

Soy pan, soy paz, soy más - انا خبز انا سلام انا ما بعد

Invitation

“I had to come all the way to Mexico to rediscover Palestine,” writes literary scholar Amal Equeiq about her visit to the Mayan village of Chamula. The visible and invisible borders that separated ethnic populations, and the uneven infrastructure and resources on each side, created for her a “dramatic déjà-vu of internal colonialism” that brought her back to her native Palestine. What might we rediscover, notice, or see differently, when looking across the Atlantic from the Arab World to Latin America, and back? What contours, constellations and legacies can we trace between parts of the world infrequently considered side by side?

Transregional and translocal alliances (especially in the form of South/South dialogue) that span the Atlantic are providing impetus for collective political strategies once again. This course proposes to engage in cross-regional analysis through various texts, films, modes of inquiry and pedagogical approaches. We will begin from the specificity of the Iberian peninsula and the year 1492 marking the year of the (Re-)conquista which will provide the impetus for our cross-disciplinary exploration of a series of interrelated historical processes.

The course highlights the cross-Atlantic historical, discursive, cultural and material resonances between Latin America and the Arab world as well as the anxieties that these resonances provoke. We will engage in border thinking to probe the porosity of al-Andalous; trace the transatlantic trajectory of Yerba Mate and interrogate the architecture of occupation/separation in Mexico and Palestine. We will then turn our attention to the ‘Latin East Initiative’, an exploration of comparative indigeneity and liberatory artistic praxis in shared forms of theatre, cartoon, (rap) music and film.

Week 1

Legacies of al-Andalus -
On porosity in a frontier society

Reading

Wacks, D. (2006). *Reconquest Colonialism and Andalusí Narrative Practice in the "Conde Lucanor"*.
The John Hopkins University Press.

Shohat and Stam (). "Formations of Colonialist Discourse" from *Unthinking Eurocentrism*.

Icaza, R. (2017). *Border thinking and Vulnerability as a Knowing Otherwise* in E-International
Relations. Accessible [here](#).

Listening

Ottoman History Podcast. Episode 5: Legacies of al-Andalus. Accessible [here](#).

Looking

At Caspar Vopel's map of the "Amerasian continent"

Week 2

Transatlantic *fetishes* from Conquest to Present -
The Curious Case of Yerba Mate

Reading

Folch, C. (2010). *Yerba Mate Myths, Markets, and Meanings from Conquest to Present*. Cambridge University Press.

Ya Phoebe I've been thinking about including something on sugar, sweetness and desire here. I'm thinking of this fabulous book by Sidney Mintz called *Sweetness and Power*. We could also read his Foreword to the *Oxford Companion to Sugar and Sweets*. Find both in the folder.

On a side note I've been wanting to teach a thematic course on 'coffee or tea?' (in the tone and way offered on Egypt Air flights). The subtitle of the course will be 'سكرك قد ايه؟' I will tell you more about the course over tea :)

Hussein, S. (2018). "Mate" tea a long-time Lebanese hit. Accessible [here](#).

نورا شيشاني (٢٠١٩). مكونات شراب المنة السوري. من [هنا](#).

منة من علي ويكيبيديا من [هنا](#).

Viewing

Yerba mate in Lebanon and Syria by Matero. Accessible [here](#).

Four cultural origins of Yerba Mate by TeaPro. Accessible [here](#).

Week 3

Borderlands/La Frontera -

Architecture of occupation/separation and slow/state violence

Readings

Anzaldúa, G. (1987). *Borderlands/La Frontera*. Aunt Lute Books. Selected passages.

Conde, G. “The Physical and Mental Walls of Israel and the United States over Palestine and Mexico – Build Resistance Not Walls.” Accessible [here](#).

Eqeiq, A. (2018). *Of Borders and Limits - Comparative Indigeneity in Mexico and Palestine*. Jadaliyya.

Optional reading

Kimmelman, M. (2018). *Forensics Helps Widen Architecture’s Mission*. New York Times. Accessible [here](#).

Jawad, R. (2018). *Trajectories of Travel: Augusto Boal’s Liberatory Theatre Practice in Palestine*.
Jadaliyya.

Viewing

What is a Wall? And Other Questions. Discussion Forum: Forensic Architecture, and Walking through Walls. Accessible [here](#).

A World Not Ours by Mahdi Fleifel

Week 4

Images

Handala meets Mafalda -
A comical encounter of visionaries

Reading

Cosse, I. (2019). *Mafalda - A Social and Political History of Latin America's Global Comic*. Duke University Press. Selected passages.

Viewing

Naji Al Ali - An Artist with Vision. Accessible [here](#).

Week 6

La negra meets الست -
Two pan-regional voices

Reading

Danielson, V. (1997). *The Voice of Egypt - Umm Kalthum, Arabic Song, and Egyptian Society in the 20th Century*. University of Chicago Press. Selected passages.

Lohmann, L. (2010). *Umm Kulthum*.

Viewing

Mercedes Sosa - The Voice of Latin America (2013)
Concerts

Week 7

Rhythm, Agriculture and Poetry
- and Masculinities

Readings

Rendon, C. *Los raperos agricultores de la Comuna 13 en Medellín*. Vice. Accessible [here](#).

Wecker, K. (2017). *Peace, plants and hip-hop in Colombia*. Accessible [here](#)

Skinner, C. (2021). “*There was Something Inside of me I Needed to Let Out*”: *Occupied Masculinities, Emotional Expression and Rap Music in a Palestinian Refugee Camp*. *Men and Masculinities* XX(X).

Viewings

Hip Hop Agrario (two-part documentary in Spanish). Accessible [here](#).

AgroArte YouTube Channel. Accessible [here](#).

Shabjdeed | Interview - المقابلة | شب جديد. Ma3azef. Accessible [here](#).

Week 8

Further references

Films

Al Attar, Heba. *The Voice of a Condor*, 2014. (45 minutes)

- documentary about the Christian Palestinian diaspora in Chile

Burnat, Emad. *5 Broken Cameras*, 2012. (1h34)

Carri, Albertina. *Los rubios* , 2003.

- about Argentinian filmmaker Carri's search for her disappeared parents, or some image or memory of them.

Shehadeh, Raja. *Vanishing Landscape*, 2009.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RB2m1m-yAwo>.

- Shehadeh reads an excerpt from his book *Palestinian Walks: Notes on a Vanishing Landscape*, accompanied by photographs (~10 minutes)

Vila, Rodrigo. Mercedes Sosa: The Voice of Latin America, 2013 (1h 33m)

Memorias del subdesarrollo

Naji al-Ali: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y31yUi4WVsU>

Poetry

Rohana, Shadi. "Canasta de Poetas Mexicanos Para La Revolución Palestina." *Periódico de Poesía*. Accessed May 31, 2021.

https://www.academia.edu/35598982/Canasta_de_poetas_mexicanos_para_la_Revoluci%C3%B3n_palestina. [open access]

- From the 1981 issue of Darwish's literary magazine el-Karmel, with introductory notes translated from Arabic to Spanish by Shadi Rohana [may be able to get scans of el-Karmel to see the Arabic; can look for English translations of the poems]

Mahfud Massis - Chilean-Palestinian poet, writes in Spanish. Has some interesting poems about his double exile, first from Palestine and then from Chile.

Mahmoud Darwish

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aehlMo644ZU> (animation of the Dice Player)

Raul Zurita, Mar de dolor <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5exqFdUosYI>

Humberto Padilla

Laura Yasan

Jorgenrique Adoum

Clarice Lispector

Music

Shab Jdeed

Daboor

DAM

Shadia Mansour

Calle 13

Ana Tijoux

Art

Mafalda and Handala

Short Stories

Julio Cortazar

Joao Guimaraes Rosa - The Third Bank of the River

Borges

Ghassan Kanafani

Adania Shibli (excerpt from Touch?)

Microcuentos (el dinosaurio, el emigrante...)

Jesus Diaz - el pianista arabe

Books

Anzaldua, Gloria. *Borderlands: The New Mestiza / La Frontera*, 1987

Meruane, Lina. *Volverse Palestina ; seguido de, Volvemos otros*. Primera edición. Santiago de Chile: Literatura Random House, 2014.

(also available in Shadi Rohana's Arabic translation from Kotob Khan)

- Second-generation Chilean-Palestinian writer's account of her trip to her father's childhood home in Palestine

Ortiz, Fernando. *Cuban Counterpoint: Tobacco and Sugar*. (1940; tr. 1995)

Shehadeh, Raja. *Palestinian Walks: Notes on a Vanishing Landscape*. London: Profile, 2007. [requested from library]

Weizman, Eyal. *Hollow Land: Israel's Architecture of Occupation*. London ; New York: Verso, 2007. [requested from library]

Articles

Awartani, Sara. "Puerto Rican Decolonization, Armed Struggle and the Question of Palestine," MERIP. April 22, 2018.

<http://merip.org/2018/04/puerto-rican-decolonization-armed-struggle-and-the-question->
[open access]

Bawalsa, Nadim. "Citizens from Afar: Palestinian Migrants and the New World Order, 1920–1930" *Handbook of the History of the Middle East Mandates*, ed. Schayegh, Cyrus, and Andrew Arsan. Routledge, 2015. [PDF uploaded]

Conde, Gilberto. "The Physical and Mental Walls of Israel and the United States over Palestine and Mexico – Build Resistance Not Walls." Accessed May 31, 2021.

<https://book.stophewall.org/the-physical-and-mental-walls-of-israel-and-the-united-states-over-palestine-and-mexico/>. [open access]

Cutipa-Zorn, Gavriel. "Israel, Guatemala, and the Agricultural Roots of an Authoritarian Internationalism." *Cultural Dynamics* 31, no. 4 (2019): 350–64.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0921374019860941>. [PDF uploaded]

Abstract: On Christmas Eve 2017, less than a month after President Donald Trump unilaterally announced his decision to move the US Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Guatemala announced that it would become the second country in the world to make the same move. This article locates the historical background to the recent embassy move in the building of model villages throughout Guatemala during the height of the Guatemalan Civil War. Throughout the early 1980s, Israeli agricultural and military advisors helped to militarize the Guatemalan highlands by training Guatemalan police and military to construct plantation-style model villages. Employing the language of rural development, these model villages became a core counterinsurgent tactic for former General Efraim Rios Montt's infamous "scorched earth" policy. The article concludes by discussing how we practically cross our own mental barricades to refocus Palestine/Latinx solidarity movements toward agriculture. What possibilities are opened up when we stand from our grounded solidarities and commit to refuse exceptionalist narratives and single-issue organizing, particularly in our shared commitments to more effectively combat the ongoing practices of war-making and imperial violence?

Eqeiq, Amal. "From Palestine to Mexico (and Back): Reflections of a Literary Scholar."

Contemporary Levant 2, no. 1 (January 2, 2017): 61–66.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/20581831.2017.1322301>. [PDF uploaded]

Abstract: This essay examines the intersections among ethnography, literary history, decolonization and routes for comparative indigenous studies in the Global South. The author reflects on the meaning and the implication of rediscovering Palestine from the highlands of Chiapas, Mexico while being on a research trip to investigate the literary history of contemporary Mayan literature.

<https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/37898> (Of Borders and Limits)

Lorber, Ben. "Israel's Environmental Colonialism and Ecoapartheid," *Socialist Project: The Bullet*. June 15, 2018.

<https://socialistproject.ca/2018/06/israels-environmental-colonialism-and-ecoapartheid/>. [open access]

Rohana, Shadi. "Julio Cortázar Entrevistado Por La Revolución Palestina." *Badebec*.

Accessed May 31, 2021.

https://www.academia.edu/35598960/Julio_Cort%C3%A1zar_entrevistado_por_la_Revoluci%C3%B3n_Palestina. [open access]

- interview between Ikram Antaki and Julio Cortazar, originally published in Arabic in the 1981 issue of el-Karmel, here translated into Spanish by Rohana.

———. "Una Entrevista Peregrina." *Al Zeytun, Buenos Aires*. Accessed May 31, 2021.

https://www.academia.edu/35861483/Una_entrevista_peregrina.

- interview between Ikram Antaki and Gabriel Garcia Marquez, originally published in Arabi in the 1981 issue of el-Karmel, here translated and introduced in Spanish by Rohana.

Rubaii, Kali. "Concrete and Livability in Occupied Palestine." *Engagement* (blog),

September 20, 2016. [open access]

<https://aesengagement.wordpress.com/2016/09/20/concrete-and-livability-in-occupied-palestine/>.

- an article about space, materiality, environment, coloniality, and intraspecies living in the village of Al-Aqaba.