

**Reflections on the Other:
The Jew and the Arab in Literature and Film**

Tentative Syllabus 2015

Stanford University | [Vered Karti Shemtov](#) |

Introduction (I): Imagining the Other

- From *American Pastoral*, Philip Roth
- "God, Satan and Human" (last paragraphs), Amos Oz
- *Arab Labor*, first episode, Sayed Kashua - Discussion

Introduction (II): Historical Background

- "Kadima," short story, Suliman al-Shaikh
- "Cocked and Locked," short story, Etgar Keret
- *The Deliverance of Others*, David Palumbo-Liu
- Discussion: Historical Background

The Other as Lover,

- "Latifa," short story, Moshe Smilansky
- "Nomad and Viper," short story, Amos Oz
- "A Room On The Roof," short story, Savyon Liebrecht
- "The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict as a Metaphor in Recent Israeli Fiction," article, Menakhem Perry
- "Arab Male, Hebrew Female: The Lure of Metaphors," article, Anthon Shammass
- *Divine Intervention*, Elia Suleiman/ Film (clips in class) Arabs, Jews,
- Others and Lovers in popular Arabic music, Ramzi Salti, Guest Lecture

"Liberating Songs: Palestine Put to Music" by Joseph Massad (optional)

- *The Bubble*, Eytan Fox
- *Strangers*, film, Guy Nattiv, Erez Tadmor
- *The Lover*, AB Yehoshua
- from: "I and Thou," Martin Buber (Handouts)

Inside the Other's Space

- "A Conversation," Short story, Jamal Naji (read in class)
- "Flying Carpet," short story, Riyadh Baidas (read in class)
- *The Liberated Bride*, selected chapters from a novel, AB Yehoshua (read at home)
- "The Return to Haifa," Novella, from: Palestine's Children, Ghassan Kanafani
- "Danger, High Voltage: The Image of the Jew/Israeli in Palestinian Intifada Literature," from *Modern Palestinian Literature and Culture*, Ami Elad
- *For my Father*, Dror Zahavi (watch at home online)
- *The Gate Keepers* by Dror Moreh

Divided Spaces: Self and Other in Jerusalem

- *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, selected chapters from the novel, Amos Oz,
- The other in Yehuda Amichai's Jerusalem poetry (read in class), clips from a movie on Amicha (in class)
- Tamim Al-Barghouti, "In Jerusalem"
- Poetry by Darwish
- Clips from a movie on Darwish (in class)
- "Significant but problematic others: negotiating 'Israelis' in the works of Mahmoud Darwish," Muhammad Siddiq
- Songs by Fairuz and Shemer/Haza about Jerusalem (in class)
- **Palestinian and Hebrew poems about Jerusalem (read at home)*
- The City of the Walking Flower," Essay, Salman Masalha
- A poem by Salman Masalha (in class)

Guest speaker: Alexander Key, Professor of Arabic Literature

Watching and Listening to the Other

- "The Other Barta'a," short story, David Grossman (read at home)
- "Coffee And Croissant" and "Video" Ala Hlehel,
- *Almost Dead*, Asaf Gavron
- "Delving into the mind of the 'other'" Asaf Gavron
- *Tentative plan: guest authors: Asaf Gavron and/or Ala Hlehel*

Hybrid Selves and Writing in the Language of the Other

- *Second Person Singular*, Sayed Kashua
- Poems, Roni Somek (in class) "I Write in Hebrew," poem, Salman Masalha (in class)
- "Umami-Fi-Shurl," Short story, Orly Castel Boom (in class)
- Clips from *Forget Baghdad*, movie by Samir (in class)
- Suggested reading: "Between 'Jew' and 'Arab' – probing the borders of the Orient," book chapter, Gil Z. Hochberg
- Suggested reading: Introduction to *The Location of Culture*, Hommi Bhabha
"Double Agent in Hebrew," book review (Masalha), Omeri Herzog - optional
"Not my Mother Tongue," book review (Masalha), Hannan Hever - optional

Defining the Victim: Self, Other and Moral Judgments

- From: *Samed, Journal of a West Bank Palestinian*, Diary, Raja Shehadeh
- Ayman Agbaria's "Why Did They Select Us to be Their Victims?"
- Dalia Rabikovitch, Selected Poem
- *To the End of the Land*, selected book chapters, David Grossman
- Clips from interview with David Grossman (*in class*)

The Arab and Jew in Western Film and Literature - Presentations

- "Knowing the 'Other': Arabs, Islam, and the West," Joel Beinin
- Orientalism, Introduction, Edward Said,
- "The Jew as the Original "Other," Aron Rodrigue
- Presentations (suggested texts/films):
 - *Palestine; A Graphic Novel*, Joe Sacco
 - *Promises*, Film
 - *The Attack*, novel, Yasmina Khadra
 - *Exodus*, Film **Final Exam**
 - "Facing the Forests," short story, A.B. Yehoshua