

ICS SEMINAR SERIES 2024

Taking Action for Palestine in Academic and Cultural Institutions

11 April 2024 | 11:30am - 1:00pm

Room: EZ.G.22 Parramatta South Campus

Abstract

The ongoing genocide in Gaza has reiterated the extent to which an infrastructure of global collusion enables and abets the settler colonisation of Palestine. This structure is often misunderstood to be an ethnic or religious 'conflict' rather than what Ajl (2024) calls the 'purest expression of Western power, combining militarism, imperialism, settler colonialism, counterinsurgency, occupation, racism, instilling ideological defeat, huge profitable war-making and hi-tech development into a manticore of destruction, death, and mayhem.'

How do academics and cultural workers draw attention to the collusion by their institutions without falling into the trap of conspiratorialism?

To discuss this, Ronit Lentin charts the historical and present-day involvement of Israeli academia in upholding the colonisation of Palestine. Amani Haydar looks at the link between interpersonal abuses and state-sanctioned abuses within feminist spaces, particularly those focused on interpersonal violence. Alana Lentin presents the current repression of anti-Zionist voices within academic institutions in several key locations with a focus on the adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism as a mechanism of colonial silencing.

Biography

Ronit Lentin is a retired Associate Professor of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin, currently living on unceded Gadigal land. Her main works include *Thinking Palestine* (Zed, 2008) and *Traces of Racial Exception: Racializing Israeli Settler Colonialism* (Bloomsbury, 2018) and *Enforcing Silence: Academic Freedom, Palestine and the Criticism of Israel* (Zed, 2020).

Amani Haydar is an author, visual artist, and advocate for women's health and safety based on Dharug land. Her ground-breaking memoir *The Mother Wound* (Macmillan, 2021) has received several awards, including the 2022 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Non-fiction.

Alana Lentin is a Jewish anti-Zionist European woman who is a settler on Gadigal-Wangal land. She is Professor of Cultural and Social Analysis at Western Sydney University, and her work focuses on the critical theorization of race, racism and antiracism. Her latest book is *Why Race Still Matters* (Polity, 2020).

**Panelists: Alana Lentin,
Ronit Lentin, Amani
Haydar**

Research Alignment:
Borders and Migration

**NEXT SEMINAR:
18 APRIL**