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Dr Sara Fregonese BA, MA, PhD

School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences
Senior Lecturer in Political Geography

Dr Fregonese is a political geographer with a background in Middle Eastern Studies. Her research is about the relations between geopolitics, security and urban space, and how geopolitical situations and events impact on the everyday life of cities, their built environment and residents.

Qualifications

BA Oriental Languages and Cultures (Ca' Foscari University of Venice) MA
Cross-Mediterranean Cooperation (Ca' Foscari University of Venice) PhD
Geography (Newcastle)
Post Graduate Certificate in Higher Education (University of Birmingham)

Biography

The main empirical focus of Dr Fregonese research is Lebanon, where she has twenty years of research and fieldwork experience. However, she has also conducted fieldwork in several other European locations, using a variety of qualitative research methods. She is the author of *War and The City: Urban Geopolitics in Lebanon* (Hobsonsbury 2019) and of *The Radicals' City: Urban environment, polarisation, cohesion* (Routledge 2016, with Raff Brand). She is currently the Principal Investigator of the ESRC/ANR/DfG-funded research project *Atmospheres of Counter-Terrorism in European cities* (2021-2023), a mixed-methods study which explores the felt dimensions of contemporary terror threats and counterterrorism measures in the ordinary experience of cities in Europe.

Teaching

I am a member of the Higher Education Academy and my teaching practice aims to foster understanding of the spatial and urban implications of armed conflict and terrorism. My teaching draws heavily on my research and produces an interdisciplinary and case-oriented learning and teaching experience for students. I lead and/or contribute to the following modules in the School:

Year 1

03 36619 LC Tutorials and Study Skills for Geographers 03
36261 LC Fieldwork Project Design and GIS

Year 2

03 36298 LI Social and Political Geography 03
36279 LI Statistical methods and tutorials
03 34330 LI Research Labs and Fieldwork: Theory and Practice

Year 3

03 30810 LI1 Cities and Conflict (module Lead)
03 36270 LI1 Geopolitics and global challenges (module lead) 03
31220 LI1 Geography and Planning Research (dissertation)

Postgraduate supervision

Dr Ian Slesinger (ESRC) – completed 2019
Ms Shannon Oates (GCRF) – 2018 (ongoing, theology & Religion) Ms
Maya Breu (Baxter Ricard Scholarship) – 2021 (starting)

Research

My research has been supported with funding by: Newcastle University, the British Academy (Post-Doctoral Fellowship; Small Grant), Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL), AHRC and ESRC (Open Research Area).

My research develops in the following areas:

Urban geographies of armed conflict and postconflict

This substantial strand of my research focuses on the urban manifestations of conflict and post-conflict. It advances intellectual debates on the role of the built environment in conflict, on practices of sovereignty, and on the lived experience of contested cities. This research, originally developed via a doctoral scholarship at Newcastle University, has been subsequently funded by a British Academy post-doctoral fellowship (PDF/2009/428), and resulted in an award-winning monograph (*War and the City – Bloomsbury* 2019), several solo- and co-authored journal articles, and numerous invited talks.

Urban geographies of counter-terrorism and radicalization in cities

In 2013, I published a co-authored monograph (*The Radical's City – Routledge*) on the role of planning and the urban built environment in political and religious radicalisation, based on ESRC-funded research (ESRC RES- 181-25-0028). Recently, I have worked on issues of resilience and the humanities' role in it as Co-I of an AHRC networking grant (AH/R004331/1), and on the cognate area of counter-terrorism measures and their everyday and felt experience in urban Europe. I am Principal Investigator (PI) of the project "Atmospheres of (counter)terrorism in European cities" (2021- 2023) funded by an Open Research Area (ORA) grant (ES/V01353X/1) funded by ESRC (UK), ANR (France) and DFG (Germany).

Other activities

- 2016 - Chair of the Political Geography Research Group, Royal Geographical Society 2016 -
- Member, Editorial Board, *Fennia*
- 2015 - Foreign member of the board of studies, Doctoral Programme in Geopolitics and Geoeconomics, Niccolò Cusano University, Rome, Italy
- 2014 - Editorial board, *Geopolitics* journal
- 2014 - Editorial board, "Geopolitics, bodies, materials" book series, Rowman and Littlefield International 2012 -
- Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers.

Referee for:

- Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
- Italy's National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (ANVUR) Peer

review for:

Environment and Planning D: Society and Space, Geographical Journal, Cultural Geographies, Journal of Urban Technology, Security Dialogue, Urban Geography, Geography Compass, Geopolitics, Progress in Planning, Political Geography.

Publications

Books

- FREGONESE, S. (2019) *War and the city: Urban geopolitics in Lebanon*. London: Bloomsbury (HB Tauris Imprint). ISBN: 9781780767147, 256 pages. Winner of the RGS-IBG Political Geography Research Group / Political Geography Journal book award
- Brand, R. and FREGONESE, S. (2013) *The radical's city. Urban environment, polarisation, cohesion*. London: Routledge. ISBN : 9781409451600, 216 pages

Journal articles

- FREGONESE, S. (in press) Shockwaves, Atmospheres beyond the Conflict City/Ordinary City Divide. *Conflict and Society*
- FREGONESE, S. (2017) Affective atmospheres, urban geopolitics and conflict (de-)escalation in Beirut *Political Geography* 61: 1-10.
- Ramadan, A. and FREGONESE, S. (2017) Hybrid Sovereignty and the State of Exception in the Palestinian Refugee Camps in Lebanon *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* 107 (4): 949-963.
- FREGONESE, S. and Ramadan, A. (2015) "Hotel Geopolitics. A research agenda" *Geopolitics* 20 (4): 793-813.
- FREGONESE, S. (2012) "Between a refuge and a battleground: Beirut's discrepant cosmopolitanisms" *The Geographical Review* 102(3): 316-366
- FREGONESE, S. (2012) "Beyond the 'weak state': hybrid sovereignties in Beirut" *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 30(4): 635-674.
- FREGONESE, S. (2012) "Urban geopolitics, 8 years on. Accounting for hybridity, the everyday, and peace". *Geography Compass* 6 (5):290-303.
- FREGONESE, S. (2009) "The umbilic of Beirut? Geopolitics and the built environment in the Lebanese civilwar". *Political Geography* 28 (5): 309-318.
- FREGONESE, S. and Brand, R. (2009) "Polarisation as socio-technical phenomenon. A bibliographical review". *Journal of Urban Technology* 16(2-3): 9-34.

Chapters published in books

- FREGONESE, S. (2020) "Atmospheric urban geopolitics" in Goldhill, S. (ed) *Being Urban*. London: Routledge.
- FREGONESE, S. (2019) "'A demarcation in the hearts': frontier urbanism and Beirut's May 2008 clashes". In Yacobi, H. and Nsara, M., eds. *Routledge Handbook on Middle Eastern Cities*. London: Routledge
- FREGONESE, S. (2017) Foreword. In Rokem, J. and Bozani, C. eds. *Urban Geopolitics. Rethinking planning in contested cities*. London: Routledge
- FREGONESE, S. (2015) "Everyday political geographies", in Agnew, Mamadouh, Secor, Sharp (eds.) *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Political Geography*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell
- FREGONESE, S. (2005) "'Il Libano è tornato.' Guerra, ricostruzione e spettacolo nel nuovo centro di Beirut". In Minca, C. (ed.) *Lo spettacolo della città*. Padova: Cedam.
- FREGONESE, S. and Minca C. (2004) "Réve(îl) de la ville: géographie della ricostruzione a Beirut", in Minca, C. (ed.) *Orizzonte Mediterraneo*. Padova: Cedam.

Short Commentaries

- FREGONESE, S. (2020) The port of Beirut: vital, historic centre of a complex city *The Conversation*. 5 August 2020 (English and French)
- FREGONESE, S. (2017) "How a Sectarian Territory Was Made: (Re) Mapping the Dual Kaimakamate of Mount Lebanon (1842-1860)." *Bulletin for the Council for British Research in the Levant* 12 (1): 60-61.
- FREGONESE, S., et al. (2017). Interventions in Urban Geopolitics, *Political Geography* 61: 253-262.
- FREGONESE, S. (2017) "English: lingua franca or disenfranchising?". *Fennia - International Journal of Geography*, 195(2), 194-196.
- FREGONESE, S. (2013) Waiting for the spillover. Why reinforcing borders and strengthening sovereignty won't keep Lebanon out of conflict. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space open site*.

- FREGONESE, S. (2013) Mediterranean geographies of protest. *European Urban and Regional Studies* 20 (1) Introduction to guest edited special issue
- FREGONESE, S., Martin, D. and Ramadan, A. (2009) The new geopolitics of responsibility in Barack Obama's Cairo speech. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 27(6): 951 – 955.

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Related Research

[Centre for Urban and Regional Studies \(CURS\)](#)

[Trust in World Politics Working Group](#)

[The Urban Initiative - School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences](#)

[Human Geography research - School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences](#)

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