The Gaza Strip: History, Future and New Directions for Research

It has been almost eight years since Israel’s military blockade of the Gaza Strip began in mid-2007. During this time, repeated aerial and ground invasions have killed thousands of Palestinians – including over 2100 people in the latest onslaught of July/August 2014. These assaults, and the ongoing closure of the Strip, have generated a humanitarian disaster on a scale unprecedented since Israel’s occupation began in 1967. Nonetheless, despite these enormous difficulties, Gaza remains an inseparable part of Palestine.

Saturday 31 October 2015

9.00 Registration

9.30 – 9.40 Welcoming Remarks (Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre)
Adam Hanieh, SOAS

9.40 – 10.00 Keynote Speaker (Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre)
Sara Roy, Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University

10.00 – 12.00 Panel Sessions 1 & 2

Panel 1: Food and Health (Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre)

‘We Didn’t Want to Hear the Word Calories’: Rethinking Food Security, Food Power, and Food Sovereignty – Lessons from the Gaza Closure
Aeyal Gross, Tel Aviv University/SOAS and Tamar Feldman, Assiciation for Civil Rights Israel

How Does Israeli Settler Colonialism Subjugate Palestinians? A Closer Look at Starvation as a Tool of Dispossession
Hanine Hassan, Columbia University

Carly Krakow, New York University

Panel 2: Hidden Aggression against Gaza (MBI Al Jaber Seminar Room)

Political Economy of Siege and War
Toufic Haddad, SOAS PhD Graduate

Networking the Occupation: How Israel ‘Mows the Lawn’ in Gaza and Gets Away With It
Jane Jackman, Exeter University

Funding Gaza’s Rehabilitation: Can the Donors be Trusted?
Jeremy Wildeman, Exeter University

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch (Staff Common Room - SOAS Main Building)

13.00 – 15.00 Panel Session 3

Panel 3: Representations and Contestations of Gaza (Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre)

Proposals on Legal Harmonisation between Gaza and the West Bank
Mia Swart, University of Johanesburg
Unmapping the Gaza Strip: Towards a Deterritorializing Anthropology of Palestine (and Self-Determination)
Hadeel Assali, Columbia University

The Palestinian Ruin as an Israeli Architectural Project
Léopold Lambert, The Funambulist Magazine

The Armature of Sumud: Gaza’s Networks of Resilience
Bruce Stanley, Richmond University

15.00 – 15.30   Break

15.30 – 17.30   Panel Sessions 4 & 5

Panel 4: Media and Cultural Production (Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre)

Visual Arts in Gaza: a New Form of Resistance?
Marion Slitine, EHESS (School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences) in Paris

Conditions of (Im)possibility: Echoes of Van Gogh’s Shoes in Modern Palestinian Art
Ziad Suidan

In the Shadow of the ‘Other’: The British Broadsheets’ Coverage of the First Gaza War
David Kaposi

BICOM’s Narrative Battle: the Fight for British Public Opinion during Operation Protective Edge
Loreley Hahn Herrera, SOAS

Panel 5: Politics Old and New (MBI Al Jaber Seminar Room)

Social Structures and Factional Politics in Gaza
Yaser Alashqar, Trinity College Dublin

Ibrahim Natil, University College Dublin (UCD)

Gaza Revisited: New Readings in the Social and Political History of Gaza
Jehad Abusalim, New York University

18.00 – 20.00 Post-Conference Public Panel Discussion (Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre)

Gaza: Strangulation and Resilience
The Gaza Strip came under Israeli occupation 48 years ago, in 1967. It has been the target of several Israeli wars of increasing violence, the latest -- in the summer of 2014 -- being the most destructive of all. Three renowned experts on Gaza will assess the Strip’s recent history and its present political, social and economic conditions, and discuss its future.

Ghazi Sourani, Palestinian National Council and Al-Aqsa University
Jean-Pierre Filiu, Sciences-Po and the Paris School of International Affairs
Sara Roy, Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University