

Council for International Teaching and Research

GLOBAL SCHOLARS



2014-15 Princeton Global Scholar Eyal Weizman

Israeli architect and scholar Eyal Weizman is a world leading analyst of the relationship between architecture and conflict. His explorations of architectural construction and destruction are yielding surprising insights into the dynamics of political and military struggle, from unauthorized settlements to drone strikes.

In Weizman's work architecture intersects with art, forensic science, human rights, law, philosophy, and politics. He applies architectural research methodology and technology to current humanitarian issues, examining how changing forms of architectural representation—aerial footage of settlements, satellite surveillance of nuclear facilities, 3-D modeling of terrain—are increasingly used as evidence in courts, international tribunals, and fact-finding missions. His research and, in particular, his books on spatial politics have defined a new field of study: forensic architecture, a multidisciplinary assessment of spatial evidence that can be presented in legal and political forums.

Weizman teaches at Goldsmiths, University of London, where he is professor of spatial and visual cultures and founding director of the Centre for Research Architecture, a “laboratory for critical spatial practices.” He also directs the Forensic Architecture Project, which draws architects, artists, filmmakers, and social analysts from around the world to study architecture in relation to international humanitarian law; they are called on to provide spatial analysis data to human rights organizations, the United Nations, and other international forums.

As a Global Scholar, Weizman will expand the Forensic Architecture Project to Princeton, where it will benefit from the interdisciplinary resources of a major research university. As the first forensic architecture project in the United States, it is expected to become a magnet for Princeton scholars in art history, history of science, architecture, law, and politics, as well as the Program in Media and Modernity and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. During his time on campus, Weizman will present seminars and lectures, advise graduate students, and organize an international symposium. Equally important, he will establish a graduate research group of architects, artists, scientists, filmmakers, and theorists to collaborate on forensic architecture cases in South America.

Through Weizman's appointment, Princeton students and faculty will become part of a pioneering intellectual network focused on architecture and international justice, and gain unparalleled opportunities to explore the essential role that architecture plays in confronting the most urgent political and ethical dilemmas of our time.