



SEMINAR PROFILE

GENDER AND DIGITAL RESISTANCE: PALESTINIAN WOMEN AND NARRATIVE PRODUCTION IN CYBERSPACE

General Information						
No.	Name of the Course	Gender and Digital Resistance: Palestinian Women and Narrative Production in Cyberspace				
1.	Code:	-				
2.	Accredited Hours:	Lectures	Seminars	Theoretical	Practical	Total
			15			15
3.	Season:	Spring 2026				
4.	Pre-requisites:	NA				
5.	Program:	The New University in Exile Consortium Co-lead Seminar				
6.	Medium of Instruction:	English				
7.	Program Mode of Study:	Online				
8.	Course Delivery:	Online				
9.	Settings:	Friday: 10:30 am to 12:00 EST, Starting from March 13, 2026				
10.	Presentation of:	Hanan Alawna & Ramzi A. M. Naji				

Course Description

Palestinian women play an increasingly crucial role in producing **discourse resistance** across digital platforms, documenting life under settler colonialism and dismantling the narrative of power, thus giving a Palestinian narrative a global presence and impact. This digital activism constitutes a modern form of cultural and political resistance, raising awareness of the Palestinian cause and confronting attempts to erase Palestinian identity and existence. This seminar provides an interdisciplinary academic framework for examining the growing role of Palestinian women in crafting resistance narratives through digital platforms within the context of settler colonialism. It focuses on analyzing the digital narrative strategies and counter-narratives developed by Palestinian women activists to challenge dominant media representations, drawing on approaches from anti-colonial feminism, postcolonial media studies, and critical discourse analysis.

It examines contemporary models of digital activism and analyzes global campaigns that have contributed to reshaping public awareness regarding Palestine. It also addresses the mechanisms of information suppression and digital surveillance, as well as their impact on women's participation in public life, and the political and social circumstances that shape the



production of knowledge in the Palestinian context. The seminar also aims to provide a critical examination of the digital space as a central arena for resistance, clarifying the methodological tools necessary to analyze media representation, evaluate digital advocacy strategies, and connect the Palestinian experience to broader discussions about feminist struggles in the Global South.

The seminar employs a **critical interdisciplinary methodology** that integrates feminist media analysis, postcolonial critique, and digital ethnography to examine the intersection of power, gender, and technology in the Palestinian context. It adopts **Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)** to deconstruct online narratives, exposing the ideological structures that sustain settler-colonial and patriarchal discourses. Additionally, the seminar utilizes **narrative inquiry and visual analysis** to interpret digital storytelling, hashtags, and visual campaigns as forms of counter-hegemonic knowledge production and political expression.

Weekly Schedule (Summary)

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Weeks 1–3	Conceptual foundations (gender, settler colonialism, media power)
Weeks 4–6	Digital storytelling, campaigns, counter-narratives
Week 7	Surveillance, censorship, algorithmic bias
Weeks 8–9	Knowledge production, case studies of journalists and activists
Week 10	Global South feminist digital struggles and synthesis

DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE (10 LECTURES)

Course Schedule & Reading List

Week	Topic	Descriptions	Required Readings
1 13 March	Gender, Power & Colonial Knowledge	Introduces core concepts of gender, settler colonialism, and power, establishing the structural conditions shaping Palestinian women’s resistance and representation.	Said, <i>Orientalism</i> , Intro & Ch. 1, pp. 1–49; Foucault, “Truth and Power,” pp. 109–133
2 20 March	Settler Colonialism & Narrative Erasure	Examines media power, Orientalist discourse, and epistemic violence, focusing on how dominant narratives marginalize Palestinian voices.	Wolfe, “Settler Colonialism...,” pp. 387–409; Khalidi, <i>Hundred Years’ War</i> , Intro, pp. 1–23
3 27 March	Anti Colonial & Decolonial Feminism	Explores anti-colonial and decolonial feminist frameworks to understand Palestinian women as political agents in digital resistance.	Abu-Lughod, <i>Do Muslim Women Need Saving?</i> , Ch. 1–2, pp. 1–45; Mohanty, “Under Western Eyes,” pp. 333–358



<p>4 3 April</p>	<p>Palestinian Women Journalists</p>	<p>Analyzes digital storytelling, testimony, and affective narratives as tools for documenting lived experience and producing counter-narratives.</p>	<p>Hill & Lubin, <i>Except for Palestine</i>, Ch. 5, pp. 121–152; Richardson, “Bearing Witness on Social Media,” pp. 1–12</p>
<p>5 10 April</p>	<p>Activism & Affective Storytelling</p>	<p>Investigates hashtag feminism, transnational mobilization, and global digital campaigns that reshape public discourse on Palestine.</p>	<p>Papacharissi, <i>Affective Publics</i>, Ch. 2, pp. 39–65; Abu-Lughod, <i>Do Muslim Women Need Saving?</i>, Ch. 5, pp. 120–152</p>
<p>6 17 April</p>	<p>Visual Politics & Gendered Witnessing</p>	<p>Focuses on images, videos, and visual ethics, examining how Palestinian women use visual media to bear witness and contest violence.</p>	<p>Butler, <i>Frames of War</i>, Ch. 1, pp. 1–32; Puar, <i>The Right to Maim</i>, Intro, pp. 1–35</p>
<p>7 24 April</p>	<p>Hashtag Feminism & Global Campaigns</p>	<p>Critically examines platform governance, digital surveillance, and algorithmic bias, highlighting their gendered effects on visibility and participation.</p>	<p>Tufekci, <i>Twitter and Tear Gas</i>, Ch. 1 & 6, pp. 1–26; 167–198; Fuchs, <i>Social Media</i>, Ch. 8, pp. 199–233</p>
<p>8 1 May</p>	<p>Surveillance, Censorship & Gendered Risk</p>	<p>Explores digital archives, memory, and documentation as forms of epistemic resistance to historical and narrative erasure.</p>	<p>Eubanks, <i>Automating Inequality</i>, Ch. 3, pp. 85–124; Noble, <i>Algorithms of Oppression</i>, Ch. 1, pp. 1–29</p>
<p>9 8 May</p>	<p>Digital Archives & Epistemic Resistance</p>	<p>Centers case studies of journalists, activists, and citizen witnesses, analyzing their narrative strategies and political impact.</p>	<p>Trouillot, <i>Silencing the Past</i>, Ch. 1, pp. 1–30; Spivak, “Can the Subaltern Speak?,” pp. 271–313</p>
<p>10 15 May</p>	<p>Global South Feminist Futures</p>	<p>Situates Palestinian digital resistance within Global South feminist struggles, emphasizing solidarity, decolonial imaginaries, and future directions.</p>	<p>Mohanty, <i>Feminism Without Borders</i>, Ch. 1 & 7, pp. 17–42; 221–249; Mbembe, <i>Critique of Black Reason</i>, Conclusion, pp. 160–190</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

Upon successful completion of this seminar, participants will be able to:



ILO Code	Intended Learning Outcome	Bloom's Level
ILO1	Explain core concepts of gender, settler colonialism, and power, and analyze how these shape Palestinian women's resistance and digital activism.	Understand / Analyze
ILO2	Critically evaluate Orientalist discourse, media power, and epistemic violence in the representation of Palestine.	Analyze / Evaluate
ILO3	Apply anti-colonial and decolonial feminist frameworks to assess digital resistance strategies employed by Palestinian women.	Apply / Analyze
ILO4	Analyze digital storytelling, visual media, and hashtag campaigns as forms of counter-hegemonic knowledge production.	Analyze
ILO5	Utilize Critical Discourse Analysis, narrative inquiry, and visual analysis to interpret digital media narratives and conduct case study analyses of Palestinian women journalists, activists, and citizen witnesses.	Apply / Analyze
ILO6	Integrate theoretical frameworks and empirical case studies to formulate coherent analyses of digital activism and propose informed strategies to support Palestinian women's voices in digital and global advocacy contexts.	Evaluate / Create

Teaching & Learning Strategies

Strategy	Purpose	Online Tool / Method
Synchronous Lectures and Discussions	Engage Participants in real-time learning, facilitate interaction, and discuss readings and case studies	Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or similar platforms.
Asynchronous Learning Materials	Allow flexible study and deep engagement with readings and multimedia content	Slide presentations, PDFs, and videos,
Digital Case Studies and Analysis	Develop analytical skills by examining social media campaigns, hashtags, and visual storytelling	Video- and image-based presentations used for group analysis and sharing insights.
Discussion Forums and Online Debates	Encourage critical thinking, peer engagement, and reflection on course topics	Live Q&A chat box during sessions.
Digital Storytelling and Multimedia Projects	Practice creating counter-narratives and digital activism content	Single-slide visual statement (image with a short caption), shared in the chat box.
Critical Reflection and Journaling	Promote self-reflection, ethical awareness, and deeper understanding of course concepts	Short quiz via Google Forms at the end of some sessions.
Digital Literacy and Tools Training	Equip participants with skills to critically engage with	Social media simulations



digital platforms safely and effectively

Course Matrix: Aligning ILOs WITH CONTENT

Week	Topic / Content	Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)
1	Gender, Power & Colonial Knowledge	ILO1: Explain core concepts of gender, settler colonialism, and power; ILO2: Critically evaluate media power and epistemic violence
2	Settler Colonialism & Narrative Erasure	ILO2: Critically evaluate Orientalist discourse and narrative erasure; ILO3: Apply anti-colonial and decolonial feminist frameworks
3	Anti-Colonial & Decolonial Feminism	ILO3: Apply anti-colonial and decolonial feminist frameworks to assess digital resistance strategies; ILO1: Analyze structural conditions shaping resistance
4	Palestinian Women Journalists	ILO4: Analyze digital storytelling, testimony, and visual campaigns; ILO5: Conduct case study analyses of journalists and activists
5	Activism & Affective Storytelling	ILO4: Analyze hashtag campaigns and affective digital narratives; ILO5: Apply critical discourse and narrative analysis methods
6	Visual Politics & Gendered Witnessing	ILO4: Analyze visual media as counter-hegemonic knowledge; ILO5: Interpret digital media ethically and critically
7	Hashtag Feminism & Global Campaigns	ILO4: Analyze global campaigns and hashtag activism; ILO6: Integrate theoretical frameworks to evaluate strategies for digital activism
8	Surveillance, Censorship & Gendered Risk	ILO2: Critically evaluate digital surveillance and algorithmic bias; ILO5: Conduct digital media analysis considering ethical implications
9	Digital Archives & Epistemic Resistance	ILO4: Analyze digital archives as forms of knowledge production; ILO5: Conduct case study analysis of activists and citizen witnesses
10	Global South Feminist Futures	ILO3: Apply Global South feminist frameworks; ILO6: Integrate theory and case studies to propose strategies supporting Palestinian women's voices