

Call for Papers

A Century of Palestinian Nationalism: Modes of Political Organization and Representation since 1919

December 14-15, 2019

Amman, Jordan

DEADLINES

Call for Paper Abstracts: August 26, 2019

Paper Submission: November 1, 2019

ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

Columbia Global Centers | Amman is requesting paper proposals to present at the roundtable, *A Century of Palestinian Nationalism: Modes of Political Organization and Representation since 1919*. Organized in partnership with the Institut Francais Proche Orient (Ifpo), the Institute for Palestine Studies and Al Hekma Association, the roundtable will be held at Columbia Global Centers | Amman on Saturday, December 14 and Sunday, December 15, 2019.

The roundtable will investigate the historical causes for the formation of the First Palestinian Congress, the Muslim-Christian Associations, and the course of the Palestinian National Movement to this day. The roundtable will also retrace the political and social profiles of those who established these different Palestinian organizations pre- and post-Nakba. Submitted papers and a full event program will be provided in advance of the roundtable.

BACKGROUND

The first Muslim-Christian Associations (MCA) were formed at the end of 1918. In the face of the British strategy of 'divide and rule' and of the Balfour Declaration of 1917, which referred to the Arab majority in Palestine simply as 'non-Jewish communities,' the establishment of the MCAs was intended to present a united front against the colonial power. Despite the presence of other nationalist organizations such as *al-Nadi al-Arabi*, *al-Muntada al-Adabi*, and *al-Jamiyyah al-Khayriyah*, the MCAs developed into a nation-wide body with branches in many cities.

In January 1919, the First Palestinian Congress was held in Jerusalem to coincide with the Paris Peace Conference. The attendance at the Conference of Chaim Weizmann, who presented Zionist claims, was a trigger for the calling of the First Palestinian Congress, in order to submit Arab and Palestinian counterclaims to the Conference.

Between 1919 and 1928, seven Palestinian congresses were held. They produced two opposing trends: one calling for the formation of a representative assembly, and another with a pan-Arab ideology. Concurrent with the existence of MCAs, the Supreme Muslim Council was set up by the British mandatory authorities in 1922. A complex situation resulted from proposals for an elected Legislative Council on the one hand, the formation of the Supreme Muslim Council on the other, and the role of the MCAs and the various Palestinian Congresses. These initiatives reflected conflicting political ideologies that have influenced Palestinian politics since 1919.

A Century of Palestinian Nationalism roundtable will delve into the conflicting ideologies these political formations championed; the factionalism they produced; the social classes they were rooted in; and their consequences for the Palestinian political landscape. Discussions at this roundtable will center on the following overarching questions:

1. What led to the formation and fragmentation of democratic secular movements in Palestinian civil society pre-Nakba?
2. How did Palestinian political and national movements reorganize and transform post-Nakba?

ROUNDTABLE THEMES

Contributors are invited to submit abstracts on the themes outlined below:

Period One: The post-World War I, the British Mandate, and pre-Nakba

- The role played by British and French colonialism in influencing the Palestinian national movement at its inception as reflected in the first Palestinian Congress 1919
- The role that religion has played in the Palestinian National Movement and in resistance to the Zionist movement
- The relationship between pan-Arabism and Palestinian nationalism
- The role of the urban elite, intellectuals and the press in fostering Palestinian nationalism

Period Two: Post-Nakba period

- The reorganization of the Palestinian National movement after 1948
- The role of external actors, including the great powers, the United Nations and the Arab states
- The role of cultural heritage in fostering Palestinian nationalism

GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Abstracts should be written in English, Arabic or French, no longer than 250 words. They should be titled and have all requisite bibliographic citations. When submitting your abstract, please include a short biography written in the third-person, as well as a recent Curriculum Vitae / resume.

Abstracts will be evaluated according to the following categories: Originality of theme, referenced sources, methodology, clarity, relevance and contribution of the proposal to the roundtable theme.

To submit your abstract, please send them to aam2250@columbia.edu with the subject line of the email titled “A Century of Palestinian Nationalism” by **August 26, 2019**.

Limited scholarships are available for young scholars and PhD students. For general enquiries, please contact Dr. Ahmad Mousa, Programs Manager, Columbia Global Centers | Amman at: aam2250@columbia.edu.