

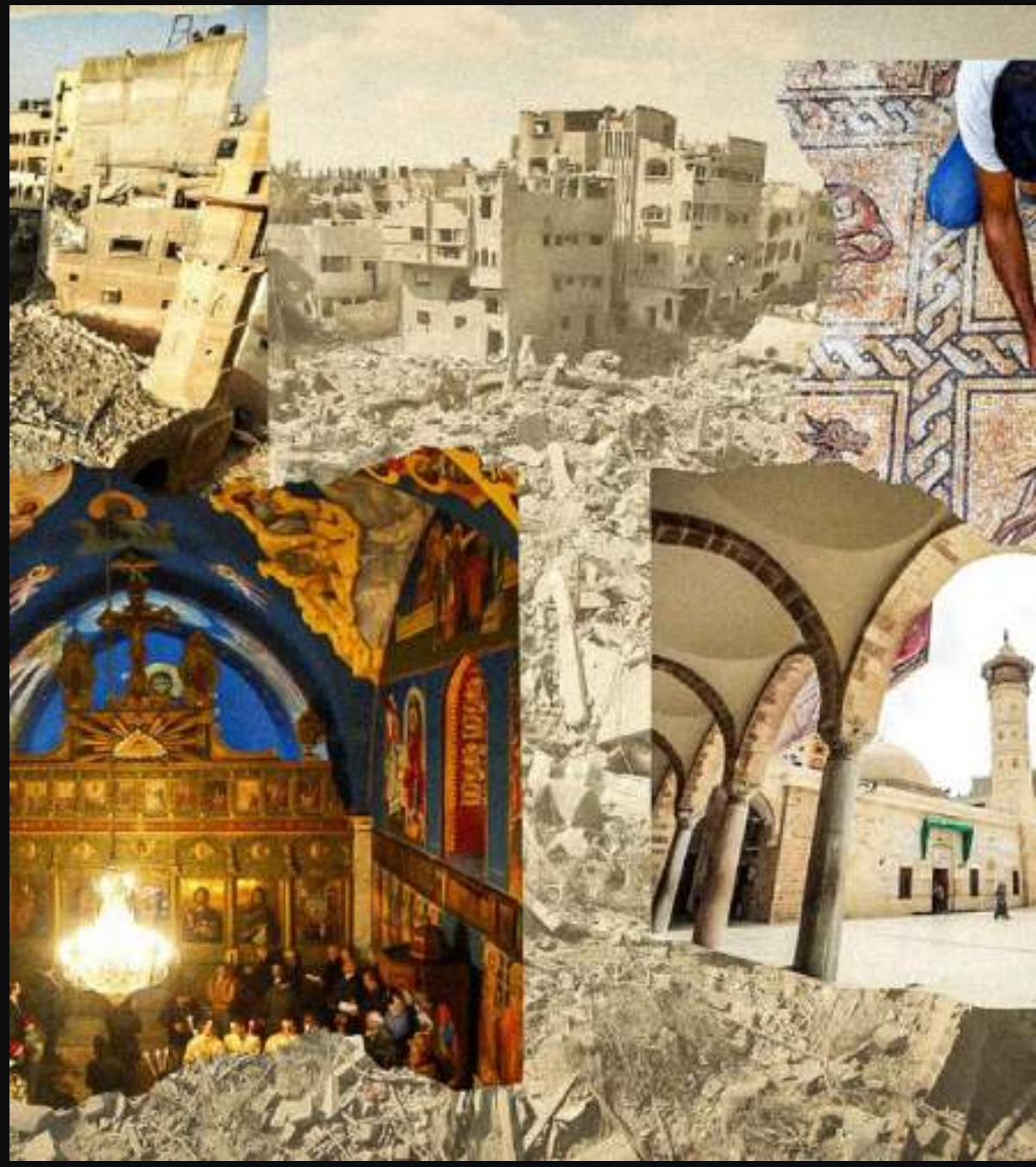
From Palestine to Lebanon
The Fighting Erasure Project

- *protecting cultural heritage and archives*
- *documenting human rights violations*
- *building capacity and resilience*
- *producing knowledge for justice*

Overview

Launched in **October 2023**, *Fighting Erasure: Digitizing Gaza's Genocide and the War on Lebanon* is a groundbreaking archival justice initiative aimed at resisting cultural annihilation through documentation, preservation, education, and advocacy.

The project addresses **the urgent need to safeguard endangered archives, cultural heritage, and indigenous memory systems across Palestine, and Lebanon**, with a focus on **Gaza** in the midst of an unfolding genocide and war.





Dr. Hanine Shehadeh
New York University Abu Dhabi



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American University of Beirut



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University of Amsterdam



Omar Khatib

Head of Ramallah City Archives; and Founder and General Coordinator of the Archives Association in Palestine



Dr. Abdul Latif Zaki Abu Hashim

Director General of the Eyes on Heritage Foundation



Hanin Alamsi

Executive Director of the Eyes on Heritage Foundation for Studies, Research, and Publishing in Gaza



Mona Bashir

Researcher in the Intangible Cultural Heritage



Rula Shahwan

Director of the Library and Visual Archive Department at the Arab American University



Fatme El Bazzal

Doctoral researcher at the Bibliotheca Arabica project (2024-), and Metadata and Reference Librarian at the Lebanese National Library

Project Management Team

An expanding global network of partners and collaborators

- International Council on Archives
- Arab American University in Ramallah
- Eyes on Heritage (Gaza)
- City University of New York's Archival Technologies Lab
- University of Amsterdam
- Dalhousie University
- University of Tokyo
- Al Jazeera English
- Archives Society in Palestine
- Lebanese Library Association
- Middle East Librarians Association
- Publishers for Palestine
- Applied Research Institute Jerusalem
- Library Freedom
- Up//root
- we here
- Interference Archive
- Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies in Jerusalem







Project Activity #1: Archives & Heritage for Palestine Seminar Series

View recordings of the series on the MELA Youtube channel.

Project Activity #2: Archiving Gaza's Genocide & the War on Lebanon

Project Activity #3: The Fighting Erasure Website - Digital Storytelling for Liberation & Return

Project Activity #4: The Environmental Footprint of Israeli Settlements Dynamics on Palestinian Farmland and Livelihoods

Project Activity #5: Terra Devastata: The Environmental Footprint of the Israeli War on South Lebanon.

Project Activity #6: Global Standards Adaption & Training for Protection of Archives

Project Activity #7: Developing a Digital Infrastructure for Archival Preservation



archives & heritage for Palestine

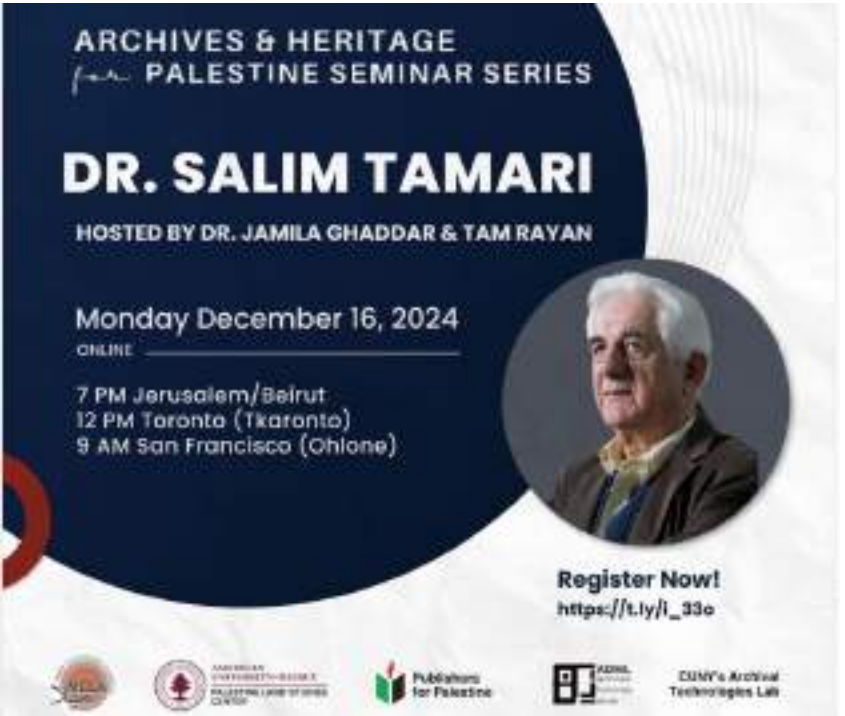
a series co-hosted by Dr. Jamila Ghaddar & Tam Rayan

الأرشيف والتراث لفلسطين


SEMINAR SERIES
ARCHIVES & HERITAGE for PALESTINE
DR. AREEJ SABBAGH-KHOURY
HOSTED BY
DR. JAMILA GHADDAR & TAM RAYAN
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024
ONLINE
7 PM JERUSALEM/BEIRUT
12 PM TORONTO (TKARONTO)
9 AM SAN FRANCISCO (OHLONE)
REGISTER NOW
https://t.ly/SoraL


ARCHIVES & HERITAGE for PALESTINE a series hosted by
Dr. Jamila Ghaddar & Tam Rayan
Dr. Salman Abu Sitta
in conversation with Ghada Dimashk
JUNE 4 live from Beirut

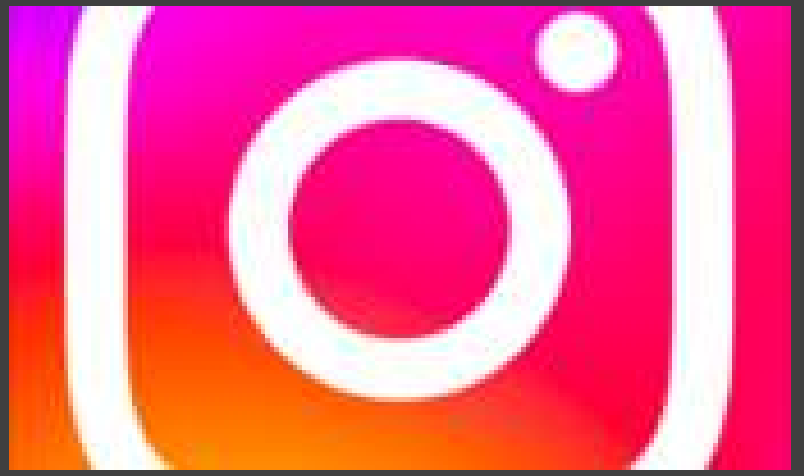

Dr. Rana Barakat
hosted by Dr. Jamila Ghaddar & Tam Rayan
OCT 23
8:30 am San Francisco (Ohlone)
12:30 pm Toronto (Tkaronto)
7:30 pm Jerusalem/Beirut


ARCHIVES & HERITAGE for PALESTINE SEMINAR SERIES
DR. SALIM TAMARI
HOSTED BY DR. JAMILA GHADDAR & TAM RAYAN
Monday December 16, 2024
ONLINE
7 PM Jerusalem/Beirut
12 PM Toronto (Tkaronto)
9 AM San Francisco (Ohlone)
Register Now!
https://t.ly/i_33o


susan abulhawa
hosted by Dr. Jamila Ghaddar & Tam Rayan
virtual
LINK IN BIO
JULY 17
9am San Francisco (Ohlone)
12pm Toronto (Tkaronto)
7pm Jerusalem/Beirut


DR. HAIDAR EID on
DECOLONIZING THE PALESTINIAN MIND
HOSTED BY DR. JAMILA GHADDAR & TAM RAYAN
MARCH 21
7 PM Jerusalem/Johannesburg
1 PM Toronto (Tkaronto)
10 AM San Francisco (Ohlone)
REGISTER https://rb.gy/ro2d23





Project Activity #2: Archiving Gaza's Genocide & the War on Lebanon

Objective: To create a comprehensive Digital Archive on the Gaza Genocide & War on Lebanon stewarded by the Archives & Digital Media Lab that documents the events, data, media, and audiovisual content from Gaza and elsewhere in Palestine, as well as Lebanon. This archive will serve as a detailed record for future reference, analysis, and historical documentation.



Project Activity #3: The Fighting Erasure Website

- Building an online archive of the unfolding genocide in Gaza
- ***Genocide, ecocide, urbicide, scholasticide, culturcide, domicide, politicide***—each category requires its own conceptual framework.
- It begins with the task of documentation: collecting data, collecting numbers, counting bodies, collecting testimonies, photographs, videos, satellite imagery, court records, medical reports, police reports, letters, pamphlets, evacuation orders, and media reports. The archive must define and categorize the layers of destruction that genocide entails, acknowledging that the Israeli annihilation of the Palestinian people is not confined to their bodies alone.

What are we documenting? Prototype



Data Categories:

- **Casualty Statistics**:
  - Breakdown by gender (men, women, children, elderly) and categories (doctors, lawyers, professors, students, medical personel etc.).
  - Geolocated maps of civilian deaths.
- **Family Records**:
  - Database documenting the **2,500 erased families**:
    - Names, photos, and narratives.
    - Places of death and villages of origin in historical Palestine.
- **Injuries**:
  - Types and severity (e.g., amputations, burns).
  - Child amputees: profiles with age, gender, location, and injuries.
- **Health Statistics**:
  - Maternal and infant deaths (with contextual comparisons).
  - Miscarriages caused by trauma or blockade.
  - Spread of diseases caused by destruction of healthcare infrastructure.
- **Media and Tools**:
  - Heatmaps showing injury and death locations.
  - Filters to view individual family profiles or injury types.



Project Activity #3: The Fighting Erasure Website - Digital Storytelling for Liberation & Return

This multimedia narrative honors Palestinian families erased from civil records through war and displacement. Blending ***3D modeling, archival footage, and symbolic storytelling***, it reconstructs life before destruction, portrays the violence of bombing, and follows the soul's journey—embodied by a sunbird—back to the homeland. The story extends to South Lebanon, where a phoenix bird represents shared resistance and memory.

➢ Educational project



Project Activity #4: The Environmental Footprint of Israeli Settlements Dynamics on Palestinian Farmland and Livelihoods

- Collecting aerial photos and coordinating data collection through field work in the West Bank
- Map the dynamics of settlements growth and its implications for land use, environmental health, and the Palestinian farmers
- Map how land and built environments are in themselves evidence of both genocide and indigenous habitation under settler colonialism.
- Collaborative project funded by the University Research Board and conducted in partnership with the Applied Research Institute Jerusalem.



Project Activity #5: Terra Devastata: The Environmental Footprint of the Israeli War on South Lebanon

- Investigates the environmental devastation caused by the Israeli onslaught on South Lebanon, which severely impacted key ecosystems critical for agriculture and livelihoods.
- Combines systematic review, satellite imagery, and fieldwork conducted by citizen scientists and trained farmers to identify contamination hotspots.
- Advanced analytical techniques—such as Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy, Gas Chromatography, and High-Performance Liquid Chromatography—measure pollutants like white phosphorus, heavy metals, and organic compounds. Microbial soil analysis and bioassay experiments with corn seedlings evaluate the ecological impact of these contaminants. Spatial mapping highlights contamination trends, filling critical research gaps in the MENA region and providing actionable insights for environmental rehabilitation and recovery.



Project Activity #6: Global Standards Adaption & Training for Protection of Archives

- Developing detailed guidelines in Arabic that outlines how to adapt existing archiving rules and standards to suit local contexts in Palestine, Lebanon and the Arab region.
- The guidelines will cover key aspects of archiving, including classification, preservation, digitization, and access. In turn, a series of training sessions will be conducted for Palestinian and Lebanese archivists.
- This work is conducted in collaboration with the **Lebanese Library Association**, **Middle East Librarians Association (Archives & Records Management Advocacy & Training Group)**, and the **Archives Association of Palestine.**



Archives & Records Management Training

- **A free online live course, Fundamentals of Archival Management & Emergency Mitigation in Palestine, Lebanon & the Global South**
- Key concepts, theories, methods, and practices that all archivists and records managers need to know;
- Key standards, guidelines, tools, technologies and resources in ARM
- How to develop and implement an emergency preparedness and disaster mitigation plan
- How to develop and implement a digitization project
- The basics of digital curation for both born-digital records and digital surrogates
- Practical methods and key ideas from around the world to decolonize, reclaim, contest, repatriate and diversity archives, records and collections





The project, Fighting Erasure, Safeguarding Palestinian and Lebanese Archives at Risk: Knowledge Exchange and Global Partnerships for Local Capacity Building and Emergency Preparedness, has been supported by the International Council on Archives (ICA) through the Fund for the International Development of Archives (FIDA).

Project Outcomes

- Completed Round 1 with 60+ participants
- We received an unforeseen number of applicants, over 400 applicants in a few days!
    - Gaza/Palestine, Lebanon, Sudan, Libya, Oman, South America, Yemen, Pakistan, India…
- **In response,** we expanded the teaching team and increased capacity to offer the course 3 times instead of once, and to have more students in each round.
- Next steps:
    - Continue expanding our teaching team and infrastructure
    - Curriculum consultation meetings and feedback to be incorporated into next round
    - Round 2 in June/July 2025
    - In person trainings in Lebanon and Palestine (tentative)
    - Developing our course portal to allow for asynchronous learning while applicants wait for their round

Project Activity #7: Developing a Digital Infrastructure for Archival Preservation

A collaborative of archival and heritage professionals and institutions to preserve and safeguard archives and heritage, as well as to provide mutual support, facilitate resource sharing and knowledge transfer, and to increase capacity for advocacy and public education.

- Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Egypt, and more broadly the Arab region.
- Create regional capacity, with the support of global partners and associations, to safeguard and preserve archives, records, collections and related heritage.
- This digital infrastructure will be housed in multiple sites to ensure a decentralized infrastructure as well as multiple copies of digital material for safety and preservation reasons.



Some of our International Participation in International Conferences and Webinars



Preserving Palestine: Cultural Heritage Under Settler-Colonialism



Palestine Annual Forum - 2024
(2nd session)



Endangered Libraries and Archives Committee (ELAC) Panel Discussion on Web Archiving Palestine



Libraries and the Digital Preservation of Cultural Heritage



Endangered Libraries and Archives Committee (ELAC) Panel Discussiona



Cultural Memory and Archival Destruction in Palestine: The Case of Gaza



The Middle East Librarians Association Annual Meeting 2024



Archival Decolonization and Knowledge Justice Roundtable

Some of our International Participation in International Conferences and Webinars



[Fighting Erasure: Archiving Against the Gaza Genocide and the War on Lebanon]



Archiving Gaza in the Present Conference



Cataloguing Palestine: Cultural Imperialism in Subject Headings



Beyond the Headlines
The Depths of the Gaza Crisis Gaza's Genocide Through Data, Media, and Technology