

Palestine: Romanticism's Contemporary

Editor: Lenora Hanson, *New York University*

Deadline: June 1st, 2022

Essay Length: 3,000-5,000 words

Review Process: Anonymous peer review

Projected Publication Date: Summer 2023

This forum on Palestine and Romanticism situates both historical and present-day Palestine as a contemporary of Romanticism. Rewriting the persistent narrative of Palestine as a land without people, it offers the first English language venue to engage with the place of Palestine and Palestinian identity in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Historical Palestine offers necessary insight into the preconditions of Orientalism, as well as the relationship between European colonialisms of past and present, from British to Zionist. Palestine's Arabic and Bedouin indigenous histories and cultures open up non-sovereign and beyond-statist perspectives that cannot be understood through the Eurocentric constructs of identity, history, and belonging that emerged in the Romantic period. Recognizing Palestine as a place and a people contemporary with the Romantic period will revitalize our understanding of Romanticism and will show present-day Palestinians to be necessary interlocutors for scholars concerned with ongoing struggles against colonial racism and for the commons.

We seek short essays from writers inside and beyond the academy. Essays may engage with the Ottoman Empire more generally, but this should not be their primary focus. Contributions that focus on one or more of topics listed below will be prioritized:

- **Arabic and Bedouin ways of life, cultural and religious practices, written texts, subsistence economies, attitudes toward the natural world, etc.**
- **The naming of Palestine (Filastin, the Holy Land, or a vilayet of Damascus and Acre, etc.) before the British Mandate period**
- **Indigeneity, non-sovereign identity, nomadic methodologies and approaches to “the historical narratives of nonstate peoples” (Nasser Abufarha)**
- **Palestine within Islamic culture**
- **Spatial, architectural, and archaeological analysis and practices that undo colonial erasures**
- **Comparative analyses of Romantic oral, ballad, and “customs in common” (E.P. Thompson) traditions with oral histories and/or ethnographies that remember Palestine through folk tales, landscape, “so-cial poetics,” cultural practices, and popular historiographies**
- **Romantic-era Palestinian literature and culture in relation to the Nakba (Catastrophe) (dispossession, colonialism, ethnic cleansing, the right of return, refugee conditions, etc.)**
- **European nationalism and the primitivization of local tradition**
- **Early British colonial presence in Palestine as it appears in travel narratives, consul reports, missionary endeavors, economic activities, etc.**
- **Collaborations between Romantic scholars and Palestinian activists, students, and/or artists**
- **Romanticism as inspiration to contemporary Palestinian poets and novelists (Samih al-Qasim, Mahmoud Darwish, Emile Habibi, etc.)**

Please submit essays and brief biographies as Word documents to Lenora Hanson (lh117@nyu.edu). Enquiries are welcome and can be directed to Lenora.