



BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

معهد مواطن للديمقراطية وحقوق الإنسان
Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights

Muwatin 23rd Annual Conference
“Democracy in the Public Square”
Hall 243 – Institute of Law Annex Building – Birzeit University
6 and 7 October 2017

Programme

First Day - Friday, 6 October 2017

9:15 Registration

9:45 Opening Session

Address by the President of Birzeit University
Address by the Director of Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights
Keynote Address by Manfred Nowak on the Impact of Neoliberalism on Democracy

10:45 Session I: Central Issues of Contemporary Democracies Chair: Linda Tabar

Legalizing Democracy or Democratizing Law? **Reem Bahdi**
The Malaise of the Liberal Model of Democracy? **Basem Ezbidi**
Habermas on Democracy, Popular Sovereignty, Discourse and Struggles for Recognition **George Ulrich**

12:15 Lunch

13:45 Session II: Complex Prospects of Democracy in Palestine Chair: Mamdouh Al-Aker

The Absent Question in the Current Palestinian Situation **George Giacaman**
How Neoliberalism Impacted the Prospects of Democracy in Palestine **Tawfiq Haddad**
Writing the People: Textuality, Movement and the Tense of the Everyday **Peter Lagerqvist**
Elections during the National Liberation Era: A Solution or a Problem? **Azmi Shuaibi**

Second Day - Saturday, 7 October 2017

9:30 Morning Coffee

10:00 Session III: Democracy and Hegemony Chair: Asem Khalil

A Critical Review of ‘Third Termism’ in African Politics from an **Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua**
International Law Perspective
Violent Democratization as a Natural Response to Structural Violence: Theorizing **Belal Shobaki**
in Light of Arab Turmoil
Transnational Democracy on Migrant Route **Andrej Kurnik**

11:30 Break

11:45 Session IV: A Crisis of Democracy or of the Neoliberal Era? Chair: Maha Samman

Liberty, Democracy and the Restructuring of our Cities **Yazid Anani**
Democracy vs. Fake News – Is Democracy Today Threatened by the Media **Lars Grassmé Binderup**
and Social Media?
The Impact of Neoliberal Social Engineering on Political Reality in Palestine **Hasan Ayoub**

13:15 Lunch

14:15 Session V: Perspectives of Confronting the Crisis of Democracy Chair: Jihad Harb

Neoliberal Technologies of Subject Formation: The University Education System as a Model **Lena Meari**
Democracy between the Possible and the Impossible **Ramzi Rihan**
Youth Groups and the Battle over the Usurpation of the Public Sphere **Faris Shomali**

15:45 Concluding Remarks Mudar Kassis

Conference held in cooperation with the Heinrich Böll Stiftung Palestine & Jordan
and The Global Campus of Human Rights