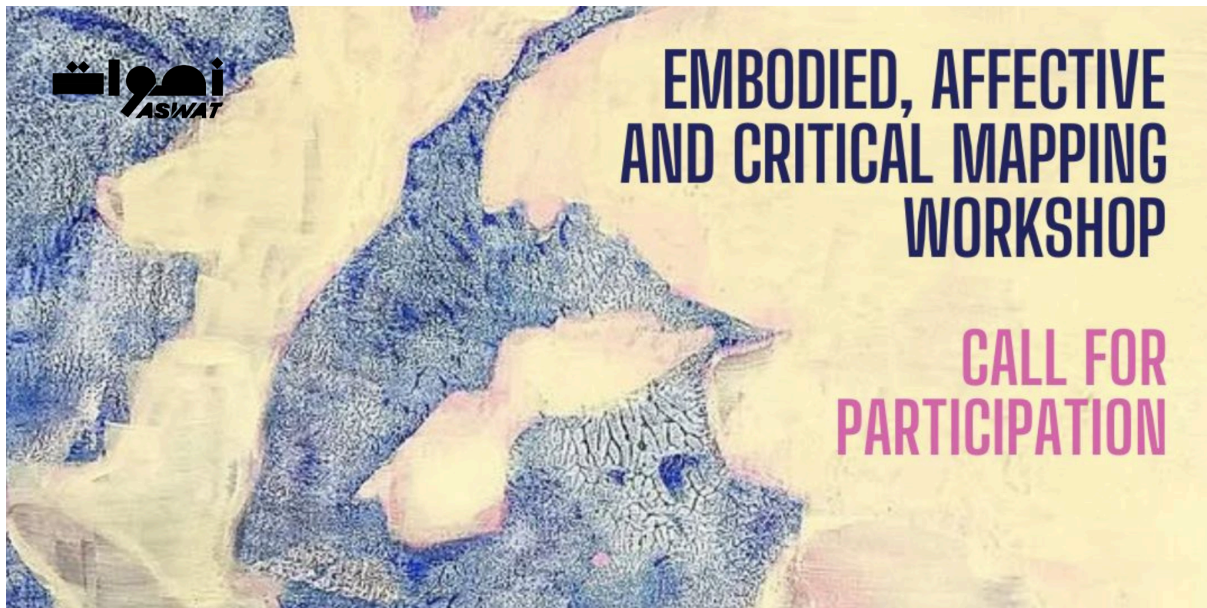


Call for participation to the Aswat Festival (November 6-8, 2025, Beirut)



Embodied, affective and critical mapping workshop - Bourj Hammoud.

This introductory experimental mapping workshop is open to researchers in the fields of social sciences, architecture, urban studies, the arts and adjacent disciplines. Led by [Monica Basbous](#), the three-day workshop will gather knowledge producers working in and outside academia for a joint exploration of embodied, affective, and critical mapping methodologies.

Maps have long claimed objectivity and neutrality despite being tied to systems of power and domination like militarism, colonialism and extractivism. Critical approaches to cartography challenge this tradition by interrogating the politics and aesthetics of mapping, while embodied and affective approaches emphasize the centrality of the physical, the sensory and the cognitive in the production of (spatial) knowledge. From this standpoint, mapping becomes a way to make histories, practices, narratives, systems, or possibilities intelligible in their partiality, complexity and plurality. It proposes creative possibilities for developing situated, subjective, and interpretive knowledge that challenges dominant systems and representations.

This workshop aims to introduce participants to the potential of alternative mapping practices for exploration, analysis, and dissemination (no previous mapping knowledge is required). By examining everyday practices, ways of doing, micro-resistances and lived social realities, it will focus on the festival's main node of activities - the Royal Cinema - and its surroundings in the neighborhood of Bourj Hammoud. Through practical exercises that use embodied, affective and critical cartographic practices, participants will engage with the Cinema's urban environment and document it through sensorial, physical, emotional and lived experiences. On a technical level, the workshop aims to constitute a bridge between cartographic methods and the (in)disciplinary tools that participants have access to and are

already comfortable working with (writing, sound, video, photography, drawing, listing, logging, collecting, etc.).

The workshop will be held in English. Participation in the entire workshop is mandatory. By the end of the workshop, each participant will have produced a 'map' in the medium of their choice (to be published in a collective open-access format later on). Material will be made available for participants who wish to produce analogue maps. If you plan to work digitally, please bring your own tools (recording devices, computer, etc.).

Application Guidelines: Applicants must be familiar with research practices, either through study or work experience, in the fields of social sciences, architecture, urban studies, or the arts. They must be aware of the ethics of research, and intrigued by alternative methods to do research and to disseminate it. If interested, they should apply [through this form](#).

For further inquiries, contact: aswat.festival@gmail.com

About the Aswat Festival

The Aswat Festival is a space for meeting and training, sharing experiences, skills and ideas, dedicated to alternative scientific creation and writing in and for the Arab world. It critically explores the polyphony of knowledge and its resonance beyond the academic world.

How can documentary filming, sound creation and embodied cartography be employed as fertile methodological research tools? Which forms of interactions, collaborations and narratives do they enable? During three days, the Aswat Festival explores the multiple shapes that scientific knowledge can take when deployed and constructed through creative and artistic writing. As a place for experimentation, listening and training, the Festival invites participants to join in workshops, screenings and other activities to collectively reflect on the sensitive, sensory and embodied dynamics of research.

Since its creation in 2022, the Aswat Festival has had a threefold vocation:

- Supporting researchers in experimenting with new forms of writing as methodological tools, as sources of sensitive knowledge and as supports for scientific dissemination within their research protocol and/or as a means of reporting;
- Introducing art students (film, sound, graphic design, etc.) to the social sciences and, conversely, introducing social science students to creative writing methodologies;

- Sharing and exchanging with the wider public through project presentations, film screenings and collective listening sessions, as well as through discussions involving the public, researchers and creators.

The festival is based both on workshops enabling researchers and doctoral students to explore various forms of creative writings and to advance in their own ongoing projects. Such workshops will include the screening of various student-made documentaries tackling the main workshop themes. Restitutions in the form of feedback, articles and objects (maps, videos, sound recordings, etc.) will be planned at the end of the festival, providing a reflexive account of the writing process itself.

This multi-disciplinary event is co-organized by Ifpo and IRD en Méditerranée, in partnership with the Lebanese University (UL), the Institut d'Études Scénographiques Audiovisuelles et Cinématographiques de l'Université Saint Joseph de Beyrouth (IESAV-USJ) and the Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts (Alba-UOB), as well as the Beirut Urban Lab at the American University of Beirut (AUB).

The first two editions took place from [November 23 to 25, 2022](#) and from [February 8 to 10, 2024](#).

The third edition will be held **in Beirut from November 6 to 8, 2025**. We invite researchers and doctoral students to apply for the following workshops:

- [Documentary film and sound writing workshop](#)
- [Embodied, affective and critical mapping workshop](#)

