

Mada al Carmel Activities

New Project: The fusion between religion and nationalism in the Zionist case

This is a joint research project between Mada al Carmel – Arab Center for Applied Social Research and Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

The project examines the fusion between the religious and the national from a comparative perspective, through research that focuses on the intersection between the religious and the national claims in Zionism, both in ideology and in practice. The project will also hold comparative research on other cases where the religious overlaps with the national in places such as Sri Lanka, India and Serbia. The project will also study the cases of South Africa and Ireland to gain insight from them.

The project, which started in October 2012, will go on for three years. It will hold several research workshops, local and international, where researchers present their research for discussion and collaborative analysis. The researchers then continue to work on their research topics until the end of the second year of the project. The third year will be used to produce a book that includes papers from all researchers. Two conferences are then held at the end of the project; one in Mada Al Carmel that focuses on the Palestinian Israeli conflict through a comparative perspective, and another in Fletcher School, which will focus on the international insight about the fusion between religion and nationalism.

A group of Palestinian and Israeli researchers interested in the Palestinian Israeli subject, as well as international researchers will take part in the project. The project is co-managed by Mada Al Carmel and Fletcher School simultaneously. Workshops related to the Palestinian Israeli conflict will be held by Mada Al Carmel – Haifa, whereas workshops related to other international conflicts will be held by Fletcher School of Tufts University.



The first workshop was held end of March 2013 in Fletcher School of Tufts University. The second workshop was held on October 24 & 25, 2013 in Nazareth. While the third workshop, dealing with the fusion between religious and national claims and its impact on justifying the violence in the Israeli case, will be held in April 2014 in Jerusalem. International researchers will be invited to take part in this workshop. Another workshop will be held around the fusion between religion and nationalism within the Palestinian context, which is completely different than the Israeli context, in the fall of 2014.

The project is directed by Professor Nadim Rohana and Professor Nadera Shalhoub Kevorkian, and coordinated by Areen Hawari.

Research groups

Mada Al Carmel has launched two research groups, each investigating one of the following research topics:

1. The Islamic movement in the Jewish state: a comparative perspective, led by Dr. Mohannad Mostafa.

The research group discusses and analyzes the political and intellectual discourse of the Islamic faction in Israel, in its two Islamic movements: the Islamic movement that participates in Israeli Parliamentary elections and that which does not participate in the elections, while keeping in mind that participation in the Knesset elections is only one of many issues through which the two Islamic movements differ from one another.

To analyze the political discourse of the Islamic movement in Israel, the research group will seek a methodology that compares it to political Islam in the Arab world; an element that has not been researched before, and that will allow for a more in-depth understanding of the political discourse of the Islamic faction in Israel.



2. The Druze in Israel: between nationalism and citizenship, led by Dr. Yusri Khaizaran.

This research group will attempt to re-induce the reality of the Druze inside Israel from a new perspective that is not based on an institutional vision. Instead, it will analyze official state policies toward the Druze in the areas of politics, army recruitment, education, land confiscation, representation in the state's administrative apparatus, and most importantly the reframing of the Druze collective memory from the Zionist perspective.

This research group will work under the supervision of Mada al-Carmel on understanding the political, economic, social and cultural entity of the Druze community away from institutionalization, and will rely instead on neutrality and objectivity, and will exemplify both the historical and current reality of this community in light of a new vision that refuses to accept the current status quo.

Mada al-Carmel has called on PhD students and researchers to participate in these research groups. Each research group consists of eight to ten participants with ten monthly sessions held for each group. The sessions include the reading of relevant academic, political and research articles, as well as hosting lecturers specialized in these fields.

Mada al-Carmel will grant a research fellowship for each of the participants in return for their participation in the research groups, and the completion of a written research paper suitable for publication. Mada al-Carmel will publish the papers in an edited volume in Arabic (with the possibility of publishing in English too).