

**Conference on Palestine, Israel and the Assault on Academic Freedom
UC Riverside, October 22-23, 2015**

Conference Description:

Over the last few years, professors and students have seen a marked rise in attacks on scholarship and teaching that express perspectives critical of the State of Israel and its regime of occupation, dispossession and discrimination against the Palestinian people. These attacks have included the denial or withdrawal of tenure from academics; efforts to sanction or suppress the activities and even existence of organizations like Students for Justice in Palestine or the Muslim Students Association; attempts to “eliminate” classes deemed to be biased against Israel and to prevent speakers from appearing on campus; and threats to individual students and professors. This conference brings together scholars and students whose work and practice have been impacted by such assaults on academic freedom to explore the impact of selective censorship on our campuses and beyond and to affirm the necessity to protect academic freedom for everyone.

Conference sponsored by: UC Riverside Departments of Ethnic Studies and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) at UCR; UAW 2865; California Scholars for Academic Freedom; Palestine Legal; American Muslims for Palestine (AMP); Palestinian American Women's Association (PAWA); Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM) LA-OC-IE Chapter; Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP); International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network (IJAN); LA Jews for Peace; Friends of Sabeel-Los Angeles; Friends of Sabeel-Orange County; Jews for Palestinian Right of Return.

The conference is free and open to the public and disabled accessible. For more information, contact David Lloyd: david.lloyd@ucr.edu or (951) 827-1459 (messages)

Conference Schedule

Thursday, October 22: INTS 1113 CHASS Interdisciplinary Symposium Room

12.00 Program start

12.30-1.30 pm: **Keynote 1: Lisa Rofel (UCSC): "A So-called Self-Hating, Anti-Semitic Jew Speaks Out"**

Moderator: Christine Ward Gailey (UCR)

1.45- 3.15 pm: ***The Student Movement(s) for Justice in Palestine: Sites of Joint Struggle, Policing and Containment***

Moderator: A'isha Saleh (President of SJP-UCR)

Omar Zahzah (UCLA): "Countering Local Repression and the Palestine Exception to Political Speech"

Tina Matar (UCR): "Political Indoctrination or Free Speech? The Impact of Repression on Palestinian Students"

Kristian Bailey (Stanford/NSJP): "Palestine as a Site of Global Struggle: From Student Movements to Black4Palestine"

Loubna Qutami (UCR): "From GUPS to SJP: Past and Contemporary Reflections on Palestine's Student Movement"

3.30-5.00 pm: *Legal and Academic Freedom Issues*

Dima Khalidi (Palestine Legal, Chicago): "The Palestine Exception to Free Speech".

Jeff Warner/Dick Platkin (LA Jews for Peace): "Blow-Back and Campus Anti-Semitism".

Patricia Morton (UCR): "Threats to Academic Freedom at UC".

Tallie Ben Daniel (Jewish Voice for Peace): "Stifling Dissent: How Israel's Defenders use False charges of anti-Semitism to Limit the Debate over Israel on Campus".

Friday, October 23: INTS 1128 - CHASS Interdisciplinary Screening Room

9.30 -10.45: *Attacks on Academic Freedom*

Moderator: Devra Weber (UCR)

Sondra Hale (UCLA): "California Scholars for Academic Freedom: The Chilling Atmosphere and Our Resistance."

Curtis Marez (UCSD): "Olives, Almonds, and Academic Freedom."

Manzar Foroohar (CSU SLO): "Academic Freedom and the California State University System."

11.00-12.15: *Academic Freedom in Question: Palestine and the Limits of Speech*

Moderator: Nouri Gana (UCLA)

Sherene Seikaly (UCSB): "Histories of the Present: Palestine, Activism, and Academic Freedom"

Samera Esmeir (UCB): "Sites of Freedom and Divestment: Rethinking the Geopolitical Frame"

Jeff Sacks (UCR): "Translating the Question of Palestine: Counterinsurgency and the Right to Speak"

12.15-1.15: Lunch

1.15- 2.15: Keynote 2: Stephen Zunes (USF): "Suppressing Discourse on Israel/Palestine: The Attack on Human Rights and International Law"

Moderator: Fariba Zarinebaf (UCR)

2.30- 3.45: "Taboo Words": Israel, Apartheid and Settler Colonialism

Moderator: Setsu Shigematsu (UCR)

Nada Elia (Independent Scholar): "Demographic Threats and Ticking Bombs: The Diaspora is Calling."

Dina Al-Kassim (University of British Columbia): "Unlimited Debate: On Performing Academic Freedom in Public".

Mohammed Abed (CSU-LA): "Palestine and the Concept of Genocide."

4-5 pm: Keynote 3: Saree Makdisi (UCLA), "Israel, Palestine and the War on Ideas"

Moderator: Jeffrey Sacks (UCR)