

Folklore in Jerusalem Between War and (no) Peace: The Jerusalem Project 1991-2011



Wednesday, October 12th
1:30—4:30 p.m.
Mathers Museum of World Cultures
416 N. Indiana Ave.

Israeli, Palestinian, and U.S. scholars will address the terms of engagement that emerge and diverge in the occupied/disputed/contested city of Jerusalem. In light of the recent human rights violations against Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem neighborhoods, they will discuss boundaries and border crossings between political activism and academic research as well as the prospects and pitfalls of scholarly "dialogue" projects that engage across Israeli and Palestinian lines in the city.

Drawing upon their twenty-year engagement in developing the Jerusalem Project's ethnographic and pedagogic programs as well as their ongoing involvement in grassroots political movements that are confronting recent events in the city, participants will assess their involvement in designing symmetrical frameworks that work against the asymmetrical power dynamics in Jerusalem. The Jerusalem Project's processes and products illustrate the limits of this kind of cultural dialogue, especially when it involves not only Israeli and Palestinian partners enmeshed an ongoing relationship as occupier and occupied, but a US partner as well, whose role is fraught with asymmetry and ambiguity.



Participants: Galit Hasan-Rokem, Salim Tamari, Amy Horowitz