

# Mahalle Meets Stadtquartier: *Berlin - Rabat - Tehran - Istanbul*

**Application  
Deadline:  
30/04/2014**

## Call for Application PhD Colloquia

“Mahalle meets Stadtquartier” is an international exchange programme hosted by the Department of Architecture, Habitat Unit (Chair of International Urbanism and Design), TU Berlin, Germany, in cooperation with the Institute for Urban and Territorial Planning (INAU), Rabat; University of Tehran, Tehran; and Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul. Funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the aim of this three-year programme is to provide a platform for inter-cultural (Europe-MENA) dialogue and urban exchange on the potentiality and urgency of “the local”. The project proposes to initiate a scientific dialogue about similarities, differences and cultural specificities and traditions associated with “neighbourhood” as a situated and dynamic socio-spatial-cultural

construct. What kind of conflict is being produced when different understandings of the local collide with each other? Can a better understanding of difference inform new resolution models?

The programme has opened a Call for Fellowship Application for 28 doctoral students currently pursuing a PhD thesis in themes related to the programme. Selected candidates will have the opportunity to attend three international PhD colloquia (Istanbul 2014, Rabat 2015 and Tehran 2016).

Successful applicants will also be able to contribute to a planned publication.



## Research Focus

The “Mahalle meets Stadtquartier” project intends to provide a platform for inter-cultural dialogue to revisit the concept of neighbourhood in different contexts, discover its potentialities, recognize its limitations and risks, and plan for its future. The hypothesis is that better mutual understanding will help to address conflicts and collisions that emerge between different every day practices within urban quarters or different cultures of appropriating public space or mobilizing for collective actions. Only through the acceptance and comprehension of difference, diversity can lead to a more tolerant and resilient local community.

Different responses, local attitudes, successes, problems, conflicts, challenges and solutions will be discussed to highlight the differences on the one hand, and to reveal the similarities and transferability of the experiences on the other. The participant students from all the cooperation partner countries will become familiar with the history, evolution, and current

position of “the local” (spelled out in different terminologies in different contexts), learn about the current national or city programmes that attempt to improve “the local”, investigate which urban unit can serve as the optimal scale for enriching “the local”, and which roles the proposed unit can play in addressing problems regarding social cohesion and governance.

The central themes of this call are:

**Scale/sites:** The research must focus on “the local” (urban neighbourhood, city quarter, district, etc.), located in, at least in part, one or more of the four partner countries.

**Approach:** The call encourages a wide range of research approaches that investigate social aspects, governance, urban management, physical characteristics, urban policy, cultural plurality, economic dynamics, history etc.

**Period of study:** The research may focus on historic evolutions, current challenges, and/or future perspectives.

[www.habitat-unit.de](http://www.habitat-unit.de)



## PhD Fellowship

A series of three PhD Colloquia, held annually in one of the partner cities, is the main activity of the programme. These colloquia give the PhD students from the partner countries the chance to share and exchange their achievements and findings with other scholars and students, discuss their research with an international audience, and learn from the experiences of the participants.

**The first PhD Colloquium will be held in Istanbul from 21-30 September 2014 at Mimar Sinan University.**

The selected PhD students will be awarded a fellowship to attend the PhD Colloquia. This fellowship will cover the costs of flight, accommodation, a daily allowance, and colloquium fees. The fellows are responsible for arranging formalities regarding their attendance (visa, accommodation, bookings, etc.).

The fellowship excludes financial support of the selected PhD students while the PhD colloquium takes place at their home country. More details and technical information will be communicated with the selected students in due time.

**Please note that this fellowship is only and exclusively for the purpose of participating in the PhD colloquia.**

## Eligibility

The call is open to PhD students who are doing their research on themes related to this call. Applicants can have a wide range of academic backgrounds, including architecture, urban planning, urban design, geography, sociology, economy, environmental studies, political science, history, urban management, urban studies, etc.

Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Applicants **MUST** be either residents of the partner countries who are doing their PhD research in an internationally recognized university or research institute, or international PhD students registered in one of the recognized universities or research institutes in the partner countries.
- The topic of the PhD research **MUST** be related to the given Research Themes.
- The programme language is English.



## How to Apply

Eligible PhD students must submit an application (in English) containing the following information:

- A letter of motivation (max. 2 pages) underlining your contribution to and benefits from the project.
- A concise CV (max. 2 pages)
- A Research Outline/Proposal, which provides an overview to the research project, objectives, methodology, etc. (max. 3 pages, excluding bibliography)
- A recommendation letter by the supervisor

Please note that incomplete applications or those not meeting the submission criteria will

not be reviewed. Please send your applications as one single PDF document to

Dr. M. Reza Shirazi at the following email address:  
[mmsattuberlin@gmail.com](mailto:mmsattuberlin@gmail.com)

**The deadline for applications is 30 April 2014.**

A board of distinguished international scholars will review the applications and the results will be announced in mid May 2014.

For more details and the results of the selection please visit our website:

[www.habitat-unit.de](http://www.habitat-unit.de)

## Contact

If you have any questions please contact Dr. M. Reza Shirazi, Programme Coordinator  
[mms@architektur.tu-berlin.de](mailto:mms@architektur.tu-berlin.de)

## Research Team

### **TU Berlin Team**

Prof. Dr. Philipp Misselwitz, Berlin University of Technology, Habitat Unit  
- Chair of International Urbanism and Design.

Dr. M. Reza Shirazi (Programme Coordinator): Berlin University of Technology, Habitat Unit  
- Chair of International Urbanism and Design.

Dr. Somaiyeh Falahat, Berlin University of Technology, Habitat Unit  
- Chair of International Urbanism and Design.

### **International Partners**

Prof. Dr. Assia Lamzah, Institute for Urban and Territorial Planning (INAU), Rabat, Morocco.

Prof. Dr. Farshad Nourian, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran.

Prof. Dr. Murat Cemal Yalçintan, Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts, Istanbul, Turkey.

### **Advisory Board**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ayfer Bartu Candan, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey

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