

# CENTRE FOR SENSORY STUDIES



## TALKING SENSE SEMINAR

### **The Wall was like a War: Sensory Politics of Spatial-Temporal Confinement in Jerusalem**

Nayrouz Abu Hatoum

Monday 15 March 2021

12:00-14:00; [Zoom link](#), passcode: 951972

In this talk, I turn to imaginings through visual representations of space/landscape as an epistemic site for understanding sensory politics in Palestine. By presenting the words and works of Palestinians, some of whom are artists, I ask, what does the sensory politics of displaceability look like? My talk builds on a decade long research in Jerusalem and the Palestinian cities around it. I center Jerusalem as a site which, for Palestinians, coalesce in a multiplicity of sensory experiences that foreground a suspicious relationship to space and time- more significantly, the future. I use the Israeli-built Wall as a site and sight for examining sensorial relationships to space. In particular, I examine the post-Intifada period which was followed by the construction of the Wall to trace stories and artworks that speak to the then-future forms of confinement, displacement, and loss.

[Nayrouz Abu Hatoum](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Concordia University. She was the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod postdoctoral fellow at Columbia University for 2018/2019. Her research explores visual politics in Palestine and the Israeli state and focuses on people's place-making and dwelling practices in contexts of settler colonialism and military occupation. Her ethnographic manuscript *The Art of Unsettling Visual Politics: Decolonizing The Palestinian Landscape After the Wall* (work in progress), investigates the visual politics of engagement with the landscape in Palestine. The book follows Palestinian artists who work with visual and performance art as sites of political sovereignty and liberation.

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