

PALESTINIAN AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER

PENELOPE MITCHELL, U.S. DIRECTOR | Challenges & Opportunities

As PARC's new U.S. Director, I find PARC's mission both daunting and inspiring. Our task, simply put, is to stimulate scholarship on Palestine both in the United States and in Palestine. Though we have made remarkable progress in the last decade, the impediments we face are often considerable. In the United States, academics who work on Palestine and the Middle East are increasingly embroiled in a struggle to maintain their right to speak and write on Palestine in a scholarly and fair fashion. New professors seeking a steady and rewarding career path must steel themselves before entering a field fraught with obstacles. Turning to research in Palestine, the situation is even more dismal. University education in the West Bank and Gaza has been disrupted for years, resources are meager, and the conditions for conducting research are exceedingly difficult.

Yet I have just returned from a heartening trip to our Palestine office. In spite of the dismal conditions, dedicated people are determined to persevere. Established academics mentor young researchers, and resources are stretched to provide as much support as possible. In the United States, scholars work with resolve and purpose. The determination of this year's new group of PARC fellows is noteworthy in this regard. However, PARC's resources are meager compared with the critical need to support and increase

research on Palestine. When you renew your membership in PARC this year, please consider adding a donation to help fund additional assistance for research in Palestine. Your contribution will help PARC increase the number of much needed fellowships. In almost every final report, fellows explain that had it not been for the financial support offered by PARC, they would never have been able to complete their research. We hope to be able to provide these opportunities to qualified researchers in as many cases as possible.

The Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 issues of the newsletter introduce the research being undertaken by our new 2006 PARC fellows. Funding from the Ford Foundation and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. State Department through the



Penelope Mitchell and Mira Rizek

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Palestine Director, Mira Rizek Steps Down

It is very sad for me to be leaving PARC in September 2006 at this very exciting juncture. It gives me great pleasure to give special thanks to Philip Mattar, Denis Sullivan, and Charles Butterworth, who have guided me and given me their utmost support, trust, and encouragement. It was special for me to get a chance to work with Denis Sullivan again in a new and different setting. I also owe my thanks to the whole board for their support and dedication and am glad I had the chance to meet them last November during the MESA meeting in Washington.

I am also saddened by the fact that I will not be able to work with Penelope Mitchell, the new PARC U.S. Director, who came on board in April with so much dedication, commitment, and energy to advance PARC's mission and whom I met in late August during her

visit to Palestine. Our encounter is the most delightful event in my career path at PARC. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Penny the best of luck, knowing very well how challenging and demanding this post is going to be. Penny is absolutely dedicated to making PARC a more responsive and vibrant institution, so Hurrah Penny for your efforts!

PARC offered me a very unique and enlightening experience. Working with such a pool of world class academicians and with an institution as renowned as PARC, is very different from the business or development world that I have been used to and worked with for many years. This gave me a chance to affirm my beliefs that education and advancing education is core to human development, and in that sense I wish all the best for PARC as it struggles to do that.

In Memoriam: Deborah J. "Misty" Gerner

Misty Gerner was a mainstay of PARC from its inception. She served the organization in many capacities, most recently as a member of the Board, and is especially remembered by her PARC friends and colleagues for her positive, "can do" approach to all tasks. Misty's dedication to Palestine and to all things having to do with improving the condition of the Palestinian people is legend. Her courage in the face of her illness and her constant focus on the task at hand, rather than on her own personal condition, were an inspiration to all who had the joy and privilege of working with her. We can only hope to have learned from her courage and dedication. For a fuller account of Misty's life, we share here, with permission, the reminiscences of her good friend, Gwenn Okruhlik.

Misty Gerner, an inspiration to so many of us, died in the tranquility of her home in Vinland, Kansas on June 19, 2006 after a lengthy struggle with cancer. Misty was a scholar, activist and peacemaker, exemplifying always both reason and passion. She "let her life speak," to paraphrase a fellow Quaker, living her values each day in what can only be described as a coherent, internally consistent life.

Misty was a political scientist by training. Her research focused on Palestinian nationalism, conflict resolution, mediation, human rights, gender and democratization. Her books include *One Land, Two Peoples: The Conflict Over Palestine* (1994) and *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East* (2000), and she was part of the Quaker Working Party that produced *When the Rain Returns: Justice and Reconciliation in Palestine and Israel* (2004).

Always seeking cross-fertilization, Misty was well-versed in international relations and comparative politics, qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Together with her husband Phil Schrod, she developed the Kansas Event Data Set project, in which they coded years of event data concerning the conflict between Israel and its Arab neighbors. She was active in both disciplinary and regional networks. Thomas Volgy calls Misty "the bright, beautiful jewel in the crown" of the International Studies Association, which he directs. She was also committed to the work of the Middle East Studies Association, the Palestinian American Research Center and several human rights foundations. At the time of her death, Misty was involved in a collaborative project funded by the National Science Foundation about the nexus of dissent and repression.

Misty earned her doctorate at Northwestern University, taught at the University of Iowa and Hamilton College, the American University in Cairo and, since 1988, at the University of Kansas. She was the recipient of many awards for teaching and research. The chancellor of the University of Kansas remembers her as "an extraordinary scholar and teacher who embodied a deep passion for her field of study and equally strong ability to engage and inspire her students. [She had an] ability to present complex topics objectively and with distinctive clarity." Her real love, though, was her time in Ramallah at Birzeit University. She and Phil returned for the last time this past winter. Misty's face would light up when she spoke of Ramallah, reflecting the depth of friendships forged there.

Misty was always crystal-clear about her cancer. She did not want friends and colleagues to dance around it or deny its existence. Nor did she tolerate doomsday scenarios and hand-wringing sadness. She chose to deal with cancer in the same way she lived her life: head on. Says her former student and friend Julia Pitner: "Misty truly loved life and lived it to the fullest until the very end." Misty's long-time signature on all her correspondence was simply: "Carpe diem." That is what she would want us all to remember and embrace.

Misty had an uncanny ability to step outside her own world. "She strove always to be scrupulously fair and to understand the point of view of people with whose actions she disagreed," recalls journalist Helena Cobban. No matter how traumatic and painful her

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Palestinian American Research Center Newsletter Fall 2006

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CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Council of American Overseas Research Centers has provided for nineteen fellowships this year. PARC grants support the work of 10 Palestinians, four of whom are from Gaza, and six from the West Bank, six Americans, and one each from Britain, Israel, and Pakistan. Among these 19 fellows, 10 are women.

PARC is grateful for the continued support from our funders and is especially pleased to be able to offer such strong assistance to Gazan and women researchers. The range of disciplines and topics this year is also noteworthy, with research being conducted on occupational health hazards, health care, water quality, family planning, investment decisions, and solid waste management. Other social science topics include home demolition, the effects of dependence on international aid, and Palestinian intellectual and educational discourse, just to mention a few.

I would like to close by recognizing a number of people who have offered hours of volunteer support to PARC over the last several months. Our earnest proposal review panel in United States gave thoughtful consideration to all proposals submitted for this year's grant competition. Members of PARC's Palestinian advisory committee carefully reviewed a large volume of both initial and

final proposals in Palestine. Hiba Husseini has not only served on the Palestinian Advisory Committee, but has also generously provided office space and support to PARC over the last year, in an effort to help expand our organization in Palestine. The executive committee of the board of directors in Washington, D.C., has offered leadership, guidance, and countless hours attending to details. These officers and board members include Philip Mattar, Charles Butterworth, Dina Khoury, and Don Peretz. Board members Jennifer Olmsted and Ellen Fleischmann have also offered cheerful support for every task that comes their way. Three other colleagues who work with PARC deserve special mention as well. Denis Sullivan, PARC's previous U.S. Director, helped to make the management transition as smooth as possible. Donna Geisler, our newsletter writer and editor, manages all aspects of our newsletter production with dedication, patience, and aplomb. Mira Rizek, our Palestine Director, is moving on to head YWCA activities. In the short time I have worked with Mira, I have come to appreciate and respect her high standards and devotion to her work. PARC is indebted to Mira for her excellent management of our activities in Palestine. I am hopeful that our paths will continue to cross.

IN MEMORIAM: DEBORAH J. "MISTY" GERNER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

treatment, she focused her energies on the problems of other people – Palestinians, Israelis, friends, human rights activists, colleagues. She had a seemingly endless reservoir of kindness and generosity.

In addition, she had a capacity to forge creative networks, to see old problems in new ways, to distill political rhetoric to its essence, and to talk about social and political struggles in a way that resonated with intellectuals and broad community groups alike. She could challenge deeply held stereotypes in a fruitful and non-threatening way, project peace during war, calmness during struggle and enlightenment during pain.

Misty shared an amazing relationship with Phil, also a political scientist at the University of Kansas. They collaborated on many research projects. Their marriage was intellectually vibrant, spiritually grounded and genuinely happy. I have never seen a love so deep, a commitment so unquestioned. I thank Phil for his devotion and love, for the way he took care of Misty during hard times. Phil was her partner and the center of her life.

Misty and I met at conferences many times over the years, always searching for new avenues to make a difference. We also spoke often about the challenges of being part of a dual academic couple, about the nature of marriage and about our deeply personal struggles. She

gave me and Pat advice very early in our marriage and careers. We have held it dear, for, as usual, she was right. In 2004, when her medical tests were not very encouraging, Misty surprised me at a conference panel – quietly walking into the room just as I began to speak. I am grateful for that gift of love.

Memorials for Misty will be held at the University of Kansas in Lawrence on September 17, at MESA in November and at the ISA in March. She was especially fond of the Ad Mundum Fund, which enables students to study abroad and broaden their horizons. It is located at Earlham College (www.earlham.com), where she earned undergraduate degrees in peace and conflict studies and religion.

Misty quoted her mentor, Ibrahim Abu-Lughod, as telling her often, "It is essential that Palestinians not remain victims; we must become doers." Misty remains a doer through the legacy of her influential work and a dear friend to many people from different walks of life. In this deeply distressing time, her work is more important than ever. Let us all honor Misty by seizing the day.

*Courtesy of Middle East Report (Fall 2006)
Gwenn Okruhlik
University of Texas-Austin/Naval Postgraduate School*

DR. SAMIR KUHAİL | Occupational Health Hazards of Dust Exposure



Silicosis—an incurable lung disease caused by inhaling dust containing silica—is one of the oldest occupational diseases. It continues to kill thousands of people around the globe each year. The condition is irreversible and progressive, despite removal from exposure. Dr. Samir Kuhail proposes to conduct a study of 100 workers in Gaza with greater than normal exposures to silica laden rock dust in order to understand further the nature and extent of this disease. According to Kuhail, “there is no

data or study on the size of the silicosis problem in Gaza.” His study, he asserts, “will give an idea about the size of the problem and yield recommendations to legalize safety measures for workers and to raise awareness of the complications of unprotected exposure to dust.”

In Gaza, where the population density is among the highest in the world, people are exposed to disease-causing dust particulates suspended in the air through contaminated food and water and by direct contact with the eyes or skin. Gaza is a generally dry region with many sandy roads. Wind blown dust is a key contributor to suspended particulate matter (SPM) pollution in the region. In addition, there are a number of industries that expose workers to even greater concentrations of silica dust. Construction industries and rock quarries are examples of workplaces where people chip, hammer, drill, crush, load, haul, and dump rock, creating high concentrations of silica dust particles. Workers in these and other construction related fields (e.g., stone cutting, tile, and cement workers) “are exposed occupational[ly] to high levels of dust pollution [that increase their] risk of health problems.”

The number of people around the world affected by silicosis is significant, with more than 1 million U.S. workers at risk. The disease presents when the lung tissue develops fibrotic nodules and scarring around trapped silica particles. Victims of the disease are also high-risk candidates for tuberculosis. Kuhail’s review of existing literature on the disease found that there are levels of silicosis that range from

chronic (occurring after 10 or more years exposure to crystalline silica at low concentrations) to accelerated silicosis (developing 5 to 10 years after initial exposure to higher concentrations of crystalline silica) and acute silicosis (occurring within a few weeks to several years after exposure to the highest concentrations of silica dust).

Kuhail reports that in Gaza there are about 1,100 small industrial and commercial businesses that contribute to the “dust industry.” These businesses are ranked and classified according to the level of dust pollution they create. The highest level (level C) includes businesses in stone cutting, tile, and cement. Kuhail’s research will examine the health impacts of occupational dust exposure in the region, focusing on workers in the stone cutting and tile industry in Gaza city. These two industries, he claims, represent the highest dust exposure levels. His study will include 100 workers with five years or more working in dusty jobs, with a control group of 100 workers performing low dust exposure work.

Kuhail’s study will provide new information that may help understand the scope of the silicosis problem and provide guidance in developing safety guidelines for workers in high-risk fields. “There is an increasing number of workers in the field of dust industry. Unfortunately, safety and preventive measures for prevention of health hazards are scarce or absent, and there is an increasing number of active workers who are the sole source of family income suffering from serious respiratory problems.”

The study will include data collection through interviews, questionnaires, and clinical examinations including chest x-rays. Study participants with positive findings for silicosis will be referred to a chest specialist for further evaluation and treatment. Kuhail also intends to visit work sites to gather data.

Kuhail received his medical training at Mansourah University Medical School in Egypt. In addition to his M.D., Kuhail holds a master’s in public health from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Community Medicine and a Ph.D. in public health from American World University. He is currently working for the Ministry of Health-Health Research Directorate in Gaza.

Dr. Samir Kuhail can be reached by email at samirkuhail@yahoo.com.

PARC Announces the Deborah “Misty” Gerner Fellowship

In memory of our beloved colleague and PARC board member, PARC has created a fellowship for 2007 to honor Dr. Deborah J. Gerner, who passed away earlier this year. As a fitting tribute to Misty, the fellowship will be awarded to a Palestinian resident in the West Bank or Gaza conducting research

in Palestine.

We welcome and appreciate your contributions to this fellowship, which may be paid to PARC and sent to Penelope Mitchell, US Director, PARC 6250 E. Halbert Rd. Bethesda, MD 20817-5414

DR. REBECCA L. STEIN | Dis/possessions: The Social Life of Palestinian Things in Jewish-Israeli Society

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were dispossessed of their lands and property—including their everyday household and personal items—as the result of the 1948-49 war and creation of the state of Israel. Dr. Rebecca Stein proposes to investigate the lives of these Palestinian things in modern Jewish-Israeli society as a way to expand on the contemporary understanding of the cultural dimensions of Israeli colonialism: “In the most basic terms, I am interested in the presence and circulation of Palestinian objects in Jewish-Israeli daily lives—both objects that were stolen during the course of the dispossession and objects that have been purchased or otherwise repossessed by Israeli individuals and state institutions in the wake of state formation.”

According to Stein, looting of Palestinian homes was common following the 1948 war. Soldiers and citizens participated in the theft of goods from so-called “abandoned villages.” These goods, she reports, were initially supposed to be cataloged by state agencies. However, by the time the process was to begin, little remained to be collected. After the war, she says, authorities distributed confiscated property to the Israeli army and through public auctions. Resettled Jewish immigrants later took possession of Arab homes and whatever contents remained within. Her research has already shown that, “although some of these objects were destroyed, many remained in the possession of Jewish-Israeli families.”

Stein is also interested in the ways that Palestinian things circulate as commodities in Israeli society. After the 1967 war, a wave of tourism ensued wherein Jewish Israelis and Palestinian citizens of Israel flocked to the West Bank and Gaza for reasons that included searching for friends and families, religious pilgrimages, and consuming Arab food and purchasing low cost household goods and items. Through her study, Stein will examine the lives of these Palestinian objects purchased and stolen during this time period to determine their social importance within the everyday lives of Israeli Jews. “My research has been particularly attentive to the status of Jewish-Israeli tourists as consumers and the question of what was consumed, where, in what magnitude, and with what social significance.” In addition, “I will consider how its Palestinian provenance affects its social value.” Stein believes that her study of these objects will in part “attempt to reconsider the history of the Israeli occupation through the lens of the Jewish-Israeli consumer desire.” Her efforts will include cataloging objects and assessing the importance of the objects to their owners. Goods of interest to her include furniture, folklore and souvenirs.

Through her research, Stein plans to contribute to work performed in a number of areas, including the scholarship of postcolonial

studies begun by other scholars on the relationship of colonialism to the “commodity culture.” She hopes also to initiate a “rethinking of the nature of Palestinian dispossession” beyond the current attempts to value the losses, seeking rather to contribute to the scholarship on loss, memory, and nationalism that instead measures the social ramifications of the Palestinians’ losses. Stein thinks, moreover, that her research can add to the under-represented scholarship that “considers the quotidian, cultural dimensions of Israeli colonialism,” adding that “there has been relatively little scholarly discussion of the ways that Israeli colonialism takes shape and is sustained through the everyday cultural practices of Jewish-Israeli communities and individuals.” The project, she states, “is also an attempt to chronicle the presence of Palestinian history in the most private of Jewish-Israeli spaces and therein to identify ways in which Zionist hegemony is destabilized from the inside.”

The process she will undertake includes archival research in the Central Zionist Archives, the Israeli State Archives in Jerusalem, and the Israeli Ministry of Tourism, where she will investigate the history of the looting as well as the history of Israeli tourism in the Palestinian Territories. She will employ ethnographic methods, including semi-structured interviews with Jewish Israelis primarily in West Jerusalem, particularly those living in homes previously owned by Palestinians in Abu Tur and Qatamon. The researcher also intends to photograph the objects in question to create a digital archive.

Stein is currently an assistant professor of cultural anthropology and women’s studies at Duke University. She received her M.S. and Ph.D. from Stanford University and is the author of several books and numerous journal articles.

Dr. Rebecca Stein can be reached by email at rlstein@duke.edu.



2007-2008 PARC Fellowships

PARC is now accepting applications for research fellowships which commence June 2007. For full details and a downloadable application, please visit PARC on the Web at <http://parc.virtualactivism.net/>

Topics of Interest at the MESA 2006 Conference

NOVEMBER 18-21 AT THE BOSTON MARRIOTT COPLEY PLACE IN BOSTON, MA.

The following is a list of Middle East Studies Association conference sessions relating to Palestine studies. (An asterisk by a name indicates a past or current PARC fellow or board member.) Please don't miss the PARC panel on Sunday, November 19 from 2-6:30 p.m. The PARC business meeting will be on Saturday, November 18 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

PARC 2006 Annual Meeting at MESA

The PARC annual business meeting will be held at the MESA conference on Saturday, November 18 from 3:30pm-4:30pm in 4th Floor-Salon C of the Boston Marriott Copley Place hotel. All members and those interested in becoming members are cordially invited to attend to hear an update on recent activities and future plans.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

(P066) Movements For and Against a Just Peace in Israel-Palestine

Organized by **Robert Hostetter**

Chair: **Paul J. Kaldjian**, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Kathy Kamphoefner, Quaker Service-Jerusalem (AFSC)

Peacemaking Women: Palestinian Nonviolent Activists Tell Their Stories

Robert Hostetter, North Park University

Voices for Peace in Israel and Palestine

Paul Beran, Northeastern University

The Divestment Program in the Occupied Territories

Donald E. Wagner, North Park University

Anxious for Armageddon: Christian Zionism and U.S. Policy in the Middle East

Celebrating the Life of Deborah "Misty" Gerner at MESA

Please join us during the MESA conference, on Saturday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Harvard Room of the Boston Marriott Copley Place, to pay tribute to Misty's undaunted spirit and remarkable achievements.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

(P044) Palestinians in the Media: Negotiating Representations, Articulating National Identity

Organized by **Helga Tawil**

Chair/Discussant: **Helga Tawil**, New York University

Evelyn Alsultany, University of Michigan

Arab/Muslim Terrorists and Traumatized White Men: The Role of the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict in Portraying Violence in U.S. Post-9/11 TV Dramas

Dina Matar, SOAS

News, Identity and Public Life: The Palestinians in Britain

May Farah, New York University

Palestinian Youth Refugees: Constructing and/or Constructed Identities

Amahl Bishara, New York University

Mediating the Wall: Locating Palestinian Media Workers'

Perspectives in the International News

Lori Allen, Harvard University

Suffering and the Media: A Particular History of Palestinian Nationalism

(P065) Turks, Arabs, and the Endurance of Ottoman Ties

Organized by ***Awad Halabi**

Chair: **Awad Halabi**, Wright State University

Discussant: **Karl Barbir**, Siena College

Stefan Weber, German Orient Institute Beirut

Furnishing Bourgeois Life: Residential Architecture and Social Distinction in Late Ottoman Damascus

***Awad Halabi**, Wright State University

Integrating Turkish Symbols of Resistance in Palestine, 1918-1922

Michael Provence, University of California, San Diego

Ottoman Military Education and Anti-Colonial Rebellions in the Arab East

Hasan Kayali, University of California, San Diego

The Anatolian Independence Struggle and the Arabs: A Re-Appraisal of the Clean Break

(P095) Recent Elections in the Middle East: The Politics of the Unexpected

Organized by **Mona El-Ghobashy**

Chair: **Lisa Anderson**, Columbia University

Discussant: **Amaney A. Jamal**, Princeton University

Bassel Salloukh, American University of Sharjah

Back to the Sectarian Barracks: The 2005 Parliamentary Elections in Lebanon

***Manal Jamal**, University of California, Berkeley

Beyond Corruption and Mass Discontent: The Palestinian Left and the 2006 Palestinian Legislative Elections

Mirjam Künkler, Columbia University

Mobilizing against Privilege or Ensuring Regime Survival?: The 2005 Iranian Presidential Elections

Mona El-Ghobashy, Barnard College

The Unexpected Political Consequences of Legal Rules: Judges and the 2005 Egyptian Parliamentary Elections

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

(P067) Creative Responses to Separation: Israeli/Palestinian Peacebuilding in the Era of "Disengagement"

Organized by ***Maia Carter Hallward**

Chair/Discussant: **Robert Hostetter**, North Park University

Ronit Avni, Just Vision

Creative Communications: Media and Advocacy Network Strategies for Israeli/Palestinian Peacebuilding

***Maia Carter Hallward**, Kennesaw State University

Creative Responses to Separation: Israeli and Palestinian Joint Activism (Paper will be read by Robert Hostetter)

Ned Lazarus, American University

Pax Americana: A Critical Genealogy of the North American Model of Israeli/Palestinian Peace Education

Ahsiya B. Posner, Fletcher School, Tufts University

Bridging the Other Gap: Peace Education NGOs and the Security Sector during the Al-Aqsa Intifada

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

(NP01) Resources, Economic Policies, and Employment in the Middle East

Chair: **Bassam Yousif**, Indiana State University

Christian Steiner, Center for Research on the Arab World, University of Mainz and Thomas Richter, University of Bremen, Germany
Politics, Economics and Tourism Development in Egypt: Insights into the Sectoral Transformation of Late-Late Developers

Neda Zawahri, Cleveland State University

The Joint Water Commission: Israel and Jordan's Attempt to Manage Their Water Disputes

Tom O'Donnell, University of Michigan

MENA States in the New Globalized Oil System: Re-privatizing Nationalized Oil Fields, and the New OPEC+OECD International Energy Forum Secretariat (IEFS) in Riyadh

Roksana Bahramitash, Filmmaker: "Beyond the Borqa"

Comparative and Cross Regional Analysis of Female Employment in Muslim Countries with Iran: Political Economy versus Cultural Explanation

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 2:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

(P028) Palestinians in Israel Revisited

— P028 is a double session —

Organized by **Isis Nusair** and ***Rhoda Kanaaneh**

Sponsored by the Palestinian American Research Center

Chair: **Cynthia Enloe**, Clark University

Discussants: **Lisa Hajjar**, University of California, Santa Barbara, **Rebecca Torstrick**, Indiana University, South Bend and

Samera Esmeir, University of California, Berkeley

Abandoned by Whom?: A Palestinian Story of Return

Honaida Ghanim, Harvard University

Crossing the Border: Confrontation Strategies

Lena Meari, University of California, Davis

The Roles of Palestinian Peasant Women 1930-1960: Al-Birweh Village as Model

Isis Nusair, Denison University

Gendered Politics of Location of Three Generations of Palestinian Women in Israel, 1948-1998

Leena Dallasheh, New York University

Al-'Ard, a Pan-Arab Nationalist Movement in Israel, from 1959 until 1965

***Shira Robinson**, University of Iowa

Guns, Coffee and Tractors: The Making of "Non-Jewish Folklore" in 1958 Israel

***Rhoda Kanaaneh**, Columbia University

A Good Arab in a Bad House? Unrecognized Villagers in the Israeli Military

Amal Equeiq, University of Washington

Louder than the Blue I.D.: Palestinian Hip-Hop in Israel

Ibtisam Ibrahim, Washington College

Immigration Patterns among Arab Palestinians in Israel

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Academic Boycotts and Academic Freedom: A Symposium

Organized by **Zachary Lockman** and **Ahmad Dallal**, Georgetown University

Chair: **Zachary Lockman**, New York University

Omar Barghouti, Independent Palestinian Researcher

Lawrence Davidson, West Chester University

Joan Scott, Institute for Advanced Study

Joe Stork, Human Rights Watch and Chair of MESA's CAFMENA

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

(NP35) Palestinian National Identity: From the Mandate to Intifada II

Chair: ***Michael R. Fischbach**, Randolph-Macon College

Are John Knudsen, Chr. Michelsen Institute

The Law, the Loss and the Lives of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon

Taroob R. Boulos, University of Michigan

Creative Writings of Palestinian War Prisoners as Testimony and as Expression of Pain and Agency

***Wendy Pearlman**, Harvard University

Political Fragmentation and Conflict Processes: The Case of the Palestinian National Movement

Fadwa Allabadi, University of Michigan, Dearborn

Palestinian Women and the Elections: Comparative Essay between the 1996 and the 2006 National Elections

Michael Bracy, Oklahoma State University

Too Much "New Wine for Old Bottles": Religious Assemblies and Legal Nationalism in Palestine, 1921-1931

***Kimberly Katz**, Towson University

Mudhakkirati or Kifahi (My Memories or My Struggle): The Diary of Sami 'Amr

(P015) States of Incarceration: Forms, Formations, Resistances

— P015 is a double session that runs from 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. —

Organized by ***Laleh Khalili**, SOAS

Chair: **Paul Amar**, University of California, Santa Barbara

Discussant: **Lisa Hajjar**, University of California, Santa Barbara

Roberta Micallef, Boston University

Redefining Honor from Prison

Banu Bargu, Cornell University

Sovereignty and Self-Sacrifice: The Death Fast Movement in Turkey

Ozge Serin, Columbia University

The Task of Translating the Hunger Strikes in Turkish Prisons: Sacrificial Violence and Radical Politics

Arzoo Osanloo, U of Washington

Refusing Mercy: Challenging the State's Monopoly on Violence in Iran

***Jillian Schwedler**, University of Maryland, College Park

Disciplining Dissent: Toward a Legal Geography of Policing

***Laleh Khalili**, SOAS

Symbolic and Instrumental Uses of al-Ansar Mass Detention Camp in Lebanon

John Collins, St. Lawrence University

Confinement Under an Open Sky: Notes on the Palestinian Hothouse

Esmail Nashif, Bir Zeit University

Gendering Resistance, Displacing Differences: Palestinian Women Political Prisoners

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

(NP10) Expression Under Duress: Palestinian Creative and Visual Arts

Chair: **Sama R. Alshaibi**, University of Arizona

Danya Qato, Chicago Palestine Film Festival

The Chicago Palestine Film Festival: A Case Study on Palestinian Cultural Institution Building in the United States

Beth Harris, Ithaca College

Palestinian Artists as Witnesses under Siege

Maria Holt, University of Westminster

Memory and Forgetting: Palestinian Women and the Struggle for a Future in the Camps of Lebanon

Annie C. Higgins, University of Florida

Greet the Labyrinthine Lanes: Poetry in Palestinian Refugee Camps

Scott C. Lesko, SUNY at Stony Brook

National Consciousness and the Construction of Gendered Spaces in Palestinian Political Poster Art, 1967-1987

Nadia Yaqub, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Hany Abu Assad and the Palestinian Road Movie

(P041) Advertising in the Middle East: An Historical Perspective

Organized by **Andrea L. Stanton** and ***Sherene Seikaly**

Chair: **Kevin W. Martin**, University of Memphis

Discussant: **Relli Shechter**, Ben-Gurion University

Elizabeth B. Frierson, University of Cincinnati

Consuming Identities: Photography and Line Drawings in Ottoman Periodicals' Advertising 1890-1923

Mona L. Russell, Independent Scholar

Selling Gillette to the Effendiyya: 1922-1952

Aharon Roni Zirinski, Harvard University

Buy the Egyptian Way: Billboards, Landscaping and the Cartography of Commonplaceness in Cairo

***Sherene Seikaly**, New York University

The Color Orange: Citrus Advertising in Mandatory Palestine

Andrea L. Stanton, Columbia University

From Qaysariyya They Want Radios from Boutagy: Using the Rural to Sell the Urban in 1930s Palestine

(TC003) What Do We Know about Vulnerability to HIV and AIDS in the Middle East and North Africa?

Organized by **Sandy Sufian**

Chair: **Sandy Sufian**, University of Illinois at Chicago

Navid Madani, Harvard University

Jocelyn L. DeJong, American University of Beirut

Kamiar Alaei, Kermanshah University/Harvard University

Etaf Maqboul, Bethlehem University

Angel M. Foster, Harvard Medical School/Ibis

Reproductive Health

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

(NP44) Folktales and Fairytales: Unhitching the Bridle of Imagination

Chair: **Amira El-Zein**, Tufts University

Montserrat Rabadán, University of Chicago

Symbols in the Khrefiye or Palestinian Fairytales: Meaning and Function

Yass Alizadeh, University of Connecticut

A Political Analysis of Iranian Folktales

Sibel Erol, New York University

(Post)modernizing the Fairy Tale: Bilge Karasu's "Garden of Departed Cats"

Akif Kirecci, Stevens Institute of Technology

Mystical Unity in Meaning: Reading "The Thousand and One Nights" with Reception Theory

(P049) Photography and the Local: Self Representation in Constructing the Past and Present

Organized by **Elizabeth Smith**

Chair: ***Kimberly Katz**, Towson University

Discussant: **Salim Tamari**, Birzeit University

Laurent Dissard, UC Berkeley

Images of "Local" Labor in the History of Archaeology in Turkey

Issam Nassar, Institute of Jerusalem Studies

Representing Palestine in Early Local Photography

Rochelle Davis, Georgetown University

Representing Palestinian Folklore: Local Practices and National Symbols

Elizabeth Smith, University of Vermont

Intimate Salvage: Photography of Antiquities in Nubian Memory Projects

(P071) Britain's Moment in Palestine

Organized by **John L. Knight**

Supported by Ibis Editions

Chair/Discussant: **Eugene Rogan**, St. Antony's College, Oxford

***Rena Barakat**, University of Chicago

Riots, Revolutions, and Bloody Murder in British Mandate Palestine

Deborah Bernstein, University of Haifa

Prostitution in Mandatory Palestine: A Comparative Discussion

Elizabeth Brownson, UC Santa Barbara

Government Regulation of Women Health Care Workers in Mandate Palestine: Civilizing, Sanitizing, and Supervising Palestinian Arab Midwives and Nurses

John L. Knight, St. Antony's College

Palestinian Bobbies: Day-to-Day Policing in Mandate Palestine

Sandy Sufian, University of Illinois at Chicago

A Culture of Health: Zionist Malaria Education in Mandatory Palestine

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

(NP25) Women in the Public Sphere: Both Seen and Heard

Chair: ***Frances S. Hasso**, Oberlin College

Suheir Abu Oksa Daoud, Pomona College

Palestinian Women Suicide Bombers

Monique C. Cardinal, Université Laval

Women Prosecutors and Judges in Syria, 1975-2006

Leila DeVriese, Zayed University

Transnational Feminist Networks: Engaging Legal Rights Discourse

Fakhri Haghani, Georgia State University

The "New Woman" of the Interwar Period: Gender, Identity, and Performance in Egypt and Iran

Hala Kh. Nassar, Yale University

Arab Women in Satellite Programs and Popular Music: Identity in Crisis?

(NP97) Israeli Politics and Foreign Policy after the Israeli Elections

Organized by **Robert O. Freedman**

Sponsored by the Association for Israel Studies

Chair: **Robert O. Freedman**, Baltimore Hebrew University

Ilan Peleg, Lafayette College

Israeli Domestic Politics after the Israeli Elections

Eyal Zisser, Tel Aviv University

Israel and the Arab World after the Israeli Elections

Robert O. Freedman, Baltimore Hebrew University

US-Israeli Relations after the Israeli Elections

Naomi Weinberger, Colgate U

Israel and the Palestinians

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

(NP02) Migration, Demographics and Boundaries in the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

Chair: **Richard Cahill**, Berea College

Hisae Nakanishi, GSID, Nagoya University, Japan

Politics of Human Mobility in Israel-Palestine: Crossing the Boundary, and Going Beyond the Wall in East Jerusalem and Jerusalem

Helga Tawil Souri, New York University

IT Development and the Rise of Hamas: Both Facets of the Failure of Western Aid?

Fayez Hammad, University of Southern California

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: The Demographic Dimension

Joseph M. Lewis, Ohio State University

Bad Fences for Bad Neighbors: The Divisive Process of the Israel-Palestine Border

Arturo Marzano, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna

The Migration of the Italian Jews to Israel and Their Perception of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (1945-1959)

Tara Lannen-Stanton, Wayne State University

Arab and Jewish Interactions for Anti-Zionism in America in the 1920s-1940s

(NP07) Feminine Voices of Protest: A Different Vision

Chair: **Layla Saatchi**, Wayne State University

Mai Al-Nakib, Kuwait University

"Only Palestine Is Real": Tracing the Virtual in Yasmin Zahran's A Beggar at Damascus Gate

Massimiliano Verita, University of Wisconsin, Madison

A Mythical Egyptian Novel: Miral Al Tahawy's The Tent

Didem Havlioglu, University of Washington

Her Side of the Story: An Exploration of Three Early Modern Women Poets: Mihri, Hatun, A'ise al-Ba'uniyya and Zeb al-Nisa

Carine Bourget, University of Arizona

The Star, the Cross, and the Crescent: Politics, Religion and Terrorism in Myriam Antaki's Verses of Forgiveness

Babek Elahi, Rochester Institute of Technology

Worse Than the Disease: Feminist Critiques of Illness Metaphors in Modern Iranian Nationalist Discourse

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

(NP24) The Politics of Education

Chair: **Marina Tolmacheva**, American University of Kuwait

***Yamila Hussein**, Harvard University

Palestinian Intellectual Discourse on Education, 1967-1993

Shervin Malekzadeh, Georgetown University

Agents of Change: The Role of Teachers in Creating Hegemony and Consolidating Identity in Postrevolutionary Iran

Gina E. Cinali, Gulf University for Science & Technology/

Columbia University

Globalization and the Proliferation of "American Style" Higher Education in the MENA Region: The Case of the Arabian Gulf

(NP52) Comparative Politics: Assessing

Trans-national Trends

Chair: **Najib B. Hourani**, Michigan State University

Andrew Clarno, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

A Tale of Two Walled Cities: Jerusalem and Johannesburg

Peter Wien, University of Maryland

Social Discipline in Modern Middle Eastern Societies: Assessment of a Historical Paradigm

Maria Koinova, American University of Beirut

Does Diaspora Involvement in Post-Conflict Societies Contribute to the Increase or Decrease of Internal Conflict?: Lebanese and Kosovo Albanian Diasporas Compared

Alan Noory, University of Missouri - St. Louis

Rough Terrain: Conceptualizing Violence in Iraq beyond the Dominant Discourse: The Kurdish Civil War of Post Gulf War I (1991) as a Case Study

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

(NP05) International Relations of the Middle East

Chair: **Fatih Balci**, University of Utah

Ozlem Tur, Middle East Technical University, Turkey

Turkish Policy towards the Palestinian Issue: 1923-1948

Andrew J. Flibbert, Trinity College

A Conspiracy of Ideas: Agency and Institutions in the Iraq War Decision

Ozgen Gokce Baykal, Isik University

Turkish-Israel Relations in the Aftermath of September 11: Another Middle Eastern Enigma?

Pinar Bilgin, Bilkent University

The Politics of Geopolitics in Turkey on the Road to European Union

(P108) Studies in Umayyad History

Organized by **Steven Judd**

Sponsored by the Middle East Medievalists

Chair/Discussant: **Fred Donner**, University of Chicago

R. Stephen Humphreys, University of California, Santa Barbara

The Church in Syria-Palestine in the Time of Mu'awiya

Rebecca M. Foote, Harvard University

Cultivating the Qusur: Agrarian Society in the Early Islamic Hijaz and Bilad al-Sham

Steven Judd, Southern Connecticut State University

The Sons of Hisham b. 'Abd al-Malik

Hugh Kennedy, University of St. Andrews

The Muslim Conquest and Settlement of Bukhara

IRUS BRAVERMAN | Landscaping Israel/Palestine: Trees and Ideology

Since 1901, more than 240 million trees have been planted in Israel, largely due to the work of the Jewish National Fund (JNF), whose expressed reason for its massive planting enterprise was “to protect and beautify the land.” Irus Braverman, a doctoral candidate in law at the University of Toronto, considers this enterprise the tip of a much deeper and more comprehensive cultural phenomenon: the ethno-national struggle of Jewish Israelis and Palestinians over the formation and interpretation of landscape. In particular, Braverman will investigate the everyday administration of the Israeli-



Palestinian conflict through the lens of tree struggles.

Braverman claims that the Israeli/Palestinian landscape is constructed in a bifurcated and polarized manner by both sides and, as such, plays an active role in the reinforcement of the larger conflict. At the same time, Braverman continues, the landscape also makes visible the extreme discrepancies in the allocation of power that occurs in this place, revealing the various techniques of Jewish Israeli domination and occupation.

According to Braverman, the JNF performs two distinct but inter-related roles in the construction of landscape: acquiring and then settling land with trees. These JNF tree settlements, she claims, soon become forests and, as such, require professional management and legal protection. Additionally, Braverman demonstrates how the JNF has shifted its organizational focus over the years to its current self-conception as an environmental organization that boasts its success in having made Israel the only state in the world to emerge from the 20th century with more trees than it had at its inception.

Braverman views Israel’s forestation project as not just an act of Israeli Jews, but also as a project of the entire Jewish people, pointing to how commonplace it has become for Jews to donate trees to be planted in Israel to mark life events and holidays. She also suggests that, by planting trees in Israel, the Jews have redeemed the land from a long state of neglect and transformed it “back” into its biblical state as the “land of milk and honey,” thereby projecting the image that they are “making the desert bloom.”

Another important aspect of the tree-planting project, according to Braverman, has to do with the specific identity of the trees planted. “JNF’s favorite tree is, undoubtedly, the pine.” Pines, she says, have been the primary choice for several reasons:

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First, pines grow fast. In no time, she states, “the moment

of their planting becomes invisible. What seems wild takes over, as if it was always there.”

Second, Braverman asserts that pines construct a familiar, European-looking landscape.

Also, Braverman believes that through the performance of planting, the exilic, “rootless cosmopolitan” Jew is transformed into a physical laborer, a pioneer.

In her research, Braverman goes beyond the symbolic and imaginary dimensions to discuss how the “real” tree is utilized by Israel for strictly physical purposes. Quoting from interviews with prominent JNF officials, Braverman elaborates on the pragmatic use of trees for the physical occupation of territory. She also asserts that more than half of JNF’s 71 forests were planted over Palestinian villages that were depopulated during the 1948 war. According to Palestinians she interviewed, the trees have physically prevented Palestinian villagers from returning to their homes. For example, one Palestinian from Miske tells Braverman that over the ruins of the village “they planted eucalyptus trees, which are trees that Jews brought to this place; they weren’t here before them.”

Another dimension of her study involves examining the role of the olive tree in constructing the Israeli/Palestinian landscape. Braverman notes that the olive industry accounts for approximately 40 percent of the total value of agricultural produce in the West Bank. Braverman also asserts that the severe economic conditions prevalent in the Occupied Territories since the first Intifada have further increased Palestinian dependency on olive production.

Based on human rights reports, Braverman suggests that the large number of olive uprooting in recent years was executed to facilitate the construction of the Separation Barrier. She claims that the uprooting of olive trees is used by Israel as a technique for punishing Palestinians and for acquiring state lands. In the Occupied Territories this is accomplished primarily by the utilization of the 1858 Ottoman Land Code, which provides ownership through cultivation. To better understand this process, Braverman’s field work includes an investigation into the workings of the Israeli Civil Administration and the military committees that administer the Land Code.

In addition to the olive uprooting by the state, Braverman asserts that the number of olive trees uprooted by Jewish Israeli settlers has increased in recent years. Israel’s police statistics report that in 2005 alone, 773 olive trees were uprooted in the Occupied Territories.

Braverman also points out that the olive tree is advanced by Israel as a symbol of peace. This utilization of the olive, she says, is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

DR. ABDELRAHIM ABUSAFSA | Health Risks Associated with Drinking Water from Rainwater Harvesting Wells in Palestine

Water is essential to life. In the Palestinian Territories, drinking water frequently comes from rainwater harvesting wells. Dr. Abdelrahim Abusafa believes that a significant percentage of these wells may be polluted from a variety of sources, creating serious health risks to the population. Abusafa's study will help assess the extent and causes of the well water pollution problem through research conducted in the northern West Bank region, which includes the districts of Nablus, Jenin, and Tulkarem.

According to Abusafa, some 32 percent of residential areas fall outside of government controlled water systems. Even those homes that are on a water piping network are affected by partial water loss or low pumping pressure. Those that are not on the system rely on rainwater harvesting wells or house wells to supply needed drinking water. These underground cement tanks collect rain water during the winter for use during the dry summer months. Failure to follow certain guidelines for the operation and maintenance of these wells makes them susceptible to pollution from chemicals, organic materials, and pathogens. Factors that affect the quality of the drinking water in these wells can be environmental as well as socio-economic.

Preliminary studies have found significant levels of coliform bacteria in villages where well water is the only source of drinking water. Abusafa reports that a limited study of 17 wells in Yaabad village (Jenin District) conducted by An-Najah University found that 82 percent of the wells were infected with coliform bacteria at levels as high as 3000 cfu/100 mL of water. In addition, he says, the Yaabad researchers found that a significant percentage of people are not adequately maintaining or disinfecting their wells. What this study shows, says Abusafa, "is the lack of awareness among well users, which leads to a terrible misuse of the wells and a very high water contamination rate. This is an alarming health issue because people who drink from these wells, especially children, will be at risk of being infected with water-borne diseases."

Through his research, Abusafa plans to address three key questions:

1. What is the extent of the water pollution problem in Palestinian villages?
2. What are the main causes of the water pollution problem?
3. What is the best solution to the problem?

Causes of water pollution can include technical problems, such as sewage leaking into wells, runoff of pesticides and fertilizers, and insufficient dosages of disinfectants. Pollution can also result from

lack of awareness, the high cost of maintenance, or cultural issues.

To conduct his study, Abusafa will take well water samples from at least 10 villages in the northern West Bank that depend heavily on wells for their drinking water supply. The water will be analyzed for microbiological contamination and nitrate concentration. Nitrate concentration would indicate cross-contamination. Surveys of land owners will also be used to gather information on well conditions and well management practices. The information gleaned from the tests and surveys will be correlated to find trends. "For example, one would expect wells with low maintenance frequency to have higher pollution rates. These trends and correlations will then be used to determine the best strategy for dealing with well water pollution." Abusafa will use the data collected in his study to extrapolate information on Palestinian wells in general in order to develop appropriate corrective measures. Ultimately, depending on the results and the extent of the pollution problem he finds, Abusafa will prepare an outline of corrective measures that could be utilized by the Palestinian Ministry of Health or Ministry of Agriculture.

Abusafa received his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. He is currently the chairman of the chemical engineering department at An-Najah National University in the West Bank. He has extensive experience in water purification using adsorption and ion exchange methods, natural zeolites and the removal of radioactive cesium-137 and ammonium from water.

Dr. Abdelrahim Abusafa may be reached by email at abusafa@najah.edu.



Alumni News?

We are currently gathering news of publications and other academic activities from PARC alumni/ae for our spring 2007 issue. Please submit your information to Penelope Mitchell, U.S. Director, pmitch21@aol.com.

ISABELLE HUMPHRIES | Commemoration from Below: Post-Oslo Narratives of Palestinian Internal Refugees in the Galilee



Nearly 300,000 Palestinian citizens of Israel originally displaced in 1948 are considered internal refugees. Although displaced from their homes and villages, they continue to have access to what Isabelle Humphries describes as “emotionally and politically charged sites of collective memory.” In her dissertation research, Humphries will explore how access to these physical places impacts the memory and political views of the internal refugee population who can “walk amongst the

stones, hills and springs of their village, yet are forced to confront the harsh visual reality of destruction.”

Ethnographic fieldwork for her project will be based in Nazareth, where she notes that nearly a third of the population originates from villages destroyed in 1948, including approximately one half of the 2,000 residents from the town of Al-Mujaydil, a village approximately six kilometers from Nazareth.

Humphries proposes to study the refugees from Al-Mujaydil. The village’s proximity to Nazareth and the fact that its refugees have a village committee that is actively reclaiming holy sites in clear view of residents of the neighboring Jewish town of Migdal Ha’emek are key reasons behind her choice to study this specific group.

“Work in al-Mujaydil demonstrates the capacity to which community action can re-construct history, quite literally remapping a different sense of place and space on Israeli ground,” Humphries asserts. She will pursue her study primarily using interviews with Palestinians who were directly displaced in 1948, as well as those from the next generation of refugees in order to demonstrate how the current commemorations function to construct and maintain community.

For Humphries, this project “reaffirms the importance of

retrieving the voice of the subaltern to hear alternative histories and to subject accepted historical truths to deeper interrogation. It underlines the invaluable contribution of oral history and ethnographic accounts of community life to understanding not only the past, but the present and future in light of that history.”

As part of her study, Humphries will focus on the activities of individual village committees and the Association for the Defense of the Rights of the Internally Displaced (ADRID) during the period of 1992 to 2006. It was between those years, she says, that village committees were recognized as NGOs under Israeli law and their reclamation activities became linked to “NGO-style lobbying and civil society campaigning.”

Humphries will also utilize existing notes and data that focus on the activist community, including informal and formal interviews with NGO workers, volunteers, and members of individual village committees. She will conduct open-ended interviews with Palestinian refugees from Al-Mujaydil and their families. While her focus is on the individual village committees, Humphries will also investigate the actions of party political groups and NGOs and their relevance to the narrative of displacement.

In a broader context, Humphries believes that “charting identity politics and the new narrative of history emerging from below is an invaluable academic task, addressing the development of grassroots politics that will have a profound impact on the future, not only of Palestinian citizens of Israel, but on the future of Palestine/Israel as a whole.”

Humphries is a doctoral candidate at St. Mary’s College, University of Surrey in the UK. She received her M.A. in Middle East politics and her B.A. in politics and sociology from the University of Durham, UK. This last year she worked as a history teacher in Nazareth. She has also worked as a consultant to the UNDP in Jerusalem and as a freelance journalist.

Isabelle Humphries can be reached by email at isabellebh@hotmail.co.uk.

LANDSCAPING ISRAEL/PALESTINE: TREES AND IDEOLOGY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

hardly naïve: “Although the origin of association of the olive with peace is biblical (the flood, the dove, and the olive branch), the use of the olive in this context is considered ironic by many.”

Finally, Braverman will ask through her fieldwork whether, amidst this bifurcated landscape, there are also subversive undercurrents that undermine the strict polarization of

the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Braverman is currently an associate of the Humanities Center at Harvard University. She was admitted to practice law in Israel in 1996 and holds a Master’s degree in criminology and an LL.B. in law from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Irus Braverman may be reached by email at ibraverman@law.harvard.edu.

DR. ISSAM AL-KHATIB | Enhancing Municipal Solid Waste Management in the Palestinian Territories

Each year, approximately 381,000 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) are collected and dumped in uncontrolled dumping sites in the West Bank—including along roadsides and on vacant property—making the management of solid waste an urgent public policy matter in the Palestinian Territories. According to Dr. Issam Al-Khatib, the problems with solid waste disposal have been exacerbated by the increased number of roadblocks and checkpoints set up since 2000 that restrict access to existing dumping sites, forcing people to use open, uncontrolled sites.

“Municipal solid waste is an issue which has had to be dealt with by all communities all over the world since civilization existed. No matter how efficient a country’s recycling programs are, a certain percentage of MSW (not less than 40% in most cases) still has to go to a landfill.” Al-Khatib also points out that there are a number of factors that affect solid waste management, including land scarcity, political environments, safety issues, and financial constraints. “These make the precise estimation of the amount of MSW a very crucial and tricky task.”

The Palestinian Environmental Strategy (PES) set by the Palestinian Ministry of Environmental Affairs has identified solid waste management as a priority. According to Al-Khatib, the agency’s strategy involves establishing a system that includes setting up collection and transportation systems with 100% population coverage, constructing sanitary landfills for all MSW, preventing open MSW dumping, and closing existing open dumping sites. In addition, the agency would create regulations and an enforcement system for handling hazardous waste.

In order to carry out this mission, it is essential to have the ability to forecast how much and what type of MSW will need to be managed. “There is no model so far that can forecast these amounts,” Al-Khatib says. “A model which can correlate and predict the composition of MSW (e.g., paper, plastic, metal, etc.) will be very helpful in establishing a sound recycl[ing] program for MSW,” Al-Khatib adds. The researcher assumes that the model will also be useful for government environmental strategy planners and to other Middle Eastern countries of similar socio-economic structure.

“The overall objective of this work is to develop an efficient and simple model to be used for the prediction of future generation rates and compositions of MSW in Palestine as a function of an array of key factors, including socio-economic factors.” Al-Khatib’s study will take into consideration factors that include household income, waste collection rates, household sizes, lifestyle factors, and

seasonal variations. “This model will be used by Palestinian municipalities and village councils in different aspects of their MSW management, including MSW collection and transfer, landfill planning, and recycling programs.”

Al-Khatib plans to build his model based on real, current MSW data collected in the Nablus District in order to correlate the per capita amount and composition of MSW with a number of other independent variables to project future generation and composition levels. The District includes Nablus city, four refugee camps, and more than 50 villages. His project calls for collecting and testing field data in collaboration with the municipalities in Nablus District, performing field surveys of residents, and creating a model using specialized commercial software.

Al-Khatib received his Ph.D. in civil engineering from the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. He has extensive research experience and has authored and co-authored more than 30 refereed papers, conference papers, and official scientific reports. He is currently an assistant professor at the Institute of Community and Public Health at Birzeit University in Palestine.

Dr. Issam Al-Khatib can be reached by email at ikhatib@birzeit.edu.



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YAMILA HUSSEIN | Palestinian Intellectuals and Educational Discourse between 1967 and 1993



The Palestinian pursuit of formal education presents a number of paradoxes, especially in light of the national liberation project. According to Yamila Hussein, Palestinians seeking a formal education have faced negative ramifications in that doing so “further contributed to their dispersal, and official curricula negated their national identity [or] at best, blurred it.” How, then, she asks, “does a dispersed society in search of a state address such highly contradictory expectations of education?”

Through her research, Hussein will use discourse analysis to understand the manner in which the public communication of Palestinian intellectuals about the subject of education was affected by how and by whom it was delivered. In particular, she focuses on materials written between 1967 and 1993 as “sites of contestation where the purposes of education were defined, negotiated, and redefined.” She chose this time period, as it was a time when Palestinians had no state or national government per se and little control over their educational policies. She defines her research interests as being focused on “the ways intellectuals embedded educational discourse in secular national aspirations. In other words, how did they envision that education would contribute to the national project?”

Hussein’s early research indicates there was some agreement on the importance of education relative to goals of nationhood, although on “how education would contribute to national independence, there was less clarity.” For the purposes of her study, Hussein will investigate the following:

1. How educational purposes, problems, and solutions were defined by Palestinian intellectuals during this time period.
2. Who participated in the intellectual debates.
3. How intellectuals defined the relationship between their goals for statehood and education.

With Palestinian intellectuals gaining influence after the 1967 war, Hussein believes that their contributions created a unique “Palestinian voice” that “attended to the questions, potentials, and challenges of education and attempted to address and accommodate the common goals but different realities of

the isolated Palestinian communities.” Without the power to take action or affect policies, Hussein views these intellectuals as having “the power of language, through the written text, [which] shaped the public discourse which defined the purposes of education linked to national liberation.”

Hussein will perform an in-depth critical analysis of published Palestinian academic texts centered on education during the 25 years between the 1967 war and the formation of the Palestinian Authority in 1994. She articulates her aim as “to examine these writings not as sources of information, but as sites of contestation,” by understanding the interrelationship among the “what,” “how,” and “by whom” factors. In order to present differing viewpoints that contributed to the social discourse on education, Hussein will use articles written by Palestinian scholars and professionals published in academic journals and periodicals. The articles will be focused on Palestinian education as a main topic, and may be in Arabic or English.

One outcome of her research will be a matrix that identifies various positions on education and how they changed over time. She envisions the data arranged in a template according to four themes: purposes, problems, solutions, and national project. The articles will then be coded and organized in such a way as to elucidate major themes and how they were debated and evolved over time. In addition, Hussein will examine the authorship of each article and how certain factors, such as gender, socio-economic status, and education may have influenced the positions the authors held.

Ultimately, Hussein seeks “to develop a theory on the relationship between education and the national project.” To do so, she must understand the evolution of ideas about education and its relationship with the Palestinian goal of nationhood during this period. “This will contribute to the development of a historical framework for Palestinian education from the perspective of Palestinian actors. Such a framework will inform current debates within Palestinian society around how best to utilize education to support the type of society and state to which [Palestinians] aspire.”

Hussein received her undergraduate degree from Al-Quds University in Jerusalem, and her master’s in community and popular education from Harvard University, where she is currently a doctoral candidate in education.

Yamila Hussein can be reached by email at husseiya@gse.harvard.edu.

GHADA AL MADBOUH | Bound Together by Their Limitations and Shared Identity

Palestinians had their first democratic presidential election in 1996. In the 2005 elections, Mahmoud Abbas succeeded Yassir Arafat. In the course of the Oslo process and more recently the second Intifada, new groups, with different ideologies, have entered the Palestinian political arena. Despite ideological differences, there have been instances of cooperation during the second Intifada among the “Islamist” Hamas, the “leftist” Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), and the young generation of Fatah, which has a joint secular and Islamist orientation. In addition, new groups have emerged, such as:

- Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (the military wing of Fatah)
- The independent Islamic group, Popular Resistance Committee (affiliated with Fatah)
- Saraaya Al-Quds (the military wing of Islamic Jihad)
- Abu Ali Mustafa Brigade (the military wing of PFLP)

These different actors have engaged in limited joint political activities, such as talks, strikes, protests, and military actions.

Instances of cooperation have occurred among different actors and parties, among which there are no specific strategic partners in the Palestinian national movement. These instances include, for example, the local committees’ election that took place on 16 December 2005, when Fatah and PFLP formed a coalition and entered local elections with joint lists of candidates, especially in big cities like Ramallah, hoping to offset any victory by the Islamist Hamas. The election was followed by the claim, a day later, by Saraaya Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades of joint responsibility for an attack in Southern Hebron Hills.

However, lasting cooperation has not yet been achieved and ideological divides still exist with respect to the main principles and values of each party. Still, understanding the relationship among the different political actors in the Palestinian political arena might indicate how political actors perceive each other as well as how they are moving toward greater toleration by means of mutual recognition. This knowledge might also shed light on our understanding of the quality of Palestinian pluralism and democracy.

In her research, AlMadbouh will explore instances in which various political actors with ideological disagreement cooperate. She will focus especially on what drives the cooperation as well as whether such cooperation might lead to strategic ideological or other types of alliances.

The literature on democratization, social movements, and Islamic activism points to the cooperation among divergent actors, and, above all, to cooperation among moderates and radicals. It also shows

how the dynamics of interaction develop between the government and moderates as well as radicals during democratization. AlMadbouh’s research endeavors to disaggregate groups such as Islamists, leftists, and Fatah beyond the radical-moderate ideological dichotomy. In addition, in order to understand cross-ideological cooperation, the role of ideology and how it shifts will be explored. Cross-ideological cooperation will be examined both as a short-term objective and as a long-term strategy. That is, cooperation might be instant, working to satisfy certain immediate and practical goals, or it might reflect an ideological shift that leads to long term alliances.

Relational perspective is a promising one for studying cooperation through identifying causal mechanisms and processes that lead to cooperation. The main idea is to identify important features of episodes and to explain how they work by focusing on robust mechanisms within these episodes. AlMadbouh seeks to uncover the recurrent links between the mechanisms that constitute complex processes. Using the above perspective, this research should generate hypotheses about cross-ideological cooperation. Also it will provide a deeper understanding of the Palestinian national movement as well as the relationships of the main activists and the potential for pluralism.

AlMadbouh’s study will utilize a case study approach. In order to illuminate observations about cross-ideological cooperation, she will conduct in-depth interviews with participants in cross-ideological cooperation and decision-makers, especially leaders of political parties, influential activists, independent political characters, and academics.

AlMadbouh completed her undergraduate degree in commerce and political science at Birzeit University in Ramallah and holds a master’s degree in political science and international relations from the University of Maryland, where she is currently a doctoral student in the department of government and politics.

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(Editor’s Note: The profile published here reflects revisions and corrections to one inadvertently published in the Spring 2006 Newsletter.)



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