



BRISMES
British Society for Middle Eastern Studies



BRISMES CONFERENCE 2025



**Destruction, Loss, and Recovery
in the Middle East**

Conference Schedule

1-3 July 2025, Newcastle University

Registration and Coffee/Tea

9:00 – onwards, Tuesday, 1st July, 2025
Henry Daysh Building (HDB) Ground Floor

(1A) Futurities, Sovereignties, and Otherwise: Conversations on Alternative Sovereign Imaginations for the Future

11:00 - 13:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025
HDB.1.09

28 Futurities, Sovereignties, and Otherwise: Conversations on Alternative Sovereign Imaginations for the Future

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

More often than not, sovereignty has primarily been approached as a quality confined and “wedded” to the state (Bryant and Reeves 2021, 8). Yet, in light of the omnipresent violence of national and imperial statecraft, ordinary people have come to forge alternative notions

and claims to sovereign-being. How could we imagine such claims to sovereignty that despite being informed by stately logics, nevertheless articulate their claims through co-opting repertoires and zones that seek to disrupt, albeit temporarily, such stately logics and cultivate otherwise ways of occupying the world. Specifically, to what temporal tactics/technologies do ordinary people turn in order to lay these claims to sovereignty? This panel approaches these questions from multiple ethnographic trajectories. Drawing on research with Sinai Bedouins, Alaa Mitwaly's examines imaginations of the desert that sketch future political possibilities. Noha Fikry's paper takes us to the world of jinns, focusing on cycles of debt through which working class families in Egypt chase a dream of digging for Pharaonic treasures underneath their houses. In Turkey, Ferda Demirci's paper examines how the Turkish state turns to financial interest as a historical anchor to revitalize various sovereignty claims. Envisioning the pragmatics of return for Palestinian refugees, Marianna Reis's paper examines how community-based land planning projects draft plans for "to-be-rebuilt" versions of Israeli destroyed Palestinian villages. Abdulla Majeed's paper examines how Iraqi exiles in Jordan claim exilic sovereignty by turning to forms of speculative labour in order to navigate the haunting presence of US imperial statecraft in their everyday lives.

Chair

Zainab Saleh

Haverford College

Position Associate Professor of Anthropology

Participant

Alaa Mitwaly

University of Toronto

Position PhD Candidate

Noha Fikry

University of Toronto

Position PhD Candidate

Abdulla Majeed

Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

Position Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Ferda Nur Demirci Eryat

Max Planck Institute

Position Postdoctoral Fellow

Marianna Reis

University of Toronto

Position PhD Candidate

267 Debt, Interest and Affects of Asymmetry: Forging Belonging through Dependency, Humiliation and Financial Inclusion in Turkey

Ferda Nur Demirci Eryat

University of Toronto. Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

268 The Speculative Labor of Maşyr: Trials toward a Worldly Sovereignty in Exile

Abdulla Majeed

Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

299 Sinai Foretellers: Invisible Waterways, Warfare, and Wayfarers

Alaa Mitwaly

University of Toronto

314 Planning for the Future: Returning to Al-Lajjun

Marianna Reis

University of Toronto

295 Digging for the Ancestors: On Perfect Pasts & Futures Perfect

Noha Fikry

University of Toronto

(1B) Families, Reproduction, and Genocidal Warfare in Gaza

11:00 - 13:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

HDB.2.13

452 Generational Experiences of the Israeli Settler Colonial State and its Permutations in Gaza

Silvia Pasquetti, Jemima Repo

Newcastle University

513 Familicide and the Targeting of the Social in Gaza

Craig Jones¹, Anas Ismail¹, Reem Almassri²

¹Newcastle University. ²Gaza

257 Social Reproduction, Life and Death in Palestine

Asma Abdi

University of Exeter

308 How can Psychotherapy Gold a Space for Strengthening Everyday Resistance? A Feminist Analysis of Palestinian Women's Narratives on Bringing Collective Trauma and Everyday Resistance to Therapy Rooms

Reem Mroueh¹, Kholoud Barakat²

¹Haigazian University. ²UCLouvain

17 Israeli Genocide and Reprocide in Gaza: Testimonies about the Assault on Palestinian Reproductive Health during the Genocide

Hala Shoman

Newcastle University

(1C) Minorities, Loss, and State Violence in the MENA

11:00 - 13:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

HDB.1.04

144 Policing the Bedouins: Settlement, Land, and Criminality in Modern Egypt

Salma Shash

UCSB

156 Hybridity as Resistance: Views about Tamazight in Scientific Higher Education in Postcolonial Algeria

Imene Medfouni¹, Yousef Barahmeh²

¹Middle East University, Jordan. ²Isra University, Jordan

240 Remembering the Violent Past and Imagining the Future: Turkish Nationalist Politics and Armenians' Lived Experiences

Yesim Bayar

St. Lawrence University

40 Ruination and Resistance: The Struggle for Identity and Survival Among Iraq's Christian Communities

Mohamad El-Jabi

St Paul University, University of Ottawa

(1D) Humour, Carisma, and Resilience in Art and Media

11:00 - 13:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

HDB.G.06

6 The Epistemic Modes of Muqtada al-Sadr's Charisma Production on Hybrid Media

Ali Alsayegh

Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter

92 Comedy as a Tool for Authoritarian Resilience: State-Sponsored Torture in Syrian TV Comedies

Wassim Naboulsi

University of St Andrews

213 Improvising Life: Between Humour and 'Figuring Out' Everyday Life in Cairo

Adam Adam

University of California, Irvine

391 Queer Arab Art in the Wake of the Arab Spring: Humour, Visibility and Wider Social Reform

Feras Alkabani

University of Sussex

(1E) Speculative Landscapes of MENA (I): Cities, Value Extraction, Contested Futures

11:00 - 13:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

HDB.2.12

5 Speculative Landscapes of MENA (I): Cities, Value Extraction, Contested Futures

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

Coercion, destruction and ruination are crucial enablers of capitalist speculation. The spatial and regulatory gaps, as well as opportunities, produced through distributions of violence work alongside capitalism's tendency to resolve its crisis tendencies through geographical expansion and restructuring. One result of such dynamics are new frontiers for accumulation, landscapes where value creation and extraction rely on speculative forms of future-making that seek to direct capital towards various ends. On most occasions, such spaces are the purview of the powerful, as images of urbicide, relocation and reconstruction—from Homs to Gaza, Cairo and Khartoum—make clear. Yet rendering value out of the not yet can, on occasion, favour the otherwise marginalised as they work the hinge between the legal and illegal, the prohibited and proscribed.

Across two panels, we seek to consider diverse forms of violence and their entanglement with evolving *landscapes of speculation* in the contemporary MENA. In doing so, the panels

will unpack the temporal continuities of coercion and their relationship to different projects of extraction in the region. By placing emphasis on *landscapes*, the panels foreground changing materialities and spatialities of frontier- and future-making, considering the ways in which speculation relates to “capitalization” (Mitchell in Abourahme and Jabary-Salamanca 2016), and the construction of particular technical, spatial and political arrangements. At the same time, we hope to illuminate the improvisational, affective, and imaginary forms of future-making that take place across market boundaries and which seek to redirect capital towards various ends (Bear 2020).

Chair

José Ciro Martínez

King’s College London

Position Lecturer

Participant

Rosa Sansone

Position Lecturer

Katharina Grueneis

University of Nottingham

Position Research Fellow

Omar Sirri

University of Toronto

Position Postdoctoral Fellow

Aya Nassar

Durham University

Position Assistant Professor

58 Rusty Trucks and Floating Algae: Remnants of Performative Future-Making in Aqaba

Katharina Grueneis

University of Nottingham. Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain

62 The Elemental City: Revolutionary Space, Time and Matter

Aya Nassar

Durham University

182 Capitalising the Surrounds: Securing Baghdad's Hinterlands

Omar Sirri

University of Toronto

355 Megaprojects, Silences and Risk in Post-Revolution Tunis

Rosa Sansone

Independent

(1F) Critical Perspectives on MENA Uprisings and Protest Movements (Part 1)

11:00 - 13:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

HDB.1.07

28 Contingent Resistance: The Liberation Movement of Iran-Abroad, Nasser's Egypt, and Transnational Guerrilla Activism

Ashkan Hashemipour

University of Oxford

42 Resurgence of the Âşık/Alevi Music in the Urban Sphere and the Turkish Left, 1960-1980

Ozgur Balkilic

Abdullah Gül University

210 Typology of the Arab Left

Cyrus Roedel

Durham University

296 Strong Bonds, Weak Bridges: Network Dynamics and Revolutionary Mobilization in the Syrian Uprising

Motasem Abuzaid¹, Kevin Mazur²

¹University of Oxford. ²King's College London

404 From the Eyes of the Communists; Communes Governing Iraqi Kurdistan

Mohammed Othman

Freie Universität Berlin

(1G) Death and Injury as Life Possibility/ies (I)

11:00 - 13:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

HDB.1.10

9 Death and Injury as Life Possibility/ies (I)

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

This 2-part panel is a tribute to the everyday acts of refusal that ordinary MENA people embody and enact in the face of the geo- and chrono- politics that construct death as an inevitable life companion. This tribute, however, is fraught with analytic traps, notably the casting of resilience as the ultimate answer in the face of certain death. Instead, this panel ponders the afterlives of death and injury by investigating the possibility/ies of life, beyond survivalist conventions. To this end, the panel engages feminist, queer, anti- and decolonial approaches to read the new international normal (i.e. genocide as accepted threshold) in myriad spatio-temporalities (Gaza/Palestine, the online sphere, the Aids pandemic, country and city life, Iran, Kurdistan, Afghanistan). Speculation, hauntings, laughter, exile and seeking refuge are some of the notions that capture death and injury not as conditions but along a spectrum of possibility/ies. Panel (I) prioritizes Palestine and queer analysis to test the boundaries of living alongside death, whilst Panel (II) ponders the potential of desire, the arts, and memory in contesting the condition of 'ruins' that coloniality exerts everywhere.

Chair

Alice Finden

Durham University

Position Assistant Professor in International Politics

Participant

Sabiha Allouche

University of Exeter, IAIS

Position Lecturer in Middle East Politics

Sophie Chamas

SOAS, University of London

Position Senior Lecturer in Gender Studies

Asma Abdi

University of Exeter

Position Lecturer in Middle East Politics and International Relations

Hanna AlTaher

TU Dresden

Position Lecturer Political Theory and History of Ideas

Salma Yassine

University of Exeter, IAIS

Position PhD Candidate in Arab and Islamic Studies

88 Speculating for Palestine

Sabiha Allouche

University of Exeter

211 Death Time and Pink Triangles Once More

Sophie Chamas

SOAS, University of London

103 “And I Would Still be Laughing with Three Minutes to Live” - Laughter as Smashin’ out in Times of Annihilation

Hanna AlTaher

TU Dresden

104 Social Reproduction, Life and Death in Palestine

Asma Abdi

University of Exeter, IAIS

110 Beirut as City and Lover: Queering Loss in The Window (2022)

Salma Yassine

University of Exeter, IAIS

(1H) Violence, Martyrdom, and Political Transformation across the MENA

11:00 - 13:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

HDB.1.11

249 Stupid Death and (Un)making of Kinship after the Islamic State

Alyssa Miller

German Institute for Global and Area Studies

438 The Transition of Armed Resistance Leadership in Lebanon from Leftist to Islamic Forces: Causes and Consequences

Ali Ismail

AUB

459 Bombs on the Road: The Weaponization of the Automobile in Pahlavi and Islamic Republic Iran, 1977-88.

Guan Teh

University of St Andrews

9 Rescaling Soviet-Turkish Borderlands: Armenian Intellectual Trajectories in Mid-Twentieth-Century Istanbul

Hilal Yavuz

University of Freiburg

101 Martyrdom in the Contemporary Discourses of Lebanon: Narratives of Loss and Victory

Bronte Philips

King's College London. Afghan Witness

(2I) Palestine and Academic Freedom in German Middle Eastern Studies

11:00 - 13:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

HDB.3.76

14 Palestine and Academic Freedom in German Middle Eastern Studies

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

As Israel continues its genocidal war and ethnic cleansing in Palestine, with Germany's direct military and political support, the upholding of fantasies of German redemption, superior civilisation and moral authority builds on increasingly authoritarian logics. These manifest in the repression of expressions of solidarity with Palestine or Palestinians, growing attacks on academic freedoms, the criminalisation of Palestinian political existence and the effective ideological and material erasure of Palestine. The criminalisation and/or public condemnation of analytical or descriptive terminology such as 'genocide', 'Nakba', 'settler colonialism' and 'apartheid' renders meaningful conversations about Palestine practically impossible in Germany. Against this backdrop, and despite better knowledge, German Middle Eastern Studies globally as a discipline excels in acquiescence, silence and/or absence from public engagement. Attacks on academic freedoms stretch from entry bans via the institutionalisation of the IHRA definition of antisemitism to parliamentary resolutions that make the receipt of public funding conditional on academics' political views on Israel. This roundtable seeks to tackle the colonially-constituted erasure of Palestine in Germany and beyond, the persistence of Orientalist framings in German Middle Eastern Studies and the

authoritarian practices that protect notions of German moral authority and superiority, while simultaneously facilitating support for genocide and undermining academic freedoms.

Chair

Hanna Kienzler

King's College London

Position Professor of Global Health

Participant

Hanna Al-Taher

TU Dresden

Position Research Associate

Paniz Musawi-Natanzi

University of Pennsylvania

Position Postdoctoral Fellow

Howie Rechavia-Taylor

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Position LSE Fellow

Ilyas Saliba

Global Public Policy Institute (GPPI)

Position Non-Resident Fellow

Benjamin Schuetze

Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI)

Position Senior Researcher

(2J) Destruction, Isolation and Resilience: Urban Situation of Baghdad in the 1990s

11:00 - 13:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

HDB.1.13

19 Destruction, Isolation and Resilience: Urban Situation of Baghdad in the 1990s

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

The Gulf War of 1991 was a watershed moment in the history of contemporary Iraq. The bombing campaign carried out by the coalition forces to drive Iraq out of Kuwait resulted in the nearly total collapse of Iraqi military and civilian infrastructure. The destruction inflicted by the Gulf War piled on the damage caused by the Iran-Iraq War that finished in 1988. The system of comprehensive sanctions imposed by the Security Council to coerce Iraq into accepting coalition terms resulted in a severe economic crisis, further deterioration of infrastructure and services, and international isolation. The government had to break with decades-long dependence on foreign expertise and rely on Iraqi engineering cadres and locally available materials to rebuild the country. Amidst the hardship, the Iraqi regime continued to construct a number of prestige projects aimed to project the image of strength and defiance to both domestic and international audiences. Yet these projects did little to address the real needs of the Iraqi population suffering from malnutrition, deterioration of health and education services, rampant inflation and poverty, or lack of housing. The panel focuses on the perspective of Iraqi professionals who experienced and shaped the urban situation of Baghdad in the 1990s. It brings together different case studies that show the ideas and designs, urban practices and means of resilience, through which Iraqi professionals, and other urban actors, responded to the complex realities of that decade.

Chair

Marta Wozniak-Bobinska

University of Lodz

Position Professor

Participant

Dorota Woroniecka-Krzyzanowska

Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences

Position Assistant Professor

Ghada Al Slik

Department of Architecture, University of Baghdad

Position Professor

Aleksandra Wojtaszek

Graduate School for Social Research, Polish Academy of Sciences

Position PhD candidate

Raghad Fadhil

Department of Architecture, University of Baghdad

Position PhD candidate

163 Made of Resilience: Postwar Reconstruction in the 1990s Baghdad

Dorota Woroniecka-Krzyzanowska

Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences

164 The Power of Unbuilt Architecture in Times of Change: The Case of State Mosque in Baghdad

Ghada Al Slik

Department of Architecture, University of Baghdad

166 Choice and Action: Residents' Role in the Transformation of Modern Residential Neighborhoods in Baghdad (1990- 2024)

Raghad Fadhil

Department of Architecture, University of Baghdad. Mustansiriyah University

167 Planning in Isolated City: Urban Planners in Baghdad under International Sanctions (1990-2003)

(2K) Genocide, Conflict and Environmental Destruction

11:00 - 13:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025
HDB.1.06

42 Genocide, Conflict and Environmental Destruction

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

The roundtable deals with the impact of conflict on the environment and the concept of environmental justice. Such impact has long been documented from the use of military equipment and materials on the environment to societies living in a destitute environment during and after conflict. The destruction and rehabilitation of the environment exacts a toll on the populations, where environmental justice is overlooked. The speakers will discuss conflicts, environmental harm, and weaponisation of water reflecting on Gaza, and Palestine, with learning also from Algeria, Iran, Syria, Kurdistan, and Iraq. The discussants will look at how targeting the environment in Gaza has become a means to target the human population rather than attacking the human directly as argued by Peter Sloterdijk in his concept of "atmoterrorism". Furthermore, the roundtable will consider the issue of the temporality of the environmental impact of conflict and how environmental justice performs over time. The roundtable will juxtapose remedial action taken to solve the environmental consequences of conflict, including environmental justice, during peace times with the direct action to harm the environment during conflict as a means for punishing and creating an unliveable habitat. We will enquire about imaginaries of recovery and liberation, connecting past and present through memories of oppression and resistance, and will raise questions around the afterlives of debris and loss. How can past and present forms of genocidal violence and environmental destruction, including of the climate, be understood and countered including through cultural and other artistic responses to war and ruination.

Chair

Jessica Northey

Coventry

Position Assistant Professor

Participant

Sa'ad Halawani

Coventry University

Position PhD researcher

Fidan Mirhanoglu

University of Paris VIII - French Institute of Geopolitics

Position Researcher

Marzieh Kouhi- Esfahani

Durham University

Position Assistant Professor

Latefa Guemar

University of East London

Position Researcher

Ikram Berkani

Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum

Position Researcher and Community Development Worker

Lunch

13:00 - 14:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

Marquee

(2A) Voices Resisting Silence: Literature Confronting Erasure (Part 1)

14:00 - 16:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

HDB.1.09

7 "In their Hearts is a Fire that Won't be Put Out": Melancholic Dispatches from the Gazan Genocide

Layla AlAmmar

American University of Kuwait

236 Literary Longings for Palestine in Times of Destruction - Perspectives from the Maghreb

Hanan Natour

Freie Universität Berlin. Cluster of Excellence "Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective"

318 Writing Through Loss: Scriptotherapy and Resistance in Selected Palestinian Literary Texts

Fatema Al-Zahraa Shahwan

Faculty of Women for Arts, Ain Shams University

386 Our Oracle-Ruin: Reading the Arabic Poetic in Light of Gaza

Huda Fakhreddine

University of Pennsylvania

(2B) Social Media Activism and Resistance

14:00 - 16:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

HDB.2.13

13 Locating the Digital: Examining Why Place Remains Important within Social Media Activism against Gender-based Violence in the MENA Region

Bronwen Mehta

University of Warwick

90 Online Communities and Collective Resistance toward Trauma Healing in the Remainings of the Lebanese Thawra

Antonina Albanese¹, Giulia Tarantino²

¹Università di Palermo. ²CESIE ETS

151 Losing and Recovering Sound Files: On the Shifting Significance of Mp3 Compilation Albums between Authoritarianism and Democracy in Tunis

Susannah Knights

Queen's University Belfast

198 Archiving Syrian Protest Songs from YouTube: A Case Study from Bustan al-Qasr, East Aleppo

Clara Wenz

416 From Ruins to Resonance: From Ruins to Resonance: How Independent Syrian Media Showcases Syrian Artists in the Post-Assad Recovery

Catherine Cornet

American University of Rome. Sciencespo Paris

(2C) Academic and Student Responses to Israel's War on Gaza

14:00 - 16:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

HDB.1.04

120 Breaking the Silencing: British Academia in Time of Genocide and the Call for Academic Boycott

Gabriella Ibba

University of East London

29 Why Must Holding Israel Accountable be Tied to Holding Palestine Accountable?

Mohamed Soufan

Balsillie School of International Affairs. University of Waterloo

390 The Student Divestment Movement in the United Kingdom: A Case Study of the Student Movement towards Divestment from Israel

Omat Mofeed

University of West London

283 Online Language Education for Resilience and Hope: Linking English Language Students at the Islamic University of Gaza and Northumbria University

Bill Guariento¹, Nazmi Al-Masri²

¹Northumbria University. ²Islamic University of Gaza

444 Questioning Research in Times of War: Knowledge as Production as Surveillance

Islam Al Khatib

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

(2D) Speculative Landscapes of MENA (II): Financial Flows and Frontier-Making

14:00 - 16:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

HDB.G.06

6 Speculative Landscapes of MENA (II): Financial Flows and Frontier-Making

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

Coercion, destruction and ruination are crucial enablers of capitalist speculation. The spatial and regulatory gaps, as well as opportunities, produced through distributions of violence work alongside capitalism's tendency to resolve its crisis tendencies through geographical expansion and restructuring. One result of such dynamics are new frontiers for accumulation, landscapes where value creation and extraction rely on speculative forms of future-making that seek to direct capital towards various ends. On most occasions, such spaces are the purview of the powerful, as images of urbicide, relocation and reconstruction—from Homs to Gaza, Cairo and Khartoum—make clear. Yet rendering value out of the not yet can, on occasion, favour the otherwise marginalised as they work the hinge between the legal and illegal, the prohibited and proscribed.

Across two panels, we seek to consider diverse forms of violence and their entanglement with evolving *landscapes of speculation* in the contemporary MENA. In doing so, the panels will unpack the temporal continuities of coercion and their relationship to different projects of extraction in the region. By placing emphasis on *landscapes*, the panels foreground changing materialities and spatialities of frontier- and future-making, considering the ways in which speculation relates to “capitalization” (Mitchell in Abourahme and Jabary-Salamanca 2016), and the construction of particular technical, spatial and political arrangements. At the same time, we hope to illuminate the improvisational, affective, and imaginary forms of future-making that take place across market boundaries and which seek to redirect capital towards various ends (Bear 2020).

Chair

Katharina Grueneisl

University of Nottingham

Position Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Participant

Harry Pettit

Radboud University

Position Assistant Professor

Myriam Amri

Harvard University

Position Doctoral Candidate

José Ciro Martínez

King's College London

Position Lecturer

Mattin Biglari

Bristol University

Position Lecturer

71 The Moves of Money

Myriam Amri

Harvard University

91 The Labor of Speculation on a Moroccan Cannabis Farm

José Ciro Martinez

King's College London

222 The Great Acceleration in a Desert Landscape: Environmental Imaginaries, Dispossession, and the Construction of the Aden Oil Refinery, 1952-54

Mattin Biglari

University of Bristol

215 Lebanon as Laboratory: Speculation and Extraction within Beirut's Tech Start-up Scene

Harry Pettit

Radboud University Nijmegen

(2E) Kurdistan and the Politics of Insecurity: Law, Memory, and Resistance in a Fractured Region

14:00 - 16:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

HDB.2.12

66 The Role NATO Can Play in Addressing Human Security in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq: A Legal Analysis of ISIL Threats

Saman Omar

University of Duhok and Universiti Utara Malaysia

180 Turkey's Destruction of Kurdish Graves

Deniz Arbet Nejbir

Mesopotamia Observatory of Justice

184 Decentralised Perspectives on Kurdish (Para)statehood

Jan Byczkowski

non-affiliated. PhD, alumnus of Marmara University, Turkey

226 "Call us the Forgotten People" - Former Kurdish Rebels on Loss, Silence and Care

Isabel Käser

University of Bern

(2F) Narratives of Violence in Syria in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries: Sources, Interpretations, and the Challenges of History Writing

14:00 - 16:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

HDB.1.07

20 Narratives of Violence in Syria in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries: Sources, Interpretations, and the Challenges of History Writing

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

Ottoman Syria or Bilad al-Sham saw numerous episodes of violent conflict in the 19th and early 20th centuries – described variously as sectarian fighting, anti-state or anti-colonial rebellion, or banditry and crime. The stories of ordinary participants in these conflicts are less well-known than those of elite or foreign witnesses. Such stories exist, but they are often transmitted in forms which present significant problems for the historian: oral accounts can be filtered through layers of remembering; texts are written down much later or significantly edited; defensive or self-glorifying arguments abound. This roundtable will interrogate the status and usefulness of such sources. What can they tell us about such moments of conflict, and about the way these were later memorialised? Can such problematic sources help us adjudicate arguments about the nature of the original conflicts – nationalist uprising versus sectarian oppression, for instance? Or do they tend to blur the boundaries between such categories? Do they get us closer to the fighters' own motivations, or only to the processes by which people later came to terms with conflict and their own participation, or that of people close to them? What determines which episodes and actors are recuperated into official narratives, such as nationalist ones, and which are rejected?

Chair

Peter Hill

Northumbria University

Position Associate Professor

Participant

Cyma Farah

University of Oxford

Position Post-doctoral Research Associate

Orçun Okan

University of Oxford

Position Post-doctoral Research Associate

Christopher Cooper-Davies

University of Oxford

Position Post-doctoral Research Associate

Peter Hill

Northumbria University

Position Associate Professor

Weston Bland

University of Oxford

Position Researcher

(2G) Migrant Lives and Neoliberal Orders: Labor, Care, and Precarity in the Middle East

14:00 - 16:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

HDB.1.10

196 Doing Decolonization's Dirty Work: Refugee-Migrant Labour in the Cultural Sector

Kay Dickinson

University of Glasgow

271 Between Markets and Margins: Critical Perspectives on Neoliberal Governance and the Livelihoods of Displaced Sudanese Women in Egypt

Mariam Moussa

The American University in Cairo. The London School of Economics and Political Science

345 The 2022 FIFA World Cup and its Influence on Changes in Qatar's Immigration Policies

Justyna Gumulak

University of Lodz, Poland

503 Who Cares for the Caged Bird?": An Ethnography of Migrant South Asian Women's Care Work for Incarcerated Family Members in the United Arab Emirates

Chandni Sai Ganesh

Institute of Development Studies. University of Sussex

27 'Neoliberal inclusion' and 'Bare Life': Syrian Refugee Children with Disabilities' Experiences in Accessing Education in Lebanon

Giada Costantini

University of Birmingham

(2H) The Role of the Palestinian Shatat in Mobilizing Against the Genocide: A Roundtable Discussion

14:00 - 16:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

HDB.1.13

17 The Role of the Palestinian Shatat in Mobilizing Against the Genocide: A Roundtable Discussion

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

Since October 7, 2023, the presence of Palestinian diasporas in Europe and Britain has represented a pivotal role in mobilizing for Palestinian liberation. These groups, composed primarily of second or third-generation Palestinian youth since the Nakba, have been advocating for mobilization and pushing for a shift in the narrative (Abu Samra & Qutami, 2020). We aim to engage in a conversation about the topic of political mobilization within the Palestinian exiled communities in the diaspora. Furthermore, we will share reflections on various case studies exploring how the Palestinian community has mobilized, with a particular focus on the protest dynamic methods and the brokerage role of the Giovani Palestinesi d'Italia in the Italian context. This discussion will examine the convergences and differences observed among the diverse generations of Palestinians in Europe and Britain, as well as analyze the emerging trends. The Palestinian subjectivity is mobilizing not only for the people of Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria but also to gain space and agency (Della Porta, 2024). Additionally, we intend to address the issue of political socialization for the younger generations of Palestinians in the diaspora and how it is shaping their political engagement (Habashi, 2017).

Chair

Mjriam Abu Samra

Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Position Marie Curie Global Research Fellow

Participant

Laila Sit Aboha

Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa

Position PhD Candidate in Sociology and Political Science

Basem Kharma

Università degli Studi di Milano

Position PhD Candidate in Contemporary History

Tamara Taher

University of Turin

Position Post-doc Research Fellow

(2I) Regulating Intimacy across Space and Time

14:00 - 16:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

HDB.1.06

263 Sexuality and Sovereignty: Constructing Empire through Sexual Regulation in Algeria and Palestine

Israa Laidi

University of Oran 2, Mohamed Ben Ahmed, Algeria.

288 Policing Intimacy: Mixed Marriages and State Control in the Late Ottoman Empire

Hakan Karpuzcu

57 Constructing Gender and Sexuality: Exploring Confinement and Resistance in a State-run Shelter in Cairo, Egypt

Maryam Fouad

University of Manchester

117 Counterterrorism and Colonialism: Everyday Violence in Britain and Egypt

Alice Finden

Durham University

(2J): Documentary Screening: 'She the Steadfast' by Joy Stacey

14:00 - 16:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

HER. Lth 1 Lecture Theatre

Tea & Coffee Break

16:00 - 16:30 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025

Open area - HDB third floor

Plenary (1): "Why Does History Matters" by Rana Barakat

16:30 - 18:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025
HER. Lth 1 Lecture Theatre

For the past nineteen months, genocidal violence has marked the everyday. Unbearable in its escalation across the geographies of Palestine, this violence is not new. We have a name for the inception of settler colonialism's fragmentation: Nakba. We have a name for this century of violence working to destroy Palestinian peoplehood: ongoing Nakba. In the face of an escalating Nakba, in an age of catastrophe, our histories, like our bodies, and our lands are in fragments. We have a name for this fragmentation: *shatat*. In the Nakba War, between the winter months of 1947, throughout the following year of 1948 and into the spring and summer of 1949, Zionist militias displaced three-quarters of the Palestinian people from their homeland. This was the initial making of *shatat*, the displacement, dispersion, destruction of a people that remains ongoing. The attempt to eliminate Palestinian life in Gaza is its culmination, or at least one of them.

The ongoing Nakba demands and makes demands of the historical. Epistemic erasure has rendered history a necessary means to document and resist the ongoing Nakba. The imperative of writing history has borne rich methodological contributions from the permission to narrate, to storytelling as navigating catastrophe, to memories of forgetfulness. These methodological interventions, like Palestine itself, are today under duress.

Palestine is not an exception. Today catastrophe is global. In 2025, Palestine is where the world is imploding through extraordinary explosions. The unbearable accumulation of horror requires documentation of death and destruction, of relentless war from the shores of the sea to the mountains that frame the river, and far beyond. Palestine is world making. As Palestinians are being brutally targeted from the air, sea and land, as infrastructures of life and living are destroyed, we struggle to count, the injured, the arrested and the dead – we struggle to claim life.

Palestine is today, the place of old worlds dying and new ones being born. We have names that respond to catastrophe and fragmentation, methods to gather the past and the present towards the future. *Shatat* is not simply exile or diaspora, it is a fragmentation that demands new ways a unification. We have a name, and a practice for that remedy: *lam shaml*. It means to be under collective care, to be covered, to be nurtured, to be gathered and to gather. Writing history in the present moves from and through *shatat* to this condition of nurture, care, and unity. It is a return of sorts in the conceptual horizon of ongoing return. For the Palestinians of the past and the present, under the constant reality of catastrophe and fragmentation, have honed practices of gathering and returning to land, to people, and to one another.

Welcome Reception and BRISMES Service Award

18:00 - 19:00 Tuesday, 1st July, 2025
HER. Concourse/Foyer

(3A) Artistic Responses to Colonialism in Palestine

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025
HDB.2.13

119 Transcending the Fault Line: Palestinian Hebrew Narrators in Israel

Andrea Pizzinato

Geneva Graduate Institute

246 On German Zionism: Art and Resistance in Berlin

Evgenija Filova

University of Vienna

498 Questioning Solidarity and Resistance in Pro-Palestinian 1970s Cinema

Thomas Richard

Boston University. Université Paris-1

35 "Let it be a Tale" - Causal Collapse, Poetry, and Witnessing Gaza

Roxanne Douglas

Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Warwick

14 Subtle Art of Aesthetic Resistance: Majd Abdel Hamid's Reinterpretation of Tatreez

Marta Woźniak-Bobińska

University of Lodz

(3B) Critical Perspectives on MENA Uprisings and Protest Movements (Part 2)

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.1.04

55 From Ruination to Re-imagination: Emotions, Spaces, and Resistance in Lebanon's October 17 Thawra Uprising

Mohamad El Kari

King's College London. The Global Strategy Network

178 Lessons in Transformative Politics beyond the Identity Paradigm From Jordan's Popular Movement

Sara Ababneh

University of Sheffield

443 Alternative Spaces of Democratic Participation - Environmental Activism and Algerian Youth Politics

Jessica Northey

Coventry University

168 Dialoguing The Ruins Of The Arab Spring: Discursive Metaphors of Loss, Resistance and Renewal In Contemporary Egypt's Lyrical Digital Activism

Maria Atmania

Manchester Metropolitan University

337 Resistance in the Football Stadium

MA Houna

Lancaster University

(3C) Migrant Experience and Migration Governance in Europe

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.G.06

56 Inheriting Loss: The Material Culture of Loss among Arabic Speaking Communities in the UK

Vicky Panossian

Sociology Department, Warwick University

329 Everyday Solidarity and Political Insight: Refugees from Arab States' Experiences in Scotland's Migration Landscape

Ryan Swan

University of St Andrews

359 Geopolitics and Refugee Management: The Circumvention of the Law for Syrian Refugees

Marya Al-Hindi

The University of Edinburgh

363 The Grass is not Always Greener on the Other Side: The Evolution of Iraqi Kurdish Migration to Europe - The Case of Kurdish Migrants in Athens and Dunkirk

Abdullah Yassen

Erbil Polytechnic University

494 Britain's Policy towards Iraqi Kurdish Political Refugees in Iran in 1975-76

Hawraman Ali

The University of Manchester

(3D) Security Policies, Interests and Identities

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.2.12

47 The Limits of Türkiye's Behaviour as a Bridge-builder in the Middle East: Applying Role-theory of Regional Powers in Security Policies

Edoardo Lavezzo

University of York

121 Rethinking the 1990-1991 Gulf Crisis in Jordan: Contesting Security Interests and Identities, and the Consensus

Shun Watanabe^{1,2}, Takuro Kikkawa³

¹Institute of Energy Economics, Japan. ²Kyoto University. ³Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

139 Iran and the Shifting Regional Order After October 7: Quo Vadis 'Forward Defence'?

Gulriz Sen

TOBB University of Economics and Technology

158 The Saudi-Led Blockade of Yemen: An Exploration of Accountability, Legality, and Psychological Harm

Tom Walsh^{1,2}, Heloise Giraudon³

¹Durham University. ²Northumbria University. ³University of Exeter (formerly)

(3E) Gender, Conflict, and Militarisation

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.1.07

307 Female Martyrs and Body Politics in War Zones in Arab Contexts

Jihan Zakarriya

Copenhagen University

433 Inside the Lodgments Beyond the Barracks: Masculinities and Familial Politics in Turkish Military Culture

Kadir Can Çelik

Bilkent University

405 The Gendered Impacts of Conflict and Crisis: Syrian Girls' Education and the Pathway to Recovery

Reem Nouredin

Independent Researcher

398 Post-Conflict Reconstruction as a Battleground: The 2024 Hezbollah-Israel War and Political Contestation in Lebanon

Talha İsmail Duman

Middle East Institute, Sakarya University, Turkey. Global Development Institute, Manchester University, UK

(3F) Ruination, Memory and Recovery in the MENA

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.1.10

65 "I Neither Forget nor Remember": Ruins, Nostalgia, and Resistance in the Poetry of Mahmoud Darwish

Maryam Abdi

The University of Göttingen

145 Beirut's Ruins as a Site of Memory: Abbas el Zein's Leave to Remain

Mortada Haidar

International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC). Justus Liebig University (JLU)

276 Ruins as Resistance: Decolonial Aesthetics in Kamal Aljafari's Jaffa Trilogy

Bahar Sarioglu

Royal Holloway, University of London

401 Purity, Ruination, and Resistance: The British Purification Campaign and the Ongoing Transformation of Sexual Norms in Egypt

Ahmed Awadalla

University of Strathclyde

500 Contending with Ruins: Personal Archives and the Historical Anthropology of Anticolonial Pasts

Bahi Ashraf

The American University in Cairo (AUC)

(3G) Navigating the Emotional Toll: Researching the Middle East During a Genocide (Part 1)

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.1.11

29 Navigating the Emotional Toll: Researching the Middle East During a Genocide (Part 1)

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

Researching heavy topics—such as exposure to traumatic narratives, reactivating personal traumas, or confronting one’s own history—presents immense emotional challenges. These challenges are particularly profound for early-career academics and international postgraduate students from the Middle East. The emotional burden deepens when a researcher’s personal identity intersects with their field of study or the lived experiences of their research participants. In the past year, these challenges have grown even more acute. The ongoing wars in Palestine and Lebanon, compounded by the complicity of academic institutions in the Global North and the policies of Western governments, have intensified this emotional strain. This roundtable engages with the experience of living in “everyday forms of crisis,” where grief is both personal and collective—an invisible archive of emotions often overlooked in academic settings. The discussion seeks to create a supportive space for researchers to examine the emotional toll of conducting research amidst genocide. By exploring these experiences, the roundtable aims to identify key patterns of emotional labor and deepen understanding of the challenges faced by scholars navigating these fraught realities.

Key Questions We Explore:

- What fragments do middle east researchers suppress to gain approval in Western academia?

- How does our positionality reduce us to mere mediators between an East and West alien to each other?
- How do we grapple with notions of belonging, non-being, and fugitivity while researching heavy topics?
- What are the challenges of conducting research within our own communities, and how do we avoid undermining groups facing repression and radicalization?

Chair

Kholoud Saber Barakat

Psychological Sciences Research Institute, UCLouvain

Position Postdoc Scientific Collaborator, UCLouvain

Participant

Laila Sit Aboha

Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa

Position PhD Candidate

Reem Mroueh

Independent Researcher

Position Holds a Master's degree in Psychology from Haigazian University

Nay El Rahi

University of Toronto

Position PhD Candidate

Reem Awny Abuzaid

University of Warwick

Position PhD Candidate

(3H) Martyr Genealogies: The Larger than Life (and Death) Epic of Palestinian and Lebanese Resistance

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.1.13

22 Martyr Genealogies: The Larger than Life (and Death) Epic of Palestinian and Lebanese Resistance

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

Throughout the last year, martyrdom defined the political landscape in the Arab world. Through the carnage in Gaza and Lebanon, through the martyrdom of the iconic and inspiring Resistance leaders, through the return of martyrdom operations, scenes of individual and collective martyrdom dominated our screens, and the concept of martyrdom continued to provide meaning to this expenditure of life.

Martyrdom in the history of the Resistance in the Arab world reformulates the problematic of life and death in a manner that goes beyond “life” as an already known category. It redefines biography and subjectivity as categories that are not individually confined. It destabilizes the binaries of life/death, integrity/vulnerability, wholeness/fragmentation, individuality/collectivism, and gain/loss. It contests and renegotiates sovereign power as a power over life and death. It creates new spiritual and material meanings and through them undermines dominant ideologies, extending the liberatory work of the Resistance to the realms of ideology and culture.

Consistent with our mission at the Institute for De-Colonising to theorize from a partisan standpoint that actively engages with material reality, and with the theme of this year’s BRISMES conference, this panel looks at resistance and martyrdom as modes of recovery and defying loss. We look at biographies of iconic martyrs and their cultural circulation; we examine the cultural apparatuses and collective practices within which martyrdom is

embodied (not only as an experience of death but as a living tradition); we explore how martyrdom as a subjective and interpellating model defies dominant ideologies.

Chair

Ahmed Dardir

The Institute for De-Colonising Theory (IDCtheory)

Position Co-Chair

Participant

Ameed Faleh

The Institute for De-Colonising Theory (IDCtheory)

Position Researcher

Majd Darwish

The Institute for De-Colonising Theory (IDCtheory)

Position Resident Fellow

Bashar al-Lakkis

Editor in Chief/ Senior Researcher

Position Al-Khandak Website

191 'The Hero is Dead, Long Live the Jabal': The Meaning of Martyrdom in Mu'in Bseiso's Bajis Abu Atwan: The Hero Is Dead, Long Live The Hero

Ameed Faleh

The Institute for De-Colonising Theory (IDCtheory)

192 'Ayyash is Alive, Do not Say Ayyash has Died': The Role of Martyrdom in Mobilizing the Palestinian Masses'

Majd Darwish

The Institute for De-Colonising Theory (IDCtheory)

193 From Lamentation to Liberation: Martyrdom, Resistance and the Revolutionizing of 'Ashurah'

Bashar al-Lakkis

Al-Khandak Website

194 "A Death that Begalls the Enemy": The Epic of Disembodiment and Resistance

Ahmed Dardir

The Institute for De-Colonising Theory (IDCtheory)

(3I) New Academic (Im)possibilities: Doing Ethnography in a "Stable" Iraq

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.3.76

4 New Academic (Im)possibilities: Doing Ethnography in a "Stable" Iraq

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

In the aftermath of the US and UK- led invasion of Iraq, the possibilities for ethnographic research on and in Iraq dramatically changed for both Iraqi researchers in the country and those in the diaspora. Through their work many assumptions about Iraqi society that had been formulated in the academic field pre-2003, were defied. Despite this, their research was constrained by the possibilities of doing fieldwork in the midst of the invasion, occupation and its violent aftermath, culminating in the sectarian civil war. The challenges of doing ethnography in Iraq have been examined before (see for example: Damluji et al. 2015; Tejel

and Bocco 2012). However, more recently, a new context of supposed “stability” has emerged marked by the absence of active armed conflict and an increasingly shrinking civic space, altering what is at stake in doing research in Iraq. This raises new ethical questions around the issue of complicit ethnography (Rubaii 2018), diaspora positionalities and their implication in the 2003 war (Naber 2012), and about Iraq as a multi-sited *field site* that is no longer accessible in body, but through remote research for a new generation of exiled Iraq-raised researchers that have been forced to flee the country. In this roundtable discussion, we bring together Iraqi scholars of different positionalities working *on* Iraq to discuss what it means to be doing ethnography over 20 years since the 2003- invasion and occupation and what new avenues for committed research and dilemmas this has opened-up.

Chair

TBC

Participant

Taif Alkhudary

Cambridge University

Position PhD student

Ansar Jassim

Free University Berlin

Position PhD student

Omar Sirri

University of Toronto

Position Postdoctoral Fellow

Ilham Makki

Open College Baghdad

Position Independent Researcher

(3J) Economic Restructuring and Growth in the MENA

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025
HDB.1.06

216 Development Recalibrated: The "Pivot" to Startup Ecosystems and the (Re)making of Regional Capitalism in Jordan

Zak Tobias

Queen Mary University of London

298 GCC Agricultural Investments in Sudan and Ethiopia: Opportunities and Challenges

Abdullah Ozcelik¹, Mehmet Hanifi Kaya²

¹Sakarya University. ²Istanbul Beykent University

372 The Impact of a Startup Ecosystem on Economic Growth in Iraq: A Study with Emphasis on Entrepreneurship and Business Incubators

Abdullah Al Dereai

ISC Paris Business School

491 Economic Reconstruction in Syria: Lessons from The Past, Pathways for The Future

Rabiee Ibrahim

Independent Researcher

351 Egypt's Missing Middle Problem: An Adaptive Political Economy Approach to SMEs

Ömer Naim Küçük, Fatih Kırşanlı

(3K) The Politics of the Global Energy Transition in the MENA

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.1.02

15 The Politics of the Global Energy Transition in the MENA

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

Given the MENA region's historical dominance in global fossil fuel markets, its role in the energy transition is crucial to explore, particularly in the context of the need for a socially just response to climate breakdown. This panel offers an analysis of how development plans and renewable energy (RE) projects reshape territorial and infrastructural dynamics. MENA state-development plans and the business press are rife with references to mega-RE projects (hydrogen, carbon capture, solar), emphasising the market opportunities presented by 'low-carbon' technologies. Taking a critical infrastructures lens (Chua et al, 2018; Plonski, 2022; Ziadah, 2019), this panel examines how RE infrastructures impact development plans and policies, and how authoritarian elites and international financial institutions shape the 'energy transition' (Bruff & Tansel, 2019; Gurol et al, 2023). This helps tease out the uneven spatial geographies of RE projects, bringing awareness to the prevalence of energy colonialism (Hamouchene, 2022), and the growing dependence on financial markets and fossil fuel firms in the GCC (Hanieh, 2022). The panel seeks to unravel the entanglements between fossil capitalism, RE projects, and infrastructural developments. With a focus on the persistent dominance of fossil fuel industries, presenters explore if indeed an energy transition is happening, and if so, which actors benefit and how. Discussions extend to issues of land ownership, resource control and migration containment, emphasising how the distribution of benefits and burdens exacerbates existing inequalities. The panel builds on a 2024 workshop, in which all presenters participated, and an ongoing SI project, to which most presenters contribute.

Chair

Sharri Plonski

Queen Mary University of London

Position Senior Lecturer

Participant

Alessandra Bonci

Université Laval

Position Postdoctoral researcher

Charlotte Mueller

Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI)

Position PhD candidate

Burak Tansel

Newcastle University

Position Senior lecturer

Philipp Wagner

Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI)

Position PhD candidate

Benjamin Schuetze

Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI)

Position Senior researcher

136 Trajectories of Coloniality: Carbon Offset Projects in the MENA and Beyond

Benjamin Schuetze

Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI)

142 Filters of Flows and Containment: The Interplay between Energy Connectivities and Migration Containment between Tunisia and Europe

Philipp Wagner

Arnold Bergstraesser Institute Freiburg

230 Contesting Infrastructural Developmentalism: The Politics of Energy Transition and Dispossession in Turkey

Burak Tansel

Newcastle University

234 Green Hydrogen as a Women's Business

alessandra bonci

UQAM

278 Between Profit and Sustainability: The Financialization of Renewable Energy in Morocco

Charlotte Müller

Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institut, University of Freiburg

(3L) The Making of Warfare and the Effects of War in Palestine

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.1.09

292 Contribution to the Damage on the Environment in Palestine Caused by the Ongoing Genocide from Investments into the International Arms Industry

Ashley Kwan

N/A

326 The Spectacle of Genocide: An Analytical Study of Social Extermination in Gaza Post-October 7, 2023

Mai awad¹, Douzi Kaouther²

¹University of California Santa Cruz. ²University of Liege

221 Why Discriminate? The Logic of Targeting in Gaza's Aerial Occupation

Joshua Hellinger, Ravi Bhavnani

Geneva Graduate Institute

224 Settler Colonialism and the Siege: Reckoning with War

Una McGahern

Newcastle University

392 Rehabilitating Sovereignty? Reconstruction Projects in Gaza and the Cementing of the Israeli Control

Jakub Zahora

Charles University

Tea & Coffee Break

11:00 - 11:30 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

Open area - HDB third floor

(4A) Voices Resisting Silence: Literature Confronting Erasure (Part 2)

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.1.09

165 Resisting Erasure and Imagining Future through Literary Encounters: Rediscovering the Hebrew-Arabic Journal MIFGASH-LIQA'

Xinyi Chen

University of Cambridge

273 The Politics of Culture and Civilization in Mahmoud Darwish's Poetry

Tayseer Abu Odeh^{1,2}, Sherah Bloor³

¹Independent. ²Jordanian Society for Philosophy. ³Harvard University

347 Reading Adania Shibli's Minor Detail as a Tool for the Palestinian Counter-Archive

Francesca Vawdrey

University of Cambridge

25 Patterns and Norms in Reviewing Translated Arabic Novels in the British Press

Haloum Haloum

UCL

478 Eco-trauma and Resistance in Palestinian-American Fiction: Hala Alyan's Salt Houses as a Case Study

Pervine Elrefaei

Cairo University

(4B) Adaptive Cycles in Cultural Heritage: Strategies for Post-Disaster Recovery

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.2.13

254 Colonial Legacies and Loss: Decolonial Perspectives on Antioch's Dispersed Heritage

Ezgi Erol

Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. University of Applied Arts Vienna

258 Cultural Heritage Protection and Restoration as Resistance Against, and Recovery, from Destruction

Caroline Sandes

Kingston University

262 Visual Archives and Revolutionary Dialectics: Documenting Repression and Resistance in Syria

Jack McGinn

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

360 Building Links through Cultural Heritage Care

Michela Contessi

University Of Turin

86 Beyond Devastation: The Interaction Between the Cultural Landscapes of Iraqi Chaldeans and Syrians and Their Collective Memory

Niveen Kassem^{1,2}, Vean Al-Saka³, Rawaa Qasha^{4,2}, Mark Jackson²

¹University of Birmingham, Dubai. ²University of Newcastle, UK. ³University of Cambridge. ⁴University of Mosul, Iraq

(4C) Gendered Policies and Policing

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.1.04

490 Policing Public Sexual Harassment in Egypt: The Changing Role of the Egyptian Police (2005-2019)

Vickie Langohr

College of the Holy Cross

162 To Obey or Not to Obey: From Legal Duty to Feminist Responsibility in the Pursuit of Iranian Women's Sexual Health and Autonomy

Gelara Fanaeian

University of Bristol

49 Transphobia Kills: An Examination of the Increasing Incidence of Transicide in the Middle East and North Africa

Nora Noralla

Cairo 52 Legal Research Institute

357 Statehood and Streets: Gendered Struggles in Egypt's Urban Landscape Since 2011

Mahmoud Elmasry

University of Leeds

128 Continuity and Change in Precarious Agricultural Work in Egypt

Marwa Makhoul

University of Birmingham

(4D) Life under Colonialism: Dispossession, Homemaking, Dwelling

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.G.06

323 The Israeli Government's Settlement Policy and the Exodus of Palestinian Christians from the West Bank's 'Christian Triangle'

Thomas J. Awad

University of Oxford

46 Echoes of Erasure: 'Modern Judeo-Arabic' and Ethnonational Belonging among Arabs of '48 in Tel Aviv-Jaffa

A. Pauline Klose

Freie Universität Berlin

122 On Birds, Rooftops, and Return: A Vertical Study of the Architecture in Al Wehdat Camp

Nama'a Qudah

Delft University of Technology

255 Carceral Geographies of Circulation: Race, Class, and Indigeneity in 48-Palestine

Ivana Bevilacqua

Birkbeck

(4E) Frames of War: Exile, Return, Erasure, Decolonising

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.2.12

261 Imaginaries of the Future Home among the Palestinian Diaspora in Germany

Hossam Sultan

70 Revisiting the Paradigm of Ethnic Cleansing: An Overview of Ilan Pappé's Works on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Their Global Impact

Hsiu-Ping Bao¹, Ya-Chi Chiang²

¹National Chi Nan University, Taiwan. ²Non-institution-affiliated

135 Reconceptualising Well-being: A Decolonial Approach to Investigate Well-being as a Critical Tool to Analyse Public Space in the Occupied West Bank, Palestine

Elien Gelling

University of Lodz

343 Two Exiles: An Intersubjective, Anti-Zionist Future

Sahana Mukherjee

University of East Anglia

15 Memory Work as 'Map Justice' in Palestinian Countermaps

Luisa Gandolfo

University of Aberdeen

(4F) Beyond the Binary: Rethinking Islamism, Secularism, and Political

Identity in the Contemporary Middle East

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025
HDB.1.07

34 Secularism: A Path to Liberation or a Catalyst for New Despotism?

Sohrab Farzanpour

Lancaster University

82 The Excluded Third: Who Wants Neither Islamists nor Secularists in Power in the Arab World?

Jama Yusuf

Royal Holloway University of London. Center for Islamic and West Asian Studies (CIWAS)

18 The Protracted War in the Middle East and the de-Christianization of the Region

Gohar Iskandaryan

The Institute of Oriental Studies, National Academy of Sciences, Armenia

382 Constructing Party Identity in Emerging Democracies: A Case Study of Iraqi Shia Islamist Parties, 2005-2021

Hassan Al-Asadey

Durham University School of Government and International Affairs. Kufa University/Faculty of Political Sciences

(4G) Navigating the Emotional Toll: Researching the Middle East During a Genocide (Part 2)

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.1.10

26 Navigating the Emotional Toll: Researching the Middle East During a Genocide (Part 2)

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

This roundtable explores navigating the emotional toll experienced by researchers who study or teach about the Middle East, particularly during a genocide. The discussion foregrounds the unique challenges faced by scholars whose academic work is deeply intertwined with their personal histories, positionalities, and lived experiences. A focus is placed on the blind spots within Western institutions regarding the mental health needs and emotional burdens borne by these researchers. This disconnect underscores a troubling gap between academic knowledge production and the regional realities shaping researchers' lives and work. Institutional expectations often exacerbate these challenges, pressuring students and scholars to suppress their emotional pain to meet rigid academic performance standards. These realities highlight an urgent need to discuss the responsibility of universities in supporting the mental health and well-being of researchers who engage with politically charged and emotionally taxing subjects. Additionally, this urges us to discuss and envision systems of care that prioritise the holistic well-being of these scholars.

Key Questions We Explore:

1. Who is responsible for supporting the mental health of researchers, especially those working on emotionally and politically charged topics?
2. How can international researchers balance institutional and administrative demands while navigating the emotional complexities of their research?

3. How can researchers in Western contexts ethically and emotionally manage bonds they develop with their participants?
4. What forms of academic supervision are needed to help navigate these emotional challenges?
5. What steps can be taken to envision and implement effective mental health care systems to support researchers' well-being?

Chair

Nicola Pratt

University of Warwick

Position Professor, International Politics of the Middle East

Participant

Tanya E Lawrence

University of Sussex

Position Assistant Professor in Middle East and Global History

Kholoud Saber Barakat

Université Catholique de Louvain

Position Postdoc Scientific Collaborator

Mahmoud Hussein

University of East London

Position PhD Student

Nadine Hosny

Institute of Psychology, University of Lausanne

Position PhD Student

Hebatallah Tolba

University of East London

Position Doctoral Researcher

(4H) Counterrevolution, Authoritarian Learning or Recovery? The State in/of Iraq after the Tishreen Uprising

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.1.11

3 Counterrevolution, Authoritarian Learning or Recovery? The State in/of Iraq after the Tishreen Uprising"

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

This roundtable critically explores the evolving state-society relations in Iraq in the aftermath of the 2019 Tishreen uprising, a pivotal moment of mass mobilization and collective organization that posed a significant challenge to the existing political regime. In response to this grassroots challenge, the political system has sought to consolidate its power through novel hegemonic practices, signaling a complex interplay between governance and dissent. By employing the concept of counter-revolution, this roundtable aims to investigate how the regime is reclaiming hegemonic control through legislative, economic, and epistemic mechanisms, ostensibly producing a façade of stability. Central to this inquiry is an examination of the underlying logic that sustains this stability and the forms of structural violence perpetuated by intensified privatization of essential public services—such as higher education, healthcare, and transportation—that deepen socioeconomic inequalities.

These privatization policies not only exacerbate existing disparities but also reflect broader strategies of neoliberal governance that disenfranchise large segments of Iraqi society. Consequently, Iraq remains susceptible to renewed large-scale social movements fueled by persistent grievances over governance failures, systemic inequality, and unmet popular demands. This roundtable, therefore, interrogates how the regime has adapted in response to the challenges posed by contingent politics, asking whether these counter-revolutionary strategies—eschewing overt violence in favor of more insidious mechanisms—represent a form of authoritarian learning or a recalibration of systemic resilience. By examining these dynamics, this discussion seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of the intersection

between political hegemony, resistance, and socio-economic transformation in contemporary Iraq.

Chair

Zeidon Alkinani

Georgetown University in Qatar

Position Adjunct Professor, Middle East Politics

Participant

Taif Alkhudary

University of Cambridge

Position PhD Candidate

Ansar Jassim

Berlin Graduate School

Position Doctoral Fellow

Abdulla Al Kalisy

University of St. Andrews

Position Doctoral Candidate

Ruba Al-Hassani

Lancaster University

Position Interdisciplinary Sociologist and a Postdoctoral Research Associate

Hayder Al-Shakeri

Chatham House

Position Research Fellow

(4I) Aftermaths of Violence: Knowledge, Power, and Resistance in the Middle East

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025
HDB.1.13

160 From Scoundrels to Nationalists: Gang-Violence or Revolution in Jabal `Amil and Iraq, 1918 - 1920

Christopher Cooper-Davies

University of Oxford

172 The Illiberal Victor's Peace in Iraq: Statebuilding, Peacebuilding, and Post-war Recovery

Jacob Eriksson

University of York

220 "Ruined Words: When Language Becomes a Casualty and Culture Struggles to Reclaim Meaning"

Abeer Khatoon

Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)

286 The Afterlives of Violence: The Mosul and Kirkuk Massacres under the British Mandate

Rand Saleh

University of Toronto

200 Facing Epistemic Injustice: The Exclusion of Yemenis Working Towards Justice in Transitional Justice Discussions on Yemen

Sarah Alareqi

(4J) Palestinian Higher Education under Attack: Destruction, Disruption and Recovery

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.3.76

7 Palestinian Higher Education under Attack: Destruction, Disruption and Recovery

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

The aim of this interdisciplinary roundtable is three-fold: to discuss the range of attacks (historic and ongoing) facing Palestinian academic colleagues and institutions in and beyond Palestine/Israel today; to recognise the ways in which Palestinian academics and universities have sought to protect themselves from attack over the years; and to discuss what is needed now to help defend Palestinian universities, Palestinian academia and the Palestinian right to education moving forward. More specifically, this roundtable draws on, highlights and foregrounds the knowledge and expertise of academics whose primary area of research is concerned with documenting and analysing the state of Palestinian higher education from a variety of different angles not only in Gaza, where such attacks are most tragically prominent, but also in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, inside 'Israel proper', and in the diaspora (most notably in Lebanon and Syria).

Chair

Lewis Turner

Newcastle University

Position Senior Lecturer in the International Politics of Gender

Participant

Rawan Asali Nuseibeh

Bath Spa University

Position Lecturer in Sociology

Mona Jebril

University of Cambridge

Position Fellow of Education and Academic Development at Queen's College and Research Associate at the Centre for Business Research

Basma Hajir

University of Bristol

Position Lecturer at the School of Education

Una McGahern

Newcastle University

Position Senior Lecturer in Politics

(4K) Diaspora, Identity, and Representation in Cultural Narratives

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.1.06

94 Bodies of Knowledge: Performing Absence in Palestinian-British Drama and Installation Art

Rim Irscheid¹, Abir Al-Laham²

¹King's College London. ²University of Mannheim

338 Children's Ecopoetics of Diaspora: Towards a Literacy of Radical Hope

Sara Shahwan

Goldsmiths, University of London

349 Palestinian-American Women Writers: Resistance Writing from Many Margins Outside Honor and Inside the Horrors

Mouna El Kahla

N/A

465 "Invading" the Nation: Migration, Dystopia and Representations of Arab Refugees in Turkish Far-Right Media

Ali Sonay

University of Bern

(4L) Countermapping Urban Palestine: Literature, Myth, Memorography, Mnemohistory

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.1.02

16 Countermapping Urban Palestine: Literature, Myth, Memorography, Mnemohistory

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

This panel introduces 'Countermapping Urban Palestine', currently funded by the British Academy. Our pilot project focuses on Nablus, historically a significant trade and manufacturing centre and a hub of anti-colonial resistance to this day, but we aspire to 'countermap' cities across 1948 Palestine. History and geography rarely capitalise on how creative narratives represent place/space in Palestine/Israel. Conversely, there has been scant analysis in literary studies, in English, of Palestinian cities as sites of memory, belonging, orientation, identity, and modernity. We foreground fiction, autobiography, oral narratives, myths, and other narrative commemorative practices. In the context of a continuous catastrophe, we invoke Edward Said's call for 'countermemory, with its own counterdiscourse that will not allow conscience to look away' (*Humanism and Democratic Criticism*, 2003, 142). The project contributes to extensive archival practice in which 'Palestinians [...] assert their own history and presence in the land of Palestine: against Zionist mapping, a shadow cartography' (Swedenburg, *Memories of Revolt*, 2003, 71). As is well established in place/space theory, geography itself comprises 'practised', 'read', 'recoded', *storied* spaces (*inter alia* De Certeau, *The Practice of Everyday Life*, 1980; Blunt and Rose, *Writing Women and Space*, 1994). Drawing on literary cartographic, oral historical, and memory studies, we see maps as interpretative templates that 'presuppose narratives, which in turn may function as maps' (Tally Jr, *Literary Cartographies*, 2014, 1). The panel explores different ways of creative countermapping, including counter-indexing literary and memory maps, in the context of a besieged reality.

Chair

Madonna Kalousian

King's College London

Position Postdoctoral Research Associate

Participant

Bayan AlAmmouri

University of Jordan

Position Lecturer in English Literature

Mohammed Hamdan

An-Najah National University of Palestine

Position Associate Professor in Anglo-American Literary Studies

Lindsey Moore

Lancaster University

Position Reader in Postcolonial Literature

Samah Naseem

Lancaster University

Position PhD candidate (year 4)

137 Narrating Cartography: Countermapping Urban Palestine through Geovisualization in Atef Abu Saif's Don't Look Left (2024) and Yara Hawari's The Stone House (2021)

Bayan AlAmmouri

University of Jordan

138 'Narrative, Myth, and the Conceptualization of Space: Nablus City as a Case Study'

Mohammed Hamdan

An-Najah National University of Palestine

140 'Memorography: Mapping the Mind's Terrain'

Lindsey Moore

Lancaster University

141 'A Place Etched on Paper': Mnemonic Practice and Narrative Cartography in Suad Amiry's Mother of Strangers'

Samah Naseem

Lancaster University

(4M): Literary Break with Ghada Karmi

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HER. Lth 1 Lecture Theatre

Join us as Ghada Karmi reads from her new book *Murjana*, a novel set at the Abbasid court in ninth-century Baghdad. A sensual thriller about a caliph's infatuation with a young woman, *Murjana* is extremely historically evocative, depicting romantic and political intrigues in their civilizational context and engaging with contemporary trends and debates in Islamic arts and sciences from architecture to medicine to theology.

Ghada Karmi is a doctor of medicine by training and a specialist in the history of medieval Islamic medicine, a background that enabled her to draw on authentic sources when researching the novel. She has held a number of academic posts in Middle East history and politics, most recently at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, UK. She has published six books to date, including two memoirs of life in Palestine.

BRISMES Annual General Meeting (AGM)

13:30 - 15:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HER. Curtis Lecture Theatre

For those attending the meeting, lunch will be served outside the Curtis Theatre.

(5A) Palestinian Resistance and Solidarity

15:00 - 17:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.1.09

116 Quiet Resistance? Responses to Normalization with Israel

Jinan Bastaki

New York University Abu Dhabi

126 The Dialectic of Palestinian Semi-Nomadic Women's Anti-Colonial Resistance

Manal Shqair

Queen Margaret University

244 Between the Aftermath of the Tunisian Revolution and the Genocide: Performance of Body Assemblies in Tunisian Protests Post-October 7, 2023

Douzi Kaouther

University of Liege

72 Improvised Weapons as a Response to Colonial Ruination: The Example of Hamas's Weapons Programme in Gaza

James Eastwood

Queen Mary University of London

467 Hamas's Anticolonial Diplomacy Between Armed Resistance and Negotiated Settlements

Catherine Charrett

University of Westminster

(5B) Displacement, Belonging, and Reconstruction in Post-Conflict Societies

15:00 - 17:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.2.13

53 Money Transfer Networks as Fragile Lifelines: Recovery and Resistance in Rural Southern Lebanon and Urban Centers

Antonina Albanese

Università di Palermo

134 The Afterlives of Displacement: Greeks in the Suez Canal Zone

Eftychia Mylona

University of Cyprus

206 Contentions of (Un)Belonging: Homemaking, State-Craft and Syrian-Circassian Migration in Abkhazia

Gehad Abaza

University of California, Santa Barbara

377 'Everyone is Leaving': Water Scarcity and Displacement in Iraq

Hayman Kakakhan Awla, Abdullah Yassen

Erbil Polytechnic University

356 Beyond Ruin: The Evolving Role of the Diaspora in Homeland Recovery and Development

Laura Cretney

Durham University

(5C) Falling through the Gaps: Protection Policies and their Discontents

15:00 - 17:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025
HDB.1.04

32 Falling through the Gaps: Protection Policies and their Discontents

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

Protection has been one of the major policy and programming approaches by international actors in response to conflict and /or displacement in the Middle East in recent years. A mainstay of humanitarian action, its proliferation increased in scale and scope in the wake of Syrian displacement to neighbouring states, with diverse focus areas, including child protection, protection from GBV and social cohesion. In parallel, social protection has also become an ever more prominent aid-led paradigm for responding to socio-economic inequalities and supporting marginalised groups, which has been partially adopted by governments across the region. Against this backdrop, this panel invites critical conversation on the dynamics behind and effects of protection policies and programming on communities considered 'vulnerable' and 'in need'. Our aim is to reflect on their significance for a variety of targeted groups, including refugees, children, women and workers, in a variety of contexts. It places emphasis on what is silenced through protection programming, and on the, often substantial, gaps between policy and lived experience. As such, this panel is interested in how these potential target groups experience protection programming, how

their risk perception might differ from those of aid agencies and governments, and which individual or community- based strategies they pursue as alternative protection strategies. On this basis, the panel seeks to explore potential alternatives to the hegemonic protection paradigm.

Chair

Katharina Lenner

University of Bath

Position Lecturer

Hannah Owens

University of Hertfordshire

Position Lecturer

Participant

Hannah Owens

University of Hertfordshire

Position Lecturer

Katharina Lenner

University of Bath

Position Lecturer

Jason Hart

University of Bath

Position Professor

Michelle Lokot

LSHTM

Position Lecturer

Aslı Salihoğlu

University of Oxford

Position Research associate

316 Social Protection for Garment Sector Workers in Turkey and Jordan: A Worker-centric Perspective

Katharina Lenner¹, Aslı Salihoğlu²

¹University of Bath. ²University of Oxford

319 'Sewers, Asphalt, Streets and Lighting...That's What People Need': Destabilising the External Protection Agenda through Infrastructure

Hannah Owens

University of Hertfordshire

321 Gender and Protection Narratives about Syrian Refugees in Jordan: A Feminist, Qualitative Perspective

Michelle Lokot

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

327 Failure to Protect: Humanitarianism and Child Protection after Gaza

Jason Hart¹, Mohammed Alruzzi²

¹University of Bath. ²University of Bristol

(5D) Urban Ruptures and Political Lives: Space, Violence, and Resistance

15:00 - 17:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.G.06

152 Resisting Urbicide: Space and Memory in Baghdad. A Reading in Sinan Antoon's The Baghdad Eucharist

Shimaa El Sharkawy

Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences, Cairo University. Arab Alternatives forum for Social Studies, Beirut

252 The Quiet Encroachment of Protection Seekers in Public Space in Amman, Jordan

Jessie Sullivan

UCL

259 Ruins and Futures: The Urban Imaginary in Arab Protest Fiction

Amira Farhani

The University of Buckingham

441 Barrier or Enabler? Popular Transport and Transport-related Social Exclusion in Beirut

Jana El Hajj¹, Daniel Oviedo²

¹University of Oxford. ²University College London

177 Postcolonial Urbicide: Rethinking Urban Destruction and Political Subjectivity in Wartime Syria

Gabriel Garroum

Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF)

(5E) Reimagining Muslim Women's Access to Justice: The Past and Present of Islamic Family Laws in Europe in Transnational Perspective

15:00 - 17:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.2.12

34 Reimagining Muslim Women's Access to Justice: The Past and Present of Islamic Family Laws in Europe in Transnational Perspective

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

This panel addresses processes of knowledge transmission that have shaped the formation and practices of Islamic family law in Europe. Drawing upon the initial findings of the BILQIS ERC project (www.bilqis.ie) this panel will explore the imaginaries and realities of women's agency found in Ottoman archives and speak to their continuing power and forgotten legacies across the Balkans, and specifically in the contexts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, and Greece. The panel will also explore the continuing influence of transnational actors on Muslim women's access to justice in Europe by analysing the relationships between shari'a and arbitration councils in European states with robust legal commitments and policy practices around gender equality. By analysing how Muslim women's access to justice has changed or endured across space and time the panel will explore a lexicon of oppression and liberation in relation to Islamic religious authority and its position vis a vis state structures. The rights of women in Islam and concomitant questions of cultural diversity, agency, and equality, have established themselves as one of the more contentious topics of discourse in contemporary European polities. It is often addressed through terms of loss and resistance, yet core gender dimensions of legal and religious authority in relation to the agency of Muslim women remains largely uninterrogated in specific historical, social, cultural, and legal terms. This panel will raise examples of how Muslim women in Europe negotiate the normative agentic and authoritative dimensions of shari'a that Islamic family laws mediate in conceptual and practical terms.

Chair

Roja Fazaeli

Irish Centre for Human Rights, School of Law, University of Galway

Position Established Professor of Law and Islamic Studies

Participant

Tiba Bonyad

Irish Centre for Human Rights, School of Law, University of Galway

Position Posdoctoral Researcher

Nazife Kosukaglu

Irish Centre for Human Rights, School of Law, University of Galway

Position Posdoctoral Researcher

Maria Kokkinou

Irish Centre for Human Rights, School of Law, University of Galway

Position Posdoctoral Researcher

Joel Hanisek

Irish Centre for Human Rights, School of Law, University of Galway

Position Research Fellow

451 A Contemporary Analysis of Fatwas in Europe in Relation to Socio-religious Practice and National Policies

Joel Hanisek

Irish Centre for Human Rights, University of Galway

475 The Quest for Gender Justice in Diaspora: How Afghan and Iranian Women Navigate Islamic Family Law in Sweden

Tiba Bonyad

Irish Centre for Human Rights, University of Galway

411 Feminine Agentivity in a Migratory Condition: The Cases of Muslim Women in Greek Camps

Maria Kokkinou¹, [Tiba Bonyad](#)¹, [Nazife Kosukoglu](#)², [Joel Hanisek](#)²

¹Irish Center for Human Rights, Galway University, Ireland. ²University of Galway

358 Harbor of Change: Rewriting Women's Rights and Inheritance Practices in Thessaloniki

[Nazife Kosukoğlu](#)

University of Galway

(5F) Governance and Regime Survival in the MENA Region: Coalition Politics, Authoritarian Durability, and Social Contracts

15:00 - 17:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025
HDB.1.07

4 The Durability and Termination of Multiparty Coalition Governments in the Middle East and North Africa: A Survival Analysis

[Hendrik Kraetzschmar](#)¹, [Valeria Resta](#)², [Francesco Cavatorta](#)³

¹University of Leeds. ²University of Milan. ³Laval University, Canada

48 From Rentierism to Resilience: Redefining Social Contracts in the GCC

Kassim Alsraiha

Independent

428 Conceptualising Forced Displacement and Civil Registry Reform in Syria's Transitional Justice

Roua Al Taweel

Ulster University

60 Personalist Authoritarian Survival: The Role of 'Skill' in Regime Longevity

Mohammad Hamza Iftikhar

Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)

(5G) Unearthing Colonial and Ecological Violence in the Middle East (Part I)

15:00 - 17:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.1.10

39 Unearthing Colonial and Ecological Violence in the Middle East I

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

Colonial violence inheres in the earth. In Iraq the material residues of war have precipitated an epidemic of birth anomalies, renal failure, and cancers (Alaani et al. 2020; Rubaii 2020); in Gaza ecologies of siege and ecocide are an instrumental part of genocidal warfare (Dajani

and Jabary Salamanca, forthcoming 2025). In the occupied lands of the Sahara and Syrian Jawlan, green colonialism produces new sites of energy exploitation, entrenching coloniality in the wider Middle East (Alkhalili et al., 2023; Schuetze, 2023). In Jordan, water is governed by treaties rooted in colonialism that deny local communities access to water, while conservation policies fail to account for indigenous ecological relations and prioritise economic development over environment protection (Zeitoun et al 2019; Hussein and Mason 2024; Ahearn and Mason 2022). These and many other examples (see e.g., Griffiths 2022; Nixon 2011; Pugliese 2020) contribute to a weight of evidence that colonial power works through populations' proximity and exposure to compromised ecologies and environmental policies rooted in colonial logics and power dynamics. Scholars across disciplines now recognise the urgency of research in this area, not only in terms of earthly violation but also in the dynamics of power that produce ecologies that diminish life in terms of toxified exposure, heavily restricted provision, and unequal access to resources (Dajani and Henderson 2024).

Papers on this panel will engage with the topic of colonial and ecological violence in the Middle East.

Chair

Muna Dajani

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Position LSE Fellow

Mark Griffiths

Newcastle University

Position Reader in Political Geography

Participant

Silvia Hassouna

Durham University

Position Career Development Fellow

Fidan Mirhanoğlu

French Geopolitics Institute

Position Scholar

Olivia Mason

Newcastle University

Position Lecturer

Yannis-Adam Allouache

National University of Singapore

Position Scholar

James Sidaway

National University of Singapore

Position Professor of Geography

Emily Glazer

University College London

Position Scholar

421 Environmental Entanglements in the Azraq Wetlands

Olivia Mason

Newcastle University

423 'Weed Troubles' in Palestine

Silvia Hassouna

Durham University

238 Learning from Makkah: Frontiers of the More-Than-World City

Yannis-Adam Allouache, James D. Sidaway

National University of Singapore

437 Territorial Ecologies and Pluvial Politics: Of Palestinian Floods, Drainage Basins, and Potent Bioregion Imaginaries

Emilie Glazer

King's College London

497 The Impact of Oil Economy on Agriculture and Environment in Iraqi Kurdistan after 2005

Fidan Mirhanoglu

The French Institute of Geopolitics

(5H) Afterlives of Insurgent Movements

15:00 - 17:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.1.11

335 Sufism and Post-conflict Recovery in Algeria: The Role of Sufi Orders in State Building after the Black Decade

Ferial Menaifi, Mounira Bouderdabene

University of Constantine3 Salah Boubnider

439 Spiritual and Mystical Voices from the Periphery: the “Ruination” and “Recovery” of Sufism and Stambeli in Contemporary Tunisia

Gavin Picken

Hamad Bin Khalifa University

374 Are You Still Satisfied? Losing the 2019 Lebanese Revolution & Recovering it for the 2022 Elections

Jakub Jajcay

Charles University, Prague

496 From Popular Revolution to Civil War, and Back: A Comparative Study of Algeria, Lebanon, Sudan and Syria in Times of Upheaval

Yassin El-Moudden

University of Sheffield

457 Debates on the State in Arab Thought Post-2011

Navid Hassanzadeh

Towson University

(5I) Death and Injury as Life Possibility/ies (II)

15:00 - 17:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025
HDB.1.13

38 Death and Injury as Life Possibility/ies (II)

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

This 2-part panel is a tribute to the everyday acts of refusal that ordinary MENA people embody and enact in the face of the geo- and chrono- politics that construct death as an inevitable life companion. This tribute, however, is fraught with analytic traps, notably the casting of resilience as the ultimate answer in the face of certain death. Instead, this panel ponders the afterlives of death and injury by investigating the possibility/ies of life, beyond survivalist conventions. To this end, the panel engages feminist, queer, anti- and decolonial approaches to read the new international normal (i.e. genocide as accepted threshold) in myriad spatio-temporalities (Gaza/Palestine, the online sphere, the Aids pandemic, country and city life, Iran, Kurdistan, Afghanistan). Speculation, hauntings, laughter, exile and seeking

refuge are some of the notions that capture death and injury not as conditions but along a spectrum of possibility/ies. Panel (I) prioritizes Palestine and queer analysis to test the boundaries of living alongside death, whilst Panel (II) ponders the potential of desire, the arts, and memory in contesting the condition of 'ruins' that coloniality exerts everywhere.

Chair

Alice Finden

Durham University

Position Assistant Professor in International Politics

Participant

Sara Tafakori

University of Leeds

Position Lecturer in Media and Communications

Nafiseh Sharifeh

University of Exeter, IAIS

Position Postdoctoral Fellow

Pegah Pezeshki

University of Warwick

Position PhD candidate

Paniz Musawi Natanzi

Wolf Humanities Center, University of Pennsylvania

Position Postdoctoral Fellow

Isabel Käser

Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

Position NSF-Ambizione Fellow and Senior Researcher

Moshtari Hilal

Artist, Author and Curator at AVAH (Afghan Visual Arts and History)

Position Curatorial Research Collective

105 On Sovereign Stillness: Theorizing Bodies in Political Time

Sara Tafakori

University of Leeds

106 Art as Panah-Gah: Beauty in Artistic Work Worlds of Men during the first Taliban Era (1996-2001) in Afghanistan

Paniz Musawi Natanzi

Wolf Humanities Center, University of Pennsylvania

107 "Call us the Forgotten People" - Former Kurdish Rebels on Loss, Silence and Care

Isabel Käser

Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

108 Narrating a Lost Revolution: The City, the House, and the Memory of Collectivity

Pegah Pezeshki

University of Warwick

109 Masculinities and Change: Dialogues on Intimacy in Tehran

Nafiseh Sharifi

University of Exeter, IAIS

(5J) At the Roots of Violence and Armed Struggle: Social and Cultural Perspectives

15:00 - 17:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025
HDB.3.76

253 From Revolution to Ruin: Subaltern Politics, Social Change and Sectarian Violence in Mount Lebanon, 1858-60

Charles Ough

Utrecht University

336 The West Politics of Aggression, Imperialism and the Middle East

Muhammad Ashfaq

School of International Relations, University of St Andrews

387 Neocolonial Narratives of Justice: The 2003 Iraq Invasion and Western Hegemony

Sara Al Khashlok

British Institute of Comparative and International Law

113 Legitimacy in Armed Struggle: Theoretical Analysis into Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham as an Armed Non-State Actor

Bichun LU

Center of Turkish, Ottoman, Balkan and Central Asian Studies (CETOBaC) of École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) in Paris. Peking University (PKU) in Beijing

328 From "Everyday Words" to Ideology: Lexical Politicization during the Iran-Iraq War

Roxane Razavi

(5K) Resisting Academic Complicity with Genocide (Part 1): Activism and Pedagogy

15:00 - 17:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.1.06

10 Resisting Academic Complicity with Genocide (Part 1): Activism and Pedagogy

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

How are Western universities complicit in genocide, and what concrete actions can disrupt this complicity? This roundtable will critically examine the ways academic institutions in the Western world—including in the field of Middle East studies—enable or tacitly support genocidal violence. Focusing on the context of Israel's prolonged, Western-backed assaults on Gaza and the systematic scholasticide against Palestinians, the session will interrogate the structural, colonial, and material biases of academia that perpetuate such violence.

Building on movements to decolonize the university and critiques of neoliberal academia, we will explore how racial capitalism shapes silence and complicity around genocide, revealing the entrenchment of colonial violence within ostensibly "liberal" academic spaces. By situating these issues within broader frameworks of structural violence, this discussion will expose how universities function as both ideological and material participants in systems of oppression.

The roundtable will feature scholars actively engaged in resisting these injustices, showcasing efforts that include but are not limited to:

- Divestment and boycott campaigns.
- On-campus, student-led encampments and protests.
- Teaching and academic events that challenge institutional complicity.

By sharing strategies and experiences, this session aims to empower participants to disrupt the status quo and advocate for meaningful institutional accountability. Through critical dialogue, we hope to contribute to the growing movement to end academic complicity in colonial violence and generate change in our universities and academic spaces.

Chair

Sabiha Allouche

University of Exeter

Position Lecturer in Middle East Politics

Participant

Hala Shoman

Newcastle University

Position PhD student, School of Geography, Politics and Sociology

Bronwen Mehta

University of Warwick

Position PhD student, Politics & International Studies

Sara Ababneh

Sheffield University

Position Lecturer in International Relations

Neve Gordon

Queen Mary University of London

Position Professor of International Law and Human Rights

Nicola Pratt

University of Warwick

Position Professor of the International Politics of the Middle East

(3L) Gender, Justice, and Activism

15:00 - 17:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HDB.1.02

16 مافيش دولة (There is No State!): Attempting to Unpack the Narratives of Libyan Women's Rights Activists and the State

Lujain Beruwien

University of Edinburgh

170 Nurturing Activism: Gender Equality Advocacy and Childhood Experiences in Twentieth Century Egypt

Samantha Loudon-Cooke

University of Gloucestershire

37 Palestinian Feminism Under Occupation: The Case of the Tal'at Movement

Nagapushpa Devendra

University of Erfurt

352 Engendering Destruction, Loss and Recovery: A Personal Journey in Revolutionary Times

Niloufar Pourzand

York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

(3M) BRISMES Graduate Section Event: Pathways to Publishing: Navigating Early Careers in Middle East Studies

15:00 - 17:00 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HER. Lth 1 Lecture Theatre

This year's BRISMES Graduate Section panel brings together academics and publishers to demystify the early stages of scholarly publishing in the field of Middle East Studies. Aimed at graduate students and early career researchers, the session explores practical strategies for turning a thesis chapter into a journal article, navigating the peer review process, and choosing between Open Access and traditional publishing models. With insights from editors, publishing professionals, and scholars who recently made the leap, the panel also discusses evolving trends in academic publishing, including interdisciplinary expectations and the politics of knowledge production.

Tea & Coffee Break

17:00 - 17:30 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

Open area - HDB third floor

Plenary (2): Ruins and Rebuilding: Academic and Activist Solidarities Across Borders

17:30 - 18:45 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

HER. Curtis Lecture Theatre

Speakers:

Dr Hashem Abushama

Dr Muna Dajani

Dr Jasmine K. Gani

Dr Gholam Khiabany

Dr Aya Nassar

Speaker TBC

BRISMES Dinner & Music Event

19:30 - 23:59 Wednesday, 2nd July, 2025

Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art

(6A) Colonialism and Mandate Palestine

09:00 - 11:00 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.1.09

369 The Crisis of 1932: British Management of The Mediterranean Sea, Fish, and Fishing in Palestine

Bridge Mcwaid

University of California, Santa Barbara

397 The Making of the Modern al-Aqsa Mosque: Architectural Interventions and the Creation of an Architectural Body Politic

Shahira Yatim

University of Oxford

334 Incarceration and Political Violence in Mandatory Palestine

Anthony Gorman

University of Edinburgh

306 Landscapes of Partition: Severing Palestine from Lebanon in the Mandates Period

Mattia Serra

Geneva Graduate Institute

260 Jews of the Persian Gulf: The Making of an Oceanic Network and its Meaning for Middle Eastern History

Eirik Kvindesland

University of Oxford

(6B) War, Ruination, Identity in Literary Imaginations

09:00 - 11:00 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.2.13

373 Reimagining Moorish Identity in Contemporary Moroccan Literature: A Comparative Study of Anouar Majid's 'We are all Moors' and Laila Lalami's 'the Moors Account'

Brahim Saboun

Ibn Zohr university, Agadir, Morocco

400 From Ruins to Resilience: Representations of Sur's Civil Conflict in Contemporary Kurdish Literature

Atlas Enes Yilmaz

TOBB University of Economics and Technology

434 Ruined Childhoods: The 1980 Coup d'État in Turkish Novels Published Between 1980 and 1989

Sylvia Filipowska

Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Faculty of Philology

492 The New Syrian Landscape: The Impact of War on the Literary Ecosystem

Fatima Sai

Università di Chieti-Pescara G. D'Annunzio (Italy)

3 The Philosophy of Love in al-Ghazzali's Sawānih al-Ushāq and Creating Saints in Persian literature

Fatemeh Faroughi

University of Debrecen

(6C) Confederation as a Viable Model for Iraq's Political Stability: The Role of the Kurdistan Region

09:00 - 11:00 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025
HDB.1.04

24 Confederation as a Viable Model for Iraq's Political Stability: The Role of the Kurdistan Region

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

The continuous bilateral problems between Erbil and Baghdad given the fact that Kurds, Shi'a and Sunni have not been equal partners in Iraq's state-building process, despite constitutional efforts to facilitate this; and the influence of power centralisation by Arab Shi'a in Baghdad in addition to issues of non-implementation in the case of the Iraqi constitution have given rise to discussions around amendments. In this context, this roundtable aims to assess Iraq's current mode of governance and its (in) ability to facilitate prolonged stability in Iraq. The 7th October 2023 along with its repercussions on Syrian affairs events render the importance of the relationship between Kurds and Arabs (Sunni and Shi'a) in Iraq critical. This roundtable delves into the potential for a confederal transformation in Iraq, drawing on the KRG's three decades of autonomous experience as a potential blueprint. The discussion will explore opportunities and challenges for a confederal Iraq, the constitutional implications of a confederal shift, including the redistribution of power, resource allocation, the role of external actorhood in such processes, and the reassessment of the relations between Baghdad and Erbil. The analysis aims also to provide insights for policymakers and contribute to the academic discourse on state-building in conflict-affected regions, with a specific focus on whether the KRG-Baghdad example could act as a model of confederal political arrangements.

Chair

Marianna Charountaki

University of Lincoln

Position Senior Lecturer in International Politics

Participant

Umed Sabah Othman

KRI

Position President of the Diwan of Council of Ministers, KRI

Peshraw Ali Mohammed Ameen

University of Sulaymani

Position Lecturer in the Politics and International Relations

Dirwar Sadiq Zawity

Soran University / American University of Kurdistan - Duhok

Position PhD at Soran University, Lecturer at the American University of Kurdistan - Duhok

(6D) Contested Knowledges: Critical Perspectives on Research, Representation, and the Making of the Middle East

09:00 - 11:00 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.G.06

2 Producing a Region: Examining the Agency and Politics behind the 'Middle East'

Jonas Nabbe

Erasmus University Rotterdam

30 War and the Researcher: How Violent Contexts Shape Ethnographic Work and Identity

Mohamed Soufan

Balsillie School of International Affairs. University of Waterloo

344 From the Field to the Screen: Ethnographic Knowledge Production in Crisis

Tatiana Haddad

American University of Beirut

251 The MENA Region: A Winner or a Loser of Globalization?

Fabio Coriolano

Warsaw School of Economics

488 Social Science as Epistemicide: The 'Area Studies Controversy' and Political Science's Colonization of Critical Scholarship on the Middle East

Andrea Teti

University of Salerno

(6E) The Uses/potentials of the Past

09:00 - 11:00 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.2.12

27 The Uses/potentials of the Past

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

"I explore... a relationship to the past that attempts another approach, what I refer to as a *past conditional temporality*, through which...it is possible to conceive the past... as a configuration of multiple contingent possibilities" - Lisa Lowe, *Intimacies of Four Continents*, p. 180

To articulate the past historically is to seize hold of a memory as it flashes up at a moment of danger...[when] even the dead will not be safe"

Walter Benjamin, *The Concept of History*, p. 255.

Intellectual debates in the Middle East have historically been concerned with the question of tradition and modernity. However we want to reactivate the question of traditions to multiple and potential ends. Writing and thinking in a moment where people, space, lives, and histories are under attack, we heed calls to write against the perceived erasure of historical potential. Taking our cue from Lowe and Benjamin, we invite new avenues for thinking of the past, not as burden, but as inheritance of multiple, alternative affordances and consider how might the region's past be reactivated to multiple possibilities. Here, we ask how those other possible pasts, presents and futures are revealed in flashes and fragments? In what ways are indexes and traditions of knowing, writing and acting invoked as sites and methods of unraveling and imagining those other contingent happenings? And, in a moment that seems to ask of us to face up to destruction and demand for liberation, how might we grapple with what we think of as permanent loss?

Chair

Sharri Plonski

Queen Mary University of London

Position Senior Lecturer in International Politics

Participant

Sharri Plonski

Queen Mary University of London

Position Senior Lecturer in International Politics

Aya Nassar

Durham University

Position Assistant Professor, Department of Geography

Joanna Allan

Northumbria University

Position Associate Professor, Department of Geography

Alia Mossallam

EUME

Position Research Fellow

Marral Shamshiri

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Position PhD Student

(6F) War, Colonial Violence, and Ecocide

09:00 - 11:00 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.1.07

95 Tuareg Therapeutics: Artistic Visions Beyond Loss and the Spiritual Suturing of the Desert

Sheyda Aisha Khaymaz

The University of Texas at Austin

129 Conflict, Geography, Time and the Environment

Saad Halawani

Coventry University

426 Genocide in the Anthropocene: Imperialism, Global Environmental Politics, and Palestine

Yelda Ercandirli

University of Leeds. Osmaniye Korkut Ata University

371 Drivers of Conflict in the Middle East: Climate, Land and Oil

Mahdi Zaidan

King's College London

446 'Tragedies of Waste and Unhappiness' - Phosphorus, World-making, and World-breaking across the Naqab Desert

Sarai Kirshner

KCL / UCL

(6G) Resisting Academic Complicity with Genocide (Part 2): Silencing Palestine

09:00 - 11:00 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.1.10

11 Resisting Academic Complicity with Genocide (Part 2): Silencing Palestine

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

Why are Western academic institutions—often considered "liberal spaces"—engaging in practices that suppress freedom of expression and academic freedom? Since October 2023, universities in several Western countries have increasingly cancelled, surveilled, and punished expressions of solidarity with Palestinians or critiques of Israel's genocidal violence. This troubling trend highlights how silencing anti-genocide voices can constitute complicity in genocide itself.

This roundtable will explore how universities, think tanks, and academic spaces contribute to or tacitly support genocidal violence, including scholasticide, by censoring dissent. Key topics include:

- Repressive measures by academic institutions to suppress activism and academic events.
- Discursive practices that delegitimize solidarity with Palestinians.
- Structural and colonial biases perpetuating complicity in violence.

Building on calls to decolonize academia and critiques of neoliberal institutions, the session will examine the entanglement of academia with racial capitalism and structural violence. Featuring scholars actively resisting these dynamics, the discussion will focus on strategies to counter censorship, challenge institutional complicity, and promote accountability. Examples include solidarity campaigns, critical academic events, and divestment and boycott initiatives.

By sharing insights and strategies, the roundtable aims to support efforts to dismantle academic complicity in colonial violence and genocide, fostering accountability and resistance within academia.

Chair

Nicola Pratt

University of Warwick

Position Professor of the International Politics of the Middle East

Participant

Ashjan Ajour

Birmingham City University

Position Lecturer in Sociology

Nama'a Qudah

Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands

Position Post-doctoral researcher

Alice Finden

Durham University

Position Assistant Professor in International Politics

Mandy Turner

Security in Context

Position Senior Researcher

Lewis Turner

Newcastle University

Position Senior Lecturer in International Politics

(6H) Queering Time and Language

09:00 - 11:00 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.1.11

450 Summoning the Ghosts of Our Armed Grandmothers: Queer Reflections on Writing Histories of Feminism in Iran

Niloofer Rasooli

ETH Zürich

97 Gender-inclusive Language in Arabic: Avenues, Strategies and Challenges

Farida Soliman

Queen Mary University of London. King's College London

489 States of Resistance: Queer Communities Navigating Belonging and Survival in Lebanon

Haru Menard

University of Portsmouth

96 Intergenerational Activism and Restorative History-Making among Naqab Bedouin Women

Amal Elsana-Alhjooj, Emilie Le Febvre

McGill University

(6I) From Contested Grounds to Spaces of Political Emergence: Actors, Networks, and Collectivities across the Middle East

09:00 - 11:00 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.1.13

23 From Contested Grounds to Spaces of Political Emergence: Actors, Networks, and Collectivities across the Middle East

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

Forced to navigate experiences of war, displacement, and authoritarianism, populations across the Middle East enact possibilities of care and recovery. This panel recentres the presences and the futures these populations pursue materially and imaginatively. With examples from Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria, it raises a number of questions: What are the processes which drive political emergence in the region? What are the histories, counter-histories, and collectivities which sustain political action? What margins do its actors seek to break?

The panel approaches these questions in two ways: it examines particular shared experiences which draw the contours of a community, and then zooms in on particular spaces which enable broader political action. With that in mind, this panel explores how the Syrian Civil

War transformed the socio-political dynamics of the Alawite community and how shared experiences of displacement underlie a solidarity between Syrian and Palestinian refugees. The panel then examines three different spaces of political emergence: the public square, the detention centre, and the football pitch. Here, multiple forms of artistic and digital activism mobilise Iraq's Tishreen Movement; audio-visual recreations of Israel's Al-Khiam Detention Centre in the south of Lebanon unearth latent histories; and transnational networks of solidarity with Palestine come to 'play' at and through the football pitch. Engaging in various interdisciplinary and methodological approaches, this panel reveals the enduring impact of 'ruination', while recentring narratives of political emergence as catalyst for agency in recovery.

Chair

Francesco Belcastro

University of Derby

Position Senior Lecturer in International Relations

Participant

Mohamad Al-Ashmar

University of St Andrews

Position Doctoral Researcher

Ruba Al-Hassani

Lancaster University

Position Postdoctoral Research Associate

Rahaf Aldoughli

Lancaster University

Position Lecturer in Middle East and North African Studies

Francesco Belcastro

University of Derby

Position Senior Lecturer in International Relations

Haian Dukhan

Teeside University

Position Lecturer in Politics and International Relations

Madonna Kalousian

King's College London

Position Postdoctoral Research Associate

204 Forging Bonds Across Borders: Transnational Solidarity between Syrian and Palestinian Refugees in Times of Crisis

Mohamad Al-Ashmar

University of St Andrews

207 The Alawites in Conflict: Sectarianism, Displacement, and Identity in the Syrian Civil War

Rahaf Aldoughli¹, Haian Dukhan²

¹Lancaster University. ²Teeside University

208 Painting Collective Memory: Art in Iraq's Tishreen Movement

Ruba Al-Hassani

Lancaster University

209 "Let's Kick Out the Occupation": Football, Transnational Networks and the Struggle against Israeli Occupation

Francesco Belcastro

University of Derby

212 Legacies of Injury at Al-Khiam: Visuality, Political Spectacle, and Latencies under Excavation

Madonna Kalousian

King's College London

(6J) Dwelling with the Negative: Home-Making at Times of Violent Erasure (Part 1)

09:00 - 11:00 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.3.76

12 Dwelling with the Negative: Home-Making at Times of Violent Erasure (Part 1)

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

The past year has witnessed excessive intensification of violence in the Middle East. The war on Gaza has created unprecedented pace and means of brutalization, destruction of life-worlds and elimination of life-supporting infrastructural and environmental conditions, but also spread to the broader region, West Bank, Lebanon, Iran, Yemen, and Syria in particular. Millions of civilians have been displaced, and their homes demolished, bombed, or turned into sites of profound uncertainty and unsafety. Despite the profound impact of violence, the majority of those affected have continued to reside in the areas of hostility for various reasons – forcibly, internally displaced, without other options, to resist, to remain steadfast, and so on. This panel looks at ways of dwelling and home-making under the recent conditions of war, violence, colonization, destruction, genocide, and crises in Palestine and Lebanon. It brings together papers looking at dwelling with the negative amid infrastructural elimination, societal collapse, scarcity, humanitarian catastrophe, destruction of environments, and lack of ability to conduct daily household activities (cooking, cleaning, washing etc.), or when everyday spaces of dwelling are turned into disruptive sites of uncertainty, hostility, and destruction. It looks at everyday practices, atmospheres, affects, environments, materialities and embodiments of dwelling, paying particular attention to spaces of those who need to survive amid the profound vulnerabilities, violence and modes of erasure.

Chair

Mikko Joronen

Tampere University

Position Associate Professor

Participant

Wassim Ghantous

Tampere University

Position Postdoctoral researcher

Tiina Järvi

Tampere University

Position Postdoctoral researcher

Danna Masad

Tampere University

Position PhD researcher

Dalia Zein

Tampere University

Position Postdoctoral researcher

Abdallahman Kittana

Tampere University

Position Postdoctoral researcher

Khalid Dader

Tampere University

Position PhD researcher

Mikko Joronen

Tampere University

Position Associate Professor

Majed Abusalama

Tampere University

Position PhD researcher

Moriel Ram

Newcastle University

Position Lecturer

Handel Ariel

Betzalel Academy

Position Lecturer

123 Home Re-Making: Affective and Material Acts of Defiance Amid Ruination in Lebanon

Dalia Zein

Tampere University

304 Fitful Infrastructures: Dwelling with Infrastructural Elimination in Gaza

Khalid Dader, Mikko Joronen

Tampere University

153 Caring for a State: Living through Collapse and Uncertainty in Lebanon

Tiina Järvi

Tampere University

147 'War through the Milieu': The Violence of Colonial Herding against Palestinian Pastoral Communities

Danna Masad, Wassim Ghantous

Tampere University

322 'War through the Milieu': The Violence of Colonial Herding against Palestinian Pastoral Communities

Danna Masad, Wassim Ghantous

Tampere University

(6K) Nakba, Gaza, Archive: Historical Narrative in Contemporary Palestinian Literature

09:00 - 11:00 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.1.06

31 Nakba, Gaza, Archive: Historical Narrative in contemporary Palestinian Literature

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

For decades, and especially since 1967, discourses on Palestinian literature (and to some degree the literature itself) maintained a strict 'evidence-based' approach to narration – functioning as a literary form of 'archiving' that responded to Zionist-Israeli efforts to erase Palestinian existence and history. However, contemporary criticism (with the help of Palestinian literature) has shifted its focus: it expresses narratives that do not shy away from 'airing out Palestinian dirty laundry', or as Isabella Hammud put it 'breaking into the awareness of other people by talking candidly about ourselves' –and in general focusing less on externally driven political frameworks and more on Palestine (and Palestinians) in and of itself (themselves). This has resulted in the development of new literary topics (treason), and forms (archive), as well as new literary languages ('post-sumud'). Palestinian literature and literary criticism—now hyper-aware of the systems and structures that silence (on the one hand) and artificially amplify (on the other)—often asks its readers 'what is it possible to know?' and 'how does it matter'?

This panel examines the ways in which Palestinian writing and the discourses it is taken up within have shifted in their understanding of historical narration. Papers examine literary writing from Gaza, the shifting representation and understanding of archive/documentation from the Nakba to the Genocide, and writing from Palestinians in Israel, and trace Palestinian literature's nuanced and self-critical engagement with the past and its implications for the present and future.

Chair

Nora Parr

University of Birmingham

Position Research Fellow

Participant

Manar Makhoul

Tel Aviv University

Position Lecturer

Shada Shahin

University of Birmingham/Bethlehem University

Position PhD Student/Lecturer

Nora Parr

University of Birmingham

Position Research Fellow

303 Nakba, Trauma, and the Archive: What it Means to Narrate Catastrophe (after?) Genocide

Nora Parr

University of Birmingham

350 Post-Sumud Writings: Shifting Narratives in Palestinian Literature (2020-2024)

Shada Shahin

330 The Editability of History in Palestinian Literature since 2010

Manar Makhoul

Tel Aviv University

Tea & Coffee Break

11:00 - 11:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

Open area - HDB third floor

(7A) International Law in the Face of Palestinian Genocide

11:30 - 13:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.1.09

18 International Law in the Face of Palestinian Genocide

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

What is the role of international law in the face of genocide? Can the law's normative claims help advance the political struggle for Palestinian liberation or is international law an integral part of the master's tools, a mechanism that helps maintain existing power relations?

Taking into account the mass killings and wholesale destruction in Gaza alongside the decline of liberal democracies and the pusillanimous response of most western political elites

to the unfolding genocide, this roundtable will interrogate the international legal order—including the three historical rulings recently issued by the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court—in order to better understand the current role of international law in the political arena. Panellists will use the Gaza genocide as a reference point to examine the system’s dynamics, limits, dangers, and biases as well as the kind of opportunities that the law creates and its potential to bring about or at least facilitate significant political change.

Chair

Neve Gordon

Queen Mary University of London

Position Professor of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law

Participant

Abdelghany Sayed

Kent University

Position Lecturer

Nora Jaber

University of Edinburgh

Position Lecturer

Ralph Wilde

University College of London

Position Professor

Jinan Bastaki

New York University

Position Assistant Professor

Nicola Perugini

University of Edinburgh

Position Associate Professor

(7B) Unearthing Colonial and Ecological Violence in the Middle East (Part II)

11:30 - 13:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.2.13

40 Unearthing Colonial and Ecological Violence in the Middle East II

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

Colonial violence inheres in the earth. In Iraq the material residues of war have precipitated an epidemic of birth anomalies, renal failure, and cancers (Alaani et al. 2020; Rubaii 2020); in Gaza ecologies of siege and ecocide are an instrumental part of genocidal warfare (Dajani and Jabary Salamanca, forthcoming 2025). In the occupied lands of the Sahara and Syrian Jawlan, green colonialism produces new sites of energy exploitation, entrenching coloniality in the wider Middle East (Alkhalili et al., 2023; Schuetze, 2023). In Jordan, water is governed by treaties rooted in colonialism that deny local communities access to water, while conservation policies fail to account for indigenous ecological relations and prioritise economic development over environment protection (Zeitoun et al 2019; Hussein and Mason 2024; Ahearn and Mason 2022). These and many other examples (see e.g., Griffiths 2022; Nixon 2011; Pugliese 2020) contribute to a weight of evidence that colonial power works through populations' proximity and exposure to compromised ecologies and environmental policies rooted in colonial logics and power dynamics. Scholars across disciplines now recognise the urgency of research in this area, not only in terms of earthly violation but also in the dynamics of power that produce ecologies that diminish life in terms of toxified exposure, heavily restricted provision, and unequal access to resources (Dajani and Henderson 2024).

Papers on this panel will engage with the topic of colonial and ecological violence in the Middle East.

Chair

Olivia Mason

Newcastle University

Position Lecturer

Participant

Muna Dajani

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Position LSE Fellow

Mohamed El-Shewy

Newcastle University

Position Post-doctoral researcher

Mark Griffiths

Newcastle University

Position Reader in Political Geography

Kanta Kudo

Hokkaido University

Position Doctoral student

Taraf Abu-Hamdan

Central European University

Position Doctoral student

Adnan Mirhanoglu

Universität Hamburg

Position Postdoctoral Researcher in Human Geography

Nigel Clark

Lancaster University

Position Professor of Geography

Yasmin Gunaratnam

King's College London

Position Professor

427 “Conflict Minerals” and Israel’s War on Gaza

Mark Griffiths, Mohamed El-Shewy

Newcastle University

432 Devastation to the Cultural Landscape as Memoricide: Israeli Uprooting of Olive Trees in Palestine

Kanta Kudo

Hokkaido University, Graduate School of Global Food Resources

461 Unveiling Colonial Legacies in Environmental and Climate Policies in Palestine

Muna Dajani

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

456 Making an Enemy of Your Kin: Livelihoods, Development, and Marginalization in the Jordanian South

Taraf Abu Hamdan

Central European University

440 Irrigation Infrastructures, State Authority and Climate Crisis in Northern Kurdistan

Adnan Mirhanoglu, Eray Cayli

University of Hamburg

481 Infernal Modernity: Living through Explosive Violence in Gaza

Nigel Clark¹, Yasmin Gunaratnam²

¹Lancaster University. ²King's College London

(7C) Gulf Foreign Policy: Strategic Narratives and Investments

11:30 - 13:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.1.04

32 Limits of Influence: Saudi Foreign Aid and Jordan's Foreign Policy Decisions

Atilla Ekici

University of Plymouth

39 Gulf Countries and China's Gamble in Afghanistan under the Rule of the Taliban 2.0: Navigating Opportunities and Tensions

Fatih Oguzhan Ipek

N/P

154 Shaping Perceptions: An Analysis of Qatar and the UAE's Strategic Narratives

Haya Al-Nuaimi

University of St Andrews

383 'Crisis-Driven' Investments: Emirati Bids in Egypt's Mediterranean Coast

Nawafel AlShehab¹, Dalia Abdelnabi²

¹University of Exeter. ²Cairo University

476 Understanding the UAE's Yemen Policy Through Role Theory

Rumeysa Ayverdi Varan

Sakarya University, Middle East Institute

(7D) The Enduring Struggle: Palestinian Memory and the Repetition of Zionist Colonial Violence

11:30 - 13:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.G.06

30 The Enduring Struggle: Palestinian Memory and the Repetition of Zionist Colonial Violence

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

This panel will examine the cyclical reproduction of destruction within the Zionist settler-colonial project and the enduring resilience of Palestinians in the face of this violence. By exploring historical patterns of ruination, displacement, and dispossession, the panel will investigate how the Zionist colonial project has continually targeted the Palestinian people, through violence, territorial expropriation, and the erasure of their collective memory and identity. These acts of destruction, however, are met with persistent forms of resistance, as Palestinians have continually fought for survival, dignity, and self-determination.

The panel will focus on the ways in which literature, intellectual production, and political discourse have played crucial roles in preserving Palestinian memory, mobilizing resistance, and shaping the struggle across generations. From the writings of Palestinian intellectuals like Wael Zwaiter to the grassroots movements of the General Union of Palestinian Students

(GUPS), the panel will highlight the transgenerational continuity of the Palestinian resistance narrative. These efforts not only document and resist colonial violence but also imagine and enact alternative futures of liberation and recovery.

By connecting past and present experiences of dispossession, this panel will critically engage with the themes of destruction, loss, and recovery, exploring how Palestinian resilience and the power of collective memory continue to inform the struggle for justice and decolonization. Through these intellectual, cultural, and political practices, Palestinians assert their agency in the face of ongoing ruination, envisioning a future beyond the cycle of colonial violence.

Chair

Mjriam Abu Samra

University of California (Davis), Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Position Postdoctoral Scholar

Participant

Mjriam Abu Samra

University of California (Davis), Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Position Postdoctoral Scholar

Basem Kharma

University of Milan

Position PhD student

Sara Troian

Maynooth University

Position Phd student

Naji Al Omleh

University of Genoa

Position PhD student

Samar Al-Saleh

New York University

Position PhD student

270 Wael Zwaiter and Palestine in Italy: Between Politics and Memory

Basem Kharma

University of Milan

310 Palestine on the World Map: Written and Visual Production of the General Union of Palestinian Students in the 1960s and 1970s

Miriam Abu Samra

University of California-Davis. University of Venice Ca' Foscari

311 The Impossible Disappearance of the Palestinians: Ibtisām 'Āzim's Book of Disappearance and the Anticolonial Practices of Palestinian Intergenerational Memory

Naji Al Omleh

University of Genoa

313 Lineages of Zionism: From Destruction to Genocide

Sara Troian

Maynooth University

333 The Birth of the Palestinian Prisoner Struggle under British Occupation

Samar Al-Saleh

New York University

(7E) Cultural Heritage Narratives, Preservation, and Restoration

11:30 - 13:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025
HDB.2.12

127 Constructing Memory: Archival Practices and Collective Narratives in Qatar

Kaltham Al-Suwaidi

University of Manchester. Qatar University

173 Art and Curating as Power Formations: The Case of a Museum in a Mosque

Hadas Kedar

Bezalel Academy of Art and Design. The Mandel Center for Leadership in the Negev

317 Affective Territories: On the Aesthetics of Time and the Commodification of Memory

Alia Shaddad

American University in Cairo

495 The Site of Jbeil and the Ambiguity of Recovery

Thomas Richard

Boston University. Université Paris-1

499 The Island of Hormuz: Mapping Early Modern Transformations of Urban And Cultural Heritage

Igor Outeiro

Unaffiliated

(7F) On the Concept of Dignity: Thinking of Dignity and its Politics in the Aftermath of Arab Revolutions

11:30 - 13:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.1.07

43 On the Concept of Dignity: Thinking of Dignity and its Politics in the Aftermath of Arab Revolutions

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

In the context of the 2011 revolutions in the Arab region, dignity has found a central place. The revolutions, in Tunisia and Syria at least, have been called revolutions of dignity (thawrât al-karama). Even today, in the revolutionary and post-revolutionary processes underway in the region, the question of dignity remains central: that which is owed to the victims of violence, that which has been expressed and continues to be expressed in the resistance, that which accompanies the demands for subsistence and the right to life even in contexts of critical economic and climatic crises. Taking dignity as our focal point and examining it from different angles, we started this discussion in a workshop as part of the ERC-DREAM project at Centre Marc Bloch in Berlin in June 2023. We would like to take the occasion of the BRISMES to continue the discussion on the concept of dignity with the participants of the conference. We also would like to share with them insights from the forthcoming publication "At the threshold of Revolution: Investigating Dignity in Southern Mediterranean". The roundtable will tackle the following questions among others: Has dignity taken on a renewed

political and social meaning throughout the Arab Revolutions (2010-present)? What kind of circulation of this notion of dignity can be observed on a diachronic level (in the form of a genealogy) and on the scale of the spaces of protest, between regions, languages and social spaces?

Chair

Leyla Dakhli

CNRS - Centre d'Histoire Sociale des Mondes Contemporains

Position Senior researcher

Participant

Leyla Dakhli

CNRS - Centre d'Histoire Sociale des Mondes Contemporains

Position Senior researcher

Yasmeen Daher

Febrayr Network

Position Co-Director & Editorial Director

Saphe Shamoun

Colombia University

Position PhD candidate

Nayera Soliman

Centre Marc Bloch Berlin

Position Research associate

(7G) Environmental Change and Governance in the MENA

11:30 - 13:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.1.10

218 Technical or Political, Both or Neither? Exploring the Role of Engineers in Shaping Water Governance in South-Eastern Turkey

Aybike Alkan¹, [Arda Bilgen](#)²

¹Independent. ²London School of Economics and Political Science

242 The Geostrategic Impacts of Green Hydrogen Development in Morocco

[Siobhan Bygate](#)

University of Hertfordshire

389 Greening the Value Chain? The Green Transition within Morocco's Apparel and Textile Industry

[Josh White](#)

University of Sheffield

63 Competing Visions of Leadership in Gulf States' Renewable Energy Transition

[Gökhan Erel](#)

Middle East Technical University

281 Water Security and Climate Pressures: Egypt-Sudan Cooperation in the Age of Geopolitical Rivalries

[Mehmet Hanifi Kaya](#)¹, Abdullah Ozcelik²

¹Istanbul Beykent University. ²Sakarya University

(7H) Popular Mobilization, Subaltern Histories, and Revolutionary Politics: Gramscian Themes in South West Asia and North Africa

11:30 - 13:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.1.11

25 Popular Mobilization, Subaltern Histories, and Revolutionary Politics: Gramscian Themes in South West Asia and North Africa

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

Keying into conference themes of imaginaries of recovery, strategies of resistance, and translating lexicons of oppression and liberation, this panel puts the focus on popular mobilization, subaltern histories, and revolutionary politics, engaging with growing interest in the living Gramscian tradition, and presenting papers based on historical-sociological, ethnographic, and interpretive methods. This panel engages - in historically-minded and interdisciplinary fashion - with popular histories of resistance - among protestors in Iraq in 2019, Iranian militants in Beirut and Baghdad in the 1960s and 1970s, the bidun in Kuwait since the 1950s, and languages of popular resistance more generally - putting the emphasis on politics from below and working with Gramscian thematics to think questions of subaltern social groups, transnationalism, 'statelessness', civil society, popular uprisings, common sense/ good sense, and 'living translatability'. Our panel aims to push back against statism, liberal passive revolution and colonial erasure, and to interrogate and develop the fertility of Gramscian approaches to new forms of revolutionary history from below.

Chair

John Chalcraft

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Position Professor of Middle East History and Politics

Participant

Maral Shamshiri

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) / Exeter

Position PhD Student / Postdoc

Nour Al-Mazidi

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Position PhD Student / Postdoc

Mehdi Shakarchi

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Position PhD Student

John Chalcraft

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

Position Professor of Middle East History and Politics

235 Iranian-Arab Militant Cultural Production in 1960s Baghdad and Beirut: Transnational Civil Society beyond Statist Constraints

Maral Shamshiri

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

233 Possibilities for Subaltern Autonomy: Popular Self-activity in Iraq's 2019 Tishreen Uprising

Mehdi Shakarchi

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

229 Translatability in Gramscian Languages of Popular Mobilization

John Chalcraft

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

223 Insistent Wujud: On Stateless Subaltern Struggles in the Arabian Peninsula

Nour Almazidi

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

(7I) State Power, Welfare, and Religious Authority

11:30 - 13:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.1.13

248 The Rentier State, Cultural Capital, and Elite Anglo-Jordanian Connections in the Late 1980s and Early 1990s

Joseph Hearn

SOAS, University of London

366 From Pasta to Chocolate: Paternalistic Approaches and Individual Freedom in Social Assistance - The Case of Ankara Metropolitan Municipality

Didem Özey Küçük

Social Sciences University of Ankara

431 What is Reality for Islamic Law? Revisiting the 'Christian' Headgear Debate in 19th-Century Egypt

Muhammad Al-Marakeby

463 Beyond a Kidnapping: Reconfiguring Authority after the 1954 Coptic Papal Abduction Scandal

Weston Bland

University of Oxford

435 An Ethnographic Approach to Global Police Power

Hayal Akarsu

Utrecht University

(7J) Dwelling with the Negative: Home-Making at Times of Violent Erasure (Part 2)

11:30 - 13:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.3.76

44 Dwelling with the Negative: Home-Making at Times of Violent Erasure (Part 2)

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

The past year has witnessed excessive intensification of violence in the Middle East. The war on Gaza has created unprecedented pace and means of brutalization, destruction of life-worlds and elimination of life-supporting infrastructural and environmental conditions, but

also spread to the broader region, West Bank, Lebanon, Iran, Yemen, and Syria in particular. Millions of civilians have been displaced, and their homes demolished, bombed, or turned into sites of profound uncertainty and unsafety. Despite the profound impact of violence, the majority of those affected have continued to reside in the areas of hostility for various reasons – forcibly, internally displaced, without other options, to resist, to remain steadfast, and so on. This panel looks at ways of dwelling and home-making under the recent conditions of war, violence, colonization, destruction, genocide, and crises in Palestine and Lebanon. It brings together papers looking at dwelling with the negative amid infrastructural elimination, societal collapse, scarcity, humanitarian catastrophe, destruction of environments, and lack of ability to conduct daily household activities (cooking, cleaning, washing etc.), or when everyday spaces of dwelling are turned into disruptive sites of uncertainty, hostility, and destruction. It looks at everyday practices, atmospheres, affects, environments, materialities and embodiments of dwelling, paying particular attention to spaces of those who need to survive amid the profound vulnerabilities, violence and modes of erasure.

Chair

Mikko Joronen

Tampere University

Position Associate Professor

Participant

Moriel Ram

Newcastle University

Position Lecturer

Handel Ariel

Betzalel Academy

Position Lecturer

Abdalrahman Kittana

Tampere University

Position Postdoctoral researcher

Majed Abusalama

Tampere University

Position PhD researcher

181 Homing the City under Attack: Rhythms of Dwelling, Resistance and Disruption in War on Palestine

Abdallahman Kittana

University of Tampere

293 "Dwelling in the Echoes of a 'Deathworld': The Acoustic Colonial Management of Gaza's People"

Majed Abusalama

University of Tampere

412 Violent Dwelling and the Settler Colonial Domicides of Palestine/Israel

Moriel Ram¹, Handel Ariel²

¹Newcastle University. ²Betzalel Academy

(7K) Gendered Narratives and Negotiations in Popular Culture

11:30 - 13:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.1.02

291 Beirut as City and Lover: Queering Loss in The Window (2022)

Salma Yassine

Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter

131 Convivial Cosmopolitanism or Critical Nostalgia in Istanbul? Nightlife, Entertainment and Minority Identities in Kulüp (The Club) 2020-2023

Peter Cherry

British Institute at Ankara

241 Deconstructing Palestinian Masculinities Through Media Imageries: An Alternative Discourse

Ruchi Sharma, Yashi Yashi

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

80 Different Symbols of Veiling and Seclusion

Mona Alshammari

Sussex University

(7L) Coloniality of Knowledge Production

11:30 - 13:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.1.06

21 Coloniality of Knowledge Production

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

This panel brings together four distinct perspectives on efforts to deconstruct the coloniality of knowledge production on the Middle East, and to grapple with what it might mean to construct decolonial alternatives. The four papers draw out the coloniality of the categories, and underlying structures and practices, that shape knowledge produced about the region by social scientists and political theorists, and also by a diverse range of colonial officials, postcolonial state actors, and opposition activists, within and outside the region. More than this though, they draw on live debates about decoloniality to explore scope for critiquing and decentring such knowledge from indigenous and vernacular perspectives, and to consider how academic research might help to make space for this. In these ways, the panel seeks to foster a conversation about the promise of disrupting existing hierarchies of knowledge but also the tensions at stake in this project, including in regard to the elusiveness of any perspective external to coloniality, the possibility that decolonial perspectives may end up challenging the secular humanism of postcolonial thinkers like Edward Said, and the extent to which these perspectives may be marked by their own forms of hierarchy and exclusion.

Chair

Alice Finden

Durham University

Position Assistant Professor in International Politics

Participant

Lujain Meligy

King's College London

Position PhD candidate

Jasmine Gani

London School of Economics and Political Science

Position Assistant Professor in International Relations Theory

Jeroen Gunning

King's College London

Position Professor of Middle Eastern Politics and Conflict Studies

Michael Farquhar

King's College London

Position Lecturer in Middle East Politics

185 Beyond the Western-Centric Frame: Hybridity, Haunting, and State Violence in Postcolonial Egypt's Terrorism Narratives (1952-present)

Lujain Meligy

King's College London

186 Severing Colonial Relationality: Islamicate Theories and Strategies of Autonomy

Jasmine Gani

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

187 Place-based Participatory Digital Storytelling as a Decolonial Method in Beirut's Southern Suburbs

Jeroen Gunning

King's College London

188 Decolonising Islamism Studies

Michael Farquhar, Jeroen Gunning

King's College London

Lunch

13:30 - 14:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

(8A) Resistance, Recovery, and the Politics of Exile

14:30 - 16:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.2.13

74 Reimagining Syria: Youth Perspectives on Recovery in a Time of Political Transformation

Ibrahim EEE¹, Muhammed Rustom²

¹The University of Manchester. ²Physicians Across Continents

380 Exile and Resistance: The Impact of Ayatollah Khomeini's Displacement (1965 - 1978) on Shi'i Seminary Institutions and Transnational Activism

Abid Zaidi

St Antony's College, University of Oxford

419 Surviving the Cell: A Personal Narrative of Pain, Resistance, and Recovery

Ahmad Alali

Independent

430 Political Cartoon in the Occupied Palestine: Struggle for Palestinian Liberation in the Works of Nājī al-'Alī

Marina Hamanaka

The University of Tokyo

320 “Like Those Who Dance in Stairwells”: Navigating Ruptures, Liminality & Imaginaries in Exilic Filmmaking

Mariam Agha

Ibn Haldun University

(8B) Gender, Representation, and Nationhood

14:30 - 16:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.1.04

378 From Suzanne Mubarak to Asmaa al-Assad: First Ladies in Authoritarian States

Mustafa Menshawy

University of Lancaster

418 The Resurrection of the Nation: How the Critical Scrutinizing of the Women, Life and Freedom Movement is Reshaping Iran's Future Sociopolitical Landscape

Arash Beidollahkhani

University of Manchester

239 Constructing the Fallaha: Rural Egyptian Women and the Politics of Knowledge Production

Lina Ashour

395 The Family as a Post-Islamist Tool: Negotiating Religious Gender Rhetoric amidst Authoritarian Regulation

Johanna Kettenbach

Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI). University of Oslo (UiO)

245 The Structure of Prototypical Femininities and Masculinities among Egyptian and Syrian Women and Men

Kholoud Saber Barakat

Psychological Sciences Research Institute, UCLouvain Belgium

(8C) Statecraft Processes in the MENA

14:30 - 16:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.G.06

69 Security Assistance, the Donor Cartel and the Tunisian Neoliberal Security State

Rosa Maryon

UWE Bristol

87 The Diplomatic, Economic and Strategic Transformation of Saudi Arabia: Ibn Saud, Britain and America, 1932 to 1950

Turki Faihan Alotaibi

Department of History and Civilisation, Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University (IMSIU), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. School of Media, Arts and Humanities, University of Sussex, UK

114 'Refuseniks' of the 'Resistance'. Christian Elites' Shared Ideal of the Lebanese State in Defiance to Hezbollah's Hegemon in Baalbek-Hermel

Jean Allegrini

University College London (UCL). University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki

132 Ruling Groups in (Dys)Functional Polities, Not 'Regimes' in 'States': The Adaptational Postcolonial Nature of Ruling Bodies in MENA-region (tentative)

Hisham Bustani

Sciences Po, Paris, France. Ifpo, Amman, Jordan

453 The State and Business in Lebanon: Insights from the Pharmaceutical Sector

Jad Baghdadi

University of Oxford

(8D) Discourses of a Genocidal War: Media, Balance, Bias

14:30 - 16:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.2.12

458 The Israel - Gaza War in the Polish Press: Critical Discourse Analysis of the Media Coverage of Israeli and Palestinian Civilian Victims

Ida Zając

468 Count-less Lives: Gaza and the Contemporary Political Sensibility

Gabriel Popa

independent scholar

201 Conspiracy Narratives and Humanitarian Aid: How Conspiracy Narratives are Leveraged to Prevent and Undermine Aid Delivery to Palestinians

Johannes Sauerland

Durham University

407 Balance and Impartiality in Public Service News: The BBC's news Framing of the 2023 Israel-Gaza War

Nael Jebril

Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (Qatar) and Bournemouth University (UK)

269 Genocidal Israel: A Window into Public Discourse in Israel since October 2023

Elia Weizman

London South Bank University

(8E) Lebanon in Focus: Governance, Conflict, and Social Transformation

14:30 - 16:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025
HDB.1.07

297 Rethinking the Opportunities and Constraints of Consociationalism in Divided Societies: Lessons from Lebanon after a Year of Escalation in the Middle East

Nur Koprulu¹, Gülay Umaner-Duba²

¹Near East University. ²Eastern Mediterranean University

302 Why 'Riyadh' Failed but 'Ta'ef' Worked: A Comparative Study of two Attempts to End Lebanon's Civil War

Wassim Mroueh

The University of Edinburgh

376 The Enchained Lions: Policide, Perseverance, and the Chehab Dynasty's Enduring Legacy in Lebanon

Taylan Paksoy

Bilkent University

393 Child Protection System in Lebanon: An Interplay of Humanitarianism and Development

Jana Abdel-Jawadova

University of Essex

(8F) International Relations

Perspectives on Palestine and Israel

14:30 - 16:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.1.10

396 Political and Diplomatic Shifts: Ireland's Recognition of State of Palestine

Ibrahim Natil

Dublin City University. Johan Bin Jassim Academy

436 An Alternative Lexicon for EU-Palestine Relations

Michelle Pace, Christian Achraimer

Roskilde University

504 Shifting Sands: Iran's National Security and the Escalation of Israeli Threats

Ahmet Furkan Özyakar

Atatürk University, Türkiye

301 Unpacking the Resilience of Jordanian Monarchy: Identity Politics, Democratisation and the Opposition

Nur Koprulu

Near East University

93 Between Chiha and 'Aql. Lebanese Christian Approaches to the Palestinian Question

Borja Wladimiro Gonzalez Fernandez

Necmettin Erbakan University

(8G) Landscapes of Ruin and Repair: Exclusion, Reconstruction, and Utopian Futures in the Middle East

14:30 - 16:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.1.13

232 Loss, Exclusion and Utopian progress in NEOM

Mehdi Ghassemi

ISTC (Université Catholique de Lille)

413 Not in My Backyard! Fireproofing, Repairing, and Rebuilding Early Modern Istanbul

Jordan Cannon

Harvard University, traditional and ancestral land of the Massachusett, Cambridge, United States

415 After the Earthquake: Destruction and Reconstruction in Hatay

Zoltan Egeresi

University of Public Service

83 Speculative Fiction and the Literary 'Apocalypse' in Bothaya Al-Essa's Ḥāris Saṭīḥ al-Ālam

Shadya Radhi

King's College London. University of Warwick

5 1890 Cholera Epidemic, Al-Tur Lazaretto, and the Hijaz Railroad: Early Popular Support

Benan Grams

Loyola University New Orleans

(8H) War in the Late Ottoman Middle East: Military Adaptation, Homefront(s), and Propaganda

14:30 - 16:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.3.76

8 War in the Late Ottoman Middle East: Military Adaptation, Homefront(s), and Propaganda

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

This panel discusses what the so-called "modern" Ottoman army and warfare meant in the 19th and 20th centuries. While many military histories dealt with this question, more comprehensive treatments bridging military and social historical perspectives are rare in the scholarship. Therefore, the panel critically engages with the conventional understanding of the modern Ottoman army by investigating the blurring of divides between the military and

social spheres with the emergence of modern warfare. It examines how Ottomans adapted to this change in operational battle as well as on home front(s).

First, Tarık Çaşkurlu investigates the inception of the “modern” Ottoman army, questioning the traditional periodization by focusing on the often-neglected grounds of Ottoman modernization efforts in Mehmed Ali Pasha’s Egypt. Next, Muhammed Aslaner challenges the common claim in British literature that Ottoman modern armies were too “dogmatic” to respond to the Arab Revolt effectively, by demonstrating how Ottoman forces were in fact able to adapt to irregular warfare during the Revolt.

Yaşar Tolga Cora’s paper deals with Ottoman state efforts to prevent soldiers’ fiancées from getting married to other men during WWI, examining these policies regarding different ethnic groups. Cora illustrates intersections of the operational field with Ottoman home fronts. Lastly, focusing on an Arabic booklet published during WWI to advance Ottoman war aims, Orçun Okan critically engages with notions of humanity and civilian suffering as well as propaganda and home fronts with attention to Arabic-reading publics within and beyond the Ottoman Empire.

Chair

Ines Aščerić-Todd

University of Edinburgh

Position Senior Lecturer in Arabic and Middle Eastern Cultures

Participant

Muhammed Aslaner

University of Oxford

Position DPhil

Yaşar Tolga Cora

Boğaziçi University

Position Associate Professor

Ahmet Tarık Çaşkurlu

King's College London

Position DPhil

Orçun Can Okan

University of Oxford

Position Research Associate

77 Recruiting Irregulars for the 'Modern' Army: Ottoman Responses to the Arab Revolt

Muhammed Aslaner

University of Oxford

78 Bringing the Home to the Front: Regulations Regarding the Fiancées of the Conscripts in the Late Ottoman Empire

Yaşar Tolga Cora

Boğaziçi University

79 Somebody Else's Humanity?: An Ottoman Muslim Account of Atrocity and Resilience before and during World War I

Orçun Can Okan

University of Oxford

98 The Origins of Institutionalization of the Modern Ottoman Army: Nizam-ı Cedid to Sultan Mahmud II, Stunted Reforms and Continuities via Mehmed Ali Pasha's Egypt

Ahmet Tarık Çaşkurulu

King's College London

(8I) Militarized Landscapes: Security, Morality, and Everyday Life in the MENA

14:30 - 16:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025
HDB.1.06

148 Terror Maps of Lebanon: Civilian Encounters with Military Cartography

Yafa El Masri

University of Durham

507 The Politics of Sound: Discourses of Religious Eulogies and War

Soudeh Ghaffari

Newcastle University

75 The Houthi Movement: Morality as a Pillar of Political and Military Strategy in Yemen

Almuatasim Alqadhi

University of Exeter

155 Tunisia's Neoliberal Security State as Global Colonial Present: The 'Adapted Adoption' of Colonial Practices and Anticolonial Repertoires

Rosa Maryon¹, Roberto Roccu²

¹UWE Bristol. ²KCL

375 Military Bases and Base Politics in the Foreign Policy of the Sultanate of Oman

Yusuf Bahadir Keskin

Amasya University

(8J) Cultural and Artistic Relations during the Global Cold War: Eastern Europe-the Arab World

14:30 - 16:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.1.02

13 Cultural and Artistic Relations during the Global Cold War: Eastern Europe-the Arab World

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

This panel explores how transregional cultural exchanges between the Arab world and Eastern Europe shaped artistic and creative practices during the Global Cold War. The transregional encounters of artists, architects, curators, and archaeologists ensured the transfer of ideas and inspired debates on modernity and cross-cultural exchange in the aftermath of the Second World War and during decolonisation struggles. During the Global Cold War, fine art students from the Arab world arrived in the Eastern Bloc as part of university exchanges and to attend International Youth and Student Festivals designed to cement anti-western, anti-colonial, and socialist alliances. Artists from the Arab world exhibited in Europe's Communist/socialist countries, while their European counterparts participated in art festivals and took up teaching roles in fine art departments across West Asia and Northern Africa. Further, Eastern European archaeologists, artists, and scientists travelled to the region to document local cultural heritage and engage with artistic communities. The panel aims to investigate cross-regional mobility from the Communist/socialist European countries to the Arab world, and vice versa, against the backdrop of state-sanctioned cultural politics. Attending to questions of hybridity, cultural transfers, translation, and mistranslation, the panel aims to understand how these histories shed new light on the Global Cold War, modern art, cross-cultural exchange, and cultural politics. We invite papers on any aspect of cultural exchanges between both regions during

the Global Cold War, including exhibition and curatorial histories, artistic collaborations, pedagogical histories, archaeology, public art, visual culture.

Chair

Sheyda Aisha Khaymaz

The University of Texas at Austin

Position PhD student

Participant

Katarzyna Falecka

Newcastle University

Position Lecturer in Art History

Przemysław Strożek

Institute of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences

Position Assistant Professor

Jessica Gerschultz

University of St Andrews

Position Lecturer in Contemporary Art History (Asia, the Middle East & North Africa)

Radoslav Ištók

National Gallery Prague

Position Curator

Maria Mileeva

Courtauld Institute of Art

Position Lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Art

149 From Warsaw to Leipzig: Algerian Artists in the Eastern Bloc

Katarzyna Falecka

Newcastle University

150 The Last Modern Art Exhibition in the 1970s Czechoslovakia? Contemporary Egyptian Art (1971) at Prague City Gallery

Radoslav Istok

National Gallery in Prague, Charles University in Prague

189 Between Archeology and Artistic Exchange: Framing Polish-Sudanese Cultural Relations in the 1950s-1970s

Przemyslaw Strozek

Institute of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences

279 Soviet Ukraine and the Arab World: Rethinking Cultural Connections between North Africa and the Black Sea Region

Maria Mileeva

The Courtauld Institute of Art, London

315 Branches, Horsehair, and Silk: On Sensory and Material Recovery

Jessica Gerschultz

University of St Andrews

(8K) Our Worlds at the End of Our Words: Queer Notes in the Time of Genocide

14:30 - 16:30 Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

HDB.1.11

41 Our Worlds at the End of Our Words: Queer Notes in the Time of Genocide

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

Whose words and thoughts become our refuge amid ceaseless temporalities of rage and wrath, mourning and pain, disbelief and death? How do we make meaning in the face of unrelenting violence? How do practices of meaning-making break us? Confronted with the ongoing devastation of our lands and people, pasts and futures, how can we reimagine anti-colonial and anti-imperial queer sensibilities, narratives, and knowledge? What becomes of our queerness as we bear witness to the manifold endings?

The genocide in Palestine marks a critical juncture, summoning myriad forms of resistance against regimes of meaning-making, theorizing, organizing, crafting, and making sense of: practices that stabilize and freeze our narratives. What unites us in this panel is our shared disorientation and discomfort with colonial institutional structures of knowledge production—their limitations in attending to narratives of livability and futurity. We echo the words of Salar Mameni: “Theory ends when blood is spilled.”

In this panel, by weaving our scattered wounds across the region and recalling the ghosts of our “failed” revolutions, uprisings, movements, and freedom dreams, we seek to delve into fragmented archives and memories, inherited or abandoned knowledge, and the haunting, persistent questions that arise from living in overlapping temporalities of apocalypse. By doing so, our aim is to bring to this conversation a repository of stories steeped in queer time—with its distortions, its fixities, and its invocations of endings. We set this panel to write our crumbling worlds at the end of our words.

Chair

Sophie Chamas

SOAS, University of London

Position Senior Lecturer in Gender Studies

Hanna Al-Taher

University of Kassel, University of Dresden

Position Researcher

Participant

Niloofar Rasooli

ETH Zürich

Position Doctoral Fellow

Yara Ahmed

University of British Columbia

Position PhD student

Iskandar Abdalla

Free University Berlin

Position Doctoral Fellow

Tayf Almoghazy

University of British Columbia

Position Graduate Student, MFA

447 The Akhir al-Zaman of Queer Theory

Niloofar Rasooli

ETH Zürich

448 The End of the World or Worlds that Must Come to an End?

Iskandar Abdalla

Free University Berlin

449 Exhausted Meanings

Yara Ahmed

University of British Columbia

480 Within Craft an End of a World is Lost in Translation

Tayf Almouazi

University of British Columbia