

Georgetown University
Institute for the Study of International Migration
and
Center for Contemporary Arab Studies

Beyond Borders: Palestinian Refugees and Diasporic Identities

Assistant Professor Rochelle Davis discusses her ongoing research
at this month's *Migration Working Group* series
Monday, November 24, 2008
12pm, CCAS Boardroom (ICC 241)

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This year's 60th anniversary commemorations of the Palestinian exodus in 1948 spawned a variety of local events, school projects, and global products. This paper explores how Palestinians' lives in Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon are both constrained by borders and also extend beyond them as part of a continual process of reaffirming and redefining Palestinian identity.

Rochelle Davis is an Assistant Professor of Arab Culture and Society at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. She is an anthropologist by training. Dr. Davis' teaching interests include Arab society and culture; refugees, migrants and immigrants in and out of the Arab World; popular culture; and tradition, conflict and change. Her past research has explored Arab and Arab American identity and Palestinian social and cultural life prior to 1948. She has also collected over fifty oral histories of Palestinian Jerusalemites about their lives in the twentieth century. Her most recent work deals with village memorial books published by Palestinian refugees about their villages that were destroyed in 1948. A book manuscript on the subject is currently in progress.