

## Reflecting the Other – The Israeli-Palestinian Discourse Reconsidered

An Encounter in Culture, Identity and Perception



### VENUE

Hotel Esplanade Resort & Spa  
Seestraße 49  
D-15526 Bad Saarow

### CONTACT

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MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

**Simon Dubnow Institute**

for Jewish History and Culture at Leipzig University

in collaboration with



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Centre for German-Jewish Literature and  
Cultural History**

Both Israelis and Palestinians construct their collective identities around catastrophic events that shape the destiny of their respective communities. For the Jews this was the **Shoah**, for the Palestinians it was the **Nakba**, their tragic displacement by the establishment of the State of Israel. In light of these catastrophes, Israelis and Palestinians have developed narratives by which they understand their past; narratives that serve to justify the ideological imperatives that define their political history. For each, their national stories are compelling, self-vindicating, exclusive, and morally self-referential; for each side their stories are pre-eminent; accordingly, they tend to regard those who may question their national narratives as a threat to their political legitimacy and dignity.

The workshop will afford an opportunity for Palestinians and Israeli Jews to understand each other's stories as they inform their passions, emotions and ideological horizons. Towards this objective, Palestinians will study the Jewish story and the Jews will study Palestinian literature and culture. The dialogue will be conducted by representatives from each community – Jews will suggest the cultural expressions regarded as central to the articulation of their identity – similarly Palestinians will indicate to their Israeli colleagues cultural expressions most pertinent to an understanding of the Palestinian narrative.

## Friday, September 16, 2005

**5:00 pm – 7:00 pm OPENING SESSION: SETTING THE STAGE** ■ Berliner Saal 3

**Mohammed Abu-Zaid**, Ramallah

*Beyond Extraction – Holocaust and Nakba in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*

**Paul Mendes-Flohr**, Jerusalem

*Reconciled Narratives – New Discourses in Israel and Palestine*

**Dan Diner**, Jerusalem/Leipzig

*Conceptions Juxtaposed – Israeli Legitimacies in Conflict*

7:30 pm – 10.00 pm Dinner ■ Dependence

## Saturday, September 17, 2005

**9:00 – 10:30 am PANEL I: STAGE AND STORY** ■ Berliner Saal 3

Chair: **Susanne Enderwitz**

**Issam Nassar**, Jerusalem

*Constructing Palestine – History and Identity*

**Ishai Menuchin**, Tel Aviv

*Markers of Division – Myths, Values and the Activation of Conflict*

**Barbara Hahn**, Berlin

*Cries into Void – Jews in Germany*

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

**11.00 – 12.30 PANEL II: LEARNING THE OTHER** ■ Berliner Saal 3

Chair: **Alexander Flores**

**Rachel Elior**, Jerusalem

*Coalition of Pain and Opposition of Dreams – Memory, Difference and The Perception of The Other*

**Ahmed Harb**, Ramallah

*The Palestinian Catastrophe in Text – The Nakba in Literature*

**Susanne Enderwitz**, Heidelberg

*'The Palestinian People' – Voices from Palestinian Self-Accounts*

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch ■ Restaurant

**2:00 – 4:00 pm PANEL III: POLITICS OF EMOTION** ■ Berliner Saal 3

Chair: **Susanne Enderwitz**

**Samir Awad**, Ramallah

*Otherness – Established – On the Multitude of Cultural Perceptions*

**Menachem Brinker**, Jerusalem

*Divine Intervention – The Presence of Religion in The Conflict*

**Alexander Flores**, Bremen

*Bone of contention – Arabs and Anti-Semitism*

4:00 pm – 4:30 pm Coffee Break

**4:30 pm – 6:00 pm PANEL IV: RECOGNIZING NARRATIVES** ■ Berliner Saal 3

Chair: **Barbara Hahn**

**Julia Matveev**, Jerusalem

*Future Imaginations – Autobiography as History*

**Najat Effenberg**, Ramallah

*From Haifa to Ramallah – Palestinian Narratives*

**Zvi Bar'el**, Tel Aviv

*Between Jews and Arabs – Discussing the Holocaust – Discussing the Nakba*

7:00 pm – 10.00 pm Dinner ■ Dependence

## Sunday, September 18, 2005

**10:00 am – 12:00 pm PANEL V: PAST AND PRESENT – DISCUSSING THE FUTURE**

■ Berliner Saal 3

**CLOSING DISCUSSION WITH ALL PARTICIPANTS**

Chair: **Dan Diner**

12.00 pm – 12:30 pm **Paul Mendes-Flohr & Mohammed Abu Zaid**

*Recapitulations and Concluding Reflections*

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Lunch ■ Restaurant