

Spatial Practices of Revolt

Square-state relations during the Arab Spring protests



People Praying in the Tahrir Square

Mass protests during the Arab Spring in the Middle East have revealed layers of complex process of private/public patterns in massive urban revolt which are yet to be empirically and systematically investigated.

This research investigates the quick pace by which the public space was reshaped and reproduced to assist its role as a space for resistance and revolt from the traditional state-driven system of power and control.

By mapping patterns of interaction, social behavior and use of space with the physical characteristics and spatial order of Tahrir Square and its surrounding buildings during the Egyptian revolution, it is argued that socio-spatial practices that were at work in the Square, were already embedded in the memory and cognition of the individuals that could be recalled in different places and situations to inform actions.

Date : March 6 (Thu), 3:00-5:00 pm

Venue : Main conference room, 3rd Floor, Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, The University of Tokyo

Speaker : Dr. Gehan Selim

Lecturer in Architecture Queens University Belfast, UK

** No Registration Needed*

Organized by “Social Change and Intellectual Movements in the Modern Middle East” (IASA Regular Research Project, headed by Prof. Eiji Nagasawa)