



THE CENTER *for* PALESTINE STUDIES

Center for Palestine Studies Columbia University

Academic Year Review: 2014-2015

May 2015

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The Arts

New Projects

Palestine Cuts: A New Film Initiative

At the end of April, the Center for Palestine Studies launched a new film initiative. Palestine Cuts is a new space for emerging and established filmmakers and video-artists to present and discuss their work in an engaging and encouraging environment. It promotes stimulating audiovisual projects (documentary and fiction film, video, installations, etc.) that challenge existing conventions and offer critical and alternative views about Palestine and Palestinians. Palestine Cuts also is interested in the broader regional and global socio-political, economic and cultural context of which Palestine is an intrinsic part. In this sense, we hope to bring Palestine-related work into conversation with other Arab and international filmmakers and audiovisual artists. Through screenings, discussions, master classes as well as open and closed workshops for work in progress and finished projects, Palestine Cuts hopes to attract a wide array of artists, producers, curators, critics, scholars, activists and others interested in committed audiovisual work that opens up new spaces for imagination.

Events

Palestine Cuts: Opening Screening and Discussion with Filmmaker Mohaned Yaqubi

April 30, 2015 in Schermerhorn 612, Art History

For the very special opening event of Palestine Cuts, we selected *Off Frame: A journey through militant cinema*, the first feature film by Palestinian filmmaker and producer **Mohanad Yaqubi**.



An intimate gathering of about 50 CPS supporters, graduate students, and faculty members launched Palestine Cuts in a cinema screening room on campus, the first ever audience to watch Yaqubi's *Off Frame*. The film follows the history of the Palestine Film Unit (PFU), the filmic arm of the Palestinian revolution, between 1968 and 1982. *Off Frame* tells the story of the unit established by

Sulafa Jadallah, Hani Johariweh and Mustafa Abu Ali, following their life and activities in the turbulent period of the Revolution in Amman between 1967 and 1971. The screening was followed by a discussion moderated by **Hamid Dabashi**, Hagop Kevorkian

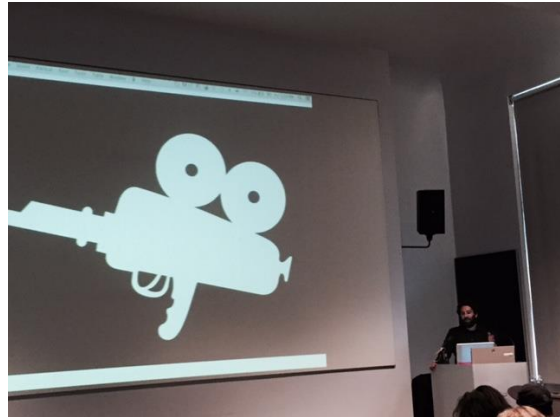


Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature with an introduction by **Brinkley Messick**, CPS Co-Director and Professor of Anthropology.

Palestinian Militant Cinema: A Master Class with Filmmaker Mohaned Yaqubi

May 1, 2015 in Schermerhorn 612, Art History

Mohanad Yaqubi delivered a [Master Class on Palestinian Militant Cinema](#), as a sequel event to the two-day launch of Palestine Cuts. This time the room was filled with undergraduate and graduate students interested in or studying film. Drawing on recently found film rushes, rare documentary footage and clips of Third Cinema, Yaqubi introduced the audience to a fascinating and often neglected world that engages with the depth of Palestine's film-making history, its role in shaping Palestinian identity, and its ties to the wider Third Cinema movement. The presentation raised questions with regards to the role of 'militant cinema' as a tool of documentation but also to intervene in the political upheavals and liberation movements that shook the world in the midst of the past



century. Counterpoising the militant period of Palestine cinema with post-Oslo cinema will opened up a conversation about the political role and nature of Palestinian cinematic language today, its potential and possibility. The class was followed by a discussion moderated by **Omar Jabary Salamanca**, Marie-Curie Postdoctoral fellow.

Permission to Narrate: Three Nights of Palestinian Plays

March 25, 26, and 27, 2015, Earl Hall Theater

CPS teamed up with the Office of the University Chaplain, the School of the Arts, Noor Theater, and other departments around campus to present staged readings of three plays that embody the contemporary Palestinian playwright's use of art to resist historical, political and geographic erasures. For this special three-day event, CPS launched a new blog, [Permission to Narrate](#) highlighting information about the plays, playwrights, and commentaries from various artists reflecting on the meaning of Edward Said's term "Permission to Narrate." Each night at Earl Hall Theater brought in a full house of 200 people from across the New York Tri-State area. The festival was curated by playwright **Ismail Khalidi**, co-editor of a newly released anthology of plays entitled *Inside/Outside: Six Plays from Palestine and the Diaspora*, a landmark collection in the field of Palestinian theater.



Photo Credit: Chris Hazou

The play line up:

Wednesday March 25, 2015

I am Yusuf and This is My Brother

By **Amir Nizar Zuabi**

Directed by **Noelle Ghossaini**

It is the eve of Partition in the village of Baissamoon. Yusuf and Ali are brothers whose lives - like the lives of those around them - are soon interrupted by the chaos of 1948 and the tragedy that will haunt them long into the future.

Followed by a talkback with **Jean Howard**, Professor, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University, Director **Noelle Ghossaini**, and playwright and program curator **Ismail Khalidi**.

Thursday March 26, 7:30PM

Land/Fill

By **Dalia Taha**

Directed by **Ismail Khalidi**

Mariam returns with her son Jawwad to reclaim land in the town where she grew up. But once there, she is faced with the bizarre changes that have occurred and those that are yet to come. A story about the erasure of memory and landscape, *Land/Fill* explores the ways in which the buried past manages to seep through, out, and up into the present.

Friday March 27, 7:30PM

603

By **Imad Farajin**

Directed by **Jo Bonney**

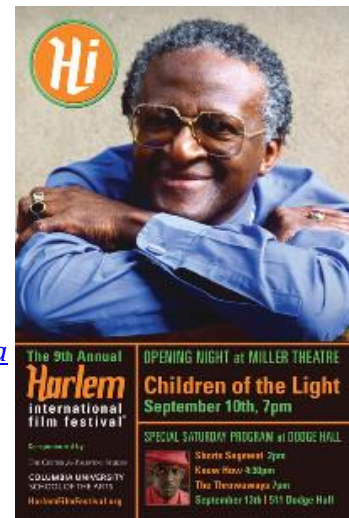
603 brings us to the core of the Israeli justice system where we meet Palestinian prisoners Mosquito, Boxman, Slap and Snake as they cope with incarceration and the uncertainty of when, if ever, they will be released.

Followed by a talkback with **Bryonn Bain**, prison activist, Visiting Associate Professor and Artist in Residence at New York University and **Kate C Wilson**, Adjunct Professor of Arabic Theater at Hunter College, moderated by **Ismail Khalidi**.

Harlem International Film Festival

September 10, 2014, Miller Theater

CPS partnered with the Harlem International Film Festival, opening night. We had begun to look into connections with our immediate Harlem neighborhood, and had previously screened a film on Gaza, with the filmmaker present for discussion, at the Maysles Documentary Center. Opening night at Harlem International, at Miller Theater on the Columbia campus, featured a film on Bishop Tutu. The Bishop kindly made a little clip in which he expressed his thanks to CPS! Also included in the evening was a short by Hany Abu Assad, the award-winning director of films such as *Omar*, and [*A Boy, a Wall, and a Donkey*](#).





Palestine Film Festival Santiago, Chile

June 23-29, 2014, Cineteca Nacional de Chile

Connecting North and South America through Palestinian film, CPS organized a week-long film festival curated by our former Fellow, **Noemi Artal**, who for a number of years has run a similar festival in Madrid. Relying on the support of the new Columbia Global Centers | Latin America (Santiago), the event was also attended by Professor **Safwan Masri**, Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development at Columbia University and **Carol Becker**, the Dean of the School of the Arts. Post-screening discussions were facilitated by colleagues from the Arab Studies Center, University of Chile. The festival welcomed the participation of **Miguel Littin**, the prominent Chilean filmmaker, who is of Palestinian descent. Also on hand, and performing, was the internationally known Chilean hip-hop artist **Ana Tijoux**, who has a video in which she performs with Palestinian video artist, Shadia Mansour.

“Somos Sur” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKGUIXzxNqc>

Palestine and the Law

The 2015 Palestine & Law Lecture Series

CPS, in conjunction with Columbia Law School, launched a four-part Palestine & Law lecture series held at the Law School in February and March 2015.

Contested Normality: Bedouin "Citizens" Under the Supreme Court of Israel

Monday March 30, 2015, Jerome Greene Hall 103, Columbia Law School

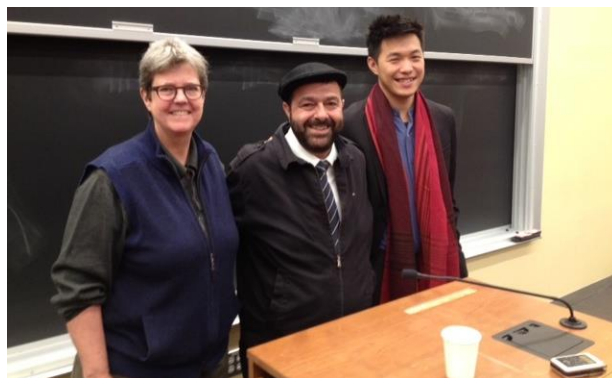
Suhad Bishara, 2014-2015 Palestine & Law Fellow, gave a talk about the role played by the Israeli Supreme Court in 'normalizing displacement' of Palestinian citizens of Israel in the Naqab (Negev) desert, and facilitating recent re-construction of space. Bishara is a senior attorney and Head of the Land and Planning Unit of Adalah - The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel. She has litigated numerous constitutional rights cases before the Israeli Supreme Court concerning the land rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Professor **Katherine Franke** moderated the talk, co-sponsored by Adalah.



The Legal Dimensions of Palestinian Citizens' Political Participation in the 2015 Israeli Elections

Thursday February 26, 2015, Jerome Greene Hall 102A, Columbia Law School

Attorney **Hassan Jabareen**, founder and director of Adalah - The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, presented a public lecture on the legal dimensions of political participation by Palestinian citizens of Israel in the 2015 Israeli elections. Jabareen represented MK Haneen Zoabi, and the Joint List, a historic, united list of Arab political parties before the Central Elections Committee and the Israeli Supreme Court. Jabareen has extensive experience in litigating landmark constitutional law cases before the Israeli Supreme Court on behalf of Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. **Darryl Li**, Associate Research Scholar, Yale Law School, served as the respondent and **Katherine Franke** moderated the Q&A. The event attracted a full house.





The Occupational Hazards of Education: The Status-Quo?-of Al-Quds/Jerusalem

Wednesday February 18, 2015, Jerome Greene Hall 101, Columbia Law School

CPS and the Center for the Study of Law and Culture at the Law School hosted a lecture by **Jamal Nusseibeh**, 2014-2015 Palestine & Law Fellow on the current legal/political situation in and status of Jerusalem through the lens of the challenges faced by one of its largest surviving Palestinian

institutions, Al-Quds University. The Q&A was moderated by Professor **Kendall Thomas**, Nash Professor of Law; Director of the Center for the Study of Law and Culture at Columbia Law School.

Developments in the International Criminal Court: Israel/Palestine

Wednesday February 11, 2015, Jerome Greene Hall 105, Columbia Law School

CPS with the Human Rights Institute at Columbia Law School sponsored a panel discussion on



Israel and Palestine and developments in the International Criminal Court (ICC). After the Palestinians acceded to the Rome Statute on January 2, 2015, Fatou Bensouda, the ICC Prosecutor, opened a preliminary

investigation into the possibility of war crimes committed "in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, since June 13, 2014." Panelists included Columbia Law School professors **Lori Damrosch** and **Katherine Franke**, and **Claus Kress** (University of Cologne), and **Jamil Dakwar** (CUNY & ACLU). The room was packed with many audience members standing in the back or sitting on the floor.

New Case Developments: Suspending Land & Housing Rights and Threatening Political Participation of Palestinian Citizens of Israel

October 13, 2014 - in partnership with Adalah

As the centerpiece of its longstanding commitment to legal perspectives, CPS has partnered for two years with Adalah-The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights In Israel (based in Haifa). The Fall's activity focused on a closed workshop with invited guests from the Columbia legal community and a contingent from the UN. **Suhad Bishara** and **Hassan Jabareen**, presented their analyses of two legal developments, one concerning property rights, the other concerning the banning of an Arab woman Member of the Knesset.

History of the Present

Workshops

Comparative Settler Colonialisms

April 8-10, 2015, CPS hosted a three-day conference on Comparative Settler Colonialisms, co-sponsored by the Heyman Center for Humanities.

Day 1: **Keynote Address**

April 8, 2015, Schermerhorn Hall

In conjunction with the Department of Anthropology, CPS hosted **Ghassan Hage**, Future Generation Professor of Anthropology and Social Theory, University of Melbourne as the Keynote Speaker for the three-day conference. The Keynote address was a public lecture entitled "On Exterminability: The Affective Culture of Settler-Colonialism Today" which, drew in a huge crowd.



Day 2: **Comparative Settler Colonialisms Workshop**

April 9, 2015, Barnard College

This all-day closed workshop consisted of three papers, each of which dealt with the question of settler colonialism and/or indigeneity from a different regional perspective: Palestine, North America, and the Pacific Islands.



The papers were presented by **Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian** (The Hebrew University), **Dean Saranillo** (New York University) and **Mark Rifkin** (UNC-Greensboro), and were workshopped by **Robert Nichols** (University of Minnesota), **Lori Allen** (SOAS), and **Alyosha Goldstein** (University of New Mexico). Columbia University faculty members **Nadia Abu El-Haj** (Barnard College, CPS Co-Director), **Audra Simpson** (Anthropology),

Paige West (Barnard College, Anthropology), and **Lila Abu-Lughod** (Anthropology, Women's and Gender Studies, Director of Middle East Institute) organized the event.

The Workshop posed the following questions: 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?

In addition to providing in-depth and substantive discussion of the presented papers, the workshop sought to serve as the beginning of a long-term intellectual project that will promote dialogues on settler colonialisms across both geographical divides and theoretical and political gulfs

Day 3: **Workshop on "Representations of 'Indigeneity' in Settler-Colonial Contexts: The Case of the Naqab Bedouin"**

April 10, 2015, Knox Hall

A workshop organized by **Dr. Sophie Richter-Devroe** (University of Exeter and Visiting Scholar at Columbia University), Professor **Lila Abu-Lughod** (Columbia University), Dr. **Mansour Nasasra** (Kenyon Institute, Jerusalem) and **Richard Ratcliffe** (Oxford University) took place on April 10, 2015 as part of the series of events on settler colonialism.



The workshop on the Naqab Bedouin was funded through the AHRC project "Gender and Settler Colonialism: Women's Oral Histories in the Naqab" and co-organized by the Center for Palestine Studies, Columbia University and the European Center for Palestine Studies, University of Exeter.

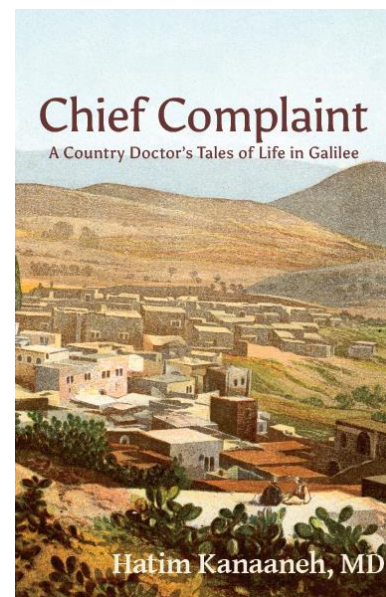
The Naqab Bedouin have a long history of being spoken for and represented through various discursive frames in different activist, policy and/or scholarly circles. It is, of course, mainly the Israeli settler-colonial regime that dominates the politics of representation in and of the Naqab, but Palestinian 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.

Events

Chief Complaint: A Country Doctor's Tales of Life in Galilee

Book talk and discussion with Dr. Hatim Kanaaneh
Tuesday February 24, 2015, Knox Hall, Room 208

CPS partnered with Just World Books to host the launch of **Dr. Hatim Kanaaneh's** new short-story collection, *Chief Complaint: A Country Doctor's Tales of Life in Galilee*. Kanaaneh, a Palestinian doctor, writer, and activist who has for 35 years worked in providing health care to Palestinians living in the Galilee. He is co-founder of the Galilee society, a medical health and research NGO, and author of the



acclaimed memoir, *A Doctor in Galilee: The Life and Struggle of a Palestinian in Israel*. The discussion was moderated by **Moustafa Bayoumi**, Professor of English, Brooklyn College.

"Situating Settlement: Terrains of Arid Agriculture in Palestine and North America"

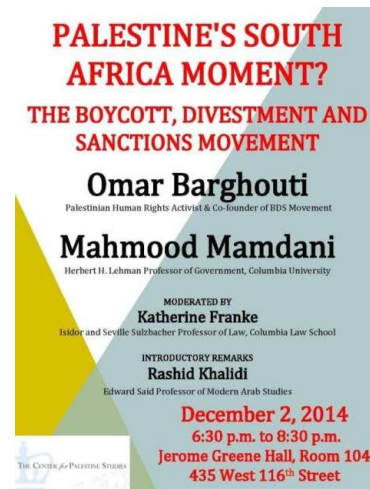
A Seminar by Omar Imseeh Tesdell
January 29, 2015, Knox Hall

CPS co-hosted a seminar with the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies as part of the Colloquium Series, to workshop a paper by 2015 Ibrahim Abu-Lughod fellow **Omar Imseeh Tesdell**. The paper presented is a chapter from Tesdell's book project, based on his dissertation, *Shadow Spaces: Territory, Sovereignty, and the Question of Palestinian Cultivation*.

Palestine South Africa Moment? The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement

December 2, 2014, Jerome Greene 104, Columbia Law School

CPS hosted a founder of the international Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, **Omar Barghouti**, who spoke to a packed audience. In addition to remarks by Professors **Nadia Abu El-Haj**, CPS Co-Director and **Rashid Khalidi**, Edward Said Chair of Modern Arab Studies, the other main speaker of the evening was CPS faculty member Professor **Mahmood Mamdani**, a world authority on Africa, who spoke, in comparative terms, about the history of the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. The event was attended by various news agencies, included a live stream, and a [video recording](#) is available on the CPS website.



The Politics of Gender in the Flat-Pack 'Peace': GBV Programming as Global Governmentality in Occupied Palestine with Rema Hammami

October 29, 2014, Schermerhorn Hall

Columbia University Department of Anthropology

FRANZ BOAS WORKSHOPS

REMA HAMMAMI

The Politics of Gender in the Flat-Pack 'Peace': GBV Programming as Global Governmentality in occupied Palestine.

October 29th, 2014
4:10p.m.-6:00p.m.

Sheldon Scheps Library, 457 Schermerhorn Extension

Reception follows in the Robert F. Murphy-Morton H. Fried Anthropology Lounge, Room 465 Schermerhorn Extension

email samia.ahsan@212120@columbia.edu for pre-circulated workshop papers

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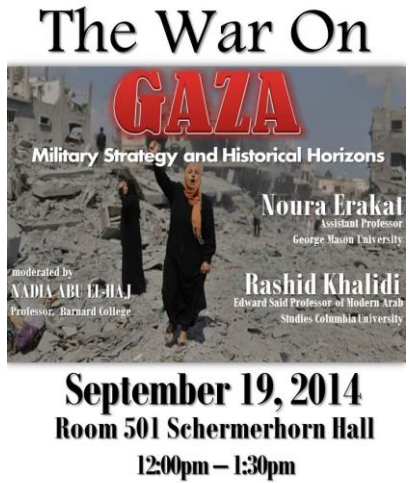
Professor **Rema Hammami**, Associate Professor at Birzeit University and a Carnegie Centennial Fellow for the fall semester at Columbia, presented a paper in the Department of Anthropology lecture series on issues of gender and development strategies in Palestine. Her recent publications include, *Who Answers to Gazan Women? A Study in Economic Rights and Security* (U.N. Women: New York, 2012)

War on Gaza: Military Strategy and Historical Horizons

September 19, 2014, Schermerhorn Hall

In the aftermath of the devastating assault on Gaza over the summer, CPS held a public forum moderated by Professor **Nadia Abu El-Haj**, CPS Co-Director and Director of Graduate Studies Anthropology at Columbia University and with presentations by lawyer and professor **Noura Erakat** of George Mason University and the Edward Said Professor, and Chair of the History Department at Columbia, **Rashid Khalidi**. An overflow crowd in a large auditorium in Schermerhorn Hall raised many questions.

The Center for Palestine Studies and the Middle East Institute present



Related Programming

Comparative Indigeneities: Dispossession, Belonging, and Human Rights in Palestine and Puerto Rico

Wednesday November 19, 2014, Jerome Greene Hall, Room 104

Katherine Franke, Columbia Law School

Steven Salaita, Independent Scholar

Christina Ponsa, Columbia Law School

Elsa Stamatopoulou, Director of Indigenous Peoples' Rights Program, Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University

The Edward W. Said Memorial Lecture with Richard Falk

"The Palestinian Future After Gaza"

Monday October 20, 2014, Teatro at The Italian Academy for Advanced Studies
Columbia University

Richard Falk, Albert G. Professor of International Law and Practice Emeritus, Princeton University

Fellowships

Palestine & Law Fellow

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 **Emilio Dabed** as the 2015-2016 Palestine & Law Fellows from a highly competitive pool of applicants. Dabed is the Head of the International Law and Human Rights Program at Al-Quds/Bard College in Jerusalem. He will be in residence for the 2015-2016 academic year.

This year's 2014-2015 Palestine & Law fellows **Suhad Bishara**, Senior Attorney and Head of the Land and Planning Unit at Adalah – The Legal Center for Minority Rights in Israel (Haifa) and **Jamal Nusseibeh**, Assistant Professor of Law at Al Quds University (AQU) in Jerusalem, spent the Fall and Spring semesters in residence.

Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Post-doctoral Award

This is our fifth 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. Additional support is generously offered by Sahar Huneidi and the Abu-Lughod family.

Areej Sabbagh-Khoury, the 2016 recipient, chosen from a highly competitive applicant pool, has just completed her PhD dissertation entitled "Colonization Practices and Interactions at the Frontier: Ha-Shomer Ha-Tzair Kibbutzim and the Surrounding Arab Villages at the Margins of the Valley of Jezreel/Marj Ibn 'Amer, 1936-1956" at Tel Aviv University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

This year's 2015 Ibrahim Abu-Lughod post-doctoral Fellow, **Omar Imseeh Tesdell**, started his residency in January 2015. Tesdell is an Assistant Professor in Geography at Birzeit University and completed his PhD at the University of Minnesota.

News

Brian Boyd (CPS Faculty member, Director of the Center for Archeology, Columbia University), was selected for the competitive President's Global Innovation Fund grant for the project ***Building Community Anthropology Across the Jordan Valley***. This grant will fund an anthropological and museological research and teaching project centered on the establishment of a community museum in the town of Shuqba, Palestinian Territories. The proposed project brings together the Museum Anthropology and Oral History M.A. programs at Columbia University, to work with Birzeit University, and the Columbia Global Center in Amman, Jordan, with support from the Center for Palestine Studies.

Zainab Bahrani (CPS Faculty member, Professor of Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University) received the Lionel Trilling Book Award for her book, *The Infinite Image: Art, Time, and the Aesthetic Dimension in Antiquity* (University of Chicago Press, 2014) as well as the competitive President's Global Innovation Fund grant for the project *Mapping Mesopotamian Monuments*.

Nadia Abu El Haj (CPS Co-Director, Professor of Anthropology, Barnard College, Columbia University) received a prestigious research grant from the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation for her project, "The Ethics of Trauma: Combat, Moral Injury, and the War on Terror."

Najam Haidar (CPS Faculty member and Assistant Professor of Religion, Barnard College, Columbia University) will be a Fellow at the School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton in Spring 2016.

CPS-New School Collaborations: In the Fall 2014, faculty members from CPS and The New School met to discuss opportunities for collaboration between the two institutions and possibilities for expansion of the Center for Palestine Studies to other campuses.

Mezna Qato (2013-2014 Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Fellow at CPS) began a new posting in the Fall as a Junior Research Fellow in History at King's College, Cambridge. Qato received the 2013-2014 Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Award in Palestinian studies and spent the Spring 2014 semester at CPS.

Leena Dallasheh (2012-2013 Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Fellow at CPS) held a fellowship at Rice University in Spring 2015 as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the History department. Dallasheh received the 2012-2013 Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Award in Palestinian Studies and spent the Fall 2012 semester at CPS.

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