



POTENTIALITIES OF JUSTICE:
TOWARD COLLECTIVE REPARATIVE FUTURES

SAWYER SEMINAR AT RUTGERS-NEWARK

AFTERMATHS OF WAR

MEMORY AND HISTORIES FOR THE FUTURE

Wednesday, November 13, 2024 | 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Ruth Bader Ginsberg Hall, 15 Washington Street, Room 201, Newark, NJ



This event was made possible by the Mellon Foundation. Many thanks to our co-sponsors for their additional support.

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AFTERMATHS OF WAR: MEMORY AND HISTORIES FOR THE FUTURE

Tuesday, November 13, 2024 | 1:00 PM- 5:30 PM
Ruth Bader Ginsberg Hall, 15 Washington Street, Room 201, Newark, NJ

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM **LUNCH & LEARN**

Welcome Remarks

Amir Moosavi and Wendell Marsh

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM **SHORT FILM SCREENING**

Something Dead in Every Landscape with Abdullah Bayyari

Presenter: Abdllah Bayyari Moderator: Roula Seghaier

2:30 PM – 3:50 PM **A CONVERSATION WITH NOVELISTS PANEL**

Writing in Times of War

Panelists: Fatin Abbas, Ibtisam Azem, and Sinan Antoon

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM **HYBRID ROUNDTABLE**

Institutions of Repair

Presenters: Deirdre de la Cruz, University of Michigan, Wafa Ghnaim, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Abdourahmane Seck, Université Gaston Berger

5:30 PM – 6:00 PM **COFFEE AND TEA BREAK**

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM **PERFORMANCE AT CLEMENT'S PLACE**

This Time's Quartet

Performers: Elsa Saade, Farah Barqawi, Tracy Chahwan, Kamelya Omayma Youssef

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge and honor that Rutgers University-Newark is located on the ancestral lands of the still living, still sovereign Munsee Lunaape (lu-naa-pay) peoples, communities, and nation. We recognize, as well, the many and diverse Native American/Indigenous peoples who call this region home—past, present, and future. And we acknowledge that these same ancient, alive and biodiverse lands have been the site of colonial violence, extreme extraction of what had been living, and occupation—dispossessing, enslaving, and impacting the lives of all to this very day. This includes the world of wiping out whole living ecosystems alive with networks of fungi working with the roots of forests, krill in balance with sea life larger and smaller, and clean air, soils, and waters that regenerated the bounty of our region which was also tended by Indigenous people.

When Robert Treat and Reverend Abraham Peirson led their band of Anglo-American Connecticut Puritans to the Passaic River shoreline (just below today's NJPAC), Reverend Abraham Pierson decided to name this purchased property New Ark and he established the First Church of Newark. To this day historians claim they were founders of Newark in 1666. What's not told is the story of ongoing massacres and land grabs that forced this 1666 "purchase." Nor is it told, that from 1675–1676, Treat was the Commander in Chief of the British Colonial forces that waged war on the Narragansetts in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Although such land sales technically allowed the Munsee Lunaapes to continue land and water access for foraging and usage, those rights were increasingly disallowed. The Anglo-American values of massive land ownership and hyper-extractivist industrialization led to the rapid pollution of the pristine waters of the Passaic River Watershed Basin. Public waters became the dumping grounds of private waste, sacrificing public well-being and the biodiversity of the wetlands. It is with this true historical understanding in our hearts and soul, we now seek a return to Indigenous Local Knowledge (ILK). This intimate, ecological understanding is key to surviving and rebalancing our common, public well-being in this age of chaotic, extreme greed, driving further global warming and global disruption.

Source: Reprinted with permission from The Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series, February 17, 2024

FILM SCREENING: SOMETHING DEAD IN EVERY LANDSCAPE



Abdalla Bayyari (he/him)

Physician, Activist, and Advocate

SHORT FILM SCREENING

Abdalla Bayyari is a Palestinian, Egyptian, and Jordanian researcher, writer and academic. He is an editorial board member for the Journal of Palestine Studies. A researcher, writer, and curator, his work focuses on human, cultural, and critical geography, drawing on cultural studies and critical theory.

PANELISTS: WRITING IN TIMES OF WAR



Sinan Antoon (he/him)

Associate Professor, Author, and Novelist

PANEL: WRITING IN TIMES OF WAR

Sinan Antoon's teaching and research interests lie in pre-modern and modern Arabic literature and contemporary Arab culture and politics. His scholarly works include *The Poetics of the Obscene in Pre-Modern Arabic Literature* and numerous articles on modern Arabic poetry and contemporary Iraqi culture. His essays and creative writings in Arabic have appeared in various journals in the Arab world and in English including *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Nation*, *Journal of Palestine Studies*, *Critical Times*, and *World Literature Today*. His literary translations from Arabic include Mahmoud Darwish's *In the Presence of Absence* which won the National Translation Award given by the American Literary Translators Association. He is associate professor at the Gallatin School, New York University and co-founder and co-editor of *Jadaliyya*.



Fatin Abbas (she/her)

Author, Novelist, Writing Scholar

PANEL: WRITING IN TIMES OF WAR

Fatin Abbas is the author of *Ghost Season: A Novel* (2023), set in the borderlands of Sudan and South Sudan. Her short fiction has appeared in *Granta: The Magazine of New Writing*, *Freeman's*, *The Warwick Review* and elsewhere, and her essays and journalism have appeared in *The Nation*, *The Guardian*, *Africa is a Country*, *Bidoun*, *Die Zeit* (Germany), amongst other places. She has been a Miles Morland Foundation Writing Scholar, a Jan Michalski Foundation Writer-in-Residence, a Maison Baldwin St. Paul de Vence Writer-in-Residence, and a Fellow at the Akademie Schloss Solitude. She teaches fiction writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Ibtisam Azem (she/her)

Author, Novelist, and Journalist

PANEL: WRITING IN TIMES OF WAR

Ibtisam Azem is a Palestinian novelist and journalist, based in New York. She has published two novels in Arabic: *Sariq al-Nawm* (The Sleep Thief, 2011) and *Sifr al-Ikhtifaa* (The Book of Disappearance, 2014), both by Dar al-Jamal (Beirut/Baghdad). She was born and raised in Taybeh, northern Jaffa, and studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and later at Freiburg University in Germany, where she completed a Master's in German and English Literature, and Islamic Studies. She works as senior correspondent in New York for the Arabic daily al-Araby al-Jadeed. She is also co-editor at Jadaliyya e-zine and editor of the Arabic page.

HYBRID ROUNDTABLE: INSTITUTIONS OF REPAIR



Deirdre de la Cruz (she/her)

Associate Professor of History and Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan

HYBRID ROUNDTABLE

Deirdre de la Cruz is the Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and Associate Professor of History and Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Michigan. She also directs the Doctoral Program in Anthropology and History. She is the author of *Mother Figured: Marian Apparitions and the Making of a Filipino Universal* (University of Chicago Press, 2015) and many articles on religion in the Philippines. She has turned her attention to developing decolonial and reparative approaches to the University of Michigan's Philippine colonial collections through the major collaborative project, ReConnect/ReCollect: Reparative Connections to Philippine Collections at the University of Michigan.



Wafa Ghnaim (she/her)

Dress historian, Researcher, Author, Archivist, Curator, Educator and Embroideress

HYBRID ROUNDTABLE

Wafa Ghnaim is a Palestinian dress historian, researcher, author, archivist, curator, educator and embroideress. Her first book, *"Tatreez & Tea: Embroidery and Storytelling in the Palestinian Diaspora"* (2018), documents the traditional patterns and stories passed on to her by her mother. She is a leading educator in SWANA dress history and embroidery techniques, as the first-ever Palestinian embroidery instructor at the Smithsonian Museum. Wafa continues her mother's educational legacy through The Tatreez Institute, a global arts education initiative. She has been featured in major media outlets, including Vogue Magazine, which named her and her mother "the world's leading guardians of tatreez."



Abdourahmane Seck (he/him)

Anthropologist and Historian, University Gaston Berger of Saint-Louis

HYBRID ROUNDTABLE

Dr. Abdourahmane Seck is an anthropologist and historian based in the Faculty of Civilizations, Religions, Arts and Communication University Gaston Berger of Saint-Louis, where he teaches at the Centre for the Study of Religions. Dr. Seck is the author of several works on Islam and the south-south migration. His multidisciplinary background encompasses philosophy, anthropology and modern and contemporary African history. For the past fifteen years, he has been working on the (de)production of social and symbolic bonds in Africa, with a particular focus on religion, politics, migration, and decolonial historiography.

THIS TIME'S QUARTET



Kamelya Omayma Youssef (she/her)

Poet, Teacher, and Literary Worker

PERFORMANCE: THIS TIME'S QUARTET

Kamelya Omayma Youssef is a poet, teacher, and literary worker based between New York and Dearborn/Detroit, with roots in Lebanon. She tends to blur the borders between forms and hopes that one day borders are obliterated entirely. She is a performance worker who teaches, edits, and organizes events. Her work is published by 1080Press, Mizna, Sukoon, the Margins, Poem-a-Day and elsewhere. She and you will see a free Palestine in this lifetime. She holds a double bachelors in English and Arab & Islamic Studies from the University of Michigan, where she was also a dialogue facilitator in the Program on Intergroup Relations, and an anti-war organizer. She also continues to develop liberation-oriented creative workshops and pedagogies with her friends. Her decade of experience as an educator includes youth and adult classrooms in metro-Detroit and NYC, Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, and with incarcerated writers.



Tracy Chahwan (she/her)

Illustrator

PERFORMANCE: THIS TIME'S QUARTET

Tracy Chahwan is an illustrator and designer from Lebanon. She started her career in Beirut, producing street art and posters for local independent music venues like the Beirut Groove Collective, and working with the Samandal and zeez comics collective publishing experimental comics and anthologies. In 2018, she published her first graphic novel Beirut Bloody Beirut. In 2019, she turned to journalistic comics, collaborating in books such as Guantanamo Voices and Where to Marie? Stories of Feminisms in Lebanon. Tracy's work is marked by the radical and collaborative energy of the artistic scene in Beirut, where she worked actively the past years before she moved to the U.S. in 2019.



Farah Barqawi (she/her)

Author, Performer, Educator, and a Feminist Organizer

PERFORMANCE: THIS TIME'S QUARTET

Farah Barqawi is a Palestinian author, performer, educator, and a feminist organizer. Her poetry and essays have appeared in multiple languages on online platforms and in multiple anthologies. In 2019, She produced and hosted a season of the Arabic podcast Eib (Shame). She wrote and performed her solo piece, "Baba, Come to Me". She is the co-founder of two feminist projects: Wiki Gender and The Uprising of Women in the Arab World. She teaches Intro to Creative Writing for undergrads at New York University, where she is also a candidate for an MFA in Nonfiction Creative Writing.



Elsa Saade (she/her)

Multidisciplinary Artist and Political Mobilizer

PERFORMANCE: THIS TIME'S QUARTET

Elsa Saade is a multidisciplinary artist and political mobilizer. Over the last decade, she has been a musician, puppeteer and street performer with several political theaters including Bread and Puppet Theater and Redwing Blackbird Theater. She has also been a grant maker, fundraiser and program strategist for feminist funds and grassroots movements, such as Urgent Action Fund and Palestine Heirloom Seed Library. She bridges her practice with her lived experience in Lebanon and as an immigrant in New York City. When performing, obsessed with grief and turmoil embedded in folk songs and traditions of Bilad Al Sham and beyond, Elsa wants her music to serve as a doula of moments around metaphorical birth and death.

Mayte Green–Mercado (she/her)

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Associate Professor of History, Newark Campus Director of the Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice



Mayte Green-Mercado, Lead Principal Investigator, is an Associate Professor of History, and the Newark Campus Director of the Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice at Rutgers University. She teaches courses on race and race-making in the pre-modern world; migration, displacement, and refugees in the Mediterranean; and history of Islamic civilization. Her research focuses on medieval and early modern Mediterranean history. She teaches courses on Islamic Civilization, Islamic history in Spain and North Africa, and early modern Mediterranean history. Her courses deal with questions of religion, politics, identity, and race and ethnicity in the medieval and early modern periods.

Her Visions of Deliverance. Moriscos and the Politics of Prophecy in the Early Modern Mediterranean was published by Cornell University Press in 2019. Her current book project is concerned with histories of displacement, migration, and refugees in the early modern Mediterranean. She serves as a manuscript and grant reviewer for national and international organizations, she sits on the boards of The Mediterranean Seminar, The Spain North Africa Project, and several editorial boards, and she serves as mentor for the Race B4 Race mentorship network. She is a 2021 recipient of a Chancellor's SEED grant award for the Mediterranean Displacements Project, of which she is founder and co-director. She is co-founder of the Arabic Language Initiative at RU-N, which receives funding from the Department of Education.

Lauren Shallish (she/her)
CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Associate Professor of Critical Disability Studies, Associate Chair, Associate Professor of Disability Studies in Education, and Affiliated Faculty in Africana and American Studies

Lauren Shallish, Co-Principal Investigator, is an Associate Professor of Critical Disability Studies and Associate Chair. Dr. Shallish is an Associate Professor of Disability Studies in Education and affiliated faculty in the Africana and American Studies Departments. Her research examines the hyper-labeling of multiply-minoritized students and how constructs of ability and dis/ability are framed in higher education equity work. She teaches community-engaged courses on inclusive and social justice pedagogies, disability studies, and qualitative research. Dr. Shallish worked in higher education and urban K-12 settings, most recently as faculty at The College of New Jersey, Chief



of Staff at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, in the Office of Special Education in D.C. Public Schools (Early Stages and the Incarcerated Youth Program), and as a qualitative research assistant for the Center on Institutional and Social Change at Columbia University Law School. She was named a 2015 Exemplary Diversity Scholar for the National Center for Institutional Diversity (NCID) and has been a featured keynote speaker on the topics of equity, disability studies, and higher education. She currently serves as a grant reviewer, associate journal editor, editorial reviewer, and board member for local and national organizations. She founded the first Disability Studies program at Rutgers University, is a current partner in Teaching Against Erasure, inaugural member of The Pulitzer Center's 1619 Project Education Network, and a 2022 recipient of the Chancellor's SEED Grant Award.



Ashley Gwathney (she/her)

Adjunct Researcher, Cornwall Center of Metropolitan Studies

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Ashley Gwathney is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified School Social Worker with a doctorate in social work from Rutgers University. She has collaborated with the Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies, the New Jersey State Policy Lab, the New Jersey Scholarship Transformative Education Prison Program, and Rural Pathways. She has published in the Clinical Social Work Journal, Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work, and her co-authored paper, Learning and Liberation: Black Home Education as a Social Movement, was presented at the 2024 American Educational Research Association annual meeting. Her research focuses on the schooling experiences of minoritized youth, exclusionary discipline, and restorative justice.

Amir Moosavi (he/him)

Assistant Professor English Rutgers University – Newark

CO-ORGANIZER

Amir Moosavi is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Rutgers University-Newark, and co-organizer of the Seminar "Aftermaths of War: Memory and Histories for the Future." His research and teaching interests cover modern Arabic and Persian literatures and the cultural history of the Middle East, with an emphasis on Iran, Iraq, and the Levant. At Rutgers – Newark, he teaches courses on Arabic and Persian fiction and film, world literature, translation studies, and war culture. He is particularly interested in how cultural production deals with violent pasts, wars, notions of transitional justice, representations of urban space, and the climate crisis. Currently, he is working on a book manuscript titled Dust That Never Settles: Literary Afterlives of the Iran-Iraq War.



Wendell Marsh (he/him)

Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Rutgers University-Newark

CO-ORGANIZER

Wendell Marsh is Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Rutgers University-Newark. He received a PhD from the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies and from the Institute of Comparative Literature and Society at Columbia University in 2018. His scholarship focuses on African-Arabic textuality, the intellectual history of Islam in Africa and the African Diaspora, and religious studies. He has been awarded the Fulbright fellowship, a Ford dissertation fellowship, and a postdoc at the Buffett Institute for Global Studies at Northwestern University. He is also a co-organizer of the Seminar Series Aftermaths of War: Memory and Histories for the Future.



Roula Seghaier (she/her)

PhD candidate in Global Urban Studies Rutgers University – Newark

CO-ORGANIZER

Roula Seghaier is a labor unionist with 15 years of organizing experience with migrants, refugees, and workers of the informal economy. Her academic training is in political studies, transitional justice, and human rights and she is currently pursuing a PhD at the Global Urban Studies program at Rutgers University-Newark. Roula served as the managing editor of an indie academic publication on gender and body research from the SWANA and as the strategist for a global union federation working with the domestic workers' movement worldwide. She has one award-winning novel in Arabic. She is a co-organizer of the Seminar "Aftermaths of War: Memory and Histories for the Future."





Chris Agans (he/him)

Executive Director of New Jersey's Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prisons Consortium

CO-ORGANIZER

Chris Agans is Executive Director of New Jersey's Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prisons consortium. He leads the NJ-STEP administrative team and oversees the delivery of NJ-STEP's B.A. Program in Justice Studies. In this role he has managed the coordination of services for students attending college in New Jersey's prisons and their bridge to college in the community since 2017. Prior to this he led the development of the transitional supports for formerly incarcerated students on Rutgers University campuses (now known as the "Rutgers Mountainview Communities") and facilitated their expansion across the Rutgers system over a five year period. Agans is the former Director of the federally funded TRIO Student Support Services program for Rutgers New Brunswick.

LaChan Hannon (she/her)

Director of Teacher Preparation & Innovation Urban Education
CO-ORGANIZER

LaChan V. Hannon, Ph.D. is a former high school teacher and current Director of Teacher Preparation & Innovation in the Department of Urban Education at Rutgers –Newark. She received her Ph.D. from Montclair State University in teacher education and teacher development. Her scholarly work investigates the intersectionality of race, disability, and parent involvement as they relate to the professional development for school leaders and educators. Her TEDx Talk titled Young, Gifted & Black with Autism was released in 2016. Dr. Hannon has published articles and chapters in academic texts including: International Handbook of Self-Study of Teaching and Teacher Education Practices, Contemporary Justice Review, and Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders.



Javier Robles (he/him)

Assistant Teaching Professor and Faculty, Rutgers University and President of the Latino Action Network

CO-ORGANIZER

Javier Robles is a professor at Rutgers University. He is a Juris Doctor graduate of Seton Hall Law School and a graduate of Rutgers University. Javier Robles is a faculty member and professor of The Kinesiology and Health Department and Co-chair of the Rutgers University Disability Studies committee. He is the Director of the Center for Disability Sports, Health and Wellness at Rutgers University and Chair of the New Jersey Disabilities Covid-19 Action Committee. He has served as the Deputy Director of the NJ Division of Disability Services.

Alison Howell (she/her)

Associate Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University, Affiliate member of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

CO-ORGANIZER

Alison Howell is Associate Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University, Newark, where she is also an affiliate member of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, the Division of Global Affairs, and Global Urban Studies. She previously held research fellowships at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI) and in Politics, both at the University of Manchester, as well as a Fulbright at Brown University. Her work has also been published in the Review of International Studies, Security Dialogue, Alternatives: Global, Local, Political, Millennium: Journal of International Studies; the International Feminist Journal of Politics, the Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding, Studies in Social Justice, and International Political Sociology. Howell is also faculty advisor to the DJC.





Christina Strasburger (she/her)
Rutgers – Newark, Department of History and Africana Studies
DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR

Christina Strasburger is an administrative and academic professional with over two decades of experience in higher education. She provides a range of education, information, and advocacy services for students, faculty, staff, and community. She is co-founder of the award-winning Queer Newark Oral History Project, a community-directed initiative dedicated to recording and preserving the history of LGBTQ+ people in and of Newark, NJ. She has received the JanHerman Veenker Circle of Friends Award, a Black Organization of Students' Betty Shabazz Certificate of Education, Advising Matters' Student Advising Award, Women's History Month Committee's "Sheroe" of Newark Award, Staff Excellence Award, and the President's Recognition Award.

Mi Hyun Yoon (she/her)

PhD candidate in the American Studies Rutgers University – Newark
GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Mi Hyun Yoon is a PhD candidate in American Studies at Rutgers University-Newark. Her research looks at the history of the Korean diaspora in the United States through the transnational context of Asian America and Korea. Her latest articles are "Kung Flu and Roof Koreans: Asian/Americans as the Hated Other and Proxies of Hating in the White Imaginary," published in 2021, the Journal of Hate Studies, and "To Write in Unwellness: Documenting A/P/A Voices," published in 2022 in the Journal of Asian American Studies.



Sydney Johnson (she/her)

PhD candidate in the American Studies Rutgers University – Newark
DIGITAL CONTENT CREATOR

Sydney Johnson is a PhD candidate in the American Studies Program at Rutgers University-Newark. She holds an MA in Public History from American University and has collaborated with various cultural institutions, such as Monument Lab and New Arts Justice, the Humanities Action Lab, and the Smithsonian Institution. Notably, she served as Curator of Exhibits for the Missouri State Museum & Jefferson Landing State Historic Site from 2016-2018, making her the institution's first curator of color. Sydney studies race, place, and heritage; her current project explores how historical narratives of suburban landscapes erase Black women's labor.

Christelle Jasmin (she/her)

PhD candidate in the American Studies Rutgers University – Newark
OUTREACH CURATOR

Christelle Jasmin (she/her) is a PhD candidate in American Studies at Rutgers University-Newark. Her research utilizes a black feminist lens to theoretically and materially investigate intersections of critical animal studies and carceral studies. Her work is interested in the ways captivity frames the animalization of blackness and the racialization, or blackening, of animals. Prior to entering graduate school, Christelle earned her bachelor's degree in International Studies and with a minor in Women's and Gender studies from the City College of New York. Working closely with THE KITE, an organization that offers politically informed creative writing courses to incarcerated students in New York City, she largely works on projects related to college access and restorative justice.





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