

Research *in* and *on* War: Methodological and Ethical Considerations



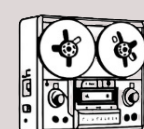
May 6-7, 2026

International
Workshop

Near and Middle Eastern
Studies Program
Maiengasse 51, 4056 Basel



Organized by Chiara Calabrese, Atwa Jaber, and
Falestin Naili as part of the SNSF Consolidator project
*Futures Interrupted: social pluralism and political
projects beyond coloniality and the nation-state*



FUTURES
INTERRUPTED

Summary

How can we collect data and narratives in war or about war? What negotiations, positionalities, and concrete strategies are required to build and preserve the trust of interlocutors in contexts where material, emotional, and security risks are high? How do emotions and affect shape data production and analysis, as well as the interpretation of narratives emerging from war and violence?

This workshop addresses these questions by bringing together researchers working on contexts of ongoing or past wars and who employ a wide range of methods for data and narrative collection, including interviews, participant observation, informal conversations, and archival research. By fostering dialogue across disciplinary and methodological boundaries, the workshop seeks to critically reflect on the ethical, methodological, and affective dimensions of researching war.

This workshop is organized in collaboration with the *Institut d'Histoire du Temps Présent* (IHTP) and the *Institut français du Proche-Orient* (Ifpo), with funding from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), the Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies (Uni Basel), the Vice Rectorate for Research (Uni Basel), and the Graduate School for Social Sciences (G3S, Uni Basel)



Students may attend this workshop by registering through this QR code with their university email. Places are limited.

Program

Day 1: **Wednesday, 6 May**

	Arrival and coffee	08:30-09:00
Welcome and introduction	Falestin Naïli, Chiara Calabrese, and Atwa Jaber (Uni Basel)	09:00-09:15
Session 1	<i>Reconstructing Sources and Narratives</i> Rihem Fahem (IHTP), <i>“Martial law is not a state of war”</i> : <i>Archival Production and the Erasure of Colonial Violence in Tunisia</i> Thibaud Laval (Ifpo), <i>Researching in Wartime: Methodological Reflections on Field Access and Sources in Iraq and Iran</i> Walid Cherqaoui (IHTP), <i>Doing without archives of harm: Do-it-yourself (DIY) methods and reflexive challenges</i> Chair: Lorena Rizzo (Uni Basel)	09:15-10:45
	Coffee break	10:45-11:00
Session 2	<i>Recovering Voices</i> Ammar Azzouz (Oxford Uni.), <i>Topographies of Memory: Reflections on Young Architecture Students on The Future of Their Cities</i> Mina Ibrahim (Ghent Uni.), <i>Entertainment as Living Archives: Popular Culture and What Is Left Behind after the Syrian Years of Revolution and War</i> Sarah Haderbache (IHTP), <i>Looking for the voices of the death sentenced of Algerian war of independence: a work in progress</i> Chair: Henri-Michel Yéré (Uni Basel)	11:00-12:30
	Lunch break	12:30-13:45
Session 3	<i>Positionality: Between Stories and Struggle</i> Abaher El-Sakka (Birzeit Uni.), <i>Epistemic Challenges of Fieldwork in a Colonized Society: The Palestinian Case</i> Sepideh Parsapajou (Ifpo), <i>Between Stories and Struggles: Ethical and Methodological Stakes of Anthropology in Iran’s Polarized Landscape</i> Taher Labadi (Birzeit Uni./Ifpo), <i>War and the Struggle over Knowledge in Palestine</i> Vassily Klimentov (Uni Zurich), <i>From Afghanistan to Ukraine: Researching Moscow’s Unending Wars</i> Chair: Agnès Favier (Ifpo)	13:45-15:45
	Coffee break	15:45-16:15
Session 4	<i>Reflexivity: Emotions and Affect in the Field</i> Dima Alsajdeya (EUI), <i>(Re)searching Palestine Abroad: The Case of Palestinian Camps in Lebanon</i> Lina Ounissi (Uni Basel), <i>Writing social history beyond the archive of violence: Mâlûf, War, and emotionally saturated memory in and of Constantine</i> Wini Omer (Farida Magazine), <i>From the Field and Back to the Personal: Emotions, Positionality, and Research Ethics Fieldnotes from my research on militarised masculinity</i> Chair: Malika Rahal (IHTP)	16:15-17:45
	Dinner	18:00-19:30

Program

Day 2: Thursday, 7 May

	Arrival and coffee	09:00-09:30
Session 5	<i>Ethics: is this an appropriate time to do research?</i> Ahmed Heneiti (Paris 8), <i>Fieldwork in the Context of Colonial State Terror: Settler Terror against the Palestinian Bedouins</i> Lubna Tarabey (Lebanese Uni.), <i>Doing Anthropology at Times of War: ethical entanglements</i> Mariam Alsharif (EHESS), <i>Methodological Challenges for Research during and after wars in Sudan</i> Chair: Julie Bernath (Uni Basel)	09:30-11:00
	Coffee break	11:00-11:15
Session 6	<i>Afterlives: towards repositories for the future</i> Leila Musson (IISH), <i>Archiving and Data collection as Care</i> Rana Sukarieh (AUB), <i>Navigating the Ethical Boundaries in Writing about Wartime Mutual Aid</i> Valentina Napolitano (IRD), <i>“Political reflexivity” and research on family transformation in war-torn Middle East: Outline of a research project</i> Chair: Burak Sayim (Uni Basel)	11:15-12:45
	Lunch	12:45-14:00
Concluding session	Participants only	14:00-15:30
	Farewell Apéro	15:30-17:30
