



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

**Muwatin 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 Muwatatn Institute for Democracy and Human Rights*  
*Keynote Address by **Manfred Novak** 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