

## War on the Future

by Hadeel Qazzaz, Palestine Director



Just before the end of 2008, the world witnessed a harsh and disproportional war on more than 1.5 million civilians in the Gaza Strip. The war destroyed 20 percent of the Gaza Strip's buildings, including universities, schools, hospitals, clinics, and homes. More than 1,400 people were killed and thousands more were injured.

Many will be left with permanent disabilities. The effects of trauma and shock will accompany the people in the Gaza Strip for generations to come.

Like many people all over the world, I was glued to the TV and the phone following both the developments on the ground and the news from my family in Gaza. Amidst the devastating news, I got a phone call from a researcher in Gaza—a young woman who was applying for a PARC fellowship. She told me that she had worked on her proposal and it was ready, but there was no electricity and she could not send it by e-mail. She had hardly been able to access a mobile phone that still had some battery life.

Watching the news made me feel gnawingly helpless and ashamed that I was trying to act normal and respect deadlines in such a horrific situation. Yet, I also felt very proud of this young researcher.

Her effort meant that there is still a force for life and aspiration for a better future. The war did not kill the future, nor did it kill the hope in the minds and hearts of those who suffered the reality of death and destruction. The destruction of the modern, well-designed buildings of the Islamic University will not prevent people from seeking education and conducting research. The future will be alive even with the scars and effects of trauma.

When the war stopped, I still had my own challenges: to raise funds for Palestinian researchers, those brave men and women who challenge all circumstances and still want to be part of the international academic community, to provide quality education and research, and to help build a better future for Palestine. I watched the pledge of \$5.2 billion allocated for the reconstruction of Gaza and know the challenges ahead, the conditions for disbursement of these funds, and the allocation of funds for the different sectors that will not include quality education or research. Seeking funds from local donors is not easy. They inform me that the priority is Gaza. Others remind me of the international financial crisis. Nevertheless, I am humbled by the brave men and women who insisted on finishing their proposals under fire and still hope for a better future full of life and achievements. I realize the challenges ahead and the important and very special role that PARC plays in helping Palestinian scholars and researchers to realize a better future.

## PARC Library and Resource Center

In cooperation with the Institute of Jerusalem Studies (IJS), PARC is currently developing a specialized library/resource center. The nucleus of the library consists of approximately 3,000 books held by IJS, including a full collection of IJS publications since it was established, in addition to other rare resources in Palestinian studies. PARC's recent contribution to the library includes board member Charles Butterworth's donation of his journal collection including *American Political Science Review* (1961-2008), *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (1967-2008), *Review of Politics*, *Middle East Journal*, and *Arab Studies Quarterly*. PARC would like to encourage similar donations which will benefit local and visiting researchers.



Sally Abu Baker in the library/resource center.

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## Around the PARC

by Penelope Mitchell, Executive Director

### *New PARC President*

PARC is delighted to announce the election by the board of our new president, **Dr. Peter Gubser**. I am sure that all PARC members join me in welcoming Peter and in offering our gratitude to outgoing president, Philip Mattar. Please see the newsletter article for more details on this and other activities of PARC's board of directors.

### *PARC Staffing in the United States and Ramallah*



Ava Leone

PARC welcomes our new Administrative Assistant, **Ava Leone**, to our U.S. office. Ava is a candidate for a Master of Arts in Arab Studies from Georgetown University where she studies economics and human development in the Arab world. She has lived and worked in the Middle East region for three years, a significant portion of which was in Jerusalem and the occupied Palestinian territories. She looks forward to returning to the West Bank this summer to complete her thesis research on American Development Discourse in Post-Oslo Palestine.

Our Palestine office welcomes two new staff members, librarian **Sally Abu Baker** (see article on PARC's Library) and administrative assistant **Zeina Erikat**. When you call our Ramallah office, you will most likely be greeted by the welcoming voice of Zeina, a 23-year-old graduate in MIS from Al-Quds University - Abu Dis. Zeina enjoys reading, swimming, and playing table tennis. She can always direct you to the best answers to your questions.



Zeina Erikat

PARC's office in Ramallah is now better equipped to host and support researchers and fellows from the United States, Palestine, and abroad. If you need information and contacts, or need to use the library, meeting room, or a wireless internet connection, we hope you will stop by. Our office is located in a quiet but central area near the meeting of the twin cities of Ramallah and El-Bireh. The office is a five-minute walk from the city center, the main market, and the shopping area in Ramallah.

### *PARC Library in Ramallah*

The combined PARC and Institute for Jerusalem Studies library is up and running, and serving Palestinian and visiting scholars. A newsletter article (p. 1) describes this wonderful resource in some detail. If you would like to donate books, journals, or support for shipping costs, please contact our office.

### *CAORC Directors' Meeting in Senegal*

In January 2009, the West African Research Center (WARC), one of PARC's sister organizations in the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) family, hosted a two-day meeting for the American Overseas Research Center

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## Palestinian American Research Center Newsletter Spring 2009

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(AORC) directors who came from all over the world to attend. The oldest center represented was the one in Athens, while our colleague who traveled the farthest, all the way from Mongolia, represented one of the newest centers. This was the first time for both Hadeel and me to attend one of these meetings and we found it a valuable opportunity to learn from our colleagues. We listened to presentations about the diverse activities at the various centers, shared challenges and successes, and enjoyed a wonderful opportunity to network with colleagues. One



AORC directors meet at WARC.



Penelope Mitchell and Hadeel Qazzaz with WARC Director and Staff at Cheikh Anta Diop University.

thing we would both have to admit is that our beloved PARC is perhaps the center with the most arduous working situation; yet we prevail and have accomplished much. Also attending were central staff from CAORC in Washington, DC, who, in tandem with the WARC staff, made our stay in Senegal so beneficial and enjoyable.

you missed an opportunity to get your news into us for this spring, we will look forward to publishing your information next year.

### Fellowships

PARC had a lively fellowship competition this year both in the United States and Palestine. By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have notified our new fellows with awards for 2009-2010. The fall 2009 newsletter will begin to profile their research. PARC was honored to have three fellows selected for the Getty-funded Middle East and Mediterranean Basin Research Exchange Fellowship program. This spring newsletter profiles the remaining 2008-2009 PARC fellows and our new Getty fellows.



AORC and CAORC directors and staff.

## PARC Inaugurates a New Board President

PARC is pleased to announce the election of our new president, Dr. Peter Gubser, at our fall board meeting at MESA in Washington, D.C. Peter was president of American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) in Washington, D.C. from 1977 to 2007. ANERA is a 40-year-old, nonprofit organization providing humanitarian assistance to Palestinian refugees. Prior to joining ANERA, Peter was Assistant Representative with the Ford Foundation in Beirut and Amman (1974-77); an Associate Research Scientist with the American Institute for Research in Washington, D.C. (1972-1974); and a Research Fellow at the University of Manchester, England (1970-72). He received his Ph.D. in Social Science from Oxford University, St. Antony's College (1970), his M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies from the American University of



Peter Gubser

Beirut (1966), and his B.A. in Political Science from Yale University (1964). An author of many books and articles on the Middle East, especially on Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and related social and economic issues, Peter is also an adjunct professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

Peter noted in his message to the PARC membership: "I am proud to be part of PARC, a dynamic organization that helps improve scholarship about Palestinian affairs, expands the pool of experts on Palestinian issues, and very importantly strengthens linkages among Palestinian, American, and foreign research institutions and scholars. PARC's mission is important for people, students, and scholars throughout the world."

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## New Board President (continued from p. 3)

Dr. Philip Mattar, PARC's previous president remarked after Peter's election: "PARC is fortunate to have someone like Peter, with his background and superb leadership of and experience at ANERA, take over the presidency of PARC at a time when it is greatly expanding its scholarly projects in Palestine and the U.S."

PARC owes an immeasurable debt of gratitude to Philip, PARC's founding president, who has served PARC with great



Phillip Mattar

devotion over the last 10 years. Philip is the former Executive Director of the Institute for Palestine Studies in Washington, D.C., an independent center for scholarly research and publications, and the former Associate Editor of the *Journal of Palestine Studies*. Philip was a Fellow at The Woodrow Wilson Center in 2001-2002. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in Middle Eastern history. He is the author of

*The Mufti of Jerusalem: Al-Hajj Amin Al-Husayni and the Palestinian National Movement* (revised edition, Columbia University Press, 1992), and has published in *Foreign Policy*, *Middle East Journal*, and *Middle Eastern Studies*. He was a Fulbright scholar, has taught history at Yale and Georgetown Universities, is co-editor, with Richard Bulliet and Reeva Simon, of the four-volume *Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East*, published by Macmillan Publishing Company in 1996, and is editor of *Encyclopedia of the Palestinians*, published by Facts-On-file in 2000.

Philip has been a major part of everything that PARC has accomplished over the last decade. His thoughtful leadership has guided PARC on a steady course and laid the groundwork for the organization to move ahead with a solid record of accomplishment behind us.

### PARC Board Meetings

The PARC board of directors meets twice yearly, once at MESA in the fall and in the spring in Washington, D.C. Our

fall meeting focused on strategic planning, development of PARC-sponsored panels for MESA 2009 and 2010, expanding our activities in Palestine including co-sponsoring seminars and conferences, and enhancing our work with archival



PARC Board Members (l-r): Beshara Doumani, Charles Butterworth, Rochelle Davis, Philip Mattar, Carl Smith, Penelope Mitchell, Nathan Brown, Najwa al-Qattan, Julie Peteet, Rhoda Kanaaneh, Jennifer Olmsted, Ann Lesch, Peter Gubser, and Hadeel Qazzaz.

sources and our services to Palestinian and visiting scholars. Thanks to a generous donation by Omar Kader, PARC board members past and present enjoyed a lovely dinner to

celebrate our 10th anniversary. MESA also saw over 25 people gather for the annual PARC general membership meeting. With funding from the U.S. Department of Education, we were fortunate to have Dr. Hadeel Qazzaz, our Palestine director, participate in all of the PARC activities at MESA.



Rosemary Sayigh, Peter Gubser, and Sami Albanna at the PARC Board dinner.

Our spring board meeting focused on the 2009 PARC research fellowship competition, the Getty cultural heritage fellowship

competition, expanding our individual and institutional membership base, and planning for the Institute of Jerusalem Studies/PARC conference in Jerusalem this summer and the George Washington University/PARC conference in October in Washington, D.C.



## PARC Panel and Celebration at MESA

PARC sponsored several activities at the late November 2008 meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) in Washington, D.C. More than 80 people attended our two-part panel in honor of Rosemary and Yusif Sayigh, two distinguished academics in their fields. The session honored the Sayighs with descriptions of new work by researchers whose studies build on the work of these two eminent scholars. With a generous grant from the U.S. Department of Education, PARC brought Rosemary Sayigh from Lebanon and Samia al-Botmeh from Palestine to participate on the PARC panel and to meet with colleagues at MESA.

The first part of the panel was chaired by Roger Owen (Harvard University) and focused on Arab and Palestinian economies as a tribute to Yusif Sayigh. Presenters included Leila Farsakh (University of Massachusetts, Boston), Basel Saleh (Radford University), Samia al-Botmeh (Birzeit University), and discussant Jennifer Olmsted (Drew University and PARC board member).

Julie Peteet (University of Louisville and PARC board member) chaired the second part of the panel looking at the influence of Rosemary Sayigh's work on Palestinian society, gender studies, and oral history. Presenters included Randa Farah (University of Western Ontario), Diana Allan (Harvard University and PARC fellow), Isabelle Humphries (University of Surrey and PARC fellow), and discussant Beshara Doumani (University of California, Berkeley, and PARC board member).

Rosemary Sayigh concluded the double panel with a presentation of her new digital book project (<http://almashriq.hiof.no/voices/>) and her community-based, oral-history projects. Thanks go to Rochelle Davis (Georgetown University and PARC board member) for organizing this excellent panel.

Immediately following our panel, PARC celebrated our 10th anniversary with a reception that was funded by a generous contribution from Omar Kader. Well over 200 people attended, enjoying refreshments, chatting with colleagues working on Palestine, and celebrating PARC's achievements.

Thanks to our grant from the U.S. Department of Education, PARC was able to provide stipends to nine alumni fellows presenting papers at MESA. They are: Diana Allan, Ghada alMadbouh, Beshara Doumani, Angel Foster, Isabelle Humphries, Julie Norman, Isis Nusair, Sherene Seikaly, and Yael Warshel.



PARC presenters Rosemary Sayigh and Samia al-Botmeh.



PARC presenters (l-r): Roger Owen, Jennifer Olmsted, Leila Farsakh, Basel Saleh, and Samia al-Botmeh.



Qazzaz and Mitchell with U.S. Ed. Program Officer Cheryl Gibbs.



Friends of PARC enjoy the reception.



PARC presenters (l-r): Beshara Doumani, Julie Peteet, Randa Farah, Isabelle Humphries, Diana Allan, and Rosemary Sayigh.

## 2008-2009 Fellowships



**RABAB TAMISH**  
**Penetrating the Practices of  
Palestinian School Teachers  
in the Bethlehem District:  
A Qualitative Investigation  
of Teachers' Reflections on  
the Thinking, Principles and  
Values that Underpin Their  
Classroom Practices**

Rabab Tamish's research will investigate: 1) how teachers within a politically oppressive and conservative context reflect on their practices and teaching values, 2) what knowledge underpins their daily practices, and 3) how they perceive the factors that influence their roles and teaching principles. Tamish's research will involve a group of 10 teachers from four school authorities in the Bethlehem District, West Bank, including governmental, UNRWA, private/Islamic, and private/Christian schools. Over a period of eight months the researcher will use observation, interviews, and focus group discussion methods to gain a deeper understanding of the teachers' pedagogical principles, values, and perspectives on their roles as educators.

The research process is designed to take place in two phases. Phase I will focus on gaining access to schools and building rapport with the teachers and pupils. Tamish will first conduct a general interview with each teacher to discuss his/her teaching principles, values, and planning strategies. She will then observe a four- to six-lesson teaching unit for each

teacher, followed by post-lesson interviews to discuss issues raised during the classroom interaction. Finally, after observing the teaching unit, Tamish will conduct in-depth interviews with the teachers to gain better insights about issues that have not been raised during the post-lesson interviews.

In Phase II Tamish will revisit the schools to provide a summary of the data generated in Phase I. Using focus group discussions, she will encourage participants to reflect on the similarities and differences in their values and practices and what factors they believe influence these views.

Tamish's analysis of her research will involve two levels of interpretation. First, she will focus on teachers' own perspectives and thoughts about their teaching practices without any intervention. Then she will review the data and use a critical perspective to analyze how the larger social, political, and historical context influences the way teachers' perceive their classroom roles and practices.

Tamish believes this research will help to improve the quality of university level teacher education programs and contribute to the in-service and pre-service teacher education programs that are currently a high priority for the Palestinian Ministry of Education. The data that emerges may help universities and the Ministry plan programs that emanate from teachers' own reflections, beliefs, and practices.

Rabab Tamish is a doctoral candidate in Education at Cambridge University and served on the faculty of the Education Department at Bethlehem University for six years. She can be reached at [rt298@cam.ac.uk](mailto:rt298@cam.ac.uk).



**NATALIE K. JENSEN**  
**Mobility within Constraints:  
Gender, Migration, and  
New Spaces for Palestinian  
Women**

How do gender norms and expectations enter into migration decision making? How are gender roles changing for new Palestinian women migrants? What are the social support networks that women and their families draw on in mi-

grating and settling in Ramallah? These are some of the questions driving Natalie Jensen's investigation into the lives of young, single, educated Palestinian women who have moved to the burgeoning metropolis of Ramallah in the occupied Palestinian territories. Such internal migration is occurring within the context of new economic and political pressures on households. Jensen is examining the complexities and dilemmas that this group of migrant women face in balancing their household and familial roles and expectations with their individual preferences and desires in the new urban setting in which they live, while also navigating and manipulating differing class positions, regional biases, and material circumstances.



To evaluate effectively the new physical and social setting of these migrant women, Jensen is employing a methodology that includes in-depth, semi-structured, qualitative interviews in English and Arabic of three main groups. Those groups are: the women migrants themselves; their families and friends; as well as other key informants or specialists, including individual researchers, non-governmental organizations, governmental representatives, and women's groups. Jensen will use contacts from previous stays in the West Bank and, using the snowball approach, will locate other participants who are willing to share their migration experiences. This geography-based project will be contextualized using summary statistics and in-depth participant observation with the help of two local research assistants.

Jensen's research examines the ramifications for women of a changing Palestinian economy, particularly how the shift in gender dynamics that has resulted has transformed women's positions in society. Jensen's analysis integrates

geography's spatial approach with theories of gender and migration and Middle East area studies. The aim of the research project is to provide a more robust understanding of what it means to be a woman in a dynamic setting. The case of migrant Palestinian women that is occurring in a persistently tenuous political setting has much to teach us about current patterns of migration. At various scales, migration patterns are made up and influenced by factors beyond an individual's control, yet still can be a route to women's empowerment and mobility.

Natalie Jensen is a Ph.D. candidate in Geography at the University of South Carolina, where she teaches World Regional Geography and is affiliated with the Islamic Studies program of the Walker Institute of International and Area Studies. In addition to her PARC funding, she also recently received a dissertation grant from the National Science Foundation. She can be reached at [jensenn2@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:jensenn2@mailbox.sc.edu).



**TAMI RAFIDI**  
**Material Memories of**  
**Forgetfulness:**  
**Preserving the Palestinian**  
**Refugee Memory through**  
**the Art of the Lebanese**  
**Exile**

Tami Rafidi's research explores the role of material art in revitalizing the memory of Palestinian exiles living in refugee camps in Lebanon. Specifically, she examines how material forms embody the living memory of an oppressed people. The engagement of memory with art and agency has been variously expressed but never fully studied in relation to Palestinians' reconciliation with their loss of homeland. Palestinians such as Zayyat, Al Qasem, Hussein, Darwish, Kanafani, and Jabra illustrate their memory by recollecting the past and transforming it into poetry and fiction based on a sense of recovered history, while others imagine it through graffiti, music, dance, and material art. Though this study is grounded in the Palestinian context, Rafidi's research contributes to a wider study of memory production and examines broader questions of commemoration, memorialization, remembrance, testimony, witness, and survivor literature that "emphasize memory as a social practice" (Edkins 2003).

Rafidi's study is rooted in anthropology and uses ethnographic methodology. She will enter into the refugees' social settings in the Ain al-Hilweh, Burj al-Barajneh, al-Biddawi, and Shatila refugee camps and get to know people living there. She will actively participate in daily routines while engaging in one-on-one interviews, developing relationships, and making detailed observations by recording ethnographic fieldnotes. This fieldwork will focus on meanings of behavior, language, and interactions of the culture-sharing group.

Rafidi hopes that the results of her research will humanize the past, present, and future of the Palestinian refugees in exile and deepen our understanding of how Palestinian refugees revive and narrate memory through different forms of art. She believes that this research will help to explicate the role of memory narrated through art as the refugees' perspective of exile as home or as the route towards home.

Tami Rafidi is doctoral candidate in Conflict Analysis and Resolution at Nova Southeastern University. She can be reached at [trafidi@hotmail.com](mailto:trafidi@hotmail.com).

**Please Donate TODAY**

**Help Fund Fellowships**  
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**Your support is vital!**

# GERNER AWARD 2009



From L-R: Hadeel Qazzaz, Refqa Shqour, Maher Natsheh, Othman Othman, Nayef Abu Khalaf.

Refqa Nabeel Shqour, an honor student in An-Najah University's Political Development and Planning Program, was awarded the **2009 Gerner Award**. The Gerner Award is given annually in memory of PARC board member Deborah "Misty" Gerner, who passed away in 2006. This is the second year of this award to a distinguished graduate student in political science at a Palestinian university.

Refqa Shqour is a special student, her professors say. She finished her

Tawjihi and B.A. with straight "A"s and will graduate from the masters degree program with an average of 90%. She is about to finish her M.A. thesis on "Analyzing the effect of Hizballah on the development of concepts and methodology of resistance in the Arab region."

Like many young, talented people in Palestine, Shqour is still unemployed. She writes political analysis regularly for local Web sites and has a special talent for fashion design, which helped her to pay the fees for her studies. Shqour hopes to be able to pursue a Ph.D. leading to a career as a researcher and analyst.

Honoring Shqour's achievement at a small presentation ceremony were Academic Vice President of An-Najah University, Dr. Maher Natsheh, the Dean of the Economics Department, Dr. Saed Al Kawni, the head of the Political Development and Planning Program, Dr. Nayef Abu Khalaf, Shqour's advisor, Dr. Abdelsattar Qasem, Dr. Othman, and PARC Palestine Director, Dr. Hadeel Qazzaz.



Refqa Shqour and advisor, Abdelsattar Qasem.

## PARC Library and Resource Center

(continued from p.1)

In a new development, PARC recently purchased "Noursoft" which is a computerized library system with features that make it possible to search the library collection online. We also hired an experienced librarian, Sally Abu Baker, a graduate from Birzeit University in business administration and a well-trained librarian who worked for almost six years at Al Qattan Foundation's library using the same library software. She is currently a student in the masters program in Gender, Development and Law at Birzeit University. Sally is a highly qualified librarian and researcher and will be a great help to visiting scholars. Currently we are working to develop a system for digitizing and classifying family papers, photos, and biographies that are available in the IJS collection. We are submitting a grant application that, if funded, will help to develop over the coming two years, a rich online library of rare primary sources that will be available to researchers all over the world, greatly enriching Palestinian studies.

If you wish to support our efforts to build the library/resource center by donating books, journals, electronic resources, or funds for shipping, please contact our offices in the United States or Palestine.

## FREE

SUBSCRIPTION OFFER FOR PARC MEMBERS  
from the Foundation for Middle East Peace (FMEP):  
Report on Israeli Settlement in the Occupied Territories

For a free subscription to this bimonthly  
journal of analysis on Israeli settlements,  
data, and maps, email the FMEP at [info@fmep.org](mailto:info@fmep.org).

## Help Build the PARC Library in Ramallah

Please consider donating books to the PARC library  
in Ramallah, or funds to help ship books.

For more information, please contact our office  
at [us.parc@gmail.com](mailto:us.parc@gmail.com). Your books will be well  
utilized and much appreciated by Palestinian and  
international researchers.



## Three New Getty Fellowships for Cultural Heritage

PARC is pleased to announce three new fellowships under the Getty Research Exchange Fellowship Program for the Mediterranean Basin and Middle East. This year's recipients are: Shadi Ghadban, Naseer Arafat, and Hamdan Taha.



Shadi Ghadban

Shadi Ghadban is an associate professor in Birzeit University's department of Architectural Engineering with a Ph.D. in the Theory and Design of Public Buildings from the Faculty of Architecture in the Higher Institute of Architecture and Civil Engineering in Sofia, Bulgaria. He also teaches at the Higher Institute of Archaeology and Islamic Architecture at Al-Quds

University, has worked on several rehabilitation projects in Bethlehem, and has a wealth of publications to his name.

Ghadban will examine "Ottoman Influence on the Stylization Process in Palestinian Architecture after 1840" with a research project that will take him to PARC's sister center in Turkey, the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT). His research explores the process of stylization in the architecture of Palestine at a time when Palestinian architectural traditions were progressively adulterated by the imported influences that were a corollary to the Ottoman Land Reforms. He will demonstrate how the new needs, desires, and living habits of Palestinians were expressed in a new form of architecture. Since 1840, Palestinian architecture has incorporated Ottoman, Romanticist, Eclectic styles and other more progressive styles, including Art Nouveau, Expressionism and Bauhaus. Yet, by employing local materials, building technologies, and expertise, Palestinians produced what can be identified as a "Palestinian Renaissance Style." Ghadban's research will demonstrate how the architecture borne of a time of serious cultural and social upheaval can be viewed as a tangible symbol of Palestinian political and social aspirations.

With his 2009 Getty fellowship, Naseer Arafat will also be conducting research at ARIT. His study is titled "A Comparison between Ottoman Buildings in Nablus and Istanbul." He has been researching the architecture of the old city of Nablus for the past 15 years and has always admired Ottoman architecture. By comparing the typology of residential buildings



Naseer Arafat

in Istanbul and Nablus, Arafat will examine the relationship between the two cities. His study will analyze differences in climate, available building resources, and social norms to understand how individual cities and towns related to the central Ottoman authority. He hopes that his study might lead to collaboration between architecture students at the two cities' universities to take this investigation and comparison to the next level.

Arafat is Director of the Cultural Heritage Enrichment Center in Nablus that he founded in 2004. He renovated an ancient soap factory, preserving the building as well as breathing new life into it as a vibrant cultural center. He also works on other projects involving conservation, development, and planning of historic centers. Arafat received his B.S. in Architecture from Birzeit University and his M.S. in Development and Planning from University College in London. He also worked for the Riwq Center for Architectural Conservation and UNESCO. He hopes that his new book, *The Cultural Heritage of Nablus*, will be published before the end of the year. Arafat has lectured throughout the world about the cultural heritage of his beloved Nablus.

Taha Hamdan is currently the Assistant Deputy Minister, Sector of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. He has also taught in the Department of Archeology at Birzeit University, has published numerous articles on the archeology of Palestine, and has worked with World Heritage Sites in Palestine. Hamdan has his M.A. in Archaeology from the University of Jordan and his Ph.D. from the Free University of Berlin.



Taha Hamdan

As a 2009 Getty Fellow, Hamdan will explore the "Excavation of Tawaheen es-Sukkar in the Jordan Valley." In 2001-2002, Hamdan led an excavation by the Palestinian Department of Antiquities to verify the stratigraphy of a site in Jericho, which has been mentioned in several medieval, Arab, and Frankish sources. Hamdan intends to build on the findings of the earlier investigation by using the artifacts and geological matter recovered to understand the operational sequence of the sugar industry during the Crusader, Ayyubid, and Mamluke periods. By investigating the site's usage as a sugar factory, Hamdan will provide valuable information on the role sugar production played in the social and economic history of Jericho and the greater Jordan Valley. Hamdan hopes to be able to visit the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research to compliment his field work with research in their extensive library of archaeological holdings.

## ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

### **Dana Hercbergs (2008) Playscapes: Children's Folklore as Articulation of Local-National Identity in Jerusalem/al-Quds**

*Ph.D. candidate in Folklore and Folklife at the University of Pennsylvania – hercbergs@yahoo.com*

Dana Hercbergs' most recent article, "What Palestinian Girls Want: 'Reading' Adolescence in Their Autograph Books" appears in the May 2009 edition of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (v.41, n.2). In the article, Hercbergs highlights an aspect of her preliminary research from Jerusalem on autograph books, specifically situating the folk object as a medium of reflection about changes that have occurred in Palestinian teen culture over the last few decades in Jerusalem. She looks at dedications and formulas written by peers, relatives, and teachers for what they say about societal values such as education, marriage, and careers, as well as how women interpret a correspondence between these dedications and the course their lives took after graduation. In addition, Hercbergs pays attention to the feelings and associations that the autograph book conjures as an object of memory and reflection about the potentially turbulent teen years it evokes. This research is included in a chapter of her dissertation dealing with the endurance of youth culture over the generations; she plans to defend in June.

### **Isis Nusair (2008) Gendered Politics of Location of Four Generations of Palestinian Women in Israel, 1948-2008**

*Assistant Professor of International Studies and Women's Studies at Denison University – nusairi@denison.edu*

Isis Nusair recently presented her paper entitled "Retelling the Past/Reconstructing the Present: Palestinian Women in Israel Remember the 1948 War" during the February 2009 International Studies Association's conference in New York City. The paper was part of a panel titled "Warfare, Memory and the Future."

### **Sherene Seikaly (2008) Food for All Under Control: Nutrition and Colonial Development in Palestine; (2003) Dairy Queens and Sour Cream Arabs: Palestinian Cultures of Consumption in Israel**

*Sherene may be reached at srs272@nyu.edu*

Sherene Seikaly was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the "Europe in the Middle East—the Middle East in Europe" program at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin in 2007-2008. As of fall 2009,

she will be Assistant Professor of History at The American University in Cairo.

### **Anaheed Al-Hardan (2007) Remembering the Present, Remembering the Past: The Place of the 'Nakba' in the Memories of Second and Third Generation Palestinian Refugees in Syria**

*Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology at Trinity College (University of Dublin) – alhardaa@tcd.ie*

Anaheed Al-Hardan has recently published an article on the Palestinians whose families sought refuge in Iraq in 1948 and are currently living their second displacement. The article is available at <http://electronicintifada.net/v2/article10372.shtml>.

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

*Fellow, Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College – norman.julie@gmail.com*

Julie Norman has an upcoming chapter in *Surviving Field Research: Working in violent and difficult situations* (Routledge, 2009). Her chapter, entitled "Got Trust? The Challenge of Gaining Access in Conflict Zones," is based on field research conducted in Palestine. She has also recently released a documentary that she co-produced on Palestinian nonviolent resistance. The film, "This Palestinian Life: Village Stories of Sumoud and Nonviolent Resistance" (dir. Philip Rizk, 2009), will begin screening at various festivals, universities, and other venues in late March 2009.

### **Karam Dana (2006) Palestine's Political Landscape in the 1920s and 1930s**

*Co-Principal Investigator of the Muslim American Public Opinion Survey (MAPOS) – karam@u.washington.edu*

Karam Dana is looking forward to beginning a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies in September 2009. While at Harvard, he will continue examining the political behavior of Muslims.

### **Correction to Fall 2008 Newsletter**

We apologize for omitting PARC 2006-7 fellow Karam Dana, "Palestine's Political Landscape in the 1920s and 1930s," from the fellows listed in "Celebrating 10 Years of PARC Fellowships."



### **Kimberly Katz (2005) Preserving History, Preserving Family: The Diary of Samī 'Amr**

*Assistant Professor of Middle East History at Towson University in Towson, Maryland - KKatz@towson.edu*

Kimberly Katz is looking forward to the publication of her latest book, *A Young Palestinian's Diary, 1941-1945: The Life of Samī 'Amr*, which was researched with support from PARC.

“Writing in his late teens and early twenties, Samī 'Amr gave his diary an apt subtitle: *The Battle of Life*, encapsulating both the political climate of Palestine in the waning years of the British Mandate as well as the contrasting joys and troubles of family life. Now translated from the Arabic, Samī's diary represents a rare artifact of turbulent change in the Middle East.

Written over four years, these ruminations of a young man from Hebron brim with revelations about daily life against a backdrop of tremendous transition. Describing the public and the private, the modern and the traditional, Samī muses on relationships, his station in life, and other universal experiences while sharing numerous details about a pivotal moment in Palestine's modern history. Making these never-before-published reflections available in translation, Kimberly Katz also provides illuminating context for Samī's words, laying out biographical details of Samī, who kept his diary private for close to sixty years. One of a limited number of Palestinian diaries available to English-language readers, the diary of Samī 'Amr bridges significant chasms in our understanding of Middle Eastern, and particularly Palestinian, history.” (University of Texas Press. <http://www.utexas.edu/utpress/books/katyou.html>.)

### **Ghassan C. Haddad (2004) The Zionist Co-Option of Sport in Palestine: Constructing the Palestinian Sport Narrative**

*Ghassan Haddad can be reached at gcth1975@hotmail.com*

Ghassan Haddad has recently accepted a position with the Technical Affairs office of the Qatar Olympic Committee.

### **Nahda Shehada (2004) Islamic Family Law in Palestine: Debate and Practice**

*Lecturer in Gender, Culture and Development at the Institute of Social Studies, the Hague – nahda@iss.nl*

Nahda Shehada is coordinating a three-year project entitled “The Application of Islamic Family Law in Palestine and Israel: Text and Context,” which is funded by the Swiss Na-

tional Fund. The project aims to compare through empirical enquiry the ways in which different codified texts of Islamic family law are applied among the Palestinian Muslims resident in Israel and the Palestinian territories. Three scholars will conduct the research: Prof. Edouard Conte from Bern University, Prof. Andrea Buchlar from Zurich University, and Dr. Nahda Shehada from the Institute of Social Studies, who also serves as the project coordinator. In addition to her work on this project, Shehada has published four articles in the past year. They are: “Negotiating Custody Rights in Islamic Family Law” in *Permutations of Order* (Thomas Kirsch and Bertram Turner eds., Ashgate 2009); “House of Obedience: Social Norm, Individual Agency and Historical Contingency” in the *Journal of Middle Eastern Women's Studies* (v.5, n.10); “Between Change and Continuity: Trends of Age of Marriage in the Gaza Strip” in *HAWWA: Journal of Women of the Middle East and the Islamic World* (v.6, n.3); and “Equity vs. Predictability? The role of the qadi in the Palestinian Territories” in *80 Years of Swiss ZGB Zurich: Chronos* (co-authored with Conte, E. Meier, A, ed, 2008).

### **Yael Warshel (2004) Childhood Constructions of the Palestinian National Identity**

*Assistant Professor in the International Communication Program and Associate faculty in the International Peace and Conflict Resolution Program at the School of International Service, American University – ywarshel@yahoo.com*



Yael Warshel was awarded the prestigious 2008 MESA Graduate Student Paper Prize for her paper, “It's All About Tom and Jerry, Amr Khaled and Iqra, Not Hamas's Mickey Mouse: TV Viewing among Palestinian Children and Their Parents' Related Preferences.”

Warshel's paper was derived from a larger study she conducted about the role of media in ameliorating and fomenting political conflict. As part of her larger study she assessed Palestinian and Jewish-Israeli children's uses of television and electronic games, and their reception of an experiment using television to build peace between them. Warshel spent two and a half years conducting field research with Palestinians and Jewish-Israelis in order to gather the data for the study. In the paper, she emphasized her research with the Palestinian sample, addressing debates concerning these children's television viewing preferences and practices, and their parents' related opinions. By collecting and reporting on this data she may have provided the first empirical evidence about Palestinian, or any Arab children's, television viewing practices.

## ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

### **Ilana Feldman (2003) Government Assembled: The Work of Rule and the Making of Gaza (1917-1967)**

*Assistant Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs at George Washington University's Elliot School of International Affairs - ifeldman@gwu.edu*

Ilana Feldman has recently published her book *Governing Gaza: Bureaucracy, Authority, and the Work of Rule, 1917-1967* (Duke University Press, 2008). This historical account examines how the details of daily governance were produced and challenged during the British Mandate and Egyptian Administration. Through archival research in Gaza, Jerusalem, and London, as well as ethnographic research with retired civil servants in Gaza, Feldman demonstrates how the practices of "reiterative authority" and "tactical government" worked to postpone questions of legitimacy and allowed Gaza's ruling authorities to control and shape the people of Gaza.

### **Rhoda Kanaaneh (2003) Palestinian Soldiers in the Israeli Military**

*Visiting scholar in the Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Department at New York University - rhodakanaaneh@yahoo.com*

Rhoda Kanaaneh has published her book, *Surrounded: Palestinian Soldiers in the Israeli Military* (Stanford University Press, 2008). Thanks in part to a PARC fellowship, Kanaaneh was able to gather over seventy interviews with such soldiers. Julie Peteet praises the book as a "path-breaking, elegantly written, and poignant work" in which Kanaaneh manages "a complex feat. She critically examines the concepts of citizenship, belonging and identity by probing the motivations and behavior of a small group of Arabs in Israel, second class citizens at best, who voluntarily join the military."

### **Shira Robinson (2002) The Social History of Palestinians Under Military Rule**

*Assistant Professor of History and International Affairs at George Washington University's Elliot School of International Affairs - snrobins@gwu.edu*

Since 2007, Shira Robinson has taught courses in history and international affairs at George Washington University. Her work is focused on the social and cultural history of the modern Middle East, particularly analyzing issues of colonialism, citizenship, nationalism, and cultures of mili-

tarism after World War I. She recently joined the Editorial Board of the Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP).

### **Lori Allen (2001) The Uncertain State of Palestine: 'Pain and Suffering' in Nationalism and State-Building**

*University Lecturer in Contemporary Middle Eastern Politics and Society at the University of Cambridge's Department of Middle Eastern Studies - laa29@cam.ac.uk*

Lori Allen has published three new articles. In 2008, her article "Getting By the Occupation: How Violence Became Normal during the Second Palestinian Intifada" was featured in *Cultural Anthropology* (v.23, n.3). In 2009, she wrote "Mothers of Martyrs and Suicide Bombers: The Gender of Ethical Discourse in the Second Palestinian Intifada" *Arab Studies Quarterly* (in press) in addition to "Martyr Bodies in the Media: Human Rights, Aesthetics, and the Politics of Immediation in the Palestinian Intifada" *American Ethnologist* (v.36, n.1).

# SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2009

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A CONFERENCE ON PALESTINE

PRESENTED BY

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&  
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WITH RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



## Graduate Student Conference on Palestinian Academic Research: Achievements and Challenges

In early January, PARC joined eight other research centers and institutions to cosponsor and support the first annual Graduate Student Conference entitled "Palestinian Academic Research: Achievements and Challenges" that was organized by Birzeit University's Academic Support Unit. During the two-day event, conference participants discussed the achievements and challenges of Palestinian academic research under Israeli occupation and presented their ideas on how to increase the quantity and quality of Palestinian research and to provide a solid and appropriate conceptual framework. In his opening remarks to the conference, the Birzeit VP for Academic Affairs stressed the significance of holding a conference on this topic during the Israeli invasion of Gaza.

The conference was organized around four major themes. The first theme, "Academia of the Colonized," included an analysis of knowledge production across countries with colonial histories and an examination of the technical and logistical difficulties of conducting research in Palestine.

Papers presented around the second theme, "Research Questions and Priorities in the Case of Palestine," investigated the politics of knowledge production at the governmental and non-governmental levels. An overall conclusion of these discussions was that a general absence of 'new' questions and the dominance of 'obsolete' paradigms leads to research that heavily favors quantitative methodology at the expense of qualitative research. This, along with the politics of research questions, priorities, and funding agendas, has led some institutions to avoid addressing some of Palestine's most pressing political and social issues.

A third theme, "Resources of Palestinian Research: Abilities and Possibilities," addressed the need to develop human resources with the potential to conduct cutting-edge research in Palestine and abroad. Presenters attempted to identify these resources in terms of fields of specialty, recruitment, immigration, employment, and incentives, also taking into account the present conditions of both governmental and non-governmental institutions. The session also examined accessibility and obstacles in terms of scientific research in Palestine.

The fourth and final theme of the seminar tackled the plight of "Palestinian Institutions under Israeli Occupation." Aside from detailing the effects of Israeli policies on Palestinian academic institutions, papers presented on this topic also highlighted "success stories" of institutions that have overcome obstacles to produce exemplary research.

Participants drafted a concluding statement with recommendations for improving Palestinians' research capabilities. The statement stressed the importance of communication with human rights organizations and other entities concerned with academic and intellectual freedom at local, regional, and international levels. It also emphasized the need for direct communication between academic and research institutions in Palestine's various geographical areas for the purpose of cooperating on the development of research priorities, policies, and agendas. Finally, participants recommended the formation of committees that would facilitate joint research projects, networking and the exchange of expertise, and increase the potential of academia to play a role in the theoretical unification of the country even in the absence of its geographic unity.

### The Institute of Jerusalem Studies and PARC

announce a conference on Jerusalem to be held on July 31-August 1, 2009 to coincide with Jerusalem as this year's "Capital of Arab Culture."

For more information, contact our Ramallah office at [parcpal@palnet.com](mailto:parcpal@palnet.com)

**Dont miss two PARC panels at MESA  
November 21-24, 2009 in Boston**

**Health in the Occupied Palestinian Territories:  
A Growing Crisis**

**&  
60 Years On: A Critical Revisiting of  
UNRWA for Palestine Refugees**

## Jerusalem Archives: Local Resources for Global Research

“Local Archives and Libraries” is a collaborative project that includes a number of American Overseas Research Centers. The project is funded through the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) with a four-year matching grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access (TICFIA) program. The project aims to address a significant and critical need of researchers to have access to local library and archival resources in foreign countries. Under the project rubric, PARC has taken responsibility for researching and preparing a directory of local libraries and archives in Jerusalem. PARC's contribution to the study will benefit scholars everywhere who are interested in Jerusalem studies.



*Mitchell and Khader Salameh, Director of the Islamic Museum and of the al-Aqsa Mosque library.*

Currently, a team of three researchers is lead by Dr. Nazmi al Jubeh, a historian and co-director of Riwaq Centre for Architectural Conservation, and includes Ms. Randa Kamal, a librarian at Al-Quds University, and Mr. Khader Salameh, director of the Islamic Museum at Al-Aqsa. Over the past six months, Kamal and Salameh have been carrying out the project field work by visiting and collecting information about the local archives that have been identified. The information collected on these archives for the directory includes location, contact information, descriptions of the holdings, and information about accessibility and facilities. Despite their extensive knowledge of the city and its many local collections and archives, the team was challenged in collecting all the needed information, as the holders of some archives were reluctant to impart complete details on their specific collections for a variety of reasons. Yet, even with these challenges, the team has thus far managed to collect data on 18 local libraries and archives.

The information compiled on these archives will be reviewed by PARC board member Dr. Philip Mattar and become part of the online collections and information maintained by the Digital Library for International Research (DLIR). The Jerusalem database will be also available on PARC's Web site. The project is expected to be completed by June 2009.



*Nazmi al Jubeh (Riwaq co-director), Hadeel Qazzaz, Suad Amiry (Riwaq co-director), Farhat Yousef (Riwaq- Head of Planning Unit).*

In 2005, PARC organized a workshop in Palestine with local scholars and researchers to discuss possibilities and parameters for the project. Dr. Issam Nassar followed up on the workshop recommendations by conducting a preliminary assessment of the particular needs and challenges of the Palestinian context where many local archives are held by families, churches, and mosques. Nassar's starting point for the research was to identify important libraries and valuable archives in Palestine in general and in Jerusalem specifically.



*Randa Kamal (Al Quds University librarian), Penelope Mitchell, Varsen Aghabekian-Shahin (public health professor).*



## Recognizing Your Support

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Institute of Jerusalem Studies  
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Palestine Investment Fund  
U.S. Department of Education (Title VI AORC Grant)  
U.S. Department of Education (TICFIA program: Local Archives & Libraries at AORCs)  
U.S. Department of State - Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs

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Memberships run from June 2009 through June 2010. For your convenience, a membership form is on the back page. PARC appreciates any additional contributions that you might wish to make to help fund fellowships in Palestine.

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# PARC

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