



The Land of Palestine: Early Ethnographers, Late Archives, and Present Law International Symposium

14 & 15 January 2026

Day I	14 January 2026
	Keynote Lecture at OIB
6:00 – 7:30 pm	On the Ethnography and Historical Geography of Palestine Salim Tamari, Professor of Sociology at Birzeit University, adjunct professor at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University and editor of the <i>Jerusalem Quarterly</i> of the Institute for Palestine Studies (IPS). Chair: Jens Hanssen, OIB Director, Professor of History, University of Toronto
Day II	15 January 2026
	AUB (IFI Conference Room, 4th floor)
9:00 – 9:30am	Opening and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zaina Jallad, PLSC Director, Assistant Professor of International Law, AUB • Susanne Dahlgren, Director of FIME - the Finnish Institute in the Middle East, Beirut • Jens Hanssen, OIB Director, Professor of History, University of Toronto
9:30 – 10:30 am	Keynote Lecture Nadia Abu El-Haj, Ann Whitney Olin Professor in the Departments of Anthropology at Barnard College and Columbia University, Co-Director of the Center for Palestine Studies, and Advisory Board Member of the PLSC at AUB. Chair: Zaina Jallad, PLSC Director, Assistant Professor of International Law, AUB
Panel I	Early Ethnographers in Palestine: Methods, Encounters, Legacies
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nadi Abusaada, Visiting Assistant Professor at the School of Architecture and Design, AUB • Falestin Naïli, Assistant Professor in Near and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Basel • Sofia Häggman, Museum of Mediterranean and Near Eastern Antiquities, Stockholm (online) Chair: Livia Wick, Associate Professor of Anthropology in the Sociology, Anthropology, and Media Studies Department AUB
12:00 – 12:15 pm	Coffee Break
Panel II	Collections and Afterlives: Archives, Materiality, and Access
12:15 – 1:15 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saqer Abu Fakher, Arabic Editing Manager at Beirut Branch Arabic Editing Manager at Beirut Branch, Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies (ACRPS). • Martin Greve, German ethnomusicologist based in Beirut and OIB Affiliated Researcher. Chair: Sonja Mejcher-Atassi, Associate Professor of Modern Arabic and Comparative Literature, Department of English and Director of the Center for Arab & Middle Eastern Studies (CAH), AUB.
1:15 – 2:00 pm	Lunch Break



Panel III	<p>Decolonizing Knowledge and the Ethics of Archiving</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issam Nassar, Professor of Modern Middle East Cultural History, Chair of History at Doha Institute for Graduate Studies and coeditor of <i>Jerusalem Quarterly</i>. • Howayda Al-Harithy, Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at the School of Architecture and Design (SoAD), and Research Director at the Beirut Urban Lab at AUB. <p>Chair/Discussant: Kirsten Scheid, Professor of Anthropology and Art Studies in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Media Studies and Affiliated Faculty in the Fine Arts and Art History Department, and Director of the Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR), AUB.</p>
3:00 – 3:15 pm	Coffee Break
Panel IV	<p>A Critical Conversation on Legal Personhood of Archives and the Politics of Accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zaina Jallad, Director of the PLSC, Assistant Professor of International Law, AUB. • Arnulf Becker, Chair in Public International Law at the European University Institute in Florence and visiting Professor at Harvard Law School. <p>Chair/Discussant: Nahed Samour, OIB Research Associate, Fellow at the Law & Society Institute at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Faculty of Law.</p>
4:15- 4:30	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Susanne Dahlgren, FIME Director</p> <p>Closing Remarks and Segway to Book Launch: <i>Resisting Erasure</i> by Rafeef Ziadah, Robert Knox and Adam Hanieh, hosted by the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Media Studies at 5:00pm at Asfari Conference Room, AUB.</p>