

Department of Sociology
Theories and Methodologies Research Cluster
Social Theory Centre/Authority and Political Technologies
Network
May 7, Ramphal Building 1.04, 10 am – 6 pm

Occupational Hazards



Theories and Methodologies
(Palestine/Kashmir)

10:00 – 10:30: Welcome and Introductions

Nicholas Gane & Claire Blencowe (Co-Directors, Social Theory Centre, Authority and Political Technologies Network)

Goldie Osuri (Convenor: Theories and Methodologies Research Cluster)

10:30 – 11:30: Methodological Hazards

(Chair, Prof. Nicholas Gane)

Miriyam Aouragh: Methodological hazards: Social Change, Social Media and the attempt to practice Online-Offline dialectics.

Mohamad Junaid: Research in 'conflict zones', methodological pluralism, and rethinking philosophical concepts in ethnographic research: some preliminary observations

11:30 – 11:45: Morning Tea

11:45 – 1:00 pm: **State Violence, Law and Impunity: Theories and Methodologies** (Chair: Dr. Goldie Osuri)

Gazala Farooq: Researching Sexual Violence and Impunity in Conflict Zones: A Case of Jammu and Kashmir

Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian: Palestinian Indigeniety, Israel's Settler Colonialism, and Bedouin Children's Politics of Liberation

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm: Lunch

2:00 – 3:30: **Contested Sites/Contested Concepts**

(Chair: Claire Blencowe)

Farrukh Faheem: Research in Contested Sites: Burdens and Challenges

Michael Kearney: (TBA)

Ather Zia: You cannot be neutral on a “runaway” train: Doing Militant Anthropology in Kashmir

3:30 – 4:00 Afternoon Tea

4:00 – 4:30 Session IV

‘Legal By All Means’ (Film/Work in Progress. Dir. Iffat Fatima). Introduced by Farrukh Faheem

4:30 – 6:00

Panel Discussion: Palestine/Kashmir: Transnational Histories & Possible Sovereignties
(Chair: Dibyesh Anand)

Participants: All Speakers

7: 00 pm: Barbecue at Arden House (for all participants)

ABSTRACTS AND BIOS



Dr. Miriyam Aouragh (University of Westminster, London)

Title: Methodological hazards: Social Change, Social Media and the attempt to practice Online-Offline dialectics.

Bio: Dr. Miriyam Aouragh is Leverhulme fellow at Communication And Media Research Institute at the University of Westminster, London. During her PhD she studied the implications of the internet as it was first (Web 1.0) introduced in Palestine and in particular the significance of this techno-evolution coinciding with the outbreak of the Second Intifada. At the Oxford Internet Institute (UK) she focused on the political role of new internet developments, such as blogging and social networking (Web 2.0) for grassroots activism in Lebanon and Palestine (combining ethnographic offline methodologies with critical theory). Since 2011 she writes about the complex revolutionary dynamics in the Arab world and its relation with the internet and taught Cyber Politics of the Middle East at the Oxford Middle East Centre. In 2013 she was awarded a Leverhulme fellowship to develop this into a critical study of new media in the paradoxical context of revolution and counter-revolution. Her work is published in several books and journals (see [here](#)) including her own monograph *Palestine Online* (IB Tauris 2011).

Dr. Farrukh Faheem (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai)

Title: Research in Contested Sites: Burdens and Challenges

Abstract: The methodological challenges of fieldwork in contested sites and methodology are generally seen as separate fields. Conflicts are essentially a part of human interactions and it is important to question how this phenomenon can affect the outcomes and the process of the research. From practical difficulties of contacting respondents to epistemological questions, contested sites pose multiple challenges to the researchers. In the discussion drawing from my experience of researching the 1990s uprising in Kashmir I will describe how conflict-ridden spaces are unique research sites in terms of the challenges such spaces pose to the researchers. The burdens and prestige of being an 'insider' and challenges to the reflective awareness of the research process are some of the key components of the ethical and methodological challenges faced by the researchers. While highlighting the unique challenges experienced by the researchers in conflict zones I intend to emphasize that researchers need to be creative in employing academically rigorous and adaptable methodology in such conditions

Bio: Farrukh Faheem is Assistant Professor at Tata Institutes of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India. He has worked on range of research areas that include protest movements, ethnic identity, political violence, social exclusion and marginalization. His doctoral thesis completed at University of Delhi focused on protest mobilizations in Kashmir. Kashmir conflict continues to be an abiding research concern for him.

Gazala Farooq (Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi)

Title: Researching Sexual Violence and Impunity in Conflict Zones: A Case of Jammu and Kashmir

Abstract: My work on 'sexual violence and impunity' in Jammu and Kashmir is an outcome of a larger

project by Zuban Publications at New-Delhi, India, on sexual violence and impunity in South-Asia. The project maps the use of sexual violence by nation-states in suppressing aspirations of certain populations for example, the Tamil nationalism in Sri Lanka, the successful Bengali national struggle in the then Eastern Pakistan.

With the onset of independence movement in Jammu and Kashmir in 1990, sexual violence against women and impunity around such violence in favour of the armed personnel became modus operandi of the Indian state. In my work I try to understand the impediments survivors of sexual violence face in seeking redressal against the Indian Army. While trying to delineate the available redressal mechanisms, through the experiences of victims I also try to understand how efficient courts martial prove to be, as justice delivery system for the civilian population in the region.

The relationship between law and violence is paradoxically structured or some might say there is no paradox at all. Law is essentially violence. My work focuses on how the exceptional laws applicable in the Indian Administered Kashmir "aiming to disrupt the spell of violence" generate more violence. Also I have tried to analyze these exceptional laws that take us to an inquiry on the question of law and violence, the state of emergency and the state of exception.

For the purpose of my study i undertook in-depth interviews, engaged in participant observation and used archival material. In my discussion i would like to argue that in any setting researching sexual violence poses challenges to the researchers as the survivors of the violence often remain hidden. In a conflict situation where sexual violence is used as a weapon of war and where state deliberately avoids keeping a record of such violence the research becomes even more challenging.

Bio: Gazala Farooq is a PhD candidate at the Centre for Law and Governance, Jawahrlal Nehru University at New-Delhi, India. Before joining the university she practiced law in Jammu and Kashmir court. Her research interests include Gender, violence and constitutional law.

Mohamad Junaid (City University of New York, New York)

Research in 'conflict zones', methodological pluralism, and rethinking philosophical concepts in ethnographic research: some preliminary observations

My presentation will explore ways in which research in/on 'conflict zones' forces researchers to re-examine established practices of ethnographic research, requiring them instead to deploy inventive, 'messy', and pluralistic methods of inquiry. Based on field research in Kashmir, the paper seeks to establish a mutually productive dialogue between anthropological categories and philosophical concepts as a necessity for ethnographers in conflict zones, where they experience an 'excess' in terms of disruption of analytic patterns and lines of causality. The paper, reassessing the enduring anthropological claim of making familiar strange and strange familiar, shows how this encounter with difference, which has traditionally been evoked as "cultural difference" between the modern and the non-modern, now lies at the heart of the modern itself, and is nowhere more palpable than in conflict zones, where 'normal' modes of sensing and thinking often remain in abeyance. The paper is a renewed call for treating the 'conflict zone' as a specific type of field site which is marked by the singularity of its political circumstances that make it more like other conflict zones rather than its geographically neighboring regions in which it remains embedded.

Bio: Mohamad Junaid is doctoral candidate in Anthropology at The Graduate Center, City University of New York. He is presently based in Kashmir, where he is finishing his dissertation field research. He has contributed essays in edited volumes *Everyday Occupations: Experiencing Militarism in South Asia and the Middle East* (UPenn Press 2013); *Until My Freedom Has Come: The New Intifada in Kashmir* (Haymarket Books, 2012); *Of Occupation and Resistance* (Tranquebar 2013); *The Hanging of Afzal Guru* (Penguin 2013). His writings on Kashmir have also appeared in *Economic and Political Weekly*, *Greater Kashmir*, *Kashmir Reader*, *Aljazeera*, *Tehelka*, and *Guernica*.

Dr. Michael Kearney (University of Sussex, Brighton)

Title: (TBA)

Abstract: From 2009 until the Palestinian Authority announced its intention to join on new years eve 2014, much of my scholarly and advocacy work focused on pushing for the International Criminal Court to take jurisdiction over the situation in Palestine. The initial problem to be addressed was the question of whether Palestine was a state. Mainstream international law pretends that the determination of statehood can be deduced from formal criteria but such claims are without foundation. Our approach in arguing that despite much compelling evidence to the contrary, Palestine could be recognised as a state by the Court, was labelled as a 'functional' approach, and garnered some sympathy but little support. When a legally adequate political recognition of Palestinian statehood came in the form of a UN General Assembly resolution in 2012 yet the Palestinian leadership continued to stall on taking the necessary action for more than two years, one had to ask what it was that we had been trying to create and to reflect on compromises made when seeking legal remedy for political oppression. As a proponent of anarchist social and political thought, advocating for the establishment of a state, though fundamentally the object of opposition, was accepted as a necessary compromise whereby one's professional skills could be put in some way towards immediate goals of limiting political and racist violence. As a legal scholar one can reflect on these contradictions or problems, but as a legal advocate one can only work within the legal (but actually political) framework available. The intention for the workshop then is to identify the push and pull factors in how legal scholars/advocates engage with and rely upon political forces which they nevertheless reject and oppose.

Bio: Dr Michael Kearney convenes the LLM in international criminal law at the University of Sussex. He has worked with the Palestinian human rights NGO Al Haq and his publications address issues such as propaganda for war, statehood, rights discourse, jurisdiction, and modes of liability in international law.

Professor Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian (Mada Al-Carmel/Hebrew University)

Title: Palestinian Indigeniety, Israel's Settler Colonialism, and Bedouin Children's Politics of Liberation

Abstract: The Israeli state's treatment of Bedouin Palestinian children in the Naqab reveals how neither the category of "children's rights" nor the state's claim of "the only democracy in the middle East" prevents Israel from continuing its biopolitical and geopolitical violence in securing and reproducing its eliminatory practices. In this paper, I will problematize Israeli state violence in the Naqab as an attack against children's territories and bodies. I argue that childhood in the Nagab, like all Palestinian childhood under Israel's settler colonial regime, is a highly political site that should be incorporated into political discussions. The paper will analyze Israeli statistics, law, scholarly publications, political statements, and official documents to map and understand the complex ways in which Israel's settler colonial project targets Palestinian children in the Naqab. This mapping will uncover Israel's biopolitics and geopolitics, and illuminate the state's perception of Palestinian children as infinitely replaceable and exchangeable (Pugliese 2013). The paper draws from the voices and writings of children in the Naqab in order to illustrate the lived experiences of this targeting, and argue that Israel's constant attempts to displace Palestinian children from "a healthy childhood", or "save" them from their "sick" and "primitive" society, overlooks the state's structure of Jewish supremacy and its institutionalized violence, thus serving its eliminatory ideology. The paper concludes by proposing an analytical paradigm, based on four main pillars of interlocking colonial domination. It explains how the culturalization, orientalizing, and pathologization of Palestinian children's bodily safety and psycho-social welfare conceal Israel's economic dispossession and security theology, hide Israel's immorality, and mask the necropolitics employed by the settler colonial regime.

Bio: Prof. Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian is the Lawrence D. Biele Chair in Law at the Faculty of Law-Institute of Criminology and the School of Social Work and Public Welfare at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She is a longtime anti-violence, native Palestinian feminist activist and the director of the Gender Studies Program at Mada al-Carmel, the Arab Center for Applied Social Research in Haifa. Her research focuses on law, society and crimes of abuse of power. She studies the crime of femicide and other forms of gendered violence, crimes of abuse of power in settler colonial contexts, surveillance, securitization and social control, and trauma and recovery in militarized and colonized zones. Shalhoub-Kevorkian's most recent book is entitled: *Militarization and Violence Against Women in Conflict Zones in the Middle East: The Palestinian Case Study*, Cambridge University Press, 2010. Her upcoming book is entitled: *Security Theology, Surveillance and the Politics of Fear*, published by Cambridge University Press. She has published articles in multi-disciplinary fields including *British Journal of Criminology*, *International Review of Victimology*, *Feminism and Psychology*, *Middle East Law and Governance*, *International Journal of Lifelong Education*, *American Behavioral Scientist Journal*, *Social Service Review*, *Violence Against Women*, *Journal of Feminist Family Therapy: An International Forum*, *Social Identities*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *Signs*, *Law & Society Review*, and more. As a resident of the old city of Jerusalem, Shalhoub-Kevorkian is a prominent local activist. She engages in direct actions and critical dialogue to end the inscription of power over Palestinian children's lives, spaces of death, and women's birthing bodies and lives.

Dr. Ather Zia

Title: You cannot be neutral on a “runaway” train: Doing Militant Anthropology in Kashmir

In the Kashmir valley an armed movement for liberation from the de facto Indian occupation has been ongoing since 1989. In addition to those tortured, incarcerated, wounded, widowed, and orphaned, more than 70,000 people have been killed and over 8,000 men have disappeared under the extreme militarization enforced by the Indian state. In this paper I make my ethnographic experience which diverges from the classic objectivist rules as an analytic to understand how scholarly training, and positionality, specifically the histories of “being native”, activism, advocacy, and foremost - the pivot of primary commitment can feature in social science research. I illustrate how the category of politics and ethics which inherently are the crux of any research emerge as theory and method within the paradigm of what Nancy Scheper Hughes has called “*Militant Ethnography*.” Militant ethnography allows for engaging viscerally, politically and collaboratively with the field and becomes a central mode of action to answer questions about the production of theoretical as well as applied social science knowledge. I draw conclusions about how “engaged” ethnography can enrich, change (or even impair) social science knowledge and provide new ways of thinking. The question of recognizing affect and acknowledging engagement becomes pivotal in such a research methodology, which can contribute to producing knowledge that is historically, politically and culturally rooted in grounded theory and departs from the taken-for-granted framing which in the case of Kashmir has long propagated misconstruing it as a bilateral issue paying scant attention to the indigenous Kashmiri aspirations for freedom and liberty.

Bio: Ather Zia has a doctorate degree from the Department of Anthropology at the University of California at Irvine. She also has two Masters Degrees; one in Communications from California State University Fullerton and another in Journalism from Kashmir University. She is a faculty member of the Anthropology Studies and the Gender Studies Programs. Ather has been a journalist with BBC World service. She has also done a brief stint as a civil servant with the Kashmir government which in a lighter vein she refers to as her *pre-pre-preliminary fieldwork*. She is a published author and columnist. Her essays and creative work including fiction and poetry have appeared in a variety of magazines. She has also published her first collection of poems titled “The Frame.” In 2013 she won the second prize for ethnographic poetry on Kashmir from the Society for Humanistic Anthropology (American Anthropological Association). She is the founder-editor of Kashmir Lit, a journal based on writings on Kashmir at www.kashmirlit.org.

Ather is currently working on a book manuscript based on her doctoral research on militarization, gender, and human rights abuses in Kashmir. Her fieldwork has been supported by a number of organizations including International Wenner Gren & Osmundsen Initiative, American Association of University Women, Phi Beta Kappa, DARD MAGNUS, International Peace Research Association Foundation, Center for Citizen Peacebuilding, Global Peace and Conflict Studies, & Center for Asian Studies – UC Irvine, and Human Rights Center, UC Berkeley. Ather's other major projects include co-editing a reader on Kashmir and a non-fiction anthology for Harper-Collins.

Iffat Fatima (Director, *Legal By All Means*)

Bio: Iffat Fatima is an independent documentary filmmaker based in Delhi. Her documentary films include, *Lanka - The Other Side of War and Peace* (2005), on the history of overlapping conflicts in Sri Lanka; *The Kesar Saga* (2000), which explores the story telling tradition in the Himalayan region of *Ladakh: In the Realm of the Visual* (1998), on one of India's most prolific and versatile artist and designer Dashrath Patel; *Boojh Sakey to Boojh* (1996), a four part series on a contemporary understanding of the 13th century Sufi poet and scholar Amir Khusro.

Iffat did her masters in Mass Communication from Mass Communication Research Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. Her most recent work *Ethnography of a European city: Conversations in Salzburg* (2008 - 2010), is a video installation which questions some of the assumptions in the east west polarity/ dichotomy /disparity. In 2004, she completed a Brandeis International Fellowship Program, *Recasting Reconciliation through Culture and the Arts*, at the Brandeis University, Boston, USA. In 2001, she was awarded the Asia Fellowship for her research project in Sri Lanka, *Intercommunal Relations and Education: The Sri Lankan Experience*.

Poster Design by Mir Suhail Qadiri (Artist and Political Cartoonist)

Bio: Mir Suhail, 25, is a young artist based in Kashmir, most widely known for his dark political cartoons. His work speaks to the experience of growing up and calling a place of military occupation one's home with themes ranging from human rights violations to cultural imperialism. With 10 years of experience and an array of national and international awards under his belt, he is also working to capture the many artistic possibilities offered by the textile tradition of Kashmir in his role as the Creative Director of cultural enterprise Crafted in Kashmir. He has pioneered the use of war motifs on handcrafted scarves speaking to the continuing battle over geography-an enduring legacy of the post-colonial state.