

PROGRAM

Criminological Perspectives on Palestine: Legal Responses and Academic Complicity in Times of Genocide

Conference at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana; April 9th and 10th 2026

	9. 4. 2026	
9:00	Registration opens	
	Faculty of Law Ljubljana (Gold Lecture Hall)	Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana (Library)
9:30-10:15	<p>Welcome Addresses</p> <p>prof. Aleš Završnik, on behalf of the Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana</p> <p>prof. Bruna Žuber, on behalf of the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana</p> <p>dr. Lior Volinz, on behalf of the Scientific Committee</p> <p>Iva Ramuš Cvetkovič, on behalf of the Organizing Committee</p>	
10:15-11:15	<p>Tanya Serisier, Birkbeck, University of London: “Contesting Genocidal Feminism: Against the Militarisation of #MeToo”</p> <p>Rania Muhareb, Maynooth University: “Zionism’s Apartheid Institutions: Drivers of Israeli State Criminality”</p> <p>Yoav Shemer-Kunz, Syracuse University: “Unwilling and unable: Israel and the principle of complementarity”</p>	
11:30-12:50	<p>Hannah Wilkinson, University of Nottingham: “Colonial machinery of destruction”</p> <p>Molly Ackhurst, University of Greenwich, and Tanya Serisier, Birkbeck College: “Asking Questions of ‘The Figure of the Expert’: Interrogating the Risks of Feminist Politics’ Investment in Survivor Expertise”</p>	<p>Rhiannon Bandiera, Maynooth University, Ireland: “The Epistemic Coloniality of Genocide”</p> <p>Alenka Ambrož, The Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts: “Nakba as a Legal Concept and the Postcolonial Universal”</p>

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	<p>Olivera Simić, Griffith Law School, Griffith University, Australia: “Justice from Below: The Grassroots Struggles for Accountability for Mass Atrocities in Gaza”</p> <p>Marta Pinto da Cruz, Amsterdam Center for Criminal Justice: “Carcerality and the Immutability of Israeli State Violence Against the Palestinian People: Rethinking Justice for Atrocity Crimes”</p>	<p>Teresa Degenhardt, Queen's University Belfast: “The Implicated Subject: Beyond Perpetrators, Actors and Victims”</p>
12:50-14:00	LUNCH BREAK	
14:00-15:00	<p>Fernanda J. Mira Catanho, Arden University: “From Intifada to Genocide: A Critical Criminology Case Study of Israel’s Settler Colonial Violence Against Palestinian Children”</p> <p>Marijke Van Buggenhout, Vrije Universiteit Brussel: “The Organized Destruction of Childhood: Dehumanization, Educide, and the Undermining of the Subjective Self in Gaza and the West”</p> <p>Janja Mikulan, School of Advanced Social Studies (SASS), Slovenia: “From State Crime to Social Harm: Collective Trauma and the Criminogenic Conditions of Political Violence in Gaza”</p>	<p>Benjamin Nurkić, Faculty of Law – University of Tuzla: “Don’t Stop Me Now’: The ICJ Measures and the Future Proof of Genocide”</p> <p>Christiana-Romana Avarli, Toulouse 1 Capitole University (France) & Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece): “From the ICC to the Establishment of an Ad Hoc International Criminal Tribunal: Who Will Arrest, Prosecute and Try Netanyahu?”</p> <p>Leo Ranieri, University of Amsterdam: “Punitivism, Israel, and the Affective Life of International Criminal Justice”</p>
15:15-16:35	<p>Itamar Shachar, Hasselt University and Tamar Barkay (non-presenting co-author), Tel-Hai Academic College*: “A Socially Responsible Genocide? On Bloodwashing Corporate and State Crimes”</p> <p>Widad Kaddura, York University: “From De-development to Genocide Economy: Dependency Theory and State–Corporate Crime in Gaza”</p>	<p>Hanadi A. Salah, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies: “The Colonized Body: Dynamics of Sexual Subjugation and Structural Annihilation in Gaza”</p> <p>Anouk Noelle Nicklas, Humboldt University of Berlin: “Sexual Violence as a Weapon of Settler Colonialism”</p> <p>Rimona Afana, Independent: “Hunted, Haunting Bodies: Israel's Necropolitics Against the Dead and Unborn in Gaza”</p>

** The UN Human Rights Council noted in the opinion A/HRC/59/23 from 02 July 2025 that a large number of Israeli academic institutions were found complicit in atrocity crimes in Palestine. The organizers, in line with institutional policy, note that no cooperation with the Institution in question took place.

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	<p>Benjamin Gerstein, Visiting Fellow, University of Sarajevo Institute for the Research of Crimes Against Humanity and International Law: “Deserts of Destruction”</p> <p>Vasja Badalič, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana, Slovenia: “Disproportionate Killing of Civilians: The Rules of Engagement and the Disregard for the Proportionality Rule”</p>	<p>Majd Nasrallah, University of Ljubljana: “Manufacturing Criminality: Proxy Rule, Repression, and the War on Palestinians inside the Green Line”</p>
17:00-18:00	<p>PLENARY I:</p> <p>Maha Abdallah: “Colonising Palestine and the Destruction of its People: International Institutional Involvement and Complicity in Atrocity Crimes”</p>	
20.00	<p>Palestine Social: Music and Design for Palestine; Pritličje (Mestni trg 2, Ljubljana) - in collaboration with Radio Študent</p>	

PLENARY I:

Maha Abdallah: “Colonising Palestine and the Destruction of its People: International Institutional Involvement & Complicity in Atrocity Crimes”

This session examines how international institutions have enabled, sustained, and normalised atrocity crimes, including apartheid, persecution, and genocide, throughout the ongoing Zionist-Israeli colonisation of Palestine. It interrogates the roles of state, academic, and corporate actors in constructing the legal, economic, and epistemic infrastructures that facilitate mass violence, dehumanisation, structural domination and destruction, and elimination. The session further explores modes of institutional liability, the politics of “neutrality”, and current struggles for institutional accountability, including academic boycott campaigns alongside institutional and state responses of repression and violence.

Maha Abdallah was born and raised in occupied Jerusalem. She is currently a PhD candidate and Graduate Teaching Assistant and at the Faculty of Law, University of Antwerp. Her research examines Zionism as a settler-colonial project and the genocide of the Palestinian people situating the Nakba as an ongoing structural process of destruction and elimination. Maha has worked with human rights organisations, contributing to legal research, advocacy, and international accountability efforts. Her publications engage questions of international law, colonisation, human rights, apartheid, and genocide, as well as corporate accountability in such contexts.

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10. 4. 2026		
	Faculty of Law Ljubljana (Gold Lecture Hall)	Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana (Library)
09:00-10:20	<p>Almina Selimbašić, University of Sarajevo – Faculty of Law: “Legal Academic Boycott: Navigating the Tension Between Status Quo and Cause Lawyering”</p> <p>Maryam Jamshidi, University of Colorado Law School: “Securitizing the U.S. University”</p> <p>Lior Volinz and Iva Ramuš Cvetkovič, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana: “How the Weaponisation of Antisemitism Enables Israel's Atrocity Crimes in Palestine”</p>	<p>Esther Zouaoui-Peyrot, Université de Montréal: “Counter-Forensics as Academic Resistance”</p> <p>Asmaa A. Alfar, Alina Bezlaj, Zala Bezlaj, Maria Christina Galanaki, Emilie Gossye, Živa Šketa: “The Discursive Construction of Palestinians in Israeli Criminological Scholarship on Terrorism”</p> <p>Itamar Shachar, Hasselt University: “Academia Under Command: Militarism on Israeli Academia”</p> <p>Era Robbani, Criminology, University of Edinburgh: “Education as a Tool of Resisting the Normalisation of Atrocities: Case Studies from Evacuated Palestinian Students”</p>
10:35-11:55	<p>Brunilda Pali, University of Amsterdam: “From Police Violence to (Self) Censorship: Mapping the Continuum of Criminalization of Student-Led Palestine Solidarity Activism”</p> <p>Kiek Korevaar: “The Criminalization of Pro-Palestine Political Dissent: Experiences of the 2024 Student Uprising in Amsterdam”</p> <p>Udi Raz, Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies (Free University Berlin): “Criminalization of Jews in Today’s Germany”</p> <p>Iva Ramuš Cvetkovič, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana: “Germany's Double Role in Israel's Atrocity Crimes Against Palestinians”</p>	<p>Nina Žnidaršič, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana: “Necropolitics, Academic Autonomy, and the Politics of Neutrality: Discourses of Scientific Objectivity in Academic (Un)Responses”</p> <p>Aleksandra Milinković, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana: “Challenging Academic Discourse on Zionist Ideology”</p> <p>Ismehen Melouka, Université de Montréal: “Knowledge Production and the Framing of State Harm in Québec’s Student Criminology”</p>

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		Ljubica Perinić , Archaeology Division, Institute for Historical and Social Sciences in Zagreb, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts: “Through a Decolonial Lens: From Scribonianus’ Revolt to Palestinian Self-Determination”
12:10-13:20	<p>Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac, University of Zagreb Faculty of Law, Petra Šprem, University of Zagreb Faculty of Law, and Ruža Karlović, University of Applied Science of Criminal Investigation and Public Security: “The Role of ‘Academic Watchdogs’ and Their Protection Under the ECHR”</p> <p>Dragan Petrovec, Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana: “The Academic World and Its Ethics”</p> <p>Mattias De Backer, Vrije Universiteit Brussel: “About the Possibility of Critical Spaces in Criminology”</p>	<p>Evie Gilbert, Hannah Ferris Blair, Queen's University Belfast: “Belfast’s ‘Peace Walls’: A Critical Content Analysis of Motifs in Palestinian and Israeli Solidarity in Belfast’s Murals”</p> <p>Laura Buzeti, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor: “Analyzing the Legitimization of Mass Violence Against Palestinians Through Memes on Official Israeli Social Media”</p> <p>Maya Jeries Vågenes, Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law, University of Oslo: “Journalists’ Reflections on Representing Harm in Norwegian News Media: Coverage of Gaza After October 7, 2023”</p> <p>Kiran Kaur, University of Oslo: “Framing Violence in Kashmir: A Comparative Study of Indian and Pakistani News Media”</p>
13:20-14:30	LUNCH BREAK	
	Faculty of Law Ljubljana (Gold Lecture Hall)	
14:30-15:30	<p>ROUND-TABLE: Academic Complicity</p> <p>Stop Academic Complicity Collective</p> <p>Geographers for Justice in Palestine (Bea Abbott)</p> <p>Criminologists for Palestine (Živa Šketa)</p> <p>Archeologists Against Apartheid</p> <p>Working Group on Palestine, European University Institute (Vita Zalar)</p>	

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<p>15:45-16:45</p>	<p>Amy Cortvriend, Loughborough University: “Everyday Resistance in Academia: Learning from the Palestinian Practice of ‘Sumud’”</p> <p>Jane Ngan, University of Manchester: “A Boundary Crossing: Academic Silence and the Modes of Expressive Resistance”</p> <p>Marijke Van Buggenhout, Vrije Universiteit Brussel: “Criminology’s Mechanisms of Complicity and Palestine”</p>
<p>17:00-18:00</p>	<p>PLENARY II:</p> <p>Shahinaz Geneid, Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI): “Criminologists Against Academic Complicity in the ‘Crime of Crimes’: On Organizing the Field in Times of Genocide”</p>

PLENARY II:

Shahinaz Geneid: “Criminologists Against Academic Complicity in the ‘Crime of Crimes’: On Organizing the Field in Times of Genocide”

Since October 2023, the world has seen not only the livestreamed genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza, but also the ongoing expansion of illegal occupation of Palestinian land in the West Bank, the entrenchment of the apartheid system against Arab Palestinian citizens of Israel, increased anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian racism against Palestinians and other Arabs in the diaspora, increasingly draconian repression of pro-Palestine activists, whether Palestinians, other Arabs, or even anti-Zionist Jews, and now, the outbreak of a regional war begun by the US and Israel. At the same time that all of this has occurred, the institutions that have long claimed to be spaces of learning and higher education, and which have long claimed to be bastions of a liberal democratic rules-based order which values social justice, human rights, and international law have turned against these values entirely. They have attempted to ignore, to whitewash, to normalize, and/or to openly and actively incite support of the ongoing genocide and even, in many cases, to materially support it.

Students and academics, responding to the calls from Palestinians for international solidarity, including the 2004 PACBI and 2005 BDS calls, have resisted in many places as their counterparts in Palestine have been under attack and borne witness to the destruction of all of the university buildings in Gaza, all the while engaging in the monumental task of keeping themselves and the Palestinian educational system alive in the midst of ongoing genocide and scholasticide. In response to their organizing, leaders of academic institutions have driven the destruction of what remains of institutional democratic governance, leaving their institutions inept to withstand the global rise of the far-right and fascism and worsening many of the existing crises facing academia globally today. In spite of this,

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organizing does and must continue, particularly in fields such as criminology which has a particular responsibility to oppose complicity in violations of international law.

This presentation will address the responsibilities and challenges facing criminologists as we organize within the field against academic complicity, drawing on experiences of criminologists, sociologists, socio-legal studies, and legal scholars in organizing to uphold the Palestinian-led BDS and PACBI calls over the past 3 years.

Shahinaz Geneid is the International Campus Coordinator for the Palestinian Academic & Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI), an organization which was a founding member of the Boycott, Divestment, & Sanctions (BDS) Movement in 2005. She is an Egyptian-American international human rights lawyer, social scientist, and organizer/activist whose most recent organizing work has been at the intersections of unionized higher education and legal services spaces and the Palestine solidarity movements in the Northeast US, and now Ontario, Canada. As part of this work, she co-founded and facilitated UAW Labor for Palestine (UAWL4P) and has been a rank-and-file labor organizer on the Northeastern graduate student (GENU-UAW) and Harvard adjunct faculty (HAW-UAW) election and first contract campaigns.

Her academic work is primarily situated in the fields of sociology, criminology, and socio-legal studies, where she studies violations of international human rights and criminal law in the Southwest Asia and North Africa (SWANA) region, focusing on crimes of the powerful and crimes of atrocity. Her work seeks to ground otherwise abstract discussions about international law in the lived realities of people directly and continuously victimized as a result of unequal access to its protections, particularly the experiences of those who face forced migration, displacement, and human trafficking and modern slavery as their lives are upended by violent conflict, a legacy of the colonial and imperial violence enacted against the region.