

The Transformation of Palestine – Palestine and the Palestinians 60 Years after the “Nakba”

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List of Guests

(in alphabetical order)

Dr. Mkhaimar S. Abusada

Assistant Professor of Political Science at Al-Azhar University-Gaza, Palestine, Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences, since 1998.

He received his B.A. in History at the Birzeit University, West Bank (1987), his M.A. in Political Science at Northeastern Illinois University (1991), and his Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Missouri-Columbia (1996) with a dissertation on "Palestinian Political Attitudes in the West Bank and Gaza: The Impact of Party Affiliation on Political Attitudes."

Among his numerous publications are:

- *The Palestinian Israeli Conflict in American Mass Media, the New York Times as a Model.* (In Arabic) Journal of Almustaqbal Alarabi, September 2009.
- *The Creation of the Palestine Liberation Organization between Arab Interests and Palestinian Ambition: A New Reading.* Co-authored, (In Arabic), Journal of Al-AzharUniversity, Vol. 11, 2009
- *Democracy and Obstacles to Transition toward Democracy in the Arab World,* (In Arabic), in: Religion, Politics, and Democracy, ed. Rafiq Masri, Ramallah, 2007

He is also writing political essays, journal articles and commentaries in international media, lately:

- *The Palestinians after the Fateh Congress,* August 27, 2009.
<http://www.commongroundnews.org/article.php?id=26170&lan=en&sid=0&sp=0>
- *Hamas Takes on the Radicals.* August 24, 2009.
www.project-syndicate.org/contributor/741
- *Accounts of the Annapolis Process,* June 29, 2009. Edition 25.
www.bitterlemons.org/previous/bl290609ed25.html

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Dr. Muriel Asseburg

Head of the Research Division Middle East and Africa at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP) in Berlin. Her current focus of research is the Middle East conflict and peace process as well as German and European policies towards the Middle East. Among her numerous publications are books and articles like

- *Obamas second try in the Middle East peace process (Obamas zweiter Anlauf im Nahost-Friedensprozesse, Unilaterale Ansätze der Konfliktparteien sind keine Alternative)*, SWPAktuell 2010/A 12, February 2010 (in German)
- *The Arab-Israeli Conflict*, in: Guido Steinberg (ed.) *German Middle East and North Africa Policy Interests, Strategies, Options. (Der israelisch-arabische Konflikt, in: Guido Steinberg (Hg.), Deutsche Nah-, Mittelost- und Nordafrikapolitik. Interessen, Strategien, Handlungsoptionen)*, SWP Research Paper 2009/RP 09 (available in German and English)
- *European Conflict Management in the Middle East. Toward a More Effective Approach* Joint Publication of SWP and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, SWP Research Paper 2009/RP 04
- (with Daniel Brumberg) (ed.) *The Challenge of Islamists for EU and US Policies: Conflict, Stability and Reform*, Joint Publication of SWP and United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Washington, DC, SWP Research Paper 2007/RP 12, November 2007
- »Hamastan vs. Fatahland«, *A Chance for Progress in the Middle East?* SWP Comments 2007/C 14, July 2007 (available in German and English)

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Dr. Samir Awad

Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Development Studies, Birzeit University. His research interests are: International Relations and Political Economy of the Middle East, Palestinian State-building and the Peace Process, Democracy and Democratization, Methodology and Philosophy of Science. After studying in Birzeit and at Bradford University (England) he received his Ph.D. at Columbia University (USA) with a thesis on *Persistence of Authoritarianism in the Middle East* (2002). Among his publications:

- *Governance and Institutional Issues*, Palestine Country Profile. Cairo: Economic Research Forum. pp. 85-101, October 2006.
- *Palestine-At-A Glance*, Encyclopedia of World Constitutions. May 2006.
- *Democracy Index of Palestine*. Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, Ramallah, Palestine, June 2005.
- *The Geneva Accord*, in: Journal of Palestine Studies Vol. XXXIV, No. 3 Institute for Palestine Studies.(Spring 2005), pp. 1–17
- (with Roger Heacock, Martin Beck), *Prospects for and Obstacles to Achieving a Viable Palestinian State*, Ramallah, January 2004

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Dr. Helga Baumgarten

Professor of Political Science and Head of M.A. program Democracy and Human Rights, Birzeit University (West Bank), living in East-Jerusalem since the early Nineties. Born in Germany, she studied in Tübingen, New York, London, Munich and Göttingen. She received her Ph.D. at the Free University of Berlin with a thesis on: *The rise and development of the Palestinian National Movement 1948-1967/68. - Studies in Ideology and Politics of the Movement of Arab Nationalists and of the Movement for the Liberation of Palestine (Fateh)*.(in German)

She is writing for the Swiss weekly WoZ. Her books include

- *Hamas. Political Islam in Palestine*. Munich: Diederichs. 2006. (in German. Published in Arabic in summer 2008 by Muwatini, Ramallah, and Saqi Press, Beirut. An updated edition in English is planned for 2009)
- *The Myth of Camp David or The Distortion of the Palestinian Narrative*, Birzeit Strategic Papers. Birzeit. March 2004. (in English).

- *Arafat between struggle and diplomacy. A political biography.* Munich: Ullstein Publ. 2002. (in German).
- *Palestine: From Liberation to State-Building. The Palestinian National Movement 1948-1988.* Frankfurt/Main: Edition Suhrkamp. 1991 (in German). (Translated into Arabic, with a foreword by Sadek Jalal al-Azm and a new introduction by the author for the Arabic edition. Min al-tahrir ila'l daula. Al-harakah al-wataniyah al-filastiniyah 1948-1988. Ramallah: Muwatin. 2006).

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Dr. Nathan Brown

Professor of political science and international affairs at George Washington University. He is a scholar of Palestinian and Egyptian law and politics with special expertise on Palestinian reform and Arab constitutionalism. His research interests also include Egyptian and Palestinian politics, legal reform in the modern Middle East, as well as democratization. Brown was previously a scholar in residence at the Middle East Institute. He still is a Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington D.C. He has been a member of the international advisory committee on drafting the Palestinian constitution and consultant to the UNDP's program on governance in the Arab world. Professor Brown received his B.A. in political science from the University of Chicago and his M.A. and Ph.D. in politics and Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University. Brown has published many books and articles. He comments regularly on political developments in the region. Among his numerous publications are

- *Palestinian Politics after the Oslo Accords: Resuming Arab Palestine* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003)
- *Constitutions in a Non-Constitutional World: Arab Basic Laws and Prospects for Accountable Government*, (SUNY Press, 2001),

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Dr. Michael Fischbach

Professor of History at the Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, Virginia, U.S.A. He specialized on the history of the modern Middle East, especially Palestine, Israel, Jordan, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. His research interests are land tenure and ownership in the Middle East, especially in Palestine, Israel, Jordan; land matters in the Arab-Israeli peace process; Palestinian refugee property claims; Jewish property claims against Arab countries. He received his M.A. and his Ph.D. at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. (1992) Among his recent books are

- *Jewish Property Claims Against Arab Countries.* New York: Columbia University Press, 2008
- *The Biographical Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East and North Africa* (editor-in-chief). Farmington Hills, Mich.: Gale Cengage, 2007
- *The Peace Process and Palestinian Refugee Claims: Addressing Claims for Property Compensation and Restitution.* Washington: United States Institute of Peace, 2006
- *Records of Dispossession: Palestinian Refugee Property and the Arab-Israeli Conflict.* New York: Columbia University Press, 2003; reprint edition, Cairo: The American University of Cairo Press, 2004

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John Ging

Appointed on 01 February 2006, John Ging manages UNRWA's Operations in Gaza, with a budget in 2010 in excess of USD \$450 million and a staff of over 10,000. Immediately, prior to joining UNRWA, he worked in the Balkans, as the Chief of Staff of the Institution Building Pillar within the UN Mission in Kosovo, which followed 8 years in Bosnia and Herzegovina where he served as Chief of Staff of the OSCE. From 1994-96, immediately following the Rwandan genocide, he was Regional Field Director with the Irish NGO GOAL, having charge of 2,500 staff in their Emergency Relief and Development Aid programs in five countries of the Great Lakes Region of Africa.

Between 1983-94, he served as commissioned officer in the Irish Defence Forces completing three tours of duty as a United Nations Peacekeeper with UNIFIL in South Lebanon. A lawyer by qualification; he holds a primary and two post-graduate university degrees completing studies in Law, Sociology and Political Science.

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Dr. Sari Hanafi

Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology in American University of Beirut (since 2005). Research interests are economic sociology and network analysis of the Palestinian diaspora and refugees; sociology of migration (mainly about the Palestinian refugees); relationships between diaspora and center; sociology of return migration.

From 2000 until 2005 he served as the Director of the *Palestinian Refugee and Diaspora Centre - Shaml* and as associated researcher at *Muwatin – The Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy in Ramallah* (1998 -2001). After studying in Strasbourg and Damascus he received his Ph.D. 1994 in Sociology from the *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales*, Paris.

He is the author of numerous journal articles and book chapters on economic sociology and network analysis of the Palestinian diaspora. His latest publications include:

- (With A. Ophir, M. Givoni) (Ed.) *The Power Of Inclusive Exclusion: Anatomy Of Israeli Rule In The Occupied Palestinian Territories*. New York: Zone Books, 2009.
- (With Eyal Benvenisti and Chaim Gans) (Ed.) *Israel and the Palestinian Refugees*. Berlin: Springer and Max-Planck Institute, 2007;
- (with Linda Taber) *Donors, International organizations, local NGOs. Emergence of the Palestinian Globalized Elite*. (In Arabic) Ramallah: Muwatin and Institute for Jerusalem Studies, 2006

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Dr. Sabine Hofmann

Lecturer at the Free University in Berlin and the Humboldt University in Berlin, focusing on economy, politics and society in Israel and Palestine, the Middle East and international relations. She published articles on economic and socio-economic questions. Lately: *Political Economy of Regional Security in the Middle East*, in: Lahiri, Dilip (ed.): *Emerging Security Concerns in West Asia*, New Dehli: McMillan 2009, and *Regional Cooperation under Conflict. Israeli-Arab Business Cooperation in the Middle East*, in: Harders, Ciljaq/Legrenzi, Matteo (Eds.): *Beyond Regionalism? Regional Cooperation, Regionalism and Regionalization in the Middle East*, London: Ashgate 2008.

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Dr. Ali Jarbawi

Minister of Planning and Administrative Development of the 13th Government of the Palestinian National Authority. Prior to this appointment he worked in government as a special adviser to the Prime Minister and supervised the preparation of the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan 2008-10. He was General Director of the Palestinian Independent Center for the Citizens' Rights from 1997 to 2000, and worked as Secretary General and Executive Director of the Central Elections' Commission from 2002 to 2004. Dr. Jarbawi joined the Faculty of Political Science at Birzeit University in 1981, after receiving his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Cincinnati, and was awarded Professorship in 1996. He has held a variety of senior posts at Birzeit University: including Dean of the Faculty of Law and Public Administration, Dean of Students' Affairs, Director of the Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute for International Studies, Director of the Center for Researches and Studies, and Head of Middle East Department. Dr. Jarbawi also holds two Master Degrees, in Public Administration and in Political Science, and a Bachelors Degree in Sociology.

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Executive Director of the *Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy – Muwatin*, Ramallah. *Muwatin* is focusing its research on democracy issues and is committed to playing a clear and effective role in the process of democratic transformation in Palestine.

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Dr. Zachary Lockman

Professor of Middle Eastern Studies and History at the Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies of the New York University.

His main research and teaching field is the socioeconomic, cultural and political history of the modern Middle East, particularly the Mashriq. Under the influence of the "new social history" and "history from below" movements of the 1960s and 1970s, he did his doctoral dissertation (Ph.D. 1983, Harvard University) on the emergence and evolution of a working class and labor movement in Egypt from the late nineteenth century until the Second World War; it was published in 1987 in a book co-authored with Joel Beinin. Since then I have sporadically continued to work on Egypt, with a special interest in society, culture and politics in the 1882-1919 period. I have also done a great deal of research on Palestine, manifested (among other things) in a 1989 edited volume on the Intifada and a 1996 book on relations between Arab and Jewish workers and labor movements in Palestine during the British mandate period, and various articles and papers. His most recent book is an introduction to the history and politics of Orientalism and Middle East studies, with particular attention to the study of the Middle East in the United States since 1945 and its intersections with U.S. policy in that region.

Along the way he has served as president of the *Middle East Studies Association* and as a member of the *Joint Committee on the Near and Middle East of the Social Science Research Council/American Council of Learned Societies*, and as an editor (and currently a contributing editor) of *Middle East Report*.

His most recent book: *Contending Visions of the Middle East: The History and Politics of Orientalism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004)

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Nicolas Pelham

He has spent 20 years studying, writing and broadcasting in the Middle East and North Africa. He has lived in Damascus, Cairo, Rabat and Baghdad, where he covered the US occupation as a correspondent for *The Economist* and *Financial Times*, the *Observer* and the *Christian Science Monitor*. Nicolas Pelham has spent the past four years working for International Crisis Group based in Jerusalem. His output for the conflict resolution organization includes reports on Iraqi Shiism, Lebanon's polarization, Israel's religious right, and a series of reports examining Hamas rule of Gaza.

Prior to that, he was the *Economist's* correspondent in Iraq, covering the build-up to the 2003 U.S. invasion and for two years thereafter the struggle for control.

He was born in London in 1968, and studied Arabic in Damascus and Middle East and Islamic Studies at Manchester University.

Based on his research there and elsewhere in the region, he authored books on the regional resurgence of Shia power, entitled

- *A New Muslim Order: The Shia and the Middle East Sectarian Crisis*. I.B. Tauris, London/ New York 2008.
- (with Peter Mansfield), *A History of the Middle East*. Penguin, London 2004

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Mouin Rabbani

Independent analyst based in Amman, specializing on Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Contributing editor of *Middle East Report (MERIP)*, Washington and Senior Fellow, *Institute for Palestine Studies*. He has published widely on Palestinian issues and travels to Palestine frequently. From 2002 till 2008 "Senior Analyst/Middle East" with the International Crisis Group - with his focus on Palestinian affairs and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Previously he worked as Palestine Director of the *Palestinian American Research Centre*, and before that as project director for the *Association of Netherlands Municipalities* in a project to establish the *Association of Palestinian Local Authorities*. From 1988-1990 he was volunteer researcher at *Al-Haq*, and among other things served as General Editor for the 1990 *Al-Haq* annual report *A Nation Under Siege*. He is currently based in Amman, Jordan.

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Dr. Sabri Saidam

Established the first innovation group in Palestine in May 2006 under the umbrella of Birzeit University known as the Birzeit Innovation Group (BIG). The group initiated few projects including: CAPABILITY (ICT utilization in education and capacity building of educators), Stepping Stones (for controlling intellectual local brain drain). He served as Minister of Telecommunication and IT for the Palestinian Authority in 2005 serving in the ninth Palestinian cabinet. Joined the UNDP funded Institute for Development Studies (IDS) to act as its executive Director in 2003. He co-founded the Palestinian Society for Re-cycling and Environmental Development.

Born in 1971. Earned his training certificate in human development from Oxford University in 2004 and his PhD in Engineering from Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, London in 1999.

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Salah Haidar Abdel Shafi

Palestinian economist, currently Palestinian ambassador (head of the Palestinian General Delegation) to Sweden, holding the position since January 2006. Formerly General Director of the Gaza Community Mental Health Program, a consultant, and advisor to the World Bank.

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