

November 25, 2015

# Martin Centre Lecture

## Department of Architecture



## THE BANALITY OF COLONIZATION: Suburbia in the West Bank

**Professor David Newman**

Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,  
Professional Chair in Geopolitics, Ben-Gurion University

The establishment of settlements in the West Bank is normally analysed through the prism of political colonization and occupation. The process through which this settlement project has reached almost 400,000 residents is less documented. This paper presents the nature of the planning process which has been used as a means of implementing the political objectives. In particular, the process of suburbanization, cheap land, the construction of transportation infrastructure and the development of a commuter belt to the major centres of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, provide the mechanisms through which settlers have been attracted to these communities. The “opening” of the Green Line has brought about a sharp discontinuity in the price of land, facilitating optimal costs in those parts of the West Bank which are in closest geographical proximity to the border. The impact of suburban colonization has also had a long term impact on the changing priorities of land zoning and the promotion of peripheral region development.

*Professor David Newman is Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and holds the Professorial Chair in Geopolitics at Ben-Gurion University in the Negev. Editor of the journal Geopolitics until 2014, Prof Newman’s research focusses on territorial dimensions of ethnic and national conflict, the functions and significances of borders, with a regional focus on Israel / Palestine and the Middle East.*

**When:** 1.15 - 2.15, November 25, 2015

**Where:** Lecture Room 1, Department of Architecture  
1-5 Scroop Terrace, Cambridge CB2 1PX



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