

PARC

PALESTINIAN AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER

PROMOTING PALESTINIAN STUDIES AND SCHOLARLY EXCHANGE ON PALESTINIAN ISSUES

Letter From the Chairs

More than three years ago, several specialists on Palestinian issues began to discuss the idea of creating a research center that would focus on Palestine. We hoped to model it on the highly successful overseas centers located around the world.

Despite the attention given to diplomatic and political questions and despite the growing interest in social and economic concerns, we felt there remained serious gaps in scholarly research on Palestine.



Ann Mosely Lesch



Philip Mattar

Moreover, we believed that the lack of an academic center had contributed to the declining number of doctoral theses written on Palestine – in all fields – and had limited the ability of Palestinian, American, and other scholars to interact and contribute to each other's intellectual development.

We hope that the effort to increase the range, quality, and depth of research focusing on Palestinian issues, and on understanding these issues in their global context, will be advanced significantly by establishing this academic center.

Today, we are pleased that the Palestinian American Research Center (PARC) is a reality. We are gratified that many students, scholars, and academic institutions

responded enthusiastically to our initial appeal for support in 1998. This enabled us to open the U.S. office at Randolph-Macon College, directed by the historian, Michael R. Fischbach. We also asked Hiba Hussein, a Jerusalem attorney, to assist with the registration of our field office while we simultaneously searched for a permanent director. Mouin Rabbani has recently agreed to take on that position.

Subsequently, we have received funding totaling nearly \$220,000 from the Earhart, Ford, Rockefeller, and Tanenbaum foundations and from the U.S. Department of Education. As a result, we mounted our first fellowship competition in the spring of 2000. We were pleased with the high quality and the diversity of the proposals, and we anticipate that equally innovative proposals will be submitted for the second round, the deadline for which is January 15, 2001.

In the coming year, we expect to complete the registration of the field office, undertake activities there to benefit Palestinian and foreign scholars, and launch new fund-raising drives. We hope you will come to the PARC panel at the MESA conference (8 a.m., Friday, November 17, 2000) to hear more about our plans and discuss how you can help. We're eager to attract the active involvement of scholars who are committed to deepening the understanding of all aspects of Palestinian history, culture, society, economy, and politics.

*Ann Mosely Lesch and Philip Mattar
Co-Chairs, PARC Steering Committee*

From the Director's Desk

PARC has had a busy year, and there is much to report, most notably that we successfully undertook our first annual fellowship competition and have awarded funds to nine scholars to carry out their research on Palestinian issues. A more detailed discussion of the competition and the awardees can be found within this newsletter. This major accomplishment could not have been undertaken had it not been for the generous support of the Ford and Rockefeller foundations.



Michael R. Fischbach

In addition, PARC hired Hiba Hussein, a Jerusalem attorney, as a part-time director of its office in Jerusalem/Ramallah until a permanent director could be located. We also asked her to assist with the registration of our field office while we simultaneously searched for a permanent director. Mouin Rabbani has recently agreed to take on that position. His bio can be found on page four.

The establishment of PARC's U.S. and field offices has allowed PARC to carry out two major fund-raising campaigns in 1999 and again in 2000, which netted not only individual and institutional members, but also major grants from the Earhart Foundation, the Tanenbaum Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Education. PARC is a registered not-for-profit organization in the District of Columbia, has received 501(c)(3) status from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, and has established its own web site (www.parccenter.org). PARC continues to function with the assistance of the Council of Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), which manages the grants received before PARC obtained its official registration.

Beyond infrastructural developments, PARC featured a presentation on "The State of Palestinian Studies in Palestine Today" by noted scholar Dr. Salim Tamari at the 1999 Middle East Studies Association (MESA) conference in Washington, D.C. This year at the MESA conference in Orlando, Fla., PARC will host a panel discussion, "Rule by Records: The Impact and Legacy of British Rule in Palestine." Details of this event are included in this newsletter on page eight.

PARC has grown and begun its programs in support of Palestinian studies to a degree that some of us could scarcely have hoped for in such a short period of time, thanks to the support of our members and donor organizations.

Michael R. Fischbach

2000-2001 PARC Steering Committee

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PARC Holds First Annual Fellowship Competition

Earlier this year, PARC announced its first annual fellowship competition, which was funded by generous grants from the Rockefeller and Ford foundations. Open to doctoral and post-doctoral researchers in a broad range of disciplines, the competition generated 41 applications from scholars and students around the world. From these applications, nine awards were made. Fellowship awards ranged from \$4,500 to \$6,000, with an additional \$1,000 stipend available for travel.

"The ability of PARC to provide generous research funding to scholars supports the organization's primary goal to advance Palestinian studies," said Dr. Philip Mattar, co-chair of PARC and executive director of the Institute for Palestine Studies. The multi-national field of recipients and applicants, he added, also "demonstrates the cooperation of Palestinian and American scholars."

Mattar said he is particularly pleased with the wide range of disciplines covered by the nine awards. Palestine studies, he points out, "has been somewhat neglected, as it is not within the political framework of most funders." As a result, many areas within it have not been developed at all, and some just barely."

This year's awardees are detailed here and on page four, along with a brief description of the research they will undertake using their PARC Fellowship grants. Five of these awardees are profiled in greater depth elsewhere in this newsletter. The remaining four award winners will be profiled in the Spring 2001 newsletter.

Rabab Abdulhadi, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Sociology, Yale University

Abdulhadi has taught at a number of colleges, including Hunter College-CUNY, Yale University, and Westchester Community College and has worked as a consultant for the U.N. Development Program in Jerusalem.

Her research topic, "The Oslo Accords and the Fate of Palestinian Refugees," focuses on "Palestinian social and political shifts and on Palestinian-Arab tensions and alliances." She hopes that her research will also contribute to scholarship in refugee and forced migration studies, in particular those relating to diaspora authenticity and post-national citizenship.

Dr. Martin Bunton, Department of History, University of Victoria

Dr. Bunton has been a sessional instructor in the History Department at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada, since 1996. He has also taught at Simon Fraser University and the University of Oxford.

His research topic, "The Influence of Sir Ernest Dowson on the Definition of Property Rights in Palestine," will focus on this British administrator's approach to defining property relations in the 1920s. Bunton's research builds on his interest in world history and the construction of colonial land systems, particularly in Palestine.

Dr. Frances Hasso, Women's Studies and Sociology, Oberlin College

Dr. Hasso has recently moved to Oberlin College, where she is an assistant professor of women's studies and sociology. She has also taught at Antioch College and was a lecturer at the University of Michigan.

Her research topic builds on her doctoral dissertation, "Paradoxes of Gender/Politics: Nationalism, Feminism and Modernity in Contemporary Palestine," which focuses on the "intersections of nationalism, gender and modernity in contemporary Palestinian history." Her research will examine the history of two organizations, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Palestinian Federation of Women's Action Committees (PFWAC), and how these organizations affected the lives of working-class women who were involved with them.

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The 2000-2001 Fellowship Awardees in brief:

Rabab Abdulhadi, Ph.D. candidate in sociology at Yale University

Dr. Martin Bunton, instructor in the Department of History, University of Victoria

Dr. Frances Hasso, assistant professor of women's studies and sociology, Oberlin College

Jennifer Ladkani, visiting assistant professor, Earlham College and Ph.D. candidate, School of Music, Florida State University

Dr. Fred Lawson, professor in the Department of Government, Mills College

Dr. Weldon C. Matthews, visiting assistant professor, Whitman College

Daniel Monterescu, Ph.D. candidate, Anthropology Department, University of Chicago

Shira Nomi Robinson, Ph.D. candidate, Middle Eastern History, Stanford University

Walid Sabbah, Ph.D. candidate, Civil & Environmental Engineering Department, Brigham Young University

This fellowship program was made possible by grants from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

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**Jennifer Ladkani, visiting assistant professor,
Earlham College and Ph.D. candidate, School of Music,
Florida State University**

Ladkani has received a number of honors and awards while a graduate student at FSU, including the Florida State University Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship and a Fulbright Dissertation Grant to Jordan.

Ladkani's research on "Prisoners of War and Songs by the Dead: Historical Arabic Music Recordings in the National Sound Archives of Israel," seeks to catalog the archives' recorded non-commercial Arabic music, thereby providing access to an important cultural and historical element of Palestinian heritage. She believes her work will be "the first step in making a proper place for these historical recordings in the world's cultural landscape."

**Dr. Fred Lawson, Department of Government,
Mills College**

Dr. Lawson has been a faculty member in the Department of Government at Mills College since 1985. He is the author of three books on Middle East topics and has published an extensive number of articles, monographs, and reviews.

Lawson will examine the emergence of Palestinian Arab nationalism following World War I. He plans to focus on the period from 1918 to 1920, looking for evidence of political and cultural conflict between elite nationalists and popular leaders and organizations, particularly in Nablus and Tulkarm.

**Dr. Weldon C. Matthews, History/Philosophy Department,
Whitman College**

Dr. Matthews has recently joined the faculty at Whitman College. Previously, he was a visiting assistant professor of history at Shippensburg University. He has also taught at Illinois State University.

His topic, "The Istiqlal Party: A Study of Arab Nationalism in Mandatory Palestine," considers the party's importance for Palestinian political life in the years leading to the revolt of 1936-39. Matthews seeks in his research to challenge existing understandings of the early Palestinian political movements and plans to convert his research into a book on the topic.

**Daniel Monterescu, Ph.D. candidate,
Anthropology Department, University of Chicago**

Monterescu is completing his dissertation through the University of Chicago, where he has also worked as a teaching assistant and research assistant in his department. For the past

several years, he has been the director of the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Camp in Jerusalem, where he coordinated Palestinian and Israeli youth meetings.

Monterescu plans to study the paradoxical nature of Palestinian citizens of Israel living in mixed towns. His research topic, "Urban Space, Place and the State in Palestinian-Israeli Mixed Towns, 1948-2000," will explore the tension between different perspectives of "Palestinianness" and "Israeliness" in nationally and ethnically mixed urban areas. Monterescu hopes his research will add to the limited anthropological scholarship relating to the Middle East and particularly to Palestinians, through a study of the national policy of developmental planning in five mixed towns in Israel since 1948.

—Continued on page 11

Mouin Rabbani to Head PARC's Field Office

Mouin Rabbani, a doctoral candidate at St. Antony's College, Oxford, has recently accepted the position of part-time director of PARC's field office. Rabbani will be taking over directorship of the office from Jerusalem attorney Hiba Hussein, who has functioned as the organization's interim director for the past year and has worked to establish PARC's presence in the region.

Among Rabbani's duties will be assisting PARC fellows and other researchers in the field, fundraising, and promoting PARC's mission to support cooperative scholarship in all areas of Palestine studies. "I am excited by Mouin's candidacy for this position," says Philip Mattar, co-chair of PARC's steering committee. "His scholarship is first rate, and he knows the history of Palestinian affairs very well." Ann Lesch, co-chair, shares Mattar's enthusiasm, adding that she is "delighted that Mouin will be on hand when our first fellowship researchers arrive."

Rabbani was born in The Netherlands to Palestinian parents. He received his B.A. in history and international relations from Tufts University and his M.A. in contemporary Arab studies from Georgetown University. Since 1996, he has been in Palestine as project director for the Association of Netherlands Municipalities, working to establish the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities. Previously, he was a researcher at Al-Haq, the West Bank affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists. He is also the author of numerous articles and reviews.

Walid Sabbah to Study Water Resources with PARC Fellowship

As a basic necessity of life, water has been one of the primary areas of contention in the arid Middle East. So important is the topic that Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations in the 1990s froze the existing water allocations on the West Bank and delayed serious discussion of water rights and usage to the final status negotiations.

"That's why I selected a water resources emphasis," declared Walid Sabbah. Sabbah is a Palestinian who began his Ph.D. study last January in the water resources program of the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department of Brigham Young University.

Both Sabbah's educational background and work experiences have been related to water resources. He received his master of science degree in hydrogeology from the University of Jordan and his bachelor of science degree in geology from Yarmouk University in Irbid, Jordan. Prior to entering his Ph.D. program, he served in several professional capacities related to identifying and modeling water resources in the West Bank area.

"My research is very important for the Palestinian negotiators with Israel over water," Sabbah said. From 1967 until the Oslo accords, he points out, there were virtually no Palestinian studies on the technical aspects of water. Although several studies on water issues have been published since then, this remains an important research topic.

Sabbah will use his grant to assist with his Ph.D. research. "I will analyze all available data on the aquifer systems," he said, "and develop a comprehensive groundwater model" of the water flow of the West Bank. To complete his study, Sabbah will make use of BYU's Environmental Modeling Research Laboratory (EMRL), a leader in developing computer models of groundwater flow.

"This is an important topic, and Walid has the connections and contacts in Palestine to ensure that his work will be used effectively once he returns to Palestine," commented Norman L. Jones, director of the EMRL and Sabbah's Ph.D. supervisor.

Sabbah has studied "in the field" much of the past six years and has identified every well and spring in the West Bank. He will return to the area in December for three more weeks of field work and to consult with the PNA institutions (such as the Palestinian Water Authority, Ministry of Environment, and Ministry of Agriculture) as well as NGOs, private consulting agencies, and research institutions.

The groundwater model, Sabbah explained, "simulates the actual groundwater system using mathematical equations embedded in computer code. The final goal is to use the governing equations to simulate groundwater flow and the factors affecting it." Such factors, he said, could include groundwater pumping from wells; spring flow discharge; groundwater recharge from rainfall and other sources; hydraulic conductivity and physical characteristics of the water-bearing rock formations; chemical constituents of groundwater; and boundary conditions controlling groundwater flow, such as geologic structures, seas, and topography.

Prior to beginning his doctoral studies, Sabbah spent eight months (May to December 1999) as a part-time consultant for hydrological and spatial GIS modeling with Arab Tech Jardaneh and CH2MHILL in Ramallah for a PWA water project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. He has also been technical director of geographic and hydrologic information systems for the Arab Studies Society-Orient House in Jerusalem, and served as research assistant and then director of the water research unit at the Applied Research Institute in Jerusalem, where he coordinated all water related projects. He is also the author or co-author of several articles, technical reports, and presentation papers related to water flow issues in the West Bank.

Sabbah's wife, Hilda, is also studying at BYU. She is a master's student in the Educational Leadership and Foundations program, with an educational policy emphasis. The first Middle Eastern Arab woman with this specialty at BYU, she hopes to be among those formulating a truly Palestinian educational system. The couple's daughter, Sondos, is two years old, speaks fluent Arabic, and is learning English very fast.

A dedicated researcher, Sabbah predicts that fresh water "will be one of the most important resources influencing society, politics, and international relations in the coming century." His doctoral research, supported by PARC, will contribute to the world's understanding of the struggle surrounding that basic necessity of life.



Walid Sabbah

Jennifer Ladkani Combines Music and Heritage in Study of Early Arabic Recordings

As Palestinians seek to uncover and maintain tangible proof of their past, such things as family photographs and small souvenirs from buildings and houses become increasingly important.

To researcher and ethnomusicologist Jennifer Ladkani, one such proof of the Palestinian past is a collection of recorded Arabic music she uncovered in the National Sound Archives (NSA) of Israel. Located at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the collection is uncatalogued and has remained inaccessible. The collection, she said, has been, "in essence, a prisoner of war, politics, and even poor or absent diplomacy among academics."

Ladkani intends to spend several months in Jerusalem working with these musical collections, with the goal of publishing a survey level article about the collections and creating an ethnomusicological study of the Palestinian musical environment in Jerusalem during the 1930s.

The biggest portion of the collection was recorded by Robert Lachmann, who lived in Jerusalem from 1935 until his death in 1939. One of his most impressive achievements during the last four years of his life, Ladkani said, "was the collection of music and song he recorded in the greater Jerusalem area." The collection contains 322 cylinders and 1,378 metal discs, 60 percent of which are Arabic music. "Its variety is astonishing," Ladkani said. "Muslim muezzin calls, Palestinian folk songs, Hebrew cantorial chant, classical oud performances, an entire Palestinian wedding in Ramallah, a female Lebanese singer, Hebrew song." Lachmann, she said, "walked the streets of Jerusalem, recording equipment in hand, capturing the musical life of all of Jerusalem's inhabitants and visitors." One reason he did this, she explained, was his attempt to find similarities in Semitic-Jewish and Palestinian-Arab cultures. "Depending upon my musical analysis conclusions, it may be possible to build upon Lachmann's earlier attempts to draw such conclusions," she said.

A second major uncatalogued collection in the archives was recorded by several unknown Palestinian-Arabs in the Northern Israel/Galilee area. It contains more than 40 hours of recordings in various settings (including weddings and oral poetry) and numerous lengthy interviews about Palestinian folklore during and preceding the 1960s.

There are other, smaller collections, including a collection recorded by Edith Gerson-Kiwi, an assistant to Lachmann, that also remain uncatalogued.

"The imprisonment of these recordings, first through inaccessibility and now through simple ignorance, has been a cultural crime," Ladkani said. "I am in a rare position to affect change and to widely publish information about the historical recordings of Arabic music in the NSA and, therefore, about Palestinian daily life, culture, local politics, and even gossip in 1930s Jerusalem."

A native of Florida, Ladkani is the daughter of a Palestinian father and American mother. She has recently accepted a position as visiting assistant professor of musicology at Earlham College in Richmond, Ind.

Earlham, she noted, is a Quaker college with a significant Palestinian student population. Her fall teaching assignment includes a course on music of the Middle East.

Ladkani received the Florida State University Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship in 1999 and a Fulbright Dissertation Grant to Jordan in 1998-99. It was while traveling in the Middle East on the Fulbright grant that she uncovered the wealth of musical recordings at the NSA, she said. Having already read of Lachmann's recordings, she went to the NSA and was warmly welcomed by the archives' director, who has since given her permission to work at length with all of the uncatalogued collections.

While she hopes that some day all of the Arabic music in the NSA will be available to the public on CD, the release of commercial recordings "faces a difficult future" because the University of Berlin (Lachmann's former employer) owns half the collection and Hebrew University owns the other half. The other, smaller collections also "represent a tangled web of copyright ownership," Ladkani said, which, combined with the on-going political situation in Jerusalem, "explains the lack of reference material on the Arabic music holdings at the NSA."

"Music and dance are two human expressions that transcend ideologies and are at the same time great loci of cultural identity and for developing self worth," noted Ladkani's FSU professor Dale A. Olsen, director of the Center for Music of the Americas. Ladkani's Palestinian ancestry, Arabic language ability, American nationality, and musicological training place her in a unique position to contribute to further understanding the history of the Palestinian people and their ethnomusicology.



Jennifer Ladkani

Websites of Interest

PARC has begun collecting web addresses of sites that may be of interest to scholars and others interested in Palestinian issues. Here is what we have collected to date, presented in alphabetical order. We hope to present updates to this list and commentaries on particularly interesting sites in each newsletter. Also note that these sites can be reached by hyperlink from PARC's web site, where they are sorted by type of organization.

Al-Ayyam Newspaper
www.al-ayyam.com

Al-Azhar University, Gaza
www.alazhar-gaza.edu

Al-Najah University, Nablus
www.najah.edu

Al-Quds University, Jerusalem
www.alquds.edu

Arab American University, Jenin
www.aauj.edu

Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
www.adc.org/adc

Begin-Sadat Institute for Strategic Studies, Bar-Ilan University
www.biu.ac.il/soc/besa

Ben-Gurion University, Department of Middle East Studies
www.bgu.ac.il/mideast/

Bethlehem University
www.bethlehem.edu

Birzeit University
www.birzeit.edu

Birzeit University
Continuing Education Dept.
www.birzeit.edu/ced

Center for Palestine Research & Studies (CPRS), Nablus
www.cprs-palestine.org

Center for Policy Analysis on Palestine, Washington, D.C.
www.palestinecenter.org

Central Election Commission, Palestine
www.p-anet.edu/~cec/

Churches for Middle East Peace, Washington, D.C.
www.cmep.org

Demographic, Environmental and Security Issues Project, (*global issues, including the Middle East*)
www.igc.org/desip

Gaza Community Mental Health Programme
www.gcmhp.net

Health Development, Information and Policy Institute (HDIP), Ramallah
www.hdip.org

Hebron University
www.hebron.edu

Al-Amal (Hope) Flowers School, Jerusalem
www.samarkand.org

Ibrahimieh Community College, Jerusalem
www.ibrahimieh.edu

Institute for Palestine Studies, Washington, D.C.
www.ipsjps.org

Islamic University of Gaza (IUG)
www.iugaza.edu

Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI), Jerusalem *Note: This site has the Draft Final Status Proclamation as well as information on its projects in the fields of law, environment and water, and peace education.*
www.ipcri.org

Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs
www.israel.org

Israeli-Arab Scholarship Program of USIA
www.usis-israel.org.il

MEDEA European Institute for Research on Mediterranean and Euro-Arab Cooperation
www.medeabe

Mid-East Realities, Washington D.C., ed. Mark Bruzonsky
www.middleeast.org

Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, Tel Aviv University
www.dayan.org

MSANEWS Launchpad, Muslim Students Association, Ohio State University
msanews.mynet.net/Launchpad/lpad.html

Negotiation Affairs Department, Palestinian Authority
www.pna.org/nad

Palesta (Palestinian Scientists and Technologists Abroad)
www.palesta.net

Palestine Economic Forum
www.palecon.org

Palestine Planning Center
www.oppc.pna.net

Palestine Times, London, UK
www.ptimes.com

Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs, Jerusalem
www.passia.org

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
www.pcbs.org/
(under construction)

Palestinian Development InfoNet, Interuniversity Consortium for Arab Studies, Montreal
www.arts.mcgill.ca/MEPP/PDI N/pdfront.html

Palestinian Development Plan
www.palestine-pdp.org

Palestinian Guide: Your Guide in Palestine
www.palguide.com

Palestinian Energy & Environmental Research Center
www.planet.edu/~pec

Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
mol.gov.ps/

Palestinian National Authority Official Web site
www.pna.net

Palestinian Refugee Research Net
www.arts.mcgill.ca/MEPP/PRR N/prfront.html

Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the UN
www.palestine-UN.org

Sindibad Films and Multimedia, film distribution, UK
www.sindibad.co.uk

The Bethlehem Bible College
www.bethlehembiblecollege.edu

The Complete Guide to Palestine's Websites
www.birzeit.edu/links

The General Delegation of Palestine in Canada
www.cyberus.ca/~baker/palestine4a.htm

The Palestine Polytechnic Institute, Hebron
www.ppi.edu

The Palestinian Academic Network
www.planet.edu

United National, Office of the Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories
www.arts.mcgill.ca/mepp/unsc o/unfront.html

Wafa, Palestine News Agency
www.wafa.pna.net

2001-2002 Research Fellowship Opportunities Palestinian American Research Center (PARC)

The Palestinian American Research Center announces its second competition for post-doctoral and /or doctoral research fellowships in Palestinian studies for the academic year 2001-2002. Field of study and historical time period are open. Typical awards will range from \$4,500 to \$6,000 and may include up to \$1,000 for travel expenses.

General Information:

- Applicants must be senior (post-doctoral) scholars or full-time graduate students enrolled in a recognized degree program.
- Graduate students must have fulfilled all preliminary requirements for the doctorate degree except the dissertation by the time research commences.
- Applicants may seek additional funding from other sources, but in the case of multiple awards PARC must be notified and reserves the right to modify or cancel its fellowship offer.

Application Requirements:

- Project description not exceeding 2,500 words, including importance of research topic, methodology, literature review, applicant's qualifications, applicant's nationality, time frame, budget and curriculum vitae
- three letters of recommendation
- notice of other applications and grant history
- pre-doctoral applicants must provide graduate transcript(s)

Deadline:

**Applications MUST BE RECEIVED BY
15 January 2001**

Palestinian American Research Center
Randolph-Macon College

P.O. Box 5005 Ashland, VA 23005-5505 U.S.A.

For further information, contact:

Dr. Michael R. Fischbach, Director

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Web site: www.parccenter.org

Join us at the upcoming MESA conference for an informational session in conjunction with the PARC-sponsored panel discussion, Friday, November 17, at 8 a.m.

This fellowship program is made possible by grants from The Rockefeller Foundation and The Ford Foundation.

PARC Sponsors Panel Discussion at Upcoming MESA Conference

PARC will sponsor a panel discussion as part of the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, to be held November 17-19, 2000 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Fla. PARC will also present a brief update of its activities and announce the details of its upcoming fellowship competition at this time.

The PARC panel discussion, **Rule by Records: The Impact and Legacy of British Rule in Palestine**, will be held at 8 a.m. on Friday, November 17.

Panelists will include:

Chair: **Lisa Pollard**,
University of North Carolina-
Wilmington

Ellen Fleishmann,
University of Dayton
*Unnatural Vices or Unnatural Rule?
Sex Surveys During the British Mandate
in Palestine*

Sandy Sufian, Center for Health
Research/Oregon Health Science
University *Mopping the Marsh:
Malaria and the Sharing of Medical
Knowledge in Mandatory Palestine*

Martin Bunton, University of Victoria
and recipient of a 2000-2001 PARC
Fellowship award
*Palestine's Land Registers: Imperial
Authority or Empirical Truth?*

Michael R. Fischbach, Palestinian
American Research Center
*Mandatory Land Records, the U.N.,
and Palestinian Refugee Property Rights*

Salim Tamari, Institute for Jerusalem
Studies *Post-British Records: the
UNWRA Archives*

Discussant: **Roger Owen**, Harvard University

PARC to Co-Host Water Conference in 2001

PARC will be co-hosting a conference titled "Water and the Future of Palestinian-Israeli Relations" to be held at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va. in the spring of 2001. Confirmed invitees include: Dr. Basel Ghattas, director of the Galilee Society; the Arab National Society for Health Research and Services in Shafa Amr, Israel, and Walid Sabbah, doctoral candidate at Brigham Young University and former head of water research at the Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem (ARIJ) in Bethlehem, West Bank. Sabbah is also one of this year's PARC Fellowship recipients.

Randolph-Macon College is able to co-host the conference through a U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant. This grant also enabled PARC's director, Michael Fischbach, to lead a team of R-MC professors on a tour of Syria, Jordan, Israel, and the West Bank in May 2000. The trip included visits to the Galilee Society, ARIJ, and other Palestinian Institutions.

Frances Hasso Explores Issues of Nationalism, Feminism, and Modernity

In 1989, Dr. Frances Hasso began conducting interviews with Palestinian women working in the income-generating projects and pre-schools of the Palestinian Federation of Women's Action Committees (PFWAC) because she was interested in the impact of PFWAC's work on their daily lives and their ideas about gender.

Hasso had been co-supervising work projects for the PFWAC in the Occupied Territories that year as part of a self-planned internship during her master's program in Arab studies at Georgetown University. "I was looking for an organization that addressed national and gender issues," which the PFWAC was doing through a variety of work projects that generated income for working women and communities in the Occupied Territories.

The PFWAC made a dramatic and destructive split from its parent organization, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) shortly after Hasso returned to the U.S. in late 1989. At that point, not really knowing how to handle her collection of interviews, Hasso set them aside. "I didn't know what to do with them; I didn't understand what was happening." She also believed that she needed additional training, "more theory and methodology," that would help her to make sense of the interviews and the political division that had occurred in the PFWAC and DFLP. Hasso went back to graduate school, this time for a Ph.D. in sociology and a graduate certificate in women's studies from the University of Michigan, which she completed in 1997, adding to her existing background in political science, international relations, and Arab studies. "Interdisciplinarity is really the way to go," she says. She doesn't find that any of the disciplines alone does enough. "It's much more interesting to combine them as much as possible."

Hasso would periodically return to her 1989 interviews and was encouraged by colleagues to go back and talk to the 63 women again. In 1995 she received a Social Science Research Council/American Council of Learned Societies dissertation grant to do just that. Hasso found 56 of the women and re-asked many of the same questions. She added new questions, particularly about the ways their lives and their choices were affected by the changes in the two organizations, as well as about the influence of the Intifada, the popular uprising in the Occupied Territories. The process,

she said, moved her toward an interest in the leadership of the DFLP, and she added interviews with 29 men and women leaders and mid-level cadres of the party. She wanted to understand why it was so "women-friendly" and how that attitude impacted the DFLP and the PFWAC. "I saw the PFWAC first as an auxiliary organization, under the leadership and power of the DFLP. What I found in 1995 was that women were very powerful in the party and that it wasn't accurate to identify PFWAC as an auxiliary organization. In fact, the DFLP in the Occupied Territories was often accused of being a 'women's front.'"

Through her PARC fellowship, Hasso recently returned to the Middle East to collect additional interviews with men and women associated with the DFLP and PFWAC in Palestine, Syria, and Jordan. The DFLP, she notes, is like other Palestinian organizations. "All the parties mostly existed in the diaspora." As the daughter of Jordanian parents, she has a special interest in Jordanian viewpoints on the subject. She hopes her research will provide additional insight into the issues of the DFLP and PFWAC's organizational collapse and transformation. Having worked with the organization prior to its breakup, she has a unique insight into

both organizations' developments over the past decade.

Hasso's life has not stood still while she completes her research, which she hopes will be ready for publication sometime in the next year or two. Being professor, researcher, and mother of two young children keeps her on her toes. This fall she adds to her balancing act a new position as assistant professor of women's studies and sociology at Oberlin College, a school with approximately 2,800 students. Oberlin, the first college to admit women and African-Americans, has been a maverick institution in breaking traditional boundaries. She feels it will be a welcoming place for her continued exploration of Palestinian gender, political, and nationalist issues. She also faces the task of transcribing and translating the 24 lengthy interviews that she conducted during her PARC-funded research.



Frances Hasso

Weldon Matthews Examines the Emergence of the Istiqlal Party

The myriad ways in which people identify themselves and the role that the state plays in that process has always interested Dr. Weldon Matthews. His current research project delves into that interest by focusing on the development of the Istiqlal (Independence) Party in Palestine as a dramatic shift from the customary political process in the early 20th century.

Matthews has already completed considerable research on the subject. His grant will allow him to return to Jerusalem next spring to examine the newspaper collection at the National Library at the Hebrew University. He also plans to visit the Israel State Archives, where he hopes to find more information on Arab political parties in the 1930s.

"Istiqlal was the first populist party that was truly nationalist in its outlook and its ideology," Weldon says. "Other parties at the time were more vehicles for political clans, factions, and individuals within the elite. As a party, it may have been small, but it tried to become part of other existing political associations and cultural associations to bring them around to a nationalist outlook and an anti-British and anti-Zionist stance."

Istiqlal's emergence in the 1930s, Weldon notes, created a party based on ideological and nationalistic values that separated it from the "politics of notables" that had been dominant until that time. Leaders of Istiqlal contributed to the development of concepts of Palestinian national identity linked to Pan Arabism. He plans to investigate why this specific form of nationalism arose and why, in the interwar period, changes occurred in the expression of political identity.

Weldon admits that he drifted into his interest in Palestine

through the back door of American foreign and economic policy. Originally interested in petroleum diplomacy, he began to look at foreign policy in the Middle East, which ultimately led him to a deep interest in the Palestinian movement. The overlay of the economic, political, and cultural elements was compelling to him.

Weldon continues to explore issues of politics and culture in his current examination of the Palestinian nationalist movement. Dominated as they were by the cultures of the Ottoman Turks and then the British, the Palestinian people, Weldon believes, were provoked to question their identity in relation to their status as individuals within a state imposed from outside. "Increasingly aware of the Turkish cultural dimension in the rapidly modernizing Ottoman state, Arab elites responded by articulating an Arab cultural and political nationalism." This response, he says, "intensified during the period of British administration, when the culture of power was British with strong Protestant overtones."

"The trend toward nationalism," he adds, "didn't occur only in the political arena. The emergence of social groups and clubs during this time, as well as Arab schools, provided a forum for developing strong nationalist outlooks. These places," Weldon points out, "became places for the inculcation of modern Arabic high culture and nationalist ideas. In these institutions, people became attuned to the nationalist idea."

Professor Rashid Khalidi, who supervised Matthews' dissertation at the University of Chicago, has called the research project an "extremely original and important work, which constitutes a major scholarly contribution to modern Middle Eastern history and to the history of Palestine."

A native of North Carolina, Matthews has recently taken his expertise in Middle East history to Walla Walla, Washington, as a faculty member in the history department of Whitman College, a liberal arts college of approximately 1,350 students. Prior to joining Whitman, he was a visiting assistant professor at Shippensburg University.



Weldon Matthews

New Books:

Encyclopedia of the Palestinians

EDITED BY PHILIP MATTAR

The encyclopedia is a comprehensive one-volume compendium of knowledge about modern Palestinian history and society that is at once wide in scope, intermediate in size, authoritative, and readable. *The Reference Books Bulletin* (September 2000) calls the writing "clear, concise, and objective, providing both details and the larger picture."

This is the only encyclopedia on the Palestinians in English. The 514

page work has some 320 entries, a third of which are biographies, including such politicians as Amin al-Husayni and Yasir Arafat, and such intellectuals as Walid Khalidi and Edward Said. It is written by some of the best scholars in the field, such as Kamal Boullata, Laurie Brand, Rashid Khalidi, Ann Moseley Lesch, Ian Lustick, Benny Morris, Julie Peteet, Raja Shehadeh, Avi Shlaim, Charles Smith, Sara Roy, and Mark Tessler. Their contributions represent some of the finest scholarship in the past three decades and make this encyclopedia the most reliable, balanced, and scholarly reference work on modern

Palestinian history and society in any language.

The encyclopedia covers three broad periods: the late Ottoman era, British Mandate (1922-1948), and the post-1948 period, which includes such topics as the Palestinian diaspora communities, the PLO, the West Bank and Gaza, Israeli Palestinians, the Palestinian Authority, terrorism, human rights, women, and the peace process. The entries cover a variety of disciplines including sociology, politics, literature, art, economics, archeology, and geography.

Philip Mattar is the author of *The Mufti of Jerusalem*, published by

Columbia University in 1992 (revised edition), and a co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East*, published by Macmillan Publishing Company in 1996. He has taught the history of Palestine as an adjunct at Yale and Georgetown universities.

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Martin Bunton Investigates Colonial Land Policies in Palestine

The idea here," says Dr. Martin Bunton, "is to look at British land policies of the '20s and '30s in mandate Palestine and what they can tell us about the colonial state in Palestine, as well as what they can tell us about the land situation there today." Bunton will use his PARC fellowship to research the influence of Sir Ernest Dowson on the definition of property rights in Palestine.

Bunton, who holds dual Canadian and British citizenship, developed his interest in Palestinian land issues after studying British colonial policies and the broader issue of the transformation of property rights during the 20th century. His current project grows out of his doctoral research, in which he chose Palestine as a case study for exploring the specific impact of a "western definition of property rights" imposed onto "indigenous definitions of property rights."



Martin Bunton

Bunton says that little comparative research has been done in the area of colonial land policies, particularly with respect to Palestine, which tends to be seen as unique when viewed alone. According to Bunton, however, "when you view the policy in Palestine with what it has in common with British policy in general and colonial policies elsewhere, there is less uniqueness than one would expect."

Bunton says that little comparative research has been done in the area of colonial land policies, particularly with respect to Palestine, which tends to be seen as unique when viewed alone. According to Bunton, however, "when you view the policy in Palestine with what it has in common with British policy in general and colonial policies elsewhere, there is less uniqueness than one would expect."

Dowson was "extremely influential in determining what land policies were arrived at in mandate Palestine," Bunton says, and also had tremendous influence on the land policies in other colonial territories. "When Dowson comes to Palestine in 1923 as the advisor to the British government on land agreements and land registration, he brings baggage from Egypt and India, making a deeper study of his influence in Palestinian land policy a rich vein to tap." Bunton believes that studying Dowson's influence on land policy may shed additional light on the land situation in Palestine today.

Similarly, exploring the land policy issues of the period, he says, may also change the understanding of Palestinian history in general. As Dowson played a major role in the establishment of colonial policies in Palestine, "focusing on [his] approach to defining property relations will provide a modest contribution to a more comprehensive historical vision of the place that mandate Palestine was than can [be] achieved by focusing on Zionism as the primary moving force behind developments in land policy during this period," Bunton believes.

Being a recipient of a PARC fellowship, he adds, "is extremely useful, as it makes it possible to travel to conduct research, which

otherwise would not have been possible." As a sessional instructor at both the University of Victoria and Simon Fraser University, Bunton has been unable to obtain research funds that are generally available only to full-time faculty members. For his PARC research, Bunton plans to travel to England next May to review a collection of Dowson's writings and personal papers housed at the University of Cambridge and to consult other sources in London and Oxford.

Bunton received his D.Phil. in modern Middle Eastern history from Oxford University in 1998 and is looking forward to the publication of his dissertation by Oxford University Press next year. He and his wife, Saija Tissari, and their two children live in Victoria, B.C.; they are expecting their third child in December.

Look for Bunton in November at the MESA conference in Orlando, Fla., where he will be one of PARC's panelists on the topic "Rule by Records: The Impact and Legacy of British Rule in Palestine."

— Continued from page 4

Shira Nomi Robinson, Ph.D. candidate, Middle Eastern History, Stanford University

A recipient of the Stanford History Department's Full Doctoral Fellowship, Robinson has been working as a teaching assistant while completing her doctorate in Middle Eastern History. She has also worked as an associate for Human Rights Watch/Middle East, in Washington, D.C.

Robinson's research on "Struggles of Reconstruction: A Social History of Palestinians in Israel, 1948-1966" will look at the public and private lives of those who remained within Israel's borders following the 1948 war, the methods they used to define themselves, and how they "reconstruct[ed] and re-imagin[e]d" their lives and communities" in this new environment. Robinson intends to undertake extensive archival research during 12 months in Israel.

Walid Sabbah, Ph.D. candidate, Civil & Environmental Engineering Department, Brigham Young University


While studying for his Ph.D., Sabbah has worked as a research assistant for the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department at BYU. He has also worked as a consultant for Hydrological and Spatial GIS Modeling for a USAID project on developing Palestinian water resources.

Sabbah's research on "Identification of Surface Water and Groundwater Flow Patterns in the West Bank of Palestine" will provide analysis of water resources that may help future Palestinian technical teams better understand the issues. In addition, Sabbah plans to create groundwater and hydrogeochemical models for possible use by the Palestinian Water Authority.



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