL’s elaboration and implementation of an open space network in Karantina. This is also a group presentation featuring the work of several BUL researchers and affiliates.

*Recovering Public Spaces: Incremental Tactics, Integrated Design, Holistic Vision*

**Myriam Bazzi, Mahmoud Bou Kanaan, Abir Cheaitli, Habib Debs, Ali Ghaddar, Lynn Hamdar, Dana Mazraani, Batoul Yassine**, BUL, American University of Beirut

Moderator: **Serge Yazigi**, American University of Beirut

Discussant: **Christine Mady**, Notre Dame University-Louaize

5:30-6:00 Closing Commentary

**Jad Tabet**, Former President of the Order of Engineers and Architects

**Mona Fawaz**, American University of Beirut