

# Public Talk

## HISTORIES OF POPULAR RESISTANCE.

## PALESTINIAN FEMINIST ACTIVISM AND GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

with

**Islah Jad**

Associate Professor in Gender, Development and Cultural Studies at Birzeit University, Palestine, and Feminist Activist

Chair: Helmut Krieger\*,  
University of Vienna

**TUESDAY**

**JUNE 25, 2024**

**06.30 – 08.00 PM CEST**

**TO ATTEND ONLINE VIA ZOOM,  
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NECESSARY!**

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ABSENT PRESENCE II  
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\* Although embedded in my seminar on Palestine at the Department of Development Studies at the University of Vienna, this event is open to the public as well.

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## ABSTRACT

This talk with Prof. Islah Jad will discuss the concept of 'popular resistance' in Palestine, a prominent feature since the First Intifada in the late 1980s, from a feminist perspective.

In order to confront enduring structures of Israeli colonial occupation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), popular resistance included supporting Palestinian (rural) communities in their steadfastness (*sumud* in Arabic), mobilising various profession groups and unions, and, in general, organising all strata of society. The OPT should become ungovernable for the colonial authorities, while self-sufficiency of Palestinian communities should be developed. A key aim was to achieve justice widely understood as the right to self-determination and to return.

Sharing her experiences and analyses of the past 30 years as a feminist scholar and an activist based in the West Bank, Islah Jad will highlight underlying ideas and strategies of popular resistance and will tackle questions such as: How was the concept of 'popular resistance' gendered? How was the struggle linked to an international/transnational solidarity movement? In which ways has it been interrupted/rearranged/overshadowed by a process of NGOisation that already started in the mid-1990s? Furthermore, what are the historical experiences that Islah Jad views as still useful to utilize and build on in the current situation? What are opportunities as well as potential limitations of today's global solidarity movement in light of previous experiences?

## ISLAH JAD

Dr Islah Jad is Associate Professor in Gender, Development and Cultural Studies at Birzeit University where she began teaching in 1984. She also taught at Qatar University from 2014-2017. She is a founding member of the Institute of Women's Studies at Birzeit University and its MA programme.

A prominent figure in the Palestinian women's movement, Jad combines academic work with feminist activism and also helped to establish, inter alia, the Women's Affairs Centre in Gaza and Nablus, the Child Corner project in el-Bireh, and the WATC (Women's Affairs Technical Committee).

She earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Cairo University, a master's degree in political theory from the University of Nantes, and a Ph.D. in gender and development studies from the University of London. Her latest book *Palestinian Women's Activism: Nationalism, Secularism, Islamism*, published in 2018, includes a decades-long research on gender issues and women's political participation in Palestine ranging from the 1930s to the post-Oslo period.