

MESA 2017 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS ON PALESTINE



(An * by the name indicates PARC fellows and board members. PARC has 50 fellows and board members participating on panels at MESA this year.)

PARC-Sponsored MESA Panel

SUNDAY, 19 NOV 10:30 AM

[P4735] Hebron in the Modern Period: Social, Political, and Economic Dynamics in Southern Palestine

Sponsor: Palestinian American Research Center (PARC)

Organizer/Presenter: Alex Winder* (Brown U)

Chair/Discussant: Issam Nassar (Illinois State U)

Susynne McElrone* (New York NY) *Rethinking the paradigm of Ottoman land-tenure reforms in Palestine in light of new evidence*

Alex Winder* (Brown U) *Family, social, and professional networks in Mount Hebron before and after 1948*

Kimberly Katz* (Towson U) *The law and society: Hebron under Jordanian rule, 1951-1953*

Belal Shobaki (Hebron U) *Hebron in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Settlement without peace*

Films Related to Palestine

Haram

Using old 16mm filmstock, this timely essay presents the contemporary situation at the Haram Al Sharif in the Old City of Jerusalem. The film reflects on the growing Temple Mount Faithful movement whose goal is to build the Jewish Third Temple on this holy landscape and in turn to assert Jewish sovereignty over this holy Muslim site.

Disturbing the Peace

This film follows former enemy combatants - Israeli soldiers from elite units and Palestinian fighters, many of whom served years in prison - who have joined together to challenge the status quo and say "enough." The film reveals their transformational journeys from soldiers committed to armed battle to nonviolent peace activists, leading to the creation of Combatants for Peace.

MESA Panels, Papers, Special Sessions, Thematic Conversations, and Roundtables Related to Palestine

SATURDAY, 18 NOV 5:30 PM

[P4902] Reconsidering Israeli-Lebanese Relations

Organizer: Asher Kaufman (U Notre Dame) and Oren Barak (Hebrew U of Jerusalem)

Chair: Asher Kaufman (U Notre Dame)

Discussant: Laurie Zittrain Eisenberg (Carnegie Mellon U)

Asher Kaufman (U Notre Dame) *Sabra and Shatila: Silencing, denying, and selective remembering*

[P4926] Circulating Science and Scaling Innovation: Science and Technology Studies in the Middle East

Organizer: Elizabeth Williams

Chair/Organizer: On Barak (Tel Aviv U)

Fredrik Meiton* (Northwestern U) *Organic compound: Zionism and science*

[P4969] Music and Politics "min al-Mashriq ila al-Maghrib"

Chair: G. Carole Woodall (U Colorado at Colorado Springs)

Garrett Shuffield (UT Austin) *The Arab diaspora and collaborative hip-hop: Globalized and localized identity formation*

[P5005] Criminalizing Resistance: Producing Palestinian (in)Security

Chair: Simona Sharoni (SUNY Plattsburgh)

Alyssa Bernstein* (Harvard Law (Queen's U Belfast) *The Fatah/Hamas divide among Palestinian prisoners*

Matthew Kraig Kelly (Independent Scholar) *Criminal + nationalist = terrorist: "Terrorism" in British crimino-national discourse*

Maya Rosenfeld (Hebrew U) *50 years of Israeli occupation and Palestinian resistance: Whither the movement of Palestinian political prisoners?*

Julie Norman* (Queen's U Belfast) *Fighting for peace? Ex-combatants and non-traditional*

peace-building in protracted conflicts
Alaa Tartir* (Graduate Inst Geneva) *Securitized peace in Palestine/Israel: Criminalizing resistance, entrenching authoritarianism*

[P5028] Language and Identity

Chair: Mohssen Esseesy (George Washington U)

Anastasia Khawaja (U South Florida) *To display Hebrew, or not to display Hebrew?: A study of representation of power and solidarity through signage in Palestine*

[P4920] Connection, Contagion, and Calamity: Social Uses and Effects of Infrastructural Networks in the Middle East

Organizer: Alex Schweig (U Arizona)

Discussant: Gokce Gunel (U Arizona)

Esra Bakkalbasioglu (U Washington) *Politics of access and denial: Electricity grid solar panels and the Naqab Bedouin in Israel*

SUNDAY, 19 NOV 8:00 AM

[C5031] THEMATIC CONVERSATION

"Teaching Palestine: Pedagogical Praxis and the Indivisibility of Justice" a Commitment"

Organizers: Michelle Hartman and Rabab Abdulhadi*

Session Leader: Rabab Abdulhadi* (San Francisco State U)

Michelle Hartman (McGill U)

Emilio Dabed (Independent Scholar)

[P5011] Women, Islam, and Family Law

Chair: Kent Davis-Packard (Johns Hopkins U SAIS)

Elizabeth Brownson (UW Parkside) *Women's strategies for negotiating divorce in mandate Palestine*

[P4858] Tales of Espionage, Diplomacy, and War

Organizer: Jeffrey G. Karam

Chair/Discussant: Salim Yaqub (UC Santa Barbara)

Salim Yaqub (UC Santa Barbara) *A tale of secrecy and business: The attempted sale of the Western Wall during WWI*

[P4984] Workers across Borders: Labor, Migration, and Class

Chair: Salma Waheedi (Harvard Law Schl)

Arnon Degani* (UCLA) *Comrades, not enemies? The Histadrut and its Palestinian-Arab members, 1948-1967*

[P4992] Managing and Manufacturing Disaster

Chair: John M. VanderLippe (SUNY Delhi)

Ron J. Smith (Bucknell U) *Healthcare under siege: The geopolitics of healthcare provision in the Gaza Strip*

[C5029] THEMATIC CONVERSATION

Global Arab America: Cosmopolitanism and its Discontents

Organizers: Susan Joseph (UC Davis) and Pauline Homsy Vinson (Diablo Valley College)

Session Leader: Pauline Homsy Vinson (Diablo Valley College)

Madeline Otis Campbell (Worcester State U)

Akram Khater (North Carolina State U)

Paul Amar (UC Santa Barbara)

Louise Cainkar (Marquette U)

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Kimberly Katz* (Towson U) *The law and society: Hebron under Jordanian rule, 1951-1953*

Belal Shobaki (Hebron U) *Hebron in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Settlement without peace*

[P4730] Diasporic Devotion: Transnational Religion and Middle East Migrations

Organizer/Chair: Akram Khater (North Carolina State U)

Jacob Norris (U Sussex) *Objects of devotion: Palestinian migrants and their prayer beads, c. 1850-1910*

[P4812] Tourism, Heritage, and the Politics of Place in the Middle East

Organizer/Chair: Daniel E. Coslett (Western Washington U)

Discussant: Ala Al-Hamarneh (U Mainz)

Emily Schneider* (UC Santa Barbara) *Building and breaking ties: Political tourism in Israel/Palestine*

SUNDAY, 19 NOV 1:00 PM

[P5018] Rebels and Insurgents: Recruitment, Effectiveness, and Support

Chair: Peter Krause (Boston College)

Samuel Plapinger (U Virginia) *Insurgent effectiveness in civil wars: Evidence from Jordan and Syria*

[S5046] SPECIAL SESSION

Thinking Palestine Intersectionally

Organizer/Discussant: Sherene Seikaly* (UC Berkeley)

Judith Butler (UC Berkeley)

Angela Y. Davis (UC Santa Cruz (Emerita))

Samera Esmeir (UC Berkeley)

Noura Erakat* (George Mason U)

[P4867] The Future of Middle Eastern Regimes: At the Intersection of Domestic and International Politics

Organizer: Jeannie Sowers (U New Hampshire)

Chair: Bruce Rutherford (Colaget U)

Discussant: Samer Abboud (Arcadia U)

Morten Valbjorn (Aarhus U) *Sectarianism in less likely places: The impact of rising regional sectarianism even in Jordan*

SUNDAY, 19 NOV 3:30 PM

[P4910] Arab, Jewish, and Arab Jewish Critiques of Zionism

Organizer: Geoffrey Levin

Chair/Discussant: Liora R. Halperin (U Washington)

Chelsie May (U Chicago) *"A girl so quiet will do everything we tell her": The authority of emotions for Zionism in 1940s Iraq*

Shirly Bahar (American Jewish Historical Society) *"He made me into a spy": Arab Jewish identity and the making of Palestine into Israel*

Geoffrey Levin (NYU) *Crisis, victims, prophets: Evolving concepts in Rabbi Elmer Berger's anti-Zionist network*

Salim Yaqub (UC Santa Barbara) *Yes we can't: Arab Americans and the Arab-Israeli dispute in the 1970s*

[P4832] The Cultural Politics of Violence

Organizers: Hannah Scott Deuchar (NYU) and Michael Farquhar (King's College U London)

Chair: R. Shareah Taleghani (Queens College CUNY)

Discussant: James McDougall (Trinity College Oxford)

Shimrit Lee (NYU) *Simulating the contact zone: Corporate mediations of violence in Israel, Palestine and beyond*

[P4876] Fraught Docs: Questioning Categories and Exploring Infrastructural Challenges of Documentary Filmmaking from the Arab World

Organizer/Chair: Nadia G. Yaqub (UNC Chapel Hill)

Nadia G. Yaqub (UNC Chapel Hill) *Pushing the boundaries of documentary in post-nationalist Palestinian filmmaking*

[S5048] SPECIAL SESSION

Academic Freedom Trends and the Work of MESA's Committee on Academic Freedom

Organizer: Joshua Stacher* (Kent State U)

Chair: Laurie Brand* (U Southern California)

Asli Bali (UCLA School of Law)

Nancy E. Gallagher (UC Santa Barbara)

Miriam R. Lowi (Col of New Jersey)

Joshua Stacher* (Kent State U)

Virginia Tilley (Southern Illinois U)

MONDAY, NOV 20 8:00 AM

[P4903] Colonial Regimes and Anti-Colonial Revolts between Maghrib and Mashriq, 1920-1950

Organizer: John Boonstra (U Wisconsin Madison)

Chair: Graham Auman Pitts (North Carolina State U)

Discussant: Julia Clancy-Smith (U Arizona)

Shoko Watanabe (Institute of Developing Economies) *Nationalists, transnational mobilization, and popular movements: Tunisian volunteers for Palestine in 1948*

[P4919] Contemporary Political Art of the Middle East

Organizer: Anne Marie Butler

Elisabeth Friedman* (Illinois State U) *Strategies of counter-occupation in contemporary Palestinian art*

Sascha Crasnow (UC San Diego) *Capitalism and conservatism: The transformation of Ramallah in Inass Yassin's Cinema Waleed project*

[P4946] Articulations of Struggle in Transnational Palestinian Resistance Circuits

Organizer: Jennifer Mogannam (UC San Diego)

Suraya Khan (Rice U) *Fulfilling a "special role": Arab activism in the US for Palestine and the Third World in the 1960s*

Omar Zahzah (UCLA) *"I won't follow you": Movements of resistance in Ghassan Kanafani's "Letter to Gaza" and Edward Said's "Tribute to Abu Omar"*

Jennifer Mogannam (UC San Diego) *Violence as methodology in Palestinian armed resistance and revolution*

MONDAY, NOV 20 10:30 AM

[R4921] ROUNDTABLE

Material Politics in the Middle East

Organizer: Fredrik Meiton*

Fredrik Meiton* (Northwestern U)

Joanne Nucho (Pomona College)

Elizabeth Williams (Brown U)

Begum Adalet (NYU)

[R4818] ROUNDTABLE

Teaching Middle East Studies in a Controversial Time: Between Activism and Accountability

Organizer/Chair: Victoria Hightower (U North Georgia)

Neha Vora* (Lafayette College)

Beth Derderian (Northwestern U)

Daniel Blumlo (Rock Valley College)

Jocelyn Sage Mitchell (Northwestern U Qatar)

Rachael Eggebeen (Sunnyside Unified School District)

Jill Crystal (Auburn U)

[P4883] The Arab Revolt in Palestine (1936-39): Internal and External Factors

Organizer/Presenter: Richard Cahill (Berea College)

Chair: Charles Anderson (Western Washington U)

Discussant: Salim Tamari* (Institute of Jerusalem Studies)

Michael Provence (UC San Diego) *Damascus, Jerusalem and Baghdad in the autumn 1936*

Laila Parsons (McGill U) *The Palestine Revolt and the Peel Commission intertwined*

Richard Cahill (Berea College) *Of walls and fortresses: Sir Charles Tegart, the Arab revolt and beyond*

[P4991] Poetics of the Political

Chair: Anastasia Khawaja (U South Florida)

Nasser Athamneh (Yarmouk U) *Al-Quds/Jerusalem between the east and the west: Images of the holy city in Arabic and English poetry*

Merve Tabur (Penn State U) *On self, specters and seeds: Poetics of potentiality and female diasporic subjectivities in Lisa Suhair Majaj's "Geographies of Light"*

[P4808] Gender and Mobility in Arab Women's Writings

Organizer: Rima Sadek (U South Carolina) and Nancy Linthicum (U Michigan)

Chair: Johanna Sellman (Ohio State U)

Wael Salam (U Jordan) *The exile as a transgenerational fate in Susan Muaddi Darraj's "The Inheritance of Exile"*

[P4734] International Law in the Contemporary Middle East: Impeding or Facilitating Violence? (Part 1)

Organizer: Lisa Hajjar (UCSB)

Noura Erakat* (George Mason U) *Dangerous expansions: The principle of proportionality in irregular combat*

MONDAY, NOV 20 1:00 PM

[R4861] ROUNDTABLE

Navigating Jewish Campus and Community Debates on Israel/Palestine in the Age of Trump

Organizer: Matthew Hal Ellis (Sarah Lawrence College)

Liora R. Halperin (U Washington)

Benjamin Schreier (Penn State U)

Joel Beinin* (Stanford U)

Shira Robinson* (George Washington U)

Joshua Schreier (Vassar College)

Sarah Anne Minkin (Just Vision)

[P4745] (Im)Mobilizing Agency in the Context of Short, Medium, and Long-term Displacement in Jordan

Organizer/Chair: Rana B. Khoury* (Northwestern U)

Discussant: Sarah Tobin (Brown U)

Rawan Arar (UC San Diego) *Shouldering the refugee burden: Jordanian sovereignty and the global refugee crisis*

[P4982] Border and Boundaries

Chair: Meriam N. Belli (U Iowa)

Radi Itmar (Tel Aviv U) *al-Madaniyyat: An alternative civil perception for the Palestinian Arab Minority in Israel?*

Rochelle Anne Davis* (Georgetown U) *Models of refugee administration and hierarchies of aid*

Michael Vicente Perez (U Washington) *Everyday life and the politics of survival among ex-Gaza refugees*

[P4978] Water Politics

Chair: Christine Isom-Verhaaren (Brigham Young U)

Stephen P. Gasteyer* (Michigan State U) *Landscape change and the implications of intermittent water supply in the West Bank: An environmental justice case study*

Carly Krakow (U Cambridge) *The politics of access under occupation: International law and violations of the human right to water in Gaza and the West Bank*

[P4795] Protest in the Contemporary Middle East and North Africa: strategic interaction perspectives

Organizer: John Chalcraft

Chair: Charles Kurzman (UNC Chapel Hill)

Discussant: James M. Jasper (Graduate Center CUNY)

John Chalcraft (London Schl of Economics and Political Science) *Transnational activism and Veolia: A dynamic interaction analysis*

Jillian Schwedler (Hunter College CUNY) *Protest Temporalities and the Meaning of Contention*

[S5047] SPECIAL SESSION

BDS: A Critical Evaluation

Organizer/Chair: Robert O. Freeman (Johns Hopkins U)

Joshua Teitelbaum (Bar-Ilan U)

Cary Nelson (U Illinois Urbana-Champaign)

Ilan Troen (Brandeis U)

[P5052] International Law in the Contemporary Middle East: Impeding or Facilitating Violence? (Part 2)

Organizer: Lisa Hajjar (UCSB)

Nicola Perugini (U Edinburgh) *"Hospitals shields": International humanitarian law and the targeting of medical facilities in Middle Eastern conflicts*

Omar Dewachi (American U Beirut) *IraqiBacter: Pathologies of intervention and the decades of US-led wars in Iraq*

MONDAY, NOV 20 3:30 PM

[P4807] Frictions of Governing in the MENA

Organizer: Mona Atia (George Washington U)

Chair/Discussant: Christopher Parker (Ghent U)

Catherine Herrold (Indiana U) *From Activism to Clientelism: The effects of foreign aid on Palestine's NGO sector*

TUESDAY, NOV 21 8:00 AM

[P4967] Islamist Thought and Practice

Chair: Quinn Mecham (Birgham Young U)

Mounah Abdel Samad (San Diego State U) *Do Islamist parliamentarians provide services to the poor and middle class? Evidence from North Africa*

[P5017] Perspectives on Nationalism: Anti-Imperialism, Community-building and the Body

Chair: Elizabeth Bishop (Texas State U San Marcos)

Nicholas E. Roberts (Sewanee: The U of the South) *Pan-Islam and Palestinian Nationalism in Mandate Palestine*

[P4892] Children, Youth, and Media in Middle Eastern Conflict Zones

Organizer/Chair: Yael Warshel* (Penn State U)

Mariam Abdul-Dayyem (U Otago) *Digital culture of contention of Palestinian youth in the West Bank*

[P5020] Leisure, Consumerism, and Food

Chair: Robert Mazza (U Limerick)

Amber J. Howard (UT Austin) *Kitchen resistance: Occupied foodways and Palestinian women's cookbook production*

Maayan Hilel (Tel Aviv U) *"We also lived a little": Leisure and recreation of ordinary Palestinians; Women, children and workers, 1920-1948*

TUESDAY, NOV 21 10:30 AM

[P4801] Mizrahi Cultural Trespassers: Boundary Crossing, Patriotism and Betrayal in Israel/Palestine

Organizer: Shay Hazkani (U Maryland College Park)

Discussant: Michelle Campos* (U Florida)

Shay Hazkani (U Maryland College Park) *When both foe and friend look alike: Mizrahi Jews in the 1948 War*

Hillel Cohen (Hebrew U Jerusalem) *Sephardi-Arab joint resistance to European- Zionism: Reality and hope 1908-1948*

[P4979] Peasants, Land, and Politics

Chair: Harrison Guthorn (Sultan Qaboos Cultural Ctr)

Jeffrey D. Reger* (Georgetown U) *The Palestinian olive sector of the West Bank: Between Israel and Jordan, 1949-1987*

[P4993] Melancholia, Race, and Enslavement

Noa Shaindinger (North Carolina State U) *Israel and the social sciences, or why race matters*

[P5010] Invoking Religion in and against Imperialism, Occupation, and War

Chair: Hind Arroub (Fordham U)

Lyndall Herman (U Arizona) *Hamas through a difference lens: What memoirs reveal about the organization's competing priorities*

Kenny Schmitt (Exeter U) *Sufism in Jerusalem: Institutional disruptions and subversive transformations*

[P4750] Psychiatry in the Middle East: Hospitals, Science and Care

Discussant: Chris Dole (Amherst College)

Chris Wilson (U Cambridge) *'All capable of work should be thus employed': The therapeutic, social, and economic benefits of patient work in mental institutions at Cairo, Beirut, and Bethlehem, ca. 1884-1948*

[P4763] Gendered Transformations: "New Women" of the Mandate Period

Organizers: Camila Pastor (CIDE) and Nova Robinson (Seattle U)

Chair/Discussant: Ellen L. Fleischmann* (U Dayton)

Leyla Dakhli (CNRS (Centre Marc Bloch) Berlin) *Women at work (Jerusalem, 1920-1936)*

[P5012] Literary Configurations of Secular Modernity

Chair: Nathaniel Greenberg (George Mason)

Adam Spanos (NYU) *The Past, Present and Future of Literary Commitment in Arab Anticolonialism*

TUESDAY, NOV 21 1:00 PM

[P4755] Memory and identity: The significance of locality in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Egypt and Israel/Palestine

Organizer: Mona L Russell (East Carolina U)

Ruth Amir (Yezreel Valley College) *Who, after all, remembers today the Armenian village?*

[P4939] Representations of Struggle and Horizons of Freedom

Organizer: Maryam Griffin* (U Washington, Bothell)

Chair/Discussant: Golnar Nikpour (U Wisconsin Madison)

Amanda Batarseh (UC Davis) *History interrupted: Form in contemporary Palestinian literature*

Maryam Griffin* (U Washington, Bothell) *Mobility and struggle: Palestinian artists' imaginaries of freedom and return*

[P4994] Schooling the Nation: the Politics of Education in Historical Perspective

Chair: Sebastian Guenther (U of Goettingen)

Ghada AlMadbouh* (Birzeit U) *Education in Palestine: A good case to be made*

Grace Wermenbol (U Oxford) *The birth of the refugee problem in Israeli and Palestinian textbooks*

Conference Sessions Not Related to Palestinian Studies with PARC Fellows or Board Members Presenting Papers

SUNDAY, NOV 19 8:00 AM

[P4927] Occupying Space: Land, Religion, Power in Colonial North Africa

Michelle Weitzel* (New Schl for Social Research) *French space? Silencing the call to prayer in colonial Algeria*

SUNDAY, NOV 19 10:30 AM

[P4779] "Arab Arabists:" Public Intellectuals and the Production of Knowledge About the Arab World

Organizers: Ellen L. Fleischmann* (U Dayton) and John Meloy (American U Beirut)

Hilary Falb Kalisman* (Furman U) *Educating the Arab world: Intellectuals, theory and practice in 20th century Iraq*

Ellen L. Fleischmann* (U Dayton) *Searching for Najla: The life and making of a female Arab intellectual*

John Meloy (American U Beirut) *Enlightened Patriots: Area Studies, the Nahda, and the Arab World*

SUNDAY, NOV 19 1:00 PM

[C5045] THEMATIC CONVERSATION

Sex & Sexualities in the Middle East and North Africa

Organizer/Session Leader: Angel M. Foster* (U Ottawa)

[P4959] Implicated Digital Transitions in the MENA Region

Discussant: Frances S. Hasso* (Duke U/ JMEWS)

SUNDAY, NOV 19 3:30 PM

[P4776] Iraq's Many Pasts, Iraq's Many Presents: Memory, Archive, and Representation

Dina Rizk Khoury* (George Washington U) *Writing Iraq's history with and against the post-colonial state archive*

[C5036] THEMATIC CONVERSATION

Is There a Modern Muslim Mediterranean?

Judith E. Tucker* (Georgetown U)

MONDAY, NOV 20 8:00 AM

[P4742] The Prize?: Energy, Security, and Expertise

Organizer/Chair/Discussant: Osamah Khalil* (Syracuse U)

[P4761] Islam and the State in Egypt: An Institution-Centered Approach

Nathan J. Brown* (George Washington U) State Islam and regime Islam in the Arab world

[P4953] Politics, History and State Formation in the Modern Middle East

Discussant: Fred H. Lawson* (Mills College)

[P4930] Between the National and the International: Arab Communists from the Mashreq to the Maghreb in the 1940s and 1950s

Chair: Zachary Lockman* (NYU)

MONDAY, NOV 20 10:30 AM

[P4810] Refugees from Syria: State Policies, Humanitarian Aid, and the Lived Experience of Exile

Organizer: Wendy Pearlman* (Northwestern U)

Chair/Discussant: Rochelle Anne Davis* (Georgetown U)

Wendy Pearlman* (Northwestern U) *Socio-economic class and the lived experience of exile among Syrian refugees in Germany and Turkey*

[P4729] The Preservation of Historic Architecture in North African Cities

Organizer: Susan Slyomovics* (UCLA)

Susan Slyomovics* (UCLA) *Dismantling a world: French military monuments in Algeria*

MONDAY, NOV 20 1:00 PM

[C4965] THEMATIC CONVERSATION

Middle East Feminist and Queer Studies: State of the Field

Organizer/Session Leader: Frances S. Hasso* (Duke U/ JMEWS)

[P4824] Politics, Space, and Subjectivity in the Arabian Peninsula

Discussant: Neha Vora* (Lafayette College)

MONDAY, NOV 20 3:30 PM

[P4874] Excavating Memories of Minorities in the Middle East

Organizer: Faedah Totah* (Virginia Commonwealth U)

Faedah Totah* (Virginia Commonwealth U) *Remembering the Jews of Damascus*

TUESDAY, NOV 21 10:30 AM

[P4724] Labor, Capitalism and Mobilization after the Arab Spring

Chair/Discussant: Joel Beinin* (Stanford U)

[C5040] THEMATIC CONVERSATION

Reading Middle Eastern Literatures Comparatively

Persis M. Karim* (San Francisco State U)

TUESDAY, NOV 21 1:00 PM

[P4739] On the Verge of Rout: The Politics of Hope and Disappointment Post the Arab Spring

Discussant: Nathan J. Brown* (George Washington U)