



CALL FOR PAPERS

Women and Liberation Struggles: Palestine and the Global South Rethinking Revolutionary Histories and Futures

**A.M. Qattan Foundation and the Institute of Women Studies, Birzeit University
December 11–13th, 2017**

This seminar seeks to explore the past and present relationships between women and liberation movements and investigates ways to relink these struggles today. It is part of a much wider and more expansive work entitled *Researching Women in Revolution*, organized by the A. M. Qattan Foundation, in partnership with the Institute of Women's Studies at Birzeit University and Gallery One. The seminar is one component of a series of interventions that will prepare the grounds for a central event on women and revolutions that will be held in 2019. As part of this process we are currently soliciting academic papers, artistic and cultural interventions which engage films, photography, visual art and revolutionary histories, all of which will culminate in a photography exhibition, an art exhibition, a film screening programme, and a seminar programme to be held in December 2017 in Palestine. The material from these four events will be compiled in a publication which will form the basis for the making of the main event in 2019.

Curatorial Direction

The seminar seeks to rethink past and present relationships between feminist histories, women's movements, women's representation, the anti-colonial liberation movement in Palestine and across different geographies of struggle. It also seeks to probe the multifaceted and contradictory representations of women in literature, media, film, photography, music and visual arts. In doing so, we seek to bring Palestine and other liberation struggles around the world into conversation with one another, and bring these rich and complex experiences into dialogue with the contemporary. The seminar seeks to unearth and explore overlooked political histories, spaces, practices, subjectivities and revolutionary processes in order to shed new light on the relationships between feminisms, liberation movements, and women's representations at times of fraught relations, and their shared de-colonial projects.

This seminar, therefore, invites new reflections on the histories and contemporaneity of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), other Palestinian movements, and global liberation struggles that allow us to reexamine feminist spaces within these movements; women's revolutionary agency; the formation, negotiation, and contestation of gender norms; masculinity, patriarchy; and the articulation of overlapping notions of social, economic, and national liberation. Specifically, we are interested in the way liberation movements have created sites to advance women's liberation while offering new perspectives on how patriarchy delimited these realms and how this was contested and subverted by feminist anti-colonial visions. How was the project of women's liberation theorized and understood as an intrinsic part of an anti-colonial future? How was this translated into practice and negotiated in the movement, and in public and private lives and in processes of resistance? How do we define, articulate, theorize, and practice overlapping forms of liberation? The seminar also invites new reflections on contemporary sites of women's organizing, decolonial, anti-racist, and anti-capitalistic struggle that allow us to explore the articulations between these projects within the contemporary formations of settler colonialism, racial capitalism, imperialist war and the violence they enact on

women and peoples' lives. In Palestine, we seek to explore marginalized and overlooked spaces and experiences.

Themes

We are soliciting interventions that may address, but are not limited to, one of the following broad thematic areas or subthemes:

- *Feminist Histories and Liberation Movements in Palestine and the Global South:*
 - Zionist settler colonialism rests on gendered, racialized, and sexualized violence: how have Palestinian feminists theorized, resisted this violence, and connected it to national liberation?
 - Past and present ways feminist and national liberation struggles have been articulated and connected in the Global South and in indigenous struggles.
 - Decentering white liberal feminism: black, third-world, indigenous, and anti-colonial feminisms and the global connections these feminists have made across geographies.
 - Feminist theories of national liberation.
- *Rethinking Feminist and Decolonial Spaces and Practices Within the PLO:*
 - How have women's liberation and national liberation been theorized and practiced in the PLO and in other Palestinian resistance movements—their possibilities, potentialities, contradictions, and limitations?
 - How have Palestinian women grassroots cadre, leaders, political prisoners, and members of the armed resistance negotiated women's power, agency, and feminist decolonial viewpoints within the PLO?
 - In what ways have patriarchy and class contradicted and delimited the progressive vision of the PLO and overlapping national, social, and economic liberation?
 - Female artists and their responses to the ways land and women have been represented in the revolutionary art of the PLO through a masculine nationalist gaze.
- *Contemporary Struggles and Relinking Projects of Liberation:*
 - The politics of representation of women fighters, activists, mothers, and workers, and women's agency under settler colonialism and patriarchy, as evident within film, photography, literature, media, and visual culture.
 - Arab women's struggles today: sexual violence against women in the Middle East and its connections to colonialism, racial capitalism, and the imperialist project in the region.
 - Palestinian women's contemporary struggles against Zionist settler colonialism within 1948 occupied Palestine and the marginalized areas outside of the urban centers in the occupied territories: their realities as workers, peasants, and refugees, and the ways they are reconnecting women's liberation, class, and national liberation.
 - The impact of neoliberalism on the Palestinian women's movement.

DEADLINE

Please submit an abstract of no more than 250 words, a bio of 150 words, and a portrait image no later than **October 20th, 2017** to intern.pp@qattanfoundation.org

For more information contact the curator of the seminar at linda_tabar@brown.edu

The proceedings of the conference will be published by A.M. Qattan Foundation.