

The Sophie Davis Forum on Gender, Conflict Resolution, and Peace, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the Theater Department, the University of Haifa, cordially invite you to two events addressing

Gender, Conflict, and Performance as a Practice of Cultural Resistance

Performance is an expression and an embodiment of cultural-political intervention. It is a practice that places the body at the center and utilizes it, especially in public spaces, to challenge social constructs, to bring to light (literally and figuratively) silenced voices, and to invite individuals and groups to bear witnesses to and participate in the intervention. As an artistic manifestation, it enables groups with limited access to the foci of social power to express resistance to the structures of power, resistance that more direct means, is not likely to happen and may even put them in danger. At the same time, given existing social and cultural norms, the mere use of the body and/in the public space can be seen as subversive, and thus may lead to various sanctions. Presenting in unprotected spaces, allows a greater challenge to established norms yet exposes the performers to immediate and non-mediated counter responses.

The Sophie Davis Forum on Gender, Conflict Resolution, and Peace, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the Theater Department at the University of Haifa are collaborating in two events focusing on the ways in which performance allows diverse social groups to resist structure of power. The event at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute will focus on the work of Independent Female Palestinian artists. The event at the University of Haifa will be devoted to the silenced birth stories of immigrant-mothers whose children were kidnapped in Israel during the 1950s.

The First Event will take place on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, at The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute.

Further details regarding the second event, to take place on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at The University of Haifa will be circulated closer to date.

16:30-17:00 Gathering

17:00-17:20 Opening remarks:

Ronna Brayer-Garb, The Van Leer institute of Jerusalem

Dr. Tal Nitsan, the Sophie Davis Forum on Gender, Conflict Resolution, and Peace

17:20-18:20 Panel

Chair: Dr. Ruthie Abeliovich, the Theater Department, University of Haifa

Participants: Manar Zuabi, Samira Saraya, Khulood Basel

18:20-18:40 Discussant

Prof. Nadira Shalhoub-Kevorkian, the Faculty of Law and the School of Social Work and Public Welfare, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

18:40-19:30 Discussion



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We invite you to experience—feel and sense—the complexities of the work processes and the artistic projects shared by the artists; to learn from their stories how social locations of gender, nationality, class, age, urban/rural context, dis/ability impact their work; and how creative work enables to express and even to embody cultural resistance. We also invite you to consider the seemingly passive act of listening as an engaging, active act, which allows us to bear witness to stories and voices excluded by the artistic and cultural establishment.

Samira Saraya is an actress, a spoken word artist, a certified nurse and human right and LGBTQ rights activist. Her work focuses on drag and queer performances, as well as various forms of poetry. Saraya participated in many theatre shows ("Peacock of Silwan", "Salim Salim", "Schreber") and featured films ("Boreg", "Death of A Poetess").

Khulood Basel is a Palestinian theatre maker, actress, director and visual artist based in Haifa. She is a founding member of Khashabi ensemble (2011) and Khashabi Theatre (2015), and performs regularly with Khashabi Theatre, both locally and internationally. Basel studied theatre at Haifa University. She is involved in multiple art-education programs for youth empowerment. As a photographer, her works are featured in various exhibitions and art-journals in Palestine, Egypt and Lebanon.

Manar Zuabi is an artist, curator, educator and activist. She obtains an MA from the University of Haifa's School of the Arts. Her work has been exhibited in various venues in Israel and around the world. In 2009 she won the Pais Award for Culture and Arts. Between 2012 and 2018 she served as a pedagogical coordinator of arts and education at the Beit Berl College. Zuabi is co-founder of the Masar School in Nazareth, the first alternative, experimental Palestinian school in Israel, where she teaches art.

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 Palestinian feminist activist and the Chair in Global Law at Queen Mary University of London. 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 children, settler colonialism, trauma and recovery in militarized and colonized zones. 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.

Admission is free, but the number of seats is limited.

Please confirm your participation through the following link by 1 January

2019: <https://bit.ly/2LeerOG>

For questions or to contact us:

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