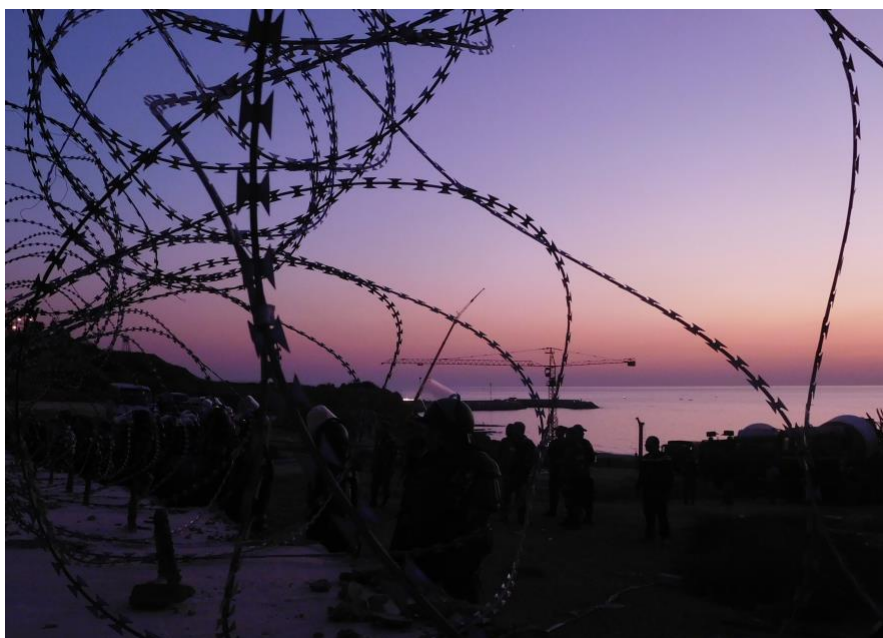


## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

### WORKSHOP:

## Researching (Settler) Colonial Presence and Present in West Asia



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**Seminar Room 3, Department of Development Studies, Sensengasse 3,  
1090 Vienna, 21 May 2019, 10am - 2pm**

What tools and frameworks are needed to investigate deep colonial fault lines in West Asia (a decolonial term for 'Middle East') today? This workshop takes up anthropologist Ann Laura Stoler's call (2016) for finding alternative analytical and methodological concepts to capture the durable colonial marks that exist in our presence/present. Following her critique of scholars who romanticise traces of this violent past, the workshop will offer a space to collectively discuss and develop alternative frameworks to approach these questions with a special focus on our research methodologies.

How should we discuss the concept of coloniality (Quijano 2000) in the context of West Asia? How do we frame epistemological, ontological and ethical research approaches under conditions of (settler) colonial presence and present? Why should we link them with investigating violence across different temporalities? What forms of resistance against this (settler) colonial present/presence is taking place in West Asia and how can we make their histories visible? How can our investigations reach out to and impact different communities we work with/about?

**The presenters will discuss their research on Lebanon, Syria and Palestine. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in conversation with the presenters through discussing their own research approaches (see guidelines on how to apply below).**

**Helene Kazan's** (Completed her PhD at the Centre for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths University of London (2019), and is a 2018-2020 Vera List Center Fellow on Art and Politics, New School, New York) interdisciplinary and multi-media practice investigates risk through an analysis of international law, architecture, and the human experience of violence, observed and argued through the frame of 'poetic testimony'. Kazan further distinguishes how violence can be traced through the lived-built environment in Lebanon, as a material sensor of an evolving integrated limit condition of conflict and capitalism.

**Adriana Qubaia** (Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Gender Studies, Central European University) is an anthropologist of Lebanon working on mapping contemporary political and socio-economic factors that shape the negotiation of gendered non-normative sexualities in Beirut. Therefore, she challenges dominant theoretical frameworks used to conceptualize gendered sexualities in West Asia.

**Mette Edith Lundsryd Stendevad** (Ph.D. candidate in Sociology at the School of Media, Communication and Sociology, University of Leicester) enriches these diverse approaches through her extended work on oral history accounts from Palestinian women from Syria (some still living in Syria, some scattered in different European countries or beyond) speaking back to the ongoing history of violence in Syria, eviction from historic Palestine, forced separation, statelessness and borders.

#### **Discussant:**

**Claudia Brunner** is an assistant professor at the Centre for Peace Studies and Peace Education at the Alps-Adriatic University Klagenfurt. In her research and teaching across Critical Peace Studies, Political Theory and International Relations, she focusses on entanglements between violence and knowledge, mostly from feminist, post- and decolonial perspectives. Her ongoing research project is called *Theorizing Epistemic Violence* (<http://epistemicviolence.aau.at/index.php/en/home-2/>).

#### **How to apply?**

We invite participants (especially MA and PhD students) from various disciplinary as well as activist fields to take part in an intersectional and transdisciplinary conversation to develop a common understanding of (settler) colonial presence and present in West Asia. Spaces are limited and pre-registration is required. To apply please send a short abstract or sample of your work until **Saturday 11 May** to [klaudia.rottenschlager@univie.ac.at](mailto:klaudia.rottenschlager@univie.ac.at) and [noura.salahaldeen@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:noura.salahaldeen@oeaw.ac.at).

**Concept: Klaudia Rottenschlager** (Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna) and **Noura Salah Adeen** (Institute for Social Anthropology, Austrian Academy of Science).

The event is accessible for wheelchairs and will be held in English. Childcare can be provided upon request.