

PALESTINIAN AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER

HADEEL QAZZAZ | Letter from the Palestine Director

It was not an easy start! I missed the acting director Ghada al-Madbouh by only one week as she headed back to her studies in the United States and it was the Eid holiday. Here I am, however, still surviving after two months, thanks to tremendous support from our dedicated administrative assistant, Mary Zarifeh, the extremely energetic U.S. director Penelope Mitchell, our committed advisory board member Hiba Husseini, and two friends, former directors of PARC in Palestine, Penny Johnson and Mira Rizeq. All of these wonderful women were generous and patient enough to take me through all sorts of files, background information and stories. Now after two months, I feel I am on the right track. I did not start as a complete stranger to PARC, as I have been on the advisory board since 2003, but I have to acknowledge and admire the work that the former directors have done to keep PARC moving forward with its mission. I had not anticipated the enormity of our research needs nor the enthusiasm of Palestinian researchers and faculty members to conduct research, to study and analyze different aspects of Palestinians' lives, and to make their research known to the world.

Following the announcement of this year's fellowship program, we received phone calls and e-mails from hundreds of Palestinians all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip and from around the world,

asking about this year's competition process and eligibility. We received more than 70 pre-proposal applications from diverse fields, with many of them quite interesting.

Obviously, there is a need that we cannot meet with our current resources. This is a top priority that we need to address immediately: mobilizing more funds for Palestinian fellows who, in spite of daily hardship and suffering, are still eager to make a difference.

This aspiration to make a difference was striking to us on our field visits to different Palestinian universities. During the last week of January, I accompanied U.S. director Penelope Mitchell

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BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY (l-r) Penelope Mitchell, Dina Awwad (Public Relation Officer at Bethlehem University), Hadeel Qazzaz

About Hadeel Qazzaz, PARC's Palestine Director

Hadeel Qazzaz was born in the Shati refugee camp in Gaza, and is a specialist in education, gender, and development. She received her Ed.D. from Leeds University. Her thesis focussed on adult non-formal education in developing countries, using the case of Palestinians in Israeli prisons. Qazzaz has published research reports on civic attitudes of Palestinian high school students and has contributed to Palestinian human development reports, the Palestine national poverty report, the Palestine time-use survey, and reports on the right to education. She was involved in the adaptation of the Transparency International Source Book

into Arabic. This enriching experience has enabled her to work closely with researchers and activists from many Arab countries as well as Germany. She is an activist in the Palestinian women's movement and active member in the Palestinian civil society movement. She is involved in different types of cultural dialogue and exchange including dialogue between Europe and the Middle East. She has organized and participated in many regional and international conferences on issues of development, women's rights, and democratization processes. She is married and is the mother of three children.

PARC PANEL AT MESA: The Palestine Police and the End of the Mandate: British, Arab and Jewish Perspectives

by Adel Yahya



PARC Panel at MESA: seated Eugene Rogan, standing Adel Yahya

Chair: Eugene Rogan, St. Antony's College, Oxford

Presenters:

John L. Knight, University of Oxford: "Securing Zion: Public Security in Mandate Palestine"

Yoav Alon, Tel Aviv University: "Treading a Fine Line: The Jewish Segment of the Palestine Police"

Adel Yahya, PACE, Ramallah: "Arab Policemen in Mandate Palestine: Conflict of Loyalties"

Eugene Rogan, St. Antony's College, Oxford: "The British in the Palestine Police: Narratives of Adversity"

The 2007 PARC-sponsored MESA panel on the Palestine Mandate Police Force offered a unique opportunity for each of the four presenters to share their findings on the topic with one another and to discuss those findings with the public. Each presenter had conducted independent research in his own locality over a period of almost two years, including in-depth oral interviews with Palestinian Arab, Israeli Jewish and British former policemen in the West Bank, Israel and England, respectively. In addition to residing in different locales, the policemen also came from diverse backgrounds.

The Palestine Police Force was established in 1920 by the High Commissioner Herbert Samuel, along with the formation of a Civil Administration in Mandate Palestine. The headquarters of the Police were set up in the Russian Compound (Maskobiah), along the Jaffa Road. At the time it was established, the police force consisted of 18 British officers supported by 55 Palestinian officers and 1,144 rank and file. By 1928 it had 2,143 officers, including 321 Jews and 1764 Arabs (1293 Muslims and 471 Christians). By the time of the UN Partition Plan in 1947, the British members of the Force alone numbered 4,000, but there are no clear estimates of the Palestinian members of the force, Arabs or Jews. The number must have been quite large, especially taking into account the extra police hired in the 1940s to serve as guards. However, despite their efforts the researchers were not able to obtain figures from former Palestinian policemen. All of them agreed, however, that there were many Arabs serving in the force during the 1940s. The researchers were, in fact, stunned by how widespread this phenomenon was.

The panel received an enthusiastic response from more than 75 attendees with many questions leading to more detailed discussions of the findings and lending support to the idea of continuing the research project with hopes of publishing the results.

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E-mail: us.parc@gmail.com

Palestine Office:

Hadeel Qazzaz, Palestine Director
6 Tel al-Zaater St.
3rd Floor, Al Amin Building
Ramallah, West Bank, Palestine
Phone: + 972-2-297-4240
for all US & European countries
Phone: + 972-0-297-4240
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ANAHEED AL-HARDAN | Remembering the Present, Remembering the Past: The Place of the *Nakba* in the Memories of Second- and Third-Generation Palestinian Refugees in Syria

Anaheed Al-Hardan is researching the practices of memory and remembrance of the 1948 *Nakba* (disaster/catastrophe) among second- and third-generation Palestinian refugees based in Syria. She is particularly interested in oral narrative “memorialization”; in other words, the “memory work” taking place in the present via oral narratives handed down through several generations. Her area of research will allow for the interrogation of the place of the *Nakba*, central as it is to the collective Palestinian experience, in the collective memory of Palestinians born after 1948. This will in turn shed light on the place as well as the importance of the *Nakba* to the hereditary Palestinian refugee reality.

Al-Hardan’s ethnographic research will focus on producing embodied and situated knowledge that is generated at the asymmetrical meeting point of researcher and subject. She will base her research on informal, unstructured, open-ended interviews in Arabic that aim to interrogate second- and third-generation Palestinian refugees’ memorialization of the *Nakba*. Al-Hardan will also survey primary archival material available in the field.

The significance of Al-Hardan’s research relates to the continued lack of recognition of the *Nakba* and the subsequent continuing lack of restitution and/or compensation for the victims and their descendents. Indeed, with the fast approach of the sixtieth anniversary of the *Nakba*, this research will play a pivotal role in exploring the ways in which this six-decade-old lack of recognition, restitution, and compensation resonates with and affects the new generation. As a politically dislocated third-generation Palestinian refugee, Al-Hardan’s own position vis-à-vis her research will add conceptual embodied depth as well as a personal dimension to an area of research that has thus far been undertaken mostly on behalf of and about Palestinian refugees.

Anaheed Al-Hardan is a doctoral candidate in Sociology at Trinity College, University of Dublin in Ireland. She can be reached by e-mail at alhardaa@tcd.ie.



LETTER FROM THE PALESTINE DIRECTOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on site visits to Birzeit, Bethlehem and An-Najah universities. We were warmly welcomed by colleagues, PARC alumni fellows, and interested academics and faculty members, who explained their needs for development in light of the limited resources and financial difficulties that almost all Palestinian universities suffer from. We became acutely aware of the need for PARC’s work and more confident of the potential for the “trickle-down” effect of faculty development efforts and achievements to find their way into Palestinian higher education in general. Faculty development and improving research and teaching capacities are huge challenges that need to be addressed more seriously and systematically.

In mid-February, PARC will be moving its offices. After more than two years of generous hosting by Hiba Hussein, PARC will

be hosted by the Institute of Jerusalem Studies (IJS) in their new offices. We will benefit from the resources available at IJS, especially the wonderful library and conference room which will be available for our Palestinian and visiting fellows. In addition we will have the moral and intellectual support of some of the most prominent Palestinian scholars who are members or fellows of IJS. Our new office is easily accessible to fellows and visitors, located right in the centre of Ramallah/Al-Bireh.

I would like to take this occasion to express again our sincere gratitude to Hiba Hussein for her generous hosting of PARC and all the support that she provided and will continue to provide as our volunteer lawyer and advisory board member.

SHARIF MAHMOUD SHARIF | Murals and Ceiling Paintings in Residences of the Wealthy in Ottoman Palestine during the Late Ottoman Period: An Expression of Change in Palestinian Society (1856-1917)



Throughout the second half of the 19th century, Istanbul succeeded in exercising direct power over the people in the region, and in transforming local leadership into an integral part of the Ottoman Empire's administration. The change in administrative processes and subsequent economic shifts established the first signs of the formation of new affluent groups. These new elite groups were in effect "agents of change." The new elite, which mimicked the Ottoman elite's way of life, expressed the new era

through the mural and ceiling paintings that proliferated the homes of provincial Ottoman notables. Murals and ceiling paintings of this type had thrived earlier in the Sultan's courtyards and homes of the Istanbuli elite. The transmission of these paintings to residential spaces reflected the modern lifestyles of the local Ottoman elite in Jerusalem, Nazareth, Jaffa, Haifa, etc. By adorning the walls and ceilings with such paintings, the owner of the house demonstrated grandeur, power, political or religious identity, and worldview.

In order to examine effectively the significance of these works of art, Sharif will conduct a field study of the inventory of paintings discovered in residences in various Palestinian cities. Examples from different areas will also be discussed in order to place the findings in a wider context.

Sharif will survey and document residential paintings, as well as take photographs and make sketches of the motifs, techniques, artists, and homeowners. In order to interpret the paintings, he will examine the findings, taking note of iconographic styles, varied methods, definition and classification of artistic components, division into stages of development, and socioeconomic implications. Additionally, Sharif will undertake a direct study of the paintings and contemporary literature in order to understand the broader context. The fact that many of the houses containing murals have suffered from serious neglect if not destruction renders this topic all the more important.

The research will try to locate the first houses that were adorned with mural and ceiling paintings. From the samples that have been collected over the years, this study will compare and contrast the iconographies that appeared in these paintings in the different homes and regions of the time. The study will examine the level of influence that Western culture has had on the lifestyle of the Ottoman elite. To what extent were their ideas adopted and understood by Muslims and non-Muslims? To what extent can they be identified as Ottoman elites? Was this identity expressed in the paintings sampled? On the basis of these questions, the study will examine the complex identities of the Palestinian elite, both Muslim and Christian. These questions will be posed, for the first time, on the basis of a new historical source: mural and ceiling paintings.

Sharif Mahmoud Sharif is a doctoral candidate in Middle East History at Haifa University and can be reached by e-mail at sharifla@zahav.net.il.



A Decade of Thanks

To the hundreds of members and contributors—individual, corporate and institutional—that have contributed their time and money over the past ten years, your support makes it possible to continue our mission to fund scholarly research in Palestine studies.

WALID AND TAMARA AFIFI | The Palestinian Youth Resilience Project: Ambient Uncertainty and Communal Coping among Palestinian Youth in Lebanese Refugee Camps

Research examining the consequences of war-related trauma on mental health has grown dramatically over the past decade. Findings from these studies are especially worrisome for researchers and others interested in Palestinian affairs. Studies of Palestinian youth show that 98 percent report at least one symptom of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and 24–54 percent display severe symptoms. However, knowledge about war-related trauma remains incomplete because it largely ignores one of the main experiences of war and the main cause of anxiety: uncertainty.

With their research, Walid and Tamara Afifi advance the construct of ambient uncertainty to capture the prolonged and ongoing sense of unpredictability that emerges from community-wide trauma. The Afifis are interested in sources of uncertainty that relate to central features of one's life, including, but not limited to, personal and family safety, economic sufficiency, and societal, structural, and/or governmental stability. Not surprisingly, there is some evidence to support the salience of such experiences among Palestinians. For example, in a study published about three years ago, Julie Peteet reflected on the overwhelming experience of uncertainty that pervades the lives of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The Afifis' study focuses on Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Their circumstances are worse than other Palestinian refugees in the region, and their living conditions are likely among the poorest in the world. Recent reports show that their economic condition is woeful (35 percent of households make less than \$2 per day), and their educational profile is well below regional

averages (50 percent of households do not have a single member who has completed basic education). The Afifis' will study 50 mother-adolescent pairs, interviewing each person separately as well as together. With the subjects' permission, they will also videotape interactions between the mother-adolescent pairs. These conversations will be coded to reveal the strategies that families use and the relational dimensions that are communicated during these discussions.

The proposed pilot project is, to the Afifis' knowledge, the first systematic research program to examine the role of ambient uncertainty and family communication in the well-being of adolescent Palestinians. The long-term goal of this research is to develop a research-based knowledge platform regarding uncertainty management in Palestinian families as a springboard towards effective intervention efforts in the future.

Drs. Walid and Tamara Afifi are associate professors in the Department of Communications at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. Walid Afifi can be reached by e-mail at w-afifi@comm.ucsb.edu. Dr. Tamara Afifi can be reached by e-mail at tafifi@comm.ucsb.edu.



Congratulations

Celebrating a Decade of Fellowships

Nearly 125 PARC Fellows Keeping Scholarly Research
on Palestine Moving Forward



ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Julie M. Norman (2007) *The Activist and the Olive Tree: Nonviolent Resistance in the West Bank during and after the Second Intifada*

Ph.D. candidate and adjunct faculty, American University - norman.julie@gmail.com

Julie Norman is currently writing her dissertation on nonviolent resistance in the West Bank. She presented a paper entitled “Creative Activism: Youth Media in Palestine” at the 2007 annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), and made other presentations last year on the same topic at the University of Pennsylvania, and Princeton, Duke and American Universities. Norman will be speaking on nonviolent resistance in Palestine at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 2008, and will be publishing a book chapter later this year on conducting research in conflict zones. She also received a 2008 World Bank Youth2Youth Innovation Grant to develop further the Contrast Project, which works with refugee youth in the West Bank using photography and video for expression and advocacy.

Rebecca L. Stein (2006) *Repossessions: The Social Life of Palestinian Things in Jewish Israel*

Assistant Professor, Cultural Anthropology and Women’s Studies, Duke University - rlstein@duke.edu

Rebecca Stein’s forthcoming book, *Itineraries in Conflict: Israelis, Palestinians, and the Political Lives of Tourism* (Duke University Press, 2008) examines the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the lens of everyday tourist practices and discourses. The book focuses on Israeli tourist practices of the 1990s, with a particular interest in the commodification of Palestinian-Arab culture by Jewish-Israeli tourists during this decade, and examines how such consumptive practices articulated with the Oslo Process, the military occupation, and the history of Palestinian dispossession. The book is at once a retelling of the conflict through a focus on Israeli popular culture, and a reconsideration of the Oslo Process through the forms of everyday cultural practice that it catalyzed.

Maia Carter Hallward (2004) *Building Space for Peace: Identity and Discourse in Israel/Palestine*

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Kennesaw State University Associate Editor, Journal of Peace Building and Development - maiagrace@yahoo.com

Affairs at Kennesaw State University outside of Atlanta, GA, including a class entitled “Politics of the Middle East.” She has also been involved in the proposal process for creating a new Peace Studies minor at Kennesaw. Hallward’s published articles include: “Natural Resource Transformation: Incorporating Identity” in the *Journal of Peacebuilding and Development* (v3n1, 2006); “Bounding societi(es): Belonging and categories of identification in Israel/Palestine” (*Hagar* v7n2); and “Situating the Secular” (*International Political Sociology* March 2008 v2n1). She is currently seeking funding to do follow up interviews with individuals whom she interviewed for her dissertation plus additional field work in order to transform her dissertation, “Building Space for Peace: Challenging the Boundaries of Israel/Palestine,” into a book.

Moain Sadeq (2004) *The History and Archaeology of Gaza during the Bronze Age*

Visiting Professor, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto - msadeq@uchicago.edu

A Palestinian archaeological exhibition entitled “Gaza on the Crossroad of Civilization” is currently traveling around the world. The exhibit is comprised of more than 530 artifacts excavated in Gaza during the last 12 years by the Palestinian Department of Antiquities of Gaza, which has been headed by Moain Sadeq since its founding in 1994. The exhibition has been housed in several French institutions since 2000, and on display at the Musée d’Art et d’Histoire in Geneva from April through October 2007.

The artifacts from the exhibit evidence a long historic continuity dating as far back as the late 4th millennium BC (beginning of the Early Bronze Age) and include a diverse array of objects uncovered at Canaanite, Pharaonic, Assyrian, Persian, Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic sites. In addition, the exhibition includes the large private archaeological collection of Jawdat al-Khudari, a prominent Gazan architect.

Sadeq co-edited for the exhibit a catalogue consisting of various scientific papers on topics related to Palestinian archaeology and history written by scholars from around the world. In addition to his role as a co-editor of the catalogue, Sadeq published three papers covering various topics focusing on Palestinian archaeology, historic architecture and ancient urban development.

Sadeq’s work is also presented in a book entitled *Pilgrimage, Sciences and Sufism: Islamic Art in the West Bank and Gaza* (Art Books International, 2002), a part of the “Museum with No Frontier” series. Over 250 color plates richly illustrate the text. In

his contribution to this publication, Sadeq highlights the many historic monuments that still exist in Gaza, as well as the birth of the Imam al-Shafi'i (767–820), one of the leading Muslim scholars and founder of the Shafi'i School. The monuments Sadeq discusses demonstrate the political, economic and religious importance of Gaza on the ancient road between Asia and Africa.

The presentation of Palestinian archaeology and culture in both the Geneva exhibition and in *Pilgrimage, Science and Sufism* is a valuable addition to the global scene as it introduces Palestinian cultural treasures to a global community that is used to seeing Palestine, and especially Gaza, only from a modern political perspective. To learn more about Museum with No Frontiers and this publication, go to www.discoverislamicart.org/home.php.

Sherene R. Seikaly (2003) Palestinian Cultures of Consumption in Israel

Qatar Postdoctoral Fellow 2007-2008, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University - srs272@nyu.edu

Sherene Seikaly received her Ph.D. from the Departments of History and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at New York University in September 2007. Her dissertation is entitled “Meatless Days: Consumption and Capitalism in Wartime Palestine 1939-1948.” After earning her degree, she was awarded the Qatar Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Georgetown University’s Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. Her recent activities include the following presentations in 2007: “*Nakba wa Ta'rik*” [Catastrophe and Historiography], Qatar University; “A Public Good? Palestinian Businessmen and the British Colonial State,” School of Foreign Service - Qatar, Georgetown University; and “The New Arab Home: Consumer, Citizen, and Housewife,” Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University. Seikaly’s publications include: “If Not Now, When? Lessons Learned from GSOC’s 2005-2006 Strike,” with Maggie Clinton, Miabi Chatterji, Natasha Lightfoot, and Naomi Schiller in *The University Against Itself: the NYU Strike and the Future of the Academic Workplace* (Andrew Ross, Monika Krause, and Mary Nolan eds., Temple University Press, 2008).

Awad Halabi (2001) Transformation of the Prophet Moses Festival and Shrine at Jericho: From Local Worship to Nationalist Identity

Assistant Professor, Wright State University - awad.halabi@wright.edu

Awad Halabi is currently an assistant professor jointly serving in the Departments of History and Religion, specializing in the Middle East and Islam, at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. His thesis titled “The Transformation of the Prophet Moses

Festival in Jerusalem, 1917-1937: From Local and Islamic to Modern and Nationalist Celebration” was awarded the Malcolm H. Kerr Dissertation Award for the Humanities for 2007 from the Middle East Studies Association. He completed his thesis at the Department of Near and Middle East Civilizations, University of Toronto. He warmly acknowledges the financial support he received from PARC to conduct research in Jerusalem for this study. He is now working on revising and publishing material from his dissertation, as well as eventually publishing the dissertation as a book.

Daniel Monterescu (2000) Jewish-Arab Relations, Urban Space and the State in Palestinian-Israeli Mixed Towns

Assistant Professor of Urban Anthropology, Central European University, Budapest; Jean Monnet postdoctoral fellow, European University Institute, Florence - monterescud@ceu.hu

Daniel Monterescu received his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Chicago in 2005. He studies ethnic relations and urban space in bi-national (“mixed”) towns as part of a larger project on identity, sociality and gender relations in Mediterranean cities. His previous project, which analyzed formations of Arab masculinity in Jaffa, was published in three journals and two edited volumes: *Journal of Mediterranean Studies, Theory and Criticism, Israeli Sociology, Islamic Masculinities* (Lahoucine Ouzgane, ed., Zed Books, 2006), and *Re-approaching the Border: New Perspectives on the Study of Israel and Palestine* (Sandra Sufian and Mark LeVine, eds., Rowman & Littlefield, 2007). Publications resulting from his PARC sponsored research include an edited volume (with Dan Rabinowitz) titled *Mixed Towns, Trapped Communities: Historical Narratives, Spatial Dynamics and Gender Relations in Jewish-Arab Mixed Towns in Israel/Palestine* (Ashgate Publishing, 2007), and an article in *IJMES* (2008, 40:2). He is currently working on a book titled *Twilight Nationalism: Tales of Traitorous Identities* – a bilingual (Arabic-Hebrew) study of autobiographical narratives of Palestinian and Jewish elderly in Jaffa (with Haim Hazan, Jerusalem: Van Leer and Ha-Kibbutz Ha-Me’uhad, Forthcoming, 2008). His next project proposes a legal anthropological interpretation of gender-related transformations in the *Shari`a* Courts in Israel (with Moussa Abou Ramadan).

PARC Stipends for MESA

Former PARC fellows **Thomas Abowd, Angel Foster, Frances Hasso, Julie Norman** and **Rebecca Stein** received PARC stipends through a U.S. Department of Education grant to present papers at the annual Middle East Studies Association meeting in Montreal in November 2007.

Around the PARC

by Penelope Mitchell

New PARC Palestine Director

I am exceptionally grateful that Dr. Hadeel Qazzaz has joined PARC as Director of our Palestine office. Hadeel brings a wealth of academic and foundation experience to the job, as well as a deep commitment to improving academia in Palestine. You will have an opportunity to meet her when, thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Education, she will join us at the Middle East Studies Association annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in November 2008.



PARC Board member Hiba Hussein

New PARC Offices with IJS

PARC is delighted to announce its move into the spacious new office of the Institute of Jerusalem Studies (IJS). As most of you know, IJS is an affiliate of the Institute for Palestine Studies. You may visit IJS on the web to learn more about the organization: www.jerusalemquarterly.org. We look forward to

working together with IJS on future activities.

PARC remains deeply grateful to Palestine Advisory Committee member Hiba Hussein who has graciously housed PARC for a number of years.

MESA 2007

Dr. Adel Yahya, Director of the Palestinian Association for Cultural Exchange (PACE), has contributed an article to the newsletter about the PARC-sponsored panel at MESA in November 2007. Adel's participation on the panel was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. In addition to his paper presentation, Adel had the opportunity to meet with numerous colleagues from U.S. universities to discuss his oral history projects and PACE's work in culture and heritage preservation. You may learn more about PACE on their website: www.pace.ps.

PARC Fellowships

8 PARC received a record number of pre-proposals in Palestine this year. We reinstated PARC's program of

screening pre-proposals and inviting a limited number of applicants to submit final proposals, while offering them mentoring assistance with this process. We believe this process will help develop proposal preparation capacities in Palestine. As we write this newsletter, the U.S. and Palestinian review committees are hard at work assessing applications.

This newsletter profiles the final four fellows from our 2007-8 group. In addition, we offer the first three final report synopses so that readers may learn more about the results of PARC fellowship research. We hope this will become a regular feature of our newsletter and invite fellows to submit synopses of their research for publication in future newsletters. In addition, seven alumni fellows submitted information on their publications and current activities. The goal of sharing these final reports and alumni updates is to forge connections and synergy among PARC's fellows and members.

Donor Recognition

PARC is exceptionally grateful to everyone who has made contributions over the last year. In a time of critical need, these donations have allowed PARC to keep our Palestinian fellowship program strong. Our donor recognition page is one way to express our gratitude for your support. (N.B.: If you would like to participate in the PARC Board of Director's elections, please be sure your name is on this list of current members.)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Have you renewed your PARC membership? All members are eligible to vote in the upcoming elections for a member representative to the Board of Directors. Our membership runs from June 2008 through May 2009. You may join or renew using the membership form on the back page. PARC appreciates any additional contributions that you might wish to make to help fund fellowships in Palestine.

Visits to Palestinian Universities

On my January trip to Palestine, Hadeel and I had the good fortune to visit many alumni fellows and a number of academic institutions: Al Quds, Birzeit, Bethlehem and An-Najah Universities as well as Riwaq, the Institute of Jerusalem Studies, the Bethlehem Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation, the Palestinian Association for Cultural Exchange, and the Al Aqsa Library. What struck me was the vitality these organizations are able to muster while operating under extreme duress and the extraordinary commitment of their staff. Yet there is a gaping need for training, research, equipment, and just about everything else. With modest resources, PARC endeavors to try to meet some of these needs.



RIWAQ (l-r) Penelope Mitchel, Nazmi al-Ju'beh, Hadeel Qazzaz, Suad Amiry, Farahat Youssef



BETHLEHEM
*Hadeel Qazzaz and
Getty Fellow Issam Juha*

BETHLEHEM
*Hadeel Qazzaz and
Advisory Committee
Member Jacqueline Sfeir*



AN-NAJAH UNIVERSITY (l-r)
*Bottom Row: Hadeel Qazzaz, Alaa Abu Dheir (Public
Relation Officer), Khalid Abu Dayeh (PARC fellow), Ali
Abdelhamid, Shadi Sawalha (PARC fellow), Abdelrahim
Abu Safa (PARC fellow)
Top Row: Khaled Sahili, Amer Alhmouz (PARC fellow),
Penelope Mitchell*



MEETING AT AN-NAJAH UNIVERSITY (l-r)
*Ali Abdelhamid, Khaled Abu Daya (PARC fellow), Amer
Alhmouz (PARC fellow), Hassan Arafat (PARC fellow),
Khaled Sahili, Naser Shaer*



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We would like to recognize the following institutions and individuals who have contributed financial support over the past year. Thank you for your membership and donations that help to support scholarship in Palestinian studies.

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Seteney Shami
Nagendra and Allison Singh
Peter Sluglett
Barbara Stowasser
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Antony T. Sullivan
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Mohammed Abualhaj
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US Department of Education (TICFIA program: Local Archives and Libraries at AORCs)
US Department of State – Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

FINAL REPORT ABSTRACTS

GHADA YOUSEF ABU NAHLA | Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice regarding Family Planning among Palestinian Couples in the Gaza-Strip (2006)

Senior Medical Officer, UNRWA Health Center in Gaza - dr_ghadan@yahoo.com

The importance of family planning in promoting maternal and child health is widely recognized. Family planning also has the potential to be a part of the economic development process. The aim of Abu Nahla's study is to assess knowledge, attitudes and the practice of family planning among Palestinian women and their husbands in the Gaza Strip and to identify factors affecting the participants in order to provide a basis for policy responses.

Abu Nahla conducted a community-based, cross-sectional study among women of reproductive age from 15 to 49 years old and their husbands who live in various Gaza Strip districts. In order to ensure that the sample was geographically representative, a proportional, stratified, multi-staged and clustered sampling was used, and a random sample was selected. She interviewed 380 women and 352 respondent husbands, with a response rate of 95% among women and 88% among their husbands.

Knowledge of family planning among participating women was high. About 75% of the women participating in the study

have knowledge of family planning, while about 64% of interviewed men have this knowledge. Participants were aware of most family planning methods, but lacked in-depth knowledge. There was high percentage of approval of family planning among Palestinian women with about 90% of women approving the use of family planning compared to 72% of men. The percentage of women currently using family planning was about 35%, while the percentage of women who had ever used family planning was 66.5%. The intra-uterine device was the most common method, followed by pills.

This study revealed the importance of men in family decisions, as results indicated that husbands have the main role in



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DANIEL MONTERESCU | Jewish-Arab Relations, Urban Space and the State in Palestinian-Israeli Mixed Towns (2000)

Assistant Professor of Urban Anthropology, Central European University, Budapest - monterescu@gmail.com

Monterescu's research analyzes how urban space, Jewish-Arab sociality, and local/national identities have been both represented and produced in ethnically mixed towns since the establishment of the state of Israel to the present. A bi-national borderland in which Arabs and Jews live together, these cities bring to the fore, on the one hand, the paradox of Palestinian citizens in a fundamentally Jewish state, while simultaneously suggesting, by the very spatial and social realization of "mixed-ness," the potential imaginary of its solution. Through ethnographic and historical research centered in Jaffa, Monterescu's research posits mixed towns as a political and theoretical challenge to the hegemonic, ethno-nationalist guiding principles of the Israeli state, which

fails to maintain homogeneous, segregated and ethnically-stable spaces. This failure, Monterescu argues, results in the parallel existence of heteronomous spaces in these towns, which operate through multiple and often contradictory logics of space, class and nation. Analyzed relationally, these spaces produce peculiar forms of quotidian social relations between Palestinians and Israelis, enacting counter-hegemonic local identities and cross-national coalitions that challenge



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ISABELLE HUMPHRIES | Commemoration from Below: Post-Oslo Narratives of Palestinian Internal References in the Galilee (2006)

St. Mary's College, University of Surrey UK - isabellebh@hotmail.co.uk



Around a quarter of the million Palestinians in Israel are 1948 internally displaced – supposedly Israeli citizens, yet prevented from returning to long destroyed villages. PARC support facilitated Isabelle Humphries' completion of her doctoral fieldwork researching contemporary narrative and commemoration of internally displaced Palestinians. What does the 1948 Nakba and the memory of the destroyed village – on average situated

less than ten kilometers away from their current residence – mean for Palestinian refugees who remained in the Jewish state? To what extent does the symbol of the destroyed village serve as a focus for subaltern political mobilization amongst Palestinians in Israel? Has a combination of fear of an older generation, alongside an improved economic situation and the presence of Israeli security today been enough to push the Nakba from the contemporary Palestinian agenda?

Combining oral history and ethnographic methods, Humphries made a significant (but not exclusive) focus on the people displaced from al-Mujaydil, many of whom are concentrated in one specific refugee neighborhood in Nazareth, the largest Palestinian town inside Israel. In open-ended interviews with both Nakba genera-

tion and younger activists involved in protecting remaining village holy sites, three key themes emerged: 1) a consciousness of the roots of dispossession going back the British Mandate prior to 1948; 2) the acute shame associated with 1950s poverty when refugees were unable to put a solid roof over their children's heads; and 3) the sense of fear instilled during the period of Israeli military rule (1948-1966), but clearly continuing today.

Listening to these voices and taking trips to the sites of destroyed villages and other Nakba-related community events demonstrated to Humphries the changing but continued relevance of 1948 dispossession six decades after occupation. There is not one united and coordinated Palestinian political movement inside the Green Line around the issue of the destroyed villages. Yet, 1948 dispossession continues to stimulate a whole variety of initiatives and projects amongst a younger generation, albeit in a disjointed and unorganized fashion. As time passes, perception of the injustice of 1948 moves away from a specific village focus – villages that even parents do not recall – towards the issue as a whole. Today many young people – NGO and party activists, musicians, photographers, artists, academics – see the destruction of their homeland as central to their identity and narrative. While the forms in which Nakba-related politics are expressed change as the generation directly displaced passes on, Humphries' research reveals that community sorrow and anger at the destruction of the homeland remains central to Palestinian politics inside Israel.

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

determining family size and in the final decision to employ family planning methods. There was a statistically significant positive relationship between women's educational level and marital age and their knowledge, practice and attitudes towards family planning. The same positive relationship was found in women's role in family life decision-making. Families that are below the poverty line are practicing family planning less than those above the poverty line; they were also likely to have more children than those above the poverty line. Child mortality was also greater among women with large families, short birth intervals, and a young marital age.

of changing the social environment to encourage couples to have fewer children and discourage them from having large families. Empowering women is key when talking about family planning practice. Male involvement in family planning programs is essential, with the need to design effective information, education and communication strategies to reach men as active participants and to encourage them to allow their wives to use contraceptives. In addition to these factors, is the critical factor of the quality of care that is needed to enable primary health care/family planning programs to attract more clients and improve the reproductive health among the population of the Gaza Strip.



Photo of "Misty" Gerner hangs on the library wall at Birzeit

Gerner Award

In June 2008, Birzeit University's Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies will confer the first Gerner Award for student excellence in the master's degree program. The award will be given annually and rotate among colleges and universities in Palestine with the first award going to Birzeit where Deborah "Misty" Gerner and her husband, Phil Schrodt, had an opportunity to teach. Misty, who passed away in 2006, was a Middle East scholar and PARC board member.

Board of Directors: Meetings, New Members and Elections

PARC held its semi-annual Board meeting at MESA in November 2007 in Montreal as well as our lively general membership meeting. Our next Board meeting will be in Washington, D.C. on May 17, 2008.

Please note the two newsletter articles about Board members. One article bids farewell to three board members whose terms of service have come to an end and introduces the three new members who have joined the board of directors. Another article gives details on the



Photo Board Meeting at MESA: (clockwise l-r) Ellen Fleischmann, Penelope Mitchell, Charles Butterworth, Jennifer Olmsted, Rochelle Davis, Ann Lesch, Dina Rizk Khoury

upcoming elections and bios of those who have graciously consented to run for the open position on the board (one of three Board members who represent the PARC membership). All current members are eligible to vote and are listed on the Donor Recognition page.

Board Position Up For Election

Current members please take note: here is your opportunity to cast your vote to fill a vacancy representing PARC's membership on the PARC board of directors. Voting will be conducted on-line by email invitation only to all CURRENT MEMBERS. If you are a current member, please be sure that your correct email address is on file by emailing us.parc@gmail.com.

If you are not a member and would like to participate, become a member today! Please send in the membership coupon on the

back page of this newsletter along with your membership dues prior to May 23. Your name will then be added to the ballot distribution list.

PARC's current board of directors is listed on page 2 of the newsletter. The board meets twice a year: at MESA each fall and in Washington, D.C. each May. Voters will be asked to choose one of the following candidates. The candidate receiving the most votes will assume a position on the board.

CANDIDATES

Beshara Doumani writes on the social history of the Arab East, gender and law, and academic freedom. He also publishes essays on current affairs and has guest-edited special issues of the *Journal of Palestine Studies* and the *Jerusalem Quarterly*. His books include *Rediscovering Palestine: Merchants and Peasants in Jabal Nablus, 1700-1900*. An associate professor of history at the University of California, Berkeley, he is currently a fellow at Harvard University's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies where he is completing a manuscript on family life in Ottoman

Lebanon and Palestine. Doumani received his Ph.D. in history from Georgetown University and is a former PARC fellow.

Stephen Gasteyer is an assistant professor in the Department of Community Development at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and will be moving to Michigan State University's Department of Sociology in fall 2008. After working on environmental research in Palestine from 1993-1996, he received a

PARC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PARC welcomes three new members to the board and offers thanks for the service of the three members whose terms have expired. **Nathan Brown** is our new institutional representative from George Washington University replacing **Dina Rizk Khoury**. Two new members were appointed by the Executive Committee: **Peter Gubser** is taking over from **Don Peretz** and **Julie Peteet** is our new secretary, filling the slot of **Ellen Fleischmann**. We appreciate the dedication and hard work of the members now leaving the board and look forward to the enthusiastic support of our new members.

Nathan J. Brown is a professor of political science and international affairs at George Washington University, where he directs the Institute for Middle East Studies. He has written on Palestinian politics, institution building, and legal and constitutional development. Brown's most recent book, *Resuming Arab Palestine* (University of California Press, 2003) presents research on Palestinian society and governance after the establishment of the Palestinian Authority. Brown also serves as Nonresident Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and was previously a scholar in residence at the Middle East Institute. In 2002 and 2003, he was a member of the international advisory committee on drafting the Palestinian constitution. Brown has also served as consultant to the UNDP's program on governance in the Arab world and to a number of NGOs active in the Arab world. Besides his book on Palestinian politics, Brown has written *Constitutions in a Non-Constitutional World: Arab Basic Laws and Prospects for Accountable Government* (SUNY Press, 2001); *The Rule of Law in the Arab World: Courts in Egypt and the Arab States of the Gulf* (Cambridge University Press, 1997); and *Peasant Politics in Modern Egypt* (Yale University Press, 1990). He received a B.A. from the University of Chicago and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Princeton University.

Peter Gubser was President of American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) in Washington, D.C. from 1977 to 2007. An author of many books and articles on the Middle East, especially on Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and related social and economic issues, he is also an adjunct professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. Prior to joining ANERA, he was Assistant Representative with the Ford Foundation in Lebanon and Jordan; an Associate Research Scientist with the American Institute for Research in Washington, D.C.; and a Research Fellow at the University of Manchester, England. Gubser was or is currently on the board of directors of the Global Development Forum,

International College, International Service Agencies, Foundation for Middle East Peace, Builders for Peace, Healing Across the Divides, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, and InterAction. He received his Ph.D. in Social Science from Oxford University, St. Antony's College, his M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies from the American University of Beirut, and his B.A. in Political Science from Yale University.

Julie Peteet is Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology and Director of Middle East and Islamic Studies at the University of Louisville. Her research has focused on Palestinian displacement, refugee camps, space and identity, and more recently the policy of closure in the West Bank. She has authored two books: *Gender in Crisis; Women and the Palestinian Resistance Movement* (Columbia University Press, 1991) and *Landscape of Hope and Despair. Palestinian Refugee Camps* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005). She has published in a variety of journals including *Signs*, *American Ethnologist*, *Cultural Anthropology*, *Cultural Survival*, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, and *Middle East Report* as well as contributed numerous chapters in edited volumes. Her research has been funded by SSRC, Wenner-Gren, Fulbright, the Mellon Foundation, CAORC, and PARC. She serves on the Editorial Board of MERIP and was an associate editor of the *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*. Peteet's degrees in cultural anthropology include a B.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara; M.A. from the American University of Beirut; and Ph.D. from Wayne State University.

PARC is very grateful to **Don Peretz** for his seven years of service to PARC, first on the Steering Committee and then on the Board of Directors. As a professor emeritus from Binghamton University where he taught from 1966-1992 and served as director of the Southwest Asia North African Studies Program, Peretz brought to PARC his immense experience and solid background. He started his career as a representative of the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) with UNRWA, was a Middle East correspondent, taught at a number of universities, and was a visiting fellow at the US Institute of Peace. He is recognized as one of the finest and most non-partisan scholars on Palestine, the Palestinians, and the conflict. In addition to over 200 articles, Peretz has authored 12 books, including: *Israel and the Palestinian Refugees; Israel and the Palestine Arabs; The Middle East Today (6th eds.); The Government and Politics of Israel (co-author, 3rd eds.); Palestinians, Refugees and the Middle East Peace Process; The West Bank: History, Politics, Society and Economy; Intifada:*

PARC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

The Palestinian Uprising; and The Arab-Israel Dispute. Over the past several years, he contributed much to the work of the PARC Executive Committee that meets regularly in Washington, D.C. We will miss Don and his wise counsel.

Dina Rizk Khoury, associate professor of history and international affairs at George Washington University, has contributed immensely to PARC in terms of time, material support, and resources since joining the board in 2001. As a member of PARC's Board and its Executive Committee, she was indefatigable in her fundraising efforts on behalf of PARC. Her contributions, particularly during PARC's early years, were critical, significant, and deeply appreciated. Khoury's scholarship on the Middle East includes an impressive list of publications and awards. Her book *State and Provincial Society in the Ottoman Empire: Mosul 1540-1934*, was winner of both the Turkish Studies Association's Fuat Koprulu prize and the British Society of Middle Eastern Studies' British-Kuwait Friendship prize. She is currently working on a

new book entitled *Postponed Lives: War and Remembrance in Iraq*. In 2007 Dina was a recipient of the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship. She will be greatly missed by all of us at PARC.

As a Board member since 2003 and secretary since 2004, **Ellen Fleischmann** has contributed much to PARC's operations. An associate professor of history at the University of Dayton, Fleischmann has long been active in Palestine, having taught at the Friends Girls School in Ramallah before undertaking her graduate studies. Engaged in research on the history of Palestinian women, she authored the book *The Nation and Its "New" Women: the Palestinian Women's Movement, 1920-1948*, and has published important articles on women and the Middle East. For the last several years, she has been conducting research on missionaries in the Middle East during the period 1850-1950. Ellen's clear thinking and ability to present long, rambling discussions in coherent minutes have been special gifts, as has her gracious way of keeping members to the subject at hand. PARC will miss her greatly.

BOARD CANDIDATES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Ph.D. in Sociology from Iowa State University in 2001. His research focuses on the social aspects of agriculture, perceptions of landscape change, and community water issues in Palestine. He has been published in multiple academic compendia and journals and is currently in conversation with University of Texas Press concerning a book manuscript on perceptions of landscape change in Palestine from 1948-present. He is a former PARC fellow.

Frances Hasso received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, is an associate professor of sociology at Oberlin

College, and is affiliated with its Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies. She has published on sociology, gender studies, and Middle East studies, with a body of scholarship focused on Palestinian nationalism and gender. Published work includes her book *Resistance, Repression and Gender Politics in Occupied Palestine and Jordan* with her current book project focusing on real and perceived crises in family, sexuality, and gender relations in the United Arab Emirates and Egypt. Her research has been supported by PARC as well as a number of other foundation awards.

JEWISH-ARAB RELATIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

both Palestinian and Jewish nationalisms.

These processes manifest themselves in the way aged Palestinian and Jews who reside in these towns reflect back on sixty years of "forced co-existence." Narrated as fragmented life stories, these accounts of identity and betrayal (of the community, the national leaders and the state) are performative acts of re-membering and dis-membering alike. As such, they expose the ethnically mixed city as both a tragic place of political disillusion and an "enabling environment" that produces new forms of mate-

rial and symbolic exchange between neighbors in everyday life. In a specific pattern of action Monterescu terms "dissipating nationalism," these biographical narratives criticize the dominant precepts of Palestinian and Jewish nationalism and propose, from different positions of class, gender and religion, an alternative future and image of the city. Expressing a truly silenced voice in Palestinian-Israeli studies such narratives give pride of place to the victims of Zionist "predatory nationalism" inhabiting the margins of both Jewish and Palestinian societies.

PARC

PALESTINIAN AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER

6520 E. Halbert Rd.
Bethesda, MD 20817-5414

PHONE: (301) 229-4606

E-MAIL: us.parc@gmail.com

WEB SITE: <http://parc.virtualactivism.net/>

PARC Membership Renewal

PARC appreciates the many institutional and individual members that 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. All memberships run from June to the following June. Any donations above the membership cost help to fund much needed research fellowships in Palestine. PARC is grateful for your continuing support.

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

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