

The Minor Detail of Palestine in Holocaust Archives: On German Denial and Palestinian Refusal of Displacement

Citizenship is often thought to be the precondition for political action. But what if citizenship was rather a technology of secular conversion? And what if this secular conversion rested on the particular use of history? In taking these questions to the context of Germany, this talk engages with the phenomenon of responsabilizing citizenship for the genocide of European Jewry among the Turkish and Palestinian diasporas in Berlin. Tracing how the word Palestine appears in the Holocaust archive, this talk demonstrates how Palestine as a “minor detail” (Shibli 2020) is a disruptive temporality sitting squarely within secular time and the project of secular conversion. This talk introduces the notion of refusal in interplay with denial to argue how refusal as a form of political action can disrupt secular time and allow for the present to take hold of incomplete pasts.

Caption: Central Archive of Gaza municipality bombed by IDF, image rights: Birzeit University tweet on x, December 6, 2023 @BirzeitU

Lecture by Dr. Sultan Doughan
followed by a Panel Discussion
with Dr. Banu Karaca and Dr. Himmat Zoubi
Monday | May 12, 2025 | 6 to 8 p.m.

Room 2.2059 (2nd floor)

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