CITIES IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT DIALOGUE

The new International Affairs Dialogue, *Global Refugee Crisis: Rome & Palermo* has been changed to a virtual format!

**Course Description:**

Recently, we have observed that displaced people have turned into bargaining chips by states, including Western democracies, that prioritize border politics and securitization in their power politics. One of the main ironies of our times is that we are feeling less safe and more fearful in a world that is increasingly securitized. In the aftermath of the break of Syrian civil war, Europe fell into a major “security crisis” owing to the first mass influx of refugees from outside of Europe in history. Against the backdrop of tightened border control and rise of anti-immigrant regimes in Europe since 2016, this seminar demonstrates how cities of refuge take on innovative socio-spatial roles and political agency. In the context of massive refugee flow, we will explore the ways in which cities of refuge, such as Athens and Palermo, shape the perception and experience of safety and fear. As these cities resist to and negotiate with anti-immigration policies and securitization in Europe, they carve out safe places and generate urban practices of inclusion and protection. Unlike “secured” places detectable by the politics of fear and exclusion, safe places in this project are distinguished by inclusion and protection. Unsurprisingly, the safety of the most vulnerable category of our times, Muslim refugees and asylum seekers, falls to the center of analysis in the post 9-11 context of rising Islamophobia. The broader implication of this seminar is to question the interplay between security states and the cities that receive and accommodate large numbers of refugees. We will explore how security states and cities of refuge are the two sides of the same coin. Together, they constitute the Zeitgeist: While security states and their harsher border control generate the politics of fear and exclusion, cities of refuge are increasingly charged with creating safe havens of inclusion for vulnerable refugee populations.

Cities in a Global Context (Abroad) – 61245 – INTL 3201 – 01- (Online)
Credits 4. Instructor: Berna Turam
Virtual Summer Dialogues can be found on the GEO website