



Conflict or Cooperation?

The Politics and Economics of Trans-Border Environmental Issues

Lecturer: [Prof. Dan Rabinowitz](#)

3 hour lectures once a week, 3 credits, Undergraduate

General

This course examines the relationship between politics, economy and the environment, with a focus on environmental conflicts and co-operation in Palestine/Israel and its bordering territories. Its aim is to:

1. Re-familiarize participants with basic concepts and ideas that span environmental thought, politics and history;
2. Introduce them to pertinent case studies of political induced environmental issues arising from the Israeli-Arab conflict;
3. Provide a forum for discussing contemporary environmental issues pertinent to the region
4. Open opportunities for research initiatives in this field.

Part 1 (week 1 and part of week 2) introduces and theorizes the inherent tension between nationalism and nationalizing projects and sustainability and introduces the environmental history of the Arab-Israeli interface as an extended case study.

Part 2 (weeks 2-8) explores seven realms shaped and determined by this interface which carry pertinent environmental consequences: population; settlement; transportation; water; energy; forestry; and planning. Within each of these realms case studies will be presented and discussed which link concrete environmental trajectories to relational dynamics across borders between communities and states, including environmental injustices associated with Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan since 1967.

Part 3 (weeks 9-11) inquires whether proactive environmentalism could potentially enhance cooperation and reconciliation across borders in the region, and uses hands-on experience gained at the Arava Institute and others in the region as exemplary cases.

Grade Components

- Attendance and Participation: 20%
- Class presentation of reading materials: 20%
- Each week one, a team of students will present a review of the items featured in the weekly reading list. Presentations (15-20 minutes), should be shared by all team members and must include (a) brief summary of the main arguments; (b) reasoned suggestions for at least 2 additional items beyond the items reviewed that correspond and add to them; And (c) suggest arising questions and areas of inquiry. Presentation should culminate with a stimulating and relatable question for class discussion, moderated by the presenters.
- Mid-term paper: 30%
- Final exam: 30%

Course Program

Note: items indicated by an asterix are required reading.

Link to dropbox containing (most) items in the reading list as PDF files:

[Rabinowitz Conflict or Cooperation Course Materials](#)

Lecture one: Introduction and basic concepts

*Hardin Garrett (1968). *The Tragedy of the Commons*. Science 162 pp.1243-1248. (PDF available with DR)

*Kimmerling, Baruch & Joel Migdal (1993) *Palestinians: the Making of a People* (New York, NY: The Free Press). Chapter 1 pp:3-37, The 1834 revolt)

Population I: People in Motion

*Scholch, Alexander (1985) The demographic development of Palestine, 1850-1882. International Journal of Middle East Studies, Vol. 17, No. 4 (Nov., 1985):485- 505

Alon Tal (2014) *The Rise and Fall of Aliya – A Brief History of Emigration to Israel*. Ch. 4 in: *The Land is Full*. Yale University Press :46-78

Population II - Pronatalism

* Jacqueline Portugese (1998) *Fertility Policy in Israel: The Politics of Religion, Gender and Nation* (Westport, CT: Praeger. C. 5 and C.6 :72-116

Kanaaneh, Rhoda Ann (2002) *Birthing the Nation: Strategies of Palestinian Women in Israel*. Ch. 1 pp:23-56

Settlement

*Shafir, Gershon (1996) *Land, Labor, and the Origins of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, 1882-1914* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press). Ch. 6

*Rabinowitz, Dan (1997) *Differentiated Space? C. 4 in Overlooking Nazareth: The Ethnography of Exclusion in Galilee*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. :71-82

Water

*Dallasheh, Leena (2015) *Troubled Waters: Citizenship and Colonial Zionism in Nazareth* *Int J Middle East Stud* 47: 467–487

*Sharif S Elmusa 1995 *Dividing Common Water Resources According to International Water Law: The Case of the Palestinian-Israeli Waters* *Natural Resources Journal* 35: 223-242

Transportation; Energy

*Shlomo, Oren (2017) Sub-formality in the formalization of public transport in East Jerusalem *Current Sociology*, March 2017, Vol.65(2), pp.260-275

*Shamir, Ronen (2013) *Current Flow: the electrification of Palestine*. Stanford University Press Introduction and Ch. 1 .

Forests and Trees

*Braverman, Irus (2008) "The Tree is the Enemy Soldier:" A Sociolegal Making of War Landscapes in the Occupied West Bank. *Law and Society Review* 42(3): 449-482

Tal, Alon (2002) The Forest's Many Shades of Green. In: *Pollution in a Promised Land: An Environmental History of Israel* Berkeley and LA: University of California Press Chapter 4: pp 69-111

The Power of Planning

*Hershkowitz, Arie (2010) Ideological shifts and doctrine changes in national level planning in Israel *The Town Planning Review* 81(3): 261-281

*Rabinowitz, Dan (2001) Strife in Nazareth: Struggles over the religious meaning of place. *Ethnography*, Vol. 2, No. 1:93-113

Environmentalism, reconciliation and trans-border cooperation I

Guest speaker: Elad Orian, Community Energy Middle East (COMET-ME)

*Sadeh, Shahar (2016) *Environmental Peacemaking and Peacebuilding in the Middle East: Examining Peace Park Proposals along Israeli-Arab Borders*. PhD Dissertation, The Porter School of Environmental Studies, Tel-Aviv University. pp42-98

Kyra Marie Reynolds (2017) Unpacking the complex nature of cooperative interactions: case studies of Israeli–Palestinian environmental cooperation in the greater Bethlehem area *GeoJournal Volume* 82, 4:701-719

Environmentalism, reconciliation and trans-border cooperation II

Guest speaker: David Lehrer, AIES Track II project.

*Clive Lipchin 2015 [Watershed Moments: Israeli, Palestinian, Bedouin Team on Negev Water Quality](#) In *JNF Impact* March 22

*David B Brooks and Julie Trottier 2012 Moving Fresh Water from last to first in the peace process. Chapter 8 in: *A Modern Agreement To Share Water Between Israelis and Palestinians: The FoEME Proposal - Revised Version* :13-27 and 115-125

Environmentalism, reconciliation and trans-border cooperation III

Guest speaker: Yael Teff-Seker, AIES – Marine Ecology and Transborder Cooperation

Guest Speaker: Rina Kedem. Challenges and opportunities of ongoing- Jordanian-Israeli cooperation projects.

*Emily McKee (2018) Environmental Framing and its Limits: Campaigns in Palestine and in Israel. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 50 449 – 470

Date TBA: Final Exam