

Call for Papers

First International Graduate Student Conference in the Social Sciences
The Ph.D. Program in the Social Sciences
Birzeit University, Palestine

“Towards Anti-Hegemonic Knowledge Paradigms: Space, Place, Mobility and Power”
May 9th– May 10th, 2018

Birzeit University, Palestine

The International Graduate Student Conference in the Social Sciences at Birzeit University, conceived and organized by students in the PhD program in the Social Sciences at Birzeit, will bring together graduate students, especially from the global south, along with post-doctoral scholars and early career academics. Through this exchange, participants will interact, expand their academic networks, enhance their diverse backgrounds and witness first-hand one of the last remaining settler-colonial regimes. They will bring a wide variety of experiences to bear on common methodological and theoretical concerns.

The general title of the conference, “**Towards Anti-Hegemonic Knowledge Paradigms: Space, Place, Mobility and Power,**” suggests our purpose, which is to dissect issues of knowledge production about the global south, particularly on issues having to do with the politics of space and place, mobility and power. We also hope participants will discuss new anti-hegemonic paradigms and their potential role in understanding socio-economic and political struggles. Our purpose is to spend the two days analyzing current power relations and ways to defy and challenge them. The conference is divided into the following five sub-themes:

1. The political economy of spatiality: spatial inequalities and marginality, re/locating class, urbanization, migration and diasporas, colonial and post-colonial geopolitics of spatiality, global and transnational social and economic networks.
2. Knowledge production in the global south: discourses of power, decolonizing knowledge, indigenous knowledges.
3. Geopolitics of the everyday: globalized neoliberal lifestyles, space-time interactions, identity and popular culture.
4. Neo-colonial warfare in the global south: counterinsurgency warfare, Palestine as a lab, mass confinement and incarceration, surveillance and control, the history and future of neo-colonial wars.

5. Confronting colonialism and imperialism: anti-colonial movements, post-colonial state building, social justice movements in the Global South,

Deadline for submissions: Paper abstracts of a maximum of 500 words in Arabic or English are due on 30 August 2017. Applicants will be informed of the conference committee's decision by mid-November 2017, and full papers are to be submitted by April 1, 2018. Abstracts should be emailed to IGSC.PhD@birzeit.edu

Conference languages: Arabic and English will be the languages of the conference, and simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Financial assistance: a limited number of grants are available to support conference registration and travel and accommodation expenses for Ph.D. students from outside Palestine. After acceptance of their abstracts, applicants interested in financial support will be asked to submit proof of student status and an estimate of their travel costs. Students receiving accommodation support will be housed in local hotels.

Conference registration: all participants are required to register for the conference. Registration covers lunch and coffee breaks during the conference and the pre-conference workshop (for students only). The deadline for registration will be announced later.

Pre-conference Workshop: Ph.D. students will have the opportunity to attend a day-long workshop on theory and method on May 8, 2018. It will be led by Birzeit University Ph.D. students and faculty advisors.

Day Trip: A tour of important Palestinian sites and institutions will be organized by the conference on May 11, 2018. Cost of participation will be announced later. Limited financial assistance will be available to Ph.D. students presenting papers, and can be requested by the date to be communicated to those whose papers have been accepted.