

**International Conference
3 – 4 July 2023**

**Humorous Art and the Articulation of Everyday Practices:
Narratives from Palestine and Beyond**



Caricature by Palestinian Artist Mohammad Sabaaneh

The conference is organized by Noura Kamal & Barbara Götsch. It is funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF-P 32362-G) Stand-Alone project “*Humorous Art and Reconfiguring Palestinian Discourse*” at the Institute for Social Anthropology, Austrian Academy of Sciences.

Project Leader: Noura Kamal

Program

First Day: Monday, July 3, 2023

9:30 - 9:45: **Opening Remarks**

Noura Kamal - *Institute for Social Anthropology, Austrian Academy of Sciences*

9:45 - 10:45: **Keynote**

Lori Allen - *Department of Anthropology and Sociology, SOAS University of London*

Title: I Can't Tell a Joke: But I Can Ask What Humor Tells Us

In this talk, Lori Allen explores how humor has been examined by different disciplines in different eras, from sociology and anthropology to philosophy and evolutionary biology. She questions—with skepticism—what new social dynamics, political forces, or analytical insights humor offers. In the face of fascism's growing power, we need to understand “the conjuncture” (as inspired by Antonio Gramsci and Stuart Hall) of political forces in order to confront it. Maybe humor can inspire shared emotions that mobilize political solidarities, but what else is needed?

Lori Allen is an anthropologist, writer, and editor based in London. Her work focuses on Palestinian politics, and she has published on topics in the anthropology of nationalism, human rights, and the history of liberalism. Her first book, *The Rise and Fall of Human Rights: Cynicism and Politics in Occupied Palestine*, was published in 2013 with Stanford University Press and won the Association for Political and Legal Anthropology book prize. Her latest book, *A History of False Hope: Investigative Commissions in Palestine*, was published by Stanford University Press in 2020 and received an Honorable Mention in the Senior Book Prize by the American Ethnological Society.

Program

10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break	
Session 1		
Chair: Noura Kamal - Institute for Social Anthropology - Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna		
11:00 – 11:30	Performance by Mona Abdel-Fadil: “A superior guide to performing the academic self” A comedic performance about the lack of diversity and gender equality in academia. It is based on an extract from a satirical piece written by Mona Abdel-Fadil.	
11:30 – 13:30	Suad Amiry - Writer & Founder of RIWAQ: Center for Architectural Conservation Ramallah, Palestine	“Humor, Satire and Resilience”
	Mohammad Sabaaneh – Graphic Artist and Painter & Lecturer at Arab American University, Palestine	“Art and Activism”
	Fidaa Ataya - Seraj Libraries and the House of Stories, Palestine	"Storytelling: To Root, To Heal, To Exist”
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch Break	
Session 2		
Chair: Leonardo Schiocchet - Institute for Social Anthropology - Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna		
15:00 – 16:30	Noura Kamal - Institute for Social Anthropology - Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna	“Everyday Resistance via Humorous Art in Palestine”
	Chourouq Nasri - Department of English Studies, Mohammed Premier University Oujda, Morocco	“Reinventing Palestine: More Than Half a Century of Political Cartooning”
	Anja Franck - Peace and Development Studies, University of Gothenburg, Sweden	“Smiling as An Act of Aggression Against Oppression: Mutual Recognition, Colonial Dialectics, and The Palestinian Campaign to Smile While Being Arrested”
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee Break	
17:00 – 18:00	Comments, Remarks & Open Discussion – Noura Kamal (Discussant) Institute for Social Anthropology – Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna	
18:00 – 18:30	Performance by Fidaa Ataya: Traditional Palestinian story “Khunfusa (The Beetle)” Once upon a time, a woman sits embroidering peacefully outside of her home. She daydreams while she works, wishing with all her heart to have a child. Looking to her side, she notices all the <i>Khunfusa</i> (beetles) around her and prays, “God, give me a daughter even if she is a <i>khunfusa</i> !” Soon enough, the woman gives birth to a child, a little girl – a <i>khunfusa</i> , who grows up to be a beautiful woman. When it is <i>Khunfusa</i> ’s time to marry, she goes out searching for a partner who will partner with her to lead the way. Who will she choose as her partner in life? What life she will have?	

Program

Second Day: Tuesday, July 4, 2023		
Session 3		
Chair: Noura Salah Aldeen - Institute for Social Anthropology - Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna		
9:30 – 10:50	Emad Hajjaj - Al-Araby Al-Jadeed Newspaper, UK	“Satire as a form of Resistance: Political Cartoons as an Example”
	Luna Al-Mousli - Author, Designer, Freelance Art and Culture Creator, Austria	“When Grandma, God and Britney met in the Living Room. Or: Islam and I”
10:50 - 11:15	Coffee Break	
Session 4		
Chair: Barbara Götsch - Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology, University of Vienna, Austria		
11:15 -12:45	Maria Six-Hohenbalken - Institute for Social Anthropology - Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna	“Humor in the Kurdish Diaspora - Approaching Mobility via Art Interventions, Art-based Research and (Re) presentations”
	Shada Bokir - Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Vienna, Austria	“It is Not Funny, sarcasm in Yemen as means of resistance”
12:45 – 14:15	Lunch Break	
Session 5		
Chair: Martin Slama - Institute for Social Anthropology - Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna		
14:15 - 15:45	Tomoko Sakai - Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University, Japan	“Laughter and the Physicality of Everyday Tasks and Activities: Thinking with some Anecdotes from Belfast”
	Mona Abdel-Fadil - Department of Media and Communication, University of Oslo, Norway	“Putting the Fun Back into Fundamentalism”: The Real Housewives of ISIS vs. Daesh
	Johann Heiss - Institute for Social Anthropology - Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna	“Joking about the Europeans at the Times of the Crusades”
15:45 - 16:15	Coffee Break	
16:15 – 17:15	Comments, Remarks & Open Discussion - Amahl Bishara (Discussant) Departement of Anthropology, Tufts University, United States	
17:15 – 17:30	Final Remarks: Noura Kamal - Institute for Social Anthropology - Austrian Academy of Sciences	