

Middle Eastern Studies Scholar

# **YASIR SULEIMAN**

to give two lectures in St. Louis

## **Landscaping Conflict: Language and Politics in the Middle East**

Dr. Suleiman's lecture explores the marking of national identity symbolically through the linguistic landscape in Israel and Palestine. Framed against the notions of conflict, occupation, hegemony and contestation, the lecture shows how the public space is exploited to press claims of ownership through a set of semiological strategies, including orthographic positioning and erasure. Linguistic interferences are tracked to show the subterranean working of language in the public sphere as an index of identity. The lecture will cover a period of nearly one hundred years, showing the abiding importance of the landscape as a platform for national contestation in Israel and Palestine.

### **Public Lecture**

**Wednesday 18 November - 7:00 PM**

**Millennium Student Center**

**Century Room A, 3rd floor**

**University of Missouri-St. Louis**

All visitors to UMSL must have a parking permit. To request your FREE permit and a campus map, please visit our website, [www.cfis-umsl.com](http://www.cfis-umsl.com) and click on "Register", or call 314-516-7299.

## **Yasir Suleiman**

Dr. Suleiman is the head of the Centre of Islamic Studies and the Department of Middle Eastern Studies at Cambridge University. He is a leading scholar in his field and has written extensively on political and ideological aspects of the Middle East, especially, but not exclusively, from the angle of sociolinguistics and Middle Eastern studies. He has also made substantial contributions to the discussion of diasporic experiences and the experience of autochthonous Middle Eastern Jews. He is a leading academic in the UK, a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and a prominent Palestinian intellectual.

## **Contextualizing Islam in Britain**

This seminar takes its name from a project and subsequent report that sought to answer the following question: What does it mean to live faithfully as a Muslim in Britain? This simple question soon developed into a range of related issues: What are the different meanings that 'secular' can have, and how are these contested? What does the Qur'anic commitment mean in the British context? What do Islamic traditions have to say about citizenship, and how might Muslim scholarship develop this notion further? How are discourses about citizenship created in Britain today? What is the relationship between the overall objectives of Shari'ah and Islamic jurisprudence?

A group of scholars, social scientists, religious and community leaders and educationists debated the issues posed by these questions over a period of ten months, producing a report for the British government. The project was based in Cambridge. Yasir Suleiman was Project Leader.

A free copy of the report is available at: <http://www.cis.cam.ac.uk/CIBP.html>

### **Scholar Seminar**

**Thursday 19 November - 4:00 PM**

**100 Busch Hall**

**Washington University in St. Louis**

For more information on this seminar, please contact:

Dr. Mohamed-Salah Omri

314-935-4342

[momri@artsci.wustl.edu](mailto:momri@artsci.wustl.edu)

Sponsored by Center for International Studies, University of Missouri-St. Louis in cooperation with Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures; Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Studies; Pluralism, Politics and Religion Initiative, Washington University in St. Louis.