

A THINKING SPACE SPECIAL EVENT

# THE SURVIVAL AND WELL-BEING OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

**Guest Speaker:** Dr Samah Jabr, Psychiatrist, Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist

**Chair:** Bernadette Wren, Consultant Clinical Psychologist & Trust-wide Head of Psychology,  
The Tavistock & Portman NHS Foundation Trust

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**Thursday 11 December 2014** (6.30pm - 8.30pm)

**Fee:** £20 (£10 concessions - students, unwaged, Trust staff)  
**Venue:** Tavistock Centre, London

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In the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza every aspect of life is affected by the Occupation. A number of economic, educational, human rights and public health indicators suggest disturbing downward trends in every domain toward increasing impoverishment, dysfunction and social fragmentation. The eruption of violence in Gaza during the summer, in which 501 children were killed and 3,374 were injured, many with permanent disabilities, can be seen as a violent intensification of a socio-political situation that has lasted for decades.

How do Palestinians respond to their extraordinary circumstances? Does the political situation impact on their mental health, and how does a clinician then understand and respond to their difficulties? What can we as mental health workers contribute? In the aftermath of this summer's terrible events in Gaza, Dr Jabr will share her personal experience of working as a clinician in Palestine and raise questions about the role and responsibility that we all share to engage with this reality.

**Samah Jabr MD** is a psychiatrist practicing in the public and the private sectors within Palestine, in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. She is a graduate of the School of Medicine at Al Quds University, and has pursued advanced training in psychiatry and child psychiatry in Palestine, France and England. She has taught both in the classroom and in clinical settings on the faculties of Al Quds University, Bethlehem University, Birzeit University, and George Washington University within the Division of Global Mental Health, where she is currently Associate Clinical Professor. She has served as the medical director of several governmental, non-governmental, and private mental health centres in Palestine. Dr Jabr often serves as consultant for organizations such as the United Nations and the World Health Organization regarding program development, policy planning, and program implementation. Her varied areas of interest include the rights of prisoners, the problem of stigma, CBT, psychoanalysis, addictions, trauma, and the integration of mental health with public health. She is a writer on diverse subjects in both academic and public media, and advocated justice and human rights as vital elements for the well being of the Palestinians.

**Thinking Space is a monthly learning forum at the Tavistock Clinic, which explores issues of race, culture and diversity in therapy/mental health.**

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Please book online at [www.tavistockandportman.ac.uk/thinkingspacedec2014](http://www.tavistockandportman.ac.uk/thinkingspacedec2014) or contact us on 020 8938 2285 to book and pay by credit/debit card over the phone.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

Conference, CPD and Events Unit, Tavistock Centre, 120 Belsize Lane, London NW3 5BA

**Tel:** 020 8938 2285 **Email:** [mfendrich@tavi-port.ac.uk](mailto:mfendrich@tavi-port.ac.uk) **Website:** [www.tavistockandportman.ac.uk](http://www.tavistockandportman.ac.uk)