



The International Studies Quarterly Newsletter

# INTERRUPTED SILENCE

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# FROM YOUR EDITORS

We are once again in full swing for this academic year! We've all spent fall quarter reminiscing the summer beach days and late nights all the while dragging ourselves to classes and fighting those deadlines. But hey, we are another quarter closer to graduation and we welcomed new undergraduates and graduates into the INT family to join us along the way! We are thrilled to get to know new students and to continue our special bonds with the friends we have already made.

With that said, we have been having a great turnout for our weekly INTuesday events. INT is more than just reading, writing, and studying - the real experience comes with connecting and integrating with the unique, ambitious, and driven students of this department. Therefore, we are excited to further spend time with students over films, food, and other fun activities.

Lastly, winter is coming! So stock up on all those fuzzy socks and warm blankets and prepare to hibernate (at least that's what we do). Let's finish this quarter off with a bang and come back in January stronger than ever!

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



## LUKE BORKOWSKI

I'm currently doing a year of service with AmeriCorps as a community engagement coordinator with Heartland Housing. I help develop the leadership skills of residents and create a sense of ownership in their building by supporting resident councils and connecting residents with community resources. Outside of AmeriCorps, I just finished applying for the Fulbright.

## OLIVIA STEABAN

Hello all! I am currently pursuing an MSc in International Development and Humanitarian Emergencies at the London School of Economics & Political Science. Throughout the course I will complete both a thesis and consultancy project along with my classes. The consultancy project is a compulsory part of the course, providing students an opportunity to apply their learning to a real issue. This is what initially attracted me to the program, as it allowed me to expand upon my studies. This year, the cases include projects from UN OCHA, UNDP, UNICEF, ICRC, and Save the Children. I will be working on the UNICEF case alongside my classmates, conducting research on the Grand Bargain. Of course, all this would not be possible without the DePaul INT department and all of the guidance I received from my professors. You are all so lucky to be surrounded with such phenomenal people! Best of luck in your studies! Please feel free to reach out if you are ever in London.





# Israel's Neoliberal Land Grabbing

by Sarah Risheq\*

## THE WEST BANK AND BEYOND

In the conversation of global land grabbing, Palestine remains a grey area of classification. Israel undeniably colonizes Palestinian land and violates international laws, borders, and human rights policies, however Israeli projects of land appropriation to inevitably drive the greater agenda of Zionist supremacy are excluded. These land projects must be included in the greater conversation not only for the violations of international policies like the Oslo accords of 1993, but the direct and systematic alienation of Palestinian rights and their labor.

The borders of Palestine pose the largest gridlock in the discourse of land grabbing, because two separate narratives are constructed, one being the Israeli State's entitlement of the "Land of Israel" (the Land of Israel being a Zionist term referring to the state of Israel and the territories it occupies, and the other being the Palestinian right to land). There is also the argument of the two-state solution in where Israelis and Palestinians could live in separate autonomous states; however, the original UN 1948 declaration of the state of Israel and Arab territories, to grossly understate, proved futile.

Zionism makes theoretical claims to the land that is Israel-Palestine, but after 1967 is Israeli State gained more agency in claiming the lands from spoils of the Six Day War. After the Six Day War, Israel claimed land from the

Golan Heights all the way to the Suez Canal. Immediately after, Jewish settlers began moving into the land and establishing settlements in the West Bank, Gaza, and Golan Heights. This played heavily into the intricacies of the 1993 Oslo Accords, which attempted to remedy and restore some vestige of Palestinian claim to land. The Oslo Accords ultimately failed due to a very scattered Jewish population in the West Bank that Shimon Peres himself thought would be "too inconceivable" to relocate Jews (Peres 1993). Instead of remedying the problem, the Israeli State seized the opportunity to further assume agency in exploiting the Palestinian people.

The cornerstone of Israel's suppression relies mainly on the power of papers, meaning legal documentation. The Israeli State defends itself through the exploitation of land and refusing documents and permits to Palestinians through self-serving and self-legitimizing laws, regardless of international law. The agricultural sector as well as mineral based industries such as construction materials and rock quarrying fall victim of systematically disenfranchising and lopsided laws.

In a 2015 report by the Human Rights Watch, they cite the then Minister of Industry and Development, Gideon Patt, as to openly admitting the use of Palestinian lands, specifically Gaza, Judea, and Samaria for the economic benefit of Israeli settlements. Patt

also went further as to say that the Israeli State facilitates economic development in those areas, when in reality Israel facilitates economic development, but only for the state and not the Palestinian territories. In 2005, Ariel Sharon removed Israeli settlements from the Gaza Strip, yet this policy retained the economic ties Israeli businesses hold to Palestinian land and labor.

Carmel Agrexco, Israel's largest agricultural exporter, still operates in the Gaza Strip and profits off Palestinian labor. The quarter of the company is backed by marketing boards, with another quarter backed by the Tnuva Cooperative, a kibbutzim agricultural cooperative that historically specialized in specifically dairy, with Chinese control as of 2014; the majority of Carmel

Agrexco's shares are owned by the Israeli State. Carmel Agrexco brands produce is grown in Gaza under the brand "Coral", and sells to one of its biggest markets, the European Union. Moreover, even though Gaza should be free from Israeli settlements, dogma, and should be able to export directly to the European Union, all of the exports of Gaza share similar a similar set of tariffs that are purposely incurred on the Palestinians to economically cripple them even further.

Settlement real estate agencies began integrating in the housing market of Israel. The agencies benefit from confiscation of land from the Palestinians, and use it to market properties to sell or lease incoming or new Israeli settlers. One of these agencies is



RE/MAX Israel. RE/MAX was a Colorado based company that sold out its brand rights in 1995 to Bernard Raskin, an Israeli business man. The result was establishing RE/MAX Israel, a franchise based in Israel with multiple headquarters around Israel and the occupied territories in Palestine. Yet "RE/MAX LLC receives financial benefits from RE/MAX Israel's sale of properties in settlements." (HRW 2015, 76). RE/MAX LLC is the global owner for the global franchising branches, that benefits from RE/MAX Israel's advertisement and the transfer of Israeli settlers into occupied Palestine. The company has property holdings in more than 95 countries for both commercial and residential land concessions. RE/MAX Israel established itself with the highest business volume and the country's largest real estate agency.

Moreover, RE/MAX offers 80, sale or rent, properties in 18 settlements around Palestine. RE/MAX is an Israeli company that profits from the military occupation of the West Bank. "Human Rights Watch calculated that the total value offered for sale in settlements on their website on November 28, 2015 was around 145 million shekels (\$36.25 million)." (HRW 2015, 77). It has been concluded by a Human Rights Watch Rapporteur, that RE/MAX international and RE/MAX Israel are both "directly contributing" to violations of humanitarian law. The Israeli government contributed to RE/MAX Israel's possession of land by confiscating and transferring Israeli settlers into occupied territories. Under Article 49 of the 4th Geneva Convention: it is illegal for an occupying power to transfer its citizens into occupied territories. More precisely, this area would be Area C, and the West Bank, where it is evident that the expansion of settlements is increasing

and spreading in between Palestinian communities. Under the Oslo Accords, Area C and the West Bank were supposed to be granted back to the Palestinian Authority by 1999. While in reality, both areas are still under Israeli military control, and settlements offered by real estate agencies like RE/MAX Israel have been aiding in the expansion of the occupation of Palestine.

The expansion of settlements aligns with the policies of land confiscation, the restriction of Palestinian mobility, and access to their farmlands, established by the Israeli government. RE/MAX Israel's website claims that it has 100 branches around Israel and expands their network by "selling franchises with the aim of providing optimal response to real estate marketing and brokerage in Israel". It is apparent that the State of Israel has been legitimizing land confiscation in order to pave a way for companies that ease their process of land grabbing. These agencies act as covert regional colonization, where land grabbing is legitimized by the State and produces a win-win situation for their economy and expansion, but a loss for the indigenous Palestinians.

Israel implements a new set of laws to help in their process of land confiscation. Israel has been operating on the "Absentee-Law" since 1980s, in which any property private or not, if it has been vacant or not cultivated for three years it automatically becomes "state land". Confiscation of land also means impacting Palestinian livelihood due to lack of access to their former farms, as Israel restricts many farmers from accessing their farm lands that is near the settlements. As a result, causes the land to lose its productive value. On one hand, Palestinians can keep their private property, by proving

that they have owned it through registration and tax records. On the other hand, the Israeli government does not count their tax records as "sufficient" and do not grant Palestinians any permits to own lands, hence a swift process of land grabbing.

It is vividly Real Estate settlement companies that Israel appropriates land for, also contribute to the rights of landowners. In order for settlements to function they need many goods and services that include: roads, telecommunications, transportation and much more. Additionally settlement businesses benefit and exploit Palestinian labor under the unclear laws and policies of Israel. For example, the Green Line, the armistice line created in 1949, is completely unconsidered when planning settlements but highly considered when it comes to labor cost and protections for Palestinian workers.

In 1983, a quarry opened in the village of Zawiyah that covers 60 ha of land. That land was seized by the Israeli Civil Administration and declared as state land. In 2004, Israel built the separation barrier that went into Palestinian territory unlawfully in order for the state of Israel to encompass the quarry from the East. The confiscation and geographical violence in this situation reflects Israel's agenda of land confiscation and the exploitation of Palestinian resources.

In 1963, Hanson Israel was founded, and was acquired a subsidiary to the German company Heidelberg Cement in 2007. Heidelberg Cement, the world's largest producers of cement, concrete products, asphalt and aggregates, is able to own quarry from its subsidiary that operates in the West Bank. According to Hanson Israel's website, it operates 26 concrete plants, 3 quarries and 2 asphalt plants. The products of these plants

are sold in the Israeli market and settlements. Hanson Israel is one of 11 other operating Israeli and international quarries in Area C and the West Bank that are licensed by the Israeli government. The Civil Administration's role in enforcing Israel's unlawful policies in Area C "restrict Palestinian land use, demolish Palestinian property without military necessity, and allocate land and resources to settlers." (HRW 2015, 49). An additional problem is that the Israeli administered quarries are on an occupied territory that should solely be for the use of Palestinians and not for the benefits of the occupying power. These quarries also benefit from Israel's distribution of permits, that it denies to Palestinians. Israel's Civil Administration also has the ability to deny or allow renewal of permits. Beit Fajar, a town located south of Bethlehem, has 80% of its 13,500 residents employed in the stone industry. Beit Fajar is one of the major stone producers in the West Bank, holding 40 quarries and cutting factories. The quarries are in Area C which require a permit to operate, while the cutting factories are in Area B which is completely under the control of the Palestinian Authority. According to the Human Rights Watch interviews with the quarry factory's employee, Israel has stopped renewing their permits from 2012. Additionally, any operating quarry factory without a permit will not only have the land confiscated, but also the equipment will be too by the Israeli authorities. Factory owners will also be forced to be paid an expensive fine towards the administration and lawyers (if assigned). Israel's rejection of renewing permits to Palestinian quarry businesses operating in Area C, benefits their access to new quarry locations. Thus, exploiting

natural resources that gains companies like Hanson Israel and Heidelberg Cement. Such businesses benefit and contribute from the land confiscation in the West Bank. The installed private companies play a major role in employing the government's plan and benefit from its history of land confiscation.

## References

Hanson Israel n.d. Heidelberg Cement Group.

Human Rights Watch. 2016. Occupation, Inc.: How settlement businesses contribute to Israel's violations of Palestinian rights. United States.

Peres, S. 1993. The New Middle East. New York: Henry Holt and Company.

RE/MAX Israel. n.d.

\*This work is a segment of a full essay titled, "Israel's Neoliberal Land Grabbing" written by Patrick Cox and Sarah Risheq.

# Student Talents



GRAYSON KELIEHOR

I am currently majoring in INT and getting my masters at DePaul through the 4+1 program and I have loved getting to know new people in Chicago and doing henna events at DePaul for the past few years! I started to become interested in henna while living overseas in Dubai and then when I returned to the U.S. for university, I taught myself and have been able to expand my business beyond the dorms to Chicago through my Instagram henna account (@graysonhenna).





# INTERNATIONAL FOOD JUSTICE GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

## ISHMA IQBAL

In the Spring Quarter I received the opportunity to work as an International Food Justice Graduate Fellow on a project jointly designed by the Steans Center and the Department of International Studies. I got to spend 100 hours over three months working with the Chicago office of Food Chain Workers Alliance (FCWA), a national coalition of worker-based organizations whose members organize to improve wages and working conditions for all workers along the food chain. The Alliance works to build a more sustainable food system that includes respect for workers' rights, social, environmental and racial justice, and access to healthy and affordable food.

I was mainly responsible for helping with the implementation and promotion of



the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) in Chicago. The GFPP is a comprehensive and metric-based food procurement policy where government institutions work with food service providers, distributors, processors and growers to create a transparent 'farm-to-fork' food supply. The policy focuses on developing a food justice framework that addresses issues in five value categories across the food system: local economies,

environmental sustainability, fair labor, animal welfare and nutrition. The GFPP has only been implemented and successful in Los Angeles so far, and now it will be running in Chicago.

In the three months that I worked as a fellow, I discovered how big the food industry of America really is and yet the food chain workers only receive minimum wage which is barely enough for the amount of work that they put in to provide us with food. During my time at FCWA I attended the Chicago Food Policy Summit 2017, where I got to listen to the various problems faced by the food community here in Chicago. The purpose of the summit was to hear people out and try to address the different issues they were facing. It was truly an eye opening experience especially for me since I was only getting exposed to this industry and learning all these important things about food and social justice.

Now that I have some experience in the food industry, I realize that this would be a great opportunity for students who want to balance coursework and community involvement. Most of all, I felt that people working in this industry were really committed to this cause and are very passionate about what they are doing and want to make sure it has a lasting effect on the community. I would highly recommend all graduate students to try out for this fellowship. It's a fulfilling experience to go outside the classroom and get involved and it looks great on your resume too!



# Student Involvement Opportunity: GirlUp

Gabby Nelson

I spent my summer interning in the Dominican Republic where I conducted field research on the socio-cultural impact of eco tourism in Jarabacoa. Spending a summer at the United Nations Development Programme and overseeing the grassroots work in micro-finance and tourism inspired me to raise funds and advocate for adolescent girls programs after I learned that only 2 cents of every developmental dollar goes to programs specifically for girls, particularly those at 10-14 years old.

Eager to connect the local to global, this fall I started the DePaul campus chapter of GirlUp. GirlUp is a campaign of the United Nations Foundation which empowers youth around the globe to take action to support some of the world's most marginalized adolescent girls. Through advocacy, fundraising, service, and engaging with the local Chicago community, Girl Up DePaul aims to promote girls and women's rights. Using our campus and Chicago as a platform, we intend to educate and volunteer in order to foster a community that ensures that girls are empowered locally and globally.



Girl Up DePaul utilizes a community development model and intends on collaborating with non-profits in the Chicagoland area that focus on the rights and resettlement of refugees. Additionally, our fundraising efforts will go towards programs that benefit the education, safety and healthcare of adolescent girls in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Malawi, India, and Liberia.



# SUMMER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Deadline: February 2, 2018

## Czech Republic & Germany: Business & the European Union

This seminar to Prague and Berlin will broaden students' general awareness of the international business climate of Central Europe. Students will gain a greater understanding of the business, political, and educational issues affecting this region's transition from a centralized to a market-driven economy.



## France & Switzerland: Exploring European Hospitality, Tourism, & Culture

France and Switzerland are among the top destinations for tourists visiting Europe. Exploring the tourism industry in these popular locales, students compare and contrast customer behavior trends and tourism operations in Europe and the United States.



## FY@broad Italy: St. Francis of Assisi's Pilgrimage of Peace

Saint Francis of Assisi changed his world -- and invites us to do the same! In this Focal Point Seminar, students will discover the young man from Assisi, Italy who became a powerful peacemaker and spread a new way of life throughout the society of his time. We will get to know and learn from this spiritual pioneer whose compassion for others, love for the earth, and work for peace and reconciliation has inspired people everywhere for the last eight centuries.

## FY@broad Peru: Chocolate, Coffee, & the Ethics of Global Production

Fair trade and ethical trade are both responses to a desire for more ethical principles in commodity sourcing as well as a growing concern about the social conditions under which commodities are produced and distributed. Can consumers be confident that this increase in ethically sourced commodities is leading to core labor rights and human rights standards to those who produce food bearing some type of ethically sourced label? What do the different labels mean? How are guidelines different for ethical trade and fair trade? How does ethical sourcing use my money to improve the lives of those who produce what we purchase?

## Germany: Law and Critical Social Justice

The program seeks to explore the critical traditions in human rights law and how they relate to specific justice struggles confronting immigrants, religious minorities, communities of color, women, LGBT, and trans\*people in Germany and the U.S. Students will study in the heart of the city at the storied Humboldt University in Berlin (HU-Berlin), a host institution chosen for its tradition for excellence and criticality.



## Iceland, Denmark, & Sweden: The Business of Sustainable Energy

Sustainable development has emerged as one of the most important issues of the 21st century. It is a multi-dimensional concept that aims to integrate environmental, social and economic objectives into a discussion about our consumption of energy and the impact of changing usage on all of our futures. Scandinavian countries like Iceland, Denmark and Sweden are known for their ecological consciousness and as leaders in renewable and alternative energy production. Their sustainable energy programs are known to be the best in the world and are therefore the perfect destination for studying the power and impact of sustainable energy.

# Winter Quarter Schedule

**INT 200-INTRODUCTION TO MACROECONOMICS IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT**

Michael McIntyre Mo/We 11:20-12:50

**INT 202-INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT AND COOPERATION**

Jacob Stump Tu/Thur 9:40-11:10  
Tu/Thur 2:40-4:10

**INT 204-CULTURAL ANALYSIS**

Heidi Nast Tu/Thur 4:20-5:50

**INT 205-INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**

Jacob Stump Tu/Thur 11:20-12:50

**INT 206-IDENTITIES AND BOUNDARIES**

Heidi Nast Tu/Thur 2:40-4:10

**INT 301-SENIOR SEMINAR**

Michael McIntyre Mo/We 1:00-2:30

**INT 306-GLOBAL EMPIRES**

Shiera Malik Tue 6:00-9:15

**INT 308-NATURE, SOCIETY AND POWER**

Kaveh Ehsani Mon 6:00-9:15

**INT 309-CRITICAL DEVELOPMENT THEORY**

Glenda Garelli Wed 6:00-9:15

**INT 317-READING MARX'S CAPITAL**

Kaveh Ehsani Mo/We 2:40-4:10

**INT 319-REVOLUTIONS AND PEASANT REBELLIONS**

Jose Soltero Mo/We 1:00-2:30

**INT 325-LAW OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, NGOS AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE**

Gil Gott Mo/We 4:20-5:50

**INT 349-WORLD ECONOMY:STATES, MARKETS, AND LABOR**

Maureen Sioh Tu/Thu 11:20-12:50

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