



## Land, People and Culture 26<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Dar al-Kalima University in Bethlehem

September 28 - October 5, 2023

### BASIC INFORMATION

1. Name of Organization: Dar al-Kalima University
2. Address: Bethlehem, Palestine
3. Telephone: +970-2-2770047
4. Email: [conference2023@daralkalima.edu.ps](mailto:conference2023@daralkalima.edu.ps)

### Introduction

Following its academic and contextual traditions, Dar al-Kalima University is holding an international conference during September/October 2023, under the theme of land, people and culture, with particular focus on the Palestinian question, as 2023 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> remembrance of the *Nakba*, the catastrophe in which hundreds of Palestinian villages were destroyed and hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were forced to flee their homes in Palestine and have been denied the right of return since.

This conference is, however, part of the university's established commitment towards assessing various aspects of culture, identity, and art. As the only university in Palestine specialized in art and culture, Dar al-Kalima University has been launching various undergraduate and graduate academic programs, and a



wide range of professional diplomas, in order to further develop understanding and engagement with culture and art industries, research and publishing as part of its contribution to the global discussion on formation of identities and effective communication within various cultural experiences around the globe.

The idea of holding a conference on this theme is indeed pertinent. Studies on colonialism, migration and identity formation outside the “mother land” are increasing in number and scope including but not limited to studies on culture and histories of indigenous nations, heritage and material cultures, and decoloniality/postcolonial research within fields of cultural studies.

In recent years, several papers, doctoral theses and books were published focusing on certain aspects of decoloniality/postcolonialism, culture and identities. The conference aims at providing a forum in Palestine for the sharing of such research and promoting scholarly debate, interaction and dialogue among Palestinian researchers and other participants from around the world. This international conference is thus believed to be an essential step towards enhancing further academic and cultural interaction within the cultural sphere. The participation of scholars from various parts of the world: Palestine, Europe, USA, Latin America, Africa and Asia will bring to the event an international scope and perspectives and will foster an essential, interdisciplinary, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural environ, dialogues, and encounters. The conference program aims at creating an international gathering by inviting and assisting scholars, social scientists and anthropologists, artists and experts in history, decoloniality/postcolonialism, migration, religious, culture and political studies of diverse scholarly, denominational, and national backgrounds.

The conference will be held from September 28 - October 5, 2023 and will consist of three days of exposure to the Palestinian context and local cultural visits to significant institutions and sites related to the topic, in addition to three days of lectures and dialogues. In addition, as part of the conference, there will be art exhibitions, film-screenings and international art performances.

The conference program will be conducted in English and Arabic with simultaneous translation available.



### Title

Land, People and Culture.

### Aim

To spark an international scholarly debate and dialogue on Palestinian culture and heritage and to facilitate further discussions on the issue of culture, decoloniality, postcolonialism, material culture and identities.

### Goals

- To encourage some interdisciplinary analysis in relation to land, people, and culture globally.
- To provide a pertinent forum for discussion on indigenous culture, heritage and continuous impact of colonialism on nations and art.
- To analyze the impact of diverse cultures on formulations of modern identities and the impact of context on interactions within societies.
- To share with regional and international academics various aspects of the conference outcomes and recommendations.

### Themes

- Land, people and material culture under the scope of heritage and archeology
- Land, people and settler colonialism from an international perspective.
- Land, People and Religion: The role of religion in settler colonialism as well as resistance.
- Land, people and Race.
- Land, people and visual art before and after the *Nakba*: The role of visual culture in constructing memories and narratives.
- Land, people and performing arts: Historical and contemporary analyses on performing art and formation of identities.



### **Methodology**

In order to encourage pertinent and informed discussions of the proposed themes, speakers will be asked to send their papers and contributions before March 30, 2023. This will allow conference committees to prepare the proper conference documents for every participant. Although papers would reach 15 to 20 pages long, each speaker will only have approximately 20-25 minutes for their exposition. However, after each presentation sufficient time will be allowed for interdisciplinary dialogues. All speakers will have one month after the conference to review and update their papers in relation to conference recommendations. Scholars will have the chance to suggest their own panel.

### **Target Groups**

In terms of direct target group, the conference aims at reaching and inviting a group of 100-120 academics, social scientists and anthropologists, theologians, artists, political scientists and community leaders to actively participate in the conference programs and discussions. Half of this group of men and women should be contributing to the event as guest speakers, presentation respondents, and dialogue moderators. There is a special emphasis on inviting speakers from indigenous communities in order to share various perceptions on land, people and culture, including but not limited to younger scholars who are part of the Palestinian Diaspora.

The indirect target group will be the Palestinian society (both within the green line and in the West Bank and Gaza Strip). The discussed themes are indeed of great importance and relevance in analyzing and assessing the current critical situation in Palestine.



### Dates for Call for Papers

Dar Al-Kalima University invites the submission of papers on original and unpublished research on any of the related topics. Please note that:

- Papers can be submitted in English or Arabic
- The only accepted format for submitted papers is PDF, Times New Roman font 12, double spaced.
- March 30, 2023: Abstracts for paper/panel submission deadline (Max 500 Words)

Please submit to: [conference2023@daralkalima.edu.ps](mailto:conference2023@daralkalima.edu.ps)

- April 30, 2023: paper accept/reject notification
- July 1, 2023: ready paper due (Max 5000 Words)
- September 28- October 5, 2023: main conference
- January 30, 2024: revised paper due for publication

### Logistics

- For scholars who will be presenting papers at the conference, Dar al-Kalima University will provide accommodation as well as meals including inland transportation and pick-up from and to the airport. Scholars are expected to pay or fundraise for their airfare.
- Limited stipends are available for young scholars and scholars from the global South.