

Annual Newsletter 2022

Mada Al-Carmel (Arab Center for Applied Social Research) is honored to present to you the 2022 Annual Newsletter summarizing Mada Al-Carmel's activities throughout the year. Mada Al-Carmel aims to serve as a Palestinian academic platform that produces useful and in-depth knowledge and to play a significant role in the development of a new generation of male and female Palestinian researchers in various fields of the human and social sciences, particularly those studying Palestinian citizens of Israel. Mada Al-Carmel seeks to merge theoretical studies and applied research, address issues of general theoretical knowledge, analyze relevant political and social affairs, make knowledge available to all segments of society, and serve as a point of contact and source of support for Palestinian researchers and students.

Mada Al-Carmel's Programs

- **❖** Postgraduate Student Support Program
- 1. Seminar and grants to support academic research skills among Palestinian postgraduate students Group 7

The seminar aims to support and develop academic research skills among Palestinian postgraduate students. In 2022, the program had 14 male and female postgraduate students from foreign, Palestinian, and Israeli universities. Dr. Mohanad Mustafa, the General Director of Mada Al-Carmel, ran the seminar and provided academic support to the students,



with coordination support from Mr. Imad Jaraysi. Mada offers grants to students who participate in the seminar.

During 2022, the following meetings were held:

• Meeting 1 (January)

Dr. Mohanad Mustafa opened the first meeting by highlighting the importance of developing and supporting research skills among Palestinian graduate students in order to amplify their role in research and knowledge production and enrich the academic field with timely



and relevant research. Moreover, he emphasized the importance of researchers' adopting innovative theoretical and practical approaches in their work. The meeting highlighted the participants' topics in the field of research and methodology, as well as the main challenges they face in their academic journey. Dr. Mustafa commented on the research topics, which were then discussed by and among the participating students.

Meeting 2 (February)

The meeting focused on theoretical frameworks and the role of theory in postgraduate studies. Professor Amal Jammal, Professor of Political Sciences at Tel Aviv University, delivered a critical analysis of relevant academic literature, highlighting the importance of improving researchers' capacity to develop robust theoretical frameworks by staying abreast of new research findings and new theoretical claims. He also stressed the importance of the original theoretical contributions made by each of the researchers within their respective fields of study.



• Meeting 3 (March)

The third meeting was held in person at Mada Al-Carmel's office in Haifa and focused on research methodologies. It opened with a presentation and discussion of a doctoral research proposal by one of the participants in the seminar. During the meeting, Dr. 'Amid Sa'abinah, a lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the University of



Haifa, gave a lecture entitled "Research Methodology in Sociology."

Meeting 4 (May)



During the meeting, Professor Ayman Ighbariyah, a lecturer in the Faculty of Education at Haifa University and head of the Research Committee at Mada Al-Carmel, discussed "Research Production and Challenges Faced by Researchers."

• Meetings 5, 6 and 7 (June)

This full-day meeting was held in person in the city of Ramallah in the 1967 occupied Palestinian territories. Dr. Mohanad Mustafa launched the meeting with a discussion of theory, ideology, and modernity. Five students from the PhD Program in Conflict Resolution at the Arab American University joined the meeting. The meeting included the following sessions:

The first session focused on "Settler-Colonialism, the Sociology of Knowledge Production in Israel and Methodologies of Critique", and was presented by Dr. Areej Sabbagh-Khoury, a lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a member of the





Research Committee at Mada Al-Carmel. The lecture discussed key literature in the research on settler-colonialism. The session included a presentation by student 'Aliyah Zu'bi, entitled "Examination of Legal and Feminist Anti-Colonial Representation Based on the Experiences of Palestinian Women."

The second session focused on "Knowledge and Alternative Knowledge in Sociology: Insights from Israel Studies and Other Fields," and was presented by Dr. Honaida Ghanem, Director of The Palestinian Forum for Israeli Studies (MADAR). Ghanem gave a presentation on the ethics of alternative knowledge production and their relationship to balances of power, the evolution of alternative concepts of knowledge, and the implications for the Israeli-Palestinian reality. The session also included a presentation by student 'Abd-al-Qadir Badawi on "The Transformation of Israel's Civil Society: The Influence of New Right-Wing Associations and Organizations on Israeli Politics."

The third session focused on "The Research Path and Journey: Theoretical and Methodological Challenges" and was presented by Dr. Areen Hawari, a lecturer and Director of the Gender Studies Program at Mada Al-Carmel. Hawari addressed tangible challenges in conducting research, citing real-life examples. The session also featured a presentation by student Mirvat Abu-Haddubah on "Minorities and the Police: The Arab Minority - Prevailing Violence and Police Absence."

2. Workshop on "Zionism and Palestinian National Movement: Readings in the Memoirs of the Colonizer and the Colonized" -Group 4

The workshop focused on the denotations of memoirs published by Zionist and Palestinian political, intellectual, and military leaders as an avenue to studying the nature of the confrontation between the colonized and the colonizer. Several university professors, postdoctoral students and scholars participated in the workshop. Professor Nadim Rouhana moderated the workshop with coordination support by student Qasam al-Hajj. During 2022, the following meetings were held:



Meeting 1 (January) The meeting was held via Zoom, and historian Dr. Adel Manna gave a lecture entitled "Theoretical and Methodological Introductions to Writing Autobiographies." Professor Nadim Rouhana moderated the meeting and the ensuing discussion.



Meeting 2 (February) The meeting was



hosted by Professor Ihab Salloul of the Amsterdam School for Heritage, Memory and Material Culture. Professor Salloul a talk on presented "Overlapping Disciplines and Competing Memories." The discussion addressed several topics related such to concepts interdisciplinarity as a field of study and research; memory, memories,

heritage; and competing memories and their role in the ongoing construction of national identity. The meeting was held via Zoom.

Meeting 3 (March) During this meeting, the workshop members exchanged ideas about their respective research projects related to the workshop, which were presented during the seventh meeting at the University of Amsterdam in July. Professor Nadim Rouhana moderated the discussion.



Meeting 4 (May) The theme of this meeting was "Israeli Soldiers Narrate the Story of the 1948 War." Speakers included Shay Hazkani from the University of Maryland, US and Tom Pessah from the Arab Academic College of Education in Haifa, Israel. The two lecturers discussed multiple narratives by Jewish soldiers about the 1948 War, or Palestinian *Nakba*. The meeting was held via Zoom.



Meeting 5 (July) The two-day meeting was held in collaboration with the



Amsterdam School of Heritage, Memory, and Material Culture at the University of Amsterdam. The first day included lectures by Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Sheikh, a lecturer at Birzeit University, on "Walid Daqqah: The Parallel Archive"; by Dr. 'Issam Nassar, a lecturer at the Doha Institute for

Graduate Studies, on "Memory of Missing House in Jerusalem"; and by Dr. Sary Zananiri from Leiden University, on "Frank Scholten: Building Biblical Modernity?"

Several members of the workshop presented papers, including readings from memoirs and biographies by Palestinian elites (such as poet Fadwa Tuqan and judge Sheikh Taher al-Tabari) and Zionist elites (e.g. Moshe Dayan and Yousef Nahmani).

On the second day, guest Professor Sonja Mejcher Atassi, a lecturer at the American University of Beirut, gave a lecture entitled, "The Complexities of Real-Life Stories in Jerusalem Before 1948." The participants presented

several research topics related to the memoirs and memories of Zionist colonizers and the Palestinian colonized, including figures from the political and economic elite classes, as well as members of the general public. The meeting



concluded with a closing session during which the participants agreed to publish an academic book containing papers written by various participants.



3. Workshop "Palestinians in Israel: Shifts in Knowledge Production, Readings in Academic and Historical Texts, and Theoretical Approaches" - Group 5

The aim of the workshop was to research and study knowledge production on Palestinians in Israel, taking account of social, political, economic, and cultural contexts and shifts that have influenced knowledge production in different historical periods, as well as transformations that affected agents in the field of knowledge production, including researchers and research institutions. The workshop further discussed hegemony and the means of breaking and challenging it within the field of knowledge production, the conditions that allow for cognitive hegemony, and variables that help challenge and contest it. The workshop was moderated by Dr. Mohanad Mustafa and Dr. Areej Sabbagh-Khoury. 15 master's and doctoral students participated in the workshop.

The following meetings were held during 2022:

Meeting 1 (September) The first meeting focused on "Israeli Academic Production on Palestinians in Israel," and included a reading of Palestinian academic texts that served as an introduction to new theoretical and historical approaches to studying Palestinians in Israel. The first session

discussed the intellectual and political framework of the workshop. It included two lectures, the **first** of which discussed the relationship between politics and knowledge among marginalized groups, delivered by Dr. Mohanad Mustafa, and the



second was given by Dr. Areej Sabbagh-Khoury, on "Israeli Knowledge Production on Palestinians in Israel."

The second session was entitled, "The Beginnings of Critical Knowledge Production on Palestinians in Israel." During the session, Professor Ayman Ighbariyah gave a lecture on "Writing as a Constraint and as an Act of Defiance: A Critical Review of Literature on Education." The lecture was followed by a presentation of two critical

texts, which are considered texts marking the beginning of critical knowledge production on Palestinians in Israel. 'Imad Jaraysi, a doctoral



student at the University of Haifa, gave a presentation of Sami Merhi's book *Arab Education in Israel*, published in 1978, while Khalid 'Anbatawi, a doctoral student at the Geneva Graduate Institute, gave a presentation on Ian Lustick's book *Arabs in the Jewish State: Israel's Control of a National Minority*, published in 1980.

The first meeting concluded with a third session entitled, "Israeli Knowledge Production on Palestinians in Israel." During the meeting, Professor Emeritus Ian Lustick of the University of Pennsylvania gave a remote lecture on "Arabs in the Jewish State - Critical Approaches to Knowledge Production on Palestinians in Israel," referring to his aforementioned book in this context. The lecture was followed by a presentation of another two critical texts, texts which launched critical knowledge production about Palestinians in Israel. Gabi Mansour, a master's student at the Hebrew University, gave a presentation on Sabri Jiryis' book *Arabs in Israel*, published in 1965, while Haneen Zoabi gave a presentation on Elia Zureik's book *The Palestinians in Israel: A Study in Internal Colonialism*, published in 1979.

Meeting 2 (October) The second meeting was entitled "Academic Knowledge Production Out of Non-Academic Knowledge: Status of Memoirs and the Field of Literature Among Palestinians in Israel."

The **first** session discussed the theoretical framework for the second meeting. It consisted of two lectures, the first given by Dr. Mohanad Mustafa on the subject of "Reflections on the Relationship between Literature and Knowledge," and the second by Dr. Areej Sabbagh-Khoury on "Literature, Translations,



and Memoirs as Archives." The session concluded with a screening of Emile Habibi's film *I Stayed in Haifa*.

The **second** session was entitled "Political and Sociological Approaches to Memoirs." Three participants in the workshop presented excerpts from personal memoirs. Saher Ghazzawi, a researcher and academic with a master's degree in political science from the University of Haifa, presented



Sheikh Raed Salah's memoirs, *Highlighting the Birth of the Islamic Movement Banned by Israel*. 'Amro Ighbariyah, a researcher and social activist interested in Palestinian studies with a master's degree from Tel Aviv University, presented Ahmed Saleh al-Jarbouni's memoirs, *Al-Rawabi's Panthers*. Rula Shahwan, Director of the Conflict Studies Research Center (CSRC) of the Arab American University in Palestine - Ramallah and a doctoral student in cinema studies at Goethe University, Frankfurt, presented Najwa Qa'war-Farah's memoirs, *A Morning, an Evening: Memories Are My Hopes*.

The second meeting concluded with a **third** session, entitled, "The Field of Literature and Knowledge Production." Two participants presented literary excerpts: Raifa Jabareen, a researcher in health awareness and lecturer at the Department of Nursing at the University of Haifa, presented Emile Habibi's novel, *The Pessoptimist*, while Halima Abu-Haniyeh, who holds a PhD in social sciences from Birzeit University, presented Tawfiq Mu'ammar's novel, *It Will Get Better*.

Meeting 3 (October) The third meeting was held via Zoom. Dr. Areen Hawari, Director of the Gender Studies Program at Mada al-Carmel, delivered a lecture on "The Formation of Masculine Identities Under Military Rule 1948-



1966: Between Literature and Oral Memory".

Meeting 4 (November) The fourth meeting was entitled, "Producing

Knowledge on Palestinians in Israel over the Last Three Decades: New Theoretical and Methodological Approaches." The **first session** outlined the theoretical framework of the fourth meeting. The session consisted of two lectures, the **first** on "Readings at the Threshold of the Development of Palestinian Knowledge



Production Since the 1990s," given by Mohanad Mustafa, and the second



on "Critical Academic Production on Palestinians in Israel, Zionism, and the Settler-Colonial Paradigm," by Areej Sabbagh-Khoury.

The **second session** addressed "The Characteristics and Context of Knowledge Production in the 1990s: The Beginnings of the Production of Critical Palestinian Sociological Knowledge." During the session, members of the workshop presented academic texts. Majd Barbar, a PhD student at the Conflict Studies Research Center (CSRC) of the Arab American University in Ramallah) presented an article by Dr. 'Azmi Bishara. Afnan Kana'ina, a master's student in the Department of Communication at the University of Haifa, presented an article by Professor Ahmed Sa'di, and Dr. Islam Abu-As'ad, a researcher in educational sociology and the professional development of teachers at Ben-Gurion University, presented an article by Dr. Manar Hasan.

The meeting concluded with a third session on "Knowledge Production in the New Millennium: Developing New Theoretical Approaches." During the session, members of the workshop presented academic texts. Maryam Za'roura, an architect with a master's degree in architecture and urban planning in built heritage conservation, presented an article by Professor As'ad Ghanem and Dr. Mohanad Mustafa. Nareman Shehadah Zoabi, a lawyer and master's student in criminology at the University of Haifa, presented an article by Professor Amal Jammal. Gabi Mansour, a master's student and researcher in the Department of Sociology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Haneen Zoabi jointly presented an article by Dr. Areej Sabbagh-Khoury.

4. Mada Al-Carmel's 8th Conference for Palestinian Doctoral Students (July 2022)



Mada al-Carmel held its 8th Conference for Palestinian Doctoral Students on July 30, 2022, at the Golden Crown Hotel in Nazareth. The event brought together many respected Palestinian academics and university students. The conference was opened by Dr. Areen Hawari, who discussed the program's mission of supporting Palestinian doctoral



students. Dr. Sonia Boulos, a lecturer at the Universidad Antonio Nebrija in Madrid and a member of Mada al-Carmel's Research Committee, gave a lecture titled, "Between Passion, Commitment, and Pragmatism: On challenges in academic life." Dr. Areej Sabbagh-Khoury moderated the panel and three students gave presentations.

Aliyah Zu'bi, a PhD candidate in International Law at the University of Exeter in England, gave a talk on "Examining a Feminist and Anti-Colonial Legal Representation Model based on the Experiences of Palestinian Women." She discussed a feminist and anti-colonial legal model of representation for Palestinian women within the Israeli courts.

Hanaa Khalifa-Younis, a PhD candidate at the Department of Leadership and Educational Policy at the University of Haifa, gave a talk on "Creating a Cosmopolitan Identity for Palestinians in Israel in Educational Fields." She emphasized the need for education to focus on questions of identity, given the complexity of matters of identity for Palestinian Arabs in Israel as they try to reconcile their Israeli and Palestinian national and civic identities.

Rula Shahwan, a PhD candidate at the Department of Film Culture and Archiving at the Goethe University of Frankfurt, Germany, presented the final talk in this panel, on "Archive-Based Israeli Knowledge Production: Documentary Film Production as a Model." In it, she highlighted the importance of archiving in documenting and preserving the Palestinian narrative, amid Israel's attempts to silence it.

Dr. Hanin Karawani-Khoury, a lecturer and researcher at the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences at the University of Haifa, moderated the second session, which consisted of three presentations on mechanisms of communication and empathy, and their potential for growth within educational and therapeutic contexts.

Nagham Baranisah, a PhD candidate at the University of Haifa, gave the first presentation of the second session. She gave an overview of factors that influence personal development and the level of psychological pressure that parents of children who are Palestinian citizens of Israel diagnosed with autism face. She then presented the treatment plan that she developed during her research.



Nur Kassem, a PhD candidate in the Psychology Department at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, gave a presentation on "Sympathy towards the least privileged member in the context of a dominant group." She highlighted the highly-charged emotional experiences of Palestinian students enrolled in Israeli academic institutions when dealing with bilingualism and having to use the colonizer's language.

Maha Khalil Yahya, a PhD candidate at the Department of Leadership and Educational Policy at the University of Haifa, gave the third and final presentation, on "Education for Political Imagination in Arab Schools in Israel: Opportunities, challenges, and obstacles." She introduced the concept of 'political imagination' and its importance in understanding the political reality that individuals experience. She also offered practical strategies to develop the concept of 'political imagination' among students in Arab schools in the Palestinian territories.

Professor Ayman Ighbariyah concluded the conference by expressing his gratitude to Mada's staff and Academic Committee and emphasizing the importance of promoting and supporting research among emerging Palestinian scholars.

As part of its commitment to assisting students in developing research skills, Mada al-Carmel concluded the conference by awarding annual grants to the participating students.



Gender Studies Program

For the second year in a row, Mada's Gender Studies Program continues to support female Palestinian researchers and emphasize the contribution made by academic papers published through the Program to the development of strategies for social and political change in pursuit of gender equality, as well as the development of new theories.

Publications

• Research Paper (April)



A research paper by doctoral student Sukaynah Jrayb-Sawa'id titled "Between Two Generations of Higher Education - The Academic Journey of Palestinian Female Doctoral Students in Israel." The paper discusses the educational, social, familial, and national experiences of Palestinian female students pursuing PhDs at Israeli

academic institutions.

• Research Paper (November)



A research paper by student Rabi' 'Id titled "Tourism Is a Colonial Activity: Pinkwashing and Israeli Pride Parade – A Case Study." The paper discusses the relationship between gay/queer tourism and colonialism and capitalism (or economic profit) through pinkwashing in the Israeli pride parade. It highlights models for confronting pinkwashing

policies and discourse.

• Research Paper (December)



A research study entitled, "The Right of Access to Courts, and the Right to a Fair and Just Trial in Ecclesiastical Courts in Israel: An Analysis from an International Law Perspective," by researchers Dr. Sonia Boulos and Shireen Batshon, a lawyer and legal researcher in human rights, gender equality, and representation in cases considered to constitute legal precedent. The study is based on a

commitment to gender-based justice and basic human rights. It reveals



deep knowledge of the legal and political context of personal status issues in Israel, as well as international human rights standards.

Lectures, Seminars and Study Days

• Joint Seminar with the International Christian Association (June)



The seminar discussed research on "The Right of Access to Courts, and the Right to a Fair and Just Trial in Ecclesiastical Courts in Israel: An Analysis from an International Law Perspective." During the seminar, researchers Dr. Sonia Boulos and lawyer

Shireen Batshon presented the research, and Professor Michael Karayanni offered commentary on it.

• Study Day in Collaboration With the "Hospitality Circles" Project (December)



The study day, entitled "The Palestinian City Between Forced Absence and Restored Presence: Feminist Approaches" was held in honor of the feminist and academic contributions of Dr. Manar Hasan, a leader in the restoration of the

Palestinian feminist movement and contributor to feminist knowledge production. Dr. Himmat Zoubi then delivered an academic lecture on "The Palestinian City: Evolving under Erasure."

To watch the first session - Click Here

To watch the second session - Click Here



Policy Unit



Since the beginning of 2022, Mada al-Carmel has published a total of 11 policy papers, as follows:

January: "Abbas' Statements on Judaism of the State", published in Arabic and Hebrew.

February: "Approval of Transfer of Government Units and Departments to Jerusalem: Implications and Dimensions", published in <u>Arabic</u>

March: "Erosion and Forestation or Judaization of the Negev?", published in Arabic and Hebrew.

April: "The_Arab List's Options Between Solomon's Withdrawal and Storming of Al-Aqsa" published in <u>Arabic</u> and <u>Hebrew</u>.

May: "Administrative Arrests as a Type of Collective Punishment Targeting Arab Citizens within the Green Line" published in <u>Arabic</u> and Hebrew.

June: "Dissolving the Knesset and Holding New Elections in Israel" published in Arabic.

July: "Parliamentary Elections and the Crisis of the Arab Parties" published in <u>Arabic</u>.

August: "Restoring Deterrence and the Electoral Status of Lapid and Gantz" published in <u>Arabic</u>.

October: "Palestinians in Israel and the 25th Knesset Elections" published in <u>Arabic</u>.

November: "Reading the Outcomes of the 25th Knesset Elections for the Palestinian Community in Israel" published in <u>Arabic</u>.

December: "The Ramification of Netanyahu's Sixth Government for Arab Citizens" published in <u>Arabic</u> and <u>Hebrew</u>.



Series of Palestinian Papers



Mada publishes an ongoing series of 'Palestinian Papers', the authors of which analyze Palestinian public affairs and issues related to the Palestinian community through articles, studies, and academic research papers spanning several fields.

The papers enrich the Arabic library with academic studies on the Palestinian cause in Arabic, making them available to a wide Arab audience of researchers and students. In 2022, Mada published two new papers in the series:

<u>Palestinian Papers (No. 8):</u> "On Israeli Policies and Those who Make Them: A Reading of Land Day, the Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Intifada, and the Uprising of Dignity", by **Amir Makhoul.**

<u>Palestinian Papers (No. 9):</u> "The Image of the Israeli Police Among Palestinians in Three Geographical Areas: the West Bank; Jerusalem; and the 1948 Territories", by **Fayruz Salameh.**



❖ Israel Studies Program



The Israel Studies Program publishes research papers on Israeli affairs, conveying new knowledge-based approaches and critical insights to promote indepth understanding of Israel and the Zionist movement.

Studies on Israel (5): "The Bennett–Lapid Government: Future Readings". This series consisted of four papers (in Arabic only):

<u>Paper (1)</u> "Education in Jerusalem under the Bennett Government... Where to?"

<u>Paper (2)</u> "The Vision of the Bennett-Lapid Government for Relations with the Palestinian Authority."

<u>Paper (3)</u> "The Bennett-Lapid Government and its Stance toward the Territories Colonized in 1967."

<u>Paper (4)</u> "Renewed Religious-Secular Conflict under the Naftali Bennett Government."

Studies on Israel (6): "The 25th Knesset Elections: Netanyahu's Successful Translation of Right-Wing Hegemony in Israeli Society Into Seats."



Liberation Psychology Program

This program was launched in October as a "platform for liberatory psychology" to serve as a foundation upon which to build and accumulate analytical knowledge, from a liberatory psychological and sociological

perspective, on the reality of Palestinians as a nation living under oppression and colonialism, and on their quest for liberation. This platform includes readings and writings on the Palestinians from a liberatory psychology perspective, and literary pieces documenting the experiences of other nations that have lived through similar experiences in other parts of the world.



Seminar



"Nakba and Steadfastness: Psychological Readings in Cross-Generation Shock"

The seminar, which was held remotely in December, was attended by a large audience of specialists, therapists, and researchers from various parts of historical Palestine and the wider Arab world. The event was used to announce the launch of the new program, which required two years of preparation.

Click here to watch the seminar



❖ Wiki -Palestine Project

The Wiki Palestine project, which ran during the course of 2022, was concluded in partnership with the I'lam Center (The Arab Center for Media

Freedom), with the support of the Welfare Association (*Taawon*) and the Arab Fund. 10 Palestinian university students participated. The project involved work conducted by the students on Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, during which they received training by Wikipedia editors.



Participants learned techniques and skills in the collection and documentation of information on Palestinian issues that they can use to develop into Wikipedia articles. During that stage, the project focused on documenting the absented Palestinian novel, the names of contemporary and historical Palestinian figures, as well as events and factors of political, cultural, and social significance. The titles and articles were collected under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Mtanes Shihadeh, head of the academic committee for this project, who was responsible for choosing articles, with the support of colleague Inas Khatib. Maysoun Zu'bi from the I'lam Center acted as the project coordinator.

The students managed to document more than 500 articles, including new and modified articles, despite the challenges they faced in the form of policies of deletion. One student, Dania 'Id, was awarded a 'Modification Medal 500' by Wikipedia in appreciation of her efforts and hard work, and earned powers to edit protected articles, having fulfilled the requirements to qualify as a Wikipedia editor herself.

***** Conferences and Seminars

Mada Al-Carmel's Annual Conference on "Palestinians in Israel"

On May 28, 2022, Mada al-Carmel held its annual conference at the Cultural Palace in Rahat in the Naqab/Negev. The main theme was theoretical and pragmatic approaches to violence and crime within the Palestinian community in Israel. The aim was to find fresh perspectives based on the latest research and studies, an aim that reflects Mada al-Carmel's commitment to promoting new approaches to understanding the



The conference brought together many participants in person and via live video conferencing. Mohanad Mustafa, the Director of Mada al-Carmel, highlighted the significance of holding the conference in the Negev region, and in the city of Rahat specifically. He also elaborated on the conference's theme: the

relationship between violence and crime in the Palestinian community and the Israeli political regime.

The conference opened with a speech by Sheikh Fayez Abu Suhayban, the Mayor of Rahat, who addressed the issue of crime and violence within the Palestinian community. Professor Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, the Chair of the Board of Directors of Mada al-Carmel, focused on the impact of colonialism and the political system on crime and violence in the Palestinian community in Israel. Dr. Mtanes Shihadeh, Director of the Policy Unit at Mada al-Carmel, presented the results of a survey on the political situation and violence among Palestinians in Israel. The survey revealed that the Palestinian community has internalized claims made by Israeli institutions about the causes of violence and crime, often attributing them to social and cultural factors within their community.

The first panel discussion, on "Comparative political and theoretical approaches to violence," was moderated by Dr. Rawayah Abu Rabi'ah, a lecturer at the Law School at Sapir College. Shahrazad 'Awdeh, a PhD



candidate at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, presented a talk on "Community experiences in the fight against crime and violence," and Mirvat Abu Hadduba, a PhD candidate at the Department of Politics and Government at Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba, discussed "Minorities and the Police System: The Arab minority – Overwhelming violence and police absence." Hiba Zaydan, a therapeutic social worker and a PhD candidate in the School of Social Work at the Hebrew University, presented a talk on "The relationship between exposure to psychological stress due to socio-political problems and domestic violence among Palestinians."

Sheikh Raed Salah, President of the Committees of Peace Promotion (*Ifshaa al-Salam*), a member organization of the High Follow-up Committee for Arab Citizens in Israel, emphasized the significance of these committees, the challenges they encounter, and the strategic plans in place to address these challenges.

Dr. Areen Hawari moderated the second panel, entitled "Systematic and knowledge-based approaches to studying violence in the Palestinian community." Dr. Muhib Zaydan, a lecturer at the Department of Economics at Knox College in Illinois, US, gave a presentation on, "Developing strategies and mechanisms for documenting homicides: Lessons drawn from a research project on femicide in Palestine before the Nakba". He stressed the need for reliable resources in order to develop and update data on homicides systematically. The next speaker was Dr. Maysam Bishara, PhD, from the Faculty of Education at the University of Haifa. In her presentation, titled "Israeli academic rhetoric on the phenomenon of violence in the Palestinian community inside Israel: Survey and preliminary results," she compared violence in the Arab and Jewish communities in Israel and highlighted the lack of reliable studies on everyday violence. Lawyer Rida Jaber, Director of the Aman Center - The Arab Center for a Safe Society, proposed analyzing the concept of policing from a social perspective, considering factors such as the formation of the Zionist Jewish identity and the mentality of the Israeli police, as well as individual psychological factors.



Additional Seminars

March Mada al-Carmel held a cultural seminar to discuss a book by



Professor Khalid Abu-'Asbah, titled, *Education* and *Pedagogy in the Arab Society: Between* Reality and Future Prospecting, at the public library in Umm al-Fahm.

October Mada organized a political seminar on "Arabs and Knesset



Elections: Readings in the political conduct and discourse of political parties and voting patterns" in October at the Arab Culture Association in Haifa.

December Mada held another political seminar on the subject of Benjamin



Netanyahu's autobiography in December at the public library in Umm al-Fahm.



New Publications



"The Palestinians in Israel: Theoretical and Applied Approaches on Violence and Crime in the Palestinian Community in Israel" by Dr. Mohanad Mustafa (Editor).

"Archives in Israel, the Israeli Historical Narrative, and the Nakba: Unveiling the Report that Refutes the Israeli Historical Narrative," by Dr. Mahmoud Maharib.



Collaborations

- A poetry evening held in honor of the journey of Palestinian poet Hanna Abu-Hanna, in May.
- A joint academic seminar organized by Mada Al-Carmel and the Conflict Studies Research Center (CSRC) at the Arab American University in Palestine-Ramallah in July, in which 12 doctoral students from the **CSRC** participated.





- A workshop held by Mada al-Carmel and the Palestine Forum in **December** in Ramallah on the implications of the policies of the Israeli Government on the Palestinians.



Hosting delegations

In August, Mada Al-Carmel had the great pleasure of hosting a delegation of students from Chicago, under the leadership of Arab American students including Jinan Shehadeh and Rima Rustom, in October. During the meeting, Mada discussed with the students its activities and the question



of how to make connections between organizations in Chicago and Palestinians in Israel and their needs.

In October, Mada Al-Carmel hosted a group of students and lecturers from the British University and College Union (UCU). The meeting addressed the challenges and difficulties that Palestinian students face within Israeli academic institutions, as well as the role played by Mada Al-Carmel in general, and its Postgraduate Students Support



Program in particular, in the Palestinian academic landscape.

