



Summary

This event brings together prominent scholars and advocates and creates a space to critically examine the history, power structures, and future of Zionism, focusing on its profound and often devastating impact on the Palestinian people.

Panel I, The Power Paradigm of Zionism, will expose the mechanisms of control and violence enacted through Zionist policies, exploring how these have displaced and oppressed Palestinians. Experts will highlight the harsh realities Palestinians face, from restricted access to healthcare and education to systemic social and political marginalization. **Panel II, The History of Zionism (Late 1800s-1948)**, will trace Zionism's origins and expansion, critically analyzing its role in the dispossession of Palestinians and the creation of Israel. This panel will challenge mainstream historical narratives and offer a decolonized perspective on Zionism and Palestinian history. **Panel III, The Future of Zionism**, will consider the future of Zionism in light of growing resistance, and envision pathways toward justice and liberation for Palestinians.

Attendees will come away with a clearer understanding of the ideology of Zionism and a strengthened framework of knowledge to support justice, equality, and self-determination for Jewish and Palestinian people. The discussion will comprise Israeli, Palestinian, and other scholars with diverse backgrounds bringing a multifaceted approach to the discussion. Check out this website for more information and to register for the event.

MENA Conference on Zionism: History, Ideology, and its Manifestations



28th November 2024,
12:00 – 21:00

Geneva Graduate Institute,
2 Chemin Eugène-Rigot, 1202,
Geneva, Switzerland

Panel I

The Power Paradigm of Zionism

with Hagar Kotef
Raouf Salti
Joseph Daher

Moderation: Reine Radwan

start time

12:15

late lunch break: 45 min

Panel II

The History of Zionism (Late 1800s–1948)

with Riccardo Bocco
Cyrus Schayegh

Moderation: Julie Billaud

start time

15:00

long coffee break: 45 min

Keynote Speech

with Ilan Pappé
on his new book: 'Lobbying for Zionism
on Both Sides of the Atlantic'

start time

17:45

Panel III

The Future of Zionism

with Nur Masalha
Ilan Pappé
Francesca Albanese (tbc)

Moderation: Alexa Rae Burk

start time

18:30

Panel I: The Power Paradigm of Zionism

This panel will provide insights into the manifestations of Zionism in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, highlighting the interplay of soft and hard power within Israeli institutions and their impacts on medical, academic, and social realms. It will explore themes of identity, displacement, and control, linking violence and the human experience. Ultimately, the panellists will discuss how the pursuit of the Zionist ideology led to the current horrific day-to-day reality for the Palestinian people.

Hagar Kotef

Professor of Political Theory at SOAS, University of London. She currently leads an ESRC project on torture and bureaucracy in Israel/Palestine, examining how state apparatuses enable the prolonged sanctioning of torture as a political technology. She is the co-editor of *Theory & Event* (2024) and has authored *Movement and the Ordering of Freedom* (2015) as well as the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning book *The Colonizing Self* (2020).

Dr. Raouf Salti

Urological Surgeon in Geneva and Founder of Children's Right to Healthcare. Dr. Salti has dedicated himself to the wellbeing of his patients in Geneva and beyond. He has done humanitarian missions around the world with organizations such as Palmed Europe and the Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF) and now brings children injured from the war in Gaza to Geneva for lifesaving operations through his NGO.

Joseph Daher

Professor at the University of Lausanne with a focus on political economy in the Middle East, revolutions, and the anti-Zionism/anti-Semitism debate in Switzerland. He provides a comprehensive view on the reality for Palestinian people, linking it to the Zionist movement's use of hard and soft power in Palestine and abroad and its role in repressing academic freedom.

Panel II: The History of Zionism (Late 1800s-1948)

*The focus of this panel will be on the history of Jewish Zionism from its inception in the late 1800s, its spread and adoption as an ideology, and its culmination in 1948 with the creation of the state of Israel. It will begin with a short **documentary screening** titled: "And There was Israel" (2018). Following this, the panellists will shed light on historical truths and counter dominant beliefs to elucidate a true, grassroots, and decolonized study of Palestine, Zionism, and their histories.*

Riccardo Bocco

Possesses over 35 years of research experience on Israel/Palestine, Jordan, and Lebanon. He is the former director of the French Center for Research on the Contemporary Middle East and Research Director at the Graduate Institute for Development Studies. He has been involved in various projects, including the film project "Violence, Memory, and Cinema" focusing on collective identities. He is co-editor of the book *Decolonizing Palestine - Contemporary Debates*, out in September 2024.

Cyrus Schayegh

Cyrus Schayegh (PhD, Columbia University, 2004) has been Professor of International History at the Geneva Graduate Institute (IHEID) since 2017. Before, he was Associate and Assistant Professor at Princeton University (2008-2017) and Assistant Professor at the American University of Beirut (2005-2008). His recent works include *The Middle East and the Making of the Modern World* (Harvard UP, 2017), a monograph; *Globalizing the U.S. Presidency: Postcolonial Views of John F. Kennedy* (Bloomsbury, 2020), an edited volume; and a collection of translated primary sources: (Wilson Center Digital Archive, 2023).

Keynote Speech by Ilan Pappé

Professor Ilan Pappé will discuss the new insights brought to us by his newly released book "Lobbying for Zionism on both sides of the Atlantic" in a keynote speech where he will share not only how Zionism impacts both sides of the Atlantic but also what fuels it, who supports it, and how that lobbying shapes the world we live in.

Panel III: The Future of Zionism

This final part of the conversation will bring together the insights of the previous two talks linking the history of the Zionist movement to today's reality. This third panel aims to focus on enriching the audience's understanding of Zionism, the state formation of Israel, and the future of the Zionist project. Through the perspectives of Professor Ilan Pappé and Professor Nur Masalha, both incredibly successful historians, and the views of UN Special Rapporteur, Francesca Albanese, this panel will provide insights about the future of Zionism.

Ilan Pappé

Professor with the College of Social Sciences and International Studies, Director of the Centre for Palestine Studies, and co-director of the Exeter Centre for Ethno-Political Studies. He is an Israeli political scientist, historian, and former politician. He has authored dozens of books on the topic including *On Palestine* (2015), *The Biggest Prison on Earth: A History of the Occupied Territories* (2017), and *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine* (2006).

Francesca Albanese (tbc)

Italian international lawyer and academic; United Nations Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories since 2022. She is also a Senior Advisor on Migration and Forced Displacement for ARDD, and co-founder of the Global Network on the Question of Palestine (GNQP). She authored *Palestinian Refugees in International Law* (2020) and the pivotal report "Anatomy of a Genocide" (2024).

Nur Masalha

Former director and professor of the Centre for Religion and History at St. Mary's University and current member of the Centre of Palestine Studies at SOAS, University of London. He is editor of the 'Journal of Holy Land and Palestine Studies' and has written numerous groundbreaking books about history, the Nakba and Zionism. His books on Palestine: *A Four Thousand Year History* (2018); *Palestine Across Millennia* (2022); *Expulsion of the Palestinians: The Concept of 'Transfer' in Zionist Political Thought, 1882-1948* (1992); *The Zionist Bible* (2013); *An Oral History of the Palestinian Nakba* (2018); and *Decolonizing the Study of Palestine* (2023).