

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

### Criminological Perspectives on Palestine: Legal Responses and Academic Complicity in Times of Genocide

Conference at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, Poljanski nasip 2, 1000 Ljubljana; April 9th and 10<sup>th</sup> 2026

9. 4. 2026		
	Faculty of Law Ljubljana (Gold Lecture Hall)	Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law (Library)
9:45-10:15	<b>Welcome Address</b>	
10:15-11:15	<p><b>Tanya Serisier</b>, Birkbeck, University of London: “Contesting Genocidal Feminism: Against the Militarisation of #MeToo”</p> <p><b>Hannah Wilkinson</b>, University of Nottingham: “Colonial machinery of destruction”</p> <p><b>Yoav Shemer-Kunz</b>, Syracuse University: “Unwilling and unable: Israel and the principle of complementarity”</p>	
11:30-12:50	<p><b>Molly Ackhurst</b>, University of Greenwich, and <b>Tanya Serisier</b>, Birkbeck College: “Asking Questions of ‘The Figure of the Expert’: Interrogating the Risks of Feminist Politics’ Investment in Survivor Expertise”</p> <p><b>Olivera Simić</b>, Griffith Law School, Griffith University, Australia: “Translating Justice into Action: Seeking Redress for Victims of Israeli War Crimes”</p> <p><b>Edina Bećirević</b>, Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology and Security Studies, University of Sarajevo: “Documenting Genocide and Raising the Bar: Legal Semantics, State Crime, and Lessons from Bosnia for Palestine”</p> <p><b>Marta Pinto da Cruz</b>, Amsterdam Center for Criminal Justice: “Carcerality and the</p>	<p><b>Rhiannon Bandiera</b>, Maynooth University, Ireland: “The Epistemic Coloniality of Genocide”</p> <p><b>Alenka Ambrož</b>, The Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts: “Nakba as a Legal Concept and the Postcolonial Universal”</p> <p><b>Teresa Degenhardt</b>, Queen's University Belfast: “The Implicated Subject: Beyond Perpetrators, Actors and Victims”</p> <p><b>Stratos Georgoulas</b>, University of the Aegean – Vice Rector: “Crimes of Neocolonialism in Modern Palestine: Land and Freedom”</p>

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	Immutability of Israeli State Violence Against the Palestinian People: Rethinking Justice for Atrocity Crimes”	
<b>12:50-14:00</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
<b>14:00-15:00</b>	<p><b>Fernanda J. Mira Catanho</b>, Arden University: “From Intifada to Genocide: A Critical Criminology Case Study of Israel’s Settler Colonial Violence Against Palestinian Children”</p> <p><b>Marijke Van Buggenhout</b>, Vrije Universiteit Brussel: “The Organized Destruction of Childhood: Dehumanization, Educide, and the Undermining of the Subjective Self in Gaza and the West”</p> <p><b>Janja Mikulan</b>, School of Advanced Social Studies (SASS), Slovenia: “From State Crime to Social Harm: Collective Trauma and the Criminogenic Conditions of Political Violence in Gaza”</p>	<p><b>Benjamin Nurkić</b>, Faculty of Law – University of Tuzla: “Don’t Stop Me Now’: The ICJ Measures and the Future Proof of Genocide”</p> <p><b>Christiana-Romana Avarli</b>, Toulouse 1 Capitole University (France) &amp; Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece): “From the ICC to the Establishment of an Ad Hoc International Criminal Tribunal: Who Will Arrest, Prosecute and Try Netanyahu?”</p> <p><b>Leo Ranieri</b>, University of Amsterdam: “Punitivism, Israel, and the Affective Life of International Criminal Justice”</p>
<b>15:15-16:35</b>	<p><b>Itamar Shachar</b>, Hasselt University and <b>Tamar Barkay</b> (non-presenting co-author), Tel-Hai Academic College*: “A Socially Responsible Genocide? On Bloodwashing Corporate and State Crimes”</p> <p><b>Widad Kaddura</b>, York University: “From De-development to Genocide Economy: Dependency Theory and State–Corporate Crime in Gaza”</p> <p><b>Benjamin Gerstein</b>, Visiting Fellow, University of Sarajevo Institute for the Research of Crimes Against Humanity and International Law: “Deserts of Destruction”</p> <p><b>Vasja Badalič</b>, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana, Slovenia: “Disproportionate Killing of Civilians: The</p>	<p><b>Hanadi A. Salah</b>, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies: “The Colonized Body: Dynamics of Sexual Subjugation and Structural Annihilation in Gaza”</p> <p><b>Anouk Noelle Nicklas</b>, Humboldt University of Berlin: “Sexual Violence as a Weapon of Settler Colonialism”</p> <p><b>Rimona Afana</b>, Independent: “Hunted, Haunting Bodies: Israel’s Necropolitics Against the Dead and Unborn in Gaza”</p> <p><b>Majd Nasrallah</b>, University of Ljubljana: “Manufacturing Criminality: Proxy Rule, Repression, and the War on Palestinians inside the Green Line”</p>

\* The UN Human Rights Council noted in the opinion A/HRC/59/23 from 02 July 2025 that a large number of Israeli academic institutions were found complicit in atrocity crimes in Palestine. The organizers, in line with institutional policy, note that no cooperation with the Institution in question took place.

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	Rules of Engagement and the Disregard for the Proportionality Rule”	
17:00-18:30	<p><b>PLENARY I:</b></p> <p><b>Maha Abdallah:</b> “Colonising Palestine and the Destruction of its People: International Institutional Involvement and Complicity in Atrocity Crimes”</p> <p><b>Wesam Ahmad:</b> “When Justice Threatens Power: Empire, Impunity and the Pursuit of Accountability”</p>	
20.00	<b>Palestine Social:</b> Music and Design for Palestine; Pritličje (Mestni trg 2, Ljubljana) - in collaboration with Radio Študent	

### PLENARY I:

#### **Maha Abdallah: “Colonising Palestine and the Destruction of its People: International Institutional Involvement & Complicity in Atrocity Crimes”**

This session examines how international institutions have enabled, sustained, and normalised atrocity crimes, including apartheid, persecution, and genocide, throughout the ongoing Zionist-Israeli colonisation of Palestine. It interrogates the roles of state, academic, and corporate actors in constructing the legal, economic, and epistemic infrastructures that facilitate mass violence, dehumanisation, structural domination and destruction, and elimination. The session further explores modes of institutional liability, the politics of “neutrality”, and current struggles for institutional accountability, including academic boycott campaigns alongside institutional and state responses of repression and violence.

**Maha Abdallah** was born and raised in occupied Jerusalem. She is currently a PhD candidate and Graduate Teaching Assistant and at the Faculty of Law, University of Antwerp. Her research examines Zionism as a settler-colonial project and the genocide of the Palestinian people situating the Nakba as an ongoing structural process of destruction and elimination. Maha has worked with human rights organisations, contributing to legal research, advocacy, and international accountability efforts. Her publications engage questions of international law, colonisation, human rights, apartheid, and genocide, as well as corporate accountability in such contexts.

**Wesam Ahmad: “When Justice Threatens Power: Empire, Impunity and the Pursuit of Accountability”**

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My presentation examines Palestine as a critical site for criminological thinking about power, impunity, and the politics of accountability. Drawing on my past work at Al-Haq pursuing accountability through international law, including engagement with international criminal processes, I reflect on a recurring paradox: when justice efforts begin to threaten entrenched power, the system often responds by targeting those who document harm and pursue accountability through delegitimization, criminalization, and sanctions.

The talk connects core criminological concerns, selective enforcement, deterrence, legitimacy, state and corporate crime, and the criminalization of dissent, to the pursuit of international criminal accountability in Palestine. It argues that the primary obstacles are not only legal or evidentiary, but structural: they are produced by an “imperial” architecture of international order in which strategic alignments shape whose violence is treated as punishable and whose is insulated from consequence. In this sense, empire is not necessarily the direct perpetrator of specific crimes, but an enabling environment that sustains exceptionalism and protects impunity.

Using complexity theory as an additional lens, the presentation conceptualizes impunity not as a series of isolated failures but as a resilient social system sustained by reinforcing legal, political, economic, and narrative feedback loops. It concludes by asking what kinds of systemic shifts, academic, institutional, political, and moral, are needed to disrupt these feedback loops and move toward a more equitable international order grounded in restraint, reciprocity, and equal human dignity.

**Wesam Ahmad** is a Palestinian human rights advocate focusing on the area of business and human rights with almost two decades of experience working with Al-Haq, the first Palestinian human rights organization until September 2025, when he was forced to resign due to the US-imposed sanctions upon the organization for its work with the International Criminal Court. Wesam holds a BA in Political Science and Sociology as well as a Juris Doctor from Louisiana State University in the US and an LLM in international human rights law from the National University of Ireland in Galway. He currently holds visiting research positions at the International Institute of Social Studies and The Transnational Institute.

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10. 4. 2026		
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09:00-10:20	<p><b>Almina Selimbašić</b>, University of Sarajevo – Faculty of Law: “Legal Academic Boycott: Navigating the Tension Between Status Quo and Cause Lawyering”</p> <p><b>Era Robbani</b>, Criminology, University of Edinburgh: “Education as a Tool of Resisting the Normalisation of Atrocities: Case Studies from Evacuated Palestinian Students”</p> <p><b>Maryam Jamshidi</b>, University of Colorado Law School: “Securitizing the U.S. University”</p> <p><b>Lior Volinz and Iva Ramuš Cvetkovič</b>, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana: “How the Weaponisation of Antisemitism Enables Israel's Atrocity Crimes in Palestine”</p>	<p><b>Esther Zouaoui-Peyrot</b>, Université de Montréal: “Counter-Forensics as Academic Resistance”</p> <p><b>Asmaa A. Alfar, Alina Bezlaj, Zala Bezlaj, Maria Christina Galanaki, Emilie Gossye, Živa Šketa</b>: “The Discursive Construction of Palestinians in Israeli Criminological Scholarship on Terrorism”</p> <p><b>Ismehen Melouka</b>, Université de Montréal: “Knowledge Production and the Framing of State Harm in Québec’s Student Criminology”</p> <p><b>Aleksandra Milinkovič</b>, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana: “Challenging Academic Discourse on Zionist Ideology”</p>
10:35-11:55	<p><b>Brunilda Pali</b>, University of Amsterdam: “From Police Violence to (Self) Censorship: Mapping the Continuum of Criminalization of Student-Led Palestine Solidarity Activism”</p> <p><b>Kiek Korevaar</b>: “The Criminalization of Pro-Palestine Political Dissent: Experiences of the 2024 Student Uprising in Amsterdam”</p> <p><b>Udi Raz</b>, Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies (Free University Berlin): “Criminalization of Jews in Today’s Germany”</p> <p><b>Iva Ramuš Cvetkovič</b>, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana: “Germany's Double Role in Israel's Atrocity Crimes Against Palestinians”</p>	<p><b>Nina Žnidaršič</b>, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana: “Necropolitics, Academic Autonomy, and the Politics of Neutrality: Discourses of Scientific Objectivity in Academic (Un)Responses”</p> <p><b>Jane Ngan</b>, University of Manchester: “A Boundary Crossing: Academic Silence and the Modes of Expressive Resistance”</p> <p><b>Sarina Bakić</b>, University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Sciences: “Whose Lives Matter? Academic Silence, Epistemic Violence, and Solidarity with Palestine”</p> <p><b>Ljubica Perinić</b>, Archaeology Division, Institute for Historical and Social Sciences in Zagreb, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts: “Through a</p>

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		Decolonial Lens: From Scribonianus' Revolt to Palestinian Self-Determination"
12:10-13:20	<p><b>Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac</b>, University of Zagreb Faculty of Law, <b>Petra Šprem</b>, University of Zagreb Faculty of Law, and <b>Ruža Karlović</b>, University of Applied Science of Criminal Investigation and Public Security: "The Role of 'Academic Watchdogs' and Their Protection Under the ECHR"</p> <p><b>Dragan Petrovec</b>, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law, Ljubljana: "The Academic World and Its Ethics"</p> <p><b>Mattias De Backer</b>, Vrije Universiteit Brussel: "About the Possibility of Critical Spaces in Criminology"</p>	<p><b>Evie Gilbert, Hannah Ferris Blair</b>, Queen's University Belfast: "Belfast's 'Peace Walls': A Critical Content Analysis of Motifs in Palestinian and Israeli Solidarity in Belfast's Murals"</p> <p><b>Laura Buzeti</b>, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor: "Analyzing the Legitimization of Mass Violence Against Palestinians Through Memes on Official Israeli Social Media"</p> <p><b>Maya Jeries Vågenes</b>, Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, University of Oslo: "Journalists' Reflections on Representing Harm in Norwegian News Media: Coverage of Gaza After October 7, 2023"</p> <p><b>Kiran Kaur</b>, Independent: "Framing Violence in Kashmir: A Comparative Study of Indian and Pakistani News Media"</p>
13:20-14:30	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
	<b>Faculty of Law Ljubljana (Gold Lecture Hall)</b>	
14:30-15:30	<p><b>ROUND-TABLE: Academic Complicity</b></p> <p>Stop Academic Complicity Collective</p> <p>Geographers for Justice in Palestine</p> <p>Criminologists for Palestine</p>	
15:45-16:45	<p><b>Sara ElKhatib</b>, MIFTAH – The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy: "Beyond Solidarity: Palestinian Academic Boycott as Epistemic Resistance (Birzeit University as a Case Study)"</p> <p><b>Amy Cortvriend</b>, Loughborough University: "Everyday Resistance in Academia: Learning from the Palestinian Practice of 'Sumud'"</p>	

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	<b>Marijke Van Buggenhout</b> , Vrije Universiteit Brussel: “Criminology’s Mechanisms of Complicity and Palestine”
<b>17:00-18:00</b>	<b>PLENARY II:</b> <b>Shahinaz Geneid</b> , Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI): Title TBA.