MESA 2013 CONFERENCE – HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY, 11 OCT. 8:30 AM
Sponsor: Palestinian American Research Center (PARC)
Chair: Rabab Abdulhadi* (San Francisco State U)
Sophia Stamatopoulou–Robbins* (Bard College / Columbia U) "We Prepare for the Day": Waste, Environmental Standards and Sincerity in Post–Oslo Palestinian Statecraft
Jennifer Kelly* (U Texas at Austin) “Your Work is Not Here:” Solidarity Tourism in Occupied Palestine
Ryvka Barnard* (New York U) Tourism and the Politics of Heritage
Sa’ed Atshan (Brown U) Solidarity or Intervention: International Aid and Ideology in the Palestinian Territories

SATURDAY, 12 OCT. 8:30 AM
[P3276] Crossing Boundaries in Ottoman and Mandate Palestine
Sponsor: Palestinian American Research Center (PARC)
Discussant: Michelle U. Campos* (U of Florida)
Lauren Banko* (School of African and Oriental Studies) “The Marvel of Palestinian Nationality”: Negotiating nationality, citizenship and colonial borders in mandate Palestine
Shay Hazkani (New York U) Imperial Citizenship and the Politics of the Possible in Ottoman Palestine, 1911–1912
Maayan Hillel (Tel Aviv U) Under the Radar: Arab and Jews Crossing Cultural Boundaries in Mandatory Palestine

SATURDAY, 12 OCT. 11 AM
[P3310] The Palestinians in Syria: Their Past, Present and Changing Realities
Sponsor: Palestinian American Research Center (PARC) and Syrian Studies Association (SSA)
Organizer: Anaheed Al–Hardan* (ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry)
Remembering the Nakba in Syria
Chair/Discussant: Dawn Chatty (U of Oxford)
Nell Gabiam (Iowa State U) Palestinian Refugees in Syria: Imagining Liberation and Return Beyond the Nation–State
Faedah Totah* (Virginia Commonwealth U) Refugees in Historic Places:
Palestinians in the Old City of Damascus
Bassem Sirhan (Independent Researcher) The Unknown Fate of Palestinian Refugees in Syria in Light of the Syrian Conflict

Below are MESA panels/presentations related to Palestine. An “*” denotes a PARC fellow or board member. Following panels on Palestine, are additional panels not related to Palestine but featuring PARC fellows/board members.

SESSION I: THURSDAY, 10 OCT. 5:30 pm

[P3424] AME—Anthropology of Gender, Victimization and Power in Conflict and Exile
Organizer: Rhoda Kanaaneh* (Columbia U) Bodies in Conflict: Narratives of Gender Asylum in the U.S.
Discussant: Suad Joseph (U of California, Davis)

Diana Allan* (Harvard Society of Fellows) Futures Elsewhere: The Dialectical Politics of Palestinian Migrant Imaginaries in Shatila Camp

Sophie Richter-Devroe (U of Exeter) Gendered Practices and Discourses of Sumud in Palestine Today

Ruba Salih (SOAS, U of London) Embodied Heroism and Narratives of Resilience among Palestinian Women Refugees

[P3409] Bureaucracy and Administration in Mandate Palestine: A Locally Focused Approach
Chair: Shira Robinson* (George Washington U)
Discussant: Liora R. Halperin (Princeton U)

Leena Dallasheh* (Sewanee U of the South) Claiming Citizenship: Municipal Elections in Nazareth under the British Mandate

Hilary Falb* (U of California, Berkeley) Teachers into Ministers: Palestinian and Jordanian Educators 1917–1958

[P3565] The Mixed Media of Representation
Sadam Issa (Michigan State U) Constructing Palestinian/Arab Nationalism in Exile: An Exploratory Study of Cartoonist Naji al-‘Ali’s Cartoons
SESSION II: FRIDAY, 11 OCT. 8:30 AM

[P3413] Tourism, Solidarity, Intervention, and Management: Negotiating International Presence in the Post-Oslo West Bank
Sponsor: Palestinian American Research Center (PARC)
Chair: Rabab Abdulhadi* (San Francisco State U)
Sophia Stamatopoulou-Robbins* (Bard College / Columbia U) "We Prepare for the Day": Waste, Environmental Standards and Sincerity in Post–Oslo Palestinian Statecraft

Jennifer Kelly* (U of Texas at Austin) “Your Work is Not Here:” Solidarity Tourism in Occupied Palestine

Ryvka Barnard* (New York U) Tourism and the Politics of Heritage

Sa’ed Atshan (Brown U) Solidarity or Intervention: International Aid and Ideology in the Palestinian Territories

[P3343] The Anthropology of Men, Family and Parenting in the Contemporary Middle East
Johannes Becker (U of Goettingen) Palestinian Family Fathers in the Old City of Jerusalem: Intergenerational Negotiations and Transmissions

Laila Prager (U of Hamburg, Germany) Struggling for Masculinity in the Modern World: The Case of Urban Middle Class Palestinians in Amman

[P3437] Political Mobilization in the Middle East: Common Challenges and Solutions?
Yael Zeira (Stanford U) The Microdynamics of Participation in the Palestinian National Movement

Peter Krause (Boston College) Where You Stand (on violence) Depends Upon Where You Sit (in the movement hierarchy): Political Violence and The Hierarchies of National Movements

SESSION III: FRIDAY, 11 OCT. 11 AM

[P3563] The Body Israel
Donna Herzog (New York U) The Day the Wells Went Dry: Between Local and
SESSION IV: FRIDAY, 11 OCT. 2 PM

[C3261] Historical Ethnography of Palestinian Circulations
Organizer: Camila Pastor de Maria y Campos (CIDE) Once they left the Levant, early twentieth century migrants remained intensely mobile, following business...
Kathy Saade Kenny (Independent Researcher) As a descendant of early Palestinian migrants to Mexico and the US, I will discuss the multi-stepped...

Jacob Norris (U of Sussex) Bethlehem as a staging post for Palestinian migrations in the Caribbean and Pacific, c. 1880–1929

Sarah Gualtieri (U of Southern California) This presentation focuses on Syrians in Southern California, an area with largest Middle Eastern population...

SESSION V: FRIDAY, 11 OCT. 4.30 PM

[P3293] Power, Subjectivity, and Desire in a Shifting Political Context
Organizer: Ahmed Dardir
Marianna Reis Desire to Annihilate: The IDF Erotics of Killing and Subjectivity in Operation Cast Lead

[P3566] Problems in Mandate Palestine
Chair: Martin Bunton* (U of Victoria)

Marion Boulby (Trent U) Bertha Spafford Vester, the American Colony and the Zionist Cause
Itamar Radai (U of Haifa) A Story of a Defeat Foretold?: Palestinian Arab Jerusalem in 1948
Mark Sanagan (McGill U) The Nahalal Murders: Palestine, 1932
Matthew Kelly (UCLA) Participant Observers: The Role of the Mandatory in the Palestinian Great Revolt
Elizabeth Brownson (U of Wisconsin, Parkside) Negotiating Divorce in Mandate Palestine

[P3504] Towards the Centennial—WWI in the Middle East—Visual Media and the Great War (1914–1918)
Issam Nassar (Illinois State U) John Whiting’s Album of the Great War in Palestine

SESSION VI: SATURDAY, 12 OCT. 8:30 AM

[P3276] Crossing Boundaries in Ottoman and Mandate Palestine
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Lauren Banko* (School of African and Oriental Studies) “The Marvel of Palestinian Nationality”: Negotiating nationality, citizenship and colonial borders in mandate Palestine

Shay Hazkani (New York U) Imperial Citizenship and the Politics of the Possible in Ottoman Palestine, 1911–1912


Maayan Hillel (Tel Aviv U) Under the Radar: Arab and Jews Crossing Cultural Boundaries in Mandatory Palestine

[R3316] Palestine and the Arab Uprisings
Organizer: Wafa Ghnaim (Institute for Palestine Studies) and Ahmad Samih Khalidi

Mouin Rabbani* (Institute for Palestine Studies) The uprisings that commenced in the Arab world in December 2010 have not produced an equivalent Palestinian movement...

Jamil Hilal (Institute for Palestine Studies) Why has the impact of the “Arab Spring” uprisings on Palestinians been muted?

Ahmad Samih Khalidi (St. Antony's College in Oxford) The proposed talk will cover the regional dimensions of the Palestine problem...

Khaled Elgindy (Brookings Institution) Conventional wisdom holds that the “Arab Spring has largely by-passed the Palestinians...

[P3552] Islamist Pragmatists, Secular Spoilers?: Contesting the Rules of the Game in the New Middle East, Part I
Organizer: Bjorn Olav Utvik (U of Oslo)
Chair: Albrecht Hofheinz (U of Oslo)

Dag Tuastad (U of Oslo) Pragmatic Power and Its Effects on Hamas–PLO Relations

SESSION VII: SATURDAY, 12 OCT. 11 AM

[P3292] Towards the Centennial–WWI in the Middle East—Against the Wall of Suffering: Community and Individual Responses to Humanitarian Crisis in the Middle East during World War I
Organizer: Ellen L. Fleischmann* (U of Dayton) “Living in an Isle of Safety?”: Isolation and Empathy in a World of Suffering during World War I 
Chair/Discussant: Elizabeth F. Thompson, U Virginia 

[P3310] The Palestinians in Syria: Their Past, Present and Changing Realities 
Sponsor: Palestinian American Research Center (PARC) and Syrian Studies Association (SSA) 
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Nell Gabiam (Iowa State U) Palestinian Refugees in Syria: Imagining Liberation and Return Beyond the Nation-State 
Faedah Totah* (Virginia Commonwealth U) Refugees in Historic Places: Palestinians in the Old City of Damascus 
Bassem Sirhan (Independent Researcher) The Unknown Fate of Palestinian Refugees in Syria in Light of the Syrian Conflict 

[P3553] Islamist Pragmatists, Secular Spoilers?: Contesting the Rules of the Game in the New Middle East, Part II 
Organizer: Bjorn Olav Utvik (U of Oslo) 
Chair: Dag Tuastad (U of Oslo) 
Jacob Hoigilt (Fafo) Failing against the Odds?: Palestinian Youth Mobilization in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel 

[P3252] Power and Contestation: Built Environment in the Middle East 
Esra Bakkalbasioglu (U of Washington) The West Bank Wall and the Non-Violent Anti-Wall Movements 

SESSION VIII: SATURDAY, 12 OCT. 2.30 PM 

[P3245] The Politics of Violence 
Organizer: Jason Brownlee (U of Texas at Austin) 
Chair: Melani C. Cammett (Brown U) 
Discussant: Sean Yom (Temple U) 
Sarah Parkinson* (U of Minnesota) The Old Guard and the Die Hards: Violence, Finance, and Generational Effects in Fateh 

[P3352] Palestine, Pedagogy and the Arts 
Organizer: Nadia G. Yaqub (U of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) A Forensics of Home: Reading the Spaces and Objects of Palestinian Cinema 
Discussant: Linda Quiquivix (Brown U) 
Chair: Rula Quawas (U of Jordan)
SESSION IX: SATURDAY, 12 OCT. 5 PM

[P3327] A Relocated Politics: Making Art Elsewhere than the Nation
Organizers / Chairs: Kirsten Scheid* (American U in Beirut) and Anneka
Lenssen, (American U in Cairo)
Discussant: Kirsten Scheid* (American U in Beirut)

Kiven Strohm (Université de Montréal) Impossible Identification: The Politics
of Palestinian Contemporary Art in Israel

Hanan Toukan (EUME/BERLIN) Who Imagines the Nation–State?: Picasso,
Palestine and the Cultural Politics of Modernity in Ramallah

[P3471] Towards the Centennial–WWI in the Middle East—The Wilsonian
Moment in Greater Syria: Struggles for Justice and Self–Determination
Denied, 1918–1923
Organizer: Elizabeth F. Thompson (U of Virginia)
Chair/Discussant: Mustafa Aksakal (Georgetown U)

Awad Halabi* (Wright State U) Between Ottoman, Arab and Palestinian
Nationalism: The Career of Shaykh Al–Muzzafar, 1917–1923

Muhammad Salhi (Library of Congress) Syrian Political Parties and the
Palestine Question, 1918–1920

Andrew Patrick (U of Tennessee) Political Possibilities in 1919 Greater Syria

[P3498] Colonialism, Spatial Politics, and Violence in Contemporary
Palestine/Israel
Organizer/Chair: Thomas P. Abowd* (Tufts U) Up From the Ruins?:
Demolishing Homes, Regulating Space, and Building Solidarity in
Contemporary Jerusalem
Discussant: Salim Tamari (Institute of Palestine Studies)

Amahl Bishara* (Tufts U) Infrastructure as Key to Political Structure: On the
Road in Israel and the West Bank

Linda Quiquivix (Brown U) Toward a Cartography of Palestine from Below

Nasser Abourahme (Columbia U) The Camp as Authorless Production:
Towards a Materialism of Spatial Practice in Palestinian Refugee Camps
[P3571] (In)stability and the State
Chair: Andrew Kurt (Clayton State U)

Feryaz Ocakli (Skidmore College) Colonialism and the Limits of Legal Institution Building: Civil and Ottoman Law in Palestine Mandate

SESSION X: SUNDAY, 13 OCT. 8:30 AM

[P3354] Documenting the Ordinary and the Unspeakable in Middle Eastern Cinema
Organizer: Zeina G. Halabi (The U of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
Chair: Johanna Sellman (U of Texas at Austin)

Nisrine Mansour (U of the Arts in London) Shooting Like a Victim: The Ethics of Autobiographical Documentation of the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict

Drew Paul (U of Texas at Austin) Building Blocks: Constructing a Wall in Simone Bitton’s “Mur”

Organizers: Ali Sipahi and Joseph Viscomi (U of Michigan in Ann Arbor)

Regev Nathansohn (U of Michigan in Ann Arbor) Coexistence and/in the Built Environment: Narration, Separation and Politicization in Haifa City Tours

Chair/Discussant: Osamah Khalil* (Syracuse U)
Phil Leech (U of Plymouth) Analysing popular consent and the Palestinian Authority’s security agenda after 2007
Allison Hodgkins (American U in Cairo) Partial Measures, Full Distrust: The Dangerous Legacy of Oslo’s Enduring Interim Power Sharing Strategy
Mandy Turner (Council for British Research in the Levant) Challenging the ‘Oslo Paradigm’: Resistance and Visions of Peace in Palestine and Israel
Tahani Mustafa (U of Exeter) The Limits of the Arab Spring: Post Oslo Palestine and its Authoritarian Dispensation

SESSION XI: SUNDAY, 13 OCT. 11 AM

Organizer: Moshe Behar (U of Manchester) Reappraising the “Arab Question” within Zionism: Evidence from four pre–1937 controversies between Ashkenazi and Mizrahi intellectuals
Zvi Ben–Dor Benite (New York U) Was there an “Arab–Jewish Question” in the Middle East?
Najat Abdulhaq (Department for Politics and Modern History of the Middle East, Fridrich Alexander U Erlangen)
Yair Wallach (SOAS) The Lost Jews of Palestine: A Research Agenda

[P3353] Muslim Women in Change: Aspirations, Desire and Leisure
Anja Kublitz (Aalborg U) Girl Talk as a Site of Transformation among Palestinian Women in Denmark

[P3374] Ruling the Desert: Ottoman and European Colonial Policies along Their Imperial Frontiers
Organizers: Yoav Alon (Tel Aviv U) and Mostafa Minawi (Cornell U)
Chair/Discussant: Eugene Rogan (St. Antony’s College in Oxford)
Mansour Nsasra (Exeter U) Resistance to the Colonial State: The Bedouin of Southern Palestine under the British Rule, 1917–1948

[P3574] The Mechanics of Control
Chair: Hale Yilmaz (Southern Illinois U Carbondale)
Noa Shaindlinger (U of Toronto) Imagining Futures: Planning the Return of the Palestinian Refugees
Nigel Parsons (Massey U) Biopolitics and Resistance in Palestinian East Jerusalem

[P3599] Palestinians All Over the Place: Repercussions of Nation Building
Sergio I. Moya Mena (U of Costa Rica / National U) The Diaspora and the recognition of the Palestinian State: the case of Honduras and El Salvador
Rawan Arar (U of California, San Diego) Adversarial Allegiances: Appropriating the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict in Northern Ireland
Sharri Plonski (SOAS, U of London) The Politics of Space and Palestinian Citizens’ Struggle in Israel
Jeffrey Reger (Georgetown U) Historiography of the Arabic press in Palestine c. 1908–1948
Caroline Mall Dibiasi (European U Institute) The Question of Democratic Participation: Palestinian Discourses on Violence and Peace

Jacob Norris (U of Sussex) The Italian Invasion of Libya in 1911 and Its Impact in Palestine

SESSION XII: SUNDAY 13 OCT. 1.30 PM
The Revolution within Palestinian History
Organizer: Abdel Razzaq Takriti (The U of Sheffield) This contribution seeks to offer some preliminary reflections on the current historiography of the Palestinian revolution...
Session Leader: Karma Nabulsi (Oxford U) This contribution to the discussion is on the relevance of recent developments in theories of popular sovereignty for reflecting on Palestinian revolutionary history...

Mezna Qato* (St. Antony’s College in Oxford) Comparative studies of Palestine with other colonial conditions continue to proliferate inside and outside the academy. I aim to discuss the historiographic and analytic contributions and limitations of these comparative exercises to understanding Palestinian revolutionary history...
Jamil Hilal (Institute for Palestine Studies) Over the past four decades or so, much of the research that has been carried out by Palestinian sociologists has focused on elite formations and political leaderships within the Palestinian revolution and its successor structures...

Ilan Pappe (Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at U of Exeter) Since the 1980s, research agendas carried out by Israeli new historians– myself included– have received considerable attention...

The International and Its Sites: Sovereignty, Gender and Struggle
Samera Esmeir (U California, Berkeley) In the Land of the International: Revolutions and Their Possibilities

The Production of Space in the Middle East and North Africa: Scales and Strategies of Contestation

Conference Sessions Not Related to Palestinian Studies with PARC Fellows or Board Members involved.

SESSION II: FRIDAY, 11 OCT. 8.30 AM

Women & the Arab Uprisings: Political, Economic & Gender Violences
Isis Nusair* (Denison U) This presentation is based on extensive research with members of the SALMA Network in light of recent social and political change in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)...

SESSION III: FRIDAY, 11 OCT. 11 AM

Constitution-Writing, Religion and Constitutionalism in the Middle East: Between Rawlsian Grand Compromises and Hirschlian Hegemonic
Preservation
Chair: Nathan J. Brown* (George Washington U)

[P3550] Cities of Stone: Issues in the New Social History of Syria, Part II
Chair/Discussant: Fred H. Lawson* (Mills College)

[P3299] Towards the Centennial: WWI in the Middle East—The Ottoman
Suzanne Schneider* (Columbia U) A Different War, a Different Zion: Yehuda
Burla and the WWI Jewish Experience

SESSION IV: FRIDAY, 11 OCT. 2 PM

[P3638] Impact of the 2010–12 Uprisings on International Relations in the
Middle East, Part I
Organizer: Fred H. Lawson* (Mills College)

[P3429] Towards the Centennial: WWI in the Middle East—The Home Front as
a Battlefield: The Ottoman Empire in World War I
Chair: Ellen L. Fleischmann* (U of Dayton)

SESSION V: FRIDAY, 11 OCT. 4.30 PM

[P3465] Impact of the 2010–12 Uprisings on International Relations in the
Middle East, Part II
Organizer: Fred H. Lawson* (Mills College) The Transformation of Egypt’s
Relations with Ethiopia

[P3500] Periphery and Identity: Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Religion in
Mizrahi Popular Culture
Dana Hercbergs* (American U) The Politics of Ethnic Identity in Israel:
Sephardim and Mizrahim in Representations of ‘Old Jerusalem’

SESSION VI: SATURDAY, 12 OCT. 12 8.30 AM

[P3403] The Shock of the New and Nostalgia for the Old: Transformation and
Its Consequences in the Arabian Gulf
Discussant: Manal A. Jamal* (James Madison U)

Perspectives
Chair: Angel M. Foster* (U of Ottawa & Ibis Reproductive Health)

[P3528] The Political Economy of Arab Spring: Pre and Post Uprising Analyses
Organizer: Jennifer Olmsted* (UNFPA / Drew U) Economic Stress and Political Uprising Or How Not to Explain the Arab Spring

SESSION VII: SATURDAY, 12 OCT. 11 AM

Karam Dana* (U of Washington) Arab States and Political Survival: State Power, and the Politics of Designing Identities

SESSION VIII: SATURDAY, 12 OCT. 2.30 PM

[P3639] The Syria Crisis: America, the Middle East, and the Future of Syria
Presenter: Wendy Pearlman* (Northwestern U)

[P3379] From Uprising to Revolution?
Discussant: Nathan J. Brown* (George Washington U)

[P3596] Claiming Space and Place
Frances S. Hasso* (Duke U) Gendered and other Spatializations of ‘Thawrat Al-LuLu’ in Bahrain

[C3618] Disciplining a Religious/Secular Divide: Living Together Well
Loren Lybarger* (Ohio U) In my contribution to this year’s thematic discussion, I propose to sketch how anthropology and religious studies fieldwork might revive a “commitment to the reality and force of otherness”...

SESSION IX: SATURDAY, 12 OCT. 5 PM

Chair: Christopher Stone* (Hunter College – The City U of New York)

[P3561] Narratives of Nation Building
Laurie Brand* (U of Southern California) National Narrative and Founding Myth: The (Great) Arab Revolt from the Sharif Husayn to Abdallah II

[P3602] Arabian (Imagi)Nations
Chair: Manal A. Jamal* (James Madison U)

[P3608] Claiming Our Rights as Citizens
Wendy Pearlman* (Northwestern U) Breaking the Barrier of Fear: Personal Transformation in the Syrian Uprising

SESSION X: SUNDAY, 13 OCT. 8.30 AM
[P3312] Through the City’s Prism: Cultures and the Politics of Resistance in Modern Iraq
Organizers: Dina Rizk Khoury* (George Washington U) The Changing Face of Resistance in Wartime Basra

[P3419] A Virtuous and Commercial People?: Rethinking the Eastern Mediterranean Middle Classes
Chair: Michelle U. Campos* (U of Florida)

[P3614] Sounds of Minds and Bodies
Angel M. Foster* (U of Ottawa & Ibis Reproductive Health) Assessing the Reproductive Health Content of Medical Education in Jordan