

# Mudar Kassis

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## Personal Information

Nationality: Palestinian  
Born: Jordan, 1963  
Lives in Palestine.

## Education

**1988 - MA in Philosophy. Moscow State University.**  
**1992 - Ph.D. in Philosophy (Epistemology). Moscow State University.**

## Professional experience

**1992 – present: Birzeit University, Birzeit, Palestine**

- 1992 - Present: Faculty member of the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Studies.
- 1998 – 2003: Development Coordinator for the MA Program in Democracy and Human Rights.
- 1999 – 2001: Chairperson of the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Studies.
- 1999 – Present: Council Member of the MA Program in Democracy and Human Rights.
- 2000 – 2006: Council Member of the MA Program in Law.
- 2001 – 2006: Director of the Institute of Law.
- 2004 – 2005: Acting Dean of the Faculty of Law and Public Administration (member of the University Council).
- 2005 – 2012: Co-director of the project on Judicial Independence and Human Dignity.
- 2010 – 2012: Council Member of the MA Program in Contemporary Arab Studies.
- 2012 – Present: Co-director of the Windsor Birzeit Dignity Initiative.
- 2012 – Present: Chair of the Research Ethics Committee.
- 2015 – 2021: Director of the MA Programme in Democracy and Human Rights.
- 2016 – 2021: Director of Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights.
- 2022- Present: Director of the Dignity Initiative.
- Involved in several research and educational projects including decolonization; development studies; human rights education; judicial education; law and society; measuring democratic change; political corruption; populism; reform; regulation of everyday life; research ethics; securitisation; the analysis of public opinion survey results; the concept of dignity; the growth of apathy in Palestine; and transitions to democracy.

## Publications

1. “The Post-Pandemic Bifurcation: Democratisation vs Oligarchy Radicalisation in the Arab World”, In Larbi Sadiki and Layla Saleh (eds.), *Covid-19 and Risk Society Across the MENA Region: Assessing Governance, Democracy, and Inequality*, IB Tauris. (Forthcoming November 2022)
2. *Normalization: A Discussion of Context and Causes*, Arab Forum for Alternatives, 31 March 2022. (Arabic). <https://bit.ly/NormalizationContextCausesAr>
3. (with Rita Giacaman and Maher Hashweh) “Decolonizing Knowledge Production: A Perspective on Promotion and tenure Regulations in Palestine and beyond”, In *Middle East Critique*, Vol 31 #2 2022, Pp. 105-124.

Doi: [10.1080/19436149.2022.2052466](https://doi.org/10.1080/19436149.2022.2052466)  
[https://bit.ly/Decolonizing\\_Knowledge\\_Production](https://bit.ly/Decolonizing_Knowledge_Production)

4. (with Maher Hashweh and Rita Giacaman) “Research Ethics Review: Its Need and Ethical Limitations in the Arab Context”, In *Tabayyun*, Vol 10 #38 2021, Pp. 79-105. (Arabic). Doi: 10.31430/OJWG4533  
<https://bit.ly/ResearchEthicsReview-Ar>
5. “The Future of Human Rights and the Human Right to a Future in Palestine”, In *Soft Power*, Vol 8 #15, 2021, Pp. 128-145.  
[https://bit.ly/The\\_Future\\_of\\_Human\\_Rights\\_in\\_Palestine](https://bit.ly/The_Future_of_Human_Rights_in_Palestine)
6. “Self-Determination”, In *Palestinian Emancipatory Alphabets*, Muwatin – Birzeit University, 23 August 2021. (Arabic). <http://muwatin.birzeit.edu/ar/pea/self-determination>
7. “Emancipating the Concept of Political Corruption”, In Basim Izbidi (ed.), *Political Corruption: Revisiting the Concept*, Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, Birzeit, 2021, Pp. 97-147. (Arabic).  
[https://bit.ly/Emancipating\\_the\\_Concept\\_of\\_Political\\_Corruption](https://bit.ly/Emancipating_the_Concept_of_Political_Corruption)
8. “Introduction”, In Mudar Kassis et al. *Democratisation of Palestinian Politics as a Basis to Rebuilding the National Project*, Muwatin – Birzeit University, Birzeit, 2021, Pp. 1-8. (Arabic)
9. (with Reem Bahdi) “Mastery and Gratitude: Development Aid and the Colonial Condition in Palestine”, In Sujith Xavier, Beverley Jacobs, Valarie Waboose, Jeffery G. Hewitt, Amar Bhatia (eds.) *Decolonizing Law: Indigenous, Third World and Settler Perspectives*, Routledge, 2021, Pp. 89-113.
10. “On the Impossibility of Left Populism”, In *Interfere: Journal for Critical Thought and Radical Politics*, Blog post, 16 April 2021. [https://bit.ly/On\\_the\\_Impossibility\\_of\\_Left\\_Populism](https://bit.ly/On_the_Impossibility_of_Left_Populism)
11. “Adolescence and Maturity of NGOs: Knowledge Production in the New World Order”, In Dina Khawaja (ed.), *Observing and Documenting Experiences of Teaching and Knowledge Production about Civil Society in Arab Universities and Research Centres*, Asfari Institute – American University of Beirut, Beirut, 2020, P.p. 21-31. (Arabic).  
[https://bit.ly/Adolescence\\_and\\_Maturity\\_of\\_NGOs](https://bit.ly/Adolescence_and_Maturity_of_NGOs)
12. (with Reem Bahdi) “Institutional Trustworthiness, Transformative Judicial Education and Transitional Justice: A Palestinian Experience”, In Samar El-Masri, Tammy Lambert, Joanna R. Quinn (eds.), *Transitional Justice in Comparative Perspective – Preconditions for Success*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020, Pp. 185-215. Doi: 10.1007/978-3-030-34917-2\_8
13. “The Compilation of Colonial Projects on Palestine”, In Maher al-Sharif (ed.), *One Hundred Years on the Balfour Declaration*, Institute of Palestine Studies, Beirut, 2019, P.p. 169—194. (Arabic)
14. “Introduction”, In Mudar Kassis et al. *Seven Decades since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: The History and*

- Future of Human Rights and Palestine*, Muwatin – Birzeit University, Birzeit, 2018, Pp. 1-13. (Arabic)
15. “Introduction”, In Mudar Kassis et al. *Democracy in the Public Square*, Muwatin – Birzeit University, Birzeit, 2018. Pp. 1-11.
  16. “Introduction”, In Mudar Kassis et al. *Democracy in the Public Square*, Muwatin – Birzeit University, Birzeit, 2018, Pp. 1-12. (Arabic)
  17. (with Francisco Astudillo, Razane Boustany, Henriette Gentil, and Nora Taha) “Securitisation in the Arab Region: A New Form of Kinship Relations?” In *Global Campus Human Rights Journal*, Vol 1 #2 (2017), Pp.435-462.  
[https://bit.ly/Securitisation\\_in\\_the\\_Arab\\_Region](https://bit.ly/Securitisation_in_the_Arab_Region)
  18. (With Reem Bahdi) “Decolonization, Dignity and Development Aid: A judicial Education Experience in Palestine”, In Bhatia, Amar et al. (eds.), *Third World Approaches to International Law: On Praxis and the Intellectual*, Routledge, New York, 2017.
  19. Co-editor (with Kh. Shikaki and J. Harb) *The State of Reform in the Arab World 2015: The Arab Democracy Index V*. The Arab Reform Initiative and the Palestine Centre for Policy and Survey Research, June 2017. (Arabic).
  20. (With Reem Bahdi) “Decolonization, Dignity and Development Aid: A judicial Education Experience in Palestine”, In *Third World Quarterly*, Vol 37 #11 (2016), Pp.2010-2027.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2016.1181521>
  21. “Attributes of Success for the Palestinian Resistance”, In *The Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 25 #100 (autumn 2014), Pp. 18-24. (Arabic)
  22. Co-editor (with Kh. Shikaki and J. Harb) *The State of Reform in the Arab World 2014: The Arab Democracy Index IV*, The Arab Reform Initiative and the Palestine Centre for Policy and Survey Research, August 2014. (Arabic).
  23. “Arab Dignity Revolutions and the Concept of Dignity”, In Mudar Kassis et al. *Arab Dignity Revolutions – Ideas beyond Neoliberalism*, Rawafed, Cairo, 2012, Pp. 13-25. (Arabic)
  24. “Promoting Human Rights in Colonial and Post-colonial Contexts”, In M. K. Al-Sayyid (ed.), *Human Rights Debates: Perspectives from the South*, Partners in Development, SUR, Cairo, 2011, Pp. 75-91. (Arabic).
  25. Co-editor (with Kh. Shikaki and J. Harb) *The State of Reform in the Arab World 2011: The Arab Democracy Index III*, The Arab Reform Initiative and the Palestine Centre for Policy and Survey Research, March 2011. (Arabic and English).
  26. “Meeting the Requirements of the Modern Times through the Development of Interdisciplinary Programmes in Social Sciences: The Experience of the Masters Programme in Democracy and Human Rights at Birzeit University”. In Bechir Lamine (ed.), *Towards an Arab Higher Education*

*Space: International Challenges and Social Responsibilities*, UNESCO, Beirut, 2010, Pp. 641-656.

27. "Meeting the Requirements of the Modern Times through the Development of Interdisciplinary Programmes in Social Sciences: The Experience of the Masters Programme in Democracy and Human Rights at Birzeit University", In Adnan Al-Amine (ed.), *Towards an Arab Higher Education Space: International Challenges and Social Responsibilities*, UNESCO, Beirut, 2010, Pp. 727-744. (Arabic).
28. Co-editor (with Kh. Shikaki and J. Harb) *The State of Reform in the Arab World 2009-2010: The Arab Democracy Index II*, The Arab Reform Initiative and the Palestine Centre for Policy and Survey Research, March 2010. (Arabic and English).
29. Co-editor (with Kh. Nakhleh) and co-author *Legislative Reform in Palestine: Decolonization and State Building*, Institute of Law – Birzeit University, Birzeit, 2009. (Arabic).
30. "The Impact of Learning Democracy and Human Rights on the Nature of Political Involvement: The Case of the Program in Democracy and Human Rights in Birzeit University". In M. K. Al-Sayyid (ed.), *University Education of Human Rights and the Political Movement in the Arab World*, Partners in Development, Cairo, 2009, Pp. 209-298. (Arabic).
31. (With Kh. Shikaki et al.) *The Democracy Index of Palestine: 2008*, The Palestinian Centre for Policy and Survey Research, Ramallah, 2009 (Arabic).
32. Co-editor (with Kh. Shikaki and J. Harb) *The State of Reform in the Arab World 2008: The Arab Democracy Index*, The Arab Reform Initiative and the Palestine Centre for Policy and Survey Research, April 2008. (Arabic and English).
33. (With J. Salem) [Section] 3.8. [on] Palestine, In K. Grabow et al. (eds), *Rule of Law (KAF Democracy Report 2006)*, Bouvier, Bonn, 2006, Pp. 173-193.
34. "A Commentary", In B. Ezbidi *Reform: Its Roots, Meanings, and Utility "The Palestinian Case as an Example"*, Birzeit, 2005. (Arabic).
35. "Democratization and Social Justice", In Mudar Kassis (ed.), *Challenges of the New Millennium and the Prospects of Cultural Development in the Arab World*, Birzeit University, Birzeit, 2005, Pp. 216-227. (Arabic).
36. « Réflexions sur la Possibilité de Construire une Démocratie Participative en Palestine », In *Les Annales de L'Autre Islam*, No 8, (*La Palestine en Transition*), Paris, 2001. (French)
37. (Ed.) *An Arab dialog on the Second Intifada*, Birzeit, 2001. (Arabic).
38. "Civil Society Organizations and the Transition to Democracy in Palestine", In *Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*, V.12 #1 (March 2001), Pp. 35-48.

39. (With F. Awartani and Kh. Shikaki) *The Democracy Index of Palestine: 1997-1998*, CPRS, Nablus, 1999 (Arabic).
40. *The Role of Civil Society in Transition to Democracy in Palestine*, CPRS, Nablus, 1999 (Arabic).
41. (With Awartani F. and Shikaki Kh.) *The Democracy Index of Palestine: 1996-1997*, CPRS, Nablus, 1999 (Arabic).
42. “Problematic of the Human Development Measurement in Palestine”, In N. Said (ed.) *Human Development in Palestine*, Birzeit, 1998.
43. (Chief Editor) *A Reader in Modern and Contemporary European Thought* [a Birzeit University Textbook], Birzeit, 1997. (Arabic).
44. (with Shikaki Kh.) “The Palestinian Election's Law”, In Kh. Shikaki (ed.), *The First Palestinian Elections*, CPRS, Nablus, 1997. (Arabic).
45. (with Kh. Shikaki) “The Political Environment of the First Palestinian Elections”, In Kh. Shikaki (ed.), *The First Palestinian Elections*, CPRS, Nablus, 1997. (Arabic).
46. “Relations between Society and Individuals: Some Reflections on Palestinian Civil Society”, In N. Said and R. Hamami (eds), *Analytical Studies on the Social-Political Trends in Palestine*, CPRS, Nablus, 1997. (Arabic).
47. (Chief Editor) *Civics: Democracy, Citizenship, and Human Rights in Palestine* [a schoolbook], CPRS, Nablus, 1997, Second edition – 1999 (Arabic).
48. “Palestinian Elections: A Step towards Self-Determination”, In *The Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 6 #23, (Summer 1995), Pp. 20-34. (Arabic)
49. “The Methodological Background of Exaggerated Reactions towards Western Dominance on Arab Culture”, In M. A. El-Alem (ed.), *Arab Thought on the Verge of the Twentieth Century*, Cairo, 1995. (Arabic)
50. (With A. Chusov) “On the Logical Apparatus of the Materialist Understanding of History”, In Titov, Mironov, Kolmeitsa (eds.), *The Great October, and its Effects on Social Progress and Modernity*, Moscow State University, Moscow, 1988, (Russian).

**Additional professional activities**

Participated in conferences, symposiums, and seminars, and lectured and made presentations in Algeria, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Norway, Palestine, Qatar, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

Member of:

- Member of the Scientific Advisory Committee at The [Arab Forum for Alternatives](#) (Cairo – Beirut) (2020 – Present)

- Member of the international editorial advisory board of the [Global Campus Human Rights Journal](#) (2018 - present).
- The Plenary of the [Arab Master Programme in Democracy and Human Rights](#) (a joint MA programme implemented currently by Saint Joseph University in Beirut) (2014 – present).
- The Advisory Editorial Board of the [Windsor Yearbook of Access to Justice](#) (since 2006)
- The International Advisory Group of the Centre on Human Rights in Conflict of the University of East London (2006 – 2017)
- Member of the Advisory Board of [SUR – International Journal on Human Rights](#) (2005 – present)
- The Editorial Board of the Palestine Yearbook of International Law (Vol. XII, XIII, XIV)
- The International Advisory Committee of the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (2002-2021)

Research positions, fellowships, and consultancy work:

- 2015 – 2016: Member of the Advisory Board for the ESCWA regional report “Injustice in the Arab Region and the Road to Justice”
- October 2014: The Open Society Foundation’s International Higher Education Support Programme
- December 2013: Field visit to Tunisia aiming at capturing the attitudes, sentiments, and dynamics of those engaged in mass led political change. (A Grant from the Institute of International Education - New York)
- 2009 - 2010: Distinguished Visiting Scholar, Democracy and Human Rights - The University of Windsor, Canada (includes a two-week visit to the university).
- March 2007 – June 2007: Visiting Scholar at the Free University of Brussels (VUB)
- 2007 – 2016: Advisor on the methodology of building the Arab Democracy Index for the [Arab Reform Initiative](#).
- 2004 – 2008: Steering committee member of the METAGORA project (a tool of using statistical data for the monitoring of Democracy and Human Rights).
- 2000 – Present: Senior research fellow at the [Palestinian Centre for Policy and Survey Research](#). Ramallah, Palestine.
- 1999 - 2000: Resource mapping in support of curriculum development for the MA Program in Democracy and Human Rights in Birzeit University. (A Grant from the Institute of International Education - New York).
- 1999: Main researcher in Birzeit University’s team working on the “Support to Municipal Development and Management in the Gaza Middle Area: Baseline survey” Project.
- 1999 – 2016: Research fellow at Muwatin, The Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy. Ramallah, Palestine.
- 1996 – 2000: Research fellow, Centre for Palestine Research and Studies. Nablus, Palestine.

**Languages**

Native Language: Arabic

Other Languages: English, Russian

**Community activities**

2018 – Present: Member of the Board of Trustees of AMAN.

2009 -2012: Member of the Palestinian Centre for Peace and Democracy.

2004 – Present: Member of the Board of Trustees of the Palestinian Centre for Policy and Survey Research.

2002 – 2007: Member of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Fund for Legal Aid to Palestinians (Based in Beirut).

1996 – Present: member of the Jerusalem Centre for Legal Aid and Human Rights (1996 – 2007, 2010 - 2016: Member of the Board of Directors).