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TITOLO/TITLE: Palestine as a Global Crossing for Culture, Politics, and Social Movements

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ABSTRACT (1500 parole/words):

Palestine has been for much of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries a liminal space that transcends the geographic boundaries of historic Palestine. It crisscrosses and circulates around the Arab Middle East and North Africa as well as the rest of the world as forms of political, cultural, and social relations. Palestinians within historic Palestine as well as its diasporas and supporters globally engage with the questions of occupation, anticolonial struggle, and revolutionary politics. Since the Nakba in 1948, the world bore witness to Palestine's capacity to modulate the understanding of politics, culture, society, and ideology. How does the Palestinian cause "contaminate" or "impact" communities, societies, and individuals in all spheres of life across the world? This panel seeks to investigate and unpack how the Palestinian struggle traverses national borders, upends normative Global North-South trajectories, and explore the nature of the different methodologies that focus on crossings in, through, and outside Palestine and its diasporas.

The absence of a free Palestinian state that would allow for a unified voice, at least on a macro level, allows for a multitude of varying voices from individuals, social groups, political parties, and movements that reflect the goals, hopes, dreams, and politics of Palestinians in a variety of means. Historically, we have seen this multitude of voices at critical junctures of the Palestinian movement, whether it be in the buildup to the Nakba in 1948 to the aftermaths of the Naksa in 1967 to the First and Second Intifadas to the ongoing war launched by Israel in October 2023 (Bawalsa, 2022; Chamberlin, 2015; Leopardi, 2020; Sayigh, 1996). Palestinians have as individuals, groups, and political movements mobilized for their liberation cause and have found ways to circulate it beyond their national communities over time (Thomson, Olsen, Haugbolle, 2022). Likewise, non-Palestinian individuals, groups, and parties have engaged with the circulation of the Palestinian cause and how it can relate to their issues and concerns (Khalili, 2007). Following the Naksa in 1967, the Palestinian movement and its militant turn influenced how Arab political movements and individuals conceptualized their postcolonial predicament (Haugbolle, 2017). In Europe and Japan, during the long 1960s, there was a rise in student movements engaging in solidarity work with the Palestinian cause. These student movements drew upon the Palestinian experience and its militant struggle to direct their own (Coogan and Derichs, 2022; Di-Capua, 2021; Prestel, 2020). This has become evident with the cultural crossings that have taken place in Middle Eastern cultural productions such as films and music over the decades to more recent transferences in movements such as Black Lives Matter and the LGBTQ rights movement (Atshan, 2020; Bailey, 2015; Elias, 2023; Puar, 2007; Yaqub, 2018).

Since October 2023, the Palestinian cause and its struggle for liberation has reverberated across the globe. We have seen on micro, meso, and macro levels the importance of Palestine in politics, social formations, and culture. Across the globe, the Palestinian cause has impacted all aspects of life from protests linking it to other global struggles to growing calls to boycott Israel, Germany, and corporations complicit with the occupation. The years of increasing crossings and transferring the Palestinian cause to other movements generated a fierce response. Academic and cultural boycotts, an incredibly contentious practice beforehand, remain politically divisive but have seen increasing sway in specific sectors (Takriti, 2019). Likewise, agitation by individuals for changing governmental policy towards the occupation. In particular, on the micro and meso levels, Palestinian solidarity has become a significant force as evidenced by ongoing actions and interventions across the globe.

This ongoing war and mobilization across the world did not happen independently of past historical precedents. This panel looks back from the present back to the 1970s to excavate the varying ways Palestine became a global cause. We consider the dynamism shown by Palestinians across historic Palestine to the conditions they face and how their experiences transmit and circulate to other communities. The Palestinian struggle for liberation has upended the traditional norms of North-South crossings. Rather, it shows how a part of the

Global South can rise up and influence the trajectories of peoples across the world. In particular, how Palestine influenced artistic, social, and political movements through the decades.

This panel considers the relationship of Palestinian voices on the micro, meso, and macro levels alongside their transmission and circulation across the Middle East and beyond. We are therefore looking for contributions that explore these two components from historical, anthropological, sociological, and cultural studies positions. We also invite explorations of the cross-cultural contaminations of the Palestinian cause that challenge the strict Global North-South dichotomy and reject the hegemonic logics that theory and praxis emerge from the Global North and then diffuse into the Global South. While the 1960s and 1970s saw the influence of Palestinian militant revolutionary politics on counterparts in Europe, the Americas, the Middle East, and Asia, the post-First Intifada shift towards peaceful non-violent resistance also directed the trajectories of individuals, groups, and parties abroad (Qumsiyeh, 2011; Vélez, 2016).

This panel seeks to bring together scholarship from an array of disciplines. We invite contributions that privilege Palestine as a transnational framework of crossings; that are mindful of the ways that Palestine impacts on micro, meso and macro registers; and that pay attention to intersectionality of Palestine with gender, sexuality, race, and nationality. In situating Palestine's struggle for liberation as a cause that traverses national borders and communities, we also invite contributions that locate the Palestinian struggle's impacts in contexts outside Palestinian activism. In particular, we are interested in papers that focus on the cinematic and musical crossovers with Palestine as well as queer movements and Syrian-Palestine revolutionary engagements. We welcome papers that build upon the manners in which the Palestinian cause o 'overturn' and 'decolonize' a hegemonic diffusionist narrative of mobility reliant upon North-South relational models as well as those that look to the Palestinian cause to understand other forms of oppression. Together, the panel will aim to excavate the multitudes of transmission, circulation, and contamination of the Palestinian cause in Arab, European, Asian, and other regions as well as its impacts in individual, social, political, and cultural movements.

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PROFILO ACCADEMICO DEL/DELLA/DEI/DELLE PROPONENTE/I – SHORT BIO OF PROPONENTS

Dr. **Jeremy Randall** is the Orient-Institut Beirut postdoctoral fellow and the associate director of the Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center at The Graduate Center, City University of New York. He is a historian of leftism in the Middle East with a focus on Palestine as well as leftist critiques of sectarianism and capitalism in postcolonial Lebanon. He is currently preparing a monograph on the alliance between the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and international leftist groups as an example of internationalism and solidarity with the Palestinian revolution in the 1970s and 1980s.

Dr. Sophie Chamas is Lecturer in Gender Studies at SOAS University of London. Her research sits at the intersection of feminist and queer political theory, Middle East Studies, political economy, and cultural studies. Her work is focused on the study of the life, death, and afterlife of the radical political imagination in the Middle East and its diaspora. She draws on queer and feminist speculation to rethink what constitutes worthwhile or effective political praxis in neoliberal times, as well as to highlight the potentiality of modes of contention that might appear, at first glance, as ineffective, insignificant, or counter-productive.

Dr. Insia Malik earned her Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology from the Graduate Center at the City University of New York in 2022. Insia has been invited to the Manhattan School of Music and New York University to speak about Middle Eastern musics and history as well as to demonstrate concepts of music theory and performance on the violin. Insia is an Assistant Editor at RILM (Répertoire International de Littérature Musicale).

Jack McGinn is a PhD Candidate in Sociology at London School of Economics. His PhD research seeks to outline how and why Syrian activists involved in the popular uprising of 2011 chose to organise on a non-hierarchical 'horizontal' basis, eschewing traditional leadership and party models to build widespread and resilient grassroots popular resistance networks. In doing so, he asks what lessons can be learned from the trajectory of this decentralised revolutionary social movement.

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