

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR
PALESTINE
STUDIES

ACADEMIC
YEAR IN REVIEW
2017–2018

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Letter from the Directors

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This has been a very productive year for the Center for Palestine Studies. We are pleased to present our *Annual Report (2017-2018)* in which you can read short articles about the many seminars, lectures, films, and workshops we hosted this year, as well as information about our ongoing projects.

The Center has grown immensely, with the addition of two important staff members. Dr. Helen Malko joined us as Program Manager in September, assuming primary responsibility for the organization of the Center's academic programs. This is the first year we have had a full-time program manager. In October, Marianna Pecoraro came on board as our Program Assistant. Both Helen and Marianna are invaluable to our work, putting us on the strongest footing to date to carry out our mission. Our two new Interns, Dahna Black and Nasreen Abd Elal have been a great addition to our team this year.

As noted by Rashid Khalidi in a recent article in the *Journal of Palestine Studies*,¹ 2017 marked the anniversary of a foundational event in the now "hundred years war against the Palestinians": the 1917 Balfour Declaration. Faculty, staff and students affiliated with the Center marked this event in a variety of ways, including a workshop on the global historical context of the Balfour Declaration,

and a speech on its ongoing significance at the United Nations in New York in November.²

One of the most recent additions to the Center's research and programming is our "Jerusalem Project," a project that has become even more urgent in light of the US administration's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the Israeli capital. The Jerusalem Project is committed to documenting the history of the city by collecting, digitizing and making publicly available crucial archival sources: for example, the first private Palestinian newspaper (Al-Quds), a map and a postcard collection, and a searchable archive of the Jerusalem Quarterly, which is a journal dedicated to the history and present status of the city.

Next year promises to be equally rich. We have already scheduled two large public events for the fall.

¹ Khalidi, Rashid (2017), Historical Landmarks in the Hundred Years' War on Palestine. *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 47 No. 1, pp. 6-17.

² Available to view at <http://webtv.un.org/watch/lecture-by-professor-rashid-khalidi-on-the-balfour-declaration-and-the-impact-it-has-had-on-the-palestinian-people-the-united-nations-palestinian-rights-committee/5631748128001>

Participating in the fourth biennial Palestinian contemporary art event, Qalandiya International, we have organized a panel discussion and are commissioning an art work both of which will explore the history of and possibilities for solidarity between the Palestinian and African American struggles for justice. Our second major public event, also scheduled for October, is Ground Truth, an examination of the lives and struggles of Palestinian communities in the Nakab. This event includes an exhibition of photographs and forensic architectural drawings that map ongoing Bedouin displacement, and a panel discussion designed to contextualize the exhibition.

Just the tip of the iceberg of the many events we have planned for 2018-2019, we are excited to continue the Center's mission. In the meantime, we have begun to think about how to mark the upcoming 10th anniversary of the CPS (in 2020). Needless to say, none of this work could be done without your encouragement and financial support. Thank you for your generous support of the Center. We look forward to continuing, together, our work on what Edward Said once named, "the Question of Palestine."

Nadia & Brian

Mission

The Center for Palestine Studies (CPS) promotes the academic study of Palestine by supporting research, teaching, and intellectual collaboration among scholars within Columbia University and beyond. CPS provides an institutional home for faculty, post-doctoral researchers, and students at Columbia in fields that include history, literary studies, the social sciences, religion, philosophy, law, archaeology, architecture, and the arts. CPS also builds connections with other institutions and scholars to strengthen the academic study of Palestine and Palestinians throughout the United States and the world.

Launched in 2010, the Center for Palestine Studies at Columbia University was the first, and is still the only such center in an academic institution in the United States. The creation of the Center honors the scholarly and political 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 unique concentration of distinguished scholars on Palestine, as well as to an award-winning supporting faculty in a variety of disciplines.

The Center for Palestine Studies was founded to engage this unique academic strength. Its core mission is to nourish first-rate scholarship and imaginative thinking on the question of Palestine. In the pursuit of this academic goal, we follow Edward Said's vision that critical scholarship is fundamental to changing the public conversation on Palestine, including, quite centrally, debates underway in the United States.



Programming

The Center's programming is organized around five initiatives that refer to areas of particular strength and repeated accomplishments over the years: the Arts, with a special focus on Palestine Cuts; Palestine & Law; History of the Present; Palestine Library; and Jerusalem. Thus far, our programming has been facilitated by collaborations with schools, departments, institutes, and other centers at Columbia University, as well as with organizations off campus. The range and integrity of the Center's research and programming are recognized worldwide and have become a point of pride for the university.

THE RIGHT TO HAVE RIGHTS

PARTITION, STATEHOOD, AND SELF-DETERMINATION

A TALK WITH LEILA FARSAKH
Chair and Associate Professor of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, UMass Boston

INTRODUCED BY GIL ANIDJAR
Professor and Chair of Department of Religion

This talk re-examines the extent to which the struggle for a Palestinian state was a viable or futile effort for the Palestinian national movement and as a solution to the the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Do the notion of partition and the claim to a State constitute the only vehicles for any national group, be it Israelis or Palestinians, to have "the right to have rights," as Hannah Arendt argued? Can the quest for self-determination be protected otherwise, especially in view of present regional and international developments?

APRIL 12 / KNOX HALL 207 / 6:15PM

 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR PALESTINE STUDIES | DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

The Arts

To encourage and present the vital work of Palestinians in the arts, the Center hosts poets, authors, playwrights, actors, and film and theater directors. From the outset, the main emphases have been on theater and film, with the latter eventually supported by dedicated funding for a series called “Palestine Cuts.” With its incisive and turbulent artistic imagination this cinema eloquently expresses the depth and range of Palestinian predicaments and possibilities.



Jerusalem Lives: at the Palestinian Museum and Beyond

A conversation with Reem Fadda, Emily Jacir, and Beshara Doumani
Moderated by Lila Abu-Lughod and Brian Boyd, Columbia University

Jerusalem Lives was the title of the inaugural exhibition (opened August 2017) at the new Palestinian Museum in Birzeit. Our panelists explored the challenges to current politics of this innovative and hard-hitting exhibit that brought together artists, scholars, and community groups inside and outside of the museum. Why Jerusalem now? And what can this ambitious new cultural institution in Palestine do and be? Can the Museum connect a people and vitalize community? In the context of Israeli rule and a scattered nation, how will it work with other Palestinian cultural and community projects to educate local and international publics, preserve heritage, document Palestinian pasts and presents, articulate political aspirations, and spark the imagination of justice?

Event date: Monday, February 26, 2018
Cosponsors: the Middle East Institute, School of the Arts, Museum Anthropology Program, Studio-X at Columbia GSAPP, Columbia Global Centers, and the Palestinian Museum

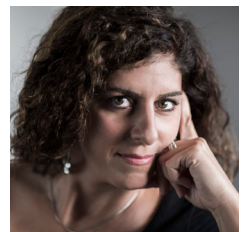
Reem Fadda is an independent curator based in Ramallah who received the 2017 Walther Hopps Award for Curatorial Achievement. She curated *Jerusalem Lives at the Palestinian Museum* (August 2017-January 2018).



Beshara Doumani is the Joukowsky Family Distinguished Professor of Modern Middle East History and Director of Middle East Studies at Brown University. He led a team that produced a strategic plan for the establishment of the Palestinian Museum in 2010.



Emily Jacir is an internationally recognized Palestinian artist and filmmaker. She is now transforming her family's historic 19th-century home in the West Bank into an independent exhibition space and community center.



The Arts

TOXIC ASSETS: Frontier Imaginaries Ed.No3

Toxic Assets is a project by the Amsterdam-based art and research initiative Frontier Imaginaries, hosted in New York by e-flux and Columbia University. The four-day public seminar featured dance, poetry, art installation, screenings, and talks that responded to the question: *What would it take to detox New York City?*

The Center for Palestine Studies was pleased to invite the Palestinian author **Adania Shibli**, who presented a paper titled *A Play in One Act, and Many More*. Adania's paper discussed how the tactics of "playing" and "cunningness" manifest themselves privately and publicly as tenable measures for challenging the toxicity of state sovereignty and countering tyranny, exploitation and deep inequality. Playing and cunningness are increasingly put into practice by Palestinians as means to guarantee their existence where it is caught between the Israeli settler state and a subordinate Palestinian authority.

Event date: Wednesday, October 18, 2017
Cosponsors: at Columbia University: Ruth S. Biermann Memorial Meetings, the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, and the Department of Anthropology; e-flux; and UnionDocs.

IMAGINARIES
FRONTIER ED. N°3
TOXIC ASSETS
CINEMA ASSETS

OCTOBER 18 TH, 6 – 8 PM
at COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
612 Schermerhorn Hall
New York, NY 10027



Karrabing Film Collective, Windjarruru, 1997. Still from *Steering Grass* (2013). H. Video 25:00min. Video still courtesy of the artists.

IMAGINARIES
FRONTIER ED. N°3
TOXIC ASSETS
LANGUAGES
SOVEREIGNTY
PROPERTIES

The Arts: Theater

Break the Wall: Short Plays on Palestine

On the one hundredth anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, Break the Wall presented a staged reading of seven short plays in partnership with Center for Palestine Studies at Columbia University. The event was held at the Lenfest Center for the Arts. Among the featured plays were *A Stone Throw*, by Ismail Khalidi, and *9 Visions of Gaza*, by Noelle Ghoussaini.

The event attracted a large audience from Columbia University and the city at large, and the following reception allowed for discussions and exchange among the audience and the performing crew.

Break the Wall is now a curated online archive of short plays about Israel-Palestine that can be downloaded and performed for free.

break the wall
SHORT PLAYS ON PALESTINE

featuring works by noelle ghousaini
ismail khalidi
david zellnik
naomi wallace
and more!

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18, 6:30PM
katharina otto-bernstein screening
room, lenfest center for the arts
manhattanville campus

RSVP: palestine.mei.columbia.edu
free & open to the public / reception to follow

 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR PALESTINE STUDIES

breakthewallproject.org



Event date: Saturday, November 18, 2017
Cosponsors: Breakthewallproject.org

The Arts: Film



PALESTINE CUTS

Palestine Cuts is a 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, CPS hopes to bring Palestine-related work into conversation with other Arab and international filmmakers and audiovisual artists.

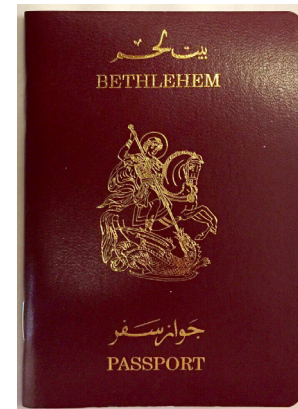
Through screenings, discussions, master classes as well as open and closed workshops for works in progress and finished projects, Palestine Cuts attracts a wide array of artists, producers, curators, critics, scholars, activists and others interested in committed audiovisual work that opens up new spaces for imagination.

Open Bethlehem

Open Bethlehem, a film by Leila Sansour, is a story of a homecoming to one of the world's most famous little towns. The film spans seven momentous years in the life of Bethlehem, revealing a city of astonishing beauty and political strife under occupation. The making of this film has led to the creation of the largest visual archive of Bethlehem in the world. While telling a personal story, the film charts the creation of a campaign to compel international action to bring peace to the Middle East. As the credits roll, there is snow over Bethlehem. Leila has stayed long enough to realize that she is home for good and her battered little family car takes to the sky.

CPS Faculty [Lila Abu-Lughod](#) introduced the event, and the film screening was followed by a Q&A with Director [Leila Sansour](#) and Professor [Richard Peña](#) of the Film Department, School of the Arts, Columbia University.

CPS was recognized as “Bethlehem Ambassador” by Open Bethlehem, and was awarded an honorary citizenship of the city of Bethlehem, formally conferred with the granting of a Bethlehem Passport to the faculty.



Event date: Tuesday, November 28, 2017

The Arts: Film

Ghost Hunting

Screening and Q&A with director **Raed Andoni** and Prof. **James Schamus**

In his award-winning documentary *Ghost Hunting*, director Raed Andoni brings a group of former Palestinian prisoners to an empty warehouse in Ramallah and asks them to rebuild the Shin Bet's Al-Moskobiya interrogation center where they were detained. Using techniques that are reminiscent of the so-called 'theatre of the oppressed' they work together to dramatise their real-life experiences. Their reconstruction brings long repressed emotions and undealt with trauma to the fore. Working on the film takes its toll on the men – both physically and mentally. The director also appears in front of the camera; not only is he creating a stage for his protagonists, he is also coming to terms with his own fragmented memories of imprisonment in Moskobiya thirty

Event date: Tuesday, March 27, 2018



Raed Andoni is a Palestinian director and producer who began his career in 1997. He is co-founder of Dar Films production company in Ramallah and Les Films de Zayna in Paris.



A World Not Ours

Screening and Q&A with director **Mahdi Fleifel**

A World Not Ours is both a personal memoir and a tracing out of the Palestinian condition. The director edited and shaped an enormous quantity of film and video footage shot by his father and Fleifel himself over the course of several decades. The final product recounts his family's experience, the general experience of the Ain El-Hilweh refugee camp and the fate of three individuals in particular, Fleifel's grandfather, his uncle Said (actually, his grandfather's half-brother) and his good friend, Abu Eyad (named after the murdered PLO intelligence chief), a former Fatah fighter.

A World Not Ours won more than 30 awards, including the Peace Film Prize at the 2013 Berlinale and the Edinburgh, Yamagata and DOC NYC Grand Jury Prizes.



Mahdi Fleifel is a Danish-Palestinian film director and co-founder of the production company Nakba FilmWorks. *A World Not Ours* (2012) is his debut feature documentary.



Event date: Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Palestine & Law

To promote and communicate legal scholarship on Palestinians living under Israeli rule, CPS brings together leading lawyers and international legal scholars in workshops on such topics as military law in the West Bank, the legal aspects of the Palestinian state question, the ongoing effects of the Nakba, citizenship issues, and property dispossession.

Reading Group: The Law of Occupation – Palestine/Israel

Facilitator: Prof. [Katherine Franke](#)

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 six times during the spring 2018 semester for 2 hours each session. Sessions were co-facilitated by Prof. Katherine Franke and by one or more of the student participants.

The Nakba and the Law Project

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.

Since then 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.

“The Nakba and the Law” Law Students’ Conference

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.

Students participated in lectures and workshops on Friday and Saturday 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.

Professor **Katherine Franke** participated in the conference as a speaker at two sessions.



Event date: October 12-14, 2017

Palestine & Law

The Writing on the Wall: Rethinking the International Law of Occupation

The Writing on the Wall, Prof. Gross's latest publication (Cambridge University Press, 2017), offers a critical perspective on the international law of occupation. Advocating a normative and functional approach to occupation and to the question of when it exists, it analyzes the application of humanitarian and human rights law, pointing to the risk of using the law of occupation in its current version to legitimize new variations of conquest and colonialism.

The book points to the need for reconsidering the law of occupation in light of changing forms of control, such as those evident in Gaza. Although the Israeli occupation is a main focal point, the book broadens its compass to look at other cases, such as Iraq, Northern Cyprus, and Western Sahara, highlighting the role that international law plays in all of these cases.

Speakers:

Prof. **Aeyal Gross**, Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University

Dr. **Darryl Li**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Chicago

Event date: Wednesday, October 18, 2017

The Legal Framework of Occupation

Professor **Michael Lynk** is the UN Special reporter for the Human Rights situation in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967. Professor Lynk discussed his report to the UN, which focuses on the legal framework of occupation, wherein he examines in detail the legality of the occupier's conduct.

The report, that can be read on the CPS website, is based primarily on information provided by victims, witnesses, civil society representatives, United Nations representatives and Palestinian officials in Amman, Jordan, in connection with the mission of the Special Rapporteur to the region in May 2017. The report addresses a number of concerns pertaining to the situation of human rights in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in Gaza.

Discussants:

Prof. **Katherine Franke**, Isidor and Seville Sulzbacher Professor of Law, Columbia Law School

Prof. **Rashid Khalidi**, Edward Said Professor of Arab Studies, Columbia University

Event date: Wednesday, October 25, 2017

The Wall and the Gate: Israel, Palestine, and the Legal Battle for Human Rights

In *The Wall and the Gate*, Michael Sfard engages the core principles of human rights legal ethics. Sfard recounts the unfolding of key cases and issues, ranging from confiscation of land, deportations, the creation of settlements, punitive home demolitions, torture, and targeted killings—all actions considered violations of international law. In the process, he lays bare the reality of the occupation and the lives of the people who must contend with that reality. He also exposes the surreal legal structures that have been erected to put a stamp of lawfulness on an extensive program of dispossession. Finally, he weighs the success of the legal effort, reaching conclusions that are no less paradoxical than the fight itself.

Michael Sfard is a lawyer and political activist specializing in international human rights law and the laws of war.

Event date: Monday, February 5, 2018

Cosponsors: the Institute for the Study of Human Rights and the Human Rights Institute at Columbia Law School

Israeli Law after Seventy Years of the Nakba

This talk analyzed the effect of the Nakba (“the Catastrophe”) on Palestinians in and through developments of Israeli Law. Our discussants explored whether the Nakba’s relationship to Israeli law should be limited to 1948 and the founding of the Israeli state or whether it can be found in constitutional moments since that time, particularly with respect to defending the civil rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel.

Speakers:

Hassan Jabareen, Founder and General Director, Adalah — The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel

Prof. **Katherine Franke**, Isidor and Seville Sulzbacher Professor of Law, Columbia Law School

Event date: Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Cosponsor: Adalah—The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel

History of the Present

This programming attracts prominent public intellectuals and distinguished scholars of Palestine. CPS aims to advance the academic understanding of Palestine's past and present through research and analysis, teaching, public lectures, book launches, and conferences on such topics as the assaults on Gaza, settler colonialism, and the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement.

The Balfour Declaration and the US Immigration Act

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, the Center for Palestine Studies organized a closed workshop on the Balfour Declaration and the US Immigration Act. The session was led by Prof. **Darryl Li** of the University of Chicago and Prof. **Maryanne Rhett** of Monmouth University and attended by a number of Columbia University faculty and students.

Event date: Friday, November 10, 2017



History of the Present

Documenting Capital: My Great-Grandfather's Archive

Sherene Seikaly in conversation with Tim Mitchell, moderated by Brinkley Messick

This talk reflected on a decade of research, contingent, accidental, and unconsciously autobiographical, to explore archival practices and the writing of history. It recounted Seikaly's experience of stumbling across family papers that carried the story of Naim Cotran as a "man of capital."

Sherene Seikaly is Associate Professor of History at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She is the editor of Arab Studies Journal, co-editor at the Journal of Palestine Studies, and founding co-editor of Jadaliyya.

Event date: Wednesday, April 11, 2018
Cosponsors: the Middle East Institute



The Right to Have Rights: Partition, Statehood, and Self-Determination

A talk with Leila Farsakh, introduced by Gil Anidjar

In this talk, Farsakh asked whether the notions of partition and the claim to a State constitute the only vehicles for any national group, be it Israelis or Palestinians, to have "the right to have rights," as Hannah Arendt argued. Can the quest for self-determination be protected otherwise, especially in view of present regional and international developments?

Leila Farsakh is Chair and Associate Professor of Political Science at UMass Boston. She is the author of *Palestinian Labor Migration to Israel* (2005).

Event date: Thursday, April 12, 2018
Cosponsor: Department of Religion



History of the Present

Sites of Religious Memory in an Age of Exodus

A conference series organized by Seth Kimmel and Naor Ben-Yehoyada

This three-piece series focused on the movement of people across and along the Mediterranean and the emergence, re-signification, and use of sites of memory. Every day-long event brought together a mix of panelists from the humanities and social sciences.

Cosponsors: Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life, Center for Palestine Studies, Maison Française, Department of Anthropology, Hispanic Institute for Latin American and Iberian Cultures, Middle East Institute, The Italian Academy, and The Heyman Center for the Humanities.

Eastern Mediterranean

The day included work by the following scholars: **Emrah Yildiz**, Northwestern University; **Faiz Ahmed**, Brown University; **Dimitrios Antoniou**, Columbia University; and **Adnan A. Husain**, Queen's University.

Event date: Friday, November 17, 2017

The poster features a background of dense, overlapping scribbles in shades of grey and white. The text is arranged in a vertical column, with each line of text enclosed in a black rectangular box. The title and date are at the top, followed by the location. Below that, the schedule of events is listed, including speakers and their affiliations. At the bottom, there are logos for the organizing institutions and a list of respondents.

SITES OF RELIGIOUS MEMORY IN AN AGE OF EXODUS:
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2017 @9AM-5PM
515 WEST 116TH STREET NEW YORK, NY 10027
MAISON FRANÇAISE, EAST GALLERY, BUJELL HALL
9.30AM-12.00PM EMRAH YILDIZ (NORTHWESTERN)
THE WAYS OF ZAINAB: ZIYARAT & MADAM, VISITATION AND THE SHRINE IN THE SYRIAN AGE OF EXODUS
9.30AM-12.00PM FAIZ AHMED (BROWN UNIVERSITY)
INDO-AFGHANS AND RELIGIOUS MEMORY IN THE OTTOMAN MEDITERRANEAN, JAFFA TO JERUSALEM
TRIPOLI TO ISTANBUL
2.00PM-3.15PM DIMITRIOS ANTONIOU (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)
MEMORIES OF A SPATIAL IMAGINATION: THE ATHENS MOSQUE AND THE POLITICS OF SACRIFICE
3.30-4.45PM ADNAN HUSAIN (QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, ONTARIO)
MIRACULOUS COMMEMORATIONS: THE EASTER FIRE AT THE HOLY SEPULCHRE IN MEDIEVAL JERUSALEM
RESPONDENTS
LEYLA AMZI-ERDOĞULAR (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)
NAOR BEN-YEHYOYADA (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)
AVINDAM SHALEM (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)
ORGANIZED BY SETH KIMMEL & NAOR BEN-YEHYOYADA

Logos at the bottom include: Columbia University Center for Palestine Studies, Columbia | MAISON FRANÇAISE, Columbia University Department of Anthropology, Columbia | IHI (Hispanic Institute for Latin American and Iberian Cultures), Middle East Institute Columbia University, HC (Heyman Center for the Humanities), and THE ITALIAN ACADEMY FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN AMERICA.

History of the Present



**SITES OF RELIGIOUS MEMORY IN AN AGE OF EXODUS:
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN**
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2018 @9AM-5PM
1161 AMSTERDAM AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10027
ITALIAN ACADEMY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

9:45AM-11:00AM ALESSANDRA CIUCCI (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)
RESPONDENT: PIER MATTIA TOMMASINO (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)

11:15AM-12:30PM YANNIS HAMILAKIS (BROWN UNIVERSITY)
RESPONDENTS: KONSTANTINA ZANOU (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY) AND
SETH KIMMEL (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)

1:30PM-2:45PM LORENZO PEZZANI (GOLDSMITHS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)
RESPONDENT: NAOR BEN-YEHOYADA (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)

3:00PM-5:00PM GIOVANNA FIUME (UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO)
RESPONDENTS: DIANE BODART (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY) AND
DANIEL HERSHENZON (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

ORGANIZED BY SETH KIMMEL & NAOR BEN-YEHOYADA

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STUDIES

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR PALESTINE STUDIES

COLUMBIA | MAISON FRANÇAISE

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

COLUMBIA | HI
Middle Institute for East, American
and Islamic Studies

MEI MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE

HC
HUMANITIES CENTER

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
THE ITALIAN ACADEMY
FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN AMERICA

Western Mediterranean

The day included work by the following scholars: **Avi Astor**, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; **Nina Zhiri**, UC San Diego; **Isolina Ballesteros**, CUNY; **Eric Calderwood**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; and **Charles Hirschkind**, UC Berkeley.

Event date: Friday, April 6, 2018

Central Mediterranean

The day included work by the following scholars: **Alessandra Ciucci**, Columbia University; **Yannis Hamilakis**, Brown University; **Lorenzo Pezzani**, Goldsmiths, University of London; and **Giovanna Fiume**, Università degli Studi di Palermo.

Event date: Friday, February 9, 2018



**SITES OF RELIGIOUS MEMORY IN AN AGE OF EXODUS:
WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN**
FRIDAY APRIL 6, 2018 @9AM-6PM
612 W. 116 ST. NEW YORK, NY 10027
CASA HISPÁNICA, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

9:30-10:45 | AVI ASTOR (UNIVERSITAT AUTÒNOMA DE BARCELONA)
RESPONDENT: ABIGAIL BALBALE (BARD GRADUATE CENTER)

11:00-12:15 | NINA ZHIRI (UC SAN DIEGO)
RESPONDENT: JAMES AMELANG (UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE MADRID)

1:15-2:30 | ISOLINA BALLESTEROS (CUNY)
RESPONDENT: CLÉMENCE BOULOUQUE (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)

2:45-4:00 | ERIC CALDERWOOD (UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS)
RESPONDENT: SARAH PEARCE (NYU)

4:15-5:30 | CHARLES HIRSCHKIND (UC BERKELEY)
RESPONDENT: DANIELA FLESLER (SUNY STONY BROOK)

ORGANIZED BY SETH KIMMEL & NAOR BEN-YEHOYADA

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

COLUMBIA | HI
Middle Institute for East, American
and Islamic Studies

MEI MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE

HC
HUMANITIES CENTER

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
THE ITALIAN ACADEMY
FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN AMERICA

Palestine Library

Palestine Library events focus on new books on Palestine and Palestinians. Discussions between authors and Columbia faculty members engage audiences around recently published research.

The Untold Event, Grasping Arab Children's Literature

With **Esmail Nashif**

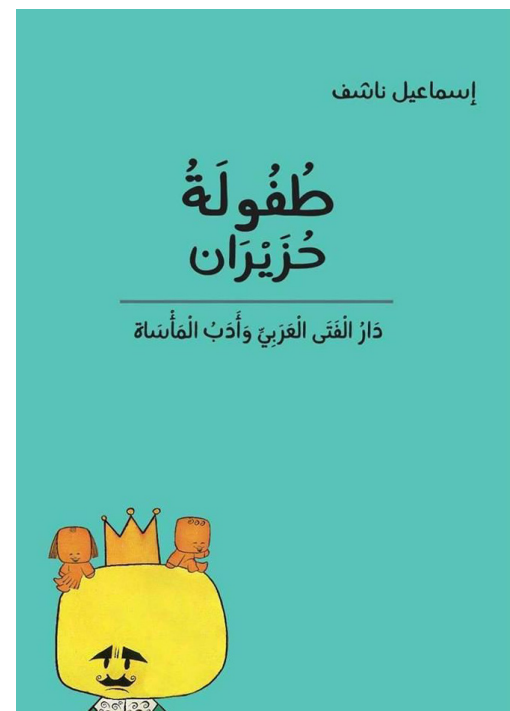
In an investigative journey into Arab children's literature, Nashif explored the manners through which Arab 'grown ups' exported\translated their own tragic sense of collective 'defeats' into a literary form directed to the Arab children as a reading public.

Esmail Nashif is Associate Professor of anthropology at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. He is also an art critic and curator and has published several collections of short stories. He has initiated different cultural projects and institutions that cater to art and literature in the Palestinian context, in order to build institutional infrastructures for advancing knowledge production, art, and literature.

In conversation with **Hamid Dabashi**, Hagop Kevorkian Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature at Columbia University.

Event date: Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Cosponsors: Middle East Institute and Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies



Tufula Huzairan: Dar al-Fata al-'Arabi wa-Adab al-Ma'sah [June's Childhood: Dar al-Fata al-'Arabi and the Literature of Tragedy], by Esmail Nashif. Ramallah: Tamer Institute for Community Education, 2017.

Palestine Library

State of Terror: How Terrorism Created Modern Israel

A book talk by **Tom Suárez**

Suárez has uncovered documents in the British archives, many revealed for the first time, which establish beyond doubt that far from being isolated incidents by rogue groups, the use of terror to acquire and keep Palestine for the Jews was deliberate, planned and sustained well into the early years of the Jewish state. His book also casts new light on the continuing use of violence by Israel against the Palestinians.

Tom Suárez's experience as a researcher began in the 1980s with his work on the history of cartography. His books on that topic include *Shedding the Veil* (1992), *Early Mapping of the Pacific* (1999), and *Early Mapping of Southeast Asia* (2004).

In conversation with **Rashid Khalidi**, Edward Said Professor of Modern Arab Studies at Columbia University.

Event date: Monday, September 25, 2017

Resistance Literature: Thirty Years Later/Then and Now

A symposium organized by **Joseph Slaughter**, **Jennifer Wenzel**, and **Emily Bloom**

A symposium sponsored by the Heyman Center for the Humanities at Columbia University to mark three decades since the publication of Barbara Harlow's *Resistance Literature* — and to mark the passing of Barbara as a teacher, mentor, interlocutor, and comrade.



Event date: Thursday, October 12, 2017

Cosponsors: The Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity; English & Comparative Literature; The Institute for African Studies; The Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies; Heyman Center for the Humanities; Institute for Comparative Literature and Society

Palestine Library

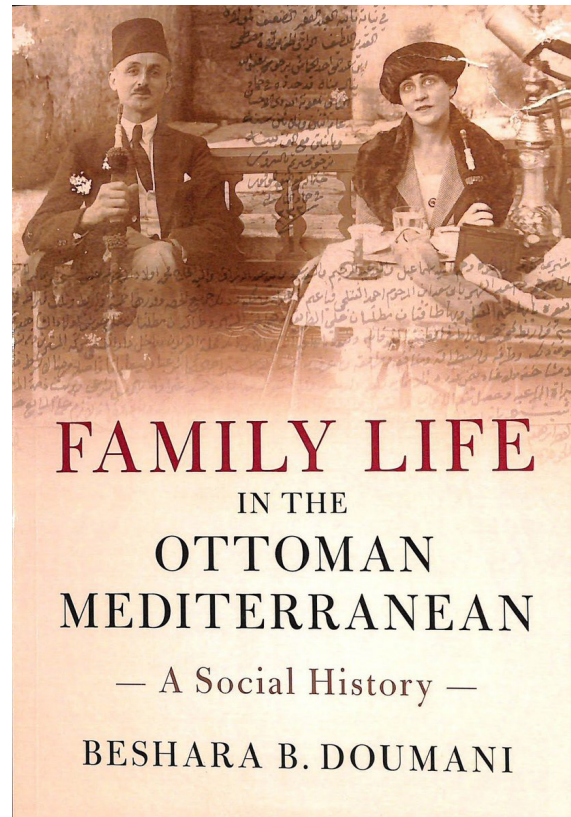
Family Life in the Ottoman Mediterranean: A Social History

A book talk by **Beshara Doumani**

In writings about Islam, women and modernity in the Middle East, family and religion are frequently invoked but rarely historicized. Based on a wide range of local sources spanning two centuries (1660-1860), Doumani argues that there is no such thing as a typical Muslim or Arab family type that is so central to Orientalist, nationalist, and Islamist political imaginations. Rather, one finds dramatic regional differences, even within the same cultural zone, in the ways that family was understood, organized, and reproduced. In his comparative examination of the property devolution strategies and gender regimes in the context of local political economies, Doumani offers a groundbreaking examination of the stories and priorities of ordinary people and how they shaped the making of the modern Middle East.

Beshara Doumani is a Professor of History and Director of Middle East Studies at Brown University. Introduction by **Rashid Khalidi**, Edward Said Professor of Modern Arab Studies. With commentary by **Brinkley Messick**, Professor of Anthropology and MESAAS and Director of the Middle East Institute, and **Baber Johansen**, Professor of Islamic Religious Studies, Harvard Divinity School

Event date: Tuesday, October 24, 2017
Cosponsor: The Middle East Institute



Family Life in the Ottoman Mediterranean: A Social History, by Beshara B. Doumani. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Palestine Library

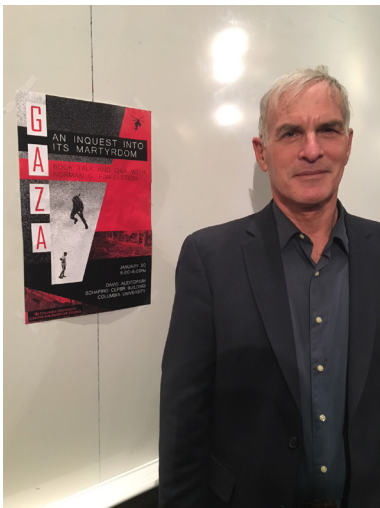
Gaza: Martyrdom & Betrayal

A book talk by **Norman Finkelstein**

Finkelstein presents a meticulously researched inquest into Gaza's man-made humanitarian disaster. He shows that although Israel has justified its assaults in the name of self-defense, in fact these actions constituted flagrant violations of international law. Finkelstein also documents that the guardians of international law ultimately failed Gaza.

Norman G. Finkelstein received his doctorate from the Princeton University Department of Politics. His many books have been translated into some fifty foreign editions.

Gaza: An Inquest into Its Martyrdom, by Norman G. Finkelstein. Berkeley: UC Press, 2018.



Event date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Routinizing Emergency: Bureaucracy as a Security Threat

A book talk by **Yael Berda**

Israel's permit regime in the occupied West Bank is one of the most sophisticated and elaborate systems for managing populations in the world. While the bureaucracy of the occupation is a central method of controlling the lives of millions of Palestinian civilians every day, it does not adhere to what we think are efficient principles of administration. And yet it is highly effective in serving the goals of the regime. Berda focuses on the role of the shin bet in the bureaucracy of the occupation, and the way the category of "security threat" is deployed to grow the organization's scope and power.

Yael Berda is Assistant Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Hebrew University and Academy Scholar for International and Area Studies at Harvard University.

Introduced by **Brinkley Messick**, Professor of Anthropology and MESAAS and Director of the Middle East Institute.

Living Emergency: Israel's Permit Regime in the Occupied West Bank, by Yael Berda. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2017.

Event date: Thursday, March 29, 2018

Jerusalem

The latest addition to CPS programming and research areas, our Jerusalem project also includes a web presence, starting with a historical newspaper collection (beginning with al Quds, 1908-1914, the first private Palestinian newspaper), a map collection, a postcard collection, and the full searchable archive of the Jerusalem Quarterly—a journal dedicated to the history, present status, and investigative journalism on the city of Jerusalem.

AL-QUDS: COMMUNITY LEADING CHANGE

a talk with
FAYROUZ SHARQAWI

advocacy coordinator
at grassroots jerusalem

introduced by
brian boyd
director of
museum anthropology

friday november 3
10:10am-12:00pm
knox hall 207

This talk will explore the challenges faced by Palestinian Jerusalemites living under the Israeli occupation, and the grassroots mobilization and self-organizing through which Palestinian communities reclaim their city and raise their collective voice against oppression, leading the change they wish to see. This past summer's movement for al-Aqsa mosque will be used to illustrate the origins and potential of local organizing.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR PALESTINE STUDIES

Al-Quds: Community Leading Change

A talk with **Fayrouz Sharqawi**

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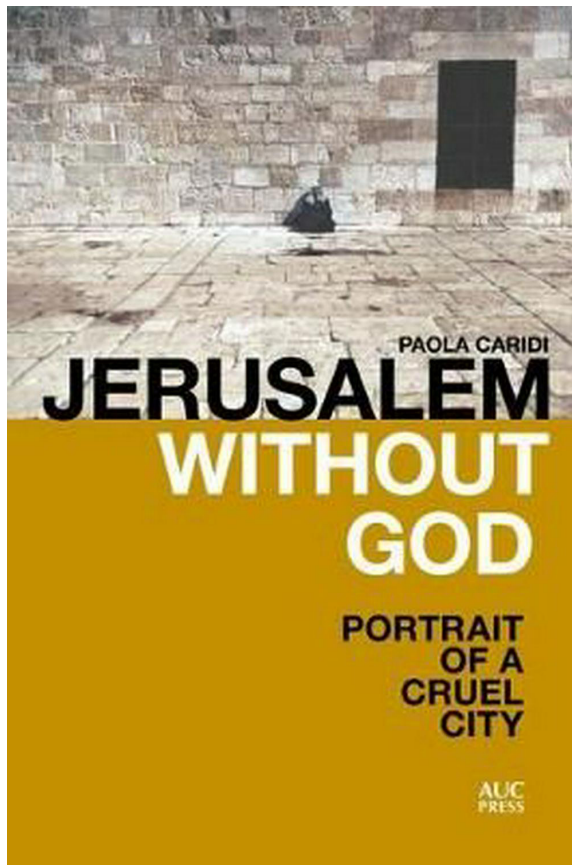
Fayrouz Sharqawi is the Advocacy Coordinator at Grassroots Jerusalem, a platform for Palestinian community-based mobilisation, leadership and advocacy involving partners from 80 community organisations in 40 Palestinian communities of Jerusalem.

Introduction by **Brian Boyd**, Director of Museum Anthropology and Co-Director of the Center for Palestine Studies

Event date: Friday, November 3, 2017

Jerusalem Without God: Portrait of a Cruel City

With author Paola Caridi



Jerusalem Without God: Portrait of a Cruel City, by Paola Caridi. Cairo: American University in Cairo Press, 2017.

Paola Caridi explores a cruel city, where Israeli and Palestinian civilians sometimes spend hours in the same supermarkets, only to return to the confines of their respective districts, invisible to each other; a city memorable for its ancient stones and shimmering sunsets but dotted with Israeli checkpoints, “postmodern drawbridges,” that control the movement of people, ideas, and potential attackers. Describing Jerusalem through the lenses of urban planners and politicians, anthropologists and archaeologists, advertisers and scholars, *Jerusalem without God* reveals a city that is as diverse as it is complex, and ultimately, argues its author, one whose destiny cannot be tied to any single religious faith, tradition, or political ideology.

Paola Caridi lived in Cairo and Jerusalem from 2001 to 2012, where she worked as a reporter and analyst on Middle East affairs. She is the author of *Hamas: From Resistance to Government* (2012) and maintains a blog, *Invisiblearabs*, on Arab popular culture and politics.

Introduction by **Brinkley Messick**, Professor of Anthropology and MESAAS and Director of the Middle East Institute.

Event date: Monday, November 13, 2017

Announcements

2018-19 Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Award

For the academic year 2018-19, the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Postdoctoral Fellowship will be expanded to a full year, thanks to a new Arts & Sciences match for the original half-year funding by the Qattan Foundation. We received a number of exceptional applications for this coming year's award, and we are happy to announce that our 2018-19 fellow is [Nayrouz Abu Hatoum](#).

Nayrouz Abu Hatoum was the recipient of the Leonhard-Woltjer Stichting postdoctoral award in the History and Art History Department at Utrecht University, the Netherlands in 2018. She holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from York University, Toronto, where she also worked as a visiting scholar at the City Institute examining theories in visual anthropology, urban politics, landscape, borders, bureaucracy and state violence. Her research explores visual politics in Palestine and the Israeli state, and focuses on people's place-making and dwelling practices in a context of colonialism and military occupations. At CPS, she will be working on her book project, "Visual Decolonization: Photography of Militarized Landscapes in Palestine."

Established in 2010, the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Award recognizes and seeks to foster innovative and groundbreaking scholarship on issues related to Palestine and Palestinians. The award supports a post-doctoral scholar working on a book project in any field of the humanities or social sciences.



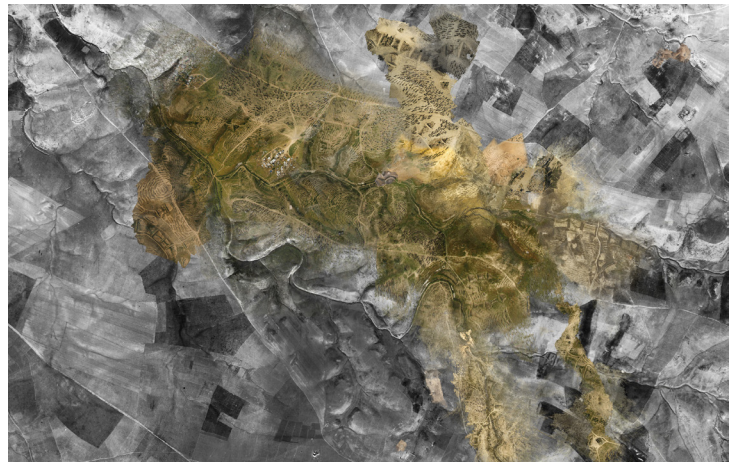
Upcoming at CPS: Qalandiya International 2018

In collaboration with Columbia's Studio-X Global Network and spearheaded by our faculty member Nora Akawi, the Center is participating in the Palestinian contemporary art event Qalandiya International IV in October 2018. Under the theme "Sites of Black-Palestinian Solidarity 1968/2018", our participation will include an academic panel discussion and an art exhibition on October 18th, 2018 in New York City.

Upcoming at CPS: Ground Truth: Records of Dispossession, Destruction, and Return in the Naqab

Exhibition on the Palestinian Bedouin villages in the Naqab/Negev: Joint project of Al-Araqib committee, Zochrot and Forensic Architecture (Goldsmiths University, UK)

The Center for Palestine Studies, in partnership with the NGO Zochrot, Forensic Architecture, and the Italian Academy, will host a three-week-long exhibition on the theme of Palestinian-Bedouin land ownership in the Naqab Desert and the ongoing Israeli campaign to uproot the indigenous Bedouin communities from the northern threshold of the desert. The exhibition, opening on October 10th, 2018 and curated by Zochrot's Debby Farber, will be accompanied by an afternoon symposium on October 11th, 2018.



Aerial photograph of the Bedouin village of Al-Araqib.
Courtesy of Ariel Caine, Forensic Architecture,
Goldsmiths University, UK

Executive Committee

Nadia Abu El-Haj

Professor of Anthropology, Barnard College

Nadia is the author of *Facts on the Ground: Archaeological Practice and Territorial Self-Fashioning in Israeli Society* (University of Chicago Press, 2001), which won the Albert Hourani Award of the Middle East Studies Association, and *The Genealogical Science: The Search for Jewish Origins and the Politics of Epistemology* (University of Chicago Press, 2012). She has held fellowships at Harvard University's Academy for International and Area Studies and the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. In addition, she is a former Fulbright Fellow and a recipient of awards from the SSRC-MacArthur Grant in International Peace and Security, the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, and the National Endowment for the Humanities among others.

Lila Abu-Lughod

Joseph L. Buttenwieser Professor of Social Science, Department of Anthropology

A leading voice in debates about gender, Islam, and global policy, her books and publications have been translated into more than 13 languages. Her scholarship, mostly ethnographic, has focused on the relationship between cultural forms and power; the politics of knowledge and representation; and

the question of human and women's rights, in the Middle East and globally. Her most recent book is *Do Muslim Women Need Saving?* (Harvard University Press, 2013). She is the recipient of many awards, including prizes for three of her books and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Social Science Research Council, the Mellon Foundation, the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, the American Council of Learned Societies, and Fulbright. She was named a Carnegie Scholar for 2007-2009.

Brian Boyd

Director of Museum Anthropology, Department of Anthropology

Brian received his M.A. from Glasgow University in 1991, and his Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge in 1996. He works on the archaeology of southwest Asia with a focus on the prehistory of Palestine, and also writes on critical human-animal studies. He is co-director, with Dr. Hamed Salem (Birzeit University) of the Columbia-funded archaeology/museum project "Building Community Anthropology Across the Jordan Valley". His book *Beyond Bones: an archaeology of human-animal relations* (Cambridge University Press) will be published in 2019.

Executive Committee

Rashid Khalidi

Edward Said Professor of Arab Studies, Departments of History and Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies

Rashid Khalidi received his BA from Yale in 1970, and his D.Phil. from Oxford in 1974. He is editor of the *Journal of Palestine Studies*, and was President of the Middle East Studies Association, and an advisor to the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid and Washington Arab-Israeli peace negotiations from October 1991 until June 1993. He is author of: *Brokers of Deceit: How the U.S. has Undermined Peace in the Middle East* (2013); *Sowing Crisis: American Dominance and the Cold War in the Middle East* (2009); *The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood* (2006); *Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East* (2004). His *Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness* (1996) was a co-winner of the Middle East Studies Association's Albert Hourani Prize.

Brinkley Messick

Professor of Anthropology and of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies

He was the Chair of the Department of Anthropology from 2004-2011; was a founding co-Director of the Center for Palestine Studies (2010-15); and currently is the Director of the Middle East Institute. In 2009, he received the Outstanding Senior Scholar Award from the Middle East Section of the American Anthropological Association. He is the author of *The Calligraphic State*, which won the Albert Hourani Award from the Middle East Studies Association. His recently published book is *Shari'a Scripts: A Historical Anthropology* (2018).

Staff

Nadia Abu El-Haj

Co-Director

Rashid Khalidi

Co-Director (Fall 2017)

Brian Boyd

Co-Director (Spring 2018)

Helen Malko

Program Manager

Helen Malko received a PhD in Archaeology of the Near East from Stony Brook University and has a degree in Cultural Heritage and Preservation Studies from Rutgers University. Dr. Malko has worked on various archaeological projects in the Middle East, and most recently, she has been involved in an ongoing project that documents endangered heritage sites in Iraq and Turkey and the surrounding region. At the CPS, Dr. Malko manages the center's academic program and contributes to its intellectual mission.

Dahna Black

Administrative Assistant Intern

Dahna enrolled in the Urban and Social Policy concentration at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs after working in the Museums Directorate at the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities for nearly three years. She is proficient in colloquial Spanish and Arabic, and is currently studying Modern Standard Arabic.

Marianna Pecoraro

Program Assistant

Marianna recently graduated from NYU's Hagop Kevorkian Center with an MA in Near Eastern Studies and a concentration in Museum Studies. She holds a BA in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Venice, and she has lived and studied in Paris and Tunis. In New York, she interned for the Guggenheim Museum and the Studio Museum in Harlem. Besides her native Italian, Marianna speaks English, French, Arabic and Hebrew.

Nasreen Abd Elal

Graphic Design Intern

Nasreen Abd Elal has interned at the Center for Palestine Studies since Spring 2017. She is currently pursuing her BA in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies at Columbia University, with a special interest in Arab cinema and visual cultures. In between her studies, she works as a freelance designer. Nas received a Summer 2018 FLAS and will be continuing her study of Arabic at the Sijal Institute in Amman, Jordan.

Donors

All these activities are possible thanks to the generous support of our donors:

Deena Abu-Lughod

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Fadi Ghandour

Raghida Ghandour-Rahim

Sahar Huneidi

Bisher and Rula Jardaneh

Zina Jardaneh

Jeanne and Ken Levy-Church

Nabil and Mariam Mashood

Zachi and Suhair Masri

Arif Naqvi

Mekhala Natavar

A M Qattan Foundation

Ghaith and Nadia Sukhtian

Asem and Zina Toukan

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