

## Warwick Social Theory Centre Seminar

### ***Beyond the Time of Genocide: Social Pain as a Site of Social Action and Hope in the Gaza Strip***

Orouba Othman

Moderated by Nadia Backleh

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025:** 4pm-5.30pm, A0.23, Social Sciences Building



#### **Abstract**

How do Palestinians in the Gaza Strip interact with their genocidal present and its predicaments on their social lives? How do they handle their non-stop traumatic experiences and their collective social pain? How remedial and emancipatory have been the applied psychological frameworks and interventions in addressing the complexities and contradictions of their traumatic experiences? And how do spaces of futurity and dynamics of hope rise amidst all?

Drawing on socio-anthropological approaches, and guided by the voices and narratives of Gazans-in-pain, the researcher engages critically with these questions, while demonstrating how the collective experiences of social pain can transform into a driving force for social action and hope. As such, she unfolds the epistemological and political risks in approaching the traumatized as individual clinical cases. Alternatively, she proposes the Communal Social Pain as a more responsive framework, as it arises from the trauma of the fractured society itself.

#### **Bio**

Orouba Othman is a doctoral researcher at the Birzeit University Social Sciences programme, researching “The Dynamics of Hope in the Everyday Society of Pain in the Gaza Strip: Multiple Futurities and Temporalities”. In support of her research, she was awarded the PARC Fellowship (2023-24), and the Tania Asaad Scholarship (2024-2025).