

Macalester College
Faculty Development International Seminar

***The Israeli-Palestinian Impasse:
Dialogic Transformations?***

Overseas Dates:
May 25 - June 14, 2008

Seminar Outline

Seminar Coordinators:

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Dean of the Institute for Global Citizenship
Macalester College
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Seminar On-Site Co-coordinator:

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Independent Scholar/Researcher
Middle East Social and Cultural History

MACALESTER COLLEGE
FACULTY DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

*The Israeli-Palestinian Impasse:
Dialogic Transformations?*

May 25 – June 14, 2008
Israel & the Occupied Palestinian Territories

I. INTRODUCTION

Prior to the 2008 seminar, Macalester College had conducted *six* previous Faculty Development International Seminars. The first seminar was held in *Hungary* in the summer of 1995 with a thematic focus on “*Transition and Globalization in Central and Eastern Europe*”. The second was conducted in *Brazil* in the summer of 1997 and emphasized “*Landscape, Culture and Globalization*”. The third seminar, focusing on “*Transformation and Multiculturalism in the New Millennium*”, took place in *South Africa* in January of 2000. The fourth seminar was based in *Malaysia*, examining “*Crossroads of Diversity in Southeast Asia*” during January 2002. The fifth seminar, on “*Hybrid Geographies in the Eastern Mediterranean: A View from the Bosphorus*”, was held in *Turkey* in the summer of 2004. The 2006 seminar was held in *Taipei, Nanjing, & Shanghai* with a focus on “*Chinese Worlds*”.

Building on the foundations of these six seminars, our seventh seminar in May/June of 2008 aimed to further stretch Macalester’s brand of internationalist liberal arts education by engaging participants in an intensive intellectual and cross-cultural experience based in *Israel & the Occupied Palestinian Territories*. This seminar brought the participants face to face with some of the rich history and the major challenges of the peoples in this critical zone of the Middle East, with paramount attention given to the questions concerning the Israeli-Palestinian relations. Our primary geographical vantage points were: *Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Bethlehem*.

In addition, seminar participants had opportunities to visit other cities, villages, universities and individual contacts in pursuit of their own intellectual and cross-cultural interests during the independent study period.

This region of the world now known as the Middle East is thick with defining histories and daunting contemporary complexities. Among the specific factors that command our attention are: (a) location of some of the oldest and most remarkable of human civilizations; (b) site of the birth of the three Abrahamic faiths; (c) an area shaped by the intrusions of colonialism; (d) a congested environment in which some of the hardest and most flammable contestations over identity, belonging, and access to resources are being waged; and (e) a milieu where the supreme tasks include the making of peace and cosmopolitan orders -- ones in which difference will be respected, existential angst reduced, and liberty and justice become the grammar of life for all.

The format and content of the seminar was designed to encourage all participants to explore elements of both the deep traditions and prevailing problems (particularly the Israeli/ Palestinian conundrum) facing the region and its peoples. Consequently, the focus was on selected interdisciplinary themes while also providing information and insights into other issues of relevance to liberal learning. The proceedings of the seminar, primarily in the form of commissioned papers by scholars of the region and meditative essays by Macalester participants, were published in volume 22 of our journal, *Macalester International*.

What follows is a summary of the 2008 seminar including its purpose, topics, expectations, expenses, participants, and summary schedule.

II. PURPOSE

At Macalester College, the internationalization of liberal arts education, faculty (teaching staff), and administrators takes many forms. Among others, these include the hiring of tenure-track professors with diverse cultural backgrounds; the granting of sabbatical and other leaves to pursue international research; visiting international faculty; the International Roundtable, which brings diverse scholars together with our faculty, staff and students on campus each October; opportunities to be involved with study abroad programming and advising (more than 65% of Macalester's U.S. students study overseas as part of their degree programs), and to work with an internationally diverse student body (Macalester enrolls degree-seeking students from some 80 countries worldwide); and other college-wide, departmental or individual undertakings which bring internationalism to campus or take faculty and staff abroad.

The summer 2008 Faculty Development International Seminar had five explicit and inter-related purposes:

- ❑ To have Macalester participants jointly explore, with host society scholars, practitioners and others, interdisciplinary themes in a particular zone of the world;
- ❑ To foster a community of internationalist scholars among Macalester participants;
- ❑ To provide opportunities for individual Macalester participants and host society counterparts to engage in discussions on topics of shared intellectual interests;
- ❑ To expose Macalester participants to study abroad programs of relevance to our curriculum and of interest to our students; and
- ❑ To share Seminar outcomes with a wider community in and beyond Macalester.

III. TOPICS

The summer 2008 Macalester Faculty Development International Seminar was designed to help participants grapple - both intellectually and through hands-on personal experience - with compelling issues facing Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories within a broader Middle Eastern and global context. The Seminar was also designed to capture an important moment in Macalester College's fundamental mission of educational excellence in the context of the inter-related ideals of

global citizenship. To help accomplish this, the seminar included carefully selected commissioned papers and guest presentations; discussions with scholars and practitioners from various fields; guided and independent visits to cultural, educational, and historical sites; opportunities for independent study; and various forums for sharing the experience and the learning gained through the seminar.

The overall theme – *The Israeli-Palestinian Impasse: Dialogic Transformations?* – and its sub-topics were designed both to be focused enough to add depth to the content of the seminar and supple enough to stimulate each individual participant’s intellectual interests.

IV. SEMINAR EXPECTATIONS

Following are the College’s expectations of *Macalester participants* in this seminar:

- ❑ To engage actively in all seminar presentations, discussions, field visits, and alumni events, as well as in all related meetings at Macalester both prior to departure and upon return.
- ❑ To undertake independent reading about Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and the Middle East, both in areas of academic interests and beyond as an effort toward further development of intellectual peripheral vision.
- ❑ To undertake abroad an independent study project on a pre-selected topic and to be in contact, both during the seminar and beforehand, with resource people abroad who could provide suggestions on the independent study project.
- ❑ To facilitate discussion and to lead at least one seminar session abroad in collaboration with the relevant presenter.
- ❑ To prepare an abstract on an area of academic expertise and, if invited, to give a presentation on this topic for a host institution or community group abroad.
- ❑ To write a meditative essay (**3000-4000** words) based on the independent study project, observations, journal notes, and seminar learning and to have this essay ready for publication in the *Macalester International* by **August 15, 2008**
- ❑ Due to the nature of the seminar and local arrangements, it is Macalester’s policy that **no** spouses, friends or dependents may accompany seminar participants during the seminar dates.

V. SEMINAR EXPENSES

Macalester College, along with external support this year from the Freeman Foundation, covered most of the direct administrative and academic costs of seminar design, implementation and evaluation, as well as the cost of honoraria and expenses for speakers and authors. Funding was provided for the following *Macalester participant* expenses:

- ❑ International Group Airfare (or an equivalent travel allowance).
- ❑ Accommodation (single or double rooms) and breakfast (or breakfast stipend).
- ❑ Some working lunches.
- ❑ Convening and closing dinners or lunches.
- ❑ Basic room and board allowance during the independent study period.

Macalester participants themselves covered other costs, including:

- ❑ Most dinners and some lunches.
- ❑ Passport, visa fees, supplemental insurance (if desired).
- ❑ Personal travel, including travel during the independent study period and local commuting.
- ❑ Optional excursions.
- ❑ Tips, personal items, gifts for hosts, and incidentals.

**VI. MACALESTER COLLEGE PARTICIPANTS
(10 Total)**

ADLER, Frank

Department: Political Science

Independent Study Project: *The Mizrahim*

BOYCHUK, Terry

Department: Sociology

Independent Study Project: *NGOs and the Prospects for Peaceful Coexistence*

FORSTER-SMITH, Lucy

Department: Chaplain

Independent Study Project: *The Necessity for Religious Conversancy in Educating Student Citizen Leaders: Middle East Considerations*

GONZALEZ-CASTENADA, Olga

Department: Anthropology

Independent Study Project: *The Role of Visual Arts in Occupied Palestine*

MONAHAN, Michael

Department: International Center

(Seminar Co-coordinator)

RICKS, Thomas M.

Independent Scholar/Researcher, Middle East Social and Cultural History

(Seminar On-site Co-coordinator)

SAMATAR, Ahmed

Department: International Studies and the Institute for Global Citizenship

(Seminar Co-coordinator)

SAMMAN, Khaldoun

Department: Sociology

Independent Study Project: *Antiliberalism as a Weapon of the Weak in Occupied Palestine*

WONG, Chuen-Fung

Department: Music

Independent Study Project: *The Role of Traditional and Popular Music in the Current Conflict*

WEBER, Wendy

Department: Political Science

Independent Study Project: *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and the Challenges of Humanitarianism*

VII. SEMINAR SCHEDULE

The following is merely a summary of the *working calendar*, *due dates* and *facilitator assignments*. Further details on times, venues and individual responsibilities for session coordination and facilitation were provided to all participants but do not appear here.

Wednesday, October 17, 2007 at Macalester

Formal "Call for Applications" along with draft seminar outline distributed to all eligible Macalester faculty members and selected staff members.

Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at Macalester

Application deadline. Early application is encouraged.

Friday, December 7, 2007 at Macalester

The International Center notifies all applicants of Resource & Planning Committee final decisions.

Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at Macalester

Seminar Orientation Meeting.

Tuesday, March 11 at Macalester

Seminar Orientation and Discussion Session

Saturday, March 15 at Macalester

Due date for working drafts of commissioned papers and final abstracts of oral presentations.

Friday, April 11 at Macalester

Commissioned Paper #1. Open to Macalester students, faculty and staff.

Topic: *The Middle East: Iraq and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*

Author & Presenter: **Dr. Juan Cole**, Professor of History, University of Michigan

Dinner meeting with seminar guest presenters

Saturday, April 12 at Macalester

Oral Presentation # 1. Open to Macalester students, faculty and staff.

Topic: *Jerusalem's Unsacred Geography*

Presenter: **Dr. Salim Tamari**, Executive Director, Institute for Jerusalem Studies in Jerusalem, and Visiting Professor, University of California-Berkeley

Lunch discussion with Macalester Seminar Participants & Guest Speakers **Juan Cole** and **Salim Tamari**.

Macalester Facilitator: **Khaldoun Samman**

Dinner meeting with seminar guest presenters and participants.

Thursday, May 1 at Macalester

Commissioned Paper #2. Open to Macalester students, faculty and staff.

Topic: *Forty Years in Search of Arab-Israeli Peace*

Author & Presenter: **Dr. William Quandt**, Edward R. Stinius Professor of Politics, University of Virginia

Dinner meeting with seminar guest presenters, participants and guests.

Tuesday, May 13

Final pre-departure orientation session with a focus on the required readings.

Wednesday, May 21 – Saturday, May 24

Seminar coordinators meet in Jerusalem.

Saturday, May 24

Recommended departure date for participants leaving from Minneapolis/St. Paul.

Sunday, May 25

Macalester participants arrive in Jerusalem.

Monday, May 26

Initial On-site Orientation Meeting

Oral Presentation #2

Topic: *A Socio-Cultural and Historical Introduction to Jerusalem*

Presenter: **Albert Aghazarian**, Independent Scholar and former faculty member in the Department of History, Birzeit University.

Tuesday, May 27

Visit to Mount Scopus Campus of Hebrew University.

Commissioned Paper #3

Topic: *Difficult Dialogues: Israeli Perspectives on the Failure of the Oslo Process*

Presenter: **Dr. Avraham Sela**, Professor and A. Ephraim and Shirley Diamond Chair in International Relations, Hebrew University.

Seminar lunch discussion with the presenter and guests.

Venue: Hebrew University Private Dining Room

Oral Presentation #3

Topic: *Faculty Research at the Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace*

Presenters: **Moshe Maoz**, Truman Scholar, Middle East expert, and former Academic Director of the Truman Institute (1975-79 and 1992-1997); **Amnon Cohen**, former Academic Director of the Truman Institute (1998-2003), member of the Iraq Unit of the Truman Institute, and winner of the 2007 Israel Prize for Land of Israel Studies; **Bosmat Yeffet-Avshalom**, Truman Scholar undertaking research on “*The Discourse of Human Rights in the Arab World: A Comparative Analysis Between Egypt and Jordan*”; **Itamar Radai**, Truman Scholar undertaking research on “*A Tale of Cities: The Palestinian-Arab Society, Institutions and Warriors in Jerusalem and Jaffa, December 1947-May 1948*”; and **Ruth Roded**, Truman Institute Coordinator on “*Gender, Space and Forms of Domination in the*

Middle East".

Oral Presentation #4

Topic: *Study Abroad Programs at Hebrew University*

Presenter: **Shimon Lipsky**, Vice Provost, Rothberg International School for Overseas Students

Oral Presentation #5

Topic: Reflections on Dark Hope

Presenter: **David Schulman**

Wednesday, May 28

Oral Presentation #6

Topic: *Seminar Excursion: Walking Visit in Jerusalem*

Academic & Cultural Guide: **Albert Aghazarian**

Seminar Reception & Dinner

Thursday, May 29

Oral Presentation #7

Topic: *Forty Years of Palestinian Education Under Israeli Occupation, 1967-2007*

This session draws on Dr. Ricks' oral history project on Palestinian schools and his experiences from 1983-85 teaching at Birzeit University.

Presenter: **Dr. Thomas M. Ricks**

Visit to **Rockefeller Museum** and **PASSIA**.

2:00-4:00pm: **Oral Presentation #8**

Topic: *Research on Palestinian & International Affairs*

Presenter: **Dr. Mahdi F. Abdul-Hadi**, Executive Director, Palestinian Academic Society of the Study of International Affairs (PASSIA).

Friday, May 30

Oral Presentation #9

Topic: *Educational Excursion to West Bank Villages.*

This may include a visit to Jericho, the Rift Valley, a monastery, and villages en route to Ramallah.

Cultural Guide: **Raed Saadeh**

Group Discussion of Independent Study Projects

Saturday, May 31

Oral Presentation #10

Topic: *Educational Excursion: Palestinian Refugees & Israeli Settlements*

Presenter & Guide: **Dr. Adel Yahya**, Director, Palestinian Association for Cultural Exchange (PACE)

This excursion may include a visit to the Jalazone Refugee Camp, the U.N. school, an Israeli settlement in the Ramallah area, and selected archeological sites in the greater Ramallah-al-Tireh, Bitunya and al-Bireh area.

Sunday, June 1

Oral Presentation #11

Topic: *Difficult Dialogues: A Palestinian Perspective on the Conflict*

Presenter: **Dr. Ali Jarbawi**, Political Science Department, Birzeit University (& Macalester Alum Parent).

Seminar lunch discussion with the presenter and guests

Venue: TBA

Commissioned Paper #4

Topic: *Hydropolitics: Water and Difficult Dialogues on Resources*

Author & Presenter: **Dr. Abdel al-Rahman Tamimi**, Director General, Palestinian Hydrology Group.

Monday, June 2

Oral Presentation #12

Topic: *Briefing on 1948, Canada Park and the Latroun Monastery.*

Presenter: **Dr. Saleh Jawad**

Group travel from Ramallah to Bethlehem, include brief visits en route to Canada Park and the Latroun Monastery, followed by hotel check-in and lunch on your own.

Oral Presentation #13

Topic: *Economic Development & Tourism Under Occupation: The Case of Bethlehem*

This session includes an overview of development projects with a special focus on research findings regarding small and medium enterprises in Palestine.

Academic & Cultural Guide: **Dr. Mousa Rabadi**

Tuesday, June 3

Oral Presentation #14

Topic: *Bethlehem Town and University: Cultural-Historical Perspectives*

This session includes an overview (including a short DVD presentation) about Bethlehem University, a discussion of the higher education sector in Palestine, and a walking visit through Bethlehem with guidance from the Alternative Tourism Group (ATG) of Beit Sahour.

Presenter and Coordinator: **Dr. Sami El-Yousef**

Tuesday, June 3 – Monday, June 9

Independent Study Project Period (6 nights)

Locations vary. Formal seminar activities reconvene the evening of June 9 in Jerusalem.

Monday, June 9

Reception at Jerusalem Hotel. Includes food.

Oral Presentation #15

Topic: *Palestinian Cultural Expressions: Dance and the Uud*

Tuesday, June 10

Visit to **Tantur Ecumenical Institute**

Welcome remarks and overview of the Tantur Institute's work by **Sr. Bridget Tighe**, Vice-Rector

Independent Study Project Reports.

Lunch meeting with **Fr. Michael McGarry**, Rector of the Tantur Institute

Oral Presentation #16

Topic: *Water and Land Issues*

Presenter: **Dr. Jad E. Issac**, Director of the Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ)

Oral Presentation #17

Topic: *The Mizrahim*

Presenter: **Frank Adler**

Thursday, June 12

Seminar Closing Roundtable Discussion: Reflections on the Theme.

Presenters: **Selected Macalester Participants, Tom Ricks, & Albert Aghazarian**

Closing Dinner: Macalester Participants & invited guests

Friday, June 13

Seminar Evaluation Meeting for Macalester Participants

Saturday, June 14

Macalester participants depart; schedules vary.

Sunday, June 15

Most flights from Europe arrive in the Twin Cities, Minnesota.

Saturday, June 28

Due date for each participant's written evaluation of the seminar.

Friday, August 15

Deadline for photo-ready **lead paper** and **commissioned papers** (in most cases 8,000-10,000 words) and meditative essays (3,000-4,000 words) by Macalester participants.

Tuesday, September 16 at Macalester

Post-seminar meeting and reception. Agenda includes planning for public presentations/panels on the seminar for the benefit of other Macalester faculty, staff & students.

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