The Working Series “The Middle East and South Asia in Conversation: Interventions, Control, and Resistance in the 21st Century” invites you to a lecture on:

Palestine Ltd: Neoliberal Peacebuilding and Statebuilding in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Dr. Toufic Haddad
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Despite more than twenty years of international peace-building and state-building interventions by Western donor states and international finance institutions, neither peace nor statehood are closer to realization across the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Instead a violent and fragmented reality has emerged characterized by asymmetric containment measures with both neocolonial and settler-colonial dimensions. This talk explores how a dystopian vision of ‘Palestine’ emerged from the contradictory interactions within and between the main protagonists animating this arrangement - namely, Israel, the Palestinian leadership and the Western donor community. It specifically investigates how neoliberal precepts informed the peace-building and state-building paradigms in operation across the OPT, unleashing dynamics that would effectively aim to restructure the nature of Palestinian relations with their occupiers and themselves. As utopian modeling sought to reconstitute Palestinian social relations and mould elites in specific ways, the dynamics these processes unleashed would ultimately prove too unstable to sustain the contradictions they generated and continue to generate. Based on recently de-classified and leaked sources, extensive field interviews and an in depth examination of twenty years of policy making, this talk seeks to add new insight and information to the history and political economy of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Toufic Haddad (PhD.) is the author of Palestine Ltd.: Neoliberalism and Nationalism in the Occupied Territories (Center for Palestine Studies, SOAS & I.B. Taurus, forthcoming July 2016). He completed his PhD in Development Studies at the School for Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London in 2015, where his doctoral research focused on the political economy of neoliberal approaches to conflict resolution and statebuilding in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) from 1993-2013. Before his doctorate, Haddad worked in various capacities across the OPT, including as a journalist, researcher, editor, and publisher. He is the co-author of two additional books, while his other writings have been featured in an assortment of print and online media both academic and popular. His research interests include political economy, social movements and cultural production in Palestine and the broader Middle East.

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Location: Auditorium, Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum, Geschwister-Scholl-Straße 1/3, 10117 Berlin

Organisers: Dr. Sanaa Alimia, BGS MCS and ZMO; Sadia Bajwa, IAAW; Sarah Holz, BGS MCS and IAAW; Dr. Hanan Toukan, BGS MCS

For more details see the website: interventionsandresistance.wordpress.com/