



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

Muwatin's 29th Annual Conference

“Strategic Thinking in the Time of Monsters and their Wars: The Status of Rights and Prospects of Liberation”

29 and 30 October 2024

Participants

Maha Abdallah	Teaching assistant and PhD student at the Faculty of Law, University of Antwerp. Her research focuses on genocide in relation to Zionism, settler colonialism and the liquidation of the Palestinian people. She holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the Irish Center for Human Rights in Galway, Ireland.
Gilbert Achcar	Professor of Development Studies and International Relations at SOAS University of London. His latest publications include “The New Cold War” (2023) translated and published recently in Arabic by Dar AlSaqi (2024). His other publications include “The people Want: A Radical Exploration of the Arab Uprising” (2013), and “Morbid Symptoms: Relapse in the Arab Uprising” (2016).
Reem Bahdi	Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Windsor. Member of the Royal society of Canada (college of scientists, artists, and new scholars). Her research and teaching focuses on access to justice, and human dignity.
Reem Al-Botmah	Faculty member at the Institute of Law, Birzeit University. Her research focuses on socio-legal matters. She serves as assistant editor of the Palestine Yearbook of International Law.
Abdul-Rahim Al-Sheikh	Faculty member at the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Studies at Birzeit University. His work focuses on poetics, theory, and translation, with a special emphasis on the representations of Palestinian identity in prisons, camps, and cemeteries.
Nadeen Al-Taher	Palestinian law student and Transnational Law and Justice Network (TLRJN) Fellow at the University of Windsor, faculty member and TLRJN Chair.
Ahmad Atallah	Assistant researcher at Muwatin Institute, and a PHD student at University of Zaragoza. He holds a MA degree in Democracy and Human Rights from Birzeit University. Contributed to a number of research papers on the Palestinian refugee issue.
Hadil Ayoub	Assistant researcher at Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, and a teaching fellow at AlQuds Bard College. She is a PhD Candidate in the Central European University in Vienna in the field of Environmental Sciences and Policy. Her research interests include critical environmental justice, urban public spaces, and environmental colonialism.
Rana Barakat	Director of Birzeit University Museum, and Faculty member of the Department of History and Archaeology at Birzeit University. She teaches in the MA programmes in History, Democracy and Human Rights, Contemporary Arab Studies, Israeli Studies, and the PhD program in Social Sciences.
Faisal Darraj	A Palestinian critic, writer, and researcher, he obtained his PhD in Philosophy from France. He worked at the Institute of Palestine Studies in Beirut and in several Palestinian and Arab cultural and intellectual journals. Dr. Darraj taught at the Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts in Damascus. He won several Arab prizes,

	including: The Cultural Creativity Award for the State of Palestine in 2004, and the Literary Studies and Criticism Award in 2010.
Koen De Feyter	Was Professor of International Law and dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Antwerp until his untimely passing on 20 September 2024. He was a member and, for many years, spokesperson of the Law & Development Research Group. He was an expert on the right to development. He initiated a research cooperation agreement with the Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights of Birzeit University.
Basem Ezbidi	Faculty Member at the Department of Political Science at Birzeit University. Served as the director of the MA Programme of Democracy and Human Rights. He previously served as director of the MA programme in Planning & Political Development at An-Najah National University.
Tomaso Ferrando	Research Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law and Institute of Development Policy, University of Antwerp, where he is also the director of the Sustainable Development and Global Justice Legal Clinic. His research covers two main aspects: the legal construction of food systems, with particular attention to the role that civil society organizations and Indigenous People have in using and challenging legal tools; the role of law in the ongoing financialization of the so-called green economy and its socio-ecological implications.
Ibrahim Fraihat	Associate professor in international conflict resolution at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, a fellow at the Baker Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies at Juniata College, USA, and non-resident fellow at Deakin University's Middle East Studies Forum in Australia. He previously served as senior foreign policy fellow at the Brookings Institution, and taught conflict resolution at Georgetown University and George Washington University. His latest book publications include: Conflict Mediation in the Arab World (Syracuse University Press 2023), Rebel Governance in the Middle East (Palgrave 2023), Iran and Saudi Arabia: Taming a Chaotic Conflict (Edinburgh University Press, 2020). Some of his articles appeared in The New York Times, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Huffington Post, Al Jazeera websites, and elsewhere. He is the recipient of George Mason University's Distinguished Alumni Award (2014) for his achievements in the field of conflict resolution.
George Giacaman	Faculty member at Birzeit University. Specializes in philosophy and issues of democratic transition. Previously served as head of the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Studies, dean of the Faculty of Arts, and founding dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the same university. He has several published books, and publications in specialised journals. He writes political analysis for Palestinian, Arab, and international periodicals.
AbderRahman Ibrahim	Faculty member at the Department of Political Science at Birzeit University. Served previously as dean of the Faculty of Law and Public Administration at Birzeit University.
Islah Jad	Coordinator of the Equality and Social Justice Observatory at Birzeit University, and a faculty member at the Institute of Women Studies. Her research interests focus on the political participation of Palestinian women, and the development of the Palestinian feminist and women's movements. She is the (co)founder of several Palestinian women organizations.
Joyce Kashou	Programmes Officer at Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights – Birzeit University. Holds two MA degrees in Equality and Human Rights from the University of Glasgow, and Gender and Development from Birzeit University. Ms. Kashou has previously worked as a researcher focusing on social and political research.

Mudar Kassis	Director of Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, director of the Dignity Initiative, faculty member at Department of Philosophy and Cultural Studies, and director of the MA Programme in Democracy and Human Rights at Birzeit University. His current research interests, embedded in the tradition of praxis, include democratisation, decolonisation and emancipation, the concept of dignity, the everyday, research ethics, political corruption, and populism.
Thalia Kruger	Professor of Private International Law at the Law & Development Research Group of the University of Antwerp. Her interests are cross-border legal issues and the role the law can play to enhance or endanger the protection of human rights for people in marginalised positions. In this context, she has worked in international family law as well as international contracts and international procedural law.
Issam Makhoul	Director of the Emile Touma Institute for Palestinian and Israeli Studies (Haifa), and the leader of The Democratic Front for Peace and Equality.
Omar Qassis	Assistant researcher at Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, and a teaching fellow at AlQuds Bard College. He is a PhD Candidate in the Central European University in Vienna in the field of sociology and social anthropology focusing on the Political Ecology of Olive Oil.
Jumana Sabah	Assistant Researcher at Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights. She served as a legal assistant on a number of projects, with Palestinian and national institutions to promote the rule of law in Palestine. She holds a Master's degree in International and Comparative Law from the University of Zurich and a Bachelor's degree in Law with honours from Birzeit University.
Larbi Sadiki	A writer and political scientist, a professorial fellow with the Japan Society for the Promotion of science based at Chiba University, Japan. He is also a fellow at the Toda Peace Institute, Japan. He is editor of a Routledge book series on Middle Eastern Democratization, and editor of the Brill-published journal PROTEST. His co-authored book Revolution and Democracy in Tunisia, 2024 has been recently released by Oxford University Press.
Joshua Sealy-Harrington	Associate Professor and the Chair of Equality Law at the University of Windsor, Faculty of Law. Before joining Windsor, Joshua was a Law Clerk at the Federal Court and Supreme Court of Canada, as well as an Assistant Professor at the Lincoln Alexander School of Law, where he was awarded "Professor of the Year" by the student body and "Person of the Year" by the faculty association for his steadfast defence of academic and Palestinian freedom. Joshua's research (as a doctoral student at Columbia Law School) and advocacy (as Counsel at Power Law) apply critical legal theory to questions of socio-legal identity and justice, with a particular focus on Black and Palestinian solidarity/resistance.
Talal Shahwan	President of Birzeit University. He obtained his PhD degree in Chemistry from Bilkent University. Previously served at Birzeit University as Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Head of Scientific Research Committee, and Chairperson of the Department of Chemistry. His research involves surface chemistry, radiochemistry, and physical chemistry. He received a number of honours, scholarships and awards, and was constantly ranked in the Stanford-Elsevier analysis lists of the top 2% of the most cited world scientists.
Belal Shobaki	Head of the Department of Political Science at Hebron University, and a member of the Palestinian Policy Network Al-Shabaka. His research focuses on Political Islam, Identity, Democracy, and the Palestinian Question.
Gamze Erdem Türkelli	Associate Research Professor at the Law & Development Research Group of the University of Antwerp. Her work is situated in the interface of international law, human rights law and sustainable development. She conducts research into transnational human rights obligations, hybrid public-private actors in international

law such as multistakeholder partnerships, 'innovative' development financing, business & human rights, children's rights as well as accountability and responsibility. She is the Principal Investigator of the ERC Starting Grant 2023 funded GENESIS Project (www.genesis-erc.eu).

Vasanthi Venkatesh

Associate Professor in Law, Land, and Local Economies at the University of Windsor. Her research focuses on labour migration, immigration and citizenship law, social movements, racialization, and discrimination, employing an interdisciplinary approach that considers political, economic, and historical contexts. She utilizes qualitative and quantitative methods to examine how power and privilege are constructed in legal systems and how global phenomena impact local realities. Additionally, she explores how community resistance can inspire new legal and political formations. She has received multiple research grants and holds a PhD from UC Berkeley, where her dissertation used a comparative socio-legal approach regarding migrant workers. Dr. Venkatesh has also published articles on various topics, including migrant justice movements and coloniality of power.

Raef Zreik

Scholar of Jurisprudence. Holds a S.J.D. from Harvard Law School. His publications focus on many topics including political and legal theories, citizenship and identity, and the Palestinian-Israeli question.

Gentian Zyberi

Professor of International Law and Human Rights at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Oslo. Professor Zyberi has been a member of the UN Human Rights Committee (2019-2022) and a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, The Hague, the Netherlands (2016-2028). His research interests include the role of international courts and tribunals in developing international law; the protection of community interests in international law; and, transitional justice processes, especially in the Balkans.