

*A Member of the Council of American
Overseas Research Centers*

PARC

PALESTINIAN AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER
PROMOTING PALESTINIAN STUDIES AND SCHOLARLY EXCHANGE ON PALESTINIAN ISSUES

From the Palestine Director's Desk

I began my tenure as Director of PARC's Palestine office in mid-September 2002 during a week long curfew in Ramallah. Fortunately, the office is now home-based, so I could make a very small beginning. The morning the curfew lifted, I ordered some essential computer equipment; it was delivered and installed within hours, a testament to the resourcefulness and resilience that Palestinian business people, workers, teachers, students and parents have shown whenever any opportunity arises for normal life. (I will leave the question of politicians to the judgment of history.) In the next six weeks, this resourcefulness continued to surprise and sustain me, as over fifty researchers – Ph.D. students, university faculty and established researchers, from southern Gaza to the northern West Bank – sent interesting pre-proposals for PARC fellowships. Their subjects ranged across the disciplines, from Ottoman history and archaeology to current and dire environmental, educational and developmental problems to thorny issues of democracy and nationalism and to new media and new directions in women's movements and civil society. This was the first time PARC's Palestine office had systematically solicited brief pre-proposals, the rationale being to encourage more researchers to apply and to have time for consultations in order to strengthen and develop full proposals. The results have been enormously encouraging, and we hope the number of fellows from the West Bank and Gaza continues to rise.



Penny Johnson, Philip Mattar, and Ann Lesch at MESA, Nov. 2002.

In an early November visit to PARC advisor Dr. Jacqueline Sfeir, Dean of the Faculty of Education and Director of the Education Center at Bethlehem University, I was impressed with the University's "normal" campus atmosphere. My more familiar environs at Birzeit University have been so disrupted by the daily ordeals of the Surda checkpoint on the Birzeit-Ramallah road that the campus is often bereft of the consultations, conversations and coffee that fuel academic life. Teachers and students, when they manage to reach the University by walking across the stone and mud barriers and past the Israeli soldiers and tanks at the Surda checkpoint, are often forced to limit their time to classes only. To be sure, there has been a strong international response to Birzeit University's Right to Education campaign, spearheaded by an appeal endorsed by prominent academics, writers and artists, including physicists Edward Witten and Freeman Dyson, historians Natalie Zemon Davis and Joan Scott, singer Emma Kirby, and philosopher Jacques Derrida, among other distinguished professionals. The Surda checkpoint is still in place, however, and the other demand of the campaign – international protection for Palestinian civilians under international humanitarian law – seems ever more remote.

The peace at Bethlehem was short-lived. For 21 days from November 22 to December 22, the town of Bethlehem was under twenty-four hour curfew. In January, the Israeli army imposed curfews and closures on an erratic and highly disruptive basis. For example, on 2 January, students and faculty attempted to hold classes during a curfew lifting, only to have to evacuate campus quickly after curfew was re-imposed with a twenty-minute notice. As the first semester finally drew to a close in mid-February, Jacqueline Sfeir reported that, while the first eight weeks were relatively smooth, the rest of the semester suffered from extended curfew and closures with a range of negative effects on students, research and outreach activities. She reported that, "Although we expect to be interrupted and try to plan for it, students were deeply affected in everything from access to the library to access to the field. Our senior students, for example, should be engaged in their practicum in ten schools in the Bethlehem area. Instead, we developed a set of activities in lieu of the practicum and asked students to go to the nearest school and to work with children in their family and neighborhood." Bethlehem University's Faculty of Education has an innovative curriculum with a

continued on page 3

PARC Announces New Board of Directors

This past fall, PARC took a step forward and moved its organizational structure from a Steering Committee of volunteers to a Board of Directors. This change reflects PARC's continuing growth and will give a larger role to its university members as well as provide greater opportunity for the broader involvement of its members.

We hope you will join us in recognizing the tremendous effort our steering committee members have made over the past several years in grooming PARC to be a major contributor to the advancement of Palestine studies. Special thanks to those members who will stay on as directors – Omar Kader, CEO of Pal-Tech Industries, Treasurer; Jillian Schwedler, University of Maryland, Secretary; Charles Butterworth, University of Maryland; Dina Khoury, George Washington University, and Don Peretz, emeritus Binghamton University.

PLEASE WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR BOARD:

Dr. Ellen Fleischmann is assistant professor of history at the University of Dayton. Her book, *The Nation and Its 'New' Women: the Palestinian Women's Movement, 1920-1948* (University of California Press, Berkeley) will be published in April 2003. Her other publications have appeared in *History Workshop Journal*, *Journal of Palestine Studies*, *Women's History Journal*, *Journal of Christian-Muslim Relations*, *Jerusalem Studies Quarterly*, and edited volumes. A former member of *Middle East Reports'* Editorial Committee, Dr. Fleischmann serves on the editorial board of the *Arab Studies Journal*, published out of the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies (CCAS) at Georgetown University by graduate students affiliated with CCAS and the Department of Middle Eastern Studies at New York University.



New board member, Deborah "Misty" Gerner, at PARC's annual meeting, November 2002.

Dr. Deborah J. Gerner, professor of political science at the University of Kansas, is the author of *One Land, Two Peoples: The Conflict Over Palestine* (Westview Press, 2nd edition, 1994) and editor of *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East* (Lynne Rienner, 2000). Her articles include "Evolution of the Palestinian Uprising," *International Journal of Group Tensions* 20:3 (1990) and "Missed Opportunities and Roads Not Taken: The Eisenhower Administration and the Palestinians," *Arab Studies Quarterly* 12:1 (1990), reprinted in *U.S. Policy on Palestine*, ed. Michael Suleiman (AAUG Press, 1995). She has co-authored numerous other articles with Philip A. Schrodt, including "Taking Your Academic Expertise Public: Lessons Learned Responding to the 11 September Crisis," *International Studies Perspectives* 3:2 (2002); "Using Cluster Analysis to Derive Early Warning Indicators for the Middle East, 1979-1996," *American Political Science Review* 94:4 (2000); "Into the New Millennium: Challenges Facing Palestinian Higher Education in the Twenty-First Century," *Arab Studies Quarterly* 21:4 (1999); and "Empirical Indicators of Crisis Phase in the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1979-1995," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 41:4 (1994).

Dr. Eugene Rogan is director of the Middle East Centre, St. Antony's College, and University Lecturer in the Modern History of the Middle East at the University of Oxford. He is author of *Frontiers of the State in the Late Ottoman Empire: Transjordan, 1850-1921* (Cambridge University Press, 1999), which was awarded the Albert Hourani Prize and the M. Fuad Koprulu Award. With Avi Shlaim he edited *The War for Palestine: Rewriting the History of 1948* (Cambridge University Press, 2001), which has been translated into Arabic and French. He is editor of the Cambridge University Press series, *The Contemporary Middle East*, and of the Public Records Office microfilm series, *The Middle East: A Documentary Resource*, the first unit of which covers Arab-Israeli relations, 1917-1970.

Dr. May Seikaly is associate professor of history at Wayne State University. Her publications include *Haifa: Transformation of an Arab Society 1918-1939* (I.B. Tauris, UK, 1995), translated into Arabic as *Haifa al-Arabiyya 1918-1939* (Beirut, 1997). In addition to topics on Palestinian issues, Seikaly has published on women's political roles, particularly in the Arabian Gulf. She has served on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, on the Wayne State University Press Committee, on the Editorial

continued on page 3

2003 PARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

Philip Mattar, *President*
Omar M. Kader, *Treasurer*
Jillian Schwedler, *Secretary*

Members:

Charles E. Butterworth
Ellen Fleischmann
Deborah J. Gerner
Dina R. Khoury
Don Peretz
Eugene Rogan
May Seikaly
Charles D. Smith

PALESTINE ADVISORY BOARD:

Ibrahim Dakkak, *Chair*
Salah Abd al-Shafi
Jamil Hilal
Hiba Hussein
Bashar Masri
Mouin Rabbani
Nadim Rouhana
Jacqueline Sfeir
Raji Sourani

U.S. Office:

Ann Mosely Lesch, *Director*
Jesse Ferrara, *Assistant to Director*
C/o Political Science Department,
Villanova University
800 Lancaster Ave, Villanova, PA 19085-1699
Phone 610-519-7712
E-mail: parc@villanova.edu
Web site: www.parcnet.org

Palestine Office:

Penny Johnson, *Director*
P.O. Box 1839, Ramallah
Phone & Fax: 02-298-9979
E-mail: parcpal@palnet.org

Palestinian American Research Center Newsletter Spring 2003

Ann Mosely Lesch, *Editor*
Donna P. Geisler, *Writer*
Linda N. Evans, *Writer*

Graphic Presentations, *Design & Layout*

Geoff Hartman, *Webmaster*

This newsletter is published twice yearly, spring and fall, by the Palestinian American Research Center. Material for publication in the newsletter may be submitted to the U.S. office. PARC does not guarantee that any materials submitted will be published in its newsletter or in any other publication under its control. Publication by PARC will be determined solely by its officers and directors on a space-available basis.

From the Palestine Director's Desk (cont. from page 1)

constructivist approach to learning. This is especially important, Jacqueline explains, since students have experienced mainly rote learning in their school education and suffer from the "scope of their cultural experience being severely reduced" due to the closure both during the interim period and at present. Unfortunately, it was precisely the experiential and applied courses designed to help first-year students, such as an experiential course in the psychology of learning, that could not be taught under conditions of curfew.



Penny Johnson meets with 2000 PARC fellow Rabab Abdul Hadi at the annual business meeting.

The Childhood Campaign, a major learning and research initiative by the Education Center, was scheduled to begin new activities in the village of Artas, south of Bethlehem. The objective was to use a child-to-child approach to involve children in understanding the richness of their heritage and develop ownership and pride in their history, culture and world. Researchers would document the project in the kind of "action research" that Sfeir hopes to encourage in Palestinian research culture. "We couldn't carry out our plan because we couldn't meet. Instead, we developed activity packets. Again, we coped, but at a great loss to the children as well as to our own knowledge and research."

In the packet, Jacqueline Sfeir and her colleagues at the Education Center encouraged children (and parents) to express the tension, pain and hopes in their lives and develop their story-telling abilities through a card game the Center developed called: "How Do You Feel?" In a 28 January press release from Bethlehem University, faculty and staff stated very clearly how they felt and what they saw as the solution. Signed by the President and Vice-Chancellor of Bethlehem, Brother Vincent Malham, the release concluded: "We at Bethlehem University plead for the right to continue educating young Palestinians and the right for our neighbors in Bethlehem to be able to live, to move, to breathe free air, to work and to educate their children. Can anyone do anything to change this systematic strangulation? End the Occupation! End the Occupation!"

— Penny Johnson, *Palestine Director*

President's Report

The major news at PARC is its transition from a Steering Committee structure to a Board of Directors comprised of elected and appointed officials. PARC's new board members, who met at our annual business meeting at MESA last fall, are highlighted on page two.

Also present at the board meeting was Penny Johnson, our new Palestine Director. In her brief tenure, Penny has helped secure more than 20 full applications for our fellowship program from scholars in Palestine on a wide range of topics.

Our fellowship program, now in its 4th round, has funded 24 research scholarships since it began in 2000. Funding for fellowships has come largely from the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations, who have generously supported PARC in its early years.

This year, we are pleased to announce receipt of a \$50,000 sub-grant through CAORC from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. This money will fund approximately six research fellowships, support the U.S. office, and partially underwrite two issues of our semi-annual newsletter. I would also like to thank Dina Khoury, a member of our board, for the generous financial support she and her husband Alfred have given this year.

Future funding of PARC is not guaranteed. Fundraising is an ongoing effort, and I appeal to each of you to consider increasing your level of support for PARC and enlisting the support of your departments, universities, and businesses. Now more than ever scholars of Palestinian studies need our assistance.

As always, I invite your comments and look forward to hearing from you.

— Philip Mattar, *President*

PARC Announces New Board of Directors (cont. from page 2)

Committee of the *Journal of Palestine Studies*, on MESA's Albert Hourani Book Award Committee and on the Task Force for the Arab American Museum in Detroit.

Charles D. Smith is professor of modern Middle East history at the University of Arizona and former president of the American Research Center in Egypt (1996-1999). A faculty member at the University of Arizona since 1994, Professor Smith has lived and traveled widely in the Middle East. Professor Smith is the author of *Islam and the Search for Social Order in Modern Egypt* (1983) and *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (1988, Bedford/St. Martins), the fourth edition of which appeared in 2001. He has published numerous articles and book reviews and has lectured widely on matters pertaining to the Islamic world and the Middle East.

MESA PANEL NOVEMBER 2002: Views of the Other in Israeli and Palestinian Textbooks

by Ann M. Lesch

PARC President Philip Mattar chaired a lively discussion at the MESA conference in Washington, DC, on the theme of "Views of the Other in Israeli and Palestinian Textbooks." Although scheduled for early on November 24, 2002, the PARC panel attracted a large audience keen to learn more about controversies over history and social science textbooks in Israel and Palestine. (Check PARC's web site www.parcenter.org for useful summaries.)

Dr. Essam Nasser from the Institute for Jerusalem Studies, Dr. Fouad Moughrabi, director of the Qattan Educational Foundation's Ramallah office for the past two years, and Dr. Nathan J. Brown, professor of government at George Washington University, described the evolving Palestinian curriculum. Brown explained that the Palestinian Authority (PA) gained control over the school system in 1995. The PA immediately published supplements for grades one to six, since the existing Jordanian and Egyptian texts omitted Palestinian history. Meanwhile, the newly formed curriculum development center commissioned new textbooks, which were modified and approved by the PA in 1997-1998. In the first year, books were produced for grades one and six, the next year for grades two and seven, and the third year for grades three and eight.

Brown noted that the new curriculum inculcates and protects national identity and upholds authoritative religious, political, and social structures. Thus, the symbols of the Palestinian flag and the Dome of the Rock are used widely, and texts emphasize the importance of family life and religious heritage as well as the nation. Nasser pointed out that the six curricular units on Palestinian history assume a continuity in Palestinian national identity throughout history. They focus on the struggles against Zionism and the British during the Mandate period, struggles that culminated in the late 1980s in the *intifada* and the PLO's proclamation of an independent state.

All three speakers emphasized that the PA is cautious in treating controversial history and civics. They believed that the PA does not know how to handle issues whose resolution is still uncertain, such as refugees, borders, and statehood. It therefore downplays or ignores those issues.

Brown and Moughrabi stressed that critics of the PA have distorted the contents of the textbooks in order to discredit the PA. In reality, Moughrabi commented, "The new textbooks contribute to a new definition of citizenship,

including a focus on democracy, peaceful resolution of the conflict, human rights, and issues of coexistence." They both expressed particular concern over pedagogical practices, rather than the textbooks: The pedagogy remains arid and discourages critical thinking.

Moughrabi elaborated on the importance of developing a student-centered pedagogy and on the difficulty of teaching civic education. He was particularly concerned that textbooks promote formal and legalistic citizenship values seemingly divorced from the conflicts and tensions that Palestinians experience in their daily lives. He stressed the importance of developing a critical pedagogy that would encourage students to examine the past and to recognize and understand differences – differences not only between Palestinians and Israelis, but also between Palestinian city dwellers and those living in refugee camps, between the poor and the rich, and between men and women.

Dr. Elie Podeh, senior lecturer in the Department of Islam and Middle Eastern Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, drew on his research for *The Arab-Israeli Conflict in Israeli History Textbooks, 1948-2000* (2002) to discuss how the "Arab" is imagined in Israeli history textbooks. Although textbooks are only one of many educational instruments, texts indicate the values and "facts" the government wishes to inculcate, and students tend to view texts as providing an authoritative historical narrative.

He outlined three phases in the depiction of the Arab-Israeli conflict. At first, Israeli textbooks were highly nationalistic, transmitting a distorted version of history and evidencing strong biases against the Arab "other". Not until the mid-1970s did a more balanced content begin to be introduced, partly in response to the emerging peace accords with Egypt. The greatest change came in 1999-2000 when some new texts incorporated the findings of Israeli revisionist historians. For example, maps of Palestine used to omit Arab villages, propagating the myth that Palestine was barren and empty when the Zionists arrived. In contrast, new texts show the Arab towns and villages and introduce the idea that at least some Palestinians were expelled in 1948.

For Dr. Ilan Pappé, professor of political science at Haifa University, the Israeli self-critique remains too limited, even in the "best" textbooks – and self-critique is too often silenced by the government. Pappé maintained that those texts still do not face forthrightly the issue of expulsion and thereby leave the Zionist narrative intact. He argued that de-Zionizing cultural production is a precondition for peace and reconciliation.

Discussion centered on teachers' use of texts in classrooms as an important mediating factor. Moughrabi said that teachers at Qattan Foundation workshops ask how they can teach this "garbage" when tanks and helicopters strike their cities daily. Reality becomes those students' larger text. Within Israel, the texts are mediated in radically different ways by teachers in religious and secular schools and in settlements, as well as by teachers of different political persuasions and Palestinian-Israeli teachers. Little is known, the speakers concluded, about how the texts are actually used. Moreover, at present, while Palestinian texts struggle to combine nationalism with support for the now-destroyed Oslo peace process, Israeli texts may revert to the ultra-nationalism of the "first generation."



Essam Nasser, Philip Mattar, Ilan Pappé, Fouad Moughrabi, Elie Podeh, Nathan Brown.

Dr. Yousef S. Daoud Explores the Influence of Gender on Student Enrollment

In Palestine today there is little difference in enrollment rates of males and females. However, there are significantly fewer women than men in the work force (roughly 10 percent of women compared to 40 percent of men).

In his research, Dr. Yousef S. Daoud intends to continue his earlier studies of men and women at work by focusing on women "after the choice to participate is made."

"The peculiarity of the Palestinian labor market where many Palestinian males with little education work in Israel at high wages (coupled with an increase in the number of university graduates) led many to believe that returns to schooling are negative for Palestinians," says Daoud, the recipient of a 2002 PARC grant. He expects his research to show the opposite is true for women. Looking at two distinct periods – one when employment in Israel was at its peak and the other during the present Intifada – will help him test the hypotheses that "returns to schooling for men are influenced by the political situation while this is not the case for women."

Women enter the workforce based on a number of socio-economic factors, points out Daoud, an assistant professor of economics and coordinator of the economics department master's program at Birzeit University in Palestine. These factors include:

- level of education
- marital status
- number of children
- age
- husband's education
- experience

"This research will address the gender issue as well as the marginal contribution of a further stage of education on earnings," explains Daoud. It will "also explore the effects of sibling sex composition on women's education and earnings."

In his earlier research, Daoud found that "husbands' wages increase participation in the labor force for women, and that schooling and experience increase the probability of joining the labor force." However, the number of children reduces the probability of participation. But his study stopped short of estimating the returns to schooling of women.

Daoud wants to test whether individuals with similar labor force characteristics will have the same return to schooling irrespective of their gender. Another hypothesis he will test is whether the present Intifada has narrowed the gap between male and female returns to schooling.



Dr. Yousef S. Daoud

Daoud is using micro-data from the Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics to analyze and test his hypotheses. The research uses multiple regression analysis for estimating parameters and inference about the hypotheses.

The first draft of his study should be available by the end of March 2003. A first look at early data analysis reveals that "returns to schooling in Palestine are lower than similar countries published in the literature." According to Daoud, the number of returns "also seem to be lower during the Intifada, during which male wages declined but female wages did not experience such drastic changes."

Daoud holds a B.A. in Arabic/sociology from the University of Jordan, an M.A. with distinction in economics from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, and a Ph.D. in applied economics, international finance, from the State University of New York at Albany.

In addition to his teaching, Daoud does consulting work with a variety of institutions and agencies, such as the Palestinian Hydrology Group, where he participated in the design and empirical review of studies to determine willingness to pay for improved water connections. He also participated as a member of the national team for the study of Palestinian unemployment for the Social and Labor Statistics Division of the Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics.

The Planning and International Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Labor of Palestine commissioned Daoud to be a member of the recommendations committee to review the papers of the international conference for employment in Palestine (1998). He was the director of the Economics and Regulation Group of the Palestine Energy Authority and United Nations Development Program, which aims to promote energy efficiency and green house gas reduction.

Daoud has published on foreign exchange market efficiency and co-integration analysis of Palestinian and Israeli prices.

Recognizing Your Support

We would like to recognize the following institutions and individuals that have contributed financial support over the past year. Thank you for supporting scholarship in Palestinian studies in the U.S. and abroad.

Institutional Members (\$100 and up)

Duke University,
Center for Arab and Islamic Studies
Foundation for Middle East Peace
Georgetown University,
Center for Contemporary Arab Studies
George Washington University,
Center for Middle East Studies
Harvard University,
Center for Middle Eastern Studies
Middle East Research and Information Project
Mississippi State University,
Cobb Institute of Archeology
New York University,
Kevoorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies
Trinity College, Human Rights Program
University of Arizona,
Center for Middle East Studies
University of Arkansas, King Fahd Center
for Middle East & Islamic Studies
University of California (Berkeley),
Center for Middle East Studies
University of Maryland,
Sadat Chair for Peace and Development
University of Michigan, Center for Middle East
North African Studies
University of Pennsylvania, Middle East Center
University of Utah, Middle East Center
Villanova University,
Center for Arab and Islamic Studies
Wayne State University, Department of
Near Eastern and Asian Studies

Patron (\$1,000-5,000)

Dina and Alfred Khoury

Sustaining Members (\$500-999)

Ambassador James E. Akins

Founding Members (\$200-499)

Najwa Al-Qattan
Deborah Gerner
Philip J. Mattar
Ann Mayer
Nanette Pyne

Individual Members (\$25-199)

Frank Afflitto
Nasser Abu-Farha
Nader Abuljebain
Granville Austin
Jere L. Bacharach
Bishara Bahbah
Raymond Baker
Brian Barber
Judy Barsalou
Aida Barnia
Joel Beinin
Issa J. Boullata
Laurie Brand
Nathan Brown
Martin Bunton
Charles Butterworth
Neil Caplan
Kathleen Christison
Ray Cleveland
William L. Cleveland
Helena Cobban
Shaw J. Dallah
Lawrence Davidson
Randi Deguilhem
Susan Dendinger
Nina Dodge
Beshara Doumani
Tayeb Y. Elhibri
Mine Ener
Inea Engler
Elizabeth Fernea
Robert Fernea
Ellen Fleischmann
Nancy Gallagher
Irene Gendzier
Edmund Ghareeb
Eric Goldstein
Joel Gordon
Peter Gran
Elaine Hagopian
Lisa Hajar
Sondra Hale
Houchang Hassan-Yari

Clement Moore Henry
Joy Hilden
Alan W. Horton
Michael Hudson
Paul Jabber
Amal Jamal
Omar Kader
Kathleen R. Kamphoefner
Rhoda Karaaneh
Ann Kerr
Rashid Khalidi
Laleh Khalili
Joshua Landis
Kendall Landis
Vickie Langohr
Ann Lesch
Daniel Lieberfeld
Zachary Lockman
Loren D. Lybarger
Carol Malt
Victoria Mason
Ibrahim Mattar
Samuel E. Mattar
Weldon C. Matthews
John J. Mc'lague, Jr.
Rebecca Miles
Ylana Miller
Ann~~ies~~ Moors
Thomas Naff
Eisuke Naramoto
William L. Ochsenwald
Jennifer Olmsted
Fayeq S. Oweis
Katherine Peccerillo
Don Peretz
Marsha Posusney
Theodore Pulcini
E. Vance Randall
Thomas Ricks
Eugene Rogan
Alwyn Rouyer
Everett K. Rowson
Cheryl A. Rubenberg
Afif Safieh

Robert R. Sauders
S. Abdullah Schleifer
Jillian Schwedler
Joe Seger
May Seikaly
Gershon Shafrir
Hafez Shaheen
Seteney Shami
Tobg Shanok
Hisham Sharabi
Sanford Silverburg
Diane Singerman
Peter Sluglett
Susan Slyomovics
Charles D. Smith
Georgiana Stevens
Barbara Stowasser
Sandra M. Sufian
Michael Suleiman
Antony Sullivan
Ghada Talhami
Mark Tessler
Elizabeth Thompson
Milton Viorst
Philip C. Wilcox
Nadia Yaqub
Oren Yiftachel
Farhat Ziadeh

Student Members (\$15-24)

Farid Al-Salim
Kevin De Jesus
Khaled Furani
Joseph Glicksberg
Yousef Jabareen
Victoria Mason
Jane Power
Yasmeen Shahid
Sepydech Youssef

Mezna M. Qato Explores the Palestinian Contribution to the Historiography of the 1948 War

While Israel and the Arab regimes have produced significant public writings for their people on the ramifications of the 1948 war, Palestinian contributions to the historiography “remain surprisingly under explored” asserts Mezna M. Qato, a 2002 recipient of a PARC grant.

Qato intends to use her dissertation and research to fill the crucial gap in the study of Palestinian life in the early period of the “torment of dispersal, exile and occupation.” She will be looking at “the development and ‘life’ of the Palestinian historiography on the 1948 war” produced from 1948 to 1964.

According to Qato, Israel has the “New Israeli Historians” and the Arab regimes were able to incorporate the defeat of 1948 “into their ongoing attempt to produce a national culture and identity.” Until now, she argues, “no work has attempted a thorough study of the Palestinian narratives of 1948, how such narratives were shaped, constructed, or functioned; nor have the lesser-known narrators themselves been given much attention.”

The years between 1948 and the formation of the Palestinian Liberation Organization in 1964, she explains, “saw an intense interplay of Palestinian voices attempting to assess the cause, impact and solution to the ‘catastrophe.’” In the literature, Palestinians in this period are portrayed as apolitical and worried about issues of physical survival, isolated from or entangled within the new Israel ‘national’ project, or as working on the margins of the Arab nationalist movement.

“In fact, narratives of what happened in 1948 were composed by *all* the actors in the war” and “they *all* competed for adherents in the public sphere.” Qato asserts that only through a proper assessment of the various narratives can there be “any comprehension of how the 1948 war is remembered and described, or an understanding of its significance as a national ‘moment’ be complete.”

Palestinian narratives were not all alike, Qato claims. While they vary widely in both content and form, they are similar in “many of their rhetorical flairs and in the general assessment of the immensity of the loss of 1948.” The Palestinian traditional elites and urban notables wrote their accounts and memoirs, “prescribing accommodationist solutions and long-term proposals for Arab ‘rehabilitation.’” Meanwhile, a new class of first and second generation, Mandate-educated peasant teachers and activists began to assert their positions through their own narratives, Qato points out. In them, they projected a “self-perceived pragmatism in their assertion of a narrative subversion as form of political protest.”

“This sense of the possibilities of dissent reflects a wariness of an engagement in the mass street demonstrations and campaigns orchestrated only 10 years earlier that had proven to be such a resounding and crushing

failure,” says Qato, adding that “the character of these narratives, their location, and their ephemeral nature, in the form of leaflets, pamphlets, history lessons in UNRWA schools, in small-distribution newsletters and internal party communiqués, speaks to the conditions of the newly diasporic life of the vast majority of the Palestinian refugees, and to the coercive nature of life under the Jordanian regime.”

Her focus is on Transjordan and the West Bank, two places inhabited by the majority of Palestinians after the 1948 upheaval. The informal nature of the historiography also challenges the ways in which historiography has traditionally been conceived. Qato adds that, “In the Palestinian case, early 1948 war history was only rarely written in book form.”

Qato is doing the first part of her research in Jordan on a grant from the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR). She is exploring holdings in private collections of UNRWA teachers, institutional archives, including those of the University of Jordan library, the National Library, the Salt Museum, and the resources of the Al-Urdun al-Jadid Center and CERMOC. She is conducting extensive interviews with the numerous historians and activist-writers currently residing in Amman as well as teachers from the early post-war period.

The remainder of her research time will be in Palestine, “where I will be looking at the private archives of activists who opposed the Jordanian regime, in Tulkarm, Nablus and Jenin.” She will utilize the papers of Ahmad Daur and several senior members of the political parties active under the Jordanian regime who have a large collection of communiqués from the period. In addition, she will peruse the textbooks and lesson plans of former students and teacher training manuals housed in the Khaduri College, the Ramallah Teacher’s Training College and the UNRWA branch offices in the Jenin, Balata and Dheisheh camps, as well as the archives of In’ash al-Usra in El-Bireh.

These testimonies and histories, she explains, ran “parallel to the oral narratives of the adult Palestinian population that understood the events befalling them, and the tomes written by notables and participants in the 1948 war.” Qato also plans to view collections of leaflets distributed in the 1950s, housed in private family libraries in Nablus. Her work will also take her to the University of Haifa, the Moshe Dayan Center at Tel Aviv University, and the Truman Institute at Hebrew University.

A student working on her doctoral dissertation at St. Anthony’s College at the University of Oxford, Qato was a USIA/Fulbright Scholar to Jordan in 1999-2000, where she conducted research on the early historical politics concerning Palestinian refugees. She is currently a project research assistant at the Refugee Studies Centre, Queen Elizabeth House at Oxford, and has served as a researcher at the University of Jordan’s Center for Strategic Studies.

Thomas Abowd Studies Politics of Space in Mandate-Era Jerusalem

In his research, "Jewish-Arab Relations and the Spatial Dimensions of Everyday Life in British Colonial Jerusalem, 1917-1948," Thomas Abowd will examine inter-communal relations in Jerusalem during the British Mandate.

"I will focus on the politics of space, emerging national conflicts, and modes of contact between Jews and Arabs in the city before the flight of the Palestinian refugees in the spring of 1948," explains Abowd. He will conduct interviews, collect life histories and perform archival work in Jerusalem in order to explore dimensions of life "in a city central to both communities' national cosmologies."

Abowd hopes to answer three broad questions: What was the nature of everyday encounters between Arabs and Jews during the British Mandate? To what extent did areas of "mixed" Arab-Jewish residential life exist in the city at the time? How did the intensification of nationalist sentiment, expression and violence during the Mandate's latter years affect and alter Arab-Jewish identities and encounters?

The significance of his research lies "largely in its engagement with historical dynamics and relationships that have not been adequately explored or theorized in British colonial Jerusalem, particularly everyday life and quotidian encounters," Abowd says, adding that his work "will provide a more nuanced understanding of the conflict between Palestinian and Jewish nationalisms, both before and after 1948."

Given how central Jerusalem continues to be in the current conflict, Abowd's work "would be vital for understanding the roots of that conflict," argues Salim Tamari of the Institute of Jerusalem Studies. "His work is significant for contemporary political reasons and, along with the work of his dissertation, will make innovative contributions to an understanding of how an equitable political solution can be arrived at in today's city."

Abowd began his research in Amman in April 2002 under a grant from CAORC. There he interviewed Palestinians who were formerly residents of Jerusalem and who were old enough to remember life during the Mandate period. His PARC grant allows him to continue this research in Jerusalem, where he will conduct interviews with Palestinians and Israelis who resided in the city before 1948 and consult Mandate-era Arabic newspapers housed at the Hebrew University. "I seek to explore these communities' lives, struggles and histories in a relational way," he explains. He will do this by looking at the degree to which the experiences of Arabs and Jews intersected one another. "I will explore what the era of British rule offered in the way of residential and commercial spaces where inter-communal interactions were not structured in dominance or inequality."

Among Abowd's principal aims is to investigate experiences and interactions in the "mixed" residential areas of Jerusalem. He plans to identify specific

neighborhoods and examine how they came into being and how they might have changed over several decades. He wants to find out how Palestinian Christians and Muslims associated with their Jewish neighbors and whether Arab Christians' experiences with Jews differed from those of Muslims.

His research also examines the extent to which the mixed neighborhoods changed as political realities grew more intense and colonial and national violence escalated. "I want to document the moments of cohesion as well as those of discord and suspicion," he says.

Studying residential life is important, Abowd believes, but he proposes to go further – to explore areas of "mixed" commercial life. While doing that, he intends to look at the different interactions accorded men versus women. "Further, I want to look at the modes of contact between Arabs and Jews in professional circles," asserts Abowd. For example, did business partnerships exist between Arabs and Jews and how were relations between doctors and patients, shop owners and customers, architects and homebuilders established? He also wants to look at how British Mandate officials facilitated or precluded interactions in this realm.

Abowd began his study in September 2002 by conducting 20 to 25 interviews and life histories with Palestinian and Israeli Jerusalemites who resided in Mandate-era Jerusalem and its environs. He also studied Arabic newspapers at the Givat Ram campus of Hebrew University.

In his interviews, he inquired about relations in the shared residential spaces of the city and in talks with those who lived outside in the villages, and what their interactions were with urban dwellers. "With those willing to speak at greater length, I will record life histories when I return in June."

His study of newspapers included *Filastin* and *Al-Difa*, concentrating on what they had to say about intercommunal life in Jerusalem. "I believe these written records will provide an overview of social relations and events that will compliment the narratives and stories that former residents of the city provide," Abowd says. He expects to see evidence of interactions across cultural boundaries "as well as information on what some former residents have described as an increasing institutional separation between Jews and Arabs in the final phase of the British Mandate."

Abowd received his Ph.D. in cultural anthropology at Columbia University in 2002. He received his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Michigan. In addition to his PARC and CAORC grants, he was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad award and other fellowships and grants. He has been an editorial assistant and writer for *News From Within*, an English monthly put out by the Israeli-Palestinian collective The Alternative Information Center. He currently teaches Anthropology at Temple University.

Palestinian Oral History

by Ann M. Lesch

The noted scholar Rosemary Sayigh argues that, even though “most adult Palestinians carry with them a rich stock of orally transmitted memories of their recent history...the recording of Palestinian popular memory has been neglected...[and] the historical experience of ‘ordinary’ people continues to be undervalued”*

As part of her ongoing effort to rectify that omission and encourage others to engage in creative and systematic oral history, Dr. Sayigh edited a special issue in 2002 of *al-Jana: The Harvest*, a periodical published by the Beirut-based Arab Resource Centre for Popular Arts (ARCPA). This effort seemed particularly urgent given the “race against time” to interview Palestinians who lived in pre-1948 Palestine, a concern stressed by political scientist Saleh Abdel Jawad. Sociologist Ibrahim Othman, for example, discovered that by the 2000s few people from his destroyed village remained alive who could describe their life experiences before 1948.

Sayigh interviewed several Palestinians whose individual research utilized oral history. These include Sahera Dirbass, who has written on Haifa and neighboring villages; Rawan and Dima Damen, who began questioning older Palestinians when they were still children and who recently published a study on school conditions based on interviews with students; Jamil `Arafat, an educator who researched destroyed villages in the Galilee; and businessman Sam Bahour, who co-authored *Homeland: Oral Histories of Palestine and Palestinians* (1994). Historian May Seikaly, a member of PARC’s board of directors, interviewed Palestinian refugees in Bahrain and Detroit. And anthropology professor Randa Farah’s dissertation on popular memory and reconstructions of Palestinian identity sought not merely to preserve or excavate the past but to rewrite history in a critical way and “bring to light the differing, rich and often traumatic experiences of the Palestinian people.”

Literature professor Mahmoud `Issa’s interviews with residents of Lubyia village (now kibbutz Lavi) who live in Denmark and his reconstruction of village life before 1948 are particularly striking; forthcoming by BADIL (www.badil.org). And `Awatef Shickh of the Creative Learning Center (Ramallah) provides a fascinating footnote in her description of the

dynamics in a class on “Memory and Interpretation” at the Hebrew University, whose intended focus on the Holocaust was transformed when half of the students enrolled were Palestinian.

Birzeit University undertook systematic efforts to train researchers and record the hundreds of destroyed villages in the 1980s and, more recently, through the women’s studies institute. Those efforts are described by the American historian Thomas Ricks and Palestinian analysts Saleh Abdul

Jawad, Faiha Abdulhadi, Sharif Kanaana, Sonia el-Nimr, and Salim Tamari.

Recently, NGOs and local associations have sought to create databases and record the personal histories of their towns. Those include Shaml’s database and testimonies (www.shaml.org); the Jaffa League’s video, directed by social worker Gaby Abed (www.yafa.org); Dar al-Shajjara’s monographs, written by refugees in Yarmouk camp, Syria; and Adel Yahya’s interviews on historical and contemporary subjects through the Palestinian Association for Cultural Exchange (PACE) in al-Bireh (pacc@p-ol.com). ARCPA itself has active programs to involve young Palestinian refugees in video and photo-book projects in order to educate them about their past and to empower them for the future.

Unfortunately, plans to establish a Palestinian memorial museum and a museum of culture – discussed in *al-Jana* by the late Ibrahim Abu-Lughod, historian Nazmi al-Ju’beh (www.rivvaq.org), and museum department head Sonia el-Nimr – have not come to fruition, due to the deepening crisis since September 2000. As PARC grantee Carol Malt notes in a forthcoming issue of *Curator* magazine, upon her return to Palestine in 2001, she found many existing museums closed, employees unable to get to work, funding frozen, and plans on hold.

For copies of *al-Jana* (\$5 in Lebanon and \$30 for overseas addresses) and information on ARCPA, contact its coordinator Mo’ataz Dajani at arcpa@cyberia.net.lb, web site <http://www.oneworld.org/al-jana>, or P.O.B. 114/5017, Beirut, Lebanon, tel. 961-1-819970. Contact Rosemary Sayigh at rsayigh@cyberia.net.lb.

* All quotations are from the 2002 special issue of *al-Jana: The Harvest*.



Vera Tamari – Apprehension

Museums of Palestine

By Dr. Carol Malt



Dr. Carol Malt

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Malt is an independent museum consultant and evaluator, exhibit curator, and writer. Her research on Women and Museums was partially funded by a 2001-2002 PARC fellowship.

The following is a listing of museums and art centers in Palestine, including East Jerusalem. It is divided into three sections: the first for existing museums as of 2002; the second for museums being planned by private organizations, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the Ministry of Culture; and the third for museums permanently closed or destroyed. The information in this listing is subject to change.

EXISTING MUSEUMS

Armenian Museum

Armenian Quarter, Old City
St. James Street, P.O. Box 14001
Jerusalem
PHONE: 02-628-2331
FAX: 02-626-4362

Benshoof Museum

St. George's College
20 Nablus Road
c/o Library
P.O. Box 1248
Jerusalem
PHONE: 02-626-4704
FAX: 02-626-4703

Librarian@stgeorges.org.il

Franciscan Biblical Museum

(*Museum of the Franciscan Convent*)
Via Dolorosa, Old City
Jerusalem
PHONE: 02-628-2936

Greek Orthodox Patriarchate Museum

Greek Orthodox Road
Old City,
Jerusalem
PHONE: 02-628-2048 (628-4917)

Islamic Museum, Al-Aqsa Mosque

Old City,
Jerusalem 91190
PHONE: 02-628-3313, 02-628-3286
FAX: 02-628-5561

Palestine Archeological Museum (Rockefeller Museum)

Sultan Sulaiman Street
P.O. Box 7117
Jerusalem 91710
PHONE: 02-628-2251

Dar el Tifl,

Palestinian Arab Folklore Center
P.O. B. 19377
Jerusalem
Phone: 02-628-3251, 02-627-2477
Fax: 02-627-3477

Bethlehem Folklore Museum (Baituna A-Talhami Museum)

P.O. Box 19
Bethlehem
PHONE: 02-274-2589
FAX: 02-274-2431

Palestinian Folkloric Museum (The Museum of Heritage of the Palestinian People)

In'ash el Usra Society
P.O. Box 3549
El Bireh
PHONE: 02-240-2876
FAX: 02-240-1544
USRA@palnet.com
www.inash.org

Artas Folklore Museum

C/o Artas Folklore Center
P.O. Box 764
Bethlehem
PHONE: 02-274-4046
FAX: 02-274-4046

Al-Qasaba Museum

C/o Zafar Al-Masri Foundation
King Faisal Street
P.O. Box 1566
Nablus
PHONE: 09-238-4126, 09-238-0609

Ethnographic & Archeological Gallery

Birzeit University
P.O. Box 14
Birzeit
PHONE: 02-298-2000 Ext. 2562
FAX: 02-281-0656
Vtamari@Birzeit.edu

Palestinian Archeological Museum

Institute of Archeology
Birzeit University
Birzeit
PHONE: 02-298-2974, 298-2000
FAX: 02-281-0656
Pia@arch.birzeit.edu

Palestine Heritage Center

Manger Street
P.O. Box 146
Bethlehem
PHONE: 02-274-2381
FAX: 02-274-2642
Sacar@palnet.edu

Gerizim Center and Museum

P.O. Box 172 Mount Gerizim
Nablus
PHONE: 09-237-0249, 09-238-2121
FAX: 09-238-8814

Museum With No Frontiers

C/o Ministry of Culture
P.O. Box 147
Ramallah
PHONE: 02-296-1819
FAX: 298-6204
www.MWNE.org

Khalil Sakakini Cultural Centre

P.O. Box 1887
Ramallah
PHONE: 02-298-7374
FAX: 02-298-7375
Sakakini@sakakini.org
www.sakakini.org

NEW MUSEUMS

(UNFINISHED, CLOSED OR
IN PLANNING STAGES)

Palestine Remembrance Museum
(Proposed in Jerusalem with
Al-Quds University)
The Welfare Society

MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ANTIQUITIES

Ramallah Archeological Museum Ramallah

Sebastia Museum
Sebastia

Tulkarum Museum
Tulkarum

Hebron Museum
Hebron

Al-Bad Museum
Bethlehem

Bisham's Palace Museum
Jericho

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

Museum of Contemporary Art

Bethlehem

Ain Seenia Center
Ain Seenia

Ramallah Museum
Ramallah

Museum of Science

Jordan Valley Museum

PERMANENTLY CLOSED, DESTROYED, INOPERATIVE

Turkish Museum

Old City, Jerusalem

Musée Biblique

Church of St. Anne
Jerusalem

Ihsan Al-Nimr Museum

Hittin Street
Nablus

Beit Sahour Museum

Beit Sahour

Alumni/ae News

Lori A. Allen (2001-2002) returned to the United States from Ramallah in January 2003 after two years' field research on the West Bank supported by the Social Science Research Council as well as PARC. Allen published "There Are Many Reasons Why: Suicide Bombers and Martyrs in Palestine," *Middle East Report* 32:2 (summer 2002), and "Palestinians Debate 'Polite' Resistance to Occupation," *Middle East Report* 32:4 (winter 2002), which are available on the PARC web site. She is currently completing her dissertation at the University of Chicago.

Michelle Campos (2001-2002) will join the faculty at Cornell University in the fall of 2003 as assistant professor of Middle East history in the Department of Near Eastern Studies.

Khaled Furani (2001-2002) completed his field research on contemporary Palestinian poetry in June 2003, having divided his research time between Haifa and Ramallah for the previous year. In addition to writing his dissertation for the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, Furani currently has a Writing Fellowship under which he assists undergraduates at Bronx Community College to improve their writing skills.

Awad Eddie Halabi (2001-2002) is completing his dissertation at the University of Toronto on "The Transformation of the Nabi Musa Festival: From Local to National and Islamic Identity, 1516-1936." Halabi presented findings from his PARC-sponsored research in Jerusalem, Amman, and London at the 2001 MESA conference, which are published as "The Nabi Musa Festival Under British Ruled Palestine" in *ISIM Newsletter*, #10 (July 2002), p. 27: www.isim.nl/files/news1_10.pdf

Dr. Frances Hasso (2000-2001) assistant professor of gender and women's studies and sociology at Oberlin College, recently completed a book manuscript titled *Divergent Protest Histories: Gender and Nation in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, 1969-1990s*. The research for the book, which compares histories of the DFLP branches in Jordan and the occupied territories, was partly supported by her PARC fellowship. Hasso recently completed "Messages with Bodies and Blood: Arab Political and Discursive Deployments of the Palestinian Women Suicide Bombers," which will be published in *Bodies on the Line: Rethinking Ethnic and Political Conflict Through Gender and Sexuality*, co-edited by Hasso and Paola Bacchetta.

Dr. Abdullatif S. Husseini (2001-2002) continues to teach in the Institute of Community and Public Health at Birzeit University despite the difficulty of commuting between Jerusalem and Ramallah. His co-authored article on the "Diabetes Supercourse: An International Internet Line" was just published in *Diabetes Issue*.

Manal Jamal (2001-2002), a graduate student at McGill University, conducted research in El Salvador after her field research on the West Bank in 2001. She is completing her dissertation on the comparative impact of foreign aid on their political economies while serving as a teaching assistant at McGill.

Dr. Carol N. Malt (2001-2002) published *Museums of Jordan: A Directory* (Ethos Publishing, 2002) and has written a book length manuscript on *Women's Voices in Middle East Museums: Case Studies in Jordan*, based on her Fulbright-funded research in 1999. The material includes discussion of the Palestine collections in each of the 36 museums in Jordan. Her lengthy article on past and present efforts to establish museums in Palestine will be published soon by *Curator* magazine. Malt is involved in an initiative to organize an exhibit of Moroccan art in the United States.

Daniel Monterescu (2000-2001) received a research award from the U.S. Institute of Peace for 2002-2003 in order to complete his dissertation for the University of Chicago on Palestinian-Israeli mixed towns. Monterescu's research focuses on Jaffa, his home town.


Dr. Hafez Q. Shaheen (2001-2002), assistant professor of civil engineering at an-Najah National University and a member of the board of directors of Najah's Water and Environmental Institute, continues to conduct research in water resources and environmental engineering. For AY 2002-2003, Shaheen has a Fulbright fellowship to conduct research on bedload sediment transport in gravel and ephemeral streams, based at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. His paper "Storm Water Drainage in Arid and Semiarid Regions: West Bank as a Case Study," is being published by *an-Najah University Journal of Research* (Natural Sciences), 16:2; <http://www.najah.edu/english/Faculties/Deanships/Journal.htm>.



Palestinian American Research Center
 c/o Political Science Department
 Villanova University
 800 Lancaster Avenue
 Villanova, PA 19085-1699

PHONE: (610) 519-7712
 EMAIL: parc@villanova.edu
 WEB SITE: www.parccenter.org

PRESRT STD
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit No. 1630
 Richmond, VA

 Return this form with your check in a stamped envelope.

Tell a friend! Help build our membership.

Support our efforts to promote Palestinian studies and academic exchange among scholars interested in Palestinian affairs.

Membership Application:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership Level:

- Individual \$25
- Institutional \$100
- Student \$15
- Founding Member \$200
- Sustaining Member \$500
- Patron \$1,000 to \$5,000
- Other \$ _____
- Please keep my contribution anonymous

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO PARC AND MAIL TO:

PARC c/o Political Science Department, Villanova University
 800 Lancaster Avenue Villanova, PA 19085-1699
Membership contributions are tax deductible.

