

COLUMBIA  
UNIVERSITY

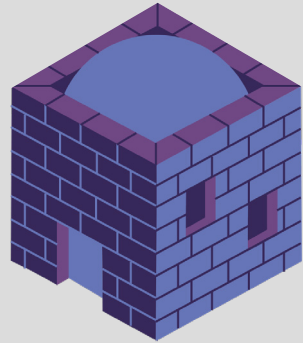
CENTER FOR  
PALESTINE  
STUDIES

10

TEN  
YEAR  
REPORT



2010-  
2020



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
**CENTER FOR  
PALESTINE STUDIES**

## **CONTENTS**

2	Ten Year Report
4	Letter from the Directors
8	Public Programming
32	Research
67	Palestine & Law Fellowship
68	Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Postdoctoral Award in Palestine Studies
74	Core Faculty Committee
76	Staff

# TEN YEAR REPORT

This report celebrates the tenth anniversary of the Center for Palestine Studies, a decade of achievements to be marked by special programming, reflection and planning for the future.

The original and continuing mission of CPS is to promote the academic study of Palestine by supporting research, teaching, and intellectual collaboration among scholars within Columbia and beyond. The Center provides an institutional home for faculty, visiting scholars and students at Columbia across the academic disciplines and the arts. It builds connections with artists, scholars and institutions to strengthen the academic study and artistic representation of Palestine and Palestinians throughout the United States and around the world.

Launched in 2010, CPS is the first such center in an academic institution in the United States. Its creation honored the legacy of Professor Edward Said at the university where he taught for forty years. Founded in the City of New York in 1754, and one of the premier research universities in the world, Columbia is the professional home to a community of distinguished scholars on Palestine, and to an internationally respected faculty across a variety of academic disciplines.

The Center's work would not be possible without the dedicated support of our donors who have sustained our many initiatives over the last decade. We are deeply grateful.

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

## Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This has been quite a year, for all of us. Twelve months ago, as we anticipated celebrating the Center for Palestine Studies' tenth anniversary, we looked forward to a particularly productive year. We could not have predicted how profoundly the basic contours of academic life and work would be disrupted by a world-wide global pandemic, and widespread anti-racist protest and profound political polarization in the US. Nevertheless, we changed gears quickly in March, and have continued to sponsor and organize events, now online.

The 2019-20 academic year began with some exceptionally well-attended events, including *Reclaiming Space*, an illustrated talk by RIWAQ's Director Shatha Safi and Founder Suad Amiry on their project of the architectural rehabilitation of fifty villages in rural Palestine. CPS Stage hosted a live adaptation by Naomi Wallace and Ismail Khalidi of Ghassan Kanafani's acclaimed novel, *Returning to Haifa*, and Palestine Cuts presented the award-winning film *Tel Aviv On Fire* and a post-screening discussion with its Director, Sameh Zoabi and his co-screenwriter.

As we moved into the spring semester of 2020, and the beginnings of the global pandemic, it quickly became apparent that we would not be hosting events on campus for the remainder of the academic year. While we had to cancel a few events, we shifted most of our scheduled programming to the now ubiquitous Zoom and other online delivery formats. Much to our surprise, online events have proven to be some of our most successful programming. Zoom may not be a world

we would have chosen to live in, but it has had its upsides: we have been able to reach out to far larger, and decidedly international audiences, including large audiences from within Palestine who have been living under lockdown for a very long time now. Scholars, artists and community members in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Birzeit, and Haifa, together with those living in the many countries of the Palestinian diaspora, have participated in and enriched our programming. While we look forward to being able to hold in-person events at some point soon, we have learned an important—and salutary—lesson in community engagement and are committed to designing programming that will allow us to maintain and nurture those larger networks and audiences.

Lana Tatour completed her tenure as our Ibrahim Abu Lughod Fellow this past May, having spent the last two months of it working remotely from Australia. She was a vibrant presence and active participant in our programming, and secured a tenure track academic position by the end of the year at the School of Social Sciences, University of New South Wales. After yet another strong pool of applicants, we awarded the 2020-2021 fellowship to Nathaniel George. Nate holds a Ph.D. in History from Rice University and is working on his first book project, *A Third World War: The Palestinian Revolution, the Lebanese National Movement, and the Struggle for Popular Sovereignty in the Arab East, 1967-1982*. Since we are all working remotely, this isn't the most ideal situation for either Nate or the rest of us, but we are all working hard for Nate to feel he has an intellectual home at the Center.

Having acclimated to our new 'normal,' the Center had a productive fall semester in 2020. In addition to our usual programming, we initiated a new project, *Readings in the Khalidiyya*, that explores the holdings of the historic Khalidi Library in Jerusalem, digitization of manuscripts and accessibility and related topics of scholarly inquiry. The events in this series are ongoing. We also looked for new ways to respond to the global situation and better connect with our dispersed constituencies. These explorations have resulted in exciting new projects, such as our NO PLACE / LA MAKAN / لا مكان radio play initiative, slated for the 2021-2022 academic year. New programming for 2021 begins in January with a semester-long series of events in collaboration with the team behind LIFTA Volumes—"a space led by the imagination"—currently based in Mexico City. This is an exciting new type of multimedia engagement for CPS, involving a range of film screenings, mini documentaries, podcasts, online panel discussions, and diaspora outreach.

In fall 2021, we hope to move ahead with some of our postponed 10th anniversary programming including two music events: "Late Style", a play directed by Tanya Fernando based on conversations between Edward Said and Daniel Barenboim and featuring members of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, and a live oud and electronic show by renowned musicians from Palestine and Europe. Later in the year, we will launch a new academic collaboration with Insaniyyat, the recently established Association of Palestinian Anthropologists, and we are currently in discussions with the Palestinian Museum, Birzeit, to co-host events relating to the museum's exhibition programming.

This is a year in which we are especially thankful for your financial support. Given the exceptional circumstances of 2020, it has not been an easy year during which to cultivate new donors and thus expand and secure our finances. This has been further exacerbated by the fiscal crisis at the University, which has withdrawn the limited support they had given us over the past three years. Nevertheless, the Center for Palestine Studies remains committed to its important work, and we are excited to keep working together with all of you to continue, expand, and creatively think about how to deepen and change conversations about Palestine.

As we look forward to our 2021 programming during which we will belatedly celebrate our 10 years in existence, we would like to take this opportunity to extend sincerest thanks to our wonderful former Program Managers Maryam Zohny, Dahlia El Zein, Tamer Marshood and Helen Malko; and to our many invaluable and dedicated interns and work-study students. Finally, we send our deep gratitude to our friend and colleague Professor Safwan Masri, Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, and his dedicated staff for their unfailing support and hard work at Columbia, in Amman, and around the world, throughout the lifetime of CPS.



**Nadia Abu El-Haj & Brian Boyd**  
Co-Directors of the Center for Palestine Studies

# PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

The Center's public programming has been organized around five initiatives developed over the years by the members of the faculty collective under the following rubrics: The Arts, Palestine & Law, History of the Present, Palestine Library, and Jerusalem. Our programming brings opportunities for collaborations with scholars, artists and specialist participants from institutions in the US and abroad. The Center's website hosts a complete archive of CPS Events, with video recordings available for many large scale events.



# THE ARTS

One of the Center's key programming areas, the Arts, includes both a vibrant film series and a theater program.

# CPS STAGE

CPS Stage was launched in 2012 with a staged reading of **Ismail Khalidi's *Tennis in Nablus***. Khalidi returned recently with **Naomi Wallace** in 2019 for a sold-out stage reading of their adaptation of Ghassan Kanafani's ***Returning to Haifa***, followed by a Q&A session with the playwrights.



*In fall 2019, I had the privilege of attending a staged reading of Ghassan Kanafani's *Returning to Haifa*, co-adapted by Ismail Khalidi and myself, as part of the CPS Stage series. For me, it was one of the more powerful and informative readings I have had in my decades-long career. Kanafani is among the historically censored Palestinian voices, and our adaptation, which won acclaim during its world premiere in London, simply would not have been staged in New York if CPS had not put on the reading as it was previously blocked by The Public Theater.*

*CPS Stage is engaged in a vital public service in producing high quality drama by Palestinian authors. Talented contemporary writers such as Betty Shamieh, Ismail Khalidi, Amir Nizar Zuabi, Dalia Taha and Abedelfattah Abusrouf have been given platforms to display their distinctive and daring visions.*

*Our audience the evening of the reading was diverse: from artists to academics to students, all passionately interested in an adaptation of Kanafani's classic work. The Q&A after our reading (which follow all of the Center's readings) was dynamic and engaging for both the playwrights and the public. CPS is very supportive and encouraging to writers, directors and actors, allowing us the freedom to make our own artistic choices.*

*As a playwright, I very much hope that CPS Stage will not only continue but also thrive and expand. This dynamic reading series brings poetry, politics and deeply personal experience to the stage, allowing for bold examinations of social conflict, which disrupt and dislodge the monologues of mainstream American drama and culture.*

**Naomi Wallace**  
Playwright & Director

# PALESTINE CUTS



**A Magical Substance Flows into Me**  
*dir. Jumana Manna, 2015*

**Palestine Cuts** presents works by Palestinian filmmakers and films related to Palestinian experiences to Columbia University and New York City audiences.

Launched in April 2015, the series showcases feature films, shorts and experimental works, with Q&A sessions with the filmmakers and specialist faculty, including **Hamid Dabashi** and School of the Arts faculty members such as **James Schamus** and **Richard Peña**.

We have co-presented film festivals to diasporic communities in Santiago, Chile in [2014](#) and [2015](#) and Buenos Aires, Argentina in [2015](#) where we were introduced to local audiences, in Spanish, by Columbia University Provost John Coatsworth.

This series is generously supported by **Jeanne and Ken Levy-Church**.



# DREAMS OF A NATION

*Dreams of a Nation* is a Columbia University based film project committed to the preservation and promotion of Palestinian cinema.

The project began early in the 1990s with the acquisition and inclusion of Palestinian films in courses I taught at Columbia on Middle Eastern cinema. The late **Edward Said** and his assistant **Zeyneb Asterabadi** were instrumental in facilitating my initial contacts with Palestinian filmmakers, and **Richard Peña** was extremely helpful in helping me locate Palestinian films.

These courses eventually culminated in a major **Palestinian film festival** that we organized in January 2003 at Columbia University, and brought to Palestine in February 2004.

The initial collection of the films screened in the course of these two festivals were subsequently expanded

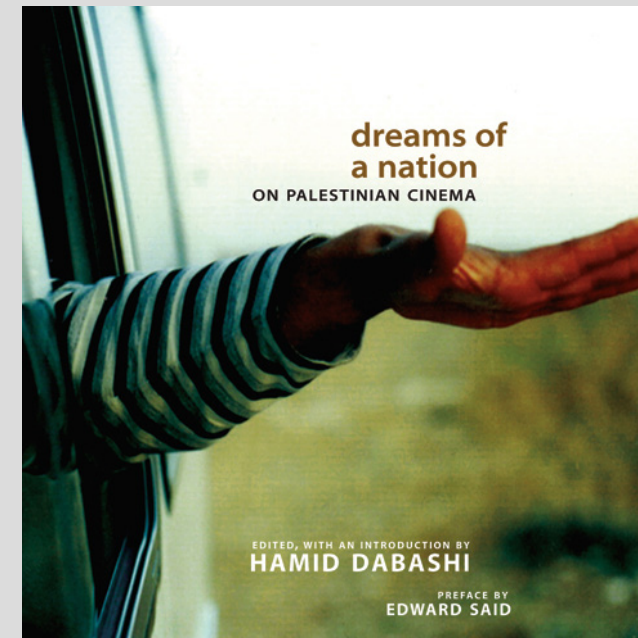
into a major archive of Palestinian films, which is now safely housed at the Columbia University Library in New York City. This collection is being carefully preserved, expanded, and digitized for future use by scholars and students of Palestinian cinema.

The initial team that organized these two film festivals and created the accompanying [website](#) included my research assistant **Fatima Ali**, as well as Columbia University students **Kareem Fahim**, **Annemarie Jacir**, and **Kamran Rastegar**, as well as **Enas Muthaffar** and **Luma Shihab-Eldin**. **Annemarie Jacir** curated both festivals.

My edited volume, *Dreams of a Nation: On Palestinian Cinema* (Verso, 2006) was a result of this project.

The subsequent work to expand the archive and the database was sponsored by a generous grant from the University's Middle East Institute, and facilitated by the dedicated librarians of Columbia University, **Kaoukab Chebaro** and **Nancy E. Friedland**. **Marianna Reis** was equally helpful in maintaining the archive.

*Dreams of a Nation* is a work in progress. We are committed to two principal objectives: 1) expanding and preserving our archive with the goal of making it the largest collection of Palestinian cinema possible— inclusive of features, shorts, and documentaries— and 2) providing a solid database documenting Palestinian cinema for contemporary use and for posterity.



Since the fall of 2012, the Palestinian film project at Columbia has expanded to include **Palestine Cuts**, which is a space for emerging and established

filmmakers and video-artists to present and discuss their work in an engaging and encouraging environment. Leading Palestinian filmmakers such as **Elia Suleiman**, **Hany Abu-Assad**, **Annemarie Jacir**, **Kamal Aljafari**, **Sameh Zoabi**, **May Masri**, and **Nizar Hasan** have presented their work through this series. The origin of this goes back to 2003, when as the Chair of my department I invited the doyen of Palestinian cinema, **Michel Khleifi**, to join our faculty and teach cinema to Columbia students.

## Hamid Dabashi

*Hagop Kevorkian Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature, Columbia University*

# FESTIVALS & CURATED PROGRAMS

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR PALESTINE STUDIES

## AFFECTIVE ARCHIVES

an evening of experimental palestinian film

**March 12, 2019  
6:00pm**

INTERRUPTED BIOGRAPHIES  
Mirna Bamieh / 11"

THE WHITE ELEPHANT  
Shuruq Harb / 12"

A MAGICAL SUBSTANCE FLOWS INTO ME  
Jumana Manna / 67"

Davis Auditorium,  
Columbia University

Discussion with the filmmakers  
and Professor **Gil Hochberg**  
followed by audience Q&A

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
PALESTINE CUTS  
**IRWGS**  
International Research Working Group on the Middle East

## AFFECTIVE ARCHIVES

An evening of experimental Palestinian film programmed by **Gil Hochberg** and **Nayrouz Abu Hatoum** (Concordia University)

**March 12, 2019**

***Interrupted Biographies***

Mirna Bamieh

***The White Elephant***

Shuruq Harb

***A Magical Substance Flows into Me***

Jumana Manna

# GAZA ON SCREEN

***Degrade***

Arab & Tarzan Nasser

***Paper Boat***

Mahmoud Abughalwa

***Ouroboros***

Basma Alsharif

***Daggit Gaza***

Hadeel Assali

***Samouni Road***

Stefano Savona

***Rainbow / To My Father***

Abdelsalam Shehada

***Ambulance***

Mohamed Jabaly

***We Will Return***

MC Gaza

A three-day film festival programmed by **Prof. Nadia Yaqub** (UNC Chapel Hill)

Featuring a masterclass with **Abdelsalam Shehada**

**April 11-13, 2019**



# MASTERCLASSES

Featuring celebrated Palestinian filmmakers from around the world.

**Hany Abu Assad**  
*Paradise Now,*  
*Nazareth 2000,*  
*Omar*



**Mai Masri**  
*3000 Nights,*  
*Beirut Diaries,*  
*Wild Flowers*



**Basma Alsharif**  
*Ouroboros,*  
*The Story of Milk*  
*and Honey*



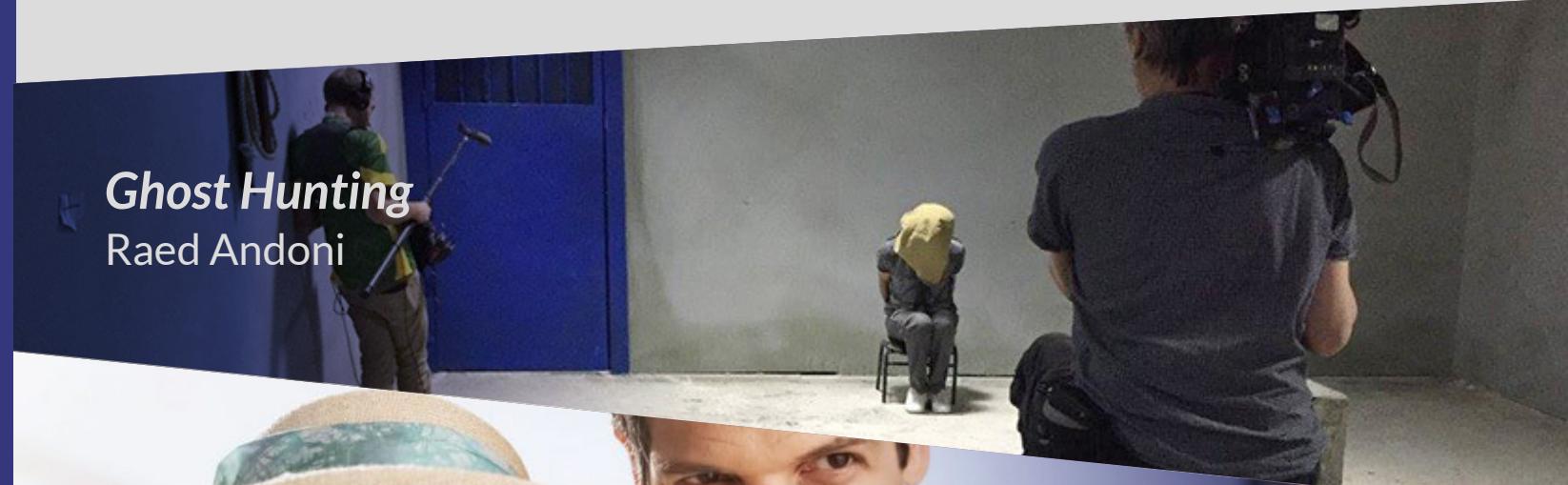
**Kamal Aljafari**  
*Recollection,*  
*Port of Memory,*  
*The Roof*



**Elia Suleiman**  
*It Must Be Heaven,*  
*The Time That Remains*  
*Divine Intervention*

# RECENT SCREENINGS

***Ghost Hunting***  
Raed Andoni



***Tel Aviv on Fire***  
Sameh Zoabi



***Advocate***  
Rachel Leah Jones &  
Philippe Bellaïche

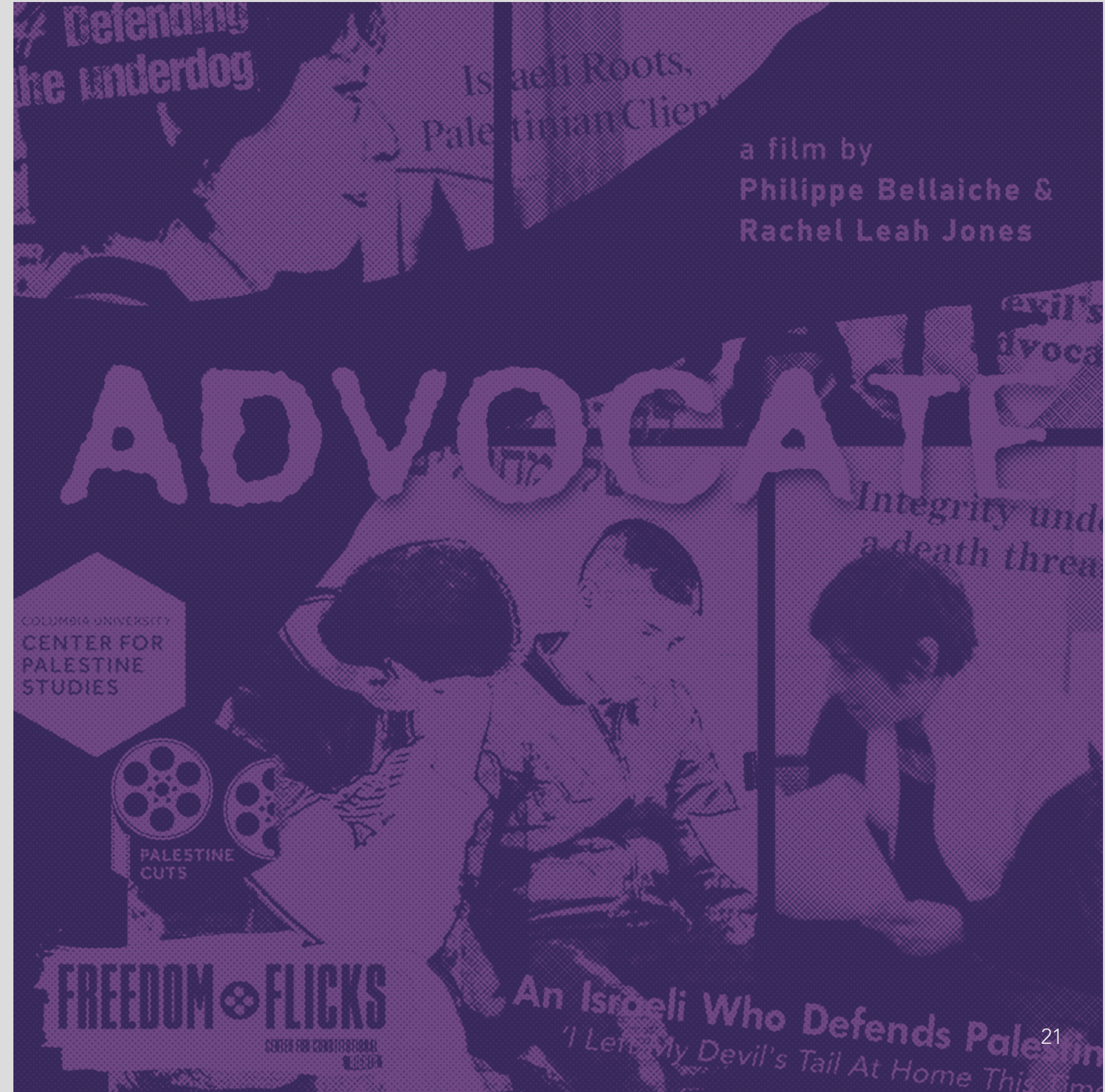


# PALESTINE & LAW

**Palestine & Law** focuses on the modern history and the current practice of western-modeled colonial law and the law of occupation. The early years of the Center saw a series of public workshops with distinguished speakers, including **Susan Akram, Jamil Dakwar, Nimr Sultani, George Bisharat, Noura Erakat, Victor Kattan, Ramzi Kassem, Lisa Hajjar, Yael Berda, Hedi Viterbo, Katherine Franke** and **Darryl Li**. We have also presented public events with leading international figures such as **Richard Falk** and lawyer **Michael Lynk**, the UN Special Rapporteurs for Palestine, and **Omar Shakir** of Human Rights Watch, who have updated the community on the illegalities of the Israeli occupation of Palestine. The Center partnered with **Adalah, the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel**, to organize workshops and lectures at Columbia. Especially notable have been the lectures by Adalah founder **Hassan Jabareen**, a leading

Palestinian attorney who argues before the Israeli Supreme Court. Over the years Jabareen has given us unique insights on a variety of current topics, such as the problem of citizen rights for Palestinians in Israel. Together with Adalah, and with support from a Dutch grant, in December 2016 CPS organized a joint workshop in Ramallah to which we invited a number of leading Palestinian academics. Building on the workshop theme of ***The Nakba and Law***, **Darryl Li**, a former Global Fellow at Columbia and now on the faculty at the University of Chicago, created an innovative blog, **The Nakba Files**.

Columbia Law School Professor **Katherine Franke** organized an experimental reading group over six weeks for students, fellows and faculty (Fall 2018), and a summer institute for teachers on the law of occupation (Summer 2017).





# HISTORY OF THE PRESENT

**History of the Present** aims to advance the academic understanding of Palestine's past and present through research, teaching, public lectures, book events, and conferences on a range of topics that have included the assaults on Gaza, comparative settler colonialisms, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement, and Black-Palestinian Solidarity.

This programming has presented talks by prominent academics, including **Noam Chomsky** on America's strategic alliance with Israel and involvement in the Middle East (2011); **Judith Butler** and **Angela Davis** on the politics of systematic imprisonment and detention in Israel/Palestine (2012); **Judith Butler** and **Cornell West** on the role of public intellectuals and Edward Said's impact on academic discourse on Palestine (2014); **Omar Barghouti** on the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement (2014); **Steven Salaita** on the limits of

academic freedom (2015); **Sherene Seikaly** on archival practices and the writing of Palestinian history (2018); **Ramzi Jaber** on how the innovative Visualizing Palestine project uses the latest technology, design, and data journalism methods to produce visual tools and resources about the struggle for Palestinian freedom (2018); **Hamzah Baig** and **Robyn Spencer** on Black-Palestinian solidarity (2018); **Maha Nassar** on how Palestinian citizens of Israel have connected to global decolonization movements through literary and journalistic writings (2018); **Nadia Ben-Youssef** on the legal aspects of dispossession, expulsion and displacement of Palestinian Bedouins in al-Naqab (2018); **Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian** on the effects on children of militarized technologies of surveillance in occupied Jerusalem (2019); and **Suad Amiry** on reclaiming space through the rehabilitation of villages in rural Palestine (2019).

# PALESTINE LIBRARY

Monday, Feb. 3rd  
Knox Hall 207, 12:10-1:30PM

Book Talk

## WASTE SIEGE

The Life of  
Infrastructure  
in Palestine

with

**Sophia Stamatopoulou-Robbins**

Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Bard College

in conversation with **Brian Boyd**,  
Co-Director of the Center  
for Palestine Studies

To speak of waste siege is to describe a series of conditions, from smelling wastes to negotiating military infrastructures, from biopolitical forms of colonial rule to experiences of governmental abandonment, from obvious targets of resistance to confusion over responsibility for the burdensome objects of daily life. Within this rubble, debris, and infrastructural fallout, West Bank Palestinians create a life under settler-colonial rule.

 CENTER FOR  
PALESTINE  
STUDIES  
AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



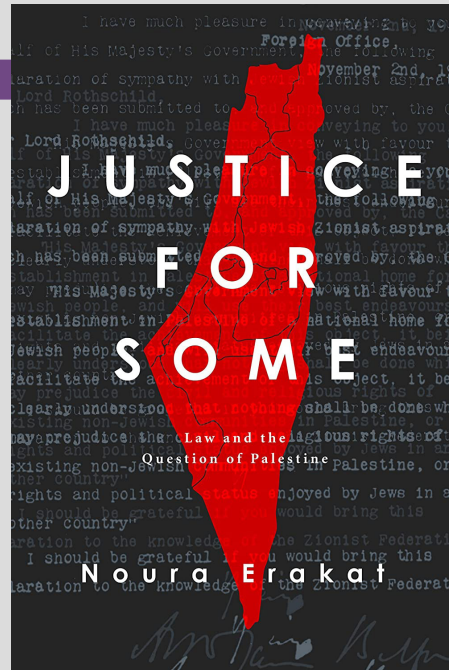
Palestine Library presents events on new books about Palestine and Palestinians to audiences at Columbia University and in New York City. Discussions with the books' authors offer opportunities to learn about the most current research, giving attendees unique insights into current ideas and methods while offering active scholars a forum in which to share their work with a diverse audience.

# 2019-2020 BOOK TALKS



Sophia Stamatopoulou-Robbins

*Waste Siege: The Life of Infrastructure in Palestine*

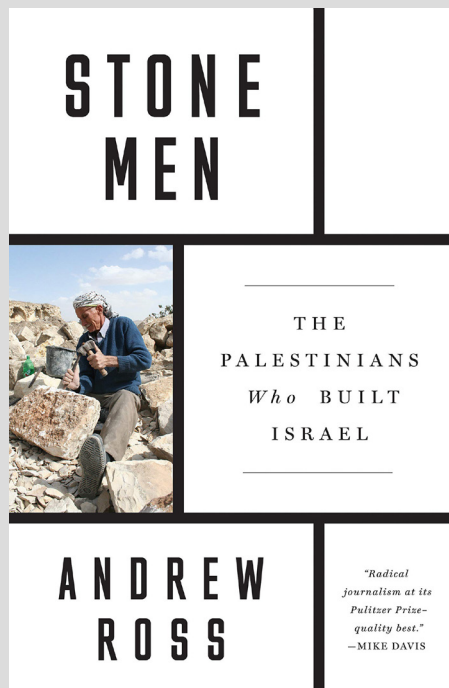


Noura Erakat

*Justice for Some: Law and the Question of Palestine*

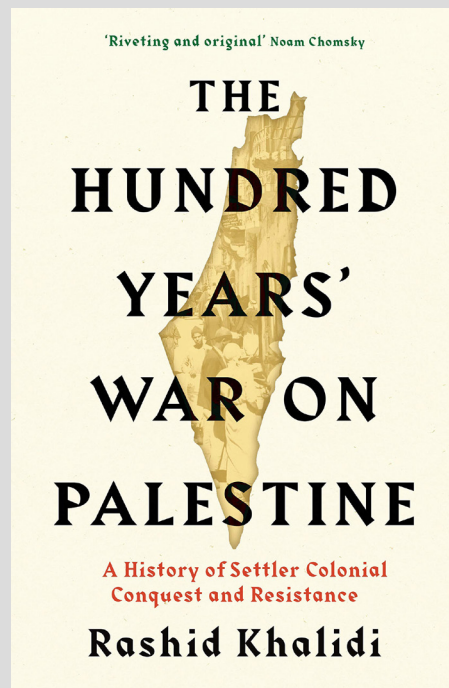
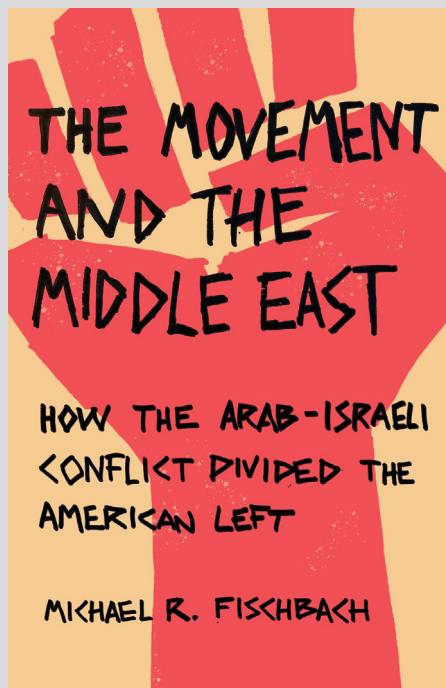
Andrew Ross

*Stone Men: The Palestinians Who Built Israel*



Michael Fischbach

*The Movement and the Middle East: How the Arab-Israeli Conflict Divided the American Left*



Rashid Khalidi

*The Hundred Years' War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonial Conquest and Resistance, 1917-2017*

# JERUSALEM

The Center's **Jerusalem** programming benefits greatly from our close relationship with **Salim Tamari** (Birzeit University) and **Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian** (Hebrew University), two colleagues who are also frequent visitors to Columbia. Salim Tamari's visits as a scholar in residence at Columbia have given us the opportunity to develop this programming area through lectures and workshops as well as digital access to maps and complete runs of both the venerable *al-Quds* newspaper and *Jerusalem Quarterly*, the authoritative academic journal, all of which are now available to a wide public through the Center's website.

One of our main projects has been to assist Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian curate part of her archive of Jerusalem field data, which includes transcripts on everyday encounters of Jerusalem school children with the occupation forces, a project that speaks to our programming both on Jerusalem and Palestine & Law.

With funding from Columbia's **Institute for Religion and Culture in Public Life (IRCPL)**, CPS launched an ambitious project on the history of the shari'a in Jerusalem, the sources for which are court registers (*sijillat*), which contain litigation transcripts and a wide variety of documents, such as marriage contracts. Edited and indexed with accompanying CD versions of the original texts, these court documents, covering a period of some five Ottoman centuries, are now accessible. We hope to adapt these rich court materials for the use of Palestinians, mainly students, in the study of their own history.



QUARTERLY

Industry: The Non-Electrification

ton  
ides: Luminary or Prophet  
Planning

Exception? Business and Human  
er Colonization

ng Palestinian Memory: Objects  
d the Everyday Eternities of Exile

llata: A Walk through Memory

TE OF JERUSALEM STU



The Palestinian Museum's first major exhibit, *Jerusalem Lives*, was featured in a major CPS panel event that included presentations by the curator Reem Fadda, artist Emily Jacir, and Beshara Doumani, from Brown University, who led the team that designed the museum.



*"Ka" by Nida Sinnokrot, featured in The Palestinian Museum's inaugural exhibition*

*The Center's programming encourages critical engagement with the interdisciplinary study of Palestine while offering a collegial environment that invites intellectual development. The programming has served as an extension to my regular undergraduate coursework. The Center is a hub of preservation, authenticity and the promise of advancement towards a future that is vast and borderless.*

**Ibtihal Malley**  
Barnard College '22

# RESEARCH

The Center supports the academic study of Palestine through our faculty and affiliates' involvement in numerous international research activities, such as library and archival work, collaborative fieldwork projects, manuscript workshops, and other research-based initiatives. These activities provide opportunities for faculty and guest scholars to conceive of, share and develop their work in a collegial setting. The Center's faculty are dedicated to identifying and nurturing the next generation of scholars in the field of Palestine Studies through the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Award.

# RESEARCH UPDATES

# Lila Abu-Lughod

If my scholarly work in and on Palestine began with *Nakba: Palestine, 1948, and the Claims of Memory* (Columbia University Press, 2007), a book that I co-edited with a colleague from Haifa, Ahmad H. Sa'di, questions about memory, history, and archives have continued to guide my work in the lively context of the Center for Palestine Studies.

لافروامرئكي ١٨ آب ١٩٦٨

For me, the question of Palestine begins with the personal: I've written essays published in *Being Palestinian* (Yasir Suleiman) and *Seeking Palestine* (Penny Johnson and Reja Shehadeh) as well as reviewing for *Public Books*, in an essay called "Moods of Betrayal in the Story of Palestine," an extraordinary memoir by a high school classmate of my father's from pre-1948 Jaffa—Reja'e Busailah's *In the Land of My Birth: A Palestinian Boyhood*.

"Solidarity With The African American People August 19, 1968," OSPAAAL poster with artwork by Emory Douglas

Turning from memory to archives, I wrote a short introduction to a forum including a terrific set of essays including one by Columbia colleague **Gil Hochberg**, "Palestine: Doing Things with Archives," published in 2019 in a journal we edit at Columbia, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*. But even before that, inspired by a small photograph in the 2014 New Museum exhibit, *Here and Elsewhere*, I began researching the history and transformations of political forms of Black-Palestinian solidarity. Working with students and colleagues at CPS, we produced a short video from archival photographs and posters for our October 2018 event "**Black-Palestinian Solidarity 1968/2018**." Thanks to **Nora Akawi** at GSAPP and in collaboration with Studio X Amman, the event was part of **Qalandia International**, the Palestinian art biennale whose 2018 theme was *Solidarity*. We were invited to screen the video later at the University of Melbourne's conference on Black-Palestinian Solidarity and I continue to work with Rahaf Salahat, the talented intern CPS had from Bard/Al-Quds, to develop it.

Long interested in cultural politics through my ethnographic work in Egypt, an incredible CPS conference on comparative settler colonialism and indigeneity got me thinking more broadly about the productivity (and limits) of the paradigm of settler colonialism. Could the

ways it was being used in Palestinian studies illuminate the political potential of cultural projects like the **Palestinian Museum** that opened in Birzeit in 2016? The result, "**Imagining Palestine's Alter-Natives: Settler Colonialism and Museum Politics**," appeared in *Critical Inquiry* (2020). Organizing through CPS a major event on *Jerusalem Lives*, the inaugural exhibition of the Palestinian Museum, was one way to share with a wider public news of this museum on whose Board I now am honored to serve.

If a key goal of CPS is to encourage international cooperation with our colleagues in Palestine, for me this has taken the exciting form of a multi-year collaboration with Professors **Rema Hammami** and **Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian**. Bringing together scholars of two regions, the Middle East and South Asia, where the Muslim question has been at the heart of feminist studies of violence, we have held workshops and hosted speakers both at Columbia and at the **Columbia Global Center in Amman**. We are currently finishing our book on the political geographies of gender violence. Some of what it has meant to me to shift my scholarship toward Palestine over the past decade, within the collegial context of CPS, is reflected in the title of a lecture I gave in Belgium last year: "**The Courage of Truth: Making Anthropology Matter**."

# Nadia Abu El-Haj

I worked with the Palestinian architect and artist **Dima Srouji** in developing an installation for the first **Sharjah Architectural Triennial**, held in Sharjah November 2019. In conversation with my first book, *Facts on the Ground: Archaeological Practice and Territorial Self-Fashioning*, Srouji designed and built *Depth Unknown*, an installation that focused on the Palestinian village and archaeological site of Sebastia, visually representing the ways in which archaeology has long been a powerful weapon in the arsenal of Zionist settler-nationhood. As described on the installation's [website](#), *Depth Unknown* is “a project that brings together architects, artists, archaeologists and anthropologists, to map the architectural imaginary of the constantly shifting Palestinian ground, making visible disregarded strata, displaced objects, and the entangled narratives of Palestine.”

In a forthcoming publication, I build on the work of that exhibit, discussing the specificity of the Palestinian an anti-colonial struggle in the context of a settler-nation that imagines itself as indigenous, and considering questions the struggle in Palestine poses for thinking critically about assumptions regarding the role of history and archives in post-colonial thinking.



“Depths Unknown” by Dima Srouji with Silvia Truini, Dirar Kalash, Omar Jabareen, and consultations from Dr. Nadia Abu El Haj

# Brian Boyd

Since 2012 I have co-directed, with **Professor Hamed Salem**, a collaborative Columbia University/Birzeit University archaeology and museum anthropology community project, ***Building Community Anthropology Across the Jordan Valley***, focusing in and around the West Bank village of Shuqba, northwest of Ramallah. This project involves: collaboration with

local communities in producing a deep history of their village and its cultural landscapes; the establishment of a community museum; anthropological/archaeological training and opportunities for local students. Our project partners include the **Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities**, **Shuqba Village Council**, and the **Columbia Global Center in Amman, Jordan**.

This research is partly funded by a generous grant from the **Columbia University President's Global Innovation Fund**, which was renewed in June 2020 for another two years. (More information about the project on page 58)

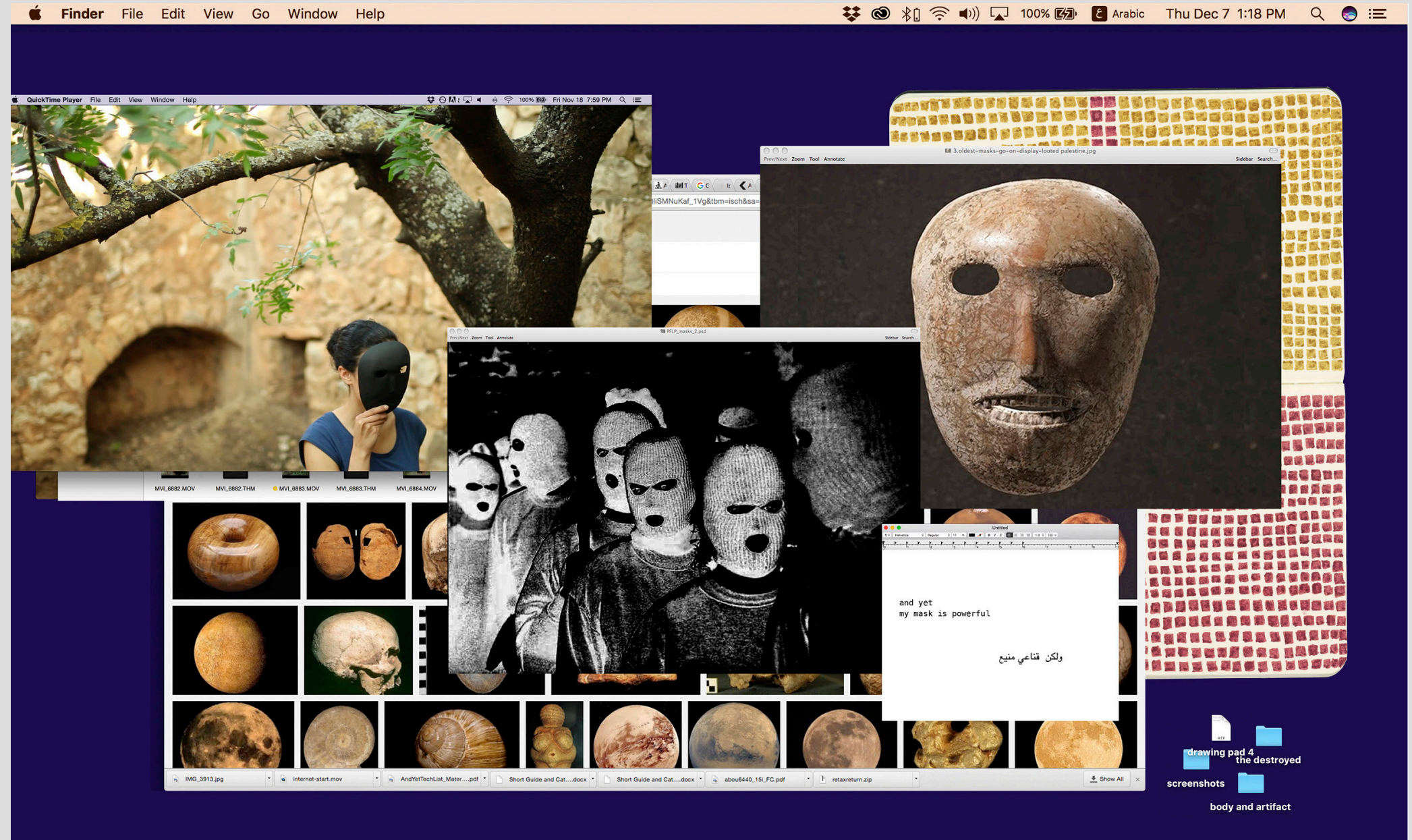
*Below: Birzeit University students conduct a fieldwalking survey in Wadi Natuf*



# Gil Hochberg

I am currently working on *Becoming Palestine*, a book about archival imagination of and for the future. The book calls for a reading ahead of ourselves: reading the present as a set of testimonies of a possible future: a possible becoming. I find such radical archival imagination in various Palestinian artistic activations of the archive. I show how the archive can be activated to rethink the concept of potentiality, as it is liberated from the grip of history, becoming, in turn, part of a future-oriented social force connected to a moment of political future.

*Becoming Palestine* is the third book in a trilogy about Palestine. My first book, *In Spite of Partition* (2007) was about the past and what we lost to history (the Arab-Jew). *Visual Occupations* is a book about the present: about the visual politics that make the present appear as such. Finally, *Becoming Palestine* is a book about the future. It is a book about a future that can be; a future that we must first learn to imagine.



"and yet my mask is powerful" by Basel Abbas & Ruanne Abou-Rahme



Yusuf Diya al-Din Pasha al-Khalidi and his letter to Theodor Herzl, featured in *The Hundred Years' War on Palestine*

## Rashid Khalidi

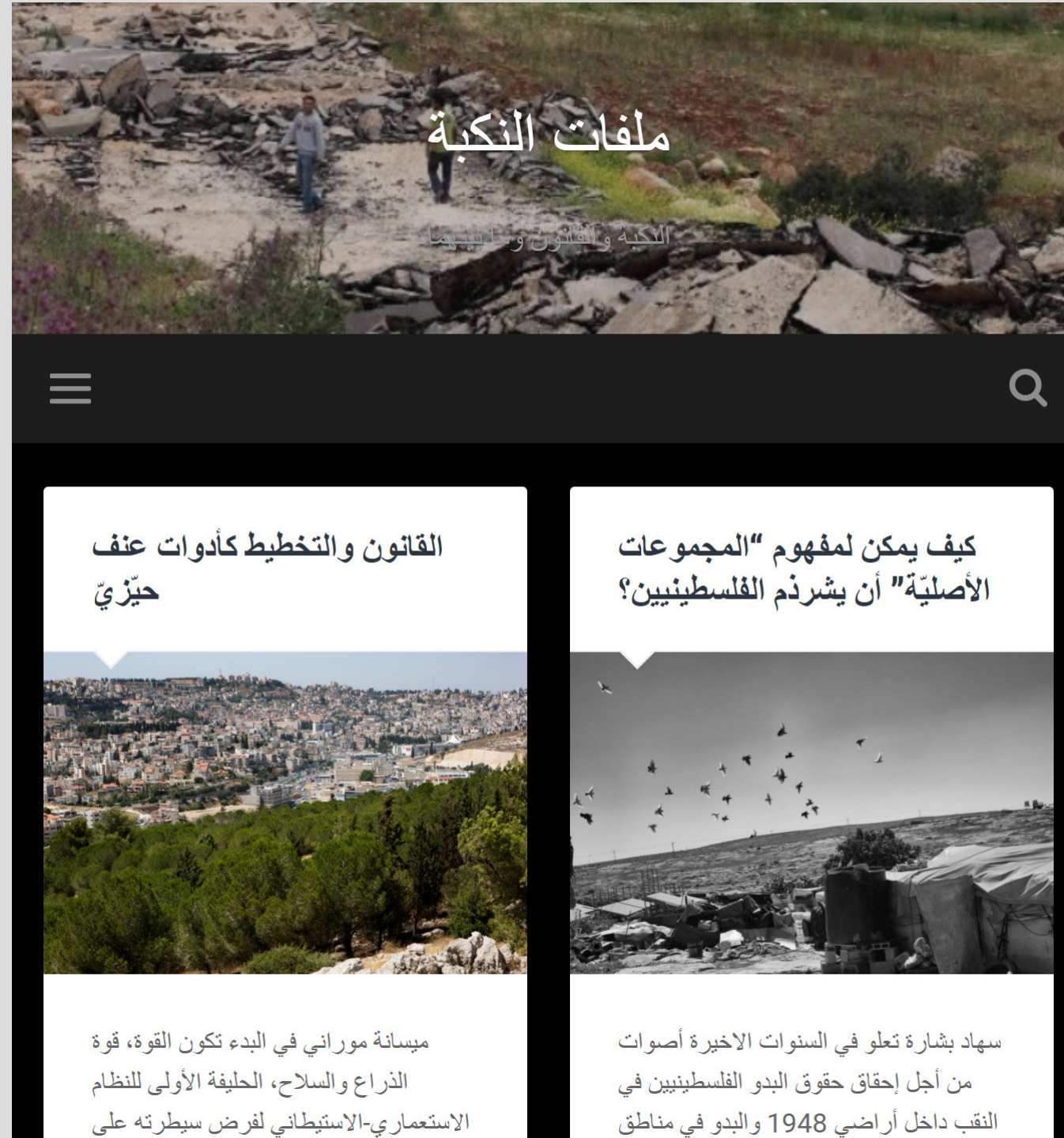
My main effort during 2019-20 was devoted to completing my book *The Hundred Years' War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance, 1917-2017*, which was published by Metropolitan books at the end of January 2020. A planned spring book tour, like so much else, was aborted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but starting at the end of April I was invited to do a series of book talks and interviews on Zoom, totalling 30 as of the end of August. *The Hundred Years' War* is now in its third printing in the US, the UK paperback edition has just come out, and German, Indian, Arabic, Chinese and Korean editions have been published or are in the works. Drawing on my work on that book, last year I began researching differences and similarities between Ireland and Palestine, Britain's first and last settler colonies, and more generally between different examples of settler colonialism, from Korea, Rhodesia, South Africa, Algeria, Kenya, the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland to the peculiar case of Palestine, and their relation to paradigmatic forms of European colonialism, as in India and Egypt.

# Brinkley Messick

My research has focused on shari'a law and on anthropological approaches to legal studies, involving new methods for anthropologists as readers of law books and court records. While my research has mainly been conducted in Yemen (most recently *Shari'a Scripts*, 2018), I have also brought these interests to my work on Palestine. Together with my Columbia Law School colleague **Katherine Franke** and **Darryl Li**, now at the University of Chicago, we initiated a CPS programming series under the rubric of **Palestine & Law**.

Our partnership with **Adalah** has been very fruitful, resulting in events in both New York and Palestine, and **The Nakba Files** blog which drew many contributing posts. Katherine and I also introduced the **Palestine & Law Fellowship**, which provided for the presence at Columbia of a series of yearlong visiting legal specialists.

We have presented leading international legal figures such as Professor **Richard Falk** and Lawyer **Michael Lynk**, the UN Special Rapporteurs for Palestine, and **Omar Shakir** of Human Rights Watch, all of whom addressed the occupation of Palestine.



Such lectures have been complemented by our screenings of films on legal issues, including *The Law in These Parts*, about Israeli military courts, and, this past spring semester, *Advocate*, about an Israeli lawyer who has devoted her career to the defense of Palestinians.

As part of the advent of **Jerusalem** as a focus of CPS programming, I obtained funding from IRCPL that included research on the city's venerable shari'a court, the records of which have recently been published. In addition to a workshop on these court records we have presented a recent event on the famous, and recently digitized, **Khalidiyya Library** collection, which includes numerous manuscripts on Islamic jurisprudence.



# SELECTED WORKSHOPS

## Comparative Settler Colonialisms (2015)

### Cosponsored by the Heyman Center for Humanities

This three-day workshop addressed: In what specific ways do historical, ideological or temporal distinctions matter to how we think settler-colonialisms comparatively? How does “indigeneity” emerge as a recent framework of analysis and operate within Palestine, and how well does the concept travel across different historical and geographical domains? What does this new appropriation and operation of “indigeneity” do to those individuals and causes who have deployed the concept in national and international fora for longer periods and within different historical trajectories?

The Keynote Address was given by **Ghassan Hage**, (University of Melbourne), titled “On Exterminability: The Affective Culture of Settler-Colonialism Today”. **Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian** (The Hebrew University), **Dean Saranillo** (New York University) and **Mark Rifkin** (UNC-Greensboro) presented papers that dealt with the question of settler colonialism and/or indigeneity from a different regional perspectives.

# Representations of ‘Indigeneity’ in Settler-Colonial Contexts: The Case of the Naqab Bedouin (2015)

**Co-organized with the European Center for Palestine Studies, University of Exeter**

Funded through the AHRC project “Gender and Settler Colonialism: Women’s Oral Histories in the Naqab”. Organizers: **Sophie Richter-Devroe** (University of Exeter and Visiting Scholar at Columbia University), **Lila Abu-Lughod** (Columbia University), **Mansour Nasasra** (Kenyon Institute, Jerusalem) and **Richard Ratcliffe** (Oxford University).

The Naqab Bedouin have a long history of being spoken for and represented through various discursive frames in different activist, policy and/or scholarly circles. It is, of course, mainly the Israeli settler-colonial regime that dominates the politics of representation in and of the Naqab, but Palestinian nationalist agendas, international funding priorities, the Israeli tourist industry, pressures for policy relevance and impact in academia, as well as

NGO advocacy and international solidarity activism also play increasingly significant roles. This workshop aimed at contextualising and critically discussing the various ways in which the Naqab Bedouin have been and are being represented, paying particular attention to more recent, often claimed to be ‘indigenous’ or ‘decolonising’, discourses.

Workshop materials are available on our [website](#).

# Nakba and the Law (2017)

In 2016 CPS and **Adalah, The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel**, launched the joint blog *The Nakba Files* ([nakbafiles.org](#)). The site is part of **The Nakba & The Law Project**, an ongoing collaboration between Adalah and CPS that began in 2013. The project treats the Nakba not only as an important historical event, but also as a theme to analyze ongoing colonial policies and practices in Israel/Palestine. We have been focusing our work on trying to make our project more accessible to a Palestinian and Arab audience, with a focus on young law and social sciences researchers, law students, and lawyers, and with the production of materials in Arabic. As part of these efforts, native Arabic speakers among Columbia PhD students are translating blog posts written in English to Arabic, and vice-versa. In October 2017 Adalah organized a three-day “**Nakba and the Law**” conference for law students, in which 63 Palestinian students from the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and

citizens of Israel and students from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, participated. **Katherine Franke** participated in the conference as a speaker at two sessions. Students participated in lectures and workshops led by leading lawyers, academics, and civil society activists. The lectures focused on varying aspects of the Palestinian Nakba, Israeli law, legal challenges to Israeli policies such as land and property appropriations, citizenship and status revocation, the rights of internally displaced Palestinians, and the right of return and its potential practical implementation.

## The Balfour Declaration and the US Immigration Act (2017)

Marking the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, the Center for Palestine Studies organized a workshop on the Balfour Declaration and the US Immigration Act. The session was led by **Darryl Li** (University of Chicago) and **Maryanne Rhett** (Monmouth University).

## The Law of Occupation: Israel/Palestine (2018)

This reading group introduced the participants to the law of occupation, specifically in the context of Israel and Palestine. Occupation has been defined as “effective control of a power (be it one or more states or an international organization, such as the United Nations) over a territory to which that power has no sovereign title, without the violation of the sovereign territory.” This reading group explored the legal, political and moral underpinnings and consequences of occupation; examined how international law defines and regulates occupation, and differentiates legal from illegal occupation and colonialism. The reading group met 6 times during the spring 2018 semester for 2 hours each session. Sessions were facilitated by **Katherine Franke** and by one or more of the student participants.

Course materials are available online [here](#).

## Outside History: A Gendered Rewriting of the Naqab Bedouin World, Past and Present (2018)

A workshop with **Safa Aburabia** on her manuscript which presents alternative sociological histories of the Naqab Bedouin, that challenge the ways they have been represented in academic scholarship. The voices informing these narratives are not usually conveyed outside the private spaces occupied by the women telling them. Contrary to their dominant representation as nomadic and undifferentiated, this book will present the history of Bedouin society through the lens of class, gender, and race, structured in terms derived from patterns in the ownership of land. In this respect, the book seeks to contribute to a new history being told from a standpoint internal to a heterogeneous and conflicted society.

## Lifta and Resisting the Museumification of Palestine: Indigenous History of the Nakba (2019)

Workshop with **Rana Barakat** on “The Place of Return: History in the Present to Imagine the Future”, part of her current book project, *Lifta and Resisting the Museumification of Palestine: Indigenous History of the Nakba*.

Barakat, Rana. Lifta, the Nakba, and the Museumification of Palestine’s History, *Native American and Indigenous Studies*, Vol. 5, No. 2 (Fall 2018), pp. 1-15.

# Becoming Palestine: Towards an Archival Imagination of the Future (2020)

---

Workshop with **Gil Hochberg** for her book project *Becoming Palestine: Towards an Archival Imagination of the Future*. The day-long workshop brought together scholars from Columbia University, New York University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Concordia University.

# RECENT RESEARCH AWARDS



## Race, Religion, and the Question of Palestine

Joint Project Award from the Institute for Religion, Culture  
and Public Life (IRCPL) for Academic Year 2020-21  
CPS Award holders: **Nadia Abu El-Haj & Lana Tatour**

The project, which will lead to a publication, explores the intertwining of racial and religious difference in the context of Israel-Palestine. By pulling race and religion into a single analytic frame, it seeks to expand the existing conversation on the different practices and projects of racialization that govern Palestinians (citizens of Israel, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and refugees), the “Other” Jews (Mizrachim and Ethiopian), and African refugees and asylum seekers. The papers address the historical genealogies and contemporary linkages among race, religion, and settler-nationhood and examine how race politics in Israel-Palestine is tied to religious difference, citizenship status, and political and civil rights.

# Building Community Anthropology Across the Jordan Valley

Columbia University President's Global Innovation Fund,  
Award for Academic Years 2015-16 and 2020-22  
CPS Award holder: **Brian Boyd**

This project's research and training is focused around the important local archaeological site of **Shuqba Cave**, in the Wadi Natuf, excavated in the late 1920s (during the British Mandate, which brings its own anthropological analytic) by Dorothy Garrod and Shuqba villagers. Garrod went on to become the first woman professor at the University of Cambridge and remains a significant and influential figure in world archaeology.

Shuqba Cave is a foundational site for the entire prehistory of the Middle East and is of global significance for the study of the origins of agriculture, domestication and settled village life around 10,000 years ago. The "archaeological culture" discovered in the deep sediments of the cave, was named "Natufian", after the Wadi Natuf in which the cave is situated. The "Natufian Culture" has been subsequently recognized at hundreds of

archaeological sites across southwest Asia (Palestine/Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria), and is represented by some archaeologists as a transitional stage between the last hunter-gatherers of the Pleistocene and the first agriculturalists of the Holocene. Shuqba Cave and the Wadi Natuf were placed on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites Tentative List in 2013. The current stage of the project will culminate in the opening of the first public Shuqba Museum exhibition, titled **Natufian +100: Stories from Shuqba 1924-2024**.

# Palestinian Jerusalem

Joint Project Award from IRCPL for Academic Year 2018-19  
CPS Award holder: **Brinkley Messick**

Jerusalem, a storied city, a defining site and destination for the major monotheisms, and a deeply contested space, is the focus of ongoing research initiatives at the Center for Palestine Studies. The advent of **Jerusalem** as a focus of the center's programming occurred during **Salim Tamari's** several residences at Columbia, during which he gave lectures, organized workshops and built an archive of maps and complete runs of both the venerable **al-Quds** newspaper and **Jerusalem Quarterly**, the authoritative academic journal, on the center's website.

In 2018-19, funding was obtained from IRCPL for a Jerusalem project with three additional objectives. First, to further develop our longstanding collaboration with Jerusalem resident and Hebrew University Law Professor **Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian** by organizing workshops at Columbia to assess

the significance of her extensive personal archive on state violence and grassroots responses in Jerusalem, which we inventoried in preparation for digitized preservation. Second, continuing our collaboration with faculty and students from the School of Architecture (GSAPP), we have focused on the politics and rituals of return, on destroyed villages and towns in the Jerusalem district, and on targeted sites within the old city, viewed as 'sacred' sites of memory for political and cultural resistance against forced forgetting and religious cleansing. The third avenue focuses on research in the newly accessible archives of the many centuries-old shari'a court of Jerusalem, a foundational institution in the social, economic and religious life of the city and the surrounding rural districts, the records of which have recently been put on CDs and indexed

# NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS

## Readings in the Khalidiyya

Located in Jerusalem, the **Khalidiyya Library** is arguably the most important manuscript collection in Palestine and one of the most significant family-owned Islamic manuscripts collections in the world. The library's collection was recently digitized and made available to scholars by the **Hill Museum and Manuscript Library** (HMML). The new accessibility of the collection to users around the world will surely open up new avenues for the study of the history and intellectual life of Palestine and the wider region. The HMML also has digitized two other important manuscript collections from Jerusalem: the **Al Budeiri Library** and the **Library of al-Issaf al-Nashashibi**.

CPS celebrated the new accessibility of these collections in an **introductory session** on 5 October 2020, moderated by **Rashid Khalidi**. Speakers included representatives of the Khalidiyya Library and of HMML, who gave an overview of the history and contents of the collection, and librarians and curators from Columbia and NYU Libraries.



# RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY CPS FACULTY & VISITING SCHOLARS

Abu El-Haj, Nadia 2020. A 'Common Space'? The impossibilities of a new grammar of the Holocaust and Nakba. *Journal of Genocide Research*. 22 (1): 142-147.

Abu El-Haj, Nadia. "Notes Toward an Embrace of Destruction," Adrian Lahoud (editor), Andrea Bagnato (coeditor) *Rights of Future Generations: Proposition*. Published by Hatje Cantz (Berlin) and Sharjah Architecture Triennial (Sharjah). March 2021.

Abu Hatoum, Nayrouz 2018. Reclaiming Jerusalem: Palestinians' informalized place-making. *City & Society*. 30 (3): 1-12.

Abu Hatoum, Nayrouz 2019. Unsettling visual politics: militarized borders in the work of Palestinian artist Raeda Saadeh. *American Quarterly*. 71 (4): 1059-1067.

Abu Hatoum, Nayrouz 2020. For "a no-state yet to come": Palestinians urban place-making in Kufr Aqab, Jerusalem. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*. Online July 29, 2020. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/10.1177/2514848620943877>

Abu-Lughod, Lila 2018a. Palestine: Doing Things with Archives. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*. 38 (3): 3-5.

Abu-Lughod, Lila 2018b. Moods of Betrayal in the Story of Palestine. A review of *In the Land of My Birth: A Palestinian Boyhood* by Reja-e Busailah and *Salt Houses* by Hala Alyan. Public Books. Online: July 18, 2018.

Abu-Lughod, Lila 2019. The Courage of Truth: Making Anthropology Matter. *Working Papers in Anthropology, Interculturalism, Migration and Minorities Research Centre, KU Leuven*.

Abu-Lughod, Lila 2020. Imagining Palestine's Alter-Natives: settler colonialism and museum politics. *Critical Inquiry*. 47 (1): 1-27.

Barakat, Rana 2018. Lifta, the Nakba, and the museumification of Palestine's history. *Native American and Indigenous Studies*. 5 (2): 1-15.

Boyd, Brian 2018a. Ecologies of fiber-work: animal technologies and invisible craft practices in prehistoric Southwest Asia. *Quaternary International*. 468 (B): 250-261.

Boyd, Brian. 2018b. Settled? Recent debates in the archaeology of the Epipalaeolithic and Pre-Pottery Neolithic of southwest Asia. *Asian Archaeology*. 1 (1-2): 63-73.

Boyd, Brian, 2018c. An archaeological telling of multispecies co-inhabitation: comments on the origins of agriculture and domestication narrative in southwest Asia. *Multispecies Archaeology*. Suzanne E. Pillar Birch, ed. New York: Routledge, pp. 251-270.

Dabashi, Hamid 2020. *On Edward Said: Remembrance of Things Past*. Illinois: Haymarket Books.

Hochberg, Gil. 2018. "Jerusalem We Have a Problem": Larissa Sansour's sci-fi trilogy and the impetus of dystopic imagination. *Arab Studies Journal*. 16 (1): 34-57.

Hochberg, Gil. 2019. Freedom of Speech? Palestine as an Exception, *Contending Modernities*. Online: January 26, 2019. <https://contendingmodernities.nd.edu/global-currents/palestine-as-an-exception/>

Hochberg, Gil. 2020a. From 'sexy Semite' to Semitic ghosts: contemporary art between Arab and Jew. *Patterns of Prejudice*. 54 (1/2): 15-28.

Hochberg, Gil. 2020b. From Heritage to Refugee Heritage: Notes on Temporality, Memory, and Space, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*. 40 (1): 43-50.

Khalidi, Rashid 2018a. And now what? The Trump administration and the question of Jerusalem. *Journal of Palestine Studies*. 47 (3): 93-102.

Khalidi, Rashid 2018b. The State of Middle East Studies in the 21st Century. *DAVO-Nachrichten, Journal of the German Middle East Studies Association*. 44/45: 106-110.

Khalidi, Rashid 2018c. The Superpowers and the Cold War in *The Middle East. In The Middle East and the United States: History, Politics and Ideology*. David Lesch & Mark Haas, eds. 6th edition. Boulder: Westview, pp. 119-136.

Khalidi, Rashid 2019. The Balfour Declaration from the Perspective of its Victims. In *Mi'at 'am 'ala tasrih Balfour* [One Hundred Years Since the Balfour Declaration]. Maher al-Sharif, ed. Beirut: Institute for Palestine Studies [Arabic], pp. 195-203.

Khalidi, Rashid 2020. *The Hundred Years' War on Palestine, A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance. 1917-2017*. New York: Metropolitan Books.

Khalidi, Rashid & Salim Tamari (eds.) 2020. *The Other Jerusalem: rethinking the history of the sacred city*. Washington DC: Institute for Palestine Studies and the Khalidi Library.

Tatour, Lana. 2019a. The culturalisation of indigeneity: the Palestinian-Bedouin of the Naqab and indigenous rights. *The International Journal of Human Rights*. 23 (10): 1569-1593.

Tatour, Lana. 2019b. Citizenship as domination: settler colonialism and the making of Palestinian citizenship in Israel. *Arab Studies Journal*. 27: 8-39.

# FELLOWSHIPS

## PALESTINE & LAW FELLOWSHIP

The Palestine & Law Fellowship at Columbia has provided a series of year-long Visiting Fellows to engage with our faculty and to advance their own Palestine-oriented legal research and writing projects. They also enriched our community by assisting with instruction at the Law School and by contributing to the Center's public programming. CPS is currently seeking funding to continue our support of innovative legal research on Palestine.

**Suhad Bishara, 2014-15**  
**Jamal Nusseibeh, 2014-2015**  
**Emilio Dabed, 2015-2016**  
**Zeina Jallad, 2016-2017**

Visit the [Visiting Scholars](#) section of our website for their bios.

# IBRAHIM ABU-LUGHOD POSTDOCTORAL AWARD IN PALESTINE STUDIES

The Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Postdoctoral Award in Palestine Studies is an annual fellowship at Columbia University. The award recognizes and fosters innovative and ground-breaking scholarship on issues related to Palestine and Palestinians. It supports a scholar working on a book project in any field of the humanities or social sciences. Fellows spend one academic year at Columbia University in New York, pursuing their research and writing, and participating in the intellectual life of the Center for Palestine Studies.

Established in 2010, the IAL Award is made possible through the generosity of the late Abdel Mohsin Al-Qattan in honor of his friend, the Palestinian scholar and intellectual, Ibrahim Abu-Lughod (1929-2001). Their close friendship began in the aftermath of the Nakba of 1948 and evolved into a shared commitment to justice for Palestinians to be realized through support for excellence in higher education and scholarship. Major support for the IAL Award comes from the AM Qattan Foundation.

**Lena Meari, Spring 2012**  
**Leena Dallahseh, Fall 2012**  
**Mezna Qato, Spring 2014**  
**Areej Sabbagh-Khoury, Fall 2015**  
**Omar Tesdell, Spring 2015**  
**Sobhi Samour, Spring 2017**  
**Nayrouz Abu Hatoum, 2018-19**  
**Lana Tatour, 2019-20**  
**Nate George, 2020-21**

Visit the [Visiting Scholars](#) section of our website for their bios.

## Lana Tatour, 2019-2020 IAL Fellow



*Interviewed in Summer 2020 by  
Nasreen Abd Elal, Columbia College '20*

**Where did you hear about the Center and why did you decide to apply for the IAL fellowship?**

Lana Tatour: I have always followed the work of CPS. As a scholar working on Palestine, the Center stood out as one of the few academic spaces dedicated to Palestine Studies in the West. It is very active year-round, running research projects, workshops, and public events. The opportunity to be part of the

vibrant intellectual environment at CPS and to work with and learn from Palestinian scholars and scholars of Palestine whose work I have long admired was truly unique. My motivation behind applying for the fellowship and to be part of CPS was both scholarly and ideological. Years after learning about the fellowship, I was beyond thrilled and honored to become an IAL fellow.

**What was your day-to-day experience like at CPS?**

LT: My day-to-day experience was wonderful. CPS is located within the offices of the Middle East Institute in Knox Hall, where the Middle East, South Asian, and African Studies department is also located. That affects the day-to-day experience, engagement, and conversations that you're having. You're part of a larger community, not only of Palestine Studies, but also of the region more broadly. Academia can often be a lonely experience, but my experience as the IAL fellow was one of feeling connected, supported, and intellectually stimulated on a daily basis. I met wonderful faculty from different departments such as anthropology, sociology, and law, and had the opportunity to meet the most wonderful and talented students and activists.

**Could you tell us a bit about your Joint Project Award from the Columbia University Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life (IRCPL)?**

LT: One of my longest-running interests, academically and intellectually, is race and racial politics in Palestine. I became interested in race as an analytical category during my work on '48 Palestinians. Ethnicity is often used as the primary framework to think about '48 Palestinian and their status. Israel is conceptualized as an ethnocracy and is normalized as a multi-ethnic state that needs to learn to better manage its ethnic cleavages. I remember, when I started my PhD, being dissatisfied with this frame analytically. I realized that the focus on ethnicity worked to conceal the relevance of race in thinking about Israel and the positionality '48 Palestinians in the Jewish state. I became interested in how the politics of race and settler colonialism are intertwined in shaping the relations between '48 Palestinians and the state, and in thinking about racial regimes and hierarchies and anti-Blackness within the Palestinian society itself.

With time, I became more interested in the relevance and use of race as an analytical category to think about the question of Palestine and about the nexus between race and settler colonialism. Nadia Abu El-Haj's work on race and Palestine stood out to me for

thinking about this kind of analytical engagement and its limits. When I joined CPS, Nadia and I developed a project that looked more specifically at race, religion, and the question of Palestine, for which we received a Joint-Project Award from IRCPL [for more information about the project, see page 57].

**Questions of academic freedom always seem to come up around Palestine-related scholarship, with researchers often encountering limitations on mobility, access, and political expression. In this landscape, what does CPS offer?**

LT: I think every scholar who takes a critical approach to the study of Palestine quickly encounters the limits of academic freedom. These issues are really urgent for anyone engaged with Palestine on campus, from student activists to academics. Having CPS as a space is so important for scholars who work on Palestine and for students who are interested in and engaged with Palestine.

**Your book project looks at three political movements that started with 1948 Palestinians. Can you tell us a bit about these movements?**

LT: My book project is about the liberal and racial politics of settler-colonialism and

indigeneity in the context of '48 Palestinians and their resistance. First, I look at how the struggle of '48 Palestinian political parties has been almost exclusively framed around the liberal politics of citizenship, whether from a classical liberal or multicultural liberal perspective. The second case I engage with is the Bedouin struggle for land rights, which is a key struggle for 48 Palestinians. Finally, I look on the Palestinian queer movement.

**What drew you to the Palestinian queer movement, in particular?**

The Palestinian queer movement, especially as led by alQaws, is a movement that includes '48 Palestinians, Palestinians in the '67 occupied territories, and Palestinians in the *shatat* [diaspora]. But the reason I study it is because the Palestinian queer movement started as a '48 movement. In the early 2000s the two Palestinian queer groups were established. Aswat was established in Haifa, and al-Qaws started as a project of the Israeli LGBT organization Jerusalem Open House, and broke off a few years later to become an independent organization. So really, the genesis of the movement is in '48.

For me, the Palestinian queer movement allows us to think of an alternative type of politics and a different political imaginary that transcends

the liberal politics of citizenship and human rights. And its effects are reverberating more widely and can be felt for example, in the new feminist movement Tala'at, a new Palestinian feminist movement that is articulating a radical agenda that joins feminist and Palestinian liberation.

**The IAL award, established in 2010, began as a one semester fellowship and became a yearlong fellowship only in 2018. How did being at CPS for a full academic year affect your experience?**

The full year afforded me the space to work on my book manuscript, the opportunity to dialogue with and learn from CPS colleagues and to expand my scholarly network at Columbia University and beyond. The support and mentorship that I received, and continue to receive, from CPS faculty has been invaluable to my intellectual development and career progression. I am happy to share that I have recently joined the School of Social Sciences at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia as an Assistant Professor.

# Nate George, 2020-2021 IAL Fellow



**CPS is happy to announce the 9th recipient of the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Award in Palestine Studies, Dr. Nate George**

Nate George will be working on his first book project, *A Third World War: The Palestinian Revolution, the Lebanese National Movement, and the Struggle for Popular Sovereignty in the Arab East, 1967-1982*. As the US attempted to construct an Arab-Israeli settlement in the 1970s that would pacify a volatile Middle East, Lebanon became a key site of international and popular political contention.

*A Third World War* writes Palestine back into the history of the Lebanese civil war by challenging depictions of the struggle as an internal sectarian conflict or a proxy “war of others.” Instead, it understands this conflict as an important setting in an international civil war over the direction of decolonization and the shape of political representation in the Eastern Mediterranean. It traces the emergence of a revolutionary, internationalist, anti-sectarian subjectivity that united Lebanese citizens and Palestinian refugees into a coalition against what they called “imperialism, Zionism, and Arab reaction.” This prompted their opponents to mobilize their own counterrevolution anchored by visions of sectarian and national purity to combat what they referred to as an “international leftist

conspiracy.” The question of Palestine lay at the heart of this struggle, which was the pivot of revolutionary mobilization, counter-revolutionary sectarianization, and imperial pacification. Drawing on American, Palestinian, Lebanese, and British archives and original interviews in Arabic, English, and French, the book tracks linkages between people, materiel, and ideas across sites of conflict, contributing to the rethinking of the Cold War as an international civil war often driven by events in the so-called periphery.

Nate George holds a PhD in History from Rice University and an MA in Middle East Studies from the American University of Beirut. His chapter “Travelling Theorist: Mehdi Ben Barka and Morocco from Anti-Colonial Nationalism to the Tricontinental,” will be published in *The Arab Lefts: Histories and Legacies, 1950s-1970s* (Edinburgh University Press, August 2020). His research has been supported by the Social Science Research Council’s International Dissertation Research Fellowship, the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, the Hoover Institution, and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation.

# CORE FACULTY COMMITTEE

The Center benefits from the intellectual curiosity and expertise of the members of our faculty collective who have enriched our work over the last decade. View the faculty collective online [here](#).

**Nadia Abu El-Haj** is the Ann Whitney Olin Professor in the Departments of Anthropology at Barnard College and Columbia University and currently serves as Co-Director of the Center for Palestine Studies. ([online profile](#))

**Lila Abu-Lughod** is the Joseph L. Bottenwieser Professor of Social Science at Columbia University. ([online profile](#))

**Brian Boyd** is Lecturer in Discipline in the Department of Anthropology and currently serves as Co-Director of the Center for Palestine Studies. ([online profile](#))

**Katherine Franke** is the Sulzbacher Professor of Law, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Columbia University. ([online profile](#))

**Gil Hochberg** is the Ransford Professor of Hebrew and Visual Studies, Comparative Literature, and Middle East Studies at Columbia University. ([online profile](#))

**Rashid Khalidi** is the Edward Said Professor of Arab Studies in the Department of History at Columbia University. ([online profile](#))

**Brinkley Messick** is Professor of Anthropology and of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies at Columbia University. ([online profile](#))

**James Schamus** is an award-winning screenwriter, producer, former CEO of Focus Features and Professor of Professional Practice in Columbia University's School of the Arts. ([online profile](#))

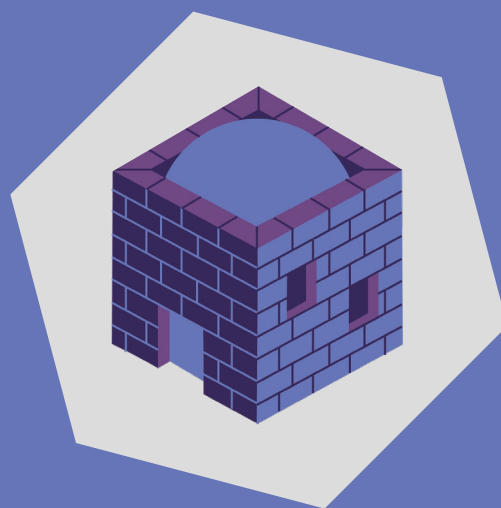
# STAFF

**Simone Rutkowitz** is Program Manager at the Center for Palestine Studies. She holds an MA in Near Eastern Studies from the Hagop Kevorkian Center at New York University. She has lived in Cairo, Egypt and studied at the Arabic Language Institute at the American University in Cairo. Simone volunteers at the International Refugee Assistance Project as an Arabic Intake Caseworker.

**Rahaf Salahat** is a senior at Al-Quds Bard College in Palestine. She is completing her B.A. in Political Science with a minor in Computer Science. In Fall 2019, she received a scholarship from Bard College to spend a semester in New York City and study Globalization and International Affairs. During her time in the city she interned at the Center for Palestine Studies at Columbia University, where she created a new research tool for the Palestinian Village Histories project and edited a video of archival posters for the Center's Black-Palestinian Solidarity project.

**Nasreen Abd Elal** is a multi-disciplinary researcher, graphic designer, and illustrator based in New York City. She received her BA from Columbia University in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies (MESAAS). She was the recipient of the 2020 alQaws fellowship "Palestine through the Lens of Queer Politics," and is also a member of the Palestinian Youth Movement.





Columbia University  
Center for Palestine Studies

606 West 122nd Street, Suite 301A  
New York, NY 10027

[palestine.mei.columbia.edu](http://palestine.mei.columbia.edu)

+ 1 (212) 851-2992  
[palestine@columbia.edu](mailto:palestine@columbia.edu)