

## President's Letter

by Peter Gubser



Dear PARC Family:

PARC, our 11-year-old institution, has an admirable mission: We seek to help improve scholarship about Palestinian affairs, expand the pool of experts on Palestinian issues, and, very importantly, strengthen linkages among Palestinian, American, and foreign research institutions and scholars. In our attempt to fulfill this mission, we reach out to and serve scholars and interested people in the United States and Palestine.

As the new board president, it is humbling to follow in the footsteps of our outgoing president, Philip Mattar, a noted and perceptive scholar on Palestine and the Middle East who worked assiduously and effectively to grow PARC to become the dynamic organization that it is today. Fortunately, PARC's daily leadership is in the hands of two outstanding women. Penelope Mitchell is our imaginative, energetic, and dedicated executive director based in the United States; and Hadeel Qazzaz is our resourceful, able, and thoughtful Palestine director based in Ramallah, Palestine.

PARC's Board and Executive Committee, its membership, and its many stakeholders, work toward the realization of five important goals:

- To increase the range, quantity, and quality of scholarship about Palestinian affairs by increasing access to research opportunities, providing research fellowships and a field research base for advanced graduate students and established scholars, as well as building research capacities, particularly among Palestinian scholars.
- To strengthen linkages among Palestinian, U.S., and foreign scholars and educational, cultural, and research institutions through reciprocal library privileges, cooperative research projects, and other ventures.
- To encourage new generations of scholars to develop an interest in and expertise on Palestine through the availability of research fellowships.
- To develop library resources to facilitate research as well as provide a clearinghouse on current research topics.

To improve cross-cultural understanding and appreciation of Palestinian culture and society by organizing lectures, exchanges, film tours, art exhibits, and other events, thereby enabling Americans and other foreigners to become more familiar with Palestinian culture and exposing Palestinians to American and other cultures and scholarly approaches.

In pursuit of these goals, PARC enjoys a great legacy and foresees an excellent future, but not one without challenges. We will continually attempt to find additional resources to increase the number of high-quality fellows—Palestinian and American—who will certainly contribute to scholarship on Palestine and Palestinian issues. In like manner, we wish to increase the capacity and services offered by the PARC center in Ramallah. Conferences are always important venues for intellectual and thoughtful exchange, and we have plans to increase our participation in and sponsorship of them.

Throughout the years, we have been fortunate to be associated with many important institutions: the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), the Ford Foundation, the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the U.S. Department of Education, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Getty Foundation, the Palestine Investment Fund, the Institute of Jerusalem Studies, UNESCO, and our numerous university institutional members. Of equal importance are our associations with over 130 scholars who, with the help of PARC fellowships, have contributed to the growing body of literature on Palestine. In future years, we look forward to increasing the number of these associations and deepening their involvement with PARC to further our mission and goals.

Organizations like PARC always need resources. The board and staff pay close attention to fundraising. We look to our tried and true friends, but also we constantly seek new associations and donors. As the new president, I want to thank all of our partners for their help in the past. All of us now must look to the next decade. Every organization wants to improve. PARC is certainly no exception. Resources are one of the essential requirements for doing so. For that, we rely on your help.

Now, I join the entire PARC family as we attempt to enhance knowledge about Palestine, work with scholars who are undertaking challenging and thoughtful projects, and create scholarly linkages on Palestinian subjects. Together, we can realize our mission.

Sincerely, *Peter Gubser*

## Around the PARC

by Penelope Mitchell, Executive Director



Penelope Mitchell and Hadeel Qazzaz at Al-Quds University

**Fellowships and Awards:** PARC is pleased to announce 12 new fellows for 2009-10—four Americans and eight Palestinians. This newsletter introduces six of these fellows and their research; the remaining six fellows will be profiled in the spring newsletter. This year's research topics continue to be quite diverse, both topically (with research on maternal and child health, economics, human rights, local government, community development, and NGOs) and geographically (with two projects in Israel, one on Palestinian architecture and another on the Druze, as well as one project in Lebanon that focuses on the importance of the sea to Palestinians). This year

also features a joint research project in which a senior and junior researcher look at women's empowerment through distance education at Al-Quds Open University.

In other fellowship news, our three Getty research fellows in cultural preservation are at the end of their programs: one worked in Jerusalem and two in Turkey. We are pleased to announce our 2010-11 competitions: the U.S. Department of State's ECA research fellowships (page 7) and the Getty fellowships (page 15).

This year we are pleased to announce that the third Gerner Award for academic excellence will go to a master's degree student at Al-Azhar University in Gaza. The award commemorates the life of beloved PARC board member Deborah "Misty" Gerner. The award was at Birzeit University for the first year and at an-Najah University the second year.

**Funding:** PARC's Ramallah office is pleased to announce two continuing grants for this year to fund Palestinian fellowships: one from the Palestine Investment Fund (PIF) that will fund two fellowships, and the other from the Institute of Jerusalem Studies (IJS) that will fund one fellowship. We are grateful for our deepening relationship with these two important Palestinian institutions and their continued support for our programs. We are also delighted to have a new grant this year for one fellowship from the Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Center, a partnership between UNESCO and the Ministry of Women's Affairs. Please see the article on "Funding for Palestinian Fellowships" that more fully describes the exceptional work and invaluable support of these organizations.

We are also pleased to announce the continuation of funding for year three of our four-year U.S. Department of Education (USED) grant. This grant helps fund our Palestine office, travel for Palestinian participants on the PARC-sponsored panels at MESA, stipends for PARC fellows to present papers at MESA, improvements to our website, seminars and conferences, and production of our newsletter.

We are excited to announce that we recently heard from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State, and they have accepted our application to fund a new, two-week Faculty Development Seminar (FDS) to take place in Jerusalem in late May 2010. The FDS will provide an opportunity for 12-15 U.S. faculty members with an interest in Palestine, but little experience of travel to the region, to meet with Palestinian colleagues, visit Palestinian universities, and learn more about their fields of study as they relate to Palestine. At the same time, this program will encourage joint research and publications among U.S. and Palestinian academics. You will find an announcement and call for applications on page 13. More information is available on our Web site.

*continued on next page*

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## Palestinian American Research Center Newsletter Fall 2009

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## Around the PARC (continued)

**MESA:** For the first time, PARC is sponsoring two panels at MESA: “Health in the Occupied Palestinian Territories: A Growing Crisis” (Monday, November 23 at 2:30 p.m.) and “60 Years On: A Critical Revisiting of UNRWA for Palestine Refugees” (Sunday, November 22 at 11 a.m.). We have some excellent presenters, including five Palestinian speakers, thanks to support from USEd and ECA. We will host a reception from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the third floor atrium on Monday before the Health panel thanks to the generosity of Omar Kader, a long-time friend and benefactor of PARC. In addition, PARC will hold a general membership meeting on Saturday, November 21 from 3-4:30 p.m. (5th floor-Vermont) where PARC’s Palestine director, Hadeel Qazzaz, will discuss new activities in our Palestine office and several PARC alumni fellows will talk about their research. Once again, thanks to the generous grant from USEd, PARC is pleased to provide stipends for a number of current and former fellows to present papers at MESA. The center section of the newsletter highlights MESA panels and presentations that may be of interest to scholars on Palestine.

**PARC Resources for Research on the Web:** We have added to our PARC Web site nearly 80 pages of links to Web sites related to Palestine, as well as information on short subject, documentary, and feature films on Palestine. Please visit <http://parc-us-pal.org> to view these new features and let us know what you think.

**Conferences:** PARC sponsored two conferences this year. One, entitled “Jerusalem: History of the Future,” was held in Palestine late this summer. The conference was undertaken by the Institute of Palestine Studies in conjunction with the Jerusalem Capital of Arab Culture for 2009 Project and other donors. The second conference, entitled “Palestine: What We Know,” was convened in October in Washington, D.C. This conference, held in conjunction with George Washington University, examined what various disciplines (political economy, anthropology, and history) know and do not know about Palestine today. I am delighted that many of the speakers were former PARC fellows who are now established academics at U.S. universities. There will be a detailed article about this conference in the spring 2010 newsletter. As for next year, we are working with Hebron University on a conference that will explore university/business linkages in science and technology.

**PARC Palestine:** I visited our PARC office in May/June and was delighted with the bustle of activity. Special thanks go to Taleen Shaheen, our summer intern, and Varsen Aghabekian, who provided wonderful refreshments for our first gathering of PARC alumni fellows. Our Palestine director, Hadeel Qazzaz, and I visited Hebron and Al-Quds Universities and met with Nadim Rouhana and Nadera Shalhoub Kevorkian from MADA al-Carmel—Arab Center for Applied Social Science Research. We are pleased to announce a memorandum of understanding between PARC and MADA al-Carmel whereby MADA will host PARC fellows who are conducting research in Haifa and offer them workspace, secretarial support, and participation in their events with the hope that our fellows will share their research expertise with colleagues at MADA during their stay. Please take a look at the newsletter article on MADA al-Carmel that describes the center.

PARC board member Philip Mattar also visited Palestine to attend the Jerusalem conference in July, meet with the researchers on the Jerusalem Archives project, and look into venues for our Faculty Development Seminar next May. We are hopeful that our project to survey libraries in Jerusalem will be extended, thus affording us the possibility of surveying additional libraries in West Jerusalem with significant resources on Palestine of interest to researchers. Hand in hand with this program, PARC staff has



Hadeel Qazzaz and Penelope Mitchell with Dr. Nimer Abu Zahra, VP for Foreign Affairs at Hebron University



Varsen Aghabekian, Fadwa Al-Labadi and Taleen Shaheen at PARC reception



Hadeel Qazzaz with director and staff of IJS



Philip Mattar and director and staff of IJS



Khader Salameh with Philip Mattar

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## Around the PARC (continued)

entered hundreds of titles from our IJS/PARC library into the Digital Libraries for International Research database, an online tool for researchers. If you have relevant materials that you would like to donate to our library, please contact [us.parc@gmail.com](mailto:us.parc@gmail.com).

**New U.S. Staff:** PARC is delighted to welcome our new executive assistant, David Greenhalgh. David is a second year master's student in Middle East Studies at Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. A graduate of Princeton University, David studied Arabic in Jordan during the summer of 2007. He has enjoyed corresponding with new fellows and MESA panelists via email and looks forward to meeting many PARC fellows and members at MESA.



David Greenhalgh

Kate Walters will be doing an internship with PARC thanks to support from George Washington (GW) University. After serving two years in the Peace Corps in Jordan, she entered GW's master's degree program in Middle East Studies. Kate will be contacting all PARC alumni over the next several months to obtain updated information on their careers, publications, and other work. This information will be placed on PARC's Web site as a resource for other scholars in the field of Palestinian studies.

**Alumni Fellows:** We had some fascinating updates from alumni fellows last spring. We invite former fellows to share once again their news for our spring 2010 newsletter. Additionally, we look forward to including synopses of fellows' final reports to inform our members of research outcomes and help fellows to

publicize their work. With assistance from George Washington University, PARC has had an intern since October working to contact all former fellows to obtain updated information that can be mounted on our PARC Web site. Our vision is to devote a page on the Web site to each fellow that will provide a synopsis of his/her PARC research and its outcomes as well as a listing of publications, conferences, presentations, employment, and any other academic information that the fellows would like to provide. We are excited about this project and hope it will be a wonderful resource to connect people doing scholarly work on Palestine. If you have not been contacted yet, please send an email to [us.parc@gmail.com](mailto:us.parc@gmail.com) to follow up.

**Membership:** If you have not done so already, please renew your PARC membership TODAY. We count on your support to help sustain fellowships for Palestinians and amplify our calls for more funding for research on Palestine. PARC's goal is to increase its membership significantly over the next year. Many former members who are receiving the newsletter have not renewed their membership for some time. In addition to the basic \$25 membership, PARC is grateful for larger contributions that go further toward helping fund more fellowships for worthy and needy Palestinian academics. You can renew, join, or donate online using PayPal or credit card options at <http://parc-us-pal.org/>. Please help PARC to grow into a more substantial organization with greater membership support.

## PARC-sponsored UNRWA Panel at MESA

By Mezna Qato and Linda Tabar

December 9, 2009 marks 60 years since the establishment of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). In recognition of this occasion, PARC is sponsoring a panel at the upcoming MESA conference in Boston entitled "60 Years On: A Critical Revisiting of UNRWA for Palestine Refugees." The panel is organized by Mezna Qato (Oxford University), and Linda Tabar (School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London), both former PARC fellows.

The panel aims to create a space in which to engage in critical discussion of UNRWA and the complex dynamics structuring its relationship to Palestinian refugees. The presentations take as their starting point the centrality of UNRWA to the lives of Palestinian refugees and ultimately seek to identify ways to strengthen the relationship between UNRWA and Palestinians. Analyzing its historical formation, as well as its role and the nature of its relationship to Palestinian refugees, the five papers draw out some of the ambivalences and tensions in UNRWA's operations, practices, and programs, asking:

- How has UNRWA's narrowly defined humanitarian mandate and the agency's tense relationship to refugee rights structured its definition of who is a Palestinian refugee?
- As UNRWA becomes increasingly involved in camp reconstructions in Jenin, Nahr El-Bared, and Gaza, what are the implications and consequences of the expansion of its humanitarian mandate through the notion of "human development"?
- Given its mandate, the politics of donor funding, and the pressures and demands from host states, UNRWA has at times established different forms of governmentality. How have these forms of socialization and control (e.g., in the educational system) shifted across space and time?
- How has this impacted specific refugee communities, and how have these communities resisted?
- What is the relationship between UNRWA and the wide array of popular Palestinian committees, associations, federations, and networks?
- How have Palestinians placed their own demands on UNRWA?

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By mapping the history of UNRWA's classification grid, Ilana Feldman (George Washington University) investigates UNRWA's definition of who constitutes a refugee and examines the intersection of UNRWA humanitarian procedures and Palestinian refugees' political claims for recognition of their status and rights as refugees. Mezna Qato's paper addresses the history of UNRWA's educational system, which is widely regarded as its most successful program. Using the case of Jordan, she situates the educational materials the students encountered after the Nakba within a social history of Palestinians after the Nakba and analyses the ambivalent and contradictory contributions of UNRWA to the schooling of Palestinian refugees. Linda Tabar's paper examines UNRWA's reconstruction of the Jenin refugee camp and analyses the complex negotiations between UNRWA staff and the refugee committees over the spatial reconstruction of the camp. She focuses on the limitations of UNRWA's humanitarian mandate and the way it mitigates the displacement caused by the Israeli invasion of the camp, but also ends up re-embedding the community in the structures of the occupation and its modes of violence. Ala Alazzeh (Rice University) investigates the relationship and the complex modes of interaction between

UNRWA and the popular services committees in the refugee camps. He analyses the moments of contention and cooperation that mark their relationship and investigates the various interests and visions at stake. Examining the informal commemorations marking the 60th year of the Palestinian Nakba in UNRWA schools, Rochelle Davis (Georgetown University) explores these unsanctioned activities as a site from which to investigate the tensions between UNRWA's humanitarian mandate and the Palestinian struggle to narrate their history.

These papers collectively attempt to illuminate the myriad ways in which UNRWA as a bureaucracy and institution has come to govern Palestinian lives. Shifting from historical formations of the categorization and ration system and the educational system to the current contests over reconstruction, representation, and remembering, the panel hopes to illuminate the contours of UNRWA's negotiation of the demands of hosts, donors, and refugees throughout its 60 years of operation and the lessons learned and to be drawn in advancing a more representative, democratic, and accountable role in its services to one of the oldest and largest refugee populations in the world.

## PARC-sponsored Health Panel at MESA

By Rita Giacaman

The deleterious impact of war and political instability on health in conflict zones is often clear. Less understood are the specific effects that military rule and ongoing occupation can have on individual and family health and health services development. It is with this in mind that PARC brings together Palestinian and international experts at the upcoming MESA conference in Boston for a panel entitled "Health in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: A Growing Crisis." Panelists will draw on objective as well as subjective assessment measures noting people's perceptions of their own health and quality of life to illustrate the impact of chronic warlike conditions on health and health system development in the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT).

Rita Giacaman, Institute of Community and Public Health, Birzeit University, begins by delineating trends in health conditions and services across different regimes and up to the present. She links health and health service development to the political context under different administrations and more broadly to the ongoing Israeli occupation. Health conditions have worsened since the mid-1990s, with widening disparities between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Despite substantial international aid, chronic political and financial disruption has thwarted attempts at building the Palestinian health system.

Marwan Khawaja, American University of Beirut and Texas State University, then focuses on research describing child mortality and fertility trends from the 1990s until 2006. He exposes

the influence of occupation on individual and family choices in health matters. He also presents statistical data demonstrating that Palestinians' declining fertility rates are not due to changing contraceptive use, but rather due to broader social changes, including changes in nuptial patterns.

Graham Watt, University of Glasgow, subsequently highlights the health crisis in the Gaza Strip following two years of Israeli blockades and the recent attack of December 2008-January 2009. He details the destruction wrought by Israel's blockade and its recent offensive, Palestinian and other medical responses, and the challenges facing the rebuilding of the health services infrastructure in the Gaza Strip.

Finally, Awad Mataria, Institute of Community and Public Health, Birzeit, assesses attempts to develop and implement a national health plan for the OPT from prior to the Oslo Accords up to the present. He also analyzes the failure to create a more effective, efficient and equitable health care system and points to the arrangements for health care established by the Israeli military government between 1967 and 1994, the problems of the Palestinian Authority not having "authority" and being burdened with its own political problems, and foreign aid priorities being established by donors rather than locals.

This comprehensive look at the state of health in Palestine concludes by identifying ways of integrating long-term development approaches with emergency-response while questioning if this is possible under continuing military occupation.

## Have You Renewed?

Join and donate to PARC on our Web site at <http://www.parc-uspal.org> or fill out the membership form on the back page and send it in with your check. Not currently a member? Join today!

## Please Join Us

immediately preceding our Health panel Monday, Nov. 23 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. for a Reception to celebrate PARC's two MESA panels

*light fare and beverages will be served*

# 2009-2010 Fellowships



## SUSYNNE MCELRONE

Religion, Society and  
Politics in Hebron,  
1750-1918

The long 19th century (c. 1750-1918) witnessed significant social, economic, and political transformations that altered the hierarchy of relations between Muslims and non-Muslims in Ottoman lands. During this period, Hebron has been characterized as

- an Ottoman hinterland town with an overwhelmingly Muslim population;
- a place untouched by Zionist immigration;
- head of a politically marginal subdistrict and a regional economy that had little involvement with the northern, central, or coastal regions of Palestine or the Mediterranean-based trade with European merchants; and
- home to revered religious sites to which all but a few Christian travelers were forbidden access, and of secondary importance to European Christian institutions in “the Holy Land.”

Hebron has thus been peripheral to the lines of inquiry that have dominated research on early modern Palestine. Yet, Hebron—holy to Christians and among the holiest cities for Muslims and Jews—remained throughout the Ottoman centuries, as it had for millennia, a site for personal pilgrimage and rulers’ and elites’ munificence, as well as for both central government and foreign governmental and institutional religious attention. Susynne McElrone’s research explores religious foundations, sites, practices, and rituals in Hebron along with the interaction between Muslim, Jewish, and Christian residents and pilgrims and these sites and foundations.

Breaking with a common tendency in both Palestinian and Ottoman studies, McElrone examines the appropriateness of

using religious identification as a primary category of societal divisions during this period. To do so, she focuses on Hebron’s population and institutions not in exclusivity, but rather in concert with one another in order to go beyond source- and subject-specific historical narratives and consider and analyze the notions of community in Hebron in proper historical proportion. Her research is based on Ottoman, Palestinian, and Jewish documents in archives and private libraries in Turkey, Jordan, Israel, and Hebron.

McElrone aims to explain the changing meaning, power, and place of religion in the late-Ottoman society, politics, and economy of Hebron. Her work will also highlight local transformation and historical actors, gaps in the literature, and incorrect historical assumptions that have resulted from the lack of attention to the aforementioned aspects of the regional historical narrative. Her project endeavors to contribute new insights into important but neglected aspects of Palestinian history and Ottoman religious history.

Susynne McElrone is a doctoral candidate in the department of history and the department of Middle Eastern and Islamic studies at New York University.

*She can be reached at [susynne@nyu.edu](mailto:susynne@nyu.edu).*

## Alumni Survey

We are in the process of contacting all PARC alumni fellows for updated info to post on PARC’s Web site. (See Around the PARC for more details.) If we don’t have a current email address for you, please send us your new address.

## Fellowship Reports

All PARC fellows are invited to submit synopses of their final reports for publication in the spring newsletter.

## Alumni Updates

All PARC fellows are invited to submit their news for publication in the spring newsletter. Please send us information on promotions, new positions, publications, conferences, etc. We look forward to hearing from you!

Please send all information to [us.parc@gmail.com](mailto:us.parc@gmail.com).

## You're Invited

to PARC's annual membership meeting at  
MESA.

Saturday, November 21 from 3:00 to 4:30 pm  
5th Floor-Vermont Room

## NEW

on the PARC Web site:

<http://parc-us-pal.org>

Click on the Resources tab to check out our **updated** and **extensive** tools

- Research and information on Palestine.
- Links to Web sites relating to Palestine, such as sites for news, NGOs, universities, government agencies, and much more.
- Films on Palestine: short subjects, documentaries, and features.





**SAIDA AFFOUNEH & SUHAIR SAWALAH**



**The Role of Distance Learning in Women's Empowerment: The Case of Al-Quds Open University**

The issue of women's empowerment is of global concern. In their case study of Al-Quds Open University, Saida Affouneh and Suhair Sawalah will analyze how distance learning can empower Palestinian women in the education, economic, and social sectors. Al-Quds Open University is the first open and distance education university in the Arab world and the home of a large and ever-increasing percentage of female students. During the 2008-9 academic year, students at Al-Quds Open University accounted for nearly one-third of all higher education enrollment in Palestine and 59 percent of Al-Quds Open University students were women. In light of this impressive female enrollment, more investigation is needed to show how distance learning empowers women in Palestinian society today.

In particular, Affouneh and Sawalah will assess the University's role in empowering Palestinian women by evaluating the following:

- Women's rights and access to higher education,
- The role of academic programs in strengthening women's economic roles, and
- The compatibility between the skill sets of Al-Quds Open University female graduates and the requirements of the labor market .

To tackle these questions and ensure the validity and accuracy of their assessments, the researchers will triangulate findings from questionnaires, interviews, and document analysis.

Affouneh and Sawalah's research is significant in that it recognizes the importance of education in empowering women and thus better and more effectively involving them in their societies. It provides a valuable, new contribution to knowledge of the distance learning field in higher education institutions since few studies have analyzed its role in empowering women in the Arab world in general, and

Palestine in particular. At the same time, their research provides a unique case study of Palestine, where closures, curfews, and poverty affect all aspects of daily life, including education, and, in particular, the situation of women. Ultimately, their research will enable decision makers in higher education institutions to revise existing programs and play a greater role in coherent policy and strategy discussions at the institutional and governmental levels. Thus, this research will contribute to the distance learning field and provide answers about how to educate and empower women in Palestine more effectively.

Dr. Saida Affouneh recently received a Ph.D. in decentralization and emergency education from the University of Huddersfield. She is currently the coordinator of the applied research unit in the Open and Distance Learning Centre of Birzeit University as well as a lecturer at Al-Quds Open University. Suheir Sawalah received a master's degree in development policies and social research from Birzeit University in 2003. She is currently a community development social worker in the Relief and Social Services Department of UNWRA.

*Suheir Sawalah can be reached at s\_sawalha1@yahoo.com and Dr. Saida Affouneh at s\_jaser@hotmail.com.*

**Research Fellowship Competition in Palestinian Studies**

**PARC**  
**2010-11**

**Full proposals due January 15, 2010**  
Awards range from \$6,000-\$10,000  
Awards announced March 16, 2010

*To be considered for this fellowship:*

- Research must contribute to Palestinian studies. Any area of Palestinian studies will be considered, including the humanities, social sciences, economics, law, health and science. Purely scientific research, however, is not eligible for this fellowship competition.
- Research must be conducted in Palestine, Israel, Jordan, or Lebanon.
- Research proposals must take into account that PARC funding is for one year only.
- Applicants must be post-doctoral scholars, established researchers, or full-time doctoral students enrolled in a recognized degree program. Doctoral students must have fulfilled all preliminary requirements for the doctorate degree except the dissertation by the time the research commences. The fellowship will not cover tuition fees. Senior researchers without doctorates but with a record of academic publication can apply. Applicants with a master's degree may only apply jointly with a post-doctoral scholar.
- Applicants must be US citizens.
- Applicants must be PARC members. See <http://parc-us-pal.org/> for membership information.
- Applicants must not have received a PARC fellowship within the last three years.

To apply for this fellowship send 4 copies of the full application (except for letters of recommendation) by January 15, 2009 to

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

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

*Funded by the U.S. Department of State's Educational and Cultural Affairs Bureau.*

# TOPICS OF INTEREST

## MESA 2009 Conference

November 21-24 • Boston Marriott Copley Place • Boston, MA

### Please don't miss ...

two PARC-sponsored panels: 1) Sunday, November 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., "60 Years On: A Critical Revisiting of UNRWA for Palestine Refugees;" 2) Monday, November 23 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., "Health in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: A Growing Crisis."

The PARC general meeting will be held on Saturday, November 22, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. All members and those interested in learning more about PARC are invited to attend and hear an update from Hadeel Qazzaz, PARC's Palestine director.

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

### MESA Conference Sessions Related to Palestinian Studies

#### Session I: Saturday, Nov. 21, 5-7 PM

(P2196) National Places and Colonized Spaces: The Contest for Jerusalem Over the Last 100 Years

Chair, Organizer: **Thomas P. Abowd**,\* Colby College

Presenter: **Salim Tamari**, Birzeit University, Institute of Jerusalem Studies  
*Early Planning Schemes: Ottoman and Colonial Modernities in Jerusalem*

Presenter: **Lena Jayyusi**, Zayed U

*Locating the National: Jerusalem in Palestinian Discourse during the Oslo Years*

Presenter: **Thomas P. Abowd**,\* Colby College

*Etching the "Eternal": The Production of Place, Myth, and Meaning in Jerusalem's Old City*

Presenter: **Issam Nassar**, Illinois State University

*Wartime Jerusalem: 1914-1918*

#### Session II: Sunday, Nov. 22, 8:30-10:30 AM

(P2066) The Palestinian Novel in Israel: Minor, Minority and National Identity

Organizer: **Amal Equeiq**, University of Washington

Organizer: **Rose-Louissa Oburra**, Cornell University

Presenter: **Amal Equeiq**, University of Washington

*The Challenges of Writing Nakba in Native Palestinian Literature in Israel/Palestine*

Presenter: **Rose-Louissa Oburra**, Cornell University

*Ambivalence and Betrayal: Nationhood and Liminality in the Palestinian Novel*

Presenter: **Mustafa Qossoqsi**, Arab Psychological Association in Israel

*The Pessoptimist, or Literature as a Transitional and Reparative Space*

Presenter: **Salim Abu Jabal**

*After the Pessoptimist: When Minor Literature is Minority Literature*

(P2084): Political Film in the Middle East and the Maghreb

Presenter: **Nadia G. Yaqub**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

*Palestinian Road Narratives from Ghassan Kanafani to Hany Abu Assad*

Presenter: **Josef Gugler**, University of Connecticut

*Political Themes in the Cinemas of the Middle East and the Maghreb*

(P2110) Challenges and Prospects for Economic and Social Stability in Post-Invasion Iraq

Discussant: **Isis Nusair**,\* Denison University

Presenter: **Elizabeth Campbell**

*The Nakba Continues: Palestinian Refugees from Iraq*

(R2124) The New Media, the Middle East, and President Obama

Presenter: **Jason Hushour**, University of Arizona

*Israeli New Media and the Obama Administration*

(P2188) Globalism, Techno-politics, and Resistance: Exploring "Actually Existing" Neoliberalism in the MENA

Presenter: **Annemie Vermaelen**, University of Gent

*The Red Sea Dead Sea Canal: A Conduit to Peace or to Infrastructural Violence?*

(P2262) Insurgency and Counterinsurgency

Presenter: **Ronnie Olesker**, St. Lawrence University

*Identity Boundary Changes and Propensity for Political Violence: The Case of the Palestinian Minority in Israel*

(P2268) Orientalism

Presenter: **Spencer Scoville**, University of Michigan

*A Samovar in Ramallah: Russian Orientalism and the Foundation of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society*

#### Session III: Sunday, Nov. 22, 11 AM-1 PM

(P2116) 60 Years On: A Critical Revisiting of UNRWA for Palestine Refugees

Chair: **Penny Johnson**,\* Birzeit University

Discussant: **Randa R. Farah**, University of Western Ontario

Organizer: **Linda Tabar**,\* School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

Organizer: **Mezna Qato**,\* St. Antony's College, Oxford

Presenter: **Ilana Feldman**,\* George Washington University

*UNRWA and the Challenge of Refugee Kinds*

Presenter: **Mezna Qato**,\* University of Oxford, St. Antony's College

*Pedagogical Erasures: Curriculum and the Formation of the UNRWA/ UNESCO School System*

Presenter: **Linda Tabar**,\* School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

*The Reconstruction of Jenin Refugee Camp: Humanitarian Intervention and Rational Violence*

Presenter: **Ala Alazzeh**, Rice University

*Negotiating Rights: Contention and Cooperation between UNRWA and Popular Service Committees in Palestinian Refugee Camps*

Presenter: **Rochelle Anne Davis**,\* Georgetown University

*UNRWA's Education Programs and Palestinian Commemorations of the Nakba*

(P2056) Gendering the Transnational in War, Peace-Building and Post-Conflict Reconstruction: The Case of Iraq & Palestine

Chair, Discussant: **Frances Hasso**,\* Oberlin College

Presenter: **Isis Nusair**,\* Denison University

*Gender Mainstreaming in Conflict and Non-Conflict Situations in the Middle East and North Africa*

Presenter: **Sophie Richter-Devroe**, University of Exeter

*'The Personal is Political' in Women's Peace Activism in Palestine/Israel*

Presenter: **Nadje Sadig al-Ali**, University of London, SOAS

*Transnational Feminism in the Context of Iraq & Palestine*



(P2098) Alternative Media as Sites of Resistance

Presenter: **Julie M. Norman**,\* Concordia University  
*Creative Activism: Participatory Media in Palestine*  
Presenter: **May Farah**, New York University  
*The Writing on the Wall*  
Presenter: **Helga Tawil Souri**, New York University  
*Theorizing Arab Media Activism and Resistance*

(P2182) Contest and Order: Spatial Configurations in the Middle East and North Africa

Chair: **Angel M. Foster**,\* Ibis Reproductive Health  
Presenter: **Alma Gottlieb-McHale**, University of Notre-Dame  
*Taking the Hilltops: A Comparative Study of Civilian Occupation*

(R2103) Between Cooperation and Resistance: The League of Nations Mandates in the Middle East

Chair, Organizer: **Dina Rizk Khoury**,\* George Washington University  
Presenter: **Sherene Seikaly**,\* American University of Cairo  
*Collaborator Nationalist: Palestinian Businessmen and the 1936 Strike*

**Session IV: Sunday, Nov. 22, 2- 4PM**

(P2061) The Ottoman Mahalle in Court Records, 17-19th Centuries, Part II: Provinces

Presenter: **Michelle U. Campos**,\* University of Florida  
*Living Together, Apart: Religious Scholarship, Economic Necessity, and Neighborhood Relations in Late Ottoman Jerusalem*

(P2173) Intertextuality, Allusion, and the Evolution of the New in Modern Arabic and Francophone Poetry

Presenter: **Nathalie Khankan**  
*Cultivating the New and the Normal: Palestinian Poetry after Oslo*

(P2231) Israeli-Palestinian Peace Activism

Chair: **Richard Cahill**, Berea College  
Presenter: **Maia Carter Hallward**,\* Kennesaw State University  
*Building Space for Peace? Israeli and Palestinian Activism in the Second Intifada*  
Presenter: **Lenore VanderZee**, University of Notre Dame  
*Non-Governmental Cooperation and Peacebuilding in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*  
Presenter: **Eric Budd**, Fitchburg State College  
*The Death of Oslo: What Lessons Can We Learn?*  
Presenter: **Robert R. Sauters**, Eastern Washington University  
*Partners for Peace: Cooperative Nonviolent Resistance Networks among Palestinian, Israeli and International Activists*  
Presenter: **Gershon Shafr**  
*The Promise of Jewish-Palestinian Binationalism in 1936*

(P2232) The Performing Arts Make History

Presenter: **Galeet Dardashti**, U. of Texas at Austin  
*Sing us a Mawal: The Politics of Culture-Brokering Palestinian-Israeli Musicians in Israel*

(P2266) Lebanon and the Lebanese

Presenter: **Lina Kassem**, Qatar University  
*The Comparative Politics of Druze Identity: The Case of the Druze of Lebanon and Beyond*

**Session V: Sunday, Nov. 22, 4:30-6:30 PM**

(P2019) Crossing Over: Negotiating Levantine Borders During the Mandate and After

Presenter: **Andrea L. Stanton**, New York University  
*"Palestinians Invade the Lebanon": The Political Economy of Mandate-Era Tourism*  
Presenter: **Tsolin Nalbantian**, Columbia University  
*From Beirut to Jerusalem and Back: The Loss and Recovery of the Right Hand of St. Gregory*

(P2256) Architecture and Urban Space

Presenter: **Nicholas E. Roberts**, the University of the South  
*Remaking the City, Remaking Religion: The Old City of Jerusalem in British Urban Planning*

(P2259) Memory and Identity

Presenter: **Tamir Sorek**, University of Florida  
*Collective Memory, Its Site of Production, and National Identity among Jewish and Palestinian Citizens of Israel*  
Presenter: **Rafi Nets-Zehngut**  
*The Israeli-Jewish Collective Memory of the Israeli-Arab/Palestinian Conflict – Determinants, Content and Consequences*

**Session VI: Monday, Nov. 23, 8:30-10:30 AM**

(P2020) Arabic Language Register: Ideologies and Practices

Presenter: **Martin Isleem**, University of Texas at Austin  
*Colloquial Arabic as a Policy Tool: The Case of the Druze Heritage Curriculum in Israel*

(P2027) Lost in Translation: Intercultural Encounters and Re-visions of the Past

Presenter: **Yaron Shemer**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
*The Politics of Translation: The Case of "Beyond the Walls"*

(P2051) Transforming Home: The Politics of Dwelling in the Middle East

Organizer: **Faedah M. Totah**,\* Virginia Commonwealth University  
Presenter: **Nell Gabiam**  
*Must We Live in the Barracks to Be Refugees? Space, Place and the Politics of Identity in Neirab Camp, Syria*  
Presenter: **Faedah M. Totah**,\* Virginia Commonwealth University  
*Whose Bayt is the Bayt Arabi? The Debate between Ownership and Stewardship of Vernacular Homes in Damascus*

(P2133) A Material Nahda?

Organizer: **Sherene Seikaly**,\* American University in Cairo  
Presenter: **Munir K. Fakher Eldin**, Skidmore College  
*Nahda and its Discontents: Propertied Men, the Nation, and the Popular Classes*  
Presenter: **Sherene Seikaly**,\* American University in Cairo  
*Free Trade and Democracy: Palestinian Businessmen Imagine the Nation*

(P2144) Photographing Self and Other: Portrait Photography in the Middle East

Presenter: **Stephen P. Sheehi**  
*Modernity and the Self-Orientalizing Bourgeois Photography in Early 20th Century Lebanon and Palestine*

(P2149) Refiguring Loss in Contemporary Arabic Literature

Presenter: **Zeina G. Halabi**, University of Texas, Austin  
*Losing the Nation: The Poetics of Mourning in the Elegies of Mahmud Darwish, Samih al-Qasem, and Muhammad al-Maghut*  
Presenter: **Angela Giordani**, University of Texas, Austin  
*The Literary Craft of Genesis: Narrative Modes of Creating the Arab Present in Halim Barakat's 'Awdat al-Ta'ir ila-l-Bahr (Days of Dust) and Elias Khoury's Bab al-Shams (Gate of the Sun)*

(P2228) Sexuality and Human Rights

Presenter: **Natalie K. Jensen**,\* University of South Carolina  
*Patriarchy and Presence: The Internal Migration of Young Palestinian Women within the West Bank*  
Presenter: **Kimberly Gouz**  
*Ethnic Politics and Women's Movement Mobilization in Israel: The Role of Ideas*

(P2267) The Military and Security Concerns in the Middle East

Presenter: **Ora Szekely**, McGill University  
*Resources, Relationships and Relative Militia Effectiveness in the Modern Middle East*  
Presenter: **Naomi Weinberger**, Colgate University  
*Competing Visions of Palestinian Security: Hamas, Fatah, the US, and Israel*

**Session VII: Monday, Nov. 23, 11AM-1 PM**

(P1986) Israel After the Elections and the War in Gaza

Presenter: **Oded Haklai**, Queens University  
*Patterns of Palestinian Arab Political Mobilization in Israel after the 2009 Elections*

(P2042) Imagining the Holy Land

- Presenter: **Daniel Martin Varisco**, Hofstra University  
*Framing the Holy Land as an Art: Illustrations of Arabs in 19th Century Bible Custom Accounts*
- Presenter: **Inger Marie Okkenhaug**  
*Hidden Behind the Limestone Walls. Swedish Impressions of Jerusalem, 1922-1948*

(P2226) Transforming Landscapes

- Presenter: **Bethany J. Walker**, Missouri State University  
*Internal Migration and the Collapse of the Mamluk State in Southern Bilad al-Sham*

(P2265) Comparative Education Policy

- Presenter: **Deena T. Faruki**, University of Washington  
*In Fear of Palestine: British and Israeli Educational Policy and History Curriculum for Palestinians*

**Session VIII: Monday, Nov. 23, 2:30-4:30 PM**

(P2064) Health in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: A Growing Crisis

- Chair: **Sara M. Roy**, Harvard University  
Discussant: **Jay Schnitzer**, Boston Scientific Corporation  
Organizer: **Penelope Mitchell**,\* Palestinian American Research Center  
Presenter: **Rita Giacaman**, Institute of Community and Public Health, Birzeit University  
*Health Status and Health Services in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*
- Presenter: **Marwan Khawaja**, American University of Beirut  
*The Transition to Lower Fertility and Childhood Mortality in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*
- Presenter: **Graham Watt**, University of Glasgow  
*Medical Aid for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip*
- Presenter: **Awad Mataria**, Institute of Community and Public Health, Birzeit  
*The Health Care System in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: Assessment and Agenda for Reform*

(P2076) Counterspaces of Modernity in Turkey and Palestine

- Presenter: **Noa Shandlinger**, University of Toronto  
*"When Camels Fly": The 1934 Tel Aviv Levant Fair and Colonial Representations in Palestine*
- Presenter: **Oscar Jarzmik**, University of Toronto  
*A Peoples Without History, A Peoples Without Geography: Israel, the Unrecognized Palestinian Villages and the Politics of Recognition*

(P2177) Faces of Sectarianism in the Levant

- Presenter: **Noah Haiduc-Dale**, New York University  
*The Union of Arab Orthodox Clubs: Palestine, 1940s*

(P2227) Gender, Sexuality, Representation

- Presenter: **Dina Georgis**, University of Toronto  
*Masculinities and the Aesthetics of Love: Reading Terrorism in De Niro's Game and Paradise Now*

(P2233) Cultural Production in Nation Formation

- Presenter: **Sami Shalom Chetrit**, CUNY, Queens College  
*Revisiting Bialik: A Radical Mizrahi Reading of the Jewish National Poet*

(P2257) Urban, Suburban and Rural Faces

- Presenter: **Kimberly B. Katz**,\* Towson University  
*Urban Identity in Tunisia: The Writings of Salih Suwaysi al-Qayrawani*
- Presenter: **Rebecca Manski**  
*Pioneering a Native Suburbia in the Last Open Spaces of Israel*

(P2278) Crossing Religious Frontiers: Political and Imaginative

- Presenter: **Catherine Baylin**, American University in Cairo  
*Quaker Missionaries in Ramallah, 1869-1939*

(P2279) U.S. and British Policies in the Middle East

- Presenter: **Marwa Abdel Samei**, Northeastern University  
*(Re-)Defining the Middle East from the American Perspective: Al Hurra's Coverage of the Gaza War*

**Session IX: Monday, Nov. 23, 5-7 PM**

(P2230) Being Palestinian

- Chair: **Victoria Mason**, Lancaster University  
Presenter: **Maha Shuayb**, University of Oxford  
*School Effectiveness in UNRWA Secondary Schools in Lebanon: The Needs, Aspirations and Concerns of Young Palestinian Refugees Living in Lebanon*
- Presenter: **Dina Matar**, University of London, SOAS  
*What It Means to be Palestinian*
- Presenter: **Donna Perry**, Massachusetts General Hospital  
*Reclaiming Dignity: Palestinian Members of Combatants for Peace*
- Presenter: **Charles Anderson**, New York University  
*Youth, Nationalist Discipline, and the Radicalization of Palestinian Politics, 1929-36*

(P2292) Reconfiguring State-Civil Society Relations Post-9/11

- Presenter: **Ibrahim Ibtisam**, American University  
*Muslim Non-Violent Resistance: the Case of the Al-Aqsa Association for the Preservation of Islamic Consecrated Property (Waqf) and Charities in Israel*

**Session X: Tuesday, Nov. 24, 8-10 AM**

(P1984) Perspectives on Arabic in Palestine/Arabic in Israel

- Chair, Discussant: **Yasir Suleiman**, University of Cambridge  
Organizer: **Liora R. Halperin**, UCLA  
Presenter: **Liora R. Halperin**, UCLA  
*Hebrew Man, Speak Arabic!: The Symbolisms of Arabic in the Zionist Movement before 1948*
- Presenter: **Yonatan Mendel**, Cambridge University  
*Arabic and Security in Israel: 1967-1973*
- Presenter: **Daniel Lefkowitz**, University of Virginia  
*Conflict and Identity in Palestinian Narratives about Arabic in Israel in the Early 1990s*
- Presenter: **Allon J. Uhlmann**, University of Missouri, St. Louis  
*Arabic Instruction, Cognition, and the Politics of Sectarian Domination*

(P2011) Kuwait's Irreconcilable Knots

- Presenter: **Mai Al-Nakib**, Kuwait University, College of Arts  
*"The People Are Missing": Palestinians in Kuwait*

(P2102) Discourse and Great Power Foreign Policy in the Middle East, 1882-1925

- Presenter: **Andrew Patrick**, University of Manchester  
*Race and Modernity in the Writings of the King-Crane Commission of 1919*

(P2167) Cutting Edges: Emerging Transnational Configurations of Arab/ Arab American/Arab British Cultural Production

- Presenter: **Victoria Mason**, Lancaster University  
*The Maintenance of Palestinian Identity in the Transnational Spaces of Al Ghurbah*

(P2180) A(nother) New Middle East in the Making?

- Presenter: **Helle Malmvig**, Danish Institute for International Studies  
*Western Negotiations over Arab (Dis)Orders: from Iraq to Gaza*
- Presenter: **Raffaella A. Del Sarto**, University of Oxford  
*Notions of Regional Order and Foreign Policy as Mutual Feedback Processes: Israel after Oslo*

(P2263) Defining Law

- Presenter: **Michelle L. Burgis**, University of St. Andrews  
*Exceptional Emergencies?: The Construction of Legal Discourses on Targeted Assassinations in the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict*

(P2264) Minorities and the Ottoman Periphery

- Presenter: **Yuval Ben-Bassat**, University of Haifa  
*In Search of Justice: Petitions Sent from Palestine to the Grand Vizier from the Early 1870s onward*
- Presenter: **Yeliz Baloglu-Cengay**, Brandeis University  
*Ottoman Zionist Diplomacy: The Repercussions of Abdülhamid-Herzl Correspondence*

## Session XI: Tuesday, Nov. 24, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

(P2004) The Professionalization of the Rival National Intelligence

Services in the Middle East During World War One

Discussant: **Eugene Rogan**,\* University of Oxford, St. Antony's College

Presenter: **Yigal Sheffy**, Tel Aviv University

*Birth of Modern Intelligence Revolution: The Palestine Campaign, 1914-1918*

(P2082) Performing Resistance: Performative Responses to Foreign and Domestic Pressure in the Arab World

Presenter: **Najat Rahman**, University of Montreal

*Against Erasures: Commemoration of Loss in the Artwork of Emily Jacir and Eman Haram*

Presenter: **Rania Jawad**, New York University

*The Performance of Resistance Campaigns: The Theatrical Staging of Bil'in's Actions against Israeli Policies*

Presenter: **Edward Ziter**, New York University

*Palestinian Militancy in the Theatre of Mamduh Adwan*

Presenter: **Hala Kh. Nassar**, Yale University

*Palestinian Art, Permission to Install*

(P2176) Quo Vadis Israel?

Chair: **Rashid I. Khalidi**,\* Columbia University

Presenter: **Camille Mansour**,

*The Impact of Israel's Palestine Policies*

Presenter: **Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin**, Ben Gurion University

*The Bi-National Dimension*

Presenter: **Raef Zreik**, Georgetown University

*The Persistence of Ethnos*

Presenter: **Amal Jamal**,\* Tel Aviv University

*Perceptions of Jewish National Security in Israel*

(P2223) Clientelism and Patronage

Presenter: **Are John S. Knudsen**, Chr Michelsen Institute (CMI)

*Islamic Clientelism: Hizbollah's Patronage of the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon*

(P2297) Women, Gender and Christianity in the Middle East, Part II (also Part I (P2015) Session X 8-10 AM)

Chair, Discussant: **Ellen L. Fleischmann**,\* University of Dayton

Presenter: **Laura C. Robson**, Yale University

*Palestinian Christian Women and the New Middle-Class Modernity*

## Session XII: Tuesday, Nov. 24, 1-3 PM

(P2057) Pirated Politics: Contemporary Art, Artists, and the Postproduction of the Middle East

Presenter: **Kathy Zarur**, University of Michigan

*Mediated Reality In and Out of Palestine*

(P2086) The New Political, Economic, and International Dynamics in the Maghreb

Presenter: **Randa R. Farah**, University of Western Ontario

*Western Sahara and Palestine: Connections and Junctures*

(P2141) Between Colonialism, Authoritarianism, and Political Islam:

Prospects for the Palestinian National Movement after the War against Gaza 2008-2009

Organizer: **Ghada AlMadbouh**,\* University of Maryland

Organizer: **Helga Baumgarten**, Birzeit University

Presenter: **Ghada AlMadbouh**,\* University of Maryland

*From Neo-Patrimonialism to Authoritarianism: The Palestinian Authority and the Survival Strategies of Hamas under Occupation*

Presenter: **Mahmoud Jaraba**, Birzeit University

*Hamas' Fighting against Fateh in 2007 and during the War 2008/2009*

Presenter: **Marwan Muteir**, Tuebingen University

*Fateh and Hamas in Gaza during the War: Resistance, Collaboration, and Uneasy Cooperation*

Presenter: **Imad AlSoos**, Free University of Berlin

*Hamas: Political Islam and/or Palestinian Nationalism? A Discourse Analysis of the Transformation towards Nationalism*

Presenter: **Helga Baumgarten**, Birzeit University

*The Future of the Palestinian National Movement (PNM): Resistance against or Authoritarian Cooperation with the Colonialist Occupation?*

(P2195) Poetics, Politics, and Prisons of Exile in Arabic Literature

Presenter: **Nader K. Uthman**, New York University

*Ma tabaqqalukum: Kanafani's Poetics of Exile through the Prisms of Gender and Nation*

(P2258) Voices from the Margins

Presenter: **Ceren Belge**, Harvard University

*Bureaucracy, Knowledge, and Control: Governing Minorities in Israel and Turkey*

(P2269) Press Battles

Presenter: **Jason Hushour**, University of Arizona

*Nth Generation Warfare: Israel, Gaza, and the Media War*

(P2271) Class, Labor, and Production

Presenter: **Leena Dallashah**, New York University

*Nazarene Workers Negotiating Citizenship*

Presenter: **Rana Barakat**,\* Birzeit University

*A Different Kind of Jerusalem: The Hebron Jerusalemite*

(P2274) Representations of Gender

Presenter: **Nadim Bawalsa**, Georgetown University

*The British in Palestine: Imaginings in Masculinity in Colonial Memoirs*

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

### Session I: Saturday, Nov. 21, 5:00 PM

(P2229) Family, Medicine and the State

Presenter: **Angel M. Foster**,\* Ibis Reproductive Health

*Medicine, Politics and Sexuality: Exploring the Introduction of Emergency Contraception in Tunisia*

### Session II: Sunday, Nov. 22, 8:30-10:30 AM

(P1992) State Repression and Societal Dissent in the Contemporary Middle East

Presenter: **Jillian M. Schwedler**,\* University of Massachusetts

*The Repression-Dissent Nexus: Insights from Jordan*

(P2017) Law and Justice in the Ottoman Empire: From Center to Periphery

Discussant: **Najwa al-Qattan**,\* Loyola Marymount University

(P2156) Mastering Nature: Colonial Regimes and Environmental Policies

Chair: **Kimberly B. Katz**,\* Towson University

(P2179) Writing and Contesting History in Egypt and Syria in the Late-19th and Early-20th Centuries

Chair: **Charles D. Smith**,\* University of Arizona

### Session IV: Sunday, Nov. 22, 2-4 PM

(P2013) Iraqi Traumas Since the 1990s: Haunting Traces and Shifting Boundaries, Part 1

Presenter: **Dina Rizk Khoury**,\* George Washington University

*"The End of Days": The 1991 Uprising and the Language of Suffering in Iraq*

(P2022) Citizenship and Social Contracts in the Middle East and Countries with Muslim Minorities

Presenter: **Karam Dana**,\* Harvard University

*Islam and America: Beliefs in Contradiction?*

### Session IX: Monday, Nov. 23, 5-7 PM

(P2142) Turkish-Israeli Relations: Determinants and Challenges

Presenter: **Senay Ozden**,\* Duke University

*Understanding Turkish-Israeli Relations within the Context of Turkish-Arab Relations*

### Session XII: Tuesday, Nov. 24, 1-3 PM

(P2071) The Legal Institutions of British Egypt

Discussant: **Nathan J. Brown**,\* George Washington University





## ABED BADRAN

Space Design, Making and Tectonics of Israeli-Palestinian Architecture: Impacts of the Israeli Project

Since the Zionist movement began to transform itself at the end of the 19th century into a state-making project, it has dramatically altered the Palestinian landscape and its architecture, as illustrated by Zvi Efrat's 2000 exhibit entitled "The Israeli Project: Building and Architecture in Israel, 1948-1973." The physical construction of the Israeli state brought massive destruction, demolition, dispossession, appropriation, and confiscation of Palestinian cities, villages, lands, and natural resources. It also dramatically affected the style of the vernacular dwelling in remaining Palestinian villages and cities. Despite the enormous impact of "The Israeli Project" on Israeli-Palestinian architecture, Abed Badran's review of recent literature on the subject reveals that it neglects critical design issues, particularly the relationship of "The Israeli Project" to the evolution of materials, design, construction, and tectonics in Palestinian architecture.

In his research, Badran will develop a theoretical approach to understanding the impact of "The Israeli Project" on spatial dynamics and processes in Israeli-Palestinian architecture, highlighting new tendencies in the contemporary Israeli-Palestinian dwelling. Badran will conduct his research in two main phases. In the first phase, he will carry out a review of theoretical literature relating to traditional Israeli-Palestinian architecture and "The Israeli Project." In the second phase, he will compare a number of dwellings from throughout the past century, examining the similarities and differences between



Photo 1

those from before and those from after "The Israeli Project."

Badran's research is significant in that it will offer insight into new elements in modern Israeli-Palestinian architecture, highlight interfaces between the new elements and the old, and trace the evolution or degeneration of new elements from their traditional antecedents. At the same time, it will examine whether these new architectural elements

have resisted (see photo #1) or accommodated (see photo #2) the existence of "The Israeli Project."

Badran's research is also noteworthy in that it will describe and analyze the transformed dwelling space using a theoretical framework based on Alexander's patterned language approach.

As a result, a new lexicon on Israeli-Palestinian architecture may emerge that incorporates the successfully transformed shape typologies from the timeless architectural elements to the contemporary new ones.

Abed Badran is a PhD candidate and researcher at the Welsh School of Architecture, where his research is supervised by Stephen Kite and Adam Sharr.

He can be reached at [abedbad@zahav.net.il](mailto:abedbad@zahav.net.il).



Photo 2



## DIANA K. ALLAN

Maritime Nationalism: Seascape and Memory

1948 not only marks the loss of Palestine as a physical entity, but also the moment when Palestinians (with the exception of those living in Gaza) ceased to have a coast. While the control of Palestinian interests at sea has been critical to the Zionist project for reasons of security and economy, it has been subject to no systematic study by social scientists or historians. Since conflict over territory has remained the iconic centerpiece of the struggle, scholarship has focused on labor and land to the exclusion of the sea.

Diana Allan will investigate the role that the sea has played in the history of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict through a detailed analysis of the use and habitation of the sea along the coast of Israel/Palestine and Lebanon. She will examine the network of political, social, economic, and ecological relations forged at sea from the 1930s until the present; the competing claims of Israeli and Palestinian fisheries during this same period; and the trade relations that existed between fishermen in Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria before 1948. She also plans to explore the role that the sea has played, and continues to play, in the livelihood and identity of Palestinian coastal communities; the history of Palestinian fishermen living inside and outside the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and the impact of Zionist maritime policies and unfolding geopolitical realities on the Palestinian fishing industry. Her aim is to produce a historical ethnography of a body of water and the social, economic, and political relations it creates. PARC's funding will help her conduct field research within Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and archival research in Jerusalem.

Israel's longstanding blockade of Gaza that intensified in June 2007 was accompanied by a tightening of Israeli control over

Gazan territorial waters that has underscored the sea's ongoing importance as a site of political struggle. The discovery in 2000 of extensive gas reserves off Gaza may be a significant factor in Israel's bid to reclaim control of its coastline and has led to a growing number of Israeli naval ship and helicopter assaults on Palestinians fishing in the sea. It is telling that during Israel's recent military invasion of Gaza, the harbor was among the first targets to be bombed. These geopolitical developments are part of a longer history of maritime domination and struggle, and offer salutary reminders that the sea, far from being a picturesque backdrop for what is taking place on land, has itself been a critical site of political conflict.

Diana Allan is currently a Junior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows.

*She can be reached at [dallan@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:dallan@fas.harvard.edu).*



### **TAHREER ARAJ**

From Services to Ideological Formation: Building Community Agency in Palestine

Tahreer Araj's research explores how local NGOs that provide grassroots services strategically take collective actions and shape ideology at the local level in order to maximize community support in particular political and cultural environments. Her research focuses specifically on the interaction between an organization's ideology at the policy maker's level and the implementation of certain projects at the community development practitioner's level. Her research will examine the empowerment of the community level within these organizational dynamics.

Araj will conduct a one-year, ethnographic case study of two prominent Palestinian grassroots NGOs that have worked in the West Bank's agriculture sector for more than 20 years in order to improve the economic, social, and political conditions of rural Palestinian women and farmers. Araj will utilize a variety of qualitative methods in her research, including content analysis of annual reports, in depth interviews, focus groups, and participant observation at the organizational and local community levels. In particular, she will conduct focus groups with community development practitioners associated with the two organizations in order to gain a deeper understanding of how practitioners can actualize the organization's policies and strategies through community activities. She will also observe these organizations' activities in order to understand organizational capacities, the extent to which these capacities can be employed, and how they can translate into actions at the local level.

Araj's research will contribute to social movement literature by linking the process of ideological development to community mobilization. Her research will also bridge the gap between processes of social movement and ideological development at the national and community levels and those processes in grassroots organizations. In so doing, her research will deepen the understanding of how ideological development within community-based organizations enables women and farmers in the countryside to address their conditions and positions of marginalization at both organizational and community levels. While locally grounded in the socio-political context of Palestine, this research addresses broader questions about the role of organizational ideology in community and social change that concern the rest of the Middle East and the world.

Tahreer Araj is currently a doctoral candidate in the department of human and community development at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.

*She can be reached at [tahreer.uiuc@gmail.com](mailto:tahreer.uiuc@gmail.com).*

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

**May 2010 in Jerusalem**

**Application deadline: January 15, 2010**

**Awards announced: March 16, 2010**

PARC announces its inaugural faculty development seminar on Palestine. This two-week seminar is for U.S. faculty members with a demonstrated interest in, but little travel experience to, Palestine. PARC will select 10 to 15 U.S. faculty members to participate in Jerusalem-based activities that will include visits to local universities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, lectures and workshops. Through these activities, they will learn about the region, deepen their knowledge of their particular fields of interest as they relate to Palestine, and build relationships with Palestinian academic colleagues.

Applicants must:

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

PARC will make all arrangements for seminars, workshops, tours of local universities and other related institutions, and meetings with Palestinian academic colleagues. PARC will also cover all expenses for group air, ground travel, accommodations, and meals. Personal expenses will be the responsibility of each faculty member. For more information about this new program, please visit PARC on the web at <http://parc-us-pal.org> or send an email to [us.parc@gmail.com](mailto:us.parc@gmail.com). (Program contingent upon funding.)

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

## “Jerusalem: The History of the Future”—A PARC-Supported IPS Conference

The ambiguous meanings ascribed to Jerusalem throughout history are omnipresent and often seem to penetrate every stone of, and every discourse about, this contested city. Names like Al-Quds and Yerushaláyim, West Jerusalem and East Jerusalem, The Holy City and Al-Quds Al-Sharif all imply meanings ascribed to the very same social space. This living space in Jerusalem, as a center of human experience, has been subject to drastic transformations. To understand these transformations and their consequences for the social, cultural, political, and legal spheres, it is necessary to recapture history and to rethink the present, thereby conceptualizing what will be Jerusalem’s History of the Future.

The Institute for Palestine Studies (IPS) held a three-day conference entitled “Jerusalem: History of the Future” with funding from PARC, the Ford Foundation, Heinrich Böll Foundation, and the Jerusalem Capital of Arab Culture Project. The opening ceremony and a press conference were held in Jerusalem on July 31, followed by three days of presentations and discussions in the West Bank. On August 1-2, about 300 people attended the events in the Kamal Nasser Lecture Hall at Birzeit University. The third day of the conference took place in the Mahmoud Darwish Cultural Center in Nazareth.

The topics addressed throughout the conference were as diverse as the complex realities on the ground. Topics covered and discussed by an interested audience included shifting policies of the Arab States, the U.S. and the E.U.; Jerusalem in international law; the politics of demography in Jerusalem; the Judaization and colonization of Jerusalem; education, housing, health and the economy; the reshaping of space, history, and culture; women; and civil so-

ciety in Jerusalem. Amongst the prominent speakers and panelists were Rashid Khalidi, Salim Tamari, Issam Nassar, Varsen Agabekhian, Said Khalidi, and many other Palestinian academics, scholars, and activists.



It became obvious over the course of the conference that Jerusalem is a microcosm of the general situation of life under Israeli occupation and a macrocosm within itself. It is the latter dimension, with its specific implications for Palestinian Jerusalemites, that needs to be addressed even more specifically. Having identified a wide and complex area of vulnerabilities, threats, and consequences, the presentations given at the

conference provided an important basis for further research and action. The fact that the questions these presentations raised outnumbered those they answered further indicates the necessity of continuing discussions about Jerusalem and the meaning of its history of the future. The importance of Jerusalem as a national, religious, and historic idea informs policy in a fundamental way and thereby inflicts damage on another sphere of the city—that of the lived human experience. It is this living aspect and its interplay with Jerusalem as a sense of identity that is significant for the lives of the Palestinian Jerusalemites. The meaning of Jerusalem’s “stones” needs to be integrated into the lives of its population and not the other way around.

The conference enjoyed the patronage of the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and took place in the context of Jerusalem being named the Capital of Arab Culture for 2009. Proceedings of the conference will be published by June 2010. For further information about the conference, please contact our Palestine office at [parcpal@palnet.com](mailto:parcpal@palnet.com).

MADA strives to contribute in these ways:

**Promoting self-empowerment.** Too often, this community has been studied by others through a lens colored by “security” and “demographic” concerns. MADA provides the capacity to generate credible knowledge that asserts indigenous definitions of problems and possible solutions. MADA views research by Palestinians about Palestinians as a vital means to promote self-empowerment and therefore offers an institutional base and an intellectual climate for this community to study freely their collective rights, needs, and future, as well as their relationships with Israel, the Palestinian nation, and the Arab world. MADA also creates outlets for Palestinian intellectuals and researchers to share their ideas with broader audiences both in print and online. MADA seeks to assert Palestinian views, experiences, and research into public discourse in Israel and beyond in ways that have strategic and long-term impact.

### MADA al-Carmel

MADA al-Carmel, the Arab Center for Applied Social Research, was founded in 2000 in Haifa to advance the human and national development of the Palestinians in Israel through applied social research and policy analysis. Although they will soon comprise 20 percent of Israel’s citizenry, Palestinians in Israel face unique and increasingly existential challenges, including pervasive discrimination in most areas of life and ongoing efforts to delegitimize their belonging, disenfranchise their leaders, and demographically diminish their very presence in the country. In Arabic, the word mada means “unlimited potential defined only by limited horizons.” The translation suggests what role MADA’s founders envisioned the organization playing—helping Palestinian citizens of Israel fulfill their potential in all respects.

*continued on next page*



**Developing capacity.** MADA nurtures human potential by bringing together, training, and supporting both junior and senior social scientists from among this community and thus helping develop tomorrow's thought leaders. MADA hopes to attract and inspire our "best and brightest" to contribute their talents in this arena.

**Generating new thinking.** MADA aims to generate new thinking and discourses about Palestinian-Jewish relations in the country that are based on justice, equality, and decolonization. It contributes to theoretical perspectives and applied work on national identity, collective rights, citizenship, colonial studies, and democracy. As part of this effort, MADA stimulates cross-national comparative research with comparable institutes in other multiethnic states.

## Funding for Palestinian Fellowships

PARC is grateful to donors who supported Palestinian fellows in 2009-2010.

### The Palestine Investment Fund (PIF) [www.pif.ps](http://www.pif.ps) and [www.pif.ps/english.php](http://www.pif.ps/english.php)

The PIF was established in 2000 as an independent Palestinian investment company committed to maximizing assets for its primary shareholders, namely, the Palestinian people. Since 2003, PIF has operated from its headquarters in Ramallah as well as its office in Gaza and regional offices in Amman and Cairo.

PIF's vision is to create a stimulating investment environment that benefits the Palestinian people and is founded on the desire to augment domestic investments in various economic sectors, the most important of which are telecommunications, real estate, tourism, and energy. In doing so, PIF contributes to the creation of a suitable environment for investment, engenders sustained economic development, and generates employment. Its portfolio also includes a secure and profitable diversification of investments outside Palestine.

PIF is intensifying its efforts to build itself as a dynamic organization with the highest institutional standards through the mobilization of a young cadre committed to professionalism and competency, which is reflective of the most appropriate utilization of Palestinian human resources.

PIF funded two fellowships in 2008 and two fellowships in 2009.

### Institute of Jerusalem Studies (IJS) [www.jerusalemquarterly.org](http://www.jerusalemquarterly.org)

IJS, the Jerusalem branch of the Institute for Palestine Studies (IPS), was established in 1995 in Jerusalem, and then moved to Ramallah in 2003 due to Israeli restrictions on movement. IJS draws upon a local board of trustees, scholars, and administrators to further its main objective of producing scholarship in English and Arabic on the city of Jerusalem. It publishes both the Jerusalem Quarterly (English) and the Hawliyyat al-Quds (Arabic). The Institute also promotes and distributes IPS publications and projects inside Palestine.

IJS hosts PARC in its offices in Ramallah and provides one fellowship per year.

**Strengthening polity and society.** MADA facilitates substantive discussion about the broader issues of how to achieve democracy and equality in Israel, thereby advancing the cause of equal citizenship and democracy for all.

MADA's core areas of work include, among others, collective rights, political monitoring, political participation and efficacy, survey research, gender studies, and history and culture. A signature accomplishment was the release of the Haifa Declaration in 2007. More information about this document and about MADA's work in general can be found at [www.mada-research.org](http://www.mada-research.org).

### Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Center (PWRDC) [www.pwrdc.ps](http://www.pwrdc.ps)

In January 2006, UNESCO, in collaboration with the Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs, established the Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Center. The Center is the first of its kind in an Arab country outside of North Africa. In addition to providing documentation and library facilities, the Center is an observatory and clearinghouse on the status and condition of Palestinian women. The Center commissions, collects, analyzes, and disseminates research on Palestinian women, including fact sheets and policy briefs. Furthermore, the Center maintains online databases, organizes training courses, and provides vital information to decision-makers, local and international NGOs, media outlets, researchers, and students.

In 2009 the Center provided one fellowship related to gender studies.

## The Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) and



The fellowship program is open to scholars who are Palestinian citizens and who have already obtained a Ph.D. or have professional experience in the study or preservation of cultural heritage and who wish to undertake a specific research project at an overseas research center in another country. Funded by the Getty Foundation, the fellowships require scholars to affiliate with one of the following overseas research centers:

- American Academy in Rome;
- American Center of Oriental Research (Amman);
- American Institute for Maghrib Studies (Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria);
- American Institute for Yemeni Studies (Sana'a);
- American Research Center in Egypt (Cairo);
- American Research Institute in Turkey (Istanbul and Ankara);
- American School of Classical Studies at Athens;
- Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (Nicosia); and
- the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research (Jerusalem). Full details on the program and an application can be found at the PARC Web site, <http://parc-us-pal.org>.

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# PARC

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### Please donate books and resources to PARC's Ramallah Library

Your resources may be useful to Palestinian researchers.

Consider donating them to the new PARC library in Ramallah.

For more information, please contact PARC at [parcpal@palnet.com](mailto:parcpal@palnet.com).



### PARC Membership Renewal

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

above the basic membership cost help to fund much needed research fellowships in Palestine. All memberships run from June to the following June. PARC is grateful for your continuing support.

*Return this form with your check in a stamped envelope.*



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- Palestine Institutional Member \$50
- Please keep my contribution anonymous

*(PARC publishes the names of all individual and institutional members and donors in our Spring newsletter.)*