

THIS EVENT IS JOINTLY HOSTED BY THE CENTRE FOR INNOVATION AND RESEARCH IN
CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH AND THE CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

ESW Open Seminar Series

Monday 18 March, 4.30-6pm
Room 143, Jubilee Building, University of Sussex

Dr Rachael Stryker: Assistant Professor, Department of Human
Development & Women's Studies, California State University

Mario Novelli: Professor of the Political Economy of Education,
University of Sussex

Emotional Suspicion and Emerging Pediatric Psychologies in Palestine's West Bank

Palestinian youth engage with many criminalizing and/or pathologizing narratives and images, produced by biomedical professionals, NGOs, and state agents of their experiences of political occupation. At the same time, western, psychological narratives of Palestinian youth rely on their representation as emotionally resilient heroes in the face of extreme hardship. So what might it mean to construct or conduct transnationally-driven pediatric mental healthcare in the occupied West Bank, where emotional suspicion operates as a salient reflection of both Israeli state power and indeterminate Palestinian statehood?

Based on recent qualitative research in Palestine, this seminar will explore the politics of emotional suspicion associated with the rise of youth mental health services programs in the city of Ramallah. Always in relation to Israeli and western models of trauma and resilience, Palestinian mental health professionals negotiate politics of occupation and sovereignty to rethink the typing of Palestinian youth as emotionally deviant in diverse ways. By highlighting some of these strategies, local and global biopolitics in which Palestinian youth first become "hailed" are traced as emotionally "other" in familial, activist, institutional, and public spaces.

All welcome

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