

## PALESTINIAN AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER

### Reflections on the 2012 Faculty Development Seminar



*The Manara Square in Ramallah*

In late May of this year, PARC had the privilege of leading 10 U.S. faculty members on our second Faculty Development Seminar (FDS). Funded entirely from private donations specifically for the FDS, our donors demonstrated their deep commitment to this activity as particularly valuable to continue. Only one of the FDS professors had traveled to Palestine before. They came to meet with colleagues at five Palestinian universities; tour the old cities of Jerusalem, Nablus and Hebron; participate in a roundtable discussion with Palestinian scholars; and visit several Palestinian NGOs, ranging from a research center to a music school. What follows are ex-

cerpts from some of their published articles, reports on their ongoing work and connections, and reflections on their experiences.

#### **Chris Corley**

In addition to several articles that I wrote for the local newspaper while on my trip, I've given talks at a local historical society and a church, and have more scheduled in January. In June, Minnesota State Mankato hosted the Dean of Birzeit University's Faculty of Nursing and Allied Health Professions for a two-day visit to discuss collaboration. I am teaching a one-credit seminar on the conflict this semester to our hon-

ors students and am arranging for them to have the opportunity to discuss issues and ideas with students from Birzeit University.

**Excerpt from "Widening the Lens: The challenge of higher ed in the West Bank" in *The Mankato Free Press*, May 29, 2011.**

"Our group visited five university campuses in the West Bank. During each visit, we received campus tours from students or public relations officials prior to meetings with faculty and administration for the rest of the day. As we walked around the campuses and listened to the faculty, two points became increasingly clear. The conflict is never very far from the minds of those who work and study on the campuses,



*PARC/IJS roundtable*

and Palestinians who serve in higher education have a patient hope that their work will bring about a better, more prosperous and peaceful future for all.

Professors prepare for their semesters knowing that their courses might be interrupted. Blockades or strikes sometimes halt classes, and checkpoints close without warning. Staff at Hebron University, to the south of Bethlehem,

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**Please RENEW your PARC membership today and consider a donation to support scholarship on Palestine. (See back page for details.)**

# Around the PARC

By Penelope Mitchell, Executive Director



As most of you know by now, May brought a funding crisis to PARC in the form of the U.S. Department of Education's cancellation of its American Overseas Research Centers program. This program represented the entirety of our funding for our Palestine office, as well as support for other vital U.S. activities, such as the website and this newsletter. I am delighted to report that PARC supporters have rallied in terms of advocating on our behalf and contributing many generous donations. We have been working hard at fundraising for the last several months and are hopeful that our efforts will be successful. Your continued support is deeply appreciated.

Due to funding uncertainty in May, we decided to postpone issuing our Spring newsletter. With adequate funds now in place for the newsletters, we wanted you to receive our Fall issue in time to benefit from our MESA highlights. The "Spring" issue will be mailed in mid-December.

Despite these obstacles, there is also good news. This is a banner year for PARC fellowships with **21 fellows for 2011**. Eleven of the fellows are from Palestine, thanks to notable funding that we received from Palestinian institutions and individual donors committed to supporting Palestinian fellowships. Ten fellows are from the United States, funded by the U.S. Department of State's Educational and Cultural Affairs Bureau, a long-time supporter of PARC. We have fourteen women and seven men. Among these fellows, there are fifteen doctoral candidates and six post-doctoral scholars. In addition to doctoral students and faculty members from an-Najah, Bethlehem, Al Quds, and the Islamic University of Gaza, Hebrew and Tel Aviv universities are represented. There are nine U.S. universities, three in England, and even one in New Zealand among the fellows' home institutions. This demonstrates quite a remarkable scope for PARC. The fields of study reflect a wide variety of interests, including research in anthropology, history, political science, education, media, geography, business, urban planning, social work and sociology. Additionally, we have three Palestinian researchers focusing their studies on hypertension, a serious and growing health problem in Palestine. This issue includes profiles for 10 of our 2011 fellows. The remaining profiles will appear in the Spring 2012 issue.

In addition to these research fellowships, thanks to the generosity of Phil Schrodt, PARC was able to confer **two Gerner awards** this year to Palestinian master's degree students.

We are pleased to announce **four competitions for this year**. In addition to our U.S. and Palestinian research fellowship programs, we are delighted to announce a new **Getty Research Exchange Fellowship Program** for the Mediterranean Basin and Middle East that concentrates on art history with programs in Algeria and Turkey. We are also committed to offering our third annual Faculty Development Seminar in 2012, pending secure funding for this critical program.

The U.S. professors who joined our **second Faculty Development Seminar** offer their reflections on their experiences in this issue. Their writings attest to the powerfully transformative nature of this trip and its significance for increasing interest and knowledge about Palestine among U.S. faculty members.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the annual meeting of the **Middle East Studies Association** in Washington, D.C., December 1-4. PARC's panel this year, "Theorizing the Palestinian Colonial: Segregation and Subjects," brings five Palestinian women to deliver their papers on Friday at 4:30 PM. Immediately following the panel, we welcome all of you to join us from 6:30 to 7:00 PM in the same room as our panel to meet and network with scholars interested in Palestine. Though our scarcity of funds prevents us from being able to offer food and drink, we look forward to much camaraderie and hope you will be there to demonstrate your support for PARC. A guide to panels and presentations on Palestine, as well as a listing of PARC fellows and board members delivering papers on other subjects, appear elsewhere in this issue.

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## Palestinian American Research Center Newsletter Fall 2011

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This newsletter is published twice yearly, spring and fall, by the Palestinian American Research Center. Material for publication in the newsletter may be submitted to the U.S. office. PARC does not guarantee that any materials submitted will be published in its newsletter or in any other publication under its control. Publication by PARC will be determined solely by its officers and directors on a space-available basis.



Our **Palestine Advisory Board** welcomes seven new members to our board of ten, infusing the board with renewed energy and commitment to PARC. We held the new board's first meeting at our Ramallah office in May and are grateful for the service of these distinguished scholars and professionals. A full listing of our Advisory Board members is found on page 2. Their full biographies will be posted on our website soon.

PARC welcomes our **new administrative assistant**, Basma Guthrie, who is in her



first year of the Arab Studies M.A. program at Georgetown University. Basma graduated from Smith College with a B.A. in anthropology and a concentration in African studies and development. She acquired her Arabic nickname, which means "smile," while studying in Tunisia. She worked in Amman where she taught at AMIDEAST and later was with the communications office of the NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq. Last summer, she was with PARC's sister center in Amman, the American Center of Oriental Research, where she helped organize the Critical Language Scholarship program. Basma's academic focus lies in the transformation of colonial legacies, particularly in occupied Palestine and Iraq. Currently, she is researching the international Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement. She looks forward to assisting PARC in enriching and supporting Palestinian studies.

Hopefully you have recently visited the PARC website and seen our new **Jerusalem Archives**. Philip Mattar, who has shepherded this project since its inception, presents an article in this issue describing PARC's annotated listing of many of the rich archival resources in Jerusalem.

## Jerusalem Archives and Libraries Project

By Philip Mattar

A founder and Board member of PARC

Recently PARC completed a survey of 22 Palestinian, Western, and Israeli archives and libraries in Jerusalem that have holdings covering Palestine and the Palestinians. The survey includes the general holdings of each institution, as well as practical data such as each institution's accessibility, contacts, location, and hours of operation. You may access the Jerusalem archives and libraries on our website at this address: <http://parc-uspal.org/resources/jerusalemArchives.htm>.

Jerusalem is rich in archives with valuable material that documents the long history of the city, Palestine, and the Palestinians, for whom the city was the administrative capital for most of Palestine for centuries. Jerusalem was home to major institutions—such as *Shari'a* courts and churches, as well as family libraries—that housed valuable records of the city's religious, political, and social life. Yet researchers interested in Palestine and the Palestinians might not know of the existence of these archives and libraries, nor about their contents and accessibility. Consistent with PARC's mission to promote Palestinian studies, PARC applied for and received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access (TIC-FIA) program through the American Institute for Yemeni Studies (AIYS) and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) to survey the archives and libraries in East Jerusalem, while the Albright Institute surveyed those in West Jerusalem. The project was titled Local Archives and Libraries at Overseas Research Centers (LALORC) and was under the larger rubric of the Digital Library for International Research <http://www.dliir.org>.

But which institutions to survey? For that, we were guided by a group of Palestinian scholars who held a workshop in May 2004 in Ramallah. The workshop was chaired by Ibrahim Dakkak and included George Hintilian, Penny Johnson, Adel Manna', Issam Nassar, Khader Salameh, Salim Tamari, and Nazmi Jubeh. These scholars identified most of the institutions that were eventually surveyed. Under the direction of

Penelope Mitchell (PARC's U.S. Executive Director) and Hadeel Qazzaz (PARC's Palestine Director), two workshop participants—Khader Salameh (Director of the Islamic Museum and al-Aqsa Library), Nazmi Jubeh (professor at Birzeit University and co-director of al-Riwaq Center), with the addition of Randa Kamal (Librarian at al-Quds University)—undertook the survey. While serving the need of the overall project coordinated by Diane Ryan, PARC also adapted the survey for the needs of PARC and its website. What we wanted was not just an overview of each institution's holdings, but practical data as well: names, addresses, hours of operation, accessibility to researchers, internet access, availability of fax machines, and the like. The raw data and the various forms of transliteration had to be heavily edited and systematized, all under the capable leadership of Penelope Mitchell, working with Abbie Taylor. This entire project, consuming a major expenditure of time, was an admirable team effort of dedicated people primarily at CAORC, AIYS, PARC USA, and PARC Palestine, to whom we are most grateful.

I always considered this project as part of a larger one. My dream since we first established PARC in 1998 was to construct an indispensable website that would serve the needs of scholars interested in research on Palestine and the Palestinians. So far, we at PARC have put together one of the best annotated bibliographies and chronologies on the Palestinians anywhere. The survey of archives and libraries is part of this overall effort. Eventually I hope the PARC survey will include information not just from 22 libraries in Jerusalem, but also from other parts of Palestine and those in Israel, the Arab world, Europe (especially the UK), and the United States. With this resource, anyone wanting to write about Palestine and the Palestinians would have the opportunity to view the general contents and accessibility of these institutions before starting this journey. Ultimately, with primary material on the Palestinians more accessible, scholars will be better able to understand Palestinian social, historical, cultural and political environments.

## **Reflections on the 2012 Faculty Development Seminar**

*(continued from page 1)*

claimed that Israeli authorities culled through their library book orders. Memorials to students killed in the conflict sit near the center of many campuses. In this context, pursuing a university education takes on layers of meanings that go unnoticed in more serene surroundings. Themes of emancipation and freedom are woven into courses in diverse disciplines, and students are encouraged to think independently about identifying problems and posing solutions for them. Professors described how



*Jerusalem with guide Mahmoud Jadeh*

courses that explored different cultures and places allow the students to see their own situation in a broader context, and gave them hope that they could be agents of change for their own lives... This message of persistence and hope was repeated among the faculty at universities throughout our visit. As a whole, faculty and administrators see themselves as "building capacity" for a better Palestine, regardless of the specific political solutions that develop. Although many faculty hold Ph.D.s from international institutions, building a consistent research agenda is very difficult because the scholars are relatively isolated, mobility is limited and funding is scarce for such endeavors. A lack of research capacity means that Palestine will

have to look elsewhere for innovations rather than developing them at home.

Faculty and student exchanges remain difficult. All of the universities are moving toward developing further international exposure for their students and faculty, but the more serious problems lie with visitors coming to the West Bank. With the exception of a program or two, only European universities send visiting students and faculty in consistent numbers. Few Americans visit and study in the West Bank, which is why we came. Meeting potential partners and learning about their institutions occupied our main business activities each



*Al-Kamandjti with Ramzi Aburedwan and PARC fellow Nili Belkind*

a method that would be familiar to many university presidents in the United States. To walk across the campus of Birzeit is to see new buildings encased in modern architectural features of glass and stonework, with the names of prominent donors inscribed across the front. These donors are mostly Palestinian, with many having earned their considerable wealth working in the Persian Gulf, an economic consequence of the diaspora created through years of conflict and displacement...

Yet, as with many aspects of life within the West Bank, vulnerabilities and general uncertainty remain. Despite investment in infrastructure, endowments appear to be next to nothing, with tuition allocations providing much of the income for annual budgets. More significant, these universities have not been immune to the ongoing political situation. Students face recurring difficulties with commuting to school through roadblocks and checkpoints. During the brief Israeli invasion of Bethlehem in 2001, two buildings on the university campus were hit by missile strikes.

The larger point to be made, though, is that, despite such setbacks, enrollment continues, a reflection of the importance of education and, indeed, its valued portability for a people that has faced the predicament of displacement for six decades."

### **Jess White**

Through participation in the Faculty Development Seminar, I was able to engage with perspectives from the academic world that would usually not be as accessible through other political

day. Although some lifelong professional and institutional relationships may emerge, it seemed to me that many faculty were happy to have us listen, to understand their stories from their perspective. In the end, that may be the most important outcome of all."

### **Christopher Lee**

**Excerpt from "Beyond the madrasa paradigm" in *Foreign Policy*, June 16, 2011**

"... the most significant quality among these schools is the level of active investment being made into their programs and infrastructure. With the exception of Hebron, each of these universities is attracting donations through

or solidarity activities. As a professor of anthropology, I am concerned with how students gain their knowledge, and how it is applied to real-world settings. Being able to speak with students and faculty at the institutions in the West Bank has provided me great insight into the role that we all have to play in ensuring that our next generation of leaders, be they American or Palestinian, have access to and experience with an educational system that is nurturing, stimulating, and productive.



*Al-Amari refugee camp*

What I witnessed in looking at the challenges Palestinian students face seemed unreal: evidence of bomb blasts and bullet barrages in campus buildings; libraries that are unable to procure some of the basic textbooks for subjects because they must meet the restrictions of Israeli occupation policies; students literally unable to reach campuses due to roadblocks and military checkpoints; portions of the "Security Barrier" (née, *Wall*) running through campus grounds; Israeli watchtowers monitoring campus activity and movement; and student body leaders being harassed, arrested, and jailed indefinitely. Yet students continue to attend and excel at universities. I am inspired by the attitude of Palestinian faculty as they attempt to balance the social chaos caused by the continued Israeli occupation with the expression of resilience by a population who demand to continue living. I bring these stories back to our own students through my teaching in the areas of cultural anthropology and regional studies. Additionally, I am in the final stages of completing a peer-reviewed publication on economic adaptation by Palestinian women, and have additional

projects ready to start. I will be returning to the West Bank in the next 12 months to continue my work on economic development, women's empowerment, and peace building and hope to continue to foster the relationships that were started during the FDS.

### **John Ferré**

The Issues Class at a church in Louisville invited me to speak about my trip to East Jerusalem and the West Bank last May. I began by saying that I would not propose a way through the stalled peace process in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. "If I had a solution," I said, "I would be giving this talk in Stockholm, not in Louisville." Then I proceeded to share what I saw and heard on PARC's Faculty Development Seminar on Palestine. I told them about the settlements. I explained how Israel's relentless expansion into the West Bank and East Jerusalem displaces Palestinians, impedes commerce, and makes a mockery of claims to peacemaking. I showed photographs of refugee camps, enclaves that crowd increasing numbers of Palestinians into grim and unsafe structures. I described the frustration of chemists at Birzeit University who cannot obtain most chemicals and much technology for their laboratories. I also relayed the pride of the women's cooperative that took first place in an international competition for the couscous they produced. And I



*Lunch with Hebron University Chairman Nabil Al-Jabari*

recalled the music school that adds beauty to the lives of children growing up under military occupation in Palestinian villages and refugee camps.

The talk highlighted what I witnessed on the PARC trip to the occupied Palestinian territories: ongoing Israeli expansion, contradicting hopes for a negotiated end to the occupation, as well as hospitality, pride, hope, and frustration on the part of Palestinians. If there was an object lesson for me, it occurred at the Golden Walls Hotel in East Jerusalem where we stayed. One night as we processed what we had learned that day, English pilgrims began a sing-along, accompanied by the upright piano in the lobby. They sang "Daisy Bell" and "It's a Long Way to Tipperary," songs popular even before the British Mandate in Palestine, songs that expressed the pil-

*continued on page 11*



*The wall in Bethlehem*

## 2011-2012 FELLOWS' PROFILES



### **Maher Khmour**

#### **Prevalence, Awareness, Treatment, and Control of Hypertension in the Palestinian Population**

Substantial socioeconomic and demographic changes have taken place in countries of the Eastern Mediterranean region over the past two decades. The population of this region has almost doubled, more people are living to an older age, and the proportion of the urban population is increasing. The transition from a rural to urban lifestyle is associated with deterioration in the cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk profile because of adverse changes in dietary habits and patterns of physical activity.

Several lines of evidence suggest that hypertension and its complications are a major health problem in Palestine. The incidence of blood pressure-related clinical events, such as myocardial infarction, stroke, and end-stage renal disease, appears to be dramatically increasing. Vital statistics, such as cause-specific mortality and hospitalization discharge diagnoses, along with clinical observations support this notion. The prevalence, awareness, treatment, and control of hypertension have not yet been carefully studied in the West Bank. Maher Khmour's project has the following objectives: (1) to determine the prevalence of hypertension and blood pressure-related pre-

clinical and clinical complications in Palestinian adults, (2) to identify environmental factors associated with high blood pressure, and (3) to build an infrastructure for research and education on cardiovascular disease prevention in Palestine.

Three Palestinian communities in Nablus (Northern West Bank), Ramallah (Central West Bank) and Hebron (Southern West Bank) will be surveyed between May and September 2011. Urban and rural communities will be included in the survey. A stratified sampling method will be used to select a nationally representative sample of the general population, ages 20 to 75 years, to identify people who are hypertensive (i.e., those with systolic pressure  $\geq 140$  mm Hg and/or diastolic pressure  $\geq 90$  mm Hg). Medication utilization, control of hypertension, complications, and awareness related to hypertension will be identified and documented.

Khmour will develop a database from his study that can provide relevant information to scientists, medical providers, and public health communities in the West Bank. He intends to publish and disseminate the results from this study to provide a key data source underpinning medical practices in the area of hypertension management. His research will also provide the scientific basis for launching national initiatives focusing on the prevention of blood pressure-related clinical complications in Palestinian adults. Additionally, Khmour's research has the potential to serve as a valuable model for future surveys of hypertension and other chronic diseases in developing countries.

Dr. Maher Khmour is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy and Practice at Al-Quds University. He may be reached at [maher.khmour@gmail.com](mailto:maher.khmour@gmail.com).



### **Yasin Tayem**

#### **Correlates of Hypertension among Adolescents in the West Bank**

The early onset of obesity and elevated blood pressure has potential public health affects because it is associated with the development of cardiovascular diseases, hyperlipidemia, and diabetes mellitus. The prevalence of pediatric primary hypertension and obesity in developing countries has increased over the last three decades. However, these major health concerns remain largely understudied, under-diagnosed, and under-treated. Yasin Tayem's study explores the relationship between high blood pressure, obesity, and a family history of

hypertension among Palestinian adolescents. This is likely to be the first study investigating this major health issue among youth in the West Bank.

This cross-sectional, school-based study targets 400 randomly selected boys and girls aged 14 to 18 years from four public and private schools in Bethany and Abu Dis, West Bank. Tayem will collect data concerning the body mass index (BMI), blood pressure, and family history of hypertension for each individual in the sample. Students will be considered hypertensive or obese if their blood pressure or BMI exceed the ninety-fifth percentile for their respective age and gender.

An understanding of the correlates of early hypertension will help identify risk factors occurring at a young age and guide the development of pediatric programs focusing on hypertension and obesity prevention in Palestine.

Yasin Tayem is an Assistant Professor of Pharmacology at Al-Quds University School of Medicine. He may be reached at [yasin.tayem@gmail.com](mailto:yasin.tayem@gmail.com).



## **Rowa' Al-Ramahi**

### **Factors Associated with Adherence to Medications among Hypertensive Patients: A Survey Study in Palestine**

Hypertension remains an important public health challenge and one of the most important risk factors for coronary heart disease, stroke, heart failure, and end-stage renal disease. Lowering blood pressure with antihypertensive drugs reduces the risks of cardiovascular events, stroke, and total mortality. However, poor adherence to antihypertensive medications reduces their effectiveness and increases the risk of adverse events and health care costs. Hypertension and its complications are very common among the elderly in Palestine. Rowa Al-Ramahi's study aims to measure adherence to antihypertensive therapy in a representative sample of the hypertensive Palestinian population, and investigate factors

associated with adherence and non-compliance in the studied population.

The study will be a questionnaire-based, cross-sectional descriptive study. It will be undertaken at a group of outpatient hypertension clinics of the Ministry of Health, in addition to a group of private clinics and pharmacies in the West Bank. Researchers will ask patients who visit the selected clinics and pharmacies and meet the study's inclusion criteria to answer the questionnaire. Statistical analyses will be performed on the ensuing data.

Studies on patient compliance with medications are very limited in Palestine. It is likely that this will be the first study to investigate the rate of medication adherence and the factors associated with non-compliance in a representative sample of hypertensive patients from the West Bank. This study will help policy makers in Palestine design and implement health education strategies to reduce non-compliance, and thus contribute toward reducing national health care expenditures.

Rowa' Al-Ramahi is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Department of Pharmacy at an-Najah University. She may be reached at [rowa\\_ramahi@yahoo.com](mailto:rowa_ramahi@yahoo.com).



## **Usamah Shahwan**

### **Compatibility of Business Curriculum at Palestinian Universities with Actual Demands of the Local Market, as Perceived by Business Graduates and Private Sector Managers**

With the rate of unemployment among Palestinian youth reaching 20 percent in the West Bank and 30 percent in Gaza according to the latest statistics published by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, job creation has become a challenge of paramount importance for policy-makers in the occupied Palestinian territories. Unemployment has been a major cause for the emigration of large numbers of Palestinian university graduates in recent years, resulting in the serious depletion of skilled human resources. Usamah Shahwan believes that local universities, and particularly the faculties of business administration that graduate hundreds of students each year, are partly responsible for the problem.

Many business graduates find that the skills that they acquire through their college education are not congruent with the

actual demands of the market. Shahwan's informal meetings and encounters with both alumni and company managers indicate a lack of what is scientifically referred to as "content validity" between the curriculum of business faculties and market needs. Shahwan feels that the issue requires further investigation with thorough field research that considers the opinions of both company managers and a large sample of business graduates who work in the Palestinian private sector. Shahwan's research design adopts a descriptive analytic approach and the methodology includes empirical data collection techniques of structured questionnaires and in-depth interviews, preceded by focus groups conducted for the purpose of gaining more insight into the problem.

The findings will have significant implications for designing business curricula in Palestinian universities, which normally adopt, without modification, curriculum used in more advanced, industrial countries. If the research results confirm the main hypothesis of the study, then Palestinian universities should start addressing the matter in earnest to build more solid bridges between the academic and business communities. Educational and private sector partnerships of this nature remain a cornerstone of any sound policy for economic development.

Usamah Shahwan is an Associate Professor of Business Administration at Bethlehem University. He may be reached at [usamas@bethlehem.edu](mailto:usamas@bethlehem.edu).

## 2011-2012 FELLOWS' PROFILES



### **Eman Alzaanin**

**The Interplay among  
Palestinian EFL Writing  
Instructors' Beliefs,  
Practices and Context and  
their Impacts on Students**

Eman Alzaanin's study investigates Palestinian English language teachers' beliefs about approaches to teaching writing in English as a foreign language (EFL) classes and the impact of these beliefs on their classroom practices. This study will also include the students' perceptions of their teachers' instructional approaches, which is important in light of the consensus in ESL/EFL research literature that teachers' beliefs have a critical impact on the way they teach in the classroom.

In addition to determining grades on tests and research papers, writing also provides a tool for supporting and extending students' learning of content material. After graduation, writing is considered an essential skill for employment and promotion, especially for jobs with international organizations and governmental agencies where employees are expected to create clearly written documents, technical reports, and emails. Another motive for conducting this research is that teaching and learning EFL writing are demanding and challenging tasks. Being in a non-English speaking environment, Palestinian uni-

versity EFL writers have no person to turn to when producing academic written work, other than their writing teachers.

With the objective to render an in-depth depiction of EFL writing teachers' beliefs and practices and their impact on their students' perception, Alzaanin's study adopts a qualitative design within the paradigm of social constructivism and the tradition of grounded theory. In-depth qualitative interviews, classroom observations, and document analysis will be used to collect the data. The data will then be rigorously analyzed through a systematic process of coding, categorization, and theoretical development to produce findings that are grounded in teachers' personal comments and lived experiences.

In addition to contributing to an increasing volume of scholarship on studies of teachers' beliefs, Alzaanin's study will address a gap in the literature relating to the context of less developed, non-Western countries, where teachers are non-native speakers of the target language and teach large classes of learners with mixed abilities/levels. To date, EFL writing research in Palestine has focused on issues related to students' linguistic problems with writing or on the relationship between writing and reading. Studying teachers' beliefs and practices may help raise teachers' awareness of limits in their current knowledge and promote self-reflection about their teaching methods. Finally, Alzaanin hopes her study may stimulate similar work that can inform educators, policy makers, and other stakeholders and provide a basis for improving education in Palestine.

Eman Alzaanin is a doctoral candidate in education at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. She may be reached at [ezaanin@yahoo.com](mailto:ezaanin@yahoo.com).



### **Ryvka M. Barnard**

**Tourism in Bethlehem:  
The Politics of  
Representation**

Ryvka Barnard's research focuses on the practices, politics, and meanings of contemporary tourism in the Palestinian West Bank city of Bethlehem. Through ethnographic research, including interviews with diverse participants in the Palestinian and Israeli tourism industries, she explores the ways in which tourism in Bethlehem operates, and particularly the ways in which narratives about the city are developed as reflections of political circumstances.

Tourism provides a lens through which important political insights can be gained by critically viewing what is often otherwise seen as an arena of simply cultural or economic concern. There is ample data available on tourism statistics, and projected outcomes of investment in tourism in Bethlehem. However, there is a gap in research focusing on the material and discursive production of tourism as an economic industry and as a pedagogical space through which narratives of history and heritage are shaped, promoted, and oftentimes changed to account for dynamic political and social realities.

Through her research, Barnard will try to fill this gap by studying street-level operations of the tourism industry in Bethlehem. She also will explore the role that tourism has played in diplomatic negotiations with Israel, as well as development projects undertaken by the Palestinian Authority and international donors.

Ryvka Barnard is a doctoral candidate at New York University in the department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. She may be reached at [ryvka@nyu.edu](mailto:ryvka@nyu.edu).



**Toufic Haddad**  
**Political Economy of  
Neoliberal International  
Approaches to Conflict  
Resolution, State Building  
and Development in the  
Occupied Palestinian  
Territories, 1993 - Present**

Contemporary neoliberal development praxis of Western donor governments and international financial institutions is premised upon the assumption that economic and political liberalization is the winning formula for achieving sustained economic and social development. In the context of the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt), the lack of statehood and the persistence of the national liberation modality have meant that the very instruments for leveraging any kind of macro-developmental approach have always been in non-Palestinian hands. The neoliberal agenda purports to support the creation of a Palestinian state, albeit in its own image. Exogenous efforts for state building dovetail with the endogenous impetus of the PLO leadership, influencing or recreating pre-existing modes of social, economic, and political conduct, together with their affiliated circuits and patterns of exchange,

movement, and socialization from the governmental level down to the grassroots. Toufic Haddad's research delineates the specific architecture and practices of the neoliberal conflict resolution and state building agenda by exploring policies and projects where the exogenous and endogenous trajectories meet. Moreover, this research analyzes how the balance of forces within Palestinian society and politics is influenced by this agenda and its respective agents, transforming economic realities, social relations, and political ideas.

Haddad's research will employ a macroeconomic approach, concentrating on the overall patterns to emerge from neoliberalism's praxis across various sectors of the political, social, and economic fabric of Palestinian life in the oPt. While Haddad's approach is rooted in political economy, he will compare mainstream theories, policies, and practices with reality on the ground.

This research will contribute new insights about the particular architecture, tools, mechanisms, and features of contemporary neoliberal conflict resolution/state building praxis. More specifically, Haddad will examine to what extent efforts aimed at reconstituting a new Palestinian social order and political reality were successful, and shed light upon the role of the state and social engineering practices in the world today, and particularly within colonial contexts.

Toufic Haddad is a doctoral candidate in the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London. He may be reached at [298377@soas.ac.uk](mailto:298377@soas.ac.uk).



**Suzanne Schneider**  
**Religious Education  
in British Mandatory  
Palestine**

Suzanne Schneider's research explores the dynamics of religious education among Jewish and Muslim communities in Mandatory Palestine. Identified by nationalists and reformers across the colonial world as a crucial component of identity formation, education represented an explosive field of confrontation between competing forces over the right to define its proper structure, content, and purpose. Despite their differences, Schneider argues, Jewish and Islamic Modernist movements shared many of the same anxieties and singled out education as the leading agent of social change. Both viewed their efforts as liberationist vis-à-vis the political, economic, and cultural power of Christian Europe on one hand, and the traditional religious order on the other. These movements came face-to-face with

the British colonial administration in Palestine that introduced its own distinct ideas about religious education and the communities that imparted it.

Schneider's project advances the theoretical proposition that a comparative study of Arab and Jewish Modernism can be historically substantiated by examining the role of religious education within the matrix of national reform projects. She also aims to bridge the gap between opposing narratives: social change among subaltern peoples conceptualized as the result of an organically generated internal process, versus the process of reform viewed as external manipulation by European power.

Schneider hopes that her research will demonstrate how religious education operates as a major factor that positions Jewish and Islamic Modernism in Palestine as parallel, not simply rival, movements. Schneider believes that this perspective is key to understanding the limits of the colonizer/colonized binary that is often applied to the roots of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and as such, can help inform attempts to bring about its resolution.

Suzanne Schneider is a doctoral candidate at Columbia University. She may be reached at [sfs2001@columbia.edu](mailto:sfs2001@columbia.edu).

## 2011-2012 FELLOWS' PROFILES



### **Sahera Bleibleh**

**Everyday Life:  
Spatial Oppression  
and Resilience under the  
Israeli Occupation: The  
Case of the Old Town of  
Nablus, Palestine**

The fabric and order of the old town of Nablus, which contains many buildings of cultural, religious and historic significance, has always maintained a certain archaic simplicity. The old town has the flexibility to incorporate both the physical needs of its current inhabitants and the historical, social, and cultural past of their ancestors. Furthermore, Sahera Bleibleh argues, the actual structure of the old town provides a critical dimension of its resilience to withstand continuous Israeli occupation.

Bleibleh's research focuses on the relationships between social and political products of space and the processes of its production and operation in order to study and conceptualize the different layers embedded within: (1) the everyday living experiences and practices under Israeli occupation, (2) the Israeli military invasion of the old town of Nablus in 2002, (3) the spatial consequences of damages to the old town after the 2002 invasion, and (4) the dynamics of relations between

people and institutions involved in repairing damages after the 2002 invasion.

The responsive ways in which everyday patterns of living in the old town of Nablus adapted to socio-economic needs, particularly in a time of rapid political change, is a phenomenon that deserves scholars' attention. Bleibleh's research takes into consideration how residents in the old town of Nablus interacted and transformed the space, mainly in response to destruction caused by Israeli military operations and the Israeli occupation. She also focuses on local people's and institutions' construction projects in the old town, where they built a space of resilience despite oppression. Bleibleh's ethnographic research aims to document this phenomenon using descriptive, investigative, and interpretive approaches. She will conduct her fieldwork using participant observation, interviews, mapping, photographs, narratives, and literature.

Understanding the old town's everyday dynamic strengths in response to military occupation will make it possible for urban planners to learn more about grassroots planning processes, thus enabling urban planning institutions and other parties to propose more effective ways to address the needs of residents who live in a constant state of uncertainty. Bleibleh's study will document not only Israeli strategies of oppression in the space of the old town, but also will propose planning policies and interventions to deal with this reality.

Sahera Bleibleh is a doctoral candidate in Urban Design and Planning at the University of Washington, Seattle. She can be reached at [bleibleh@uw.edu](mailto:bleibleh@uw.edu).



### **Emilie Le Febvre**

**The Production of Visual  
Knowledge in the Naqab:  
Palestinian Bedouin  
Engagement with the  
Visual Archive and  
Indigenous Media**

Over the last twenty years, the Naqab Bedouin have been creating 'new knowledge' about their community by collecting statistics, recording local socio-economic conditions, and remapping their geographical presence in the region. This 'new knowledge' has resulted in greater regional and international recognition of the Bedouin, yet Emilie Le Febvre suggests that a significant and unexplored aspect of this enterprise is how visual materials are used by Bedouin, their unique techniques for appropriating them, and the issues of contention surrounding image-based representations and authority in their community.

Le Febvre's research will document how Bedouin engage visual materials by investigating social practices associated with the collection of historical photographs and production of contemporary indigenous media. Her fieldwork employs methods such as interviews, historiographical surveys, photo/film elicitation, and participant observation to examine diverging visual knowledge claims in the Naqab. She will begin by surveying the display of archival photos that hold particular significance for community members in venues such as guest reception areas, community centers, and local museums. She suggests that one of most powerful sites for projecting Bedouin identity is the selection and display of photographs in public spaces. The second part of her study investigates the production of indigenous media by Palestinian Bedouin and their engagement with local media outlets, photographers, and film producers. It specifically focuses on the making of documentaries about Palestinian Bedouin society.

Le Febvre contends that the rereading and creation of visual images has become a highly contested, political activity that

*continued on page 13*

## **Reflections on the 2012 Faculty Development Seminar**

*(continued from page 5)*

grims' sentimentalism as well as their apparent obliviousness to the oppression experienced by Palestinians who live in occupied East Jerusalem. Witnessing this disheartening experience reminded me that travelers often see only what they expect to see before they leave home, a common scenario that the PARC seminar challenged.

### **Denise DeGarmo**

The trip afforded me first-hand experience with the politics of occupation. Being able to speak with scholars and see the various ways in which the Israeli government uses "occupation" to annex desired territories and control people cannot be understood from the western narrative. Therefore, this experience helped me to create a more objective narrative to present to the public in my region. I have made several presentations to the local community including a community center, a women's organization, and my university.

I will be presenting a conference paper entitled "Defying Rules of Conflict Resolution: The Case of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict" at the International Studies Association - Midwest Conference in November and at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference in March. Furthermore, I will return to



*an-Najah University*

Palestine in July 2012 to continue research with the Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem and Al Quds University.

### **Craig Campbell**

I have been in plenty of prisons and jails in my life, working for a state department of corrections, serving six years as the director of a county jail. My impressions from what I saw on our trip are that the West Bank is a prison. I was most inspired to see the people who practice non-violent resistance every day. I was inspired by the struggles of the faculty and students to pursue their education.

### **Persis Karim**

Since returning from the FDS seminar in the West Bank, I've grown more convinced that telling the stories of what we witnessed, experienced, and heard is the most important tool we have as educators. When I returned, I called Amy Kaplan, one of last year's FDS participants, to talk about potential collaborations. I

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*Nablus with Naseer Arafat*

## **2011 Faculty Development Seminar Participants**

### **Afshan Bokhari**

Assistant Professor of Art History  
Suffolk University

### **Craig Campbell**

Associate Professor of Public  
Safety Management  
St. Edward's University

### **Chris Corley**

Honors Program Director and  
Associate Professor of History  
Minnesota State University,  
Mankato

### **Denise DeGarmo**

Associate Professor and Chair  
Department of Political Science:  
International Relations and  
Peace Studies  
Southern Illinois University

### **John Ferré**

Professor of Communication  
and Associate Dean of Arts  
and Sciences  
University of Louisville

### **Persis Karim**

Associate Professor  
Department of English and  
Comparative Literature  
San Jose State University

### **Elizabeth Kolsky**

Associate Professor of History  
Villanova University

### **Christopher Lee**

Assistant Professor of African  
History  
University of North Carolina

### **Jess White**

Assistant Professor of  
Anthropology  
Western Illinois University

### **Charles Zerner**

Professor of Environmental Studies  
Sarah Lawrence College

## Reflections on the 2012 Faculty Development Seminar

(continued from page 11)

told her that I was having trouble processing what I saw now that I was home because I could not believe the conditions in which Palestinians were teaching, working, and simply living. She commented back something that I have repeated many times since: "When you go to Palestine, you cannot believe what you are seeing. But once you have seen it, you *really* cannot believe it."

I have spent much of the fall semester giving talks at my university and at classes of colleagues at other universities, where I show my slides and tell some of the stories of daily life that I witnessed and heard. I've been moved by people's response to me, not because of me, but because of their desire to know and understand, and their willingness to entertain a truth that has not been presented to them before: that the occupation undermines the rights and existence of both Israelis and Palestinians and is a historical tragedy that we cannot afford to ignore. In addition to my own talk "Occupied Minds: Life and Education under Occupation in the West Bank," I've also helped bring a few speakers to my campus. We invited an Israeli peace activist and co-founder of the Sheikh Jarrah Solidarity Movement (a Ph.D. student in urban history at UC Berkeley), to come to our campus. She made compelling arguments for why this occupation is untenable. I am currently working on curating a special issue of *World Literature Today* "Writing in State of Conflict" that will include an article by one of our colleagues at Al Quds University, about Palestinian literature under occupation. I've tried to write and speak wherever I can, and am writing poetry about the intensely beautiful and generous spirit I encountered among Palestinians. I've also tried to remember how it is that people continue to find hope, so that they will not be broken. The checkpoint stories I collected are a reminder. I'm grateful for the FDS experience and the ways it made what was an intellectual interest a passion for social justice and human rights that I feel even more committed to than before.

## Two Gerner Awards for 2011

Thanks to the generosity of Phil Schrodt, PARC conferred two Gerner awards this year: one in the West Bank at Hebron University and one in Gaza at al-Azhar University. This is the first award to be conferred at Hebron and the second at al-Azhar. The award commemorates the life of beloved PARC board member Deborah "Misty" Gerner. Since PARC's support is largely at the doctoral and post-doctoral level, we are particularly pleased to offer these encouraging and much appreciated awards for master's level study in Palestine. Both Gerner awardees this year are older students who, having done well in their first degrees, pursued careers as teachers before they decided to return to university to study for their master's degrees.

Mohammad Munther Alsharabati was born in Hebron where he still lives. He obtained his B.A. in History from Hebron University, later joined the Ministry of Education, and currently teaches history and civic education. During his career, he maintained his pursuit of further academic study and participated in training courses as well as activities he designed to involve his students in civic education. In one of his projects, he encouraged his students to research and lobby against air pollution from car exhaust in their town. He joined Hebron University again in 2009 to pursue an M.A. in history. Alsharabati's goal is to improve his capacity as an historian and teacher. He conducted research on "The Movement of Fakhar al-Din al-Ma'ani 1585-1635" and "The Political Thought of Gamal Abdel-

Nasser." Currently he is finishing his M.A. thesis on "U.S. policies related to Palestinian refugees from 1948 to 1960," focusing on Truman and Eisenhower era policies.

Mariam Mozayen is from Gaza and studies at al-Azhar University. Excelling at both school and university, Mozayen worked as a teacher for 13 years and then as a head teacher for another

three years, before she decided to further her own studies. As a woman activist, she has a long history of involvement with civil society as a member of the General Union of Palestinian Women and participated in many other women's organizations. Her activism led her to study at Al-Quds Open University for her first degree. Joining the M.A. program in Middle Eastern politics at al-Azhar University in 2009, her main interest is women's political participation and their social and political agency. Her thesis title is "Social and political discourse for Palestinian women in the Gaza Strip, 1994-2010: An analytical review of

the Palestinian women's movement." In addition to reviewing the theoretical background of the Palestinian women's movement, she also examines how women's discourse is implemented on a practical level. She is interviewing women's organizations and their constituents in Gaza to trace the connection between theory and practice. Mozayen is praised by her professors for her dedication and commitment to her studies and for her insightful analysis of sensitive issues in the Palestinian context.



Mohammad Munther Alsharabati



Miriam Mozayen

# PARC 2012-13 Fellowship Competition for U.S. Scholars Conducting Field-Based Research on Palestine

**Fellowship awards from \$6,000 to \$10,000**

**Full proposals due January 12, 2012**

**Awards announced March 12, 2012**

The Palestinian American Research Center (PARC) announces its 13th annual competition for post-doctoral and doctoral research fellowships in Palestinian studies.

Important information about the fellowship competition:

- Research must contribute to Palestinian studies. Any area of Palestinian studies will be considered, including the humanities, social sciences, economics, law, health and science. Purely scientific research is not eligible for this fellowship competition.
- Research must take place in Palestine, Israel, Jordan, or Lebanon.
- PARC funding is for one year only.
- Applicants must be post-doctoral scholars, established researchers, or full-time doctoral students enrolled in a recognized degree program. Doctoral students must have fulfilled all preliminary requirements for the doctorate degree except the dissertation by the time the research commences. The fellowship will not cover tuition fees. Senior researchers without doctorates but with a record of academic publication are eligible. Applicants with a master's degree may only apply jointly with a post-doctoral scholar.
- Applicants must be U.S. citizens. Permanent residents are not eligible.

- Applicants must be PARC members. See the PARC website for membership information.

- Individual and joint research projects are eligible.

- Former PARC fellows who received grants in the last three years are not eligible to apply.

- Applications from women are especially encouraged.

In addition to sending all application materials by email to [us.parc@gmail.com](mailto:us.parc@gmail.com), applicants must send four copies of the full application (except for letters of recommendation) to:

## **PARC**

**Penelope Mitchell, Executive Director,  
6520 East Halbert Road  
Bethesda, MD 20817-5414**

For more information on PARC, PARC membership, and the application process, go to <http://parc-us-pal.org/> or contact us at [us.parc@gmail.com](mailto:us.parc@gmail.com).

Palestinians who are not U.S. citizens should direct inquiries to: Dr. Hadeel Qazzaz, Palestine Director, at [parc-pal@gmail.com](mailto:parc-pal@gmail.com). Palestinian applicants must submit a preproposal to PARC's Palestine office by October 25, 2011.

*Funded by the U.S. Department of State's Educational and Cultural Affairs Bureau through an agreement with CAORC.*

## **2011-2012 Fellowships**

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Palestinian Bedouin community members use as evidence for competing histories, status, and identities in the Naqab. Additionally, visual knowledge is increasingly appropriated by various Bedouin sectors in order to push different agendas, compete for socio-political power, and legitimize control over local and regional resources in light of the Bedouin's ongoing marginalization by Israel.

Le Febvre's work supports past anthropological research doc-

umenting the ways in which communities locate and disseminate their histories and contemporary experiences in the Middle East. Her project sets out to highlight how visual images contribute to these processes with particular attention to understanding how marginalized people like the Palestinian Bedouin of the Naqab desert use this visual material to reassert cultural identities and localized histories and to record, mediate and understand their past and present narratives.

Emilie Le Febvre is a doctoral candidate at the University of Oxford in the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology. She may be reached at [emiliefebvre@hotmail.com](mailto:emiliefebvre@hotmail.com).

## MESA 2011 Conference

December 1-4-Marriott Wardman Park-Washington, DC

### PLEASE JOIN US FOR

The **PARC-sponsored panel** on Friday, December 2, 4:30-6:30 pm entitled "Theorizing the Palestinian Colonial: Segregation and Subjects."

A **PARC gathering** to network with scholars interested in Palestine and show support for PARC. Immediately following the PARC panel and in the same room on December 2 from 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM.

It is also worthy of note that Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies will hold a reception to honor its cofounder and former director, Dr. Michael Hudson, on Saturday, December 3, from 8:30-10 pm in Delaware A (L).

We have compiled two lists of MESA highlights: one list includes conference sessions and presentations related to Palestine; a second list shows current and past PARC fellows, board members, and directors presenting on topics not related to Palestinian studies. An asterisk (\*) by a name indicates a past or current PARC fellow, board member, or director.

## MESA Conference Sessions Related to Palestinian Studies

### SESSION I: THURSDAY, DEC. 1, 5PM-7PM

(2645) Grassroots Syria: New Insights into Contemporary Society, Politics and Economics

**Erik Mohns** (U of Southern Denmark) *Representations of Nationness among Palestinians in the 'Yarmouk Camp' of Damascus*

(2961) Thematic Discussion: Rethinking Palestine/Israel through the Arts

Organized by **Nadia G. Yaqub**

Session Leader: **Nadia G. Yaqub** (UNC Chapel Hill)

**Najat Rahman** (U of Montreal)

**Nasrin Himada** (Concordia U)

**Ella Shohat** (New York U)

**Gil Hochberg** (UCLA)

**Amal Amireh** (George Mason U)

### SESSION II: FRIDAY, DEC. 2, 8:30AM-10:30AM

(2893) On the Margin of the State: Alternative Nationalism

**Lucy Chester** (U of Colorado) *'Palestinian Pakistans': Arab and Indian Muslim Views on Partition in South Asia and the Palestine Mandate*

(2806) Constituting Subjects: Subjectivity and Subject-Making in the Anthropology of the MENA Region

**Khaled Furani\*** (Tel-Aviv U) *Palestinian Subjectivities in Anthropology*

(2910) Vice in the Modern Middle East

**Haggai Ram** (Ben Gurion U) *A Social History of Hashish in Israel-Palestine from the 1920s to the Present*

(2914) Mandate Palestine: Memory, Media, and Medicine

Chair: **Michael Bracy** (Oklahoma State)

**Aida Essaid** (U of Jordan) *Colonial-Settler Methods of Land Acquisition in British Mandate Palestine*

**Andrea L. Stanton** (U of Denver) *Shortages and Expenditures: Managing Music and Musicians on the Palestine Broadcasting Service*

**Shay Hazkani** (New York U) *The 1948 War from Below: Reflections of Arab Soldiers and Palestinian Spectators*

**Anat Mooreville** (UCLA) *The 'War Against Trachoma': Colonial Ophthalmology in Mandate Palestine*

**Mark Sanagan** (McGill U) *'Izz Al-Din Al-Qassam Remembered?*

### SESSION III: FRIDAY, DEC. 2, 11AM-1PM

(2598) Israel's Peace-Making Challenges in 2011

Organized by **Robert O. Freedman**

Sponsored by the Association for Israel Studies

Chair/Discussant: **Robert O. Freedman** (Johns Hopkins U)

**Laurie Zittrain Eisenber** (Carnegie Mellon U) and **Neil Caplan** (Concordia U, Montreal) *Personality and Peace-Making: Case Studies from the Arab-Israeli Conflict*

**Ilan Peleg** (Lafayette Col) *Will the Real Bibi Please Stand Up?: Understanding Netanyahu's Policies on the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process*

**Eyal Zisser** (Tel Aviv U) *Israel and the Arab World*

**Uzi Rabi** (Tel Aviv U) *Israel and the Changing Geopolitical Circumstances of the Middle East*

(2738) Memory Matters: Anthropology in the Middle East

Chairs: **Aseel Sawalha** (Fordham U) and **Lucia Volk** (San Francisco State U)

Discussant: **Susan Slyomovics\*** (UCLA)

**Rochelle A. Davis\*** (Georgetown U) *Palestinian Posters: Revolutionary Remixes and Visual Rememberings*

**Lucia Volk** (San Francisco State U) *Memories of Massacres: Locating National Narratives in Lebanon's Margins*

**Nadia Latif\*** (Bard Col) *Recounting and Omitting, Remembering and Forgetting: Nationalist Narratives of the Nakba and Palestinian Camp Refugee Memory in Lebanon*

(2799) The Politics of New Media in the Middle East

Organized by **Rebecca Luna Stein\***

Chair: **Ted Swedenburg** (U of Arkansas)

Discussant: **Melani McAlister** (George Washington U)

**Amahl Bishara\*** (Tufts U) *Community News Websites and Political Communication among Palestinians across the Green Line*

**Rebecca Luna Stein\*** (Duke U) *YouTube Occupations: New Media and the Israeli State*

### SESSION IV: FRIDAY, DEC. 2, 2PM-4 PM

(2892) Privatization and the Private Sector in the Middle East

Chair: **Sebnem Gumuscu** (Yale U)

**Diana Greenwald** (U of Michigan) *Building a State While Spending Less: National Identity and Bureaucratic Reform in the Palestinian Territories*

**Maya Rosenfeld** (Hebrew U) *World Bank Dictates, Public Sector Retrenchment and Rising Unemployment among University Graduates in the Occupied Palestinian Territories*

(2920) Intersecting Identities: Jewish, Arab, and Muslim

Chair: **Howard Eissenstat** (St. Lawrence U)

**Drew Paul** (UT Austin) *Crossing Over: Return as Displacement in Palestinian Narratives of Exile*

**Rachel Levine** (UT Austin) *Samir Naqqash, Trauma, and Arab-Jewish Cultural Memory*

(2611) Islamic Law and Colonialism

**Iris Agmon** (Ben Gurion U) *Colonialism and the Sharia Courts in Pre-Mandate Palestine, 1917-1922*

(2624) Brokering Peace in the Middle East

Organized by **Noa Schonmann**

Discussant: **Neil Caplan** (Concordia U, Montreal)

**Marwa Daoudy** (U of Oxford) *Negotiating to Avoid Settlement?*

**Hilde Henriksen Waage** (U of Oslo) *Norway-Champions of Peace? Tools in Whose Hands?: Norwegians and Peace-Brokering in the Middle East*

**Shelley Deane** (Bowdoin Col) *Compass or Relative Wind: Navigating Israeli Third Party Negotiations*

**Noa Schonmann** (U of Oxford) *An Actor in Search of a Role: Turkey and the Arab-Israeli Peace Process*

(2671) Ottoman Identity, Part II (15-17th C.): Military Conquest State to World Empire

**Amy Singer** (Tel Aviv U) *Making Jerusalem Ottoman*

**Nadia G. Yaqub** (UNC Chapel Hill) *A Case Study of Cultural Communities of Politics and Freedom: Annemarie Jacir's 'Salt of this Sea'*

**SESSION V: FRIDAY, DEC. 2, 4:30PM-6:30PM**

(2642) Anthropological Approaches to Gender, War & Displacement in the Middle East

Organized by **Nadje Al-Ali**

Sponsored by the Association for Middle East Women's Studies

Chair: **Nadje Al-Ali** (SOAS, U of London)

Discussant: **Frances S. Hasso\*** (Duke U)

**Sophie Richter-Devroe** (U of Exeter) *Between 'Normality' and 'Normalisation': Palestinian Women's Everyday Resistance*

**Katherine Natanel** (SOAS, U of London) *'The Privilege to Feel It When We Want To': Gender and Political Apathy in Israel*

**Ruba Salih** (SOAS, U of London) *Palestinian Women and Intergenerational Narratives on Displacement and Return*

**SESSION VII: SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 8:30AM-10:30 AM**

(2737) Anthropological Approaches to Queer and Sexuality Studies in the Middle East and North Africa

**Jason Ritchie** (Bucknell U) *Suffering Nations/Suffering Queers: Queer Palestinians, the Politics of Affect, and the Will to Survive*

(2778) The 'Humanitarian' Present in Israel/Palestine: Forensic Architecture, Estrangement and Lawfare

Organized by **Lisa Hajjar**

Chair: **Salim Tamari\*** (Inst of Jerusalem Studies)

**Nasser Abourahme** (Palestinian Inst for the Study of Democracy) *Spectres of Estrangement: The 'Ungovernable' Camp and the Figure of the 'Irreconcilable' Refugee*

**Eyal Weizman** (Goldsmiths, U of London) *Forensic Architecture and the Politics of War Crime Investigation*

**Lisa Hajjar** (UCSB) *Israel/Palestine as a 21st Century Lawfare Laboratory*

**DON'T MISS THE PARC PANEL**

Organized by **Rochelle A. Davis\*** (Georgetown U)  
Sponsored by the Palestinian American Research Center and Mada Al-Carmel (Arab Center for Applied Social Research)

**SESSION V: FRIDAY, DEC. 2, 4:30PM-6:30PM**

(2682) Theorizing the Palestinian Colonial: Segregation and Subjects

Chair: **Penny Johnson\*** (Birzeit U)

Discussant: **Jennifer Olmsted\*** (Drew U)

**Penny Johnson\*** (Birzeit U) *'Strange to Palestinian Society': Young People's Talk about Urfi Marriage, Moral Dangers and the Colonial Present*

**Aitemad Muhanna** (SOAS, U of London) *Israeli Spatial Control, Women's Reliance on Humanitarian Aid and the Distortion of Gendered Subjects in Gaza*

**Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian** (Mada al-Carmel - Haifa) *Trapped Bodies, Confined Lives and the Politics of Everydayness*

**Lena Meari** (UC Davis) *Re-structuring the Self and Politics: The Experience of Palestinian Political Activists under Interrogation*

**Hadeel Qazzaz\*** (Palestinian American Research Center) *'The Ultimate Frontier'? Cyberspace Defies Isolation and Closure*

(2888) Transnational Schooling in the Middle East and Beyond

**Louise A. Cainkar** (Marquette U) *'Half/Half': The Experiences of Palestinian American Teens Brought Back 'Home' for High School*

**SESSION VIII: SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 11 AM-1 PM**

(2696) Anthropology of Masculinities

**Sylvain Perdigon\*** (Johns Hopkins U) *Sexual Honor, Masculinity, Ethics in the Palestinian Community of Tyre, Lebanon*

(2623) Colonial Rule and Its Fissures: Arabs under the Israeli Military Government (1948-1966)

Organized by **Seraj Assi** and **Arnon Degani**

Chair: **Liat Kozma** (Hebrew U, Jerusalem)

Discussant: **Shira Robinson\*** (George Washington U)

**Leena Dallasheh\*** (New York U) *The Military Government and Municipal Elections in Nazareth*

**Seraj Assi** (Georgetown U) *The Quest for Identity: Arabs in Israel under the Military Rule (1948-66)*

**Arnon Degani** (UCLA) *Colonial Agency: The Weakness of the Israeli Military Government as Power*

(2679) Examining Environments: New Themes in the Environmental Anthropology of the Middle East

**Emily McKee** (U of Michigan) *Clinging through Land: Culture and the Politics of Belonging in the Negev/Naqab*

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# MESA HIGHLIGHTS

## SESSION IX: SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 2:30PM-4:30PM

(2639) Maps, Borders, and Spatial Perceptions in the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Organized by **Asher Kaufman**

Chair: **Asher Kaufman** (U of Notre Dame)

**Asher Kaufman** (U of Notre Dame) *Between Sealed and Permeable Borders: The Trans-Arabian Pipeline and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*

**Karen Culcasi** (West Virginia U) *Geopolitics and Cartography in the 'Arab Homeland'*

**Christine Leuenberger** (Cornell U) *Making Maps and Making States in Palestine/Israel*

**Efrat Ben Zeev** (Ruppin Academic Ctr) *Elusive Boundaries: Cognitive Maps of Palestinians and Jews in Israel Today*

(2874) Anthropology (of Sound) in the Middle East and North Africa: A New Millennium, Part I

Organized by **Deborah A. Kapchan**

Chair: **Deborah A. Kapchan** (New York U)

**Galeet Dardashti** (Purchase Col SUNY) *Listening for 'Peace': Middle Eastern Music in Israel during the 2000s*

**Amy Horowitz** (Ohio State U) *Scholarly Compositions: Writing across Sound Barriers and Resolutions in Israel-Palestine*

**Ted Swedenburg** (U of Arkansas) *The Sounds of Palestinian Rap and Algerian Rai*

(2938) Lebanon and the UN Special Tribunal: Balancing Justice and Stability

**Omri Nir** (Hebrew U of Jerusalem) *Sectarian Politics in Lebanon: An Obstacle or an Encouraging Factor for Inter-Community Cooperation*

**Ahmed Dardir** (Columbia U) *Homo Sacer: Nahr Al Bared, the Sacred Camp*

**Dalia Mikdahi** (American U of Beirut) *Lebanese Views on Palestinian-Rights in Lebanon: A Recipe for Economic and Political Instabilities*

## SESSION X: SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 5PM-7PM

(2612) Coming of Age: Rethinking Youth and Childhood in the Middle East and North Africa

**Aomar Boum** (U of Arizona) *'Net-Intifada': Moroccan Youth, Cyberspaces, and the Palestinian Conflict*

(2725) Rethinking Public Violence in Modern Middle Eastern Cities

**Roberto Mazza** (Western Illinois U) *Re-Shaping the Holy City: The Nebi Musa Riots in 1920*

(2747) Why is Arabic 'Untranslatable?'

Organized by **Dima Ayoub**

**Sabah Fatima Haider** (Independent Scholar) *The Translatability of Language, Themes and Aesthetics of Resistance in Films of the 'Palestinian New Wave'*

**Najat Rahman** (U of Montreal) *'Translating Waves into Language': Suheir Hammad's Breaking Poems*

(2836) Palestine Now: Solidarity and Self Determination in the Post-Oslo Context

Organized by **Salah D. Hassan**

Chair: **Chris Toensing** (MERIP)

**Sherene Seikaly\*** (American U in Cairo) *Solidarity after the Revolution*

**Salah D. Hassan** (Michigan State U) *Internationalizing Gaza*

**Noura Erakat** (Georgetown U) *Palestinian Representation, Diaspora, and BDS*

**Thomas Abowd\*** (Tufts U) *The Politics and Principles of North American Cultural Boycotts: An Historical Comparison between Contemporary Israel and Apartheid South Africa*

## SESSION XI: SUNDAY, DEC. 4, 8:30AM-10:30AM

(2896) Displacement: Refugee Communities in the Middle East

**Mezna Qato\*** (St. Antony's Col, Oxford) *Socialization and Surveillance: Refugees in the Hashemite Classroom (1948-1959)*

**May Farah** (New York U) *Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon: Lives Worthy of Living*

(2925) Literature and Authority in Early and Classical Islam

**Daniella Talmon-Heller** (Ben-Gurion U of the Negev) *Bonding with Bilad Al-Sham: The Familiarization and Sanctification of Palestine*

(2941) Non-State Actors in Israel-Palestine

**Barak Mendelsohn** (Haverford Col) *Ideological Entrepreneurs and Challenged State Authority: The Israeli State and Violent Jewish Non-State Actors*

**Itzhak Weismann** (Haifa U) *Preaching and Politics in the Islamic Movement in Israel*

**Harel Chorev** (Tel Aviv U) *Changes in the Status of West Bank Elite Families: The Network of the Al-Masri Family*

## SESSION XII: SUNDAY, DEC. 4, 11AM-1PM

(2631) Media Personalities and the Makings of Public Spheres in the Middle East

**Sune Haugbolle** (Copenhagen U) *Art, Iconicity, and Mass Mediation: A Comparative Analysis of Ziad Al-Rahbani and Naji Al-Ali*

(2933) Activism in the New Media Age

**Maia Carter Hallward\*** (Kennesaw State U) *Exploring the Mechanisms of the BDS Movement against Israeli Occupation*

(2947) Neutralizing the Arab Israeli Conflict

Chair: **Zaha Bustami**

**Eulalia Han** (Griffith U, Australia) *Australia's Policy on the Israel-Palestine Peace Process: Influences and Implications*

**Can Ozcan** (U of Utah) *Turkey's International Mediation Efforts in Syrian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli Conflicts since 2002: Impact of Impartiality of the Mediator on the Mediation Outcomes*

## Alumni Updates and Final Report Synopses

All PARC fellows are invited to submit their news for the Spring 2012 newsletter. Please send information on promotions, new positions, publications, conferences, etc. We also invite you to submit a synopsis of your final report for the newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you! Please send all information to [us.parc@gmail.com](mailto:us.parc@gmail.com)

**Avi Raz** (U of Oxford) *The Phone Call Israel Dreaded: King Hussein's Peace Initiative, July 1967*  
**Aaron Y. Zelin** (Brandeis U) *The Neglected Duty and Sadat's Assassination, a 30 Year Retrospective*

### SESSION XIII: SUNDAY, DEC. 4, 1:30PM-3:30PM

**Miriyam Aouragh** (Oxford Internet Inst) *Challenges of Palestinian Internet Activism*

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

### SESSION III: FRIDAY, DEC. 2, 11AM-1PM

(2620) Thematic Conversation: Disciplining a Religious/  
Secular Divide

Participant: **Loren Lybarger\*** (Ohio U)

(2738) A-ME Session: Memory Matters: Anthropology in the  
Middle East

Discussant: **Susan Slyomovics\*** (UCLA)

### SESSION IV: FRIDAY, DEC. 2, 2PM-4 PM

(2628) Rethinking Communism and Anti-Colonial Struggles  
in the Middle East

Chair: **Zachary Lockman\*** (New York U)

### SESSION V: FRIDAY, DEC. 2, 4:30PM-6:30PM

(2909) Constructing Collective Identities

**Kimberly Katz\*** (Towson U) *Whose Historic Monuments?: Restoring  
Qayrawan during the French Protectorate*

### SESSION VII: SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 8:30AM-10:30 AM

(2844) Change and Continuity in Middle East Politics

**Wendy Pearlman\*** (Northwestern U) *Emigration and Power: The Case of  
Lebanon*

(2700) Between Law and State: The Politics of Acting-Up in  
the Middle East

Chair: **Zachary Lockman\*** (New York U)

(2761) New Perspectives on Women, Work, and Islam from  
Recent Field Work

**Jennifer Olmsted\*** (Drew U) *Unraveling the Gender/Poverty/  
Employment Puzzle in the Arab World*

### SESSION VIII: SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 11AM-1PM

(2833) Gender Quotas in the Arab World: Political and Social  
Implications

Chair and Discussant: **Laurie Brand\*** (U of Southern California)

### SESSION IX: SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 2:30PM-4:30PM

(2765) The Gulf across East and West: Charting GCC and  
Iranian Inter-Asian Relations

**Fred H. Lawson\*** (Mills Col) *Deciphering China's Relations with the Gulf:  
Old Assumptions, New Initiative*

### SESSION X: SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 5PM-7PM

(2798) The Collateral Effects of the Syro-Lebanese Political  
Crisis Post 2005: Army, Non-state Actors, and External  
Meddlers

Chair: **Fred H. Lawson\*** (Mills Col)

### SESSION XII: SUNDAY, DEC. 4, 11AM-1PM

(2932) Change and Continuity in State-Society Relations

Chair: **Fred H. Lawson\*** (Mills Col)

(2912) Constructing Nationalism and Narrating the Nation:  
Turkey and North Africa

**Laurie Brand\*** (U of Southern California) *National Narrative and Reli-  
gion: The Case of Algeria*

### SESSION XIII: SUNDAY, DEC. 4, 1:30PM-3:30PM

(2637) Roundtable: Thinking beyond Cooptation and  
Resistance in Authoritarian States: Iraq, Bulgaria and  
Stalinist Soviet Union

Chair: **Dina Rizk Khoury\*** (George Washington U)

## PARC Membership Renewal

PARC appreciates the many institutional and individual members who have taken the time to renew their memberships. If your membership has lapsed, you are receiving this newsletter as a courtesy. Please fill out the membership coupon and send it in with your payment. Any donations above the basic membership cost help to fund much needed research fellowships.

PARC is grateful for your continuing support.

## **PARC U.S. Faculty Development Seminar on Palestine**

**May 17-28, 2012 in Jerusalem and the West Bank**

**Application deadline: February 1, 2012**

**Award notification: March 20, 2012**

PARC announces its third Faculty Development Seminar on Palestine. This 12-day seminar is for U.S. faculty members with a demonstrated interest in, but little travel experience to, Palestine. PARC will select 10 to 12 U.S. faculty members to participate in Jerusalem-based activities that will include lectures, workshops and visits to local universities and other related institutions in the West Bank. Through these activities, participants will learn about the region, deepen their knowledge of their particular fields of interest as they relate to Palestine, and build relationships with Palestinian academic colleagues.

Applicants must:

- Be U.S. citizens.
- Be full-time faculty members at recognized U.S. colleges or universities. Applicants may come from any academic discipline, including the humanities, social sciences, economics, law, health, and science.
- Have a demonstrated interest in Palestine.
- Have little travel experience to Palestine.
- Be willing to integrate their experiences from the seminar into their own teaching and/or pursue a joint research project or publication with a Palestinian colleague.
- Be a member of PARC.

PARC will make all arrangements for seminars, workshops, tours and meetings with Palestinian academic colleagues. PARC will also make arrangements and cover all expenses for in-country group ground travel, accommodations, and group meals. Personal and free day expenses will be the responsibility of each faculty member. Faculty members will need to provide their own international airfare. In cases of need, PARC will consider partial funding for international travel. For more information about this program, please visit PARC on the Web at <http://parc-us-pal.org> or send an email to [us.parc@gmail.com](mailto:us.parc@gmail.com). (Program contingent upon funding.)

## **PARC Panel at MESA 2011: *Theorizing the Palestinian Colonial: Segregation and Subjects***

Much scholarly and popular attention has focused on the mechanics of Israel's regime of spatial control and segregation and the direct effects of violence and insecurity on Palestinian individuals and communities. Less attention, however, has been paid to how segregation and the struggle over space contribute to producing, transforming or distorting subjectivities, socialities, social and gender relations, and roles and cultural practices and ideologies among Palestinians in historic Palestine. This panel will explore key and contested shifts in subjects and sites in the colonial presence in Palestine. The dynamics of increased social isolation and the shrinking of collectivities in an age of virtual space and the wide circulation of ideas will also be taken into account.

There has long been an attempt in colonial studies to theorize how race, class, and gender intersect. The panel will explore this intersectionality by looking closely at these policies and practices of segregation and exclusion, and their social and cultural effects. How is segregation raced, gendered and classed? Are new forms of social and cultural practices and relations in Palestinian communities—sometimes grouped as “growing conservatism” and often expressed in gendered terms—related to regimes of exclusion and segregation, as well as to regional influences? Are there counter-practices and discourses? Through exploring these interrelated questions, this panel hopes to move beyond models that consider segregation as a separate system of oppression and to ask how such systems reflect, contribute to, or sustain colonialism. The panel will include the following papers:

***Re-structuring the Self and Politics: The Experience of Palestinian Political Activists Under Interrogation*** Lena Meari, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Davis and faculty member, Institute of Women's Studies, Birzeit University

***Trapped Bodies, Confined Lives and the Politics of Everydayness*** Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, Institute of Criminology, Faculty of Law & School of Social Work and Social Welfare at Hebrew University, and Gender Studies Program Director, Mada al-Carmel

***'Strange to Palestinian Society:' Young People Talk About Urfi Marriage, Moral Crimes and the Colonial Present*** Penny Johnson, Institute of Women's Studies, Birzeit University

***'The Ultimate Frontier:' Cyber space defies isolation and closure*** Hadeel Qazzaz, Palestinian American Research Center

***Israeli Spatial Control, Women's Reliance on Humanitarian Aid, and the Distortion of Gendered Subjects in Gaza*** Aitemad Muhanna, Research Fellow, School of Oriental and African Studies, London

## **2012 Getty Research Exchange Fellowship Program for the Mediterranean Basin and Middle East 9 June - 16 July 2012**

The Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) is pleased to announce the Getty Research Exchange Fellowship Program. The fellowship program is open to scholars in participating countries\* who have already obtained a Ph.D. or have professional experience in the field of art history and who wish to undertake a specific research project in Algeria or Turkey related to the seminar theme: *Art and Archaeology of the Sacred* (Algeria) or *Vision and Visual Culture in Byzantium* (Turkey).

Funded by the Getty Foundation, the fellowship includes a travel and living expense stipend of \$7,500. The fellowship tenure will be June 9 to July 16, 2012, including an opening and closing seminar. Fellows will be required to conduct their research during this time period.

Palestinian scholars must apply through Palestinian American Research Center (PARC). Final award selection will be conducted by CAORC. Notification of fellowship status will be made available to each applicant via email by April 16, 2012.

\* Participating countries include: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Turkey, and Yemen. Please note: Algerian scholars may apply only for the fellowship in Turkey and Turkish scholars may apply only for the fellowship in Algeria.

### **Application Deadline: January 5, 2012**

For details and application, please see <http://parc-us-pal.org> (Getty fellowships page) or [caorc.org/programs](http://caorc.org/programs)

### **Art and Archaeology of the Sacred**

#### **Oran, Algeria**

#### **9 June - 16 July 2012**

Fellows should plan to arrive in Oran no later than 9 June 2012 and depart no earlier than 16 July 2012. The fellowship tenure is comprised of three sections:

1. Opening Seminar, 10-11 June 2012: Fellows will gather with scholars from the Algerian academic community at an opening seminar.

2. Independent Research, 12 June - 14 July 2012: Fellows will conduct independent research as described in their application. Research projects should relate to the seminar theme of Art and Archaeology of the Sacred.

3. Closing Seminar: 15 July 2012: Fellows will reconvene to share the preliminary findings from their research.

### **Vision and Visual Culture in Byzantium**

#### **Istanbul, Turkey**

#### **9 June - 16 July 2012**

Byzantium was a profoundly visual culture, which has left us some of the singular monuments from the history of art and architecture, such as Hagia Sophia or the Chora Monastery. The purpose of the seminar is to investigate ways of looking and ways of seeing Byzantine art and architecture - that is, learning to "read" the monuments with the same nuance and insight a philologist would apply to a text. This may encompass several approaches, such as recreating the cultural context in which the monument or image was constructed or experienced; understanding the dynamic relationship of a painted or mosaic program and its architectural setting; interrogating the science of vision itself, as the Byzantines understood it; or contemplating the relationship of the cognitive visual process to spiritual understanding.

Fellows should plan to arrive in Istanbul no later than 9 June 2012 and depart no earlier than 16 July 2012. The fellowship tenure is comprised of three sections:

1. Opening Seminar, 10-11 June 2012: Fellows will gather with scholars from the Turkish academic community at an opening seminar.

2. Independent Research, 12 June - 14 July 2012: Fellows will conduct independent research as described in their application. Research projects should relate to the seminar theme of *Vision and Visual Culture in Byzantium*.

3. Closing Seminar: 15 July 2012: Fellows will reconvene to share the preliminary findings from their research.

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