

Acknowledgements

This present book is the result of fieldwork between 2014 and 2019 in Zaatari camp, Jordan. Many people, funding parties and institutions have contributed to it. I would like to thank Nina Gribat and Lucie Bernroider for having commented on various drafts of the book. Thanks also to Philipp Misselwitz, and the 'Architectures of Asylum' research team — Aline Fraikin, Antonia Noll and Anna Steigemann — with whom I had the chance to learn about other camps in Europe and the Middle East, and to sharpen my findings on Zaatari. I am also grateful for the support of my colleagues at the Department of International Urbanism and Design (Habitat Unit) at TU Berlin, who have commented on my research during the colloquiums, and with whom I had various informal discussions on the subject: Hassan El-Mouelhi, Salma Khamis, Nina Pawlicki, Hannes Langguth, Jakub Galuszka, Christoph Muth, Gözde Sarlak, Shaimaa Abouelmagd, Chaghaf Howayek, Melaku Tanku and Millicent Akaateba.

Between 2018 and 2021, I was based at the Collaborative Research Centre 'Re-Figurations of Space' (SFB1265) at TU Berlin. The centre provided me with infrastructural, financial and intellectual support to finish writing this book and to disseminate its findings through different media, ranging from colloquiums and workshops to exhibitions and films. For that, I would like to thank Martina Löw and Hubert Knoblauch — as well as for inviting me to publish this book in their edited series at Transcript — Nina Elsemann for coordinating the publication process, and all of the many colleagues at the centre with whom I had numerous discussions about my findings and the publication process. These include Anthony Miro Born, Kamil Bembnista, Martin Schinagl, Claudia Mock, Volkan Sayman and Jamie Scott Baxter, among many others.

I am very grateful for the financial support I have received from the German Research Society (DFG) through the centre, and from TU Berlin, to publish this book. I am also indebted to the DAAD, which financed the first and main parts of this research (especially through the Leadership for Syria programme). I would also like to thank Veronika Zaripova who worked on the illustrations for her artistic vision and dedication, Anna Wilk-Pham for helping me draft out the first illustrations based on my field notes and hand drawings, Richard Bowles for copy-editing the

book, and Annika Linnemann and Isabelle Schlömer from transcript for working with me on this project to the finish line.

During the research period, I was hosted at several institutions. Here I would like to thank the French Institute of Research in the Near East (Ifpo) in Amman, and particularly Kamel Dorai, Valentina Napolitano, Jalal Al-Husseini and Myriam Ababsa for widening my perspective on camps and migration in the Middle East; the Refugee Studies Centre in Oxford University, and especially Tom Scott-Smith and Dawn Chatty with whom I have discussed various aspects of my research; and the Department of Urban Studies and the Consortium on Forced Migration, Displacement and Education at Vassar College, where I was appointed as an Adjunct Assistant Professor for the spring semester in 2021, and where I had the chance to discuss the book — its structure and findings — with the students while I was writing. For that, I am thankful to Maria Höhn, Lisa Brawley and the Andrew Mellon Foundation for their support.

Many colleagues have helped me during the first phases of the research, advised me about research methods, commented on it, inspired me with their work, or simply reflected with me on its meaning. Here I should thank Aziz Hallaj, Fatima Al Nammari, Ahmad Yousry, Yehya Serag, Lucas Oesch, Lewis Turner, Elisa Pascucci, Ann Christin Wagner, Adam Ramadan, Melissa Gatter, Irit Katz, Amanda Paz Alencar, Maysoun Sukarieh, Sofian Merabet, Athar Mufreh, Gabriel Culler, Nuha and Saba Innab, Shahd Seethalher-Wari, Somayeh Chitchian, Toby Parsloe, George Bagalia, Jonathan Darling and René Kreichauf. I also need to thank Curt Rhodes, Kilian Kleinschmidt, Muna Buder, Ghada Barakat, Hovig Etyemezian, Manar Amro, Georgie Nink, Nathalia Watanabe, Reihaneh Mozaffari, Daniel Kerber, Ashraf Abu Al-Halawah, Tareq Sadeddin, Mohamed Jertila, Ahmad Alberawi, Antoine Barbier and Rua Al Abweh for their support in the humanitarian field.

Lastly, and most importantly, I would like to thank all the Syrian refugees in Zaatari camp for their assistance and generosity, and for opening their doors and hearts to me, welcoming me into their homes and sharing their stories. Without their help and trust, this work would have not been possible. I would also like to thank Mechtet Trepl for welcoming me into her house in Westend, Berlin, and for offering me a home while I was writing this book. I am also thankful for the support of my family in Syria and Jordan who have been always there for me, even digitally and through social media. Khadeejeh, Rami, Bahia and Marwan were the silent heroes who pushed me all the way to the finish line. For their love and support, I am eternally grateful, and to them, I dedicate this book.