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

Muwatin's 31st Annual Conference
"Solidarity: From Sympathy with the Victim to Unification of Global Struggle"

Held at Birzeit University (Hall 243 – Muwatin Institute) and online

15 and 16 December 2026

Participants

Eman AlAsah	Assistant researcher and coordinator at the Dignity Initiative and an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Studies at Birzeit University. She specializes in postcolonial and cultural studies. She holds a Master's degree from Durham University and a PhD in Postcolonial Studies from Northumbria University in Newcastle. Her research interests focus on colonialism and post-colonialism and the production of knowledge.
Yara AlHindi	Researcher with an interest in contextualizing science. Holds a bachelor's degree in Actuarial Finance from Birzeit University and has professional experience in the financial technology industry
Mohammad Allahham	Second-year PhD Candidate in Human Rights, Global Politics and Sustainability: Legal and Philosophical Perspectives at Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, Italy.
Hayat AlTaweel	A political science graduate from Hebron University, with distinction. Has experience in drafting policy papers and engaging in community work with Palestinian organizations. My interests lie in issues surrounding neoliberalism, shifts in the international order, solidarity movements, and social justice.
Bayan Arqawi	Faculty member in the Department of Banking and Finance at Birzeit University since 2015. She holds a PhD from Bond University, Australia, where her doctoral research examined Legal Theories of Financial Development. Before joining academia, she worked as a Financial Analysis Manager in the ICT sector. Her research interests span political economy, finance, governance, and development. Beyond academia, Bayan is an animal rights activist.
Hasan Ayoub	A researcher analyst specializing in Palestinian affairs, U.S. politics, and international relations. He serves as the coordinator of the Ph.D. program in Political Science and the Migration and Refugee Studies Unit at An-Najah National University. He holds a Ph.D. in International Politics and Comparative Politics from the University of Denver in the United States. He was a visiting professor at the University of Denver in 2020 and at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2023.
Diego Checa Hidalgo	Lecturer in Contemporary History at the University of Granada. Head of the Peace and Conflict Institute (Granada, Spain), a member of the South Training Action Network of Decoloniality (STAND) research

	group and a member of the CLACSO Special Group on Palestine and Latin America. His main research areas are History of Civil Resistance and Nonviolent Action, Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution, and Contemporary History of the Arab World.
Bram De Smet	Holds a PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies. His PhD research delved into the slow erasure of Indigenous peoples' identity, agency and episteme, examining these processes as forms of genocide by attrition sustained through body politics and biopower. His postdoctoral project looks at how solidarity navigates exhaustion, despair and oppression while maintaining infrastructures of care and how state complicity reshaped activists' political perspectives and democratic imaginaries.
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.
Basil Farraj	The director of the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies and Faculty member in Philosophy and Cultural Studies at Birzeit University. His research focuses on political prisoners, carceral violence, and prisoners' confrontation practices against carceral regimes. His work also investigates the circulation of knowledge and practices across various carceral regimes.
George Giacaman	Faculty member at Birzeit University. Served in the past as Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Studies, and Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and Founding Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies at BZU. Specializes in Philosophy and its history including Islamic Philosophy with special interest in Ghazali and Averroes. He has published several studies in specialized journals, and author and/or editor of four books, and writes on current issues for Palestinian, Arab and international papers and media outlets.
Jannis Julian Grimm	Director of the Research Group Radical Spaces at the INTERACT Center for Interdisciplinary Peace and Conflict Research at Freie Universität Berlin and an associate researcher at the Institute for the Study of Protest and Social Movements (ipb) in Berlin. His work focuses on the dynamics of political violence and state repression, the condition and effects of radical politics and (non)violent resistance as well as transnational mobilization processes in response to violence.
Belén Habboob Martos	PhD Candidate and Predoctoral Teaching and Research Associate in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Granada. Her research interests lie in feminist anthropology, focusing on Palestinian women's political agency, displacement and identity. She is a member of the research group OTRAS: Feminist Perspectives in Social Research (SEJ-430) and has been involved in social movements advocating for Palestinian rights for over a decade.
Nadia Hindi Mediavilla	Senior Lecturer in the Department of Semitic Studies at the University of Granada. Her doctoral thesis examined the relationship between feminisms and nationalisms in Iraq. She is a member of the research group Contemporary Arab Studies (HUM-108) and a researcher on the project Legislative Changes in the Maghreb. She has been involved in

	solidarity movements with Palestine and Iraq and is a member of the University Network for Palestine (RUxP) in the Spanish State.
Aseel Huissain	Trainee Researcher at Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights and Master's student in the Democracy and Human Rights Program at Birzeit University. She is currently preparing a study entitled "The Future of the Human Rights System and Its Possibilities in the Context of Contemporary Transformations and Crises in the World Order." The study examines the challenges facing the human rights system amid ongoing geopolitical transformations and escalating crises, and explores possibilities for rethinking its roles and functions within a changing global order.
Munther Isaac	Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hope in Ramallah and a board member of the Palestinian Christian initiative Kairos Palestine. He holds a PhD in Biblical Studies from the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies in the United Kingdom, where his dissertation focused on the theology of the Promised Land. His recent publications include Christ in the Rubble: Faith, the Bible, and the Genocide in Gaza (2025).
Khalida Jarrar	A volunteer researcher at the Muwatin Institute, working on a study titled "The Class and Gender Dimensions of the Prisoner Movement and Their Reflections on the Liberation Project." She is a former detainee in Israeli prisons.
Yasmeen Jubeh	Trainee Researcher at Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights and Master's student in the Democracy and Human Rights Program at Birzeit University.
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.
Rifat Kassis	Palestinian human rights activist, author, and advocate for nonviolent resistance. He founded Defence for Children International–Palestine (DCI) and served as President of its international movement. He is a co-author of the Kairos Palestine document and Coordinator of Kairos Palestine and the Global Kairos for Justice coalition.
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.

Santosh Kumar	Research Scholar at the Centre of Arabic and African Studies, and the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. Works in the field of postcolonial comparative literature, focusing on India and Palestine, with particular emphasis on the novels of Ghassan Kanafani and Indian Marxist writer Bhisham Sahni.
Lena Meari	Faculty member at the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Institute of Women's Studies at Birzeit University, and the former head of its Union of Professors and Employees. Her teaching and research centers on anti-colonial movements, de-colonial feminist theory and methodology and liberation psychology. Her focus has been to examine the philosophy and practice of Palestinian Sumud (steadfastness) in colonial prisons and how it disrupts the colonial order and power relation. Through her work, she theorizes this Sumud as a relational, political-psycho-affective subjectivity that forges new possibilities for political praxis outside normalized political frameworks.
Islam Nasr	A social science researcher holding a Master's degree in Sociology from Birzeit University.
Sardar Saadi	Sociocultural anthropologist whose research focuses on Kurdish politics, resistance movements, democratic autonomy, and decolonial struggles in the Middle East. His work explores grassroots political organizing, transnational solidarity, and alternative forms of education and knowledge production, particularly in Kurdistan and Rojava.
Tareq Sadeq	Dean of Faculty of Business and Economics and Faculty member at Birzeit University.
Rahaf Salahat	Faculty member at the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Studies at Birzeit University. She holds a Master's in Near Eastern Studies from New York University.
Andrea Sangiovanni	Professor of Philosophy at King's College London, specializing in contemporary moral, legal, and political philosophy. held positions at the University of Cambridge and the European University Institute. His research focuses on solidarity, moral equality, and human rights. He is the author of Humanity without Dignity: Moral Equality, Respect, and Human Rights (Harvard University Press, 2017) and Solidarity: Nature, Grounds, and Value (Manchester University Press, 2024).
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.
Nimer Sultany	Legal scholar, academic, and author, he is a professor of law at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. He also directs the Centre for Palestine Studies at SOAS and serves as editor-in-chief of the "Palestine Yearbook of International Law."

Tamara Tamimi	Interdisciplinary sociolegal researcher with a PhD in Law from Queen's University Belfast, whose work draws on political science, international relations, sociology and history. She also works as an independent consultant in political economy analysis, research and organisational development.
Salim Vally	South African National Research Foundation Chair in Community, Adult and Workers' Education and a Professor in the University of Johannesburg's Education Faculty. His last four co-edited books are: Education, Economy and Society, Reflections on Knowledge, Learning and Social Movements: History's Schools, The University and Social Justice Across the Globe and Against Racial Capitalism: The Selected Writings of Neville Alexander. Vally serves on the boards of various local professional and non-governmental organisations and is active in various social movements and solidarity organisations. He is a founding member of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and the SA BDS Coalition. He has an abiding interest in linking academic scholarship with societal concerns, community participation and global solidarity.
Stefania Vlachou	Holds a Law degree and an LL.M. in Public International Law from the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, a Master of Laws from McGill University and is currently a PhD student at McGill University focusing on the continuity between liberalism and fascism and on the law as resistance.