

PALESTINIAN AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER

CHARLES BUTTERWORTH & DENIS SULLIVAN | The Seventh Round

The Palestinian American Research Center (PARC), established in 1998, is the sole U.S. center focused on providing research funding and field support to scholars studying Palestinian affairs. It seeks, moreover, to serve as an American institution promoting focused academic research on Palestinian issues and assisting in the dissemination of those research findings beyond the confines of academia. To these ends, beginning in 2000, PARC has offered grants each academic year to promote field and archival research by American, Palestinian, and other graduate students as well as post-doctoral researchers. The primary goal of such funding is to improve scholarship about Palestinian affairs, expand the pool of experts knowledgeable about the Palestinians, strengthen linkages between American and Palestinian research institutions and scholars, and enhance public knowledge about Palestinian-related issues.

This seems like a particularly opportune time to look back over what PARC has accomplished in the last half-dozen years. In the six previous rounds of competition from 2000-2005, PARC received 226 applications. Of these, 108 (48 per cent) were from women. Slightly less than one-third of the 226 applicants were



Denis Sullivan, with Board Members Najwa Qattan, Don Peretz, Philip Mattar, Jennifer Olmsted, and Charles Butterworth

funded, but 38 of the 83 funded fellowships (46 percent) were awarded to women. A little more than twenty per cent (60 percent fellowships) were awarded to Arabs by ethnicity. As for other ethnic and national groups receiving fellowship aid, one has gone to an Iranian American, and others to scholars from Turkey, England, Israel, France, Italy, and Germany. As with the applicants

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CHARLES BUTTERWORTH | Denis Sullivan Goes Global at Northeastern University

PARC's U.S. director, Denis Sullivan, has accepted new responsibilities at his home institution, Northeastern University. In addition to his previous roles as director of Northeastern's Middle East Center for Peace, Culture, and Development and International Affairs Program (positions he continues to hold), Denis has now been promoted to the directorship of Global Education Programs and has become assistant to the

provost. His new responsibilities include developing and coordinating faculty-led global study programs as well as faculty exchanges, primarily in the Middle East. Sullivan is modeling these new global programs after his long-running "Egypt Seminar," which he developed with the Binational Fulbright Commission in Egypt.

Consequently, his service with PARC, for which he has served as U.S. Director since May 2005, will soon come to an end. We will miss Denis, but certainly wish him well in these new ventures.

A Message from the U.S. Director

BY DENIS SULLIVAN



Mira Rizek and Denis Sullivan

As the outgoing U.S. Director, I would like to personally thank the Board of Directors, my colleague Mira Rizek (our Palestine director) and our Palestinian Advisory Committee for the opportunity to work with such a distinguished group of scholars and educators who share the commitment to preserving and improving research in Palestine studies. Finally, I strongly encourage our readers to continue their membership in PARC to ensure they continue to receive the valuable newsletter that updates them on the latest research being funded and other news relevant to our mission.

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from the current round of competition, those from past years represent many disciplines: political science, sociology, anthropology, women's studies, economics, urban planning, archaeology, museum science, history, geography, justice and legal studies, environmental engineering, and health sciences.

The research awards are modest, ranging from \$2,000 to \$7,000. Nonetheless, fellowship holders have assured PARC personnel in final report statements that the grants have been essential to them for carrying out research projects that would not otherwise have been funded. As an indication of the kind of projects funded to date, and to focus only on female award winners, there has been a tenured woman anthropologist who examined the impact of road blocks and closures on Palestinian families along with the effects that continued closures and the construction of the wall around the West Bank have on Palestinians; an economist who devoted her stay in Jerusalem to gathering data about the Palestinian labor force and interviewing Palestinians and Israelis concerning the impact of the uprising and closures on labor mobility and productivity; and an American psychiatrist who used her grant to try to assess the impact of art therapy on Palestinian children. Among women graduate students who have been funded, one focused on the reaction that Israeli and Palestinian children have to the Israeli version of Sesame Street so as to compare their psychological well-being as well as how they form their identities in relation to one another and to Israeli adults; another investigated the processes underlying asymmetric protracted conflict through a case study of the second Palestinian Intifada; while yet a third devoted research time in Jerusalem to assessing the impact and value of Israeli-Palestinian dialogue programs.

Finally, it should be noted that the PARC Palestinian Advisory Committee places a crucial role in vetting short pre-proposals received from Palestinian researchers. One year, for example, it recommended that 22 of the 57 researchers who submitted pre-proposals prepare final proposals for consideration by the jury. Eighteen proposals were submitted and then vetted by the jury alongside 27 proposals from scholars based in the United States, Europe, or

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BESHARA B. DOUMANI | The Palestinians: A Social and Cultural History

Over the past century, only a handful of scholars have produced historically informed overviews of Palestinian society and culture. The focus of nationalist narratives on the history of Palestine, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and Palestinian identity and nationalist movements has kept the experiences of ordinary Palestinians outside the purview of most scholars. Dr. Beshara Doumani feels that it is vitally important to produce an intimate portrait of the Palestinian people in the modern era and to put it at the center of an overarching historical study that is deeply critical of nationalist constructions of the past.

Doumani plans his project as a series of critical essays told through social biographies that pose difficult theoretical questions: “It will grapple with key issues in the humanities that go far beyond the Palestinians themselves,” he says. “My goal is to produce a concise and richly textured account of who the Palestinians are, and how they were impacted by and contributed to the opportunities and tragedies of the modern era. This will be an innovative and accessible study of a people who have become a household word, but about whom we know surprisingly little.”

“I believe there is more to Palestinian experiences than the generic nationalist schematic of origins, persecution, exile and redemption,” Doumani continues. “I aim to uncover what the terms ‘indigenous’ and ‘people’ mean in the context of the vast multi-ethnic Ottoman Empire that ruled the region for four centuries, as well as in the context of the artificial borders imposed by the British Mandate. We must understand what kind of rights, legal standing, and political expectations such terms imply at a time when the very foundations of international law and state sovereignty are being undermined.”

Doumani asserts that the Palestinians are the far weaker party in a long and bitter conflict, and that their material and cultural patrimony, from places to place names, have been and continue to be subject to a systematic process of physical erasure and discursive silencing. Having lost their lands and their control over much of their daily lives, millions of Palestinians living as refugees or under military occupation have little but their history and collective memories to sustain them. “Their stories must be unearthed and told in a systematic way,” he declares.

Doumani’s study will result in a three-part book. Part I will explore the relationship of people to the land. Specifically, it will examine the material and discursive connections of peasants, Bedouin, and urban populations to land, as well as regional social spaces and urban-rural interactions. Part II will deal with the

period of mandatory Palestine, including the *Nakbeh* of 1948 and its aftermath through the themes of victimhood and agency. Part III will reflect the experience of being out of place in a globalizing world, and focus on all three segments of the Palestinian people: the refugees in the diaspora, those living under Israeli occupation, and the Palestinian citizens of Israel. He will examine the changing meaning of being a Palestinian and how Palestinians have become key symbols in competing visions of the 21st century new world order.

Doumani proposes to accomplish his research via two overseas trips to consult archives, conduct interviews, and, he says, most importantly, to see with his own eyes the current conditions of various Palestinian communities. This, Doumani feels, will be the major inspiration for the way he writes and organizes his book.

“Ultimately, writing Palestinians into history raises difficult questions about what is universal and what is unique in the modern human experience. What is needed is an approach that foregrounds daily life without the romance and recognizes collective tragedies without shirking responsibility; it is imperative that this project balance competing objectives: It must have texture and intimacy, yet be concise and comprehensive, and it must foreground the hybridity of the quotidian, yet recognize the awesome homogenizing power of politics and violence.”

Doumani completed his undergraduate degree in history at Kenyon College, and also holds a master’s degree in Arab studies and doctorate in history from Georgetown University. He is currently an associate professor in the department of history at the University of California, Berkeley. He is also the editor of *Academic Freedom After September 11*, (New York: Zone Books, 2006).



SULIMAN EID | Adolescent and Young Men's Attitudes and Involvement in Women's Reproductive Health and Family Planning in the Gaza Strip



Available literature indicates that very little research has been undertaken to explore reproductive knowledge among young men in Palestine and how Palestinian couples make decisions about their reproductive lives. Rather, existing studies have concentrated on the level and patterns of contraceptive use from women's perspectives. Mr. Suliman Eid believes that in light of the social consequences of early marriage and high fertility rates in both the West Bank and Gaza, particularly during this period of

political transition, a need exists to understand the quality of adolescent and young adult knowledge of reproductive, sexual health, and family planning issues. His proposed study will explore the knowledge, attitude, and practices (KAP) of Palestinian adolescents and young men and investigate their role as future decision-makers.

"Although we know that, in general, Palestinian men tend to be the major decision-makers in households, very little specific information exists concerning their influence on the number and timing of births, the appropriate time to seek health care, and the portion of income that is spent on health," says Eid, who indicates that more efforts need to be made to understand male involvement in reproductive health issues in Palestine.

Eid says the overall objective of the study is to determine the level of knowledge adolescents and young adults have, as well as examine their readiness to become involved in reproductive health and family planning issues in Palestine, particularly the Gaza Strip. His research will address specific objectives in addition to baseline information on KAP, including determination of the perceptions and attitudes of study subjects toward family planning and reproductive health vis-à-vis social and cultural acceptability, political and religious perceptions in the community, differences in opinions and attitudes between men and women, decision-making responsibility within marriage, level of general understanding about current contraceptives, and gender issues common in the community.

The study will also assess both male and female satisfaction with existing sexual and reproductive health and

family planning information, as well as examine access to and the availability of services, and the affordability, equity and quality of information provided at the primary health care level.

Eid will employ a cross-sectional design, using method triangulation to conduct his research study. Data collection procedures will include qualitative research utilizing a sample size of approximately 200 adolescents and young adults (male and female, in separated sessions), assembled into 20 focus group discussions (FGD) with seven to 10 participants each. An additional 20 to 25 in-depth interviews will take place with selected, consenting participants from the focus groups. One half of the FGD and in-depth interviews will be conducted with female participants, and one half with young adult males. Eid and his team will also conduct limited observations of participants at interview locations at service and clinic sites.

Privacy, Eid believes, is crucial to a successful study result. "An informed consent statement will be read to all males and females participating in the FGD and in-depth interviews, and only those men who give consent to participate in both will be included in the study. In-depth interviews will be privately conducted; data collectors will be made aware of the importance of minimizing subjects' level of anxiety or stress. Confidentiality will be ensured during both the FGD and the in-depth interviews, and in the presentations of the survey results—names and addresses will not be referred to in the study reports or other presentations."

Survey procedures will be closely monitored throughout data collection activities, and at three months an interim report will be prepared describing all activities to date, as well as preliminary results of the study; a group meeting will be held to discuss the findings of the study with experts and key decision-makers. Based on the results of the study and feedback from the meeting, a final report will be produced and widely disseminated.

Eid completed his diplomas in general nursing science and teaching methodologies at the Qualified School of Nursing, Ophthalmic Hospital, Gaza. He also holds diplomas in health service administration and community health nursing from Ashkelon Nursing School, Ashkelon Hospital, Israel, as well as a diploma in public health information and health policy from the

RANDA SERHAN | Suspended Community: Second-Generation West Bank Palestinians

West Bank Palestinians began a steady and long chain migration to the United States in the aftermath of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967. Since the early days of young males living together, entire communities of multiple generations have been formed. Children of the initial immigrants are now reaching adulthood and starting families of their own, yet knowledge about the immigrant group remains limited and largely anecdotal. Ms. Randa Serhan believes that the present political climate and continued development of this community necessitates further scholarly research to create a clearer picture of the lives of second-generation Palestinian immigrants in the tri-state area of New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

According to Serhan, there is debate over the meaning of culture and the incompatibility of some immigrant groups in Western societies. “At one end of the spectrum are adherents to the ‘clash of civilizations’ theory that Moslems are inherently resistant and antagonistic to the American way of life. At the other are those who believe ethnicity to be a myth, professing the view that ethnicity and culture are not static, but in constant flux—that the manifestations of ethnic identities are a product of environment and the opportunities and impediments migrant groups face.” She also asserts that there are those who believe that assimilation is simply a process of adaptation to mainstream society that does not prevent migrants from maintaining cultural values and practices. Conversely, she adds, advocates of transnationalism claim that immigrant experiences can best be understood through the relationships they maintain with their places of origin.

Serhan’s proposed research is generated out of these multiple theories on the subject. She feels that because Palestinians from the West Bank are an established immigrant community with a second generation of adults facing tensions both domestically and transnationally, they present an ideal point from which to engage in political and theoretical debates. Furthermore, she believes that

a greater understanding of their lives will contribute to the overall knowledge about immigrants because they may be common to those of other immigrant groups.

Palestinian immigrants are cognizant of the tensions inherent in their status as American citizens who are born and raised in the United States and, as such, have deep allegiances to this society. Nonetheless, she points out that they struggle with their status as “outsiders,” particularly as they graduate from college and perceive their last names and national identity as hindrances to finding employment.

More specifically, Serhan contends, “second-generation Palestinians deal with the fact that the United States is both the greatest impediment and biggest enabler in realizing their national aspirations.” The U.S. government is the primary supporter of Israel, which is construed as one of the reasons they have been unable to return to their homeland. On the other hand, as American citizens they have access to, and rights, in their villages that would be unavailable otherwise. Indeed, they often assert their American identity when they come into contact with Israeli authorities at borders and checkpoints, and enjoy an additional economic advantage that affords them social prestige in their villages, namely that their purchasing power is increased exponentially by living in the U.S.

Serhan’s project will be based on historical and qualitative data with sparing use of census data about Arab Americans is still rudimentary, and everyday processes are resistant to quantification. The qualitative methods of participant observation and



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ADOLESCENT AND YOUNG MEN’S ATTITUDES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

School of Public Health, Hebrew University, Jerusalem. He earned his master’s degree in mother and child health from the University of London Institute of Child Health, and is currently director of primary health care management information system and clinic

information system, Ministry of Health, Gaza, as well as a Ph.D. fellow in international community health, department of international health, Institute of General Practice and Community Medicine, at the University of Oslo, Norway.

DR. AMER M. EL-HAMOUIZ AND DR. RIYAD ABDEL-KARIM | Usage of Stone Cutting Waste in Producing Chemical Construction Products



Dr. Amer M. El-Hamouz

The stone cutting industry is an important factor in the gross national product of the West Bank and of Palestine, contributing more than \$70 million to the economy. It is also the largest producer of water, solid waste, and airborne pollutants in the West Bank. Large amounts of stone cutting wastewater mixed with fine, heavy weighted particles, form a high viscosity slurry that has calcium carbonate (CaCO_3) as its major component. Drs. Amer M. El-Hamouz and Riyad Abdel-Karim believe this waste can potentially be

reused to produce valuable chemical construction products. Their research will examine the feasibility of separating the slurry solid waste (in both lab and pilot scales), and will illustrate ways it can be used in the Palestinian leather tanning, emulsion, and construction industries, and eliminate the current use of imported products for the same purposes.

“The southern districts of Bethlehem and Hebron have large numbers of quarries and stone cutting facilities. At present, the total yearly production of stone is more than 6 million square meters, processed in the West Bank by more than 400 facilities, and as many as 1,000 if unregistered facilities are included,” says El-Hamouz.

In these stone cutting establishments the rocks are cut and shaped, with most of the stone cutting products exported to neighboring countries. Water is primarily used as a cooling, lubricating, and cleaning agent to prevent dust generation during the sawing and polishing processes. It also reduces the amount of dust in the air. Abdel-Karim explains that, “because most stone cutting facilities practice different methods of wastewater recycling to reduce water consumption, their effluent has a high content of suspended solids, or slurry.” According to the researchers, these facilities utilize about 0.5 million cubic meters of freshwater per year and generate more than 750,000 tons of slurry. The concentration of slurry from the stone cutting process ranges from 5,000 to 12,000 parts-per-million.

The basic calcium carbonate (CaCO_3) component of this slurry—essentially limestone—has high pH value, and

disposal practices result in a reduction of soil fertility and plant growth, as well as reducing the permeability and groundwater recharge of the soil. When disposed of into sewage systems, slurry causes clogs, destruction of pumps, and reduced efficiency of wastewater treatment.

El-Hamouz suggests that any solution should address the problems caused by the great quantities of slurry produced and randomly disposed of in the West Bank and the associated environmental and pollution impacts. “Possible relief measures and strategies to improve the present situation should also take into account the fact that water supply and slurry disposal are important economic factors for stone cutting facilities,” asserts El-Hamouz. Moreover, he suggests that “strategies to reuse the solids contained in the produced slurries should be considered, since these solids have some economic value.”

El-Hamouz and Abdel-Karim have outlined four objectives for their investigation of this very complex situation, beginning with a literature survey that will include the evaluation of all well-known technologies used in separating slurry from stone cutting wastewater. This survey will also include site visits and a statistical sampling of West Bank stone cutting plants in order to produce a data bank of plant size, location, number of workers, disposal methods, treatment methods (if any), and willingness to cooperate in the reuse of wastewater and plant reallocation in order to create a centralized waste treatment plant.

The researchers will also undertake pilot plant-scale production of chemical construction materials from slurry waste, including lab scale experimental work to separate limestone from slurry, and heating lime to produce burnt lime. An analysis of the feasibility and expected cost of manufacturing construction materials from slurry waste will be included.

In addition, the project will include measurement of the physical properties of the produced chemical construction materials and



Dr. Riyad Abdel-Karim

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TOBE SHANOK | Return to Hebron: 1929

On August 23 and 24, 1929, 59 of approximately 600 Jews in Hebron were killed, with eight more subsequently dying. While many Jews were being killed or beaten, a number of Arabs were guarding, hiding, or shepherding Jews from their homes to safety at the risk of their own lives and the lives of their families. Ms. Tobe Shanok believes that a study of the social, economic, and cultural landscape of all parties involved is necessary to understand the root causes of the violence and resulting actions. She proposes to accomplish this by studying these factors in the context of regional events, rather than separate from their surroundings. Through her study, Shanok will present the characteristics in each community and how members related to each other on personal, family, and economic levels in tandem with those intercommunal networks integral to daily life.

According to Shanok, present historiography considers religious and/or national factors as the main motor forces for the eruption of violence. Shanok, however, feels there is a missing factor: “The economic dynamic within and between the communities influenced socio-economic and leadership shifts during the 1920s. A close study of the documents and varied publications reveal delicate and multi-level relations between Hebron’s Arab and Jewish community members; one of the important foundations of these relations appears to be of an economic nature.”

Additionally, Shanok says, present historiography focuses mainly on the Arab attacks against the Jews and the total demise of Hebron’s Jewish community in 1929. She explains that little has been unearthed regarding the relations, tensions, and underlying actions that were working to unravel delicate relations between the two and which, ironically, also facilitated the saving of many Hebron Jews by their Arab neighbors. “In short, what is completely missing is the context for the actions of the Hebron Arabs in 1929 and the events that occurred in Hebron and throughout Palestine prior to the August violence.”

A subtler outcome of the focus on the violence of 1929 has been the continued negative portrayal of the Arabs, particularly regarding their seeming lack of value for human life. However, Shanok points out, this main narrative has been partially chal-

lenged by a counter-narrative that differs in some very substantive ways that was produced by family members of former Hebron Jewish residents. She argues that, because there are documents and publications that support various parts of each narrative, it is necessary to uncover and compare differences between the two: “As a result of missing information, the one-sided historical narratives seem to exhort and incite each side to more violence rather than to explain, empathize, and understand the other.”

Another reason it is important to study Hebron’s past is that the August 1929 events are intimately connected to the resettlement process occurring there today, where a major focus of Jewish resettlement is viewed vis-à-vis the continued Arab Muslim majority’s claims of religious ties to that same place. The absence of information regarding the status of Hebron’s communities in the 1920s has prolonged the life span of misinformation, disinformation, and negative perceptions, ultimately resulting in the erection of physical and mental walls and increased animosity and reinforcement of negative aspects of national narratives.

Shanok’s reexamination of the violence in Hebron will use material from long-forgotten or unused research sources such as diaries, autobiographies, and reminiscences of Hebron that will supplement the usual archival documentations and will support, negate, or add information to the more subjective material.

Newspaper articles will illustrate how events are framed and thus transferred to the public sphere. Also of importance are party and government protocols and reports, which present policies as well as short- and long-range internal strategies of each community as it relates to the other. In sum, states Shanok, “The time has come to recognize the multiplicity of views and perspectives regarding the ‘Events of August 1929’, rather than a flat, one-sided view.”

An independent scholar with a broad range of experience, Shanok completed her undergraduate degree at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and holds a master’s degree from Trinity College (Hartford, CT).



“As a result of missing information, the one-sided historical narratives seem to exhort and incite each side to more violence rather than to explain, empathize, and understand the other.”



NASSER TAWFIK SALEH | Moving Towards an Information Society in the West Bank and Gaza: Measuring ICT Indicators



Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) indicators have been adopted around the world as the standard means to compare, across time and regions, progress towards an information society. They are an established way to identify weaknesses and strengths of its development in a particular region or sector. Indicators provide an informative, timely, and constructive approach to the formulation of policies in building an information society. Many interna-

tional organizations, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), are developing global core indicators for monitoring the development of this infrastructure. Mr. Nasser Tawfik Saleh feels that there is a need for standardization across all sets of indicators, and his project seeks to create such standardization in the Palestinian Territories. He explains: "There are different local techniques for collecting ICT indicators in the West Bank and Gaza, depending on whether they are collected and used in the public sector, private sector, or non-governmental organizations. This proposed project intends to prove that ICT indicators are a central element of any strategic plan for moving towards a Palestinian Information Society, and that these indica-

tors must be universally coherent in order to enable benchmarking and other comparison activity."

Little is known about the long-term impact of ICT on Palestinian social and cultural systems. Saleh asserts that, "it is unlikely that large reversals of marginalization and poverty will result from technology transfer to the developing world. Policymakers and donors did not undertake a rigorous analysis of the social and cultural dimensions of ICT to be able to design appropriate policies to harness ICT for development in their own context."

Saleh believes that indicator sets need to be established to quantify developments and provide input into the policymaking process in order to evaluate existing policies, monitor progress, and determine the shape of new policies and required community development projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Accurate, timely, and appropriate indicators, he claims, can provide policymakers with information that enables better decisions on which direction information society policy should take. Without these indicators, he points out, "no policies can be effectively evaluated and adjusted to counter unforeseen developments in the growth of the information society."

Key to Saleh's research is a discursive examination of indicators related to development processes. Prior analysis focused on the process of official data development as a kind of technology.

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USAGE OF STONE CUTTING WASTE IN PRODUCING CHEMICAL CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

an experimental application of the most feasible technology on a "stone cutting plant sector," including characteristic measurements of the slurry waste to verify its suitability as raw material.

El-Hamouz earned his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering at Jordan University of Science and Technology. He holds master's and doctoral degrees in chemical engineering from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. El-Hamouz is currently an associate professor of chemical engineering at An-Najah National University. El-Hamouz was honored with the St. Andrews Prize 2000, which he shared with Professor H. Hilal, for "Preparation Enhancement and

Utilization of Activated Charcoal from Olive solid waste in Palestine," which was selected from 150 proposals submitted to the competition. Since 2001, El-Hamouz has served on the editorial board of *The Process Safety and Environmental Protection Journal (PSEP)*.

Abdel-Karim completed his undergraduate degree in civil engineering at the University of Jordan, and holds a master's degree in civil engineering from Al-Yarmouk University. He earned his doctorate in civil engineering at Pennsylvania State University, and is currently dean of the College of Engineering at An-Najah National University.

DR. MOHAMMAD NIHAD ALMASRI | Characterization of Alexander Wadi: Analysis of Pollutant Input Loadings Concentrations and Impact on Groundwater Resources



Between the mountains of Nablus and the Mediterranean Sea, to the west of the city of Tulkarem, the Alexander wadi passes through the villages of Beit Eba, Deir Sharaf, Rameen, and the town of Anabta. The pollution of the Alexander wadi is an ongoing problem that threatens the surrounding environment and is exacerbated by a variety of factors. This troubling situation has inspired the research of Dr. Mohammad Nihad Almasri, who will study pollutant input loading concen-

trations in the Alexander wadi and their impact on groundwater resources. The project will culminate in the proposal of a comprehensive plan of corrective measures to control and eventually alleviate the problem.

Almasri notes that pollutants affecting the Alexander wadi come from a variety of geographically dispersed sources that encompass a wide spectrum of dissimilar activities, including agricultural pollutants runoff, industrial poisonous waste effluent dumping, olive mill operations, and residential and municipal wastewater effluent. Many of these pollutants are dumped directly into the Alexander wadi, and some sources are located on the wadi itself. He also notes that recent statistics link the discovery of 16 cancer cases in Anabta to the poisonous odor of the wadi.

According to Almasri, “this wadi, already well known for its extremely bad, poisonous odor, is now jeopardizing the neighboring environment with potential contamination of groundwater—the major source of drinking water—with increases in soil salinity, elevated occurrences of heavy metal in soil and groundwater, and a much higher incidence of insects near the wadi.”

Almasri’s interest stems from the proximity of the pollution sources to the Alexander wadi and to the groundwater pumping wells of Anabta town, Tulkarem. “These wells serve an approximate population of 16,000 residents, providing the town with drinking water,” Almasri reports. “There is concern that over a long period of time these wells will become contaminated, especially

when considering the nature of the hydrogeologic conditions prevailing in the study area; they promote the high vulnerability of groundwater to contamination and enhance the ability of pollutants to infiltrate the soil zone immediately above the groundwater table.”

Almasri suggests that the area is characterized by high recharge rates that can cause deep percolation of contaminants down to groundwater resources, ultimately tainting the supply wells; the underlying aquifer system is phreatic (unconfined), and has a relatively shallow depth to the water table. In addition, he says that it is necessary to consider that capture zones created due to high pumping rates may interact with the Alexander wadi and cause a type of hydraulic connection through which the commingling and transport of contaminants may take place.

The ultimate objective of Almasri’s research is to achieve a better understanding of pollution trends across the wadi quantitatively and qualitatively through a thorough analysis of the water quality of wells at risk of pollution from the wadi. He will then design alternative protection measures that may minimize the negative environmental ramifications, eventually making recommendations to alleviate the problem altogether and thus preserve the area’s environment and groundwater resources.

Almasri believes that a thorough study is needed to develop this plan realistically and determine the parties responsible for the pollution. His research goals set out four important objectives:

1. Characterization of the input loading of wastes spatially and temporarily across the wadi,
2. A sampling campaign to identify major pollution constituents with the corresponding concentrations,
3. Investigation of the risk of contamination of the groundwater resources in the vicinity of the supply wells, and
4. Proposal of a set of possible scenarios for management options that will ultimately alleviate the problem. This may include the enforcement of post-treatment processes before the disposal of wastes, such that the effluent will have a pre-determined chemical quality that should be maintained.

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elsewhere in the Middle East. Seven of those eighteen proposals were selected for funding that year.

Finally, here is a brief summary of the applications received for the 2006-2007 round of competition. This was clearly a banner year. In total, there were forty-seven applicants. Of these, 26 were Palestinian, 10 American (of whom four have Palestinian heritage), and 11 of other nationalities including Pakistan, England, Israel, Denmark, Slovakia, Turkey, and Canada. In addition to this wide multi-national division, applicants hailed from multiple and wide-ranging disciplines: engineering (civil, chemical, and environmental), education, epidemiology, public health, molecular biology, ethno-musicology, finance, economics, sociology, political science, history, religion, anthropology, speech-language pathology, and communication arts. The inter-disciplinary grants review committee

has already met and has made its recommendations to PARC's Board of Directors, which will decide on funding in early May 2006.

These grants would not be possible without the support of the Ford Foundation and the U.S. Departments of State and Education. Our sincerest appreciation goes to those in the scholarly community who have given their time to review and evaluate the applications each year. We extend an invitation to other scholars to pursue funding through this valuable and generous fellowship program.



MOVING TOWARDS AN INFORMATION SOCIETY IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

When technologies such as the telephone have been analyzed discursively, Saleh believes, "attention has been drawn to technology's 'double life': Conforming both to its intended purpose, and traveling into unexpected social territory—yielding unintended consequences and unanticipated possibilities." He feels the discursive approach views data collection and the emerging information system as a kind of text to be read for interpretative meanings, while distancing from the process of data assembly allows it to be seen fresh, in order to discern its meanings and contradictions.

There are three interlocking phases to Saleh's research—initialization, awareness building, and data collection. The first requires substantial input to ensure all partners in the project are informed and willing to actively participate in the collection and use of the core indicators. The second involves interaction between different partners and stakeholders, who will be required to inform each other of their activities in the sphere of ICT indicators. The third is focused on implementation agencies, which will be required to collect data for the indicators for submission to the other partners.

"ICT availability is not in itself a reliable developmental approach, however noble its intentions may be," Saleh summarizes. "The 'global village' is not global for most of the world's poor—and not simply because technologies are not available to them....[W]ith or without these technologies, the poor are not likely to reap the benefits of society if they are excluded from the benefits of overall development."

A professional with extensive library and information systems experience, Saleh completed his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering at the University of Khartoum, Sudan. He holds a Certificate of Advanced Studies in information security management and master's degrees in library and information science and telecommunication and networks management from Syracuse University. He is currently a learning support officer at the British Council, a knowledge and learning center in Gaza.

DR. HANI MUSTAFA NUR EL-DIN | Reevaluation of the Tell et Tell Site: A Possible Model for Palestinian Archaeology



Tell et Tell, near the town of Deir Dibwan, is widely considered one of the largest archaeological sites in Palestine, gaining importance as a result of extensive archaeological research in the early decades of the 20th century. Dr. Hani Mustafa Nur el-Din believes that, as with other sites in Palestine, Tell et Tell needs reevaluation. To this end, he is conducting a long-term study that goes beyond the limitations of previous perspectives and research findings to formulate a more inclusive and cultur-

ally sensitive evaluation. This includes a clearer identification of contributing factors in forming the cultural history of the site relative to the region's chronology, specifically relating to its appearance, the re-evolution of the site during the various urban periods, and resettlement of the site after long periods of disturbance.

Nur el-Din believes it is also important to study settlement distribution in order to fully understand the site and its relation to others in the region. "A new approach to the site will result in an assessment of its total importance and encourage its preservation," asserts Nur el-Din, who expects the outcomes of his study "to challenge usual assumptions and provide fresh perspectives on cultural evolution in Palestine, unencumbered by preconceptions."

Tell et Tell has been the subject of archaeological investigations since 1922, when the British archaeologist John Garstang excavated trenches in the north and the west. Eleven years later, under J. M. Krause, excavation began on the Acropolis, the Iron Age Village, and the Citadel. Joseph Callaway directed excavations for The American Society of Oriental Research from the mid-1960s to the early 1970s, concentrating on limited parts of Krause's areas and opening others. He also excavated on the periphery of Tell et Tell and the town of Deir Dibwan, looking for the Biblical Ai.

The focus on the Biblical Ai site led to the excavation of only limited areas that would have shed light on the Early Bronze Age. Preliminary and final reports of the excavation clearly show that the archaeological evidence covered mostly the fortification system (walls, gates, towers, and water cisterns) in the main areas west and east of the Tell; the information concerning the buildings dating to the Early Bronze Age and located on the Acropolis still needs clarification.

The main scientific and archaeological objectives of Nur el-Din's study include a clearer understanding of settlement distribution in the region during the Early Bronze Age, study of settlement patterns of early urban sites in Palestine, and clarification of the importance of the Tell et Tell site vis-à-vis other sites of this period in Palestine and the region. During summer 2005, a team of 15 students and two instructors from Al-Quds University concentrated on the following during four weeks of fieldwork:

- Development of archaeological approaches and techniques, including anthropological and microenvironment analysis, to facilitate greater understanding of the cultural and environmental history of the site and its surroundings. The team utilized GIS and GPS in their dig to ensure the accuracy of data.
- Identification of the Acropolis building for analysis of settlement patterns and cultural data during the Early Bronze Age.
- The opening of new areas of excavation within the lower limits of the city, in order to identify and understand the public and private buildings there during the early urban period in Palestine (the Early Bronze Age, ca. 3200-2300 B.C.).
- Study of the cultural break after the end of the Early Bronze Age III, including data from the vicinity of Tell et Tell dating to the Middle and Late Bronze Age.
- Evaluation of existing information from previous reports, including analysis of major data detailing the Tell during the Iron Age.

The ultimate outcome of the project, Nur el-Din believes, will be to "refocus the general direction of archaeological emphasis in the Palestine/Israel area without marginalizing certain sites." It will also more clearly define Palestinian archaeology that "highlights cultural and human history and its continuities, providing the local area and its population with connections and relevance to this history."

Nur el-Din's research will eventually result in the publication of technical reports, brochures for foreign visitors, and information presented to the local population to make the site and its restoration more meaningful.

FAEDAH M. TOTAH | Palestinian Refugees in the Old City of Damascus



In the old city of Damascus, Syrians and Palestinians are witnessing the transformation of their neighborhoods as investors create new spaces, such as restaurants and hotels. Ms. Faedah M. Totah, a doctoral candidate in anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin, will explore the Palestinian refugee community's response to the changes by looking at their social behavior and the impact of gentrification, preservation, and regional politics. "There is a lack of research on Palestinians in Syria in general, the old city of Damascus in particular," says Totah, who believes that, in order to be complete, research on Damascus must include a study of the local Palestinian community's impact on the cityscape. "The city provides valuable insight in understanding the changing world around us, as it is the site where global and local come together."

In her research, Totah will analyze identity formation and expression in the Palestinian refugee community, and the extent to which they become part of their neighborhood and forge links to their local environment, while at the same time maintaining strong ties to their greater national community. She will also examine how Palestinian refugees in Damascus have reconstructed their communities after fleeing their homeland, and how these communities are affected by regional changes.

In her work Totah focuses on Damascus as the embodiment of a refashioned yet contested and negotiated space between the state and the public. She will investigate the process of continuity and change in the old city and how communities respond to socio-economic challenges in the transformation of their physical environment. She will also examine Palestinian refugees' myriad coping methods in an environment affected by a simultaneously hostile and friendly regional and international political climate.

Totah points out that the lives of Palestinian refugees in Damascus also reflect the trials and tribulations of the larger,

worldwide Palestinian community, which in turn reinforces their transient existence. "Palestinians retain a strong national identity, and though they live in the old city they maintain tight connections to Palestinians living in refugee camps in Syria and other countries. As a result, they live in the old city of Damascus as refugees and consider themselves as part of the imagined Palestinian nation." During a prior study, Totah discovered that in addition to historians and architects involved in preservation efforts, refugees in the old city are active in their neighborhoods through volunteer work, participation in local community events, and other activities that enhance their quality of life.

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"The city [of Damascus] provides valuable insight in understanding the changing world around us, as it is the site where global and local come together."
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Totah's current research will combine both ethnographic and historical methods, beginning with a historical reconstruction of how and why Palestinians moved to the old city and the processes involved. Once she determines which neighborhoods have the largest concentration of Palestinian refugees, Totah will review archival sources as well as oral and case histories. She will ask how living in the old city has differentiated those Palestinian refugees from others living in Syrian refugee camps, and will focus on how Palestinians add to the city's diversity.

Totah will use participant-observation and interviews to understand the nuances of daily life. She will center her research on a Palestinian women's center that provides volunteer services to the community. This center, Totah asserts, illustrates the refugees' commitment to the community: "What sets them apart from their Syrian neighbors in some instances is their proactive approach to matters in the neighborhood."

A two-time Fulbright award recipient, Totah earned her undergraduate degree in anthropology at Wellesley College, and completed her master's degree in Arab studies at Georgetown University. She is currently a doctoral candidate in anthropology at the University of Texas, Austin.

REEVALUATION OF THE TELL ET TELL SITE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Nur el-Din completed his undergraduate degrees in archaeology and anthropology and sociology at Birzeit University. He holds a maitrise in history of arts and archaeology and a master's degree in the sciences of the antiquities from the University of Strasbourg.

He earned his doctorate in archaeology from the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes Sect IV in Paris, and is currently an assistant professor in the department of archaeology at Al-Quds University.

FALESTIN NAILI | Patterns of Memory and Oblivion in the West Bank Village of Artas



It is a widely accepted theory that people define their identity in relationship to a real or imagined “other.” The inhabitants of the West Bank village of Artas have repeatedly been confronted with the “other” in the form of European and American missionaries, researchers, settlers, and pilgrims. Until now, no researcher has examined the role of these Westerners in village history or the influence of their presence on the villagers’ sense of identity.

This notable gap in research inspired

Ms. Falestin Naili to study patterns of memory and oblivion in the village of Artas, focusing on events from 1848 to 1948.

“Palestinian memory has been studied largely in relation to refugees and the trauma of displacement,” she explains. “The uniqueness of this project is in its comparison of memories of current inhabitants of Artas versus memories of the refugees who fled to Jordan during the 1967 war—about a third of the village population.” Naili posits that comparison of the memories of the villagers will show how later memories can affect previous ones, and also how refugee communities “create and transmit memories of their home.” She thinks that later memories and present experience are bound to influence how people relate to their collective past, and may be particularly powerful in determining which memories they retain and which they discard.

Naili’s study will compare written, archival history with popular history transmitted within families and social groups, specifically the history told by the women of Artas, as she believes the role of women in the preservation and transmission of oral history is particularly important. Her project will aim to recreate the way the inhabitants of Artas experienced the presence of Westerners in their village. She will also analyze the influence this Western presence had on the villagers’ sense of identity.

To this end, Naili will examine the carefully preserved memories surrounding two European women who lived in Artas for a relatively long time—Louise Baldensperger, the daughter of an Alsatian missionary, and Hilma Granqvist, a Finnish anthropologist, who studied social life in the village

during the British Mandate. Granqvist posthumously inspired one of the villagers to establish an ethnographic museum there in the 1990s. However, the villagers have apparently forgotten two English families who settled there around 1850 and were part of the movement to “restore” Jews to Palestine advocated at the time by some Anglo-Saxon Protestant churches and sects.

The study will be an interdisciplinary project, combining historical and anthropological research methods. Historical evidence will consist of archival records concerning the village and the Western settlers, which she will analyze in light of relevant macro-historical information, such as the political and social transformations Palestine was experiencing at the time and the development of different missionary and colonialist movements.

Naili will perform fieldwork in Amman and research in the archives of the University of Jordan, where she hopes to find relevant documents in the records of the Religious Court of Jerusalem. She also plans further research in European archives, including those of the missionary societies kept at Birmingham University and the archives of the Palestine Exploration Fund in London. In addition, she plans to review the archives of the British Museum, the library of St. Anthony’s College at Oxford, the French National Archives in Nantes, and the Quai d’Orsay in Paris.

Her ethnographic evidence will include interviews of current residents of Artas, refugees from Artas in Amman, and the descendants of Western researchers, settlers, and missionaries. For her ethnographic fieldwork, she will use non-directive interviewing, a method designed to highlight issues that the informants themselves find central, rather than manipulate the situation according to the interests and assumptions of the researcher.

Naili received her undergraduate degree in liberal arts and social sciences from the New School for Social Research, part of the New School University in New York. She holds a D.E.A. (M.A.) degree in African, Arab and Turkish studies from the University of Aix-Marseille I, where she is currently a doctoral candidate.

PARC 2007-2008 Research Fellowships

PARC is now accepting applications for pre- and post-doctoral fellowships for scholarly research into Palestinian-related topics for the 2007-2008 academic year. Fields of study and historical time period are open.

Fellowships may range between \$4,500 and \$6,000, with a possible additional \$1,000 for travel expenses.

For application guidelines, visit our Web sites at www.parc-us.org or www.parc-palestine.org, or contact one of PARC's offices:

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Fellowship funding provided by grants from the Ford Foundation, the Educational and Cultural Affairs Bureau of the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Department of Education.

SUSPENDED COMMUNITY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

in-depth interviews will be used to collect the bulk of the data. Historical texts will also be used to contextualize the responses of the informants, verify certain historical dates and events, and provide source material for questions. Participant observation will also be used to gain unarticulated information and as prompts for additional questions. Serhan plans mainly to conduct in-depth interviews with both first and second generation immigrants. She will also examine the significance of weddings and wedding videos in the Palestinian immigrant community, specifi-

cally how they can act as a virtual simulation of village life and a surrogate for face-to-face interaction.

Serhan completed her undergraduate degree in sociology at the American University of Beirut and holds master's degrees from the University of Windsor, Canada and Columbia University, where she is currently a doctoral candidate. An experienced researcher, she has also worked for a variety of non-governmental organizations as a translator, teacher, and project manager.



CHARACTERIZATIONS OF ALEXANDER WADI CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

"The conceptual and procedural protocol will include, generally, the collection of available data, carrying out chemical and biological analysis, and employment of mathematical and process-based models to perform the simulation and to provide the proposed protection measures in terms of groundwater wells." Almasri will use geographic information systems (GIS) technology in his research to better assemble the database and to improve visualization, analysis, assessment, management and decision-making. Almasri believes this will be the first time GIS technology has been utilized in this context.

Almasri completed his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Aleppo, Syria, and also holds a master's degree in civil engineering from An-Najah National University in Nablus, Palestine. Almasri earned his doctorate in civil and environmental engineering from Utah State University, and is currently a researcher at the Water and Environmental Studies Institute (WESI) at An-Najah National University.



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