

*A Member of the Council of American
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PARC

PALESTINIAN AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER

PROMOTING PALESTINIAN STUDIES AND SCHOLARLY EXCHANGE ON PALESTINIAN ISSUES

19 Fellowships Awarded for 2003-2004

THANKS TO GRANTS FROM THE FORD AND ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATIONS, PARC funded 10 fellowships for non-U.S. citizens. Nine U.S. citizens also received fellowships, thanks to a grant from the Educational and Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Department of State. PARC appreciates the support from the Palestine Investment Fund, which co-sponsored the Palestinian graduate student Amal Hudhud.

In addition, a grant from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) enabled PARC to fund a consultant to prepare a printed and Web-based guide to the archives in Nablus.

The following is a summary of this year's award recipients:

PALESTINIANS AND OTHER CITIZENSHIP

funded by The Ford and Rockefeller Foundations

1. **Mr. Mohammed Abu Daya**, researcher with the Environmental Quality Authority in Gaza: assessment of the risks to marine life and swimmers due to coastal pollution from untreated sewage, fertilizers, and pesticides.
2. **Mr. Farid al-Salim**, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Arkansas: the socio-economic transformation of Tulkarm after it became the seat of a sub-district in 1888; co-funded by ACOR (Amman).
3. **Dr. Ahmed Ghodieh**, chair of the Geography Department at al-Najah National University, Nablus: GIS data-based study of land use in the northern half of the West Bank, contrasting 1970 and 1994, in order to undertake effective land use planning.
4. **Mr. Samer Hamidi**, Ph.D. candidate in public health at Tulane University on leave from the Pharmacy Department of the PA Ministry of Health: cost savings and health effects likely from implementing the MOH's essential drug list.
5. **Dr. Maher Hashweh**, professor of education and chair of the democracy and human rights program at Birzeit University: Palestinian high school students' conceptions of democracy and the design of appropriate new curricular materials.

6. **Ms. Amal Hudhud**, Ph.D. candidate at Loughborough University and environmental engineer with the Nablus municipality: analysis of how to handle the currently untreated discharge of waste from olive mills. Co-funded by the Palestine Investment Fund.

7. **Dr. Yousef Jabareen**, Georgetown law school and former staff person at the Association for Civil Rights in Israel: a legal-political analysis of the Israeli Supreme Court's rulings in relation to the Palestinian minority.

8. **Ms. Islah Jad**, Ph. D candidate and lecturer in women's studies at Birzeit University: completion of her dissertation at SOAS on the contemporary Palestinian women's movement.

9. **Dr. Basem Ra'ad**, professor of world civilization and literature at al-Quds University: an exploration of connections between contemporary Palestinian culture and ancient customs and languages.

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U.S. Director on Fulbright in Lebanon

PARC'S U.S. DIRECTOR, ANN LESCH, IS currently on a Fulbright Teaching Fellowship at the Lebanese American University in Beirut. Ann will be teaching International Relations there for the fall 2003 semester. In addition to teaching, Ann hopes to conduct interviews on Lebanese attitudes on U.S. policy while in Beirut.

Ann is using her time in the Middle East to visit with Penny Johnson, PARC's Palestine director, members of the Advisory Committee, PARC grantees, and other universities in the region to gain further insights and advise on current and upcoming PARC programs.

**Expect a full report from Ann
in our Spring 2004 Newsletter!**

19 Fellowships Awarded for 2003-2004 continued

10. **Ms. Linda Tabar**, graduate student at the University of London (SOAS): 'Collective Memory, Nation and Conflict: Palestinian Narratives after Oslo,' an examination of the perspectives of marginalized groups, particularly in Jenin and Dheisheh camps.

US CITIZENS, funded by ECA/State Department

1. **Ms. Diana Allan**, graduate student in social anthropology at Harvard University: cultural production and transmission in two refugee camps in Lebanon.

2. **Dr. Gail Boling, JD**, professor at Birzeit University's Law Institute: legal entitlements and adjudication processes in Bosnia, South Africa, and West Germany after 1945 that could be relevant to future Palestinian refugee claims mechanisms.

3. **Dr. Ilana Feldman**, Mellon fellow at Columbia University: research in British Mandate-era education and police archives to complete her book manuscript on the civil service in Gaza during the Mandate and under Egyptian rule (1917-1967).

4. **Dr. Mohammed Hafez**, visiting assistant professor at the University of Missouri (Kansas City): applying his theoretical framework to why people become suicide bombers. Since he has since received a grant from the US Institute of Peace, PARC will not fund his research.

5. **Ms. Marwa Hassoun**, graduate student at the University of Minnesota in women's studies, political science, and development: a comparison of strategies of resistance to state power in Los Angeles and among refugees in the occupied territories and Jordan. PARC will support her field work in the Middle East.

6. **Dr. Rhoda Kanaaneh**, assistant professor of anthropology at American University: how Palestinians who join the Israeli military and police construct their identities and relate to their own communities and the Israeli state.

7. **Ms. Morag Kersel**, graduate student in archaeology at Cambridge University: 'Global Strategies of Cultural Property Protection,' focusing on trafficking in antiquities in the West Bank, Israel, and Mali; co-funded by the Albright Institute.

8. **Dr. Thomas Ricks**, adjunct professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania: 'Voices from the School Yards: Palestine 1853-1973,' an examination of private national and missionary schools; co-funded by Birzeit University.

9. **Ms. Sherene Seikaly**, graduate student in history and Middle East Studies at New York University: how Palestinian citizens of Israel negotiate citizenship through consumerism and engagement in the market.

CONSULTANT, funded by CAORC:

Khalid Abu Dayeh, archivist and librarian at al-Najah National University: preparation of printed and on-line guides to archival holdings in Nablus. The guide will focus on the Nablus County Archives, which includes estate records, minutes of local government sessions, poll lists, maps, census records, newspaper articles, diaries, photographs and letters. It will also include material related to al-Najah National University and family papers, if available.

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Palestinian American Research Center Newsletter Fall 2003

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ACCESS Announces the Creation of the Arab American National Museum

THE ARAB COMMUNITY CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SERVICES (ACCESS) announces the establishment of the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, Michigan.

The museum, projected to open in fall 2004, will be the first of its kind in the United States. The \$12.8 million dollar facility will preserve and document the experiences and accomplishments of Arab Americans as a community through three galleries: Coming to America, Living in America, and Making an Impact. A 36,000 square foot building across from Dearborn City Hall is being renovated to house gallery space for permanent and traveling exhibits of history and art, an auditorium, and performance space for music, theater, and dance, meeting and reception facilities, classrooms, and a resource center and library. ACCESS is now collecting the stories, artifacts, and art works with which to fill the galleries.

Dr. Anan Ameri, director of Cultural Arts, is holding community meetings throughout the United States and asking participants to share stories and memorabilia that reflect the various experiences of Arab Americans. These meetings also open an on-going dialogue between the Museum and other communities to develop relationships between institutions and the narrating of the Arab American story.



The Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS)

For more information on upcoming **community** meetings or if you have something you're willing to share, **please** contact ACCESS, Sarah Blannett, **Museum Curator** or Dr. Anan Ameri, Director, 2601 Saulino Court, Dearborn, Michigan 48120, (313)843-2844 or via e-mail at sblannett@accesscommunity.org.

PARC Welcomes Shaw Dallal to Board



PARC IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT Shaw Dallal has joined its Board of Directors as Treasurer.

"I am honored to sit on the board of PARC and be its treasurer, and look forward to learning more about this distinguished organization," says Dallal.

Dallal (JD, Cornell University) is a professor of comparative Middle East politics, international law, the Arab Israeli Conflict and the Middle East and the global political economy, which he instituted for the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. He also teaches Arabic for the Department of Linguistics and Literature, and

Islamic Culture and Civilization in the Honors Program of Syracuse University. An international lawyer and scholar, he has served as the chief legal advisor for the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) in Kuwait, and has written numerous articles on the Middle East. He is also an author of several short stories and the recently published historical novel, *Scattered Like Seeds*.

Dallal will be replacing Omar Kader of Pal-Tech Industries, Inc., who has served as PARC's Treasurer since its inception. "We are extremely grateful to Omar for his service to and support of PARC over the years," says Philip Mattar, president of PARC's board. "His advice has been — and will continue to be — invaluable as PARC continues to grow."

THOMAS M. RICKS | Voices from the Schoolyards



THE STUDY OF SCHOOLS IN PALESTINE IS THE focus of research by Thomas M. Ricks, visiting associate professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania. Ricks' project completes the more than 300 hours of oral histories he has conducted over several years and completes his investigation of archival holdings in the United Kingdom on Palestinian schools, educators and students and British

Mandate mission schools. The findings are an integral part of his monograph project, *Voices from the Schoolyards: Memories of Palestine, Schools and Mission Education, AD 1853-1973*, which he plans to submit for publication in 2004.

"The proposed research focuses on Palestinian education and foreign mission and British mandatory schools for the 19th and 20th centuries in the towns of Ramallah, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem," Ricks reports. He plans to document, describe and analyze the political, social and cultural evolution and effects of Palestinian education on the country's rural and urban community and national leaders.

His thesis is twofold: that the World War I and Mandate periods are "the watershed in the evolution of Palestinian national identity and political culture as seen from the perspective of Palestine's schools,

teachers, students, and subjects studied" and that the boom in schools from the 1920s to the 1940s "unintentionally laid the foundation for the eventual collapse of Palestinian educated middle and upper-class leadership in the face of British and Zionist violence on the one hand, and escalating Palestinian rural resistance on the other."

"It was as though Palestine's middle and upper classes were 'blinded' by their own comforts and successes to the rapidly changing political events beyond the Eastern Mediterranean," explains Ricks. His thesis argues that the schools, teachers, and European-American educational political culture so praised and eagerly sought after by Palestinians in the three cities created the "blindness" to the pending military and political catastrophe or *nakba* of 1948-49.



Palestine's past and present schools, teachers, and textbooks, as well as the memories of those teachers and students, are, according to Ricks, "a fragile national treasure in danger of being lost in the rubble of Palestine's past and present travails and struggles."

During the summer of 2003, he reviewed letters, diaries, memoranda, and reports from the periods and re-interviewed 25 people on new topics, with support from Birzeit University as well as PARC.

Ricks holds a Ph.D. and M.A. from Indiana University. He previously received a Senior Fulbright Research Grant.

ISLAH JAD | Examines the Palestinian Women's Movement in the Emerging Palestinian State

"MY INTENT," DECLARES ISLAH JAD REGARDING HER CURRENT RESEARCH, "is to present the Palestinian women's movements from the aftermath of the Oslo agreements until the Israeli invasion and reoccupation of Palestinian towns in March 2002." Jad sees the current situation as a "demobilization" of mass movements and rise of "NGOization" in the post-Oslo environment. This process entails "the mushrooming of NGOs," with different structures, vision, discourse, and programs that suit their unique vision. "NGOization," she asserts, "is also about the emergence of a new and different women's elite empowered by a 'universal' agenda for democratization in general and women's empowerment in particular."

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Women's movements worldwide, she posits, are "geared toward a discourse of equality for women, sharing development outcomes and sharing power positions."
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As Jad points out, this process is occurring against a background of international changes in women's movements. Women's movements worldwide, she posits, are "geared toward a discourse of equality for women, sharing development outcomes and sharing power positions." The Palestinian women's movement faces the additional challenges of continuing the national struggle while participating in state building. "Under normal conditions, it is difficult to straddle these two agendas, let alone when in an extraordinary situation in which the state and society are threatened in their very physical existence," says Jad. She believes examining how women's gender interests are represented in

ISLAH JAD CONTINUED

the state structures will illuminate how they were reconstructed following the Oslo accords. Her study will focus on “femocrats”—women in positions of power in the bureaucracy—and the differing agendas among women in different political organizations, from the ruling party to left wing political parties, NGOs and the Islamist movement.

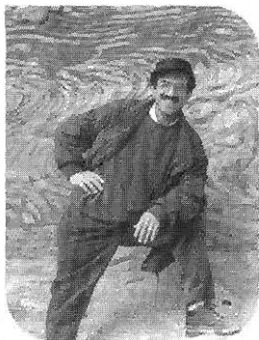
Jad intends to conduct in-depth interviews with women’s activists in old and new organizations, women working in the Palestinian Authority, and some male activists in grassroots organizations. “In the course of my research, a deconstruction of patrimonialism or neo-patrimonialism as the main paradigm to understand the Palestinian Authority will be necessary to give way to other dynamics affecting the nascent state.”

Jad is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies, and lecturer in the Women’s Studies Institute and Cultural Studies Department at Birzeit University.



Motherhood by Nabil 'Anani

BASEM RA'AD | Explores Links Between Palestine's Past and Present



BASEM LUTFI RA'AD, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH and world civilizations at Al-Quds University, asserts that “Palestinian ancient roots have been buried over centuries by a combination of elision and neglect. On the one hand, people have continued to live here and to mix here over the millennia; on the other hand, other voices – not those of the subjects – have perpetuated what is written as if it were

history, thus sidelining larger facts and contexts, magnifying and distorting perspectives.”

To support his arguments, Ra'ad points to nineteenth and twentieth century travel accounts and scholarly writings, and to more recent anthropological studies, which, he claims “have been largely controlled by the double-edged agendas of Zionist and later Israeli scholars.” Accepting these dominant viewpoints, he adds, “ha[s] serious implications that affect common perceptions of diverse areas from history and politics to religious development, to languages and questions of identity and continuity. Countering such dominance with available new information would have wide-ranging impact on both Palestinian self-understanding and understandings by others.”

Another interesting feature Ra'ad sees is that Palestinians themselves tend to shorten their history in their current short-term affiliations. He believes that “establishing concrete links, outside the dominant paradigm, would go a long way toward altering the view of human development in Palestine.”

Through his study, Ra'ad hopes to explore the gaps and inconsistencies that plague accounts of ancient Palestinian practices in order to recover “hidden history and counter hegemonic narratives.”

Underlying his research is the idea that “present Palestinian customs and tradition have remnants of ancient cultural habits and that these have been covered up or modified by subsequent religious and cultural developments.” Ra'ad sees evidence of the continuities between past and present as well as the increased speed in which Palestinian customs are currently being lost. As evidence is retrieved systematically, he posits, the case for continuities between Palestine’s past and present can work “to raise Palestinian consciousness and . . . project an alternative historical process.”

Topics of Interest at the MESA 2003 Conference

The 2003 Middle East Studies Association conference will be held November 6-9 at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska. The following is a list of conference session and papers relating to Palestine studies. * indicates PARC fellowship recipients, † indicates PARC board or committee members

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 8:30–10:30AM

Palestinian Nationalism

TAYSIR NASHIF, United Nations

*Palestinian National Consciousness in
Israel Existed Prior to the 1967 war*

R. MICHAEL BRACY, University of Arkansas

*The Woes of Brothers: Pan-Islamism, Nationalism,
and Political Critique in "Filastin"*

NIDA ALAHMAD, The New School University

Popular Discourses and Collective Identities

NASSER ABU-FARHA, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dying to Exist: Palestinian Missions of Self-Sacrifice

MICHAEL VICENTE PEREZ, Michigan State University

Citizens and Palestine: National Narratives of the Self

Education, Politics, and the Economy

CHRISTA BRUHN, University of Wisconsin-Madison

*Extending the University: Supporting Grassroots Initiatives
in Palestine*

The Arctic & Middle East: Comparison & Contrasts

Chair: STEVEN C. DINERO, Philadelphia University

Discussant: DAWN CHATTY, University of Oxford

GERALD BERMAN, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

*Traditional & Modern Medical Health Interventions Among
Indigenous Peoples: Alaska Natives and Negev Bedouins*

STEVEN C. DINERO, Philadelphia University

*The Politics of Education Provision in Nomadic Communities:
Two Cases from Israel & Alaska*

GIDEON KRESSEL, Ben Gurion University

*The Bedouin and the Saami: Nomadic Pastoralism in
Contrasting Ecological Niches*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 11:00–1:00PM

The Mediterranean City in the Shadow of High Modernity

*MICHELLE CAMPOS, Cornell University

HAIFA: Revolution and Public Space in Late Ottoman Palestine

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 8:30–10:30AM

Nationalism and Zionism

YUKSEL SEZGIN, University of Washington

*Israeli "Millet" System Through the Lenses of
"New Institutionalism"*

RUSSELL E. LUCAS, University of Oklahoma, Norman

The Naming of Israeli Palestinians and Discourses of Citizenship

The City and Identity: Claiming Urban Space

GERSHON SHAFIR, University of California, San Diego

Jerusalem/Al Quds: Sacred and Profane

International Justice, Local Injustices, Part I

LISA HAJJAR, University of California, Santa Barbara

*The "Spector" of the International Criminal Court
and Israeli-Palestine*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 11:00–1:00PM

Architects in the Middle East and the Making of a "National" Architectural Character

ADI SHAMIR, California College of Arts and Crafts

*Hebrew Labor: Tel Aviv. The Modern City in
British Mandate Palestine*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 3:15–4:15PM

PARC Business meeting

In the Portage Room at the Hilton

(PLEASE SEE BOX ON PAGE 12.)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 4:30–6:30PM

Arab Land and State Policy in Mandate Palestine and Israel

Chair: †ANN M. IESCH, Villanova University

Discussant: ROGER OWEN, Harvard University

*MARTIN BUNTON, University of Victoria

British Land Policy in Palestine: Intentions, Impact, Legacy

AMOS NADAN, Truman Institute, Hebrew University

*Eradicating Musha': Destructive Reform of an Efficient Peasant
Landholding Institution in Mandate Palestine (1921-1947)*

GEREMY FORMAN, University of Haifa
From 'Arab Land' to 'Israel Lands': The Legal Transformation of Palestinian Refugee Land in Israel (1948-1960)

†MICHAEL R. FISCHBACH, Randolph-Macon College
Legal and Diplomatic Issues Stemming from Israeli Expropriation of Palestinian Refugee Land

RASSEM KHAMAISI, University of Haifa
Between Territory and Territorial Policies: Israeli Land Policy and Spatial Judaization

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 8:30–10:30AM

Issues in Nation Building

JENI ALLENBY, Palestine Costume Archive
Palestinian Cultural Heritage in Western Museums: Questioning Modern Boundaries and Ancient Divisions

PARC Panel:

Palestine Today: The Possibilities and Limits of Life under Occupation

Chair and Discussant: †IBRAHIM DAKKAK, Chair, Advisory Committee, Palestinian American Research Center

†PENNY JOHNSON, Palestine Director, Palestinian American Research Center
A Father's No Shield for His Child: Crisis and Change in Palestinian Families and Gender Dynamics in the Second Palestinian Intifada

*LORIA ALLEN, University of Chicago
The Banalization of Violence and the Nationalization of Emotions: Towards an Ethnography of the Palestinian Intifada

*MANAL JAMAL, McGill University
"Popular" and "Not So Popular": Responses to Donor Assistance in Palestine

*KHALED FURANI, Graduate Center, City University of New York
Secular Prayers: An Ethnographic Encounter with Contemporary Palestinian Poetry

*CAROL MALT, independent scholar
Museums: Cultural Survival Under Occupation

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 11:00–1:00PM

Diaspora and Emigration

VICTORIA MASON, Curtin Institute of Technology
Palestinians Exiled from Kuwait in Australia: Community, Identity and Home

International Factors as Catalysts in the Middle East

MICHAEL IRVING JENSEN, Danish Institute for International Studies
International Donor Aid and Its Impact on Local Politics: A Case Study from Palestine

National Symbols and Commemorations: Palestinian Identity in Context

Chair: TAMIR SOREK, Bar Ilan University

Discussant: TED SWEDENBURG, University of Arkansas

*AWAD HALABI, Tufts University
Islamic Festivals in British-Ruled Palestine: Fields of Competing Discourses

TAMIR SOREK, Cornell University
The Orange and the "Cross in the Crescent": Imagining Palestine in 1929

*SHIRA ROBINSON, Stanford University
Spectacles of Sovereignty: Palestinian Celebrations of Israeli Independence under Military Rule

*LALEH KHALILI, Columbia University
Massacres and Battles: Palestinian Commemorative Practices in Lebanon



Last years PARC Panel

DR. MAHER ZUHDI HASHWEH | Investigates Adolescent Conceptions of Democracy



"WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND STUDENTS' IDEAS and thinking about democracy to better design curriculum and instruction in democracy education in Palestine," asserts Dr. Maher Zuhdi Hashweh, chair of the Democracy and Human Rights Graduate Program and associate professor of education at Birzeit University. Hashweh believes that studying adolescent conceptions of

democracy will provide practical information on what components of democracy they understand, their level of understanding, and where their understanding is superficial. Through his study, he also hopes to gain insight into the students' complex cognitive structures as related to democracy, and how these structures reflect their culture.

Hashweh's earlier research indicated that students display basic understandings of components of democracy, such as equality, fairness, justice, rule of law and freedom. He points out, however, that they have only a superficial understanding of some elements, such as the separation of powers, and may even hold misconceptions about other components, for example the degree of freedom democracy

affords. "We need to know more about the developmental trajectories of the students," he adds, "and take this knowledge into consideration in designing democracy education programs that are appropriate to Palestinian society."

Hashweh plans to survey and interview students age 14 to 18, and utilize parallel methods among experts (university faculty) and graduate students in the Democracy and Human Rights Program. Inclusion of these groups "will allow us to describe what expertise in the domain of democracy means and how experts solve social/political problems compared to novices," explains Hashweh. He believes that comparing differences on how these groups organize their knowledge and use knowledge and strategies in approaching democracy-related problems and issues will illuminate the outcomes of democracy education and lead to improved educational programs in the field.

Hashweh holds an M.A. in Education from The American University of Beirut, and received a Ph.D. in Education from Stanford University. He is widely published in the areas of science education, research on teaching, and democracy education.

MORAG KERSEL | Investigates Illicit Trade and Looting of Palestinian Antiquities



MORAG KERSEL'S EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND IN archaeology and historic preservation converge as she examines the ways that nations protect their cultural property from destruction caused by the trafficking in antiquities and the illegal excavation of archaeological sites.

Her overall research is a comparative study of Israel, Palestine and Mali, while her PARC grant enables her to focus on

Palestinian subsistence looters — individuals who have turned to looting of archaeological sites for economic support. She also will look at the Palestinian Department of Antiquities' efforts to stop the looting.

"There has been a dramatic rise in the incidence of this activity, particularly since the beginning of the current Palestinian uprising," asserts Kersel. She attributes this to massive Palestinian unemployment and the rapid erosion of the local economy.

While Israel has a system of legally controlled venues for selling antiquities, she seeks to find out what methods Palestine will employ to protect its heritage. In 1993 Palestine's Department of Antiquities banned the legal trade in antiquities, "but given the current situation and the porous borders for artifacts, looting and destruction of archaeological sites continue unhindered," admits Kersel.

She will track looted artifacts from Palestine to their appearance in shops in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Israel through an analysis of the trade obtained from auction catalogs and the Internet.

MORAG KERSEL CONTINUED

While visiting the region, she will interview dealers, collectors, archaeologists and legal professionals to evaluate the legally managed market.

She will then work with the Palestinian Department of Antiquities and the Palestinian Association for Cultural Exchange “to facilitate my access to the front lines of protection against illicit trade and looting.” Further interviews, including with the diggers themselves, will complement her statistical information. “What remains to be established is whether or not a legally sanctioned trade

in antiquities acts as a deterrent to looting,” she explains. She will also try to answer such questions as “Do policing entities act as deterrents to looting?” and “What policy will the Palestinian state choose to curb the destruction of their national and cultural heritage when the occupying forces are gone?”

Kersel holds two master’s degrees: in Near Eastern archaeology from the University of Toronto and in historic preservation from the University of Georgia. She is now based at the University of Cambridge, where she is a Ph.D. candidate.

MOHAMMED ABU DAYA | Studies Water Pollution Along Gaza Coast

THE SHORELINE ALONG THE GAZA STRIP IS FACING LARGE THREATS, ASSERTS Mohammed Abudaya, mainly “the severe pollution of the sea water and the beach, which poses a major health risk for swimmers and marine life.” Abu Daya, who is employed by the Environmental Quality Authority, is using his PARC grant to set up a baseline study of the extent of pollution in the Gaza Strip shore waters. He plans to offer elaborate methodologies to carry out monitoring and mitigation scenarios to prevent untreated wastewater discharge into the sea so as to avoid contamination. His study will include a database of information on sea water quality and its pollutants.

“A relatively high population density, coupled with a poorly developed infrastructure and low standard of living have all led to the current unsatisfactory conditions,” says Abu Daya. At least 15 sewage outfalls discharge waste into the coastal waters and intensive and uncontrolled use of fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals in coastal agriculture “is leading to contamination of aquifer water as well as marine coastal waters,” he explains.

Abu Daya believes there is also evidence that biodiversity is at risk. “The sand crab *Ocyropa cursar* and other well-known coastal species have disappeared. Coastal bird fauna is on the decrease.”

The environmental problems cause significant risks to human health, as well, “through consumption of contaminated seafood and bathing in contaminated water.”

The current situation, he argues, “severely limits the economic and sustainable development of the region.” He is convinced tourism will fail “miserably” if the environment and quality of life of the region are not improved.

Previous attempts to monitor the seawater of the Gaza Strip have been modest. The studies showed a high percentage of bathers “suffered adverse symptoms after exposure to sea water.” Monitoring of heavy metals, hydrocarbons and other substances was not included in the studies. Moreover, “the biological characteristics and biological constituents including fauna, flora and protists of Gaza Sea are not monitored and there is a complete lack of knowledge in this area.”

Abu Daya is taking a series of water samples from six localities over a four-month period. He will look for such indicators as high levels of nitrates and phosphates, low oxygen concentrations, the absence of many species of algae and solid waste accumulation to verify that sewage pollution is the major threat to the marine ecosystem.

Abu Daya holds a master’s degree from the International Institute of Aerospace and Earth Science, The Netherlands, a B.Sc. from Birzeit University, and a diploma from Al Azhar University in Gaza City. He lives in Gaza City.



“A relatively high population density, coupled with a poorly developed infrastructure and low standard of living have all led to the current unsatisfactory conditions,” says Abu Daya.



SHERENE SEIKALY | Studies Palestinian Cultures of Consumption in Israel



SHERENE SEIKALY'S RESEARCH ON Palestinian "cultures of consumption" will endeavor to show how Palestinians in Israel have "negotiated their citizenship through practices of consumption and engagement in the market." A doctoral candidate in history and Middle Eastern studies at New York University, Seikaly intends to study Palestinians as consumers through direct and extensive contact with

both Palestinians and Israelis in the marketplace. The continued study will offer a historical perspective on Palestinian consumption through the forty-year period that begins in 1948.

To prepare for her further study, Seikaly researched Palestinian consumption through a study of beauty pageants sponsored largely by local newspapers and an Israeli dairy manufacturer, providing an interesting juxtaposition of Israeli products and markets and the Palestinian consumer. She will now expand upon the promising evidence of her initial study through fieldwork, analysis of advertising and promotional campaigns, and interviews.

Much of Seikaly's attention will be given to a review of advertising campaigns in Palestinian and Israeli newspapers and

also on billboards and on radio and television. Seikaly insists that "advertisements are in no sense transparent vehicles with easily detected meanings. At the same time, advertising does not just conceal or recuperate material exchange; it also creates structures of meaning." One crucial aspect of consumption, Seikaly believes, is "the discursive realm of advertising." Through analysis it is possible to "access the production of meaning, desire, and identification" in advertising.

But the complexities of "discursive formations around commodities" and "the intricate emotional and intellectual investments made by individuals within commodity culture" cannot be fully understood separate from people's experiences. For that reason, Seikaly will give six months of her study to interviews with Palestinian businessmen, journalists, workers, and consumers in the city of Haifa and the northern village of al-Jish.

Recognizing that the 20th century record of consumption has proven revealing for an understanding of citizenship in such contexts as the United States, postwar France, and postwar West Germany, Seikaly believes her study will fulfill a need for similar evidence of how Palestinian identity has been negotiated.

ILANA FELDMAN | Explores Civil Service Influences under British and Egyptian Governance

ILANA FELDMAN USED HER PARC GRANT TO COMPLETE RESEARCH NEEDED TO revise her dissertation for publication as a book. Her dissertation, which won the 2002 Malcolm Kerr Award for best dissertation in the social sciences from the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), looks at civil service in Gaza during the British Mandate (1917-1948) and the Egyptian administration (1948-1967).

Feldman is Mellon Fellow, Society of Fellows in the Humanities, and lecturer in the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University. In her prior two years of research in Gaza, Jerusalem, and Cairo, she "investigated processes through which people and places are constituted, controlled, and governed."

Feldman notes that Gaza has been ruled by many different regimes other than the two she is studying. The most striking continuities, she found, are in the legal regimes—"which have been only amended and never overturned"—and the most striking differences "are related to the provisions of services to the population."

"My project argues that cultural history is vital to understanding the dynamics of Palestinian experience."

Her dissertation is divided into three sections. Part one identifies mechanisms through which authority is established and rule propagated. Part two explores the production of order and security and examines the regulation of persons, communities, and ideas. The final part focuses on the provision of services—crisis services (food, shelter), everyday services (transportation, utilities,

ILANA FELDMAN CONTINUED

communications), and community services (religious services, education). “I consider how service delivery participates in the formation of a practice of ‘tactical government’ that is marked by anxiety, incapacity, and control,” she explains.

Feldman noted that despite “evident richness,” the civil services and bureaucracy have been infrequent subjects of anthropological inquiry.” The anthropology of bureaucracy “can do more than simply add to the corpus of anthropological knowledge,” she said. “It can encourage a critical rethinking of key analytical categories and methodologies.” In addition, Feldman asserts, “my project argues that cultural history is vital to understanding the dynamics of Palestinian experience.”

With her PARC grant, Feldman returned to Jerusalem in the summer of 2003 to reconsider material previously examined, gather additional materials — particularly the records of the Mandate Department of Education and police departments — and spend time with the retired civil servants with whom she conducted her ethnographic research.

“I am also interested in whether the dramatically different conditions in Gaza now have impacted their perspectives on any of the issues we discussed.”

Feldman holds a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and an M.A. from New York University.

GAIL BOLING | Studies Palestinian Property Restitution Claims



A STUDY OF THE PROPERTY RESTITUTION claims of Palestinian refugees is the focus of research by Gail Boling, J.D. Boling, senior legal researcher at Birzeit University’s Institute of Law and assistant editor of the *Palestine Yearbook of International Law*, will look at the legal entitlements of the refugees — how their various legal claims (including property restitution) should be processed and adjudicated under international law.

“My goal is to start sketching out a return/compensation/restitution claims mechanism for Palestinian refugees that complies with their legal rights under the formula of UN General Assembly Resolution 194 and international law generally,” explains Boling.

She will look at three precedents: Bosnia/Croatia, South Africa, and the restitution laws passed by the Allied Powers in the various occupied zones of Germany following the end of World War II.

Boling intends to conduct extensive library research and on-site visits to Germany, Bosnia/Croatia and South Africa (to the extent that her budget permits). The property restitution schemes of the second and third areas are comparatively younger “and thus less written literature exists,” she said. Through interviews with practitioners currently in the field, she will learn how the claims procedures “have been adapted and modified over the course of time to adjust to the realities of the local environment.”

Boling’s topic is one of “pressing importance that must be tackled systematically in the process of working for a lasting resolution of this conflict.” Scholarly contributions regarding property restitution — and other rights to which refugees may make claims under international law — should be useful to all stakeholders involved in seeking a resolution to the present conflict. The refugees themselves “should be able to make informed decisions about their preferred choice of a durable solution to their own status, in the context of any future final settlement negotiations.” Likewise, Israelis and Quartet representatives need to know what the legal entitlements of the refugees are under international law. “Such information is crucial for judging whether any proposed final settlement agreement conforms with the minimum requirements of international law,” asserts Boling. A final settlement in which the most important (and most numerous) stakeholders are “on board” should have the best chance of leading to a lasting solution to the conflict, Boling suggests.

Boling earned a B.A. from the University of Chicago and a J.D. from The Ohio State University College of Law. She has been a guest lecturer at Oxford University’s International Summer School in Forced Migration and coordinator of the legal unit of BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights. She has published several law review articles, a monograph, and a series of UN treaty-body submissions concerning the legal rights of Palestinian refugees under international law. Recently she participated in two international conferences on Palestinian refugees in Ottawa, Canada, and Heidelberg, Germany.

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PARC's Annual Business Meeting to Be Held During 2003 MESA Conference

Don't miss PARC's annual business meeting held in conjunction with the 2003 MESA meeting:

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Application Deadline is February 15, 2004

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