



Center for Palestine Studies, Columbia University

Academic Year Review:
2013-2014

May 2014



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Special Programming



Edward Said's 10th Anniversary



The Center for Palestine Studies
presents

Judith Butler
&
Cornel West
in conversation

Palestine & The Public Intellectual
Honoring Edward Said

October 30, 7 PM

Low Library Rotunda
Columbia University
doors open at 6pm

Moderator
James Schamus
Professor of Professional Practice
Columbia University

Introduction
Lila Abu Lughod
Professor of Anthropology
Columbia University

Registration Required
First-come, first-seated

Sponsored by the Center for Palestine Studies with the generous support of the Institute for Research in African American Studies and the Anthropology Department, as well as the Middle East Institute, Heyman Center for the Humanities, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Center for International History, Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race and the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society

Remembering Edward Said

September 23, 2013 in Roone Arledge Cinema, Lerner Hall

This past year marked the tenth anniversary of the passing of **Edward Said**. We put together a gathering of the minds to reflect on his legacy and screened excerpts from a documentary on Said.

The speakers' line-up included: (Introduction) **Rashid Khalidi**, Edward Said Professor of Modern Arab Studies, **Jonathan Cole**, Provost Emeritus of the University, **Gauri Viswanathan** Class of 1933, Professor in the Humanities, **Moustafa Bayoumi**, Professor of English, Brooklyn College, CUNY, and **Timothy Brennan**, Professor of English and Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota.



The [full video recording](#) of the event is available on the CPS website.



Said is Dead. Long Live Said!

*September 27, 2013 at the Spitzer School of Architecture, City College
New York, CUNY*

We teamed with CUNY to bring together artists for a series of special events. This panel brought together individuals working in a range of contemporary activist-intellectual forms - art, music, poetry, journalism, social media, and academic scholarship - to consider their own practice in relation to the legacy of Edward Said. The full line up included: **Martin Espada** (poetry), **Chee Malabar** (music), **Kade Crockford** (law/social media), **Anjali Kamat** (journalism), **Daisy Rockwell** (art), **Robyn Spencer** (academia), and **Manan Ahmed**, Assistant Professor of History at Columbia, (moderator).

Judith Butler and Cornel West, in Conversation on *Palestine and the Public Intellectual: Honoring Edward Said*

October 30, 2013 in Low Library rotunda, Columbia University

Our major event was announced for the first time on the Columbia University website homepage: **Judith Butler** and **Cornel West** discussing what it means to be a public intellectual and Edward Said's impact on the academic discourse of Palestine. Over 400 people filled the space to maximum capacity, including Oscar-winning filmmaker **Ang Lee**. Long lines formed hours before the event with those unable to get in directed to the overflow room in Lerner Cinema. A thousand people tuned in via live-streaming, our first global social media event.



Lila Abu-Lughod paid homage to Said's legacy at the University. **James Schamus** moderated the discussion, and the text of his opening remarks is available on our website. James entertained questions from the worldwide audience, which were tweeted to our newly created [@CUPalestine](#) Twitter account. The full video of the event is available on Columbia's official YouTube channel (also a first!), as well as our website.



Topical Programming

The Arts
Palestine and the Law
History of the Present



1. The Arts



Elia Suleiman with Hamid Dabashi, in Conversation

*An Undergraduate Workshop
April 29, 2014 in Knox Hall*

CPS teamed up with the School of the Arts to host Palestinian filmmaker **Elia Suleiman** for a special undergraduate workshop with **Hamid Dabashi**. Suleiman showed several clips from his lesser-known films and spurred an engaging and dynamic discussion with the students.

Suleiman spent the month of April in residence at the School of the Arts as a part of the Mellon Visiting Artists & Thinkers Program. Suleiman was born in Nazareth and has extensive experience in directing and screenwriting. His best-known film, *Divine Intervention*, is a surreal comedy and modern tragedy about the Israeli occupation of Palestine, which featured in CPS' 2011 Palestinian Film Festival, *Dreams of a Nation*, curated by Hamid Dabashi.

Poetry Reading with Mazen Maarouf

April 14, 2014 in Knox Hall

Palestinian poet and writer, **Nathalie Handal**, Adjunct Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literature and an instructor at CSER invited Palestinian-Icelandic poet **Mazen Maarouf** for a dynamic poetry reading and discussion. Maarouf currently lives in Reykjavík and has published three collections of poetry: *The Camera Doesn't Capture Birds*, *Our Grief Resembles Bread*, and *An Angel Suspended On The Clothesline* in 2012 (translated into French by Samira Negrouche and published by Amandier Poésie, 2013).





“Where Should the Birds Fly” Harlem Film Screening at Maysles Cinema

April 5, 2014 at Maysles Cinema

The Center for Palestine Studies, Deep Dish TV, and Maysles Institute teamed up for the first time for a film screening of "Where Should the Birds Fly," a film by **Fida Qishta** on the reality of the Israeli siege on Gaza, Palestine. This event launched a new CPS Harlem film festival initiative with the iconic Maysles Institute.

The screening was followed by a Q&A with the director Fida Qishta, moderated by Middle East Institute Director, Professor **Lila Abu-Lughod** and CPS Co-Director, Professor **Brinkley Messick**. Both the cinema and overflow room were filled. We hosted a reception featuring Palestinian cuisine following the discussion.



How Green Was My Valley: Artists’ Talk at Whitebox Art Center

April 4, 2014 at WhiteBox Art Center

ArtPalestine International, WhiteBox Art Center, the Center for Palestine Studies, and Alwan for the Arts joined up to present, "How Green Was My Valley," Palestinian Artists **Joseph Audeh, Samira Badran & Mary Tuma** in conversation.

The Artists' Talk was followed by a discussion and Q&A session moderated by **Dr. Raouf Halaby**, Professor of Visual Arts and English at Ouachita Baptist University.

About How Green Was My Valley Exhibit

Fourteen artists explore issues of mobility and migration, depleted natural resources, and political marginalization, using new media/technology, documentary filmmaking, and archival methods. The exhibition ran from April 3-27, 2014 at Whitebox Art Center (329 Broome Street, New York).



Omar: Film Screening

February 22, 2014 in Lincoln Plaza Cinema

The Center for Palestine Studies and Alwan for the Arts hosted a sold out screening of *Omar*, the Academy-Award nominated film from Palestinian writer-director, two-time Academy Award nominee and Golden Globe winner (*Paradise Now*) **Hany Abu-Assad**.

A tense, gripping tale of betrayal, suspected and real, in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. By day, Omar (Adam Bakri) is a baker who must routinely climb over the separation wall, dodging bullets, to be with Nadia, the love of his life (Leem Lubany). By night, he is ready to risk himself to strike at the Israeli military with his childhood friends Tarek (Eyad Hourani) and Amjad (Samer Bisharat). Arrested after the killing of an Israeli soldier and tricked into an admission of guilt by association, Omar agrees to work as an informant. So begins a dangerous game-is he playing his Israeli handler Rami (Waleed F. Zuaiter) or will Omar really betray his cause to be with the woman he loves?



"Families Interrupted:"

A Photographic Exhibition on the Ban of Family Unification for Palestinians in Israel

*February 21, 2014 (Exhibit opened daily February 17-21, 2014)
Alwan for the Arts*

CPS and Adalah - The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel hosted the New York opening of the photographic exhibition "Families Interrupted," at Alwan for the Arts. The exhibition details the subject of the ban on family unification for Palestinians in Israel, with photography by **Jenny Nyman** capturing the reality of the many thousands of Palestinian families who are forced to live in the shadows by the Israeli Citizenship Law.





The evening event on February 21 also included a presentation by and Q&A with Adalah Director **Hassan Jabareen** about the Citizenship Law in Israel, as well as the screening of a short film on the ban on family unification by Ayed Fadel and Mike Kardosh.

Photography in Spaces of Violence: Politics of Witness in Palestine and Libya

November 14, 2013 in Stabile Student Center at the Journalism School

CPS teamed up with the School of Journalism to host a photography event. Professor **Lila Abu-Lughod** brought together **Mohammad al-Azza**, a Palestinian documentarian and photographer who directs the Arts & Media Unit of Lajee Center in Aida Refugee Camp and **Diana Mattar**, an award-winning photographer whose work has focused on political disappearance, immigration, veiled women, and the disappearing landscape of peripheral Cairo, to speak about the challenges of photojournalism in spaces of violence. The event was moderated by *The New Yorker's* **Elissa Curtis**. We had another full house and the event was live tweeted by @CUPalestine.

November 14, 2013

Photography in Spaces of Violence: Politics of Witness in Occupied Palestine and Libya

12:00–2:00 pm
Stabile Student Center
School of Journalism (main floor)

Diana Matar and
Mohammad al-Azza will speak about the
challenges of photojournalism in spaces of
violence.
Moderated by *The New Yorker's* **Elissa Curtis**.



This event is sponsored by the Middle East Institute, Center for Palestine Studies, SIPA's IMAC concentration and AMEJA.



2. Palestine and the Law

CPS-Adalah Workshop


February 20, 2014 in Knox Hall

CPS held a joint workshop with *Adalah--The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel* on “the Nakba and the Law.” The workshop launched a research partnership between CPS and Adalah on rethinking the Nakba as a legal phenomenon. Participants from CPS and Adalah presented six papers that we hope will inform future workshops, an international conference, and publications. By rethinking the Nakba as a current legal phenomenon, the project seeks to properly position the current historic moment, and offer both academics and practitioners the language and tools through which to address its present legacy. In attendance were representatives from Adalah, CPS, and legal experts from the New York area and beyond.

"Jewish and Democratic state" Through the lens of the law

February 19, 2014 at the CU Law School

The evening before the closed CPS-Adalah workshop, Adalah Co-Founder and Director **Hassan Jabareen** delivered a public lecture on why Palestinians cannot accept the legal ramifications of the Jewish democratic state, how the Jewish state functions in law, how it emerged and its impact on Palestinians. The event attracted a full house with many attendees standing in the back of the room and the aisles.



**Through the Lens of the Law:
The “Jewish and Democratic State”**

An evening with
Hassan Jabareen

How do the legal values of the State of Israel as a “Jewish and democratic state” impact the rights of Palestinians?

Wednesday, February 19, 2014 ■ 7 – 8:15 PM
Columbia University Law School Jerome Greene Hall | Room 102 B

Attorney **Hassan Jabareen** is the founder and general director of *Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel*. Attorney Jabareen has litigated landmark constitutional rights cases before the Israeli Supreme Court on behalf of Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. He is also a Schell Center Human Rights Fellow at Yale Law School.

Sponsored by Columbia University’s Center for Palestine Studies | Middle East Institute | Human Rights Institute | Social Justice Initiatives | Columbia Journal of Race and Law



3. History of the Present

Seminar

In Human Terms: UNRWA, UNESCO and the crafting of Palestinian Refugee Education, 1948-1958:

A Paper by Mezna Qato

April 17, 2014 in Knox Hall

CPS hosted an intimate seminar to workshop a paper by 2014 Ibrahim Abu-Lughod fellow **Mezna Qato**, which is part of her doctorate entitled, "Education in Exile: Palestinians and the Hashemite Regime, 1948 - 1967."

About the paper: Despite 65 years of dispossession and dispersal, Palestinians - both in exile and in the homeland - have near universal literacy and significant rates of higher education. Credit for this monumental achievement is often accorded to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, established in the aftermath of the 1948 and to whom the responsibility to educate Palestinians was soon after tasked. In offering a history of the first decade in the formation of this educational system, and its life amongst Palestinians in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, this paper re-considers the stakes and consequences of the transfer of a public good to an instrument of an emerging international order, and the ways in which Palestinian bureaucrats, teachers, and students contended, everyday, with the burdens and ironies of choosing between labor and liberation.

Qato was earlier based at St. Antony's College and the Faculty of History at the University of Oxford. She most recently co-edited a special issue for *Settler Colonial Studies* on Palestine, and authored a socio-historical map of Palestinian refugee and exile communities as part of the Civitas research collective based at Nuffield College, Oxford.

Amira Hass on "Palestinian Strengths"

A talk by Amira Haas, *Haaretz* correspondent

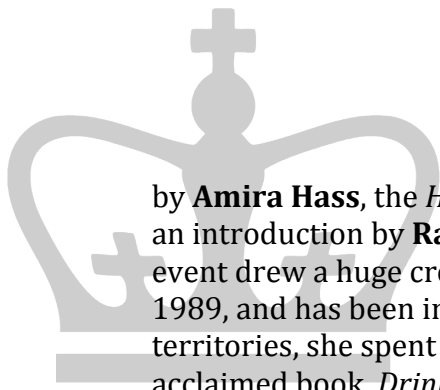
April 9, 2014 in Room 607B, Pulitzer Hall (Journalism School)



CPS partnered with the Graduate School of Journalism for the first time to organize a talk



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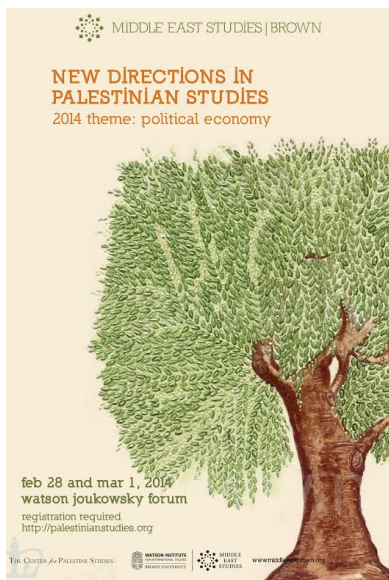


by **Amira Hass**, the *Haaretz* correspondent for the Palestinian Occupied Territories, with an introduction by **Rashid Khalidi**, Edward Said Professor of Modern Arab Studies. . The event drew a huge crowd of over 150 people. Born in Jerusalem, Hass joined *Haaretz* in 1989, and has been in her current position since 1993. As the correspondent for the territories, she spent three years living in Gaza, which served as the basis for her widely acclaimed book, *Drinking the Sea at Gaza*. She has lived in the West Bank city of Ramallah since 1997. Hass is also the author of two other books, both of which are compilations of her articles.

The Political Mapping of Palestine with Linda Quiquix

March 6, 2014 in Knox Hall

Professor **Brian Boyd**, Columbia Center for Archeology, invited **Linda Quiquix** from Brown University to discuss her work which seeks to investigate how colonialism's notions of what constitutes "the political" are produced and naturalized in both thought and practice by the colonized themselves. Examining the role of cartography in this question and the Palestinian struggle as a case study, she traces the life of the map in Palestine from the colonial period to the present to show how the Palestinian movement's uncritical and ubiquitous adoption of cartography today often reproduces and continues to naturalize colonial social relations of domination and submission, although this time, between and among Palestinians themselves.



New Directions in Palestinian Studies Conference

February 27-March 1, 2014, Brown University

CPS co-sponsored the first annual major conference on Palestinian Studies, organized by **Beshara Doumani**, Brown University. Several CPS faculty members and CU students were in attendance. This year's theme focused on "Political Economy and the Economy of the Political."

Unsettling and Decolonization: New Directions

February 14, 2014 at the Heyman Center for Humanities

CPS sponsored a one-day conference organized by the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society (ICLS) bringing together scholars on settler colonial studies and indigenous studies. Ibrahim Abu-Lughod fellow **Mezna**

Qato and Anthropology Ph.D. student **Hadeel Assali** presented papers at a panel moderated by CPS Co-Director **Nadia Abu El Haj**.

"Thorough Surveillance"
December 5, 2013 in Knox Hall



CPS and MEI gave a book launching for Fall 2013 Arcapita Visiting Professor in Arab Studies **Ahmad Sa 'di's** new publication: *Thorough Surveillance: The Genesis of Israeli Policies of Population Management, Surveillance, and Political Control Towards the Palestinian Minority* (Manchester University Press), which is on Israeli expertise in techniques of surveillance and political control. In addition to Sa'adi's engaging presentation, we also celebrated the recent publications of several faculty members, including **Nadia Abu-El Haj, Lila Abu-Lughod, Hamid Dabashi, Wael Hallaq, Rashid Khalidi** and **Timothy Mitchell**.

- *Brokers of Deceit: How the US Undermined Peace in the Middle East*, new publication by **Rashid Khalidi** and winner of the 2013 Academic Book Prize from Middle East Monitor (MEMO).

- MEMO also awarded the 2013 General Prize to **Penny Johnson** and **Raja Shehadeh** for *Seeking Palestine: New Palestinian Writing on Exile and Home* with contributions by **Lila Abu-Lughod, Rema Hammami** and **Suad Amiry**, who were featured in a CPS event in March 2013. Raja Shehadeh also delivered this year's **Edward W. Said Memorial Lecture: Is There a Language of Peace? Palestine Today and the Categorization of Domination** on October 17.

Surveillance, Fear, and Settler Colonialism
November 18, 2013 at Barnard College

Professor **Neferti Tadiar** of Barnard College put together a talk by **Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian** of The Hebrew University on the surveillance of colonized Palestinian subjects. Shalhoub-Kevorkian argued that colonial dispossession functions in different layers, using David Harvey's concept "accumulation of dispossession" to claim that surveillance over living and dead bodies of the colonized, and the military control over their land, life and political economy, imposes new regimes of regulation and accumulation by dispossession, while concealing the exploitative relationships between the colonized and the colonizer.

WOMEN'S, GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES PRESENTS

MONDAY, NOV 18, 2013
6 PM
Barnard 302
Barnard College

Surveillance, Fear, and Israel's Settler Colonialism

A talk by Prof. Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

About the speaker:
Dr. Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian grew up in Haifa, Israel and now lives in Jerusalem. She received an M.A. in 1988 and a Ph.D. in 1994 from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She has been visiting professor, Faculty of Law, at UCLA and USC, and is also a faculty member at the Faculty of Social Work, at The Hebrew University. Dr. Shalhoub-Kevorkian is a sociologist and specialist in human rights and women's rights. She is currently with Human Rights Watch on its most recent report on violence against Palestinian women in Israel and with the UNFPAH Mission of the United Nations. She is also the author of *Affiliation and Violence against Women in Conflict Zones* in the *Annual Review of Palestinian Studies* (2008) published by Cambridge Studies in Law and Society.

Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies womenstudies@barnard.edu | Consortium for Critical Interdisciplinary Studies ccs@barnard.edu | Center for Palestine Studies columbia.edu/cps/palestine



Fellowships



Palestine & Law Fellowship

Katherine Franke, Isidor and Seville Sulzbacher Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Gender and Sexuality Law, secured funding for an annual residential fellowship in Palestine & the Law from a generous anonymous donor. The year-long Fellowship is designed to both deepen the scholarly understanding of the complex ways in which law and legality are implicated in Palestine, and to provide a supportive environment for scholars to conduct research. The Fellow will participate in the rich interdisciplinary environment of CPS, the Columbia Law School, and the University more generally.

This year CPS selected **Suhad Bishara**, and **Jamal Nusseibeh** as the 2014-2015 Palestine & Law Fellows from a highly competitive pool of applicants. Bishara is the Director of Land Rights at *Adalah-The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel* and will join us from Haifa. Nussabieh is an Assistant Professor in Law at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem. Both fellows will be in residence for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Post-Doctoral Award

This is our fourth annual call for applications for the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Award, a post-doctoral fellowship in Palestinian Studies. The one-semester fellowship carries a stipend of \$25,000 and the status of post-doctoral research fellow or visiting scholar at Columbia University. It is made possible through the generosity of the A.M. Qattan foundation.

The 2015 recipient, chosen from a highly competitive applicant pool, **Omar Tesdell**, is an Assistant Professor in Geography at Birzeit University, PhD University of Minnesota. Tesdell will be focusing on Palestinian land cultivation and the politics around territory, agriculture, and sovereignty.

This year's 2014 Ibrahim Abu-Lughod post-doctoral Fellow, **Mezna Qato**, started her residency in January 2014. Qato just completed her PhD from the University of Oxford and is working on a social history of the Palestinian educational experience in Jordan.



New Initiatives



Harlem Film Screening Series

The aim of the project is to establish a Palestinian film screening series in the Harlem neighborhood exploring cross-sectional themes of gentrification, apartheid, discrimination, and race among others. CPS has been involved in ongoing discussions with the Maysles Institute and the Schomburg Center for Black Research, both renowned Harlem institutions, about these collaborations.

This project is led by first year PhD anthropology student **Hadeel Asaali** who founded and curated the Houston Palestinian Film Festival for several years.

Palestinian Arts in Latin America

CPS is planning for a major Palestinian Arts initiative in Santiago, Chile, home to one of the largest Palestinian diasporic communities. The project will commence with a Palestinian Film Series in June 2014 led by former CPS visiting scholar (2013) **Noemi Artal**, curator of the annual Madrid Film Festival on Palestinian films.

The proposed project would take advantage of the local organizational presence and facilities of the new Columbia Global Centers, initially in Santiago, and ideally later in other locations such as Rio de Janeiro, with the hope of taking the curated arts program later to Amman, Paris, and Istanbul.



Prof. Rashid Khalidi receives Lionel Trilling Book Award

April 21, 2014

The Academic Awards Committee of the Columbia College Student Council has awarded The 39th Lionel Trilling Book Award to **Rashid Khalidi**, Edward Said Professor of Modern Arab Studies and Literature Department of History, for his book *Brokers of Deceit: How the U.S. Has Undermined Peace in the Middle East*.

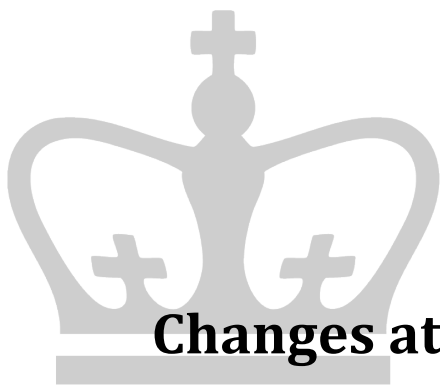
Debating the “Woman Question” in the New Middle East Women’s Rights, Citizenship and Social Justice

May 4, 2014 at Columbia Global Center, Amman

Professor **Lila Abu-Lughod** traveled to Amman, Jordan for a public conversation on debating the “Women Question” in the New Middle East, with a welcome by **Safwan Masri**, Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, Columbia University.

Columbia Global Centers | Middle East and the Center for the Study of Social Difference at Columbia University hosted a conversation with **Asef Bayat**, Professor of Sociology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and **Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian** of The Hebrew University and Director of the Gender Studies Program at Mada al-Carmel-Arab Center for Applied Social Research. In November 2013, Shalhoub-Kevorkian gave a public lecture co-sponsored by the Center for Palestine Studies.

Moderated by Lila Abu-Lughod, Joseph L. Bottenwieser Professor of Social Science; Director of the Middle East Institute, and of a project on gender, law, and religion that is part of the initiative on Women Creating Change at the Center for the Study of Social Difference, Columbia University.



Changes at CPS

CPS underwent a major change this Fall 2013. We said goodbye to **Maryam Zohny**, our Program Director for the past three years, since CPS' inauguration in 2010. Maryam took up a new job in Lebanon at Mercy Corp working with Syrian refugees.

We hired **Dahlia El Zein** in October 2013 to assume the position, joining us from the Committee to Protect Journalists.

You can reach Dahlia at de2304@columbia.edu, and she also oversees the CPS e-mail address palestine@columbia.edu.



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