



Workshop: *Partitioning Arab Jews: Taboo Memories, Belated Traumas*
Tuesday 25, September. 2-4:30pm, ZMO, Kirchweg 33, 14129 Berlin

With Guest Scholar Professor Ella Habiba Shohat,
Departments of Art & Public Policy,
Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies,
Tisch School of the Arts,
New York University

Moderated by Dr Saadi Nikro and Dr Bettina Gräf

In the Preface to a recent collection of her essays—*Taboo Memories, Diasporic Voices* (Duke University Press, 2006)—Ella Shohat sets out the themes that have informed her research and critical practice since the mid-1980s. Uncomfortable with the way that particular research agendas tend to demarcate, or partition, both their subject matter and inter-related conceptual schemes, Shohat’s work can be described not so much as inter-disciplinary or multi-disciplinary, but rather as a critical, constructive engagement of the historical and geographical limits of disciplinary knowledge itself. She describes her work as “calculatedly ‘undisciplined’...engaging such diverse fields as literary, media, and cultural theory; along with philosophy, historiography, sociology, anthropology, geography, archeology, and, to an extent, medicine and biology”.

Researchers are invited to participate in discussing the historiographical, geographical, and disciplinary partitioning of Arabs and Jews, in respect to memory and trauma, focusing on Iraq and Bagdad. Our guest scholar Ella Shohat will open the workshop with a presentation, titled “Postcolonial Memory: The Question of the Arab-Jew”, after which participants are encouraged to respond with comments and questions. Participants are also encouraged to relate their own research to the workshop.

Our common readings, both by Ella Shohat, are: “Taboo Memories, Diasporic Visions: Columbus, Palestine, and Arab-Jews”. In her *Taboo Memories, Diasporic Voices*. Duke University Press, 2006. And “Rupture and Return: Zionist Discourse and the Study of Arab Jews. In *Social Text* 75, Vol. 21, Summer 2003.