

Archiving Gaza in the Present

30th November – 1st December 2024

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS

Organised by the Arab British Centre and Centre for Palestine Studies, SOAS

Conference Programme (may be subject to change)

Saturday 30 November, Sunday 1 December 2024, 09.30 – 18.00

Registration: 09:00-09:30

Saturday 30 November 9.30-13.00	Saturday 30 November 14.00-18.30
<p>Welcome and introduction: Dina Matar and Venetia Porter</p> <p>Keynote lecture: Selma Dabbagh: <i>Dead To You; the Systematic Destruction of Palestinian Cultural Heritage</i></p> <p>Session 1: Documenting culture (1)</p> <p>Art, Artists and Art Education</p> <p>This session will look at the production of art under severe constraints before the current war, and the effect of this war on artists now, drawing on current reporting to form a picture of artistic activity.</p> <p>Chair: Venetia Porter Speakers: Bahaa Abudaya, Shareef Sarhan, Salman Nawati, and Sarvy Geranpayeh.</p> <p>Tea & coffee break</p> <p>Hazem Harb and Malak Mattar</p> <p>Filmmaking in Gaza</p> <p>This session addresses the productive space of filmmaking in Gaza, to discuss what it means to look at Gaza and to be looked at.</p> <p>Chair: Dina Matar Speaker: Nadia Yaqub</p> <p>Lunch break (13.00 – 14.00)</p>	<p>Session 2: Documenting culture (2)</p> <p>Archaeology and the built heritage</p> <p>This session focusses on the archaeological and built heritage of Gaza, documenting the losses sustained and debating the work of the future.</p> <p>Chair: Scott Redford Speakers: Marc-André Haldimann and Jawdat Khoudary, with recorded notes from Fadel El Utol; Georgia Andreou and Ayman Hassouna; Leena Ghanam, Seif al-Rashidi, with recorded notes from Mouneer Elbaz.</p> <p>Tea & coffee break</p> <p>Museums, cultural centres, archives and collections</p> <p>Speakers in this session will discuss the role these have played in the cultural life of Gaza, the status of these institutions now, the debates surrounding them, and what can be done to safeguard archives and collections for the future.</p> <p>Chair: Daniel Lowe Speakers: Aser El Saqqa, Mezna Qato, Omar Al- Qattan, Kegham Djeghalian and Dina Asfour.</p> <p>Reception 18.30 – 19.30 pm</p>

Sunday 1 December: 0.930 -13.00	Sunday 1 December: 14.00-18.00
<p>Keynote lecture: Salman Abu Sitta</p> <p>Session 3: Memory and the intangible</p> <p>This session will discuss the various tangible and intangible forms of destruction in Gaza and the importance of accurate recording. It will highlight the impact on educational institutions, the landscape, the lived environment and collective memory.</p> <p>Chair: Nathaniel George Speakers: Muna Dajani, Omar Shweiki, Chin Chin Yap, Emily Tripp and Ghada Dimashk.</p> <p>Tea and coffee break</p> <p>Session 4: Law, heritage and life</p> <p>This session will investigate the status of international law in regard to the destruction of heritage and its implications, with an additional focus on everyday life.</p> <p>Chair: Chris Doyle Speakers: Mazen Masri, Caitlin Procter, Joanna Oyediran and Fionnuala Rogers.</p> <p>Lunch break (13:00 -1400)</p>	<p>Session 5: What next?</p> <p>This session will bring together scholars and practitioners from different disciplines to address possible imaginative and material futures.</p> <p>Chair: Aimee Shalan Speakers: Atef Alshaer, Shatha Safi, Mohamed Abusal and Yara Sharif and Nasser Golzari.</p> <p>Session 6: New publications</p> <p>This last session invites the authors of recently published books to speak about them and to bring out their relevance to the themes addressed in this conference.</p> <p>Chair: Charles Tripp Speakers include: Dina Matar, Malu Halasa and Matthew Teller.</p> <p>Break (16.00 – 16.20)</p> <p>Music and Poetry Lara Sawalha Bint Mbareh Yaz Fentazi</p>

Speakers and Chairs (in order of the conference)

Saturday 30 November

Professor Dina Matar, is professor of Global Communication and Arab Media at SOAS, University of London and Chair of Centre for Palestine Studies and of the Centre for Global Media and Communications. She is editor, with Helga Tawil-Souri, of *Producing Palestine: the Creative Production of Palestine through Contemporary Media* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2024), and author of *What it Means to be Palestinian: Stories of Palestinian Peoplehood* (I.B.Tauris, 2010)

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/about/dina-matar>

Dr Venetia Porter is former senior curator for Islamic and Contemporary Middle East art at the British Museum where she is now honorary research fellow. She is a trustee of the Arab British Centre and her most recent publication is *Artists making books: poetry to politics*, (British Museum Press 2023).

Selma Dabbagh is a British-Palestinian writer and lawyer. Selma holds an LLM from SOAS and a PhD from Goldsmiths University. She has worked for human rights organisations in Jerusalem, Cairo and London. Selma's debut novel *Out of It* (Bloomsbury, 2011) is set between Gaza, London and the Gulf. Her fiction includes short stories, radio plays as well as productions for stage and screen. She is the editor of *We Wrote In Symbols; Love and Lust by Arab Women Writers* (Saqi, 2021). She blogs for the *London Review of Books* on Gaza.

www.selmadabbagh.com

Session 1

Documenting culture (1)

Art, Artists and institutions

Sarvy Geranpayeh is a freelance journalist, with an established history in online, print and broadcasting media, specialising in arts and heritage in conflict zones. She has been reporting extensively on Gaza over the past year, particularly for the *Art Newspaper*.

Dr Bahaa Abudaya is senior curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at Qatar Museums and lecturer at Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar. Previously visiting professor of Middle Eastern Art History at the Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. He is also an art critic and has published several essays on Middle Eastern art and several short stories. He was formerly curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art in Doha and the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris. His primary research interests focus on Palestinian art and politics, as well as the history of the Arab art movement. He has curated several contemporary art exhibitions both regionally and internationally including *Contemplative Contrasts*, *Gaza Art* in collaboration with Shababeek for Contemporary Art, Gaza, Palestine, July 2019. <https://qatar.vcu.edu/news/our-faculty/bahaeldin-abudaya/>

Shareef Sarhan is a visual artist and photographer. He is a founding member of Shababeek for Contemporary Art and a member of the Association of Palestinian Artists. Sarhan has a

diploma in Art and participated in Darat Al Funun academy in Jordan. He received the Bronze award of the Festival of Arab Photographers in 2008 and the recognition award in 2007. Sarhan produced a photo book *Gaza Live* (French Institute and Bank of Palestine 2012). His work has been exhibited in Gaza, Ramallah, Jerusalem, Amman and in the United States, France, Germany and Italy.

https://shababek.guccpal.org/profile.php?member=1&title=shareef_Sarhan

Salman Nawati is a visual artist whose practice is rooted in painting, and has cultivated a diverse multimedia practice encompassing drawing, painting, installation, photography, and video art. He taught art at the Faculty of Fine Arts at Al-Aqsa University and the Qattan Foundation in Gaza and served as artistic director of several festivals. Residing in Sweden since 2022, Salman has had three solo exhibitions, *Port without Sea*, *Zero Hour*, *Portrait*, and *The First Sin* and he has participated in group exhibitions at venues including the Palais de Tokyo in Paris and The Mosaic Rooms in London. His artistic exploration was furthered by a transformative experience during his residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris to build an imaginary Museum "SAHAB Museum" with the HAWAF collective.

<https://palaisdetokyo.com/en/personne/salman-nawati/>

Hazem Harb's trajectory, spanning several decades, maintains an unwavering dialogue with his symbolically charged homeland. Moving from Gaza to Rome, he received his MFA at The European Institute of Design, and is now based in the UAE. Operating as a researcher, he collects and synthesises archives of rarified ephemera including photographs, negatives and maps, mediating his materials in a manner which dismantles them from a static space. Through a process of collage, layered down with geometric precision, he stitches visual artefacts together and forms fresh constructions that invite unheard discourses and a historical rethinking. With a wide range of international exhibitions, his work has been acquired by museums including the British Museum and LACMA, Los Angeles, as well as significant private collections.

<https://www.tabariartspace.com/artists/31-hazem-harb/biography/>

Malak Mattar grew up in the Gaza Strip and started making art as a teenager during a period of open conflict. Also a writer, her children's book *Sitti's Bird*, based on her own life experiences was published in 2021. She studied political science at Istanbul Aydin University and began a Masters in Fine Art at Central Saint Martin's, London, in 2023, becoming the resident artist at An Effort Art Residency in central London. She has exhibited internationally, and her painting *No Words* was shown in Venice at the time of the 60th Venice Biennale. Her work is in the collection of the British Museum.

<https://www.malak-mattar.com>

Dr Nadia Yaqub is adjunct associate professor, Department of English and Comparative Literature at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is associate editor for Film and Theater, *Review of Middle East Studies* and Author of *Gaza on Screen* (Duke University Press, 2023) and *Palestinian Cinema in the Days of Revolution* (University of Texas Press, 2018)

<https://asianstudies.unc.edu/faculty/yaqub-nadia/>

Session 2

Documenting culture (2)

Archaeology and the built heritage

Professor Scott Redford teaches Islamic art and architecture at SOAS. He studies the material culture of the medieval Islamic world in the eastern Mediterranean and SW Asia. He has a special interest in Anatolia and the Levant in the era of the Crusades. Over the years, he has participated in archaeological excavations and surveys in Turkey, Egypt, and the UAE.

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/about/scott-redford>

Dr Georgia Andreou is a lecturer in Archaeology and Sustainability at the University of Southampton and an associate lecturer in Near Eastern Archaeology at UCL. Her research focuses on the coastal societies in the Eastern Mediterranean during the 2nd and 1st millennia BCE. She is also interested in heritage politics particularly in the context of conflict. She has directed the Gaza Maritime Archaeology Project (GAZAMAP) since 2022, conducting archaeological surveys along the coast of Deir el Balah and Khan Yunis and developing capacity building programmes in Gaza.

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/people/5xt9wl/doctor-georgia-andreou>

https://honorfrostfoundation.org/?s=GAZAMAP&post_type%5B%5D=any&search_limit_to_post_titles=0&fs=1

Dr Ayman Hassouna is an assistant professor in Archaeology at the Islamic University of Gaza. He has worked in numerous archaeological sites across the Gaza Strip dating from the Neolithic to the Ottoman periods, including coastal archaeological sites (Blackhiya Anthedon). He has been the field director of GAZAMAP project, delivering field training to archaeology students and coordinating the surveys of Tell es-Sakan, Tell Rugeish and Tell Qatif.

Dr. Marc-André Haldimann is emeritus archaeologist at the State of Geneva Archaeological Service. He has directed excavations in Switzerland as well as in Jordan, on behalf of the Max van Berchem Foundation, and was a member of the Swiss archaeological Institute of Cairo. As head curator of the Musée d'art et d'Histoire in Geneva he co-curated two major exhibitions: *Gaza à la Croisée des civilisations*, (2007) and *Fascination du Liban* (2012). He is associate researcher at the University of Bern, federal expert for Mediterranean archaeology and UNESCO expert for Syria. He is author of several articles and books, and currently works for the State of Geneva, the Swiss Confederation and for a long term Museum project in Gaza.

Jawdat Khoudary is a structural engineer. In 1978 he travelled to Egypt to study mechanical engineering, returning to Gaza thereafter. He founded the Saqqa & Khoudary Construction Company, one of the largest construction companies in Palestine. In the course of his work he came across an Islamic glass seal inscribed with the Shahada (*la ilah ila Allah*). From then on, he preserved his many finds. His collection grew over the years and was the subject of

widespread interest and in 2007 the Geneva Museum of Archaeology displayed the highlights of his collection in the first international exhibition of Gaza's archaeology in 2007. The positive reaction to the exhibition inspired him to build the first museum of archaeology in Gaza. *Almathaf* was inaugurated in 2008, exhibiting over 360 pieces from Gaza's ancient past, visited by tens of thousands of local and international visitors. Jawdat is also a self-made botanist. With his wife Faten, he has designed and planted vast gardens with exotic plants and cactuses across Gaza.

Fadel Al Utol is a Palestinian archaeologist, born in al-Shati refugee camp in 1981. He has been working with the École biblique et archéologique française de Jérusalem since 1997 in the context of their excavations in Gaza. Furthermore, he has since 2017 been part of the workforce Intiqal 2030 ("Progress 2030"), whose mandate is the protection and restoration of all the archaeological sites in Gaza.

Dr Seif El Rashidi is an art historian who is a specialist on heritage management and public engagement with heritage. He is currently the director of The Barakat Trust, a UK charity that has supported numerous heritage preservation projects in Gaza in recent years. Seif formerly worked in urban conservation for the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, and on several heritage projects in the UK. He also has a strong professional focus on craft preservation and development.

<https://barakat.org>

Muneer Elbaz is a Gazan architect, working at University College of Applied Sciences (UCAS), Gaza, as a lecturer and coordinator of the Development Planning Program. He was the coordinator of 'An Initiative for the Conservation Al-Qaisariyya Bazaar' in Gaza Old City and numerous other important heritage projects in Gaza City. His work focused on raising awareness of the importance of conserving heritage buildings and cultural heritage, among diverse audiences, including children.

Leena Ghannam is a graduate of the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) and studied Islamic Art and Architecture at the American University in Cairo. Her research focuses on medieval visual culture in the Mediterranean, the reuse of antique materials, and Palestinian heritage. She is the Closed Caption Coordinator and Newsletter Editor of Khamseen Islamic Art History Online. In 2021, she curated nine digital exhibitions on the arts and heritage of Gaza on the Google Arts and Culture platform with the support of the Barakat Trust.

Museums, archives and collections

Daniel Lowe is a curator at the British Library, responsible for print, manuscript and archival collections from the Arab world. His work was recognised by Art Fund's New Collecting Award in 2022 and he co-convened the 'Histories and Archives of Arabic Publishing' series in 2021. He also works as a freelance consultant on cultural heritage projects and is a trustee of the British Institute for the Study of Iraq.

Dr. Mezna Qato, is director of the Margaret Anstee Centre for Global Studies at Newnham College, University of Cambridge, where she co-convenes the 'Archives of the Disappeared'

Research Programme. She is a founding member of the Librarians and Archivists with Palestine. <https://librarianswithpalestine.org>

Omar Al-Qattan is chair of the Board of Directors of the Palestinian Museum in Ramallah and, until April 2024, also chair of The A. M. Qattan Foundation, a charitable organization established by his family in 1993. He founded the Mosaic Rooms in London in 2008, and served as chair of the Shubbak Festival for Contemporary Arab Culture during its second and third editions. An acclaimed filmmaker, his documentary *Dreams & Silences (Rêves et silences)*, garnered the prestigious Joris Ivens Award in 1991. Notably addressing political Islam and the Palestinian struggle, he continued to produce films including *Tale of the Three Jewels* (1994-1995), the first feature film entirely shot in the occupied Gaza Strip, and *Zindeeq* (2009) both directed by the acclaimed Palestinian director Michel Khleifi. <https://palmuseum.org/en/about/the-museum>; <https://www.palestinefilmintstitute.org/en/pfp/archive/tale-of-the-three-jewels>

Professor Kegham Djeghalian, is Professor of Fashion Practices, Image & Design at the German International University (GIU) where he is the Artistic Director of the Department of Fashion Design. Djeghalian is a visual artist, creative director, and fashion practitioner, whose work lies in the intersection of photography, image, the archive, and fashion practices. He has been a faculty member of the Photography Department at Paris College of Art since 2016. He was a lecturer at the Institut Français de la Mode in Paris where he also served as the pedagogic director of the MA in Image Design (2018 – 2019). Djeghalian has been working on a long-term project addressing and activating the endangered archive of his grandfather, Kegham Djeghalian Senior - the founder of the first photography studio of Gaza. He premiered the first articulation of his work and research in a solo exhibition “Photo Kegham of Gaza: Unboxing” in 2021 during Cairo Photo Week followed by a second iteration in 2024 at the Institut Francais in Cairo.

Aser El Saqqa is a creative director, programmer, festival producer, and cultural entrepreneur with extensive experience across the Middle East and in Europe promoting and managing emerging artists from the Arab world. He has a track record in building and sustaining significant institutional partnerships in the international cultural sector, in both the private and public sectors, and within UK arts and public education. He founded Arts Canteen in 2010 in London, leading platform for London’s diaspora arts scene, facilitating the exchange of art and ideas across social and geographical boundaries. <https://artscanteen.com>

Dina Asfour is the founder, with Yomn Al-Kaisi, of the Tatreez Collective, who are committed to documenting the cultural heritage of Palestine through the art of Palestinian cross-stitch. They view their practice as a way to record and promote Palestinian heritage, as well as an act of resistance in keeping Palestinian embroidery alive. Since 2022, they have carried out an extensive series of workshops across the UK in which they introduce this craft to new audiences.

<https://www.thetatreezcollective.co.uk/>

Sunday 1 December

Dr. Salman Abu Sitta is the founder of the Palestine Land Society. He is author of *The Atlas of Palestine (1917-1966)* (PLS, 2010), *The Atlas of Palestine: Land Theft by the Jewish National Fund* (PLS, 2024), *The Return Journey – A Guide to the Depopulated and Present Palestinian Towns and Villages and Holy Sites* (PLS, 2007)

<https://www.plands.org/en/home>

Session 3

Memory, recording and the intangible

Dr Nathaniel George is lecturer in the Politics of the Middle East at SOAS, University of London. He is a global political historian of the modern Arab world and United States foreign relations. His research and teaching focus on the relationship between revolution, counterrevolution, sectarianism, and empire. Prior to joining SOAS, he was a Raphael Morrison Dorman Memorial Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard University's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, and the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Fellow at Columbia University's Center for Palestine Studies. He holds a PhD in History from Rice University, an MA in Middle East Studies from the American University of Beirut, and a BA in Cinema from the University of Iowa.

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/about/nathaniel-george>

Ghada Dimashk has been a cataloguer and archivist at the Palestine Land Studies Center (PLSC) since March 2023, where she has been involved in developing and implementing cataloguing and archival policies to international standards, focusing on preserving Palestinian cultural identity. Her responsibilities include cataloguing various collections and overseeing digital archiving tasks, including the documentation of social media content related to the ongoing war in Gaza. Previously she worked at the Lebanese National Library for 14 years, where she contributed to the development of cataloguing policies and practices. Her academic work includes a thesis, the first study in Arabic of the Library, Archive, and Museum (LAM) sector, exploring its importance in preserving and making Lebanese cultural heritage more visible and accessible, developing a sample website, to demonstrate the significance of merging the LAM sector in Lebanon.

<https://www.aub.edu.lb/plsc/Pages/default.aspx>

Emily Tripp is executive director of Airwars, a civilian harm monitor and watchdog organisation. In 2021 she joined Airwars managing the Casualty Recording team, and took over the leadership of the organisation in June 2022. Her previous experience includes working in humanitarian aid delivery in the Middle East, with a focus on carrying out research and managing assessment teams in Syria and Libya to help inform humanitarian responses. She holds an MA in Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development from the University of York

<https://airwars.org>. Airwars latest publication: *The Killings they Tweeted*

<https://idf-tweets-gaza.airwars.org>

Dr Muna Dajani is Fellow in Environment, Geography and Environment Department, at LSE. She is lead editor, with M.F Eldin and M. Mason of *The Untold Story of the Golan Heights: Occupation, Colonization and Jawlani Resistance* (I.B. Tauris, 2021)

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/geography-and-environment/people/academic-staff/muna-dajani>

Dr Omar Shweiki is director of Friends of Birzeit University (FOBZU) and doctoral candidate at Balliol College, Oxford University. He is co-editor with Mandy Turner of *Decolonizing Palestinian Political Economy: De-development and Beyond* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015)

<https://fobzu.org/about-us/>

Chin-Chin Yap is a writer and filmmaker on art, law and human rights, currently based in Lisbon. She is co-editor with Ai Weiwei, B. Cheshirkov, R. Heath of *Human Flow: Stories from the Global Refugee Crisis* (Princeton UP, 2020)

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm8837491/>

<https://www.palestine-studies.org/en/node/1654040>

Session 4

Law, heritage and life

Chris Doyle is director of the Council for Arab-British Understanding (CAABU). He was formerly chair of Friends of Birzeit University and a trustee of Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP).

<https://www.caabu.org/about/chris-doyle>

Dr Mazen Masri is senior lecturer, City Law School, University of London and author of *The Dynamics of Exclusionary Constitutionalism: Israel as a Jewish and Democratic State* (Bloomsbury Professional, 2017)

<https://www.city.ac.uk/about/people/academics/mazen-masri#>

Dr Caitlin Procter is a political anthropologist and lived in Gaza over several years, conducting research and working with UNRWA. Her publications include 'Coerced migration: mobility under siege in Gaza'. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 2024; 'Israel Is Systematically Destroying Gaza's Cultural Heritage' <https://jacobin.com/2024/03/israel-gaza-war-cultural-heritage>; 'My grandmother has her keys, and now I have mine": Building a database to preserve testimonies of genocide in Gaza' (forthcoming in the *Journal of Palestine Studies*); and '[What does genocide do to migration categories?](#)' *Debate Migration: Migration Policy Centre Blog*, 11.10.24. She is co-editor with B. Spector, *Inclusive Ethnography : Making Fieldwork Safer, Healthier and More Ethical*. (SAGE 2024).

<https://migrationpolicycentre.eu/people/caitlin-procter/>

Joanna Oyediran is an independent researcher who holds an LLM in International Law from the University of Essex. She has extensive experience as a human rights monitor in Palestine, working in this capacity with al-Haq, Amnesty International and the United Nations. Joanna is the author [Plunder, destruction and despoliation : an analysis of Israel's violations of the international law of cultural property in the West Bank and Gaza Strip](#) (1997). This report for the Palestinian human rights organization, Al-Haq, provides an overview of Israel's systematic violations of Palestinian cultural rights in the first three decades of occupation.

Fionnuala Rogers has been working in art law for 10 years, with a particular interest in cultural property and extensive experience in art and heritage the Middle East, where she

regularly works. She advises on all aspects of art law including art and antiquities transactions, and is regularly consulted on policy and legislation in relation to art and culture by international organisations and Government departments around the world. She has advised on changes in national and international law and policy in relation to prevention of illicit trafficking, heritage preservation, revitalising cultural heritage.

<https://www.canvasartlaw.co.uk/fionnuala-rogers-canvas>

Session 5

What next?

Dr Aimee Shalan is director of Makan. She is also a trustee of Friends of Birzeit University (Fobzu), a policy member of the Palestinian policy network, Al Shabaka, and chair of the British-Palestinian Committee. Her previous roles have included: chief executive of Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), director of Friends of Birzeit University (Fobzu) and co-founder and director of Pressure Cooker Arts, a not-for-profit arts and advocacy organisation. She has been a regular contributor to the Guardian and other media outlets. Aimee holds a doctorate in the Politics of Palestinian Literature.

<https://www.makan.org.uk/about/>

Dr Atef Alshaer is reader in the School of Humanities, at the University of Westminster, writer and poet. He is author of *Language and national identity in Palestine: representation of power and resistance in Gaza*. (I.B. Tauris, Forthcoming 2025), *Poetry and Politics in the Modern Arab World*. London (C Hurst & Co. 2016). Editor of *Love and poetry in the Middle East: Love and Literature from Antiquity to the Present* (I.B. Tauris, 2022) Co-editor with L. Khatib and D. Matar of *The Hizbullah phenomenon: politics and communication* (C Hurst & Co. 2014)

<https://www.westminster.ac.uk/about-us/our-people/directory/alshaer-atef>

Dr Yara Sharif is a practicing architect and academic. Her research is focused on design as a means to rethink contested landscapes with a new take on architectural practice. Her work sheds a light on 'forgotten' communities, while also interrogating the relationship between politics and architecture. Yara's work has been published widely. Her research by design work has won a number of awards including Riba President's Medal for Research 2013, 2016 as well as The Holcim Award for Sustainable Construction.

<https://www.westminster.ac.uk/about-us/our-people/directory/sharif-yara>

Nasser Golzari is an architect and academic committed to social architecture and creating inclusive cities that advance socio-environmental ecologies within post-colonial contexts. As the founder of GOLZARI (NG) Architects in London and co-founder of the Palestine Regeneration Team (PART). Staying with his passion for social architecture, he focuses on rethinking the Palestinian landscape through speculative and live projects. Golzari challenges Western, market-driven architectural practices, drawing inspiration from the daily rituals, narratives, and passive ecological practices of the Global South. His work seeks to reclaim and celebrate socially driven architecture, particularly focusing on 'the invisible other.' Yara Sharif and Nasser Golzari have co-founded Architects for Gaza with a group of architects, educators, planners, environmentalists and designers, as a response to the

current spacio-cidal enacted in Gaza with hope to provide hope to heal the fractured landscape.

<https://www.westminster.ac.uk/about-us/our-people/directory/golzari-nasser-0>

Shatha Safi is an architect currently working as the director of Riwaq which she joined in 2008. She received a B.Sc. in architectural engineering from Birzeit University and MA in World Heritage and Cultural Projects for Development from ITILO, Turin, Italy. She has been leading and working in different projects including the rehabilitation project of Beit Iksa, Hajjah, Birzeit, and Qalandiya. She is interested in cultural landscape and community involvement. <https://www.riwaq.org/our-story>

Mohamed Abusal is as a visual artist whose work highlights the reality of the daily life of Palestinians, while offering alternative and optimistic visions of a better future. Although a graduate in finance and management, he retrained as an artist in 2000. Since then, he has worked at a prolific rate producing daring and innovative work which has garnered much critical acclaim. Projects have included *Metro in Gaza* (2012) and *Shambar* (2013) – concepts comprising installations, designs and photographs – that deal with the reality in besieged Gaza and envisioning a brighter future – a future that is not only plausible but a fundamental human right. In 2002, he participated in the creation of the artist collective *Eltiqa*, which was presented at the Documenta in Kassel in 2022. In 2005, he received the prestigious Charles Asprey Prize for Contemporary Art. He has long experience of collaboration with the French art community. A former laureate of the Cité des Arts in Paris and the Camargo Foundation in Cassis, he exhibited at the Institut du Monde Arabe in the exhibition *What Palestine brings to the world* in 2023. In 2021, he co-founded the *Hawaf Collective*, which is developing a virtual museum for Gaza, the Sahab Museum (Museum of Clouds). This museum, presented at the Mucem in June 2022, was on display at the Palais de Tokyo at ArtExplora in June 2024.

Session 6

Publications

Professor Charles Tripp FBA, is professor emeritus of Middle East and North African Politics, SOAS, University of London. He is author of: *The Power and the People: paths of resistance in the Middle East* (Cambridge University Press, 2013)

Matthew Teller is a UK-based writer and broadcaster. He has written on the Middle East for the BBC, *Guardian*, *Independent*, *Times*, *Financial Times* and other global media. He has produced documentaries for BBC Radio 4 and World Service and reported for *From Our Own Correspondent*. Teller is the co-editor of *Daybreak in Gaza: Stories of Palestinian Lives and Culture*, and the author of *Nine Quarters of Jerusalem: A New Biography of the Old City*, a *Telegraph* Book of the Year, and *Rough Guide to Jordan*. www.matthewteller.com

Malu Halasa is a writer and editor based in London. Her co-edited anthology, *Sumūd: A New Palestinian Reader* will be published by Seven Stories Press in January 2025. Her books include: *Woman Life Freedom: Voices and Art from the Women's Protests in Iran* (Saqi Books,

2023); *Syria Speaks: Art and Culture from the Frontline* (2014); *The Secret Life of Syrian Lingerie: Intimacy and Design* (2008), *Kaveh Golestan: Recording the Truth in Iran* (2005), *Creating Spaces of Freedom: Culture in Defiance* (2000); as well as the short series, *Transit Tehran: Young Iran and Its Inspirations* (2008) and *Transit Beirut* (2004). Presently she is the literary editor of the *Markaz Review*.

Music and Poetry

Lara Sawalha is a Jordanian British actor and voice over artist, her career has spanned across theatre film and TV. Her most notable theatre credits include the National theatre, Almeida theatre and Young Vic. She recently guest starred in an episode of *FBI International* as well as previously being a semi regular on *Doctors* for the BBC.

Bint Mbareh is a sound researcher with a curiosity about the superpowers of communal singing. Her initiation into music came through her research on rain-summoning in Palestine.

She has performed at Mophradat's Read the Room festival (March 2022), Hoda Siahtiri's symposium on Loss and Resilience (No Body's Body) (April, 2022), at the Hiya Live Sessions in Dalston's Jago (May 2022) London EFG Jazz Festival and AWAN, Ramallah's Exist Festival, and has been resident with BUDA Kunstzentrum and performed at Next Festival, twice in the same year at Shubbak festival, proudly at Stonewall to Palestine, Brave Poets, as well as being Cafe Oto's Youth Music Resident for 2021.

bintmbareh.net; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NwCQsUX1-I>

Yaz Fentazi is an oud player, and along with the other members of The Yaz Fentazi quartet performs music that draws on the rich musical traditional of jazz, blues and North African music, built around original compositions; irresistible grooves and vibrant rhythm create a sizzling party atmosphere. The music is a rootsy blend of Gnawa, Chaabi and Andalusian Music. The Guardian has described Yaz Fentazi's compositions as having "breadth and atmosphere, and his oud soloing, which recalls the drive and dynamism of world Oud star Anouar Brahem, is often stunning." Yaz Fentazi was invited to perform, record and tour with the Master Drummers of Africa, Robert Plant (of Led Zeppelin), Natacha Atlas, Transglobal Underground, Peter Ind, and was the main composer of Fantazia Band and more.

<https://www.greennote.co.uk/production/yaz-fentazi-quartet/>

Ayeesha Starkey compiled the Artists of Gaza video for Archiving Gaza in the Present. She is a graduate of Media and Communications and a filmmaker based between Beirut & London. She has worked in the fields of visual arts and production, specifically video editing, content creation, and script writing.