

# Mada's Ongoing Events

- In September 2001, Mada al-Carmel opened its Gender Studies Seminar Series for 2011-2012 with a seminar dedicated to the study of Dr. **Fatma Kassem's** recently published book, *Palestinian Women: Narrative Histories and Gendered Memory* (Zed Books, London, 2011). **Himmat Zu'bi**, researcher and coordinator of the Gender Studies Program, moderated the seminar and mentioned that in the past decade, the number of research studies on women in Palestinian society from a critical, feminist Palestinian view had grown. Dr. **Manar Hassan**, a reviewer of the book, emphasized the value of the seminar and the book. She stated, "This book makes a vital contribution to the historiography of the Palestinian narrative, and...presents the history of people missing from the historical record as it is presented." Dr. Kassem spoke about the importance of language and of analyzing the role of language. She said that her book adopts a feminist approach in a broad sense.

## **For Further Information**

- In August 2011, Mada al-Carmel held its first conference for Palestinian doctoral students. The conference was characterized by the diversity of research topics, the content quality, and the attendance of distinctive doctoral students. The presence of women at the conference was also conspicuous. The Israeli army prevented one Palestinian doctoral student from Ramallah from attending, on the pretext of "security" concerns. The conference was opened by Professor **Nadim Rouhana**, Director of Mada al-Carmel, and Dr. **Amal Jamal**, a member of the conference's academic committee and Director of I'lam Center. The closing argument was given by Professor **Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian**, Director of Mada's Gender Studies Program and a member of the conference's academic committee. The conference had four discussion sessions and a

concluding session. The first session, chaired by Dr. **Bashir Bashir**, was dedicated to sociology and anthropology. The second session, which addressed research on Middle East history, was chaired by Dr. **Sherene Seikaly**. The third session was dedicated to the subject of law and was chaired by Prof. **Michael Karayanni**. The fourth session discussed topics under political science, and was chaired by Dr. **Salim Tamari**.

#### **For Further Information**

- “Was there a revolution in Egypt?” This question was the focus of a lecture given at Mada al-Carmel in August 2011 by Professor **Joel Beinin**, who teaches Middle East history at Stanford University (California, USA). Professor **Nadim Rouhana**, Director of Mada al-Carmel, opened and moderated the workshop. In Dr. Beinin’s opinion, the events in Egypt differed from history’s classic revolutions. In his concluding comments, he said that the balance of power in Egypt remains unclear, and that there is no guarantee how the "revolution" will play out. It is still impossible to claim that a revolution took place in Egypt; on the other hand, it is also impossible to claim that there was no revolution.

#### **For Further Information**

- In July, Mada al-Carmel organized a workshop on ethnographic research on Palestine. Dr. **Khaled Furani** and Professor **Dan Rabinowitz**, both affiliated with the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Tel Aviv University, gave a joint lecture based on their historical research on this issue. Dr. **Amahl Bishara**, from the Department of Anthropology at Tufts University in Boston, responded to the lecture. Their lecture focused on the ethnographic arrival of Palestine on Western ethnographic research on Palestine since the Nineteenth Century. Furani and Rabinowitz divided the ethnographic research on Palestine into four periods and presented the characteristics and features of each. The speakers noted that much of the ethnographic work came to serve colonialism and the Zionist narrative.

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