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International Doctoral Program in Civil and Environmental Engineering

SEMINAR

Tactics, Temporality, and Transformation: Researching Dwelling as Ongoing Spatial Practice (1 CFU)

Prof. Amina Rezoug Ayar
Istanbul Bilgi University, Turkey

Location:
Aula Magna
UNIPG Campus of Engineering
Via G. Duranti, 93, Perugia

Timetable:
June 17th 2026 - 9:30 - 16.30 (CET)

Abstract

This intensive one-day seminar examines the relationship between architectural design intentions and resident appropriations, tracing how inhabitants negotiate, transform, and claim the spaces they live in. Drawing on Kroes' design/use context framework, Lefebvre's conceived/perceived/lived space triad, and Ingold's dwelling perspective, the seminar situates spatial appropriation within a broader critique of modernity, coloniality, and the abstraction of the user in architectural thought. Moving across three interconnected sessions, the seminar interrogates the modern production of space and its erasure of lived inhabitation, turns to existing alternative practices engaging materiality, temporality, and relationality as design instruments, and addresses how visual and computational methods — photographic sequences, temporal diagrams, shape grammar analysis, and 3D point cloud documentation — can serve ethnographic and participatory inquiry rather than reproduce the abstractions they seek to critique.

Students engage with design anthropology and pluriversal design as methodological orientations centering multiple ways of knowing and inhabiting. Drawing on doctoral research documenting resident transformations in the Climat de France housing complex, the seminar treats spatial modification as skilled dwelling practice — positioning residents as active makers of their environments rather than passive recipients of architectural decisions.

Amina Rezoug is a faculty member at Istanbul Bilgi University. She holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Middle East Technical University (2008) and an M.S. in Architectural Design and Computation from Istanbul Technical University, where her thesis — *Fast, Cheap & Adaptable: A Digital Model for Designing Temporary Post-Disaster Housing* — explored resilient, low-cost approaches to emergency shelter. She completed her Ph.D. at the same institution with the dissertation *A Visual Method of Analysis for User Modifications in Climat de France*, a study examining how residents reshape and appropriate mass housing environments. In 2019, she was a visiting researcher at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Porto, focusing on digital fabrication.

Her professional practice spans architectural projects of varying scales, with work presented at exhibitions and conferences internationally. Since 2016, she has taught interior architecture and design courses and studios across undergraduate and graduate levels.

Rezoug's research brings together decolonial theory, formal analysis, and computational methods to examine housing and dwelling in contested contexts — including post-disaster reconstruction, marginalized mass housing, and postcolonial modernist settlements. Drawing on cultural studies and design anthropology, her work interrogates how space is lived, modified, and claimed by its inhabitants, and how design can respond to — or resist — inherited structures of power and displacement.

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