

FROM THE U.S. DIRECTOR'S DESK: Travel Notes from the Middle East

I spent the fall of 2003 in Beirut, teaching international relations theory at Lebanese American University under a Fulbright senior lecturing grant. I had first visited Lebanon in 1968, returning in 1971 for my dissertation research and traveling there frequently from 1975 to 1983 when I worked for the American Friends Service Committee and then the Ford Foundation. There was an eighteen year gap between my last visit, in the traumatic aftermath of the 1982 Israeli invasion, and my next foray in May 2001. That visit afforded me an impression of the massive reconstruction in downtown Beirut and provided a sense of hope that Israel's withdrawal from the south – exactly a year earlier – would accelerate the restoration of Lebanon's political balance. The visit left me eager to return for an extended period.

The Fulbright grant provided a wonderful opportunity to deepen my understanding of Lebanese socio-political issues, a dozen years after the war's end, as well as to spend more time with friends and scholarly acquaintances. Behind the vibrant café life, with glittering shops and gaudy merchandise, and behind the determined efforts to rebuild and strengthen the educational sector, one could sense concerns about Lebanon's future, which is held hostage to Israeli-Syrian tensions, buffeted by the United States' aggressive approach to the region, and troubled by the deepening Israeli-Palestinian impasse. Internal issues – notably, the all-too-visible antagonism between the president and prime minister, the looming presence of Syria, and the escalating debt crisis – compounded these anxieties, leading many to wonder how much had really been accomplished since 1990 and what the future would hold for the country's young people.

The situation facing Palestinians who live in refugee camps inside Lebanon has been particularly stark since the expulsion of the PLO leaders in 1982. Housing, health, and educational conditions have deteriorated markedly in the past twenty years, during which the lack of effective political leadership has left the refugees in limbo. Deprived of opportunities for education and blocked from meaningful careers, young Palestinians despair for their future.

Dynamic Palestinian-led NGOs seek to mitigate this despair through a range of grassroots programs. I was impressed by my brief encounters with the Najda educational programs in Shatila; the medical and educational programs in Bourj al-Barajneh organized by the Women's Humanitarian Organization, directed by Olfat Khalil Mahmoud; and the job-skills and job-creation efforts initiated by Sukaina Salameh through the National Association for Vocational Training and Social Services. I also met with Moa'taz Dajani and Hicham Kayed at the Arab Resource Center for Popular Arts (ARCPA), whose inventive activities offer outlets for young people's creative energies.

Furthermore, I discussed with Moa'taz, Rosemary Sayigh, Jihane Sfeir-Khayat, PARC grantee Diana Allan, and others the importance of interviewing elderly Palestinians about their lives in Palestine, their experiences in 1948, and their initial years in Lebanon. One ARCPA program has already enabled young people to videotape their grandparents and an ARCPA team has recorded 280 hours of oral testimony that is currently being systematized and indexed. Jihane is completing her dissertation on the initial experiences of Palestinians in Lebanon from 1948 to the early 1950s.

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Grantee Ahmed Ghodieh shares his research with us at his An-Najah office.

PARC Welcomes Laurie Brand to Board

PARC is delighted to welcome another distinguished scholar to its board of directors – Dr. Laurie Brand, professor of international relations at the University of Southern California, past director of USC's Center for International Studies, and former research fellow and assistant director of the Institute for Palestine Studies (IPS).

Brand is looking forward to more active involvement in Palestine-related studies. "With the exception of some of my work on Jordan," Brand explains, "my research since my days at IPS has taken me outside the realm of Palestinian affairs and the Arab-Israeli conflict. I hope that the work with PARC will help reacquaint me with the field as well as with the new group of young scholars who are entering this area." The essence of PARC's work is, to Brand, essential. "It is critical at this time of such terrible conditions in Palestine, combined with the assaults of various sorts in this country on academic freedom particularly in the realm of Middle Eastern Studies, to do our best to ensure that a center like PARC continues to grow."

Work with the PARC board will also reconnect Brand with old friends and colleagues, such as Philip Mattar, president of PARC and former director of IPS. "It will be a pleasure to work with Laurie again," says Mattar. "She is a superb scholar with a broad knowledge of the Middle East, including the Arab-Israeli conflict and Palestinian affairs. Her knowledge of the field, her administrative experience, and her contacts will be an asset to PARC's board."

A four-time Fulbright scholar to the Middle East, Brand is the author of *Palestinians in the Arab World: Institution building and the Search for State*, *Jordan's Inter-Arab Relations: The Political Economy of Alliance-Making*, and *Women, the State and Political Liberalization: Middle Eastern and North African Experiences*. She is also the 2004 president of the Middle East Studies Association and is currently completing a book on state institutions and expatriate communities in the Middle East and North Africa.

Introducing Joe Desiderio

Joseph J. Desiderio III has been PARC's assistant to the U.S. director since May 2003, shortly after he returned from four years in Cairo. Joe went there on a Fulbright right after his graduation from Villanova University in 1998 with a BA in political science, minor in French, and concentration in Arab and Islamic studies. The Fulbright enabled him to examine the Egyptian government's policy interactions with UNICEF and the U.N. Fund for Population Activities as well as improve his written and colloquial Arabic. He stayed on to work for AMIDEAST as a trainer for its management training seminars, a facilitator of its judicial training program, and a tutor for advanced tests such as TOEFL and the GRE.

Joe now juggles a research assistantship with the Foreign Policy Research Institute and work at Borders Books alongside his responsibilities for PARC.

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Diana's project is particularly ambitious. Her team of researchers seeks to videotape 640 persons – one man and one woman from each of the 320 villages from which Palestinians fled to Lebanon – in order to record for posterity their lives before 1948 and their experiences during the *Nakba*. I was amazed by the interviews that I watched. They included a man who had fought in the Arab Liberation Army and not only remembered its travails but could still sing its stirring songs and chant multi-versed nationalist poems, and a woman who vividly recalled the Israeli seizure of her village when she was a child and the way that the soldiers trucked the terrified women and children past kibbutzim, where people spit and threw stones at them. Funded by the Welfare Association and the Ford Foundation, these unique interviews will be made available to researchers through the Refugee Studies Center at the University of Oxford, as well as venues in the Middle East.

These researchers hope to work closely with scholars and community activists in Palestine, Jordan, and Syria on the recording of personal memories. In November, following Birzeit University's conference on archival and oral history, Rosemary Sayigh met in Ramallah with Sari Hanafi and Lena Jayyusi of Shaml (Palestinian Diaspora and Refugee Center) along with several Shaml student interns and PARC grantees Rabab Abdul Hadi and Tom Ricks. Their discussion underlined the importance of fostering cooperation among the geographically scattered researchers, including holding regional workshops in order to share research findings, establish priorities, and avoid duplication.

I traveled to Palestine and Israel in September, stopping first in Amman, where I saw Mouin Rabbani, former Palestine director for PARC and now a member of the advisory committee. I spent several very fruitful days with Penny Johnson in Ramallah, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem and met with all the current grantees and advisory committee members, except those in Gaza, which remained strictly off-limits. I continue to be amazed at scholars' energy and

determination, despite daunting conditions. We also had fruitful meetings with Sy Gitin at the Albright Institute, where we appreciated the chance to discuss common academic interests and to relax in the institute's quiet garden.

Penny and I trekked to Nablus, where we met with An-Najah President Rami Hamdallah – very proud of the new Junaid campus – as well as grantee and geography chair Ahmed Ghodieh, who eagerly showed us his detailed computer images of land use in the northern West Bank, and CAORC consultant Khaled Abu Dayah, who discussed the huge task that he faces in making an inventory of the holdings in the municipality.

I also journeyed to Haifa, where I enjoyed the hospitality of PARC grantee Amal Jamal and his family. I met with advisory committee member Nadim Rouhana and his research staff at Mada (The Arab Center for Applied Social Research), Salman Natour and Ilan Pappé at the Emil Touma Center, Haneen Zuabi, director of I'lam Center for Media Studies in Nazareth, and Jeremy Forman of Haifa University, whose panel I subsequently chaired at the MESA conference. Hopefully, these contacts will lead to mutually fruitful ongoing relationships.

As we review the latest round of research applications, which flooded our offices in mid-February, I realize how much PARC has developed in the past few years and how many research efforts we have been able to encourage. None of this would be possible without the support of PARC's members, the willingness of board members and advisors to volunteer their time, the encouragement of Mary Ellen Lane and her fine colleagues at CAORC, and of course the enthusiasm of the researchers themselves. Moreover, the special financial contributions of Dina and Alfred Khoury, Talal Abu Ghazaleh, and the Palestine Investment Fund have been a much appreciated tribute to our efforts and an important supplement to the financial backing of the Ford, Rockefeller, and Earhart foundations, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Educational and Cultural Affairs office of the U.S. Department of State.

— ANN MOSELY LESCH



Amal Jamal and sons at their home in Haifa.



Sy Gitin and PARC grantee Marag Kersel visit at the Albright Institute.

PARC's Palestinian Advisory Committee Gets to Work

Established two years ago, PARC's advisory committee provides valuable assistance to Palestine director Penny Johnson and to PARC's board of directors concerning the research climate in Palestine. It also proposes new projects that PARC could undertake that have special value for the enhancement of Palestinians' research capacity.

Ibrahim Dakkak, community leader and political analyst, chairs the committee. An engineer by profession, Dakkak has played a central role in Palestinian institution-building and preservation projects. He was a founder of the Arab Thought Forum, which he chaired until 1992, and he is currently a consultant to the Palestinian Ministry of Education and chair of Birzeit University's Board of Trustees. Since the death of Faisal Hussein in 2001, Dakkak has chaired the board of the Palestinian Center for Micro-Projects Development, which assists small businesses and early childhood educational projects. He also serves on the board of the Jerusalem Prize committee for the Shoman Foundation.

Advisory Committee chair,
Ibrahim Dakkak

Despite the severe travel restrictions, Dakkak was able to travel to Ramallah in December to chair the advisory committee meeting that vetted more than fifty preliminary proposals submitted by graduate students and scholars from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The committee enthusiastically recommended that twenty of them prepare full proposals to submit to PARC's annual competition. Johnson then worked closely with these applicants prior to the February 15 deadline.

A month earlier, Dakkak came to the United States on PARC's behalf. He lectured on November 4 to a packed room at the Palestine Center in Washington, D.C., on the obstacles to peacemaking since the Oslo Accords and, in particular, since the outbreak of the second Intifada. He offered a candid assessment of the current impasse and a cogent critique of the just-launched Geneva initiative.

He then participated in PARC's board meeting on November 5, held in Washington, D.C., and chaired PARC's panel at the annual conference of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA). During that conference, Dakkak joined Johnson on the CAORC panel, where they described research conditions in Palestine and new initiatives planned by PARC.

Dakkak is joined on the advisory committee by nine senior Palestinian scholars and specialists in development issues:

- SALAH ABD AL-SHAFI, an authority on economic development, based in Gaza;
- JAMIL HILAL, sociologist and founding member of the Palestinian Poverty Commission, who was a major contributor to its 1998 National Poverty Report and has published most recently *The Palestinian Political System after Oslo*, *Towards a Palestinian Society Security System*, and *The Formation of the Palestinian Elite*;
- HIBA HUSSEINI, specialist in Palestinian commercial law, who provides counsel to foreign and Palestinian firms and the Palestinian Authority on legal aspects of economic development, has published guides to investing, commercial law, and economic policy development law, and serves on numerous boards, including An-Najah University;
- BASHAR MASRI, founder and general director of Massar, a management and consulting services company that serves international and Palestinian clients and a founder of al-Ayyam Printing and Publish Company, as well as member of the board of the Palestine Trade Center and other businesses;
- MOUIN RABBANI, former Palestine director of PARC and currently senior analyst with the International Crisis Group based in Amman, who has worked in the human rights and development fields in Palestine and has published widely in, among others, *Middle East Report*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Journal of Palestine Studies*, and *The Nation*;
- HADEEL RIZQ-QAZZAZ, program coordinator in the Arab Middle East office of the Heinrich Böll Foundation based in Ramallah, whose dissertation for Leeds University focused on non-formal education for adults and who has written and led workshops on Palestinian education, human development, and women's rights;
- NADIM ROUHANA, founder and director of the Mada research center in Haifa, professor of sociology at Tel Aviv University since 2001, previously professor at University of Massachusetts (Boston), and author of numerous works on Israeli politics and conflict resolution, including *Palestinian Citizens in an Ethnic Jewish State* (1997);
- JACQUELINE SPEIR, dean of education at Bethlehem University, who has worked extensively in the field of early childhood education, including

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Hadeel Rizq-Qazzaz visits with Penny Johnson in Ramallah.

PARC Grantees and Officers Showcased at MESA 2003 Panel

Eight hundred Middle East specialists braved the rain and darkness – and the interminable late-night flights – to attend the annual conference of the Middle East Studies Association in Anchorage, Alaska, in November 2003. Four panels focused on Palestinian issues, including one organized by Jeremy Forman, a graduate student at the University of Haifa. Forman's panel on British and Israeli policies toward Arab landholdings, chaired by PARC's U.S. director, Ann Lesch, included papers by PARC grantee Martin Bunton and former PARC director Michael R. Fischbach.

The panel on Palestinian national symbols and commemorations highlighted PARC awardees Awad Halabi (now teaching at Tufts University), Laleh Khalili, and Shira Robinson. And another grantee, Michelle Campos (now on the faculty of Cornell University), delivered a paper in public space in Haifa in the late Ottoman period, in a panel on the Mediterranean city.

The PARC panel on November 9 also showcased PARC grantees and officers. The panel was ably chaired by Ibrahim Dakkak, chair of PARC's Palestinian advisory committee, who opened the panel by commemorating Professor Edward Said and noting the profound loss to scholarship and to Palestine resulting from his death. The panel addressed aspects of contemporary life in the West Bank under the ongoing Israeli occupation.

Palestine director Penny Johnson reflected on the crises in Palestinian families and changes in gender dynamics during the second Palestinian Intifada. She stressed the "profound unsettling of paternal capacities to provide protection and provision" and the inability of the family to play its assumed role as "the prime shock absorber" during "war, displacement, and national dispossession." To Johnson, this illustrates the limits to family coping strategies, the extent to which families have exhausted their resources, and the resulting rise in tensions within the family that place even greater burdens on women and can lead to domestic violence.

The images of the father in Gaza unable to shelter his young son Muhammad Al-Durra from Israeli gunfire and of youths fruitlessly trying to block Israeli tanks make the "highly vulnerable male child" the symbol of national struggle against Israel's "unchecked power." For Johnson, this illustrates the limits of family coping strategies in conditions of prolonged and comprehensive crisis, resulting in the unsettling of the roles of men as breadwinners, tensions in family roles and responsibilities, and increasing burdens on women.

Lori A. Allen, a PARC grantee who is completing her dissertation in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Chicago, used the "100 Shaheed–100 Lives" exhibit, organized by the Khalil



PARC Grantees Awad Halabi, Laleh Khalili and Shira Robinson prepare for their MESA panel presentations.

Sakakini Cultural Center in Ramallah in February 2001, as the frame for an assessment of the memorialization of martyrdom. The lives and personalities of these one hundred Palestinians killed during the first month of the Intifada were reverently depicted through simple photographs, brief descriptions of their lives, and everyday objects that meant something special to them: "a boot, a birdcage, a notebook... [that] offered to the viewer a bit of the person's intimate life." The exhibit's organizers hoped that the ceremonial exhibit, by deliberately avoiding blaring nationalist messages, would individualize the dead and give "people a place to mourn and grieve."

Allen placed the exhibit in the context of various forms of memorialization—including martyrs' posters and visits to their families—that play important roles in engendering "solidarity and social support that [has] helped communities survive the extremely difficult...conditions." These memorializations simultaneously transform individual deaths "into collective losses" and make the national become intimate and personal. For Allen, martyrs thereby come to represent "a national history of tragedy, of a continued future of sacrifice and...the actually, grievously lost friends and relatives of bereaved individuals."

Khaled Furani, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, related the shift from classical poetry to free verse to Palestinians' struggle to transform a tradition-bound society into a modernizing community. Furani cited Mahmud Darwish, who "light[ed] the flame...of Arab [free] verse in an especially dark age" and who decried the manipulation of poetry as oratorical slogans at nationalist events and poetry festivals. Furthermore, the young poet

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Jacqueline Sfeir reviews children's literature in her Bethlehem University office.

preparing a manual for trainers co-sponsored by Save the Children (UK) and the Arab Resource Collective, and is a member of the Pontifical Council for the Laity; and

• **RAJI SOURANI**, director of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (Gaza), who has received human rights awards from the

French Republic, Bruno Kreisky Prize, and Robert F. Kennedy Memorial and serves as a commissioner with the International Commission of Jurists and a board member of the Arab Organisation for Human Rights (Cairo).

The major new initiative that Dakkak and the advisory committee propose is the Jerusalem Archive Project, an initiative that PARC's board enthusiastically endorsed. Institutions and libraries – such as the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, the Armenian Patriarchate, and the *Awqaf* (Islamic religious endowments) – contain rich historical documents that are only partly catalogued and partly accessible to researchers. PARC hopes to encourage Palestinian scholars in Jerusalem to assess the conditions of these archives and suggest priorities for preservation, enhanced access, and training professionals for archival work.

This project would complement CAORC's digital library program and CAORC's consultancy to An-Najah University archivist Khaled Abu Dayeh to undertake a preliminary assessment of the contents of the municipal archives in Nablus. Dakkak and Johnson expect to have an initial concept paper completed this spring, which would lead to a workshop in Jerusalem and fundraising for the long-range endeavor.



Bashar Masri, Penny Johnson, Jamil Hilal and Hiba Hussein convene in Ramallah.

Mahmoud Abu Hash-Hash commented to Furani: "The classical form of poetry with all its regularity, repetition, and banality cannot help you organize your chaos" in the increasingly complex modern world. For Abu Hash-Hash the "modern rhythm... registers speed but also loss and confusion, occupation and co-optation." Indeed, for him, "writing is practicing freedom" in an environment devoid of freedom. Again, the complex interplay of the personal and the political, individual freedom and freedom for the community is integral to poetry as it is to other facets of life.

Independent museum consultant Carol Malt stressed the drastic impact that the Intifada and severe restrictions on movement have had on efforts to establish and expand museums. The atmosphere was "heady, intense" when she came to the West Bank in 1999. The ministries of culture, tourism, and archaeology enthusiastically supported efforts to develop a wide variety of new museums, ranging from contemporary art to history, ethnography, natural history, and archaeology.

In contrast, when she returned in 2001, she "found barren hopes, unfinished projects, unemployed staff." Employees could not reach their jobs because of roadblocks and closures (a problem that Furani also cited in relation to the House of Poetry in el-Bireh), funding was eliminated, and school children could not go on field trips to museums and archaeological sites.



Shoes of Muhammad al-Durra, from the Sakakini exhibit

Nonetheless, Sonia El Nimr, head of the Department of Museums, tried to "imbue her fellow museum workers with her optimism" and use volunteers to craft innovative programs that would bring art classes and festivals to children and to distressed communities. Indeed, in October 2003, El Nimr e-mailed Malt that, at least in Ramallah/el-Bireh, new playgrounds for children and frequent plays, concerts, and films attempted to keep up peoples' morale: "You can call it resistance by music and smiling," she suggested.

Others also expressed resistance through their art: Vera Tamari's display of cars that had been crushed by Israeli tanks, positioned within view of Psagot settlement; Samir Abu 'Ajaniyeh's exhibit of rusting, discarded objects, mirroring the heavy psychological pressures weighing on Palestinians. As in the other papers, Malt's presentation demonstrated the inextricable link between the personal and the political, between art and the quality of life, between individual self-expression and collective self-fulfillment.

The Birzeit Conference on Archival & Oral History Research

By Thomas M. Ricks

The two-day Palestinian Social History Conference, which was convened by the Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies at Birzeit University, and organized by Drs. Roger Heacock and Majdi El-Malki, director of the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute, brought together twenty scholars and field researchers from Palestine, Lebanon, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States to discuss current research and methodologies in the field of Palestinian social history. Due to Ramadan and the daily delays and travel restrictions in passing through the Israeli military checkpoint at Surda village between Ramallah and Birzeit University the Conference had its own time management problems, which its organizers handled deftly and with uncommon cheer.



The opening address by Dr. Hanna Nasir, President of Birzeit University, was followed by Malki's lecture on the conceptualization of the conference. The conference intended, according to Malki, to emphasize the increasingly interdisciplinary approaches to examining Palestine's past and present social history based on a variety of techniques, from traditional written history to newer sources such as oral or remembered history, medical records, interviews with young people (*shabab*), reassessment of biographical accounts, and interpretive poetry and short stories.

The twelve men and eight women presenters had backgrounds ranging from history, sociology, and political science to archaeology, folklore, anthropology, medicine, and literature. In the two days of presentations and discussions before an audience of several hundred students, faculty and public, participants explored theories of social change, memory, quantitative and qualitative research questions, and written, oral and material data in explaining the social history of Palestine from the Ottoman period to present.

The first panel on "Methodology, Traditions and Perspectives" addressed the theoretical bases and methodologies of oral history and memory research in Palestinian social history the role of gender violence in the national movement, both past and present, the ways in which oral accounts are "translated" into written histories, and the role of oral traditions in Arab-Islamic historiography.

The presentations continued with the second panel on "Palestinian History from Ottoman to Mandatory Times" by way of papers on autobiographic narrative with examples from Khalil Sakakini's diaries,

research on memory in reconstruction of Palestinian past, and lived experiences in the Palestinian national committees.

The third panel on "The 1936 Revolt to the Nakba" looked at the pre-1948 commercial centers of Jerusalem, memory research with survivors of the 1948 expulsions, and oral history in Shaml's research programs. The second day focused entirely on the topic "From the Nakba to the al-Aqsa Intifada" with all three panels focusing on

Birzeit University: Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies

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Khalil Athamina: *The Role of Oral Tradition in Arab-Islamic Historiography*

Imad Al-Bashtawi: *Lived Experiences in the Palestinian National Committees between 1936 and 1947*

Kenneth Brown: *From the Individual to the Wider Society: Translating Oral Accounts into Written Histories*

John Collins: *Dramas of Youth: The Intifada Generation and its Secret Memories*

Edouard Conte: *The Nazi Agrarian Colonization of Zamosc Province (South-Eastern Poland): Documents vs. Memories*

Sari Hanafi and Lena Jayusi: *Oral History and Land Use: Presentation of Shaml's Research Program*

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George Hintlian: *Bringing It Back to Life: A Socioeconomic Profile of the Pre-1948 Arab Commercial Center of Jerusalem (Jaffa Gate & Mamilla)*

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Sonia Nimr: *Modernizing Popular Literature: Its Uses in Children's Stories*

Thomas Ricks: *Time, Memories and the Remembered Past: Methods and Strategies of the Oral Historian*

Rosemary Sayigh: *Survivors of the 1948 Expulsions: Another Call for the 'Race Against Time'*

May Seikaly: *Expanding the Boundaries of History: Memory and Oral Recording in the Reconstruction of the Palestinian Historical Legacy*

Samih Shabib: *The People's Poet Nuh Ibrahim: Witness and Martyr*

Salim Tamari: *Autobiographic Narrative and the Transformation of Urban Identity in Pre-1948 Palestine*

Lisa Taraki: *The Palestinian City Reborn? The Middle Class as Historic Agent*

Livia Wick: *Motherhood as Resistance: Accounts of Birth under Siege and Curfew*

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Ghodieh Analyzes Land Use/Land Cover in the Northern West Bank



“All land use/land cover types in the West Bank are being exposed to severe changes, which in turn affect the whole life of the Palestinians,” says Dr. Ahmed Ghodieh, chair of the Geography department at An-Najah University. Ghodieh seeks to analyze the changes using remote sensing and Geographical Information System (GIS) technologies applied to two specific historical dates – 1970 and 1994. In so doing, he intends to map the region and compare the geographical changes over time in light of the political situation, which, he argues, has adversely affected the land resources in the region.

One example is the change in agricultural exports to neighboring countries that has resulted from the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. As Ghodieh points out, Jordan restricted imports from the West Bank after 1987, which, he asserts, led to the disappearance of certain crop types, such as watermelon, from the region. In addition, the construction of roads and settlements and weak land use laws are resulting in land degradation, deforestation, contamination, salinization and erosion. Land use, he claims, has not been monitored by Palestinians, who are mistrustful of data provided by Israeli sources due to the on-going conflict. Through his research, Ghodieh is documenting the changes occurring in the northern part of the West Bank. He hopes to provide data that will be useful in planning sustainable land use development there in the future.

Remote sensing and GIS techniques have been used extensively in the United States and Europe to monitor, evaluate and estimate land use/land cover types and to predict geographical changes. The benefits of using these technologies in his research include the regularity of the time intervals when data can be captured, the accuracy of the data, and the ability to take images of large geographical areas. One such image may cover an area of 60 km²—the equivalent of approximately 35 1/50000 scale aerial photographs. Ghodieh’s analysis also includes the use of aerial photographs, maps and field data collected in six study areas.

Accessing the region to conduct comprehensive field studies is complicated by the current political situation and environmental factors such as the mountainous terrain and weather conditions. He collects data on the ground to explain and classify photographic images. However, due to the current security situation and travel restrictions in the West Bank, field research has been conducted largely by university students who live in the study areas.

Ghodieh’s study will be the first academic Palestinian study of land use/land cover in the West Bank using these sophisticated techniques. He believes that the resultant data will give future land use planners greater confidence in their decision-making and assist them in planning appropriate land use strategies.

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SAMER HAMIDI

Studies the Effect of Implementing an Essential Drug List in the West Bank

Recognizing that drug costs are a key component in the costs of healthcare, particularly in developing countries, the Palestinian Ministry of Health (PMOH) introduced an Essential Drug List (EDL) in Palestine in 2000. The EDL seeks to mitigate the high social and economic costs of irrational drug use in public health facilities and to improve the cost effectiveness of health care in Palestinian areas through economic and efficient use of pharmaceuticals. Samer Hamidi, a doctoral student in public health at Tulane University, is researching the social, economic, and medical effects of

implementing the EDL in the West Bank so that he can provide statistical evidence of the effects of such public health policy in Palestine. Hamidi uses regression analysis and multivariate techniques to analyze data collected from PMOH’s annual reports and historical records of public hospitals and primary health care directorates going back to 1997.


Hamidi points out that the increase in pharmaceutical costs in relation to overall healthcare costs is a serious concern in Palestine.

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LINDA TABAR

Investigates the Transformation of Palestinian Historical Narratives After the Oslo Accords



A Ph.D. candidate in Political Studies at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, Linda Tabar is researching the transformation of historical narratives after the Oslo accords of 1993-1995 in order to explore the following three questions:

1. In what ways do minority narratives, subaltern memories, and individual voices contribute to defining a nation in periods of national struggle?
2. What critical light do these narratives shed on the effects of conflict on society?
3. Do such narratives offer alternative perspectives for the development of strategies for settling protracted colonial conflicts?

Current studies on nationalism, she argues, "ignore the specificity of anti-colonial nationalism, view the nation as an unchanging category, and neglect the agency of subordinate social groups." By adopting the perspective of subaltern studies, Tabar seeks to bridge social and political studies using national identity, collective memory and conflict resolution to elicit new theoretically informed conclusions on the effect of conflict on societies. In so doing, she believes her study "will contribute new perspectives to the ongoing debate on the construction of national identity as set within and effected by political and ideological structures that sustain conflict."

Tabar's research plans combine state-centered and social-agency theoretical approaches to examine the divergence between the Palestinian official narrative and the refugees' historical narratives. She believes her study will bring attention to how problems with the Oslo framework affect Palestinian society as a whole. "The study," she says, "will illuminate the role of the refugees in problematizing Oslo's marginalization of Palestinian historical experience, uncovering new voices that invoke and support the necessity of recognition." Her research extends beyond the theoretical, with an eye toward "uncover[ing] new forms of social action, identifying actors and processes that provide an alternative to violence and political protest and promote counter-hegemonic interventions."

Ultimately, she adds, her research may illustrate "the ruptures and contradictions produced by the interaction between Palestinian official and refugee narratives in order to explore whether these forces produce structural changes that affect the way the direction of national struggle and the ways in which complex conflict is settled." Tabar's research includes oral histories and interviews with refugees in the Jenin and Dheisheh refugee camps as well as Palestinian and Israeli officials, NGO workers and other members of the community.

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This increase is tied to many factors, including inflation, irrational drug use, over prescription, increased drug utilization and increased drug prices. The Palestinian Ministry of Health, with the help of the World Health Organization and the World Bank developed their EDL according to the state's particular needs. Cost, demographic and epidemiological characteristics of the population, therapeutic characteristics of the drugs, and financial resources were factored into the list's development. "Per capita governmental health expenditures on drugs and inpatient mortality rates were reduced after 2000, yet this reduction was not attributed to the essential drug list or investigated by any research," Hamidi adds. "Many studies

focus on the cost savings introduced by the essential drug list," but few go on to analyze the health benefits. In his view, "the trade off between cost savings and health effects . . . will be extremely important to judge the true effect of that drug policy."

Hamidi believes that his study will be instrumental in evaluating the efficacy of the EDL and its effect on public health in Palestine and beyond. "Because the essential drug list is a WHO drug policy that was implemented in many countries, this research will be of great importance for other countries as well."

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MARWA HASSOUN | Compares State Violence and Resistance in Three Contexts

In her dissertation, Marwa Hassoun explores how racial, ethnic, and/or cultural groups develop and express their identities during periods of state-sponsored violence and popular-level resistance. Her analysis includes an interdisciplinary examination of the current Palestinian Intifada, Palestinians living in refugee camps in Jordan, and the 1992 Los Angeles uprising with consideration given to neighborhood, city, and nation. Her research does not "equate" the struggles but illustrates similarities in contexts of violent state oppression, highlighting three key factors: the normalization of the state's project of oppression, the state's use of the discourse of security, and processes of identity formation.

According to Hassoun, "examining these issues among communities of color in L.A. and Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and in Jordanian refugee camps allows for a comprehensive understanding of the nuances of state power and its contradictions in addition to exploring strategies of resistance." She has chosen to study racial conflicts in Los Angeles and the Palestinian situation because they involve "contemporary, on-going sites of state violence that include dimensions of territory and plurality of populations." Hassoun's contention is that the use of violent repression simultaneously strengthens the oppressor and reinforces the communities of the oppressed. "As the state attempts to put down uprisings through excessive force, it exerts its dominance, but can no longer hide its project of state oppression," in effect, forcing the state to work harder to maintain its dominant status and creating "spaces for resistance."



Hassoun will use her PARC grant to support her fieldwork in the Middle East, which will include interviews in refugee camps in Jerusalem and Amman. She will also glean information from community organizations, welfare services, and activity centers serving camp residents. Her interviews will relate to questions of identity, including how state-sponsored oppression and violence have affected Palestinian's self-identification, their perceptions of and responses to physical and



representational state violence, and their attitudes toward the Intifada as a method of resistance. In addition, she will review archival materials available through international and local human rights organizations such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the Red Crescent Society, and the Department of Palestinian Affairs.

Hassoun is a Ph.D. candidate in Feminist Studies, with minors in Political Science and Development Studies, at the University of Minnesota and past recipient of a MacArthur Predissertation Fieldwork Grant through The MacArthur Interdisciplinary Program on Global Change, Sustainability and Justice. She is currently conducting research in Los Angeles and expects to travel to Amman by the summer of 2004.

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Hassoun's study "allows for a comprehensive understanding of the nuances of state power and its contradictions in addition to exploring strategies of resistance."
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RHODA KANAANEH | Focuses on Palestinian Soldiers in the Israeli Military



Dr. Rhoda Kanaaneh, assistant professor of anthropology at American University, is researching the politics of national identity through examining the Palestinians who serve voluntarily in the Israeli military and security forces. Kanaaneh is looking at how this small group of mostly men and a few women construct their own identities, and how they are perceived by the Palestinian community and by the Israeli state and military. Her

hypothesis is that “the experiences of these soldiers, how they negotiate their relationships to their communities and to the state, and the ways in which they are accepted, integrated, and marginalized, form a powerful vantage point from which to understand citizenship, ethnic conflict as well as gender and class in Israel and beyond.”

Some of the questions raised in her research address the motivations of these individuals and the transformations they undergo as a result of their experiences – in their personal interactions with their peers, their families, their communities, and more broadly, in their relationship to the state. She believes that understanding these complicated relationships will result in a deeper understanding of Palestinian identity in light of the rights and duties of Israeli citizenship, which is inherently fraught with tension.

Kanaaneh points out that “Palestinians inside Israel increasingly publicly articulate their struggle in terms of equal rights in a state of all its citizens. This is met with an increasing Zionist focus on the absence of equal obligations for Arab citizens – i.e., the exemption of most Arabs

from mandatory military service. While this contingency between citizenship duties and rights is certainly questionable, it nonetheless places Palestinian military service – and thus the group of people in this study – at the heart of a central debate.” Kanaaneh believes her research will not only provide insight into issues central to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, but will also contribute to the broader, global issues of minority-state relations and ethnic conflict. She suggests that “marginal but highly ‘accommodating’ minority individuals, such as the soldiers in my study, tend to test the outer limits of their communities and the states in which they live,” thus addressing broader issues of citizenship, equality and nationalism.

Kanaaneh’s research includes interviews with Palestinian volunteers in the army, the border patrol and the police, who serve for periods ranging from eight months to 30 years. She also conducted interviews with their relatives and neighbors, and other members of their communities. Kanaaneh used her PARC fellowship to perform additional fieldwork over the summer of 2003 and pursue additional questions raised during her preliminary research, such as the impact on this group of the second Intifada and the reinvasion of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Kanaaneh received her Ph.D. in anthropology from Columbia University in 1998. In addition to her PARC fellowship, Kanaaneh’s research received funding through the Faculty Research Support program at American University.

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FARID AL-SALIM | Investigates Tulkarm’s Social History in the Late Ottoman Period

“Modernity in Palestine did not come about as a result of specific events, but rather as the cumulative effect of political, economic, and social developments that took place during the nineteenth century and persisted throughout the final years of the Ottoman period,” asserts Farid Al-Salim, a Ph.D. candidate in history at the University of Arkansas. For his dissertation, Al-Salim is analyzing the impact the late Ottoman administrative system had on new administrative centers in Palestine, using Tulkarm as a case study.

The primary goal of his research, he explains, “is to complete a missing history of modern Palestine, the provincial history.” Al-Salim believes his research will fill the gaps left by earlier researchers as it discusses the implications of the Ottoman reforms within the context of an interior Palestinian town. Tulkarm, he explains, was a small village that became the seat of a new Ottoman *qada’* (sub-district) in the late 19th century. As such, says Al-Salim, it “underwent social, economic,



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YUSEF JABAREEN | Explores Palestinian Citizens of Israel and Israel's Legal System

Since October 2000, bloody clashes between Israeli police and Palestinian citizens of Israel have brought renewed attention to the issue of the status of Palestinian citizens of Israel. According to Yousef Jabareen, who received his Ph.D. from the Georgetown University Law School in 2003, Palestinian citizens of Israel have historically been considered a "potential fifth column" and enemies of the state systematically excluded from public life. Their status is complicated by the inherent conflict between Israel's self-definition as a Jewish state and its declared commitment to democratic principles.

"The definition of Israel as a Jewish state is expressed in many aspects of law and policy in a way that excludes and discriminates against the Palestinian citizens in Israel," Jabareen expounds, citing as an example the Law of Return, which grants citizenship to any Jew who wants to settle in Israel. "This law leads to perpetual discrimination against the Palestinian citizens in the fields of citizenship and residency." Jabareen points out the inherently discriminatory nature of ethnic-specific laws and policies that extend to areas of housing, water, land, allocation of public resources, public symbols, and political disenfranchisement.

However, some recent Supreme Court rulings involving the rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel have been more progressive, says Jabareen. "Most of these cases have been viewed by Israeli liberals as landmark rulings that substantially advance equality for Arab citizens of Israel." Through his research, Jabareen thoroughly analyzes these cases to prove that, while they advance individual rights, they do not advance the rights of Palestinians as a national minority group. Indeed, he posits that

they serve to perpetuate historical state-sponsored discrimination. He argues that "in order for Palestinian citizens of Israel to truly enjoy an equal structure of opportunities on equal footing with their fellow Jewish citizens, they must be guaranteed, as a group, a true realization of the group aspects of their rights, primarily: attaining effective political and civic participation, getting a distribution of public resources proportional to their needs, and benefiting from effective affirmative action programs to compensate them for past discrimination; and not less important, freely maintaining their cultural and national identity."



"[I]n order for Palestinian citizens of Israel to truly enjoy an equal structure of opportunities on equal footing with their fellow Jewish citizens, they must be guaranteed...a true realization of the group aspects of their rights..."

Jabareen also critically analyzes Israel's judicial record relative to its protection of its Palestinian minority in comparison to the treatment of minority populations under Western judicial systems.

Jabareen, a Palestinian citizen of Israel, is a human rights attorney and community activist. He served as head of the National Arab Student Union in Israel (1995-6) and Director of the Equality for Arab Citizens Project at the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) from 1997 to 2000. In the spring of 2004 he will

teach courses on the legal status of Palestinians in Israel at the Universities of Haifa and Tel Aviv.

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Studies Management of Olive Mill Wastewater in Palestine



Olive mill pressing – the process by which olive oil is made – poses one of the greatest environmental threats in Palestine as the waste water is discharged directly into the groundwater. “More than ninety percent of the olives grown in Palestine are processed in the West Bank,” declares Amal Hudhud, whose doctoral research aims to identify

practical techniques to reduce the environmental damage caused by this process.

According to Hudhud, there are approximately 256 olive pressing mills in the West Bank that discharge more than 1000 cubic meters of wastewater each day. The organic materials in the wastewater affect the quality of the water and sewage treatment operations. The waste water is made up of compounds, some of which are highly toxic but biodegradable, while others are less toxic, but not easily biodegradable.

The seasonal nature of the industry and the geographic concentration of olive mills make dealing with the environmental impact of this wastewater crucial. Until the early 1970s, treatment of olive mill wastewater has primarily been through storage and natural evaporation in large ponds. Olive mill wastewater is directly toxic to land and aquatic animals and plants.

“In Palestine there are no waste management programs for hazardous or non-hazardous waste generated by industry. Therefore,

all industrial waste is directly released to the environment untreated,” she points out. The toxic organic matter in the wastewater negatively affects wastewater collection and treatment in the public sewage networks as well as the quality of the water bodies. The remaining polyphenolic compounds are less toxic, but turn a black color on oxidation.

Hudhud’s aim is “to identify practical techniques to reduce the environmental damage caused by wastewater from the olive industry through managing the olive mill wastewater pollution and the efficiency of its treatment to ensure the reduction of the pollutant loads below specific limits while attempting to minimize investment and cost.” While detailed studies have been conducted in Tunisia, none have yet been carried out in Palestine. Hudhud hopes to find a technique that keeps the olive mill wastewater stabilized to avoid oxidation. In order to do so, she hopes to determine the factors that affect the wastewater and to develop ways to control them.

Hudhud is a Ph.D. candidate in environmental engineering at Loughborough University in England and has worked as a project coordinator for the Nablus Municipality’s Water and Sanitation department since 1997. PARC received a special grant from the Palestine Investment Fund to help underwrite Hudhud’s research.

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FARID AL-SALIM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

demographical and environmental changes that vividly illustrate the cumulative effect of modernity throughout Palestine.” His research addresses all of these issues.

According to Al-Salim, “Tulkarm represents a town in which all of the Ottoman concerns for modernization converged”. Not only was it one of the new administrative centers within the Ottoman Arab provinces, “its location within Palestine presented the Ottomans with the gravest need to modernize the administration to meet the pressing challenges of European penetration and, by the 1880s, of Zionist immigration.”

Over a six-month period in 2003, Al-Salim traveled to Jordan to review Ottoman official documents in the Center of Documents and Manuscripts at the University of Jordan (Amman), the records of the

Islamic Court of Law and the Civil Law court, and the Ottoman *Salinamas*, the annual reports of the Ottoman provinces for the years 1888 to 1918. “The *Sijil* records give a realistic view of Tulkarm township society, regarding social, judicial, property, inheritance, and marriage, population, and debt problems,” says Al-Salim, who adds that they also provide good descriptions of trade between Tulkarm and other villages, as well as with key commercial centers, such as Haifa, Jaffa and Beirut. His stay in Amman was partly funded by the American Center of Oriental Research as well as by PARC.

Al-Salim’s research also included two months of field research in London to examine documents in the British Public Records Office and took two trips to Tulkarm. There he found many records from the Ottoman post office and local court, which proved to be very useful.

DIANA ALLAN | Researches Cultural Transmission in Lebanese Refugee Camps

Modern technologies, particularly TV and the Internet, are playing a role in shaping the sense of history, culture and identity of displaced Palestinians, asserts Diana Allan, a Ph.D. candidate in social anthropology at Harvard University. Allan has been studying this phenomenon and related issues as she co-directs the creation of an archive of filmed, oral testimonies about al-Nakba (the 1948 catastrophe) with first generation refugees living in camps in Lebanon. These issues are significant and timely, says Allan, as “the generation of 1948 with memories of life in Palestine is dying out, replaced by generations whose collective sense of past and future is bound up with a country they have never seen.” Of particular interest to her is the role technologies, such as the Internet, play in the transmission of nationalist history and identity. “Given that camp youth is becoming highly literate in Internet technology, my research considers how increased communication among Palestinians in the diaspora is enabling the creation of translocal discourses of historical authenticity.”

Allan’s research addresses how the current trend to capture those memories through oral histories and commemorative practices, for example, is shaping the young generation’s cultural identity. She asks what the impact of television coverage, Web sites, martyr images and online activism might be and how the various efforts to publicly memorialize events have affected the way in which Palestinians convey what was once a largely oral and personal historical tradition. Allan contends that her doctoral fieldwork and her archival project “will allow me to investigate further to what extent nationalist history and identity are being

transmitted through performative set pieces – folklore, poems, life stories – or if they are instead part of a broader social intelligence embedded in the idiomatic fabric of everyday life.”

Allan has been living and conducting fieldwork in Shatila camp and other refugee communities in Lebanon since the fall of 2002. Her methodology includes ethnographic research of camp life, participant observation and open-ended interviews. As part of her study she has been interviewing representatives of institutions, principally non-governmental organizations and factions that operate in the camps, to gain a perspective on the ways in which they inflect the interpretation of Palestinian nationalist history. Allan is also reviewing previously recorded and televised histories, art, graffiti, and Web sites as well as public commemorative practices.

Allan’s work suggests that contemporary cultural practices are reshaping the ways in which history is being interpreted by refugees living in the camps. “A codified, traumatic history is being ceaselessly re-filtered through the radically unstable lens of the current situation; in other words, the context of narration giving meaning to these histories includes the need not only to make sense of and transmit a traumatic past, but also

the attempt to take hold of and give shape to an imminently uncertain present and future.”

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“[T]he generation of 1948 with memories of life in Palestine is dying out, replaced by generations whose collective sense of past and future is bound up with a country they have never seen.”




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