MESA 2021 ANNUAL MEETING
HIGHLIGHTS ON PALESTINE

(An * by the name indicates PARC fellows and board members. PARC has 40 fellows and board members participating on panels at MESA this year.)

PARC-Sponsored MESA Panels

TUESDAY, 30 NOV 2:00 PM

Sponsor: Palestinian American Research Center (PARC)
Organizer: Nathaniel Shils (U Penn)
Chair: Noura Erakat* (Rutgers U)
Discussant: Maha Nassar (U of Arizona)
Nathaniel Shils (U Penn) and Ian Lustick (U Penn) Israeli Responses to BDS: A War of Maneuver to Avoid a War of Position
Taib Biygaute (Kennesaw State U) and Maia Hallward Carter* (Kennesaw State U) The Politics of Anti-Normalization among Moroccan Leftist, Islamist, and BDS Activists
Sophia Hoffinger (U of Edinburgh) Judge as German: The Politics of Judgement in the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Efforts in Germany

THURSDAY, 02 DEC 11:30 AM
Shrinking Spaces, Excluded Communities, and Transformed Environments: Exploring Health and Environment Among Palestinians through Eco-Social Approaches

Sponsor: Palestinian American Research Center (PARC)
Organizer: Weeam Hammoudeh* (Birzeit U) Environment and Health in the Northwest Jerusalem Enclave
Brian Boyd* (Columbia U) and Omar Tesdell* (Birzeit U) People, plants and landscapes: future ecologies in Palestine
Maysaa Nemer (Birzeit U) Social and political determinants of health of Palestinian Agriculture Working Women in the Jordan Valley
Usama Tanous (Emory U) The Health of Palestinians in Israel from a Settler Colonial Perspective

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

MONDAY, 29 NOV 2:00 PM

Whose Narratives? Whose Classrooms? Teaching Palestine and Gender; Sexual Justice in the Age of (Corporatized) Pandemic
Chair: Jamila Ghaddar (U of Toronto)
Discussant: Michelle Hartman (McGill U)
Organizer: Rabab Abdulhadi* (San Francisco State U) Whose Narratives? Teaching Palestine in the Age of Pandemic and the Corporate University
Saliem Shehadeh* (UCLA/San Francisco State U) Speaking Palestine at San Francisco State?
Tomomi Kinukawa (San Francisco State) Redefining Intellectual Labor at a Neoliberal University: Knowledge Production for Militant Feminist and Queer Resistance

The Politics of Infrastructure: Colonialism and Conservation
Chair: Joyce Daisheim (UNC) The Temporality of a Structure: When is Settler Colonialism
Esther Noah Rubin (Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design) Cultural heritage in the digital age: Digitizing Modern Jerusalem Archives
Marianna Reis (U of Toronto) Borderland Infrastructures in the Greater Nazareth Area
Connie Gagliardi (U of Toronto) The Icon of “Our Lady Who Brings Down Walls”, Scleralizing the Palestinian Face of the Israeli Separation Wall with Divine Presence

Environment, Infrastructure, and Geopolitics
Peter Valenti (NYU) Food Politics versus Political Food: Palestinian Cuniculture under Israeli Occupation

Technologies of Empire: Medicine, Land Policy, Special Commissions, &
Financial Advisory Missions
Alyssa Bivins* (George Washington U) *Sir Abdur Rahman and the "Unfortunate" Partitions of 1947
Martin Bunton* (U Victoria) *Land Policies in Occupied Enemy Territory: the case of British rule in Ottoman Palestine, 1917–1920

**[P6508]** Governing through the Senses: Garbage and other Slow Violences
Chair: Hiba Bou Akar (Columbia U)
Organizer: Michelle Weitzel* (U Basel) *Access Denied: Temporal Mobility and Circulation at the Ibrahimi Mosque
Hana Masri (U Penn) *Sewage’s Living-Dead Discourse in Necropolitical Palestine

**[P6564]** Imagining Alternative Commons from the Levant: Digital Archives, Images Documents and Ecologies
Organizer: Kareem Estefan, (Brown U) *Permission to Fabulate: Archival Absence and Reparative Fabulation in Azza El Hassan’s Kings and Extras
Molly Oringer (UCLA) *Borders and Gardens: Avi Mograbi’s Cinema Verité and Possibilities for a Future Levant
Sherena Razek (Brown U) *From Environmental Nakba to a Worldly Hydrocomons: Reading the Waterscapes from the Jordan River and the Dead Sea as Ecopolitical Refusal

**[P6505]** Rethinking Race as an Analytic in the Early Twentieth Century
Frances S. Hasso* (Duke U) *“Children are the Treasure and the Property of the Nation”: Eugenics and Mothercraft in Colonial Palestine

TUESDAY, 30 NOV 11:30 AM

**[P6596]** Armed Non-State Actors and Their Quest for Legitimacy
Chair: Christina Sciabarra (Bellevue College)
Alaa Tartir* (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies) *Addressing and Preventing Violent Extremism in the Borderlands of South Libya and Northern Sudan
Martin Kear (U Sydney) *Questioning the Moderation Dichotomy: Understanding Hamas’s Progressive Moderation

**[P6526]** Exilic Cultural Production: Belonging and Estrangement
Nida Kaili (U of Washington) *From Nationalization to Transculturation: New Approaches to Palestinian Literature in Israel
Internationalizing the Middle East and North Africa in the mid-Twentieth Century
Andrea L. Stanton (U of Denver) Reading for Sound: Memoirs and Mid-Century Arabic Radio Broadcasting

Medical Humanities in the Middle East: Health, Medicine, and Life
Chris Sandal-Wilson (U of East Anglia) Petitions and colonial psychiatry in British Mandate Palestine

Tariq Dana (Doha Institute for Graduate Studies) Weapon diplomacy: Israel military/security productions and the regional order

Early Modern Mobilities: People, Animals, and Objects within and beyond the Ottoman Empire
Erin Pinon (Princeton U) Printing Pilgrimage: Replication and Imagination between Tokat and Jerusalem

Politics of Place and Displacement: Afghanistan, Morocco, Oman, and Palestine
Chair: Rami Salameh* (Birzeit U)
David Marshall* (Elon U) Sacred Space/Contested Place - The Shifting Meanings of Joseph’s Tomb
Heba Alnajada (UC Berkeley) “This Camp is Full of Hujjaj”: Land Tenure and Property in the Shadow of Black September

Tuesday, 30 Nov 2:00 PM
Reciprocal Mobilization in the Politics of BDS: Strategy, Competition, and Wars of Position
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[P6315] Gaza on Screen
Chair, Organizer: Nadia G. Yaqub (UNC Chapel Hill)
Discussant: Kamran Rastegar (Tufts University)
Yaron Shemer (UNC Chapel Hill) So Close, So Far: Gaza in Israeli Cinema
Hatim El-Hibri (George Mason U) Televised Solidarity and the 2014 Lebanese Broadcast for Gaza
Viviane Saglier (McGill U) Gazan Cinema as an Infrastructure of Care
Shaira Vadasaria (U Edinburgh) Sound as Method: The Politics of Hearing Gaza under Siege

[R6457] Gender and Political Economy Across the Middle East
Organizer: Sherene Seikaly* (UC Santa Barbara) “The book is not really political economy.” This was the critique a trusted mentor relayed to me...

[P6651] Commodities, Finance, and Colonial Ecologies
Rasmieyh Abdelnabi* (George Mason U) A Gendered Politics of Life: Embroidery as a Source of Economic Sustenance and Cultural Continuity

[P6312] Confessional Frontiers in the Islamicate Mediterranean
Fadi Ragheb (U of Toronto) Writing in the “Other” in an Islamic Chronicle of Medieval Jerusalem: Mujīr al-Dīn al-ʿUlāymī and the Paradoxical Boundaries of Inter-Confessional Knowledge in al-ʿUns al-jalīl bi-ṭārīkh al-Quds wa-al-Khalīl

[P6594] Israeli and Palestinian Diplomacy: Traditional and Non-Traditional Approaches
Daniel Levine (U of Alabama) Voices Carry: Teaching the Israel/Palestine Conflict in the time of COVID

[P6671] Narrating Dispersed Identities
Hella Cohen (St. Catherine U) Wild Ecologies of Palestinian Diaspora Poets

[P6626] New Perspectives in Middle Eastern Environmental History
Noah Haiduc-Dale (Centenary U) Bird Watching as Blood Sport: The Politics of Birding in Israel/Palestine

[R6309] The Unmaking and Making of the Middle East in the Great War
Organizers: Mustafa Akasal (Georgetown U) and Jonathan Wyrtzen (Yale)
Ali Abdullatif Ahmida (U of New England)
Elizabetes Thompson (American U)
Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet (U of Pennsylvania)
Christine Philiou (UC Berkeley)
Laura Robson (Penn State U)  
Hussein Omar (U College Dublin)

WEDNESDAY, 01 DEC 11:30 AM

[P6364] Beyond Discipline: Faith, Gender, and the Surveilled Society of the late Mediterranean
Discussant: Kent Schull* (SUNY Binghamton)  
Emily O’Dell* (Independent Scholar) Spiritual Technologies of Surveillance in Malta: Slavery, Superstition, and Religion in the Medieval Mediterranean

[P6638] Art Histories of Design and Visualization
Liat Berdugo (U San Francisco) The Weaponized Camera in the Middle East: Video, Politics, and the Visual in Israel and Palestine

[R6396] The Cultural Cold/Hot War in the Arab World
Chair, Organizer: Adey Almohsen* (Grinnell College) “Printing/Translating Modernism: Palestinians in Beirut’s Postwar Publishing Scene”.  
Sarah Rogers* (Middlebury College) Modernist Abstraction in Cold War Beirut: A Pericentric Framework In Cold War Beirut, 1964 marks a key...

[P6481] Interrogating Citizenship in the Middle East
Chair: Laurie Brand* (U of Southern California)  
Discussant: Shira Robinson* (George Washington U)

WEDNESDAY, 01 DEC 2:00 PM

[R6459] Ethnographies of Uprisings: Exploring Approaches to Understanding Revolt in the Middle East
Organizer: Sa’ed Atshan* (Emory U)

[P6585] Political Socialization and Value Change
Emily Schneider (Northern Arizona U) Politicization through Dialogue? Sympathy, Attitude Change, and Mobilization in Conflict Resolution Programs

[P6436] Political Economy of Palestine: Critical, Interdisciplinary, Decolonial Perspectives
Organizer, Chair, Discussant: Alaa Tartir* (Graduate Institute of International and Development
Studies
Timothy Seidel (Eastern Mennonite University) Settler Colonialism, Political Economy, and Land-Based Struggle in Palestine
Catherine Chiniara Charett (U of Westminster) Gaza, Palestine, and the Political Economies of Indigenous Non-Futures
Walid Habbas (Hebrew U of Jerusalem) The West Bank-Israel economic integration Palestinian interaction with the Israeli border and permit regimes
Ibrahim Shikaki (Trinity College) The Political Economy of Dependency and Class Formation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories since 1967

THURSDAY, 02 DEC 11:30 AM
[P6517] Shrinking Spaces, Excluded Communities, and Transformed Environments: Exploring Health and Environment Among Palestinians through Eco-Social Approaches
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[P6368] (Re)creating Home: Belonging and Finding Community for Refugees in or from the Middle East
Nell Gabiam (Iowa State U) Encampment and homemaking after the War in Syria: Experiences of Secondary Palestinian Displacement
Wendy Pearlman* (Northwestern U) What is Home? Displaced Syrians’ Narratives of Identity and Belonging

[P6676] Between Empire and the Post-Colony: Memory, (un)Belonging, and Reproducing State
Chair: Najat Rahman* (U of Montreal)
Yulia Gillichinskaya (UC Santa Cruz) Settler Innocence or What Really Happened on May 14
Lucy El-Sherif ( U of Toronto) Tightrope Dabke: Embodiment and Settler Citizenship on Turtle Island

[P6417] Infrastructure and Society in the Middle East and North Africa
Zachary Cuyler* (New York U) Two Battles of the Holiday Inn

Canada and the Middle East
Costanza Musu (U of Ottawa) Canada’s history of global engagement has always included a commitment to address the Israeli-Palestinian...

THURSDAY, 02 DEC 2:00 PM

Rhapsody and Revulsion in Arabic
Organizer: Samuel England* (U Wisconsin Madison) In Praise of Yachts

Analyzing Histories of Struggle: Palestine, the Past, Present, and Future
Organizer: Chandni Desai (U of Toronto) Palestinian Revolutionaries in Lotus and Third World Cultural Movements
Wafaa Hasan (McMaster U) Palestinian Women, Interrupted: Colonial Dialogues in Anti-Occupation Solidarity Organizing
G.N. Nithya (York U) Resistance Pedagogies: Labour Struggles in Palestine and Beyond
Rana Sukarieh (York U/AUB) Towards a sustained solidarity in Palestine in Toronto: a political generational analysis

Laughter in Times of Distress: Humor and its Politics in Middle Eastern Literature and Popular Culture
Elianne El-Amyouni (U Waterloo) Humor in Contemporary Palestinian Hip Hop
Niall Ó Murchú (Western Washington U) Transtextual Blending and Political Laughter in "Divine Intervention" (2002)

Narratives of Loss and Violence
Elizabeth Bentley* (U of Arizona) Telling an Extinction Story: Animal Extinction and Indigenous Human Dispossession in Palestine

FRIDAY, 03 DEC 11:30 AM

Palestine International: Resistance from Algeria to Amman
Dainella Talmon-Heller (Ben-Gurion U) Saladin in Palestine and Israel: Myths, Historiography and Commemoration
Erica Augenstein (U of Chicago) Jabra Nicola and the Construction of a Revolutionary Legacy
Marwan D. Hanania (UC Berkeley) Amman 1970: A New Social and Political History
Arab Yanise (U of Montreal) Rouaged Sadek Ben Brahim, itinerary of a native Algerian in Palestine (1923-1954)
[R6440] The Lebanon Uprising of 2019: Reflections during (Counter-)Revolutionary Times
Moné Makawi* (New York U) In July of 2019, demonstrations erupted in the Palestinian refugee camps across Lebanon...

[P6421] Societal Resistance in the Arab Gulf States
Chair, Discussant, Organizer: Dana El Kurd (U Richmond) Pro-Palestine Groups as Incubators of Democracy

[S6678] Where is Palestine in the Battle over anti-Semitism Definitions?
Organizer, Chair: Jens-Peter Hanssen (U Toronto)
Organizer: Dyala Hamzah (U Montreal) IHRA, the “surge in Antisemitism” and the obfuscation of Palestine
Seth Anziska (U College London) UK Universities and the IHRA: On the Limits of Definitions and Institutional Responses to Antisemitism, Racism and Prejudice
Meera Shah (Harvard U) Chilling speech in support of Palestinian rights: Flawed Definitions and How to Push Back
Sarah Anne Minkin (Foundation for Middle East Peace) Debating Israel/Palestine: the Battle over IHRA and Competing Definitions of Antisemitism
Anna-Esther Younes (U Amsterdam) "The War on Anti-Semitism" as the "New anti-Semitism"

[R6394] Critical Environmental Perspectives of the MENA
Organizer: Gabi Kirk* (UC Davis) Israel-Palestine is predominantly spoken about in environmental studies scholarship in two ways.
Jennifer Derr (UC Santa Cruz) The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted (once more) the intimacy and complexity of the linkages...

[P6466] State and the City: Presences and Absences in the Mashreq
Discussant: Sophia Stamatopoulou-Robbins* (Bard College)
Nadi Abusaada* (U Cambridge) The City and the Non-State: Municipalisation in Late Ottoman and Mandate Palestine

FRIDAY, 03 DEC 2:00 PM
[P6455] Space, Place, and Textual Objects: Transforming Social Realities in the Modern Middle East
Organizer: Carly Krakow (LSE) The ‘Jealous States’ of Literature and International Law: Exile in Contemporary Iraqi and Palestinian Fiction
Mekarem Eljamal (Columbia U) From Medina to Eir: Imagining Haifa through Municipal Plans, 1948-1968

[P6550] Israel, Palestine, and the Third World
Organizer: Maya Wind (NYU) *Collectivist Conquest: Israeli military ventures in the Third World*
Chair: Loubna Qutami (UCLA) *Karameh: The Palestinian Guerillas and Third World Solidarity*
Jennifer Kelly* (UC Santa Cruz) *Witnesses in Palestine: Imperfect Analogies, Acts of Translation, and Refusals to Perform*
Gavriel Cutipa-Zorn (Yale U) *Historiographic Hindsight: Israeli Developmental Imperialism after Bandung*
Sara Awartani (Harvard U) *Weaponizing Solidarity: Puerto Rico, Palestine, and US Counterterrorism in the 1980s*

**[P6513] Crime in the Archives**
Chair: Alex Winder* (Brown U) *Bandit Narratives in 1930s Palestine: Abu Jilda in Fact and Fiction*

Fatina Abreek-Zubiedat (Swiss Federal Inst. of Technology) *Concrete Conflicts: The Israeli Resettlement of the Palestinian Refugees in the Coastal Cities of the Gaza Strip*
Dotan Halvey (Columbia U) *Settling Lands: The Ecological Alienation of Native Rights in Coastal Dunes*
Moriel Ram (Newcastle U) *Building Barricaded Castles in the Sands: The Bar-Lev Line and the Geopolitics of Fantasy*

Organizer: Kristen Alff* (North Carolina State U) *Correcting Bodies: Incarceration, Debt, and Capitalism in Early 20th Century Palestine*
Nimrod Ben Zeev (Van Leer Jerusalem Institute) *“That’s When I Understood the French Revolution”: Narrating Pain, Danger, and Injury in Palestine/Israel’s Construction Industry, 1930-1993*

**[P6341] Women Writers: Literary Interventions in Arab History and Politics**
Stephanie Kraver (U of Chicago) *Two Elegies by Fadwa Tuqan: Mourning for the Physical and Metaphysical in Palestine*

**[P6500] The Critical Hope of Palestinian and Mizrahi Studies**
Organizer: Nancy Ko (Columbia U) *Complicit Racialization: The Making of the Mizrahi Native*
from the Perspective of Asian Americanist Critique

Discussant: Bryan Roby (U Michigan)
Chelsie May (U Chicago) Zionist Racism from the Standpoint of its Jewish Victims: Iraqi Jews, Israeli Immigration Camps, and the Construction of Racial Difference
Caroline Kahlenberg* (Harvard U) Age, Race, and Jewish Terrorism on Trial in Mandatory Palestine: The Case of Rachel Habshush
Ryan Zohar (NYU/Long Island U) “İsrā’il al-thāniyah”: The Mizrahi Question from the Perspective of Palestinian Intellectuals in the Arab World

[R6490] New Directions in the Study of Palestinian Politics
Organizer: Nathaniel Shils (U Penn) My contribution to this roundtable will be built around a discussion of the current Palestinian strategy...
Chair: Khaled Elgindy (Georgetown U)
Diana Greenwald (City College of NY, CUNY) As part of this roundtable, I will consider the relative merits and drawbacks of bringing the post-1967...
Dana El Kurd (U Richmond) My contribution to the roundtable would be to highlight the various strands of both comparative politics...
Tareq Baconi (International Crisis Group) New Directions in the Study of Palestinian Politics Recent developments, from the Nation State Law...