

Joint research project „Wissen entgrenzen“

Subproject 1: Geographies of political affinity and the urban space: Iraqi-Polish knowledge relations in the field of architecture and urban planning (1959-1989)

Researcher: Dorota Woroniecka

This project explores knowledge relations in the field of architecture and urban planning between the Polish People's Republic and Iraq through a case study of the Department of Architecture, University of Mosul. Established in the academic year 1978/1979, the department faced significant shortages of local staff that led it to search for foreign lecturers to fill the gap. Throughout the 1980s, sixteen lecturers from the Faculty of Architecture, Technical University of Wrocław, worked at the Department, contributed to the development of its program and educated the first generations of Mosuli architects. The project aims to unpack the knowledge relations that were formed through this academic collaboration and understand their legacy on both individual and institutional level. Here, architectural education is approached as a form of knowledge production mediated by the relation between the instructor and the student. While the project explores both the what (knowledge) and the how (methods) of knowledge production, it focuses on the relations that transpired between the Iraqi students and Polish staff and on the experience of architectural education itself. It draws on social anthropology and history, combining the archival research in Iraq and Poland, with the analysis of available literary and academic sources and in-depth interviews with actors and witnesses of these interactions.

Deutsches
Historisches Institut
Warschau

Niemiecki
Instytut Historyczny
w Warszawie