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Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies – Gender Studies

Public online lecture

What Feminist Stories Should We Tell in this Moment of Decolonial Struggle in Palestine and Beyond?

Dr Zeina Zaatari (Chicago)

Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 4pm CEST

This lecture will look at storytelling as an important feminist practice for transformative social change. This historical moment we're in is laying bare the futility of international frameworks (human rights, modernity, etc.) in the face of geopolitical power structures and ongoing colonial and imperial projects. It is also raising questions around diversity and inclusion frameworks within universities and their inability to contribute to decolonial projects on the one hand and their becoming the target of right wing and fascist attacks on the other hand.
The decolonial struggle in Palestine has had reverberations across the world and particularly within the belly of the Empire, the United States. Many activists (students, faculty, community organizers, etc.) are connecting the dots and analyzing the connections between these various struggles to decolonize land, culture, and our own bodies. At the same time, we are witnessing colonial feminisms' resurgence and growing attacks on DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) frameworks on campuses. This lecture will explore these issues and the questions they raise for where and how do feminists (scholars, activists, and scholar/activists) contribute to the decolonial project.

Zeina Zaatari, Ph.D., is the Director of the Arab American Cultural Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). She is also adjunct faculty in Anthropology and Faculty Fellow in the Honors College at UIC. Zeina finished her PhD in Anthropology with a designated emphasis in Feminist Theory from the University of California at Davis. Her publications include *The Politics of Engaged Gender Research in the Arab Region: Feminist Fieldwork and Knowledge Production* co-edited with Suad Joseph and Lena Meari (I.B.Tauris 2022) and "Sarah Hegazy and the Struggle for Freedom," *Middle East Report Online* (2020). She is a trainer and mentor for The Muslim Women in the Media Training Institute supporting journalism graduate students and junior journalists in better coverage and representation of Muslim women and their issues.
For more info, please visit: arabamcc.uic.edu

This lecture is part of the lecture series "Re-locating Gender and Diversity Studies: Transnational Perspectives." For more information please visit our website.

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