

## IV. RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Interfaith matters and religious issues have always had a special place in PASSIA's regular meeting program, and having realized the increasing need for better understanding between the various religious communities, in early 1998, PASSIA decided to establish a Religious Study Unit devoted to inter-religious dialogue and activities. The unit's work focuses on the role and significance of religion for different people and tries to promote understanding of, and respect for, others in order to address this religious diversity. Subjects discussed include the causes and consequences of problems within and between the established religious communities and activities that contribute to the elimination of misconceptions and stereotypes. The PASSIA Religious Studies Unit combines the following activities, some of which are held 'off the record' to allow for the frankest exchange and debates possible:

**Coordinating Meetings and Briefings:** Meetings and brainstorming sessions involving members of PASSIA's Religious Studies Unit and local and foreign counterparts/project partners from the three monotheistic religions with the aim of fostering coordination of ongoing and future activities.

**Dialogue Sessions and Roundtables:** Meetings with representatives from one or more of the three monotheistic religions, which usually include a guest speaker presenting a certain topic related to inter- or intra-religious issues followed by a discussion .

**Seminars and Workshops:** Encounters on a specific topic, involving either members of the three monotheistic religions or only representatives of the Christian or Muslim community. These seminars and workshops are intended to help participants to find common ground and to allow different religions to work in harmony and on an equal footing.

**Conferences:** Participation in conferences, here and abroad, that deal with aspects of religion, belief and interfaith relations, or foster an open and free debate on religious issues and aspects as they concern the people in the Holy Land.

**Publication:** Documentation and publication of research studies or proceedings from meetings/seminars

## Roundtables

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20 October, 2012, PASSIA Offices, Ramallah

**Topic: ISLAM BETWEEN SHURA AND DEMOCRACY**

**Speaker:** Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway, Professor of Islamic Philosophy; Dr. George Giacaman, Associate Professor, Philosophy and Cultural Studies, BZU and Director of Muwatin: the Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy

**Participant(s):** Feron Valerie, Journalist; Dr. Mariam Saleh, Palestinian Legislative Council, Ramallah; Ahmad M. Attoun, Palestinian Legislative Council, Ramallah; Wail M. Al-Husseini, Palestinian Legislative Council, Ramallah; Ghassan F. Abdullah, Manager, LimaLa.ps; Bastian Schroeder, Student; Andrew McLean, Government of Canada; Ingrid Ross, FES; Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Academic, PASSIA; Hannah Peters, FES, Aylin Kog, FES, Julia Wenner, FES.



9th October 2012, PASSIA, Jerusalem

**Topic: THE STATUS AND SITUATION OF AL-AQSA MOSQUE**

**Participant(s):** Sheikh Jamil Hamami, Lecturer, Al-Quds University; Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Nasreddin, Sheikh Mohammed Hussein, Mufti of Jerusalem & Palestine; Mustafa Abu Zahrah; Ali Abu Sheikah, Advisor, Jerusalem Affairs; Dr. Sheikh Ikremah Sabri, Council for Waqf & Islamic Affairs; Adnan Hussein, Minister, Jerusalem Affairs; Ahmad Siyam, Dr. Abdel Rahman Abbad, Lecturer, Al-Quds

University, Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway, Deputy Director, PASSIA; Khalil Assali, Journalist.

## Briefings

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29 September 2012, PASSIA, Jerusalem

Topic: **ISLAMIC WAQF ISSUES**

Participant(s): Sheikh Azzam Khatib.

26 June 2012, PASSIA, Jerusalem

Topic: **POLITICAL ISLAM**

Participant(s): Javier Gutierrez, Spanish Deputy Consul, Jerusalem

21 June 2012, PAASIA Office, Jerusalem

Topic: **POLITICAL ISLAM & PALESTINE**

Participant(s): Ruth Bajada, Analyst, EU Situation Center, European External Action Service; Carlo Wilhelm Messina, European External Action Service; Kieran Dalton, EU military Staff, European External Action Service; Simon Rose, Strategic Planning Coordinator, Eupol Copps, Ramallah.

28 February 2012, PASSIA, Jerusalem

Topic: **POLITICAL ISLAM AND THE SYRIAN UPRISING**

Participant(s): CNN Interview; Fionnuala Sweeney, Anchor; Scott McWhinnie, Cameraman; Enas Muthaffar.



20 February 2012, PASSIA, Jerusalem

Topic: **HAMAS, POLITICAL ISLAM AND THE SECOND ARAB AWAKENING**

Participant(s): Nathan Thrall, Middle East and North Africa Program Analyst, International Crisis Group; Afif Safieh, Palestinian Roving Ambassador for Special Missions- Fateh Revolutionary Council Member

13 February 2012, PASSIA, Jerusalem

Topic: **POLITICAL ISLAM AND THE SECOND ARAB AWAKENING**

Participant(s): Damien Cristofari, Consul Adjoint, French Consulate, Jerusalem

2 February 2012, PASSIA, Jerusalem

Topic: **THE MOBILIZATION OF POLITICAL ISLAM IN THE REGION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ON HAMAS'S CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION.**

Participant(s): Karl Vick, Bureau Chief, Time

31 January 2012, PASSIA, Jerusalem

Topic: **POLITICAL ISLAM**

Participant(s): Economist Interview; Nicolas Pelham, Jerusalem Correspondent, The Economist.

7 January 2012

Topic: **THE EFFECT OF THE ISLAMIC MOVEMENTS RESURGENCE AFTER THE ARAB SPRING ON THE PALESTINIAN CASE**

Participant(s): Julie M. Jolles, Political Officer, US Consulate General

## **Seminars and Workshop**

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16 June 2012, Best Eastern Hotel, Ramallah

Topic: **ISLAM & FEMINISIM**

Participant(s): Dr. Peter Qumri, Head of Guyana (Honorary Consulate); Raustin H; Abdallah Hamdan, Esawiah Center; Husam Abu Fares, Computer Engineering, Sabeel; Majeda Juma; Marie Bouilly, Vounteer; Sarah Stern, Student; Nadine Tadros, Student; Ahmad Abbas, Ministry of Planning; Rami Mehdawi, Jour Demography; Muntaha Odeh, Health, Development, Information & Policy Institute, (HDIP); Moqbel Atta; Tasneem Hassan; Sana Hirzallah; Ahmad Attoun, PLC member, Jerusalem; Wael Hussein, PLC member, Ramallah; Islah Jad, Birzeit University; Nowar Thabet, Researcher, BZU; Haneen Zaidank, Union of Palestinian Working Women's Committees; Ingrid Ross, FES; Maen Adileh, Teacher; Hanadi Qawasmenh, Media.; Adnan Sha'arawi, Researcher; Omar Rahal, Researcher, SHAMS Center, Ramallah; Anthea Darychuk, Researcher, UNRWA; Ramzi Asali, Lecturer; Sana Hyazi, Admin. Officer; Nadia Hajal, Birzeit University; Anjad Hithnawi; Haneen Saleh, Student; Jumana Jaouni, Policy Officer, Netherlands Representative, Ramallah; Emad M. Nofal, PLC Member; Dr. Mariam Saleh, PLC Member,

Ramallah; Nada Jayousi; Rosemary Hollis; Abdel Rahim Malouh, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP); Sheikh Jamil Hamammi, Lecturer, Al-Quds University.

## Conferences

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7 December 2012, Dar Annadwa, International Center of Bethlehem

**Topic: KAIROS PALESTINE: A STEADFAST WAY TOWARDS LIBERATION**

**Participants:** Omar Bargouthi; Nassar Ibrahim; Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi, Chairman of PASSIA; Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway, Professor of Islamic Philosophy; Fr. Jamal Kader; Dr. Jeries Khoury; Yousef Daher; Rania Moura; Nidal Abu El Zulof; Arda Aghazarian; Qustantian Dabaq; Suhila Tarazi; Bishop William El Shumali; Bishop Munib Younan; Nader Ma'ade; Kafier Abu 'Eid.



4 July 2012

**Place:** An-Najah University, Nablus

**Topic: PLURALISM AND THE RIGHT TO DIFFER FROM AN ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE - AND UNIVERSITIES ROLE IN PROMOTING THESE VALUES.**

## Publications

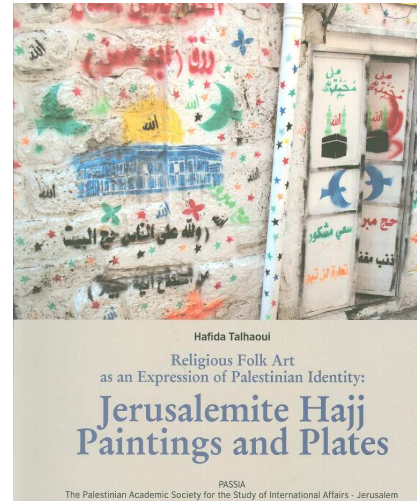
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### ***Religious Folk Art as an Expression of Religious Identity: Jerusalemite Hajj Paintings and Plates***

by **Hafida Talhaoui**, English, 132 pages

This book focuses on Ḥajj paintings of Jerusalem and aims at introducing this topic into the field of religious folk art. The guiding research question is: Can the Ḥajj paintings of Jerusalemites, which depict the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqṣa Mosque in addition to the Kabah and Madinah Mosque, be interpreted as an expression of Palestinian identity? In answering this question, this publication is divided into four chapters. Chapter One describes the place of Jerusalem in the Islamic faith from an Islamic point of view, illustrates how the place developed under Muslim rule and how the crusader occupation of Jerusalem influenced Palestinians.

Chapter Two discusses the Muslim pilgrimage, the Ḥajj, and the impact Jerusalem had on it. The last part of this chapter focuses on the Egyptian Ḥajj paintings. Chapter Three deals with several issues relating to aspects of Palestinian identity and the role Jerusalem and foreign occupation played in this regard. The last chapter addresses the Jerusalemite Ḥajj paintings based on fieldwork and interviews conducted in Jerusalem during the author's visits. In Addition, this publication includes indexes and commentaries as well as an inventory of the epigraphs and figures used in the Ḥajj painting.



### ***The Vatican and Jerusalem***

by **Elodie Farge**, English, 108 pages

The city of Jerusalem holds a central position for Christians, which they regard as *mater ecclesiae* (the Mother of the Church), since the city has witnessed the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the foundation of the first Christian Church. This sacred character of Jerusalem as a Holy City has caused conflicts, tensions and rivalries at all times and also has made the city a focal point of interest for the Catholic Church. This publication seeks to analyze the position adopted by the Holy See towards the issue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in general and with particular regard to Jerusalem in particular.

