

# Lila A. Sharif

Assistant Professor

Departments of Asian American Studies

Affiliate, Center for South Asian and Middle East Studies

Affiliate, Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory

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**Research Interests:** settler colonialism and indigenous studies, post 9/11 racial formations, militarization and war, critical refugee studies, transnational feminisms; Palestine

**Current Position:** Assistant Professor

**Department:** Asian American Studies

**Institution:** University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

**Former Position:** U.C. President's Postdoctoral Fellow (2014 – 2016)

**Department:** Gender and Women's Studies

**Institution:** University of California, Berkeley

**Advisors:** Dr. Minoo Moallem (Sociology, Gender Studies) and Dr. Keith Feldman (Comparative Ethnic Studies)

## Education

<b>University of California, San Diego</b>	<b>Dual Ph.D., Sociology and Ethnic Studies</b>	<b>June 2014</b>
University of California, San Diego	M.A. Sociology	2008
University of California, Berkeley	B.A. Sociology, with Honors	2006

**Book Manuscript Title:** *Olive : Indigenous Narratives of Displacement and Survival in Palestine*

**Book Manuscript Summary:** Using the olive as an optic, I conduct multi-sited ethnography and cultural analysis to explore the production, circulation, and consumption of olive goods from the world's most contentious site: Palestine. Tracing the olive from the moment it is harvested by West Bank farmers, the violent travails it endures (e.g. entire groves chain-sawed to the ground by settlers), and its strategic marketing to destination sites like San Francisco, CA, I argue that settler-colonialism today relies on racial and gendered discourses of terrorism, transnational circuits of militarization, neoliberal logics of inclusion, the erasure of indigenous economies, and the replacement of native lands to resemble a European landscape.

## Grants and Honors:

Sociology Departmental Award	UC San Diego	2007
Sociology Graduate Grant	UC San Diego	2007
Sociology Travel Grant	UC San Diego	2008
Friends of the International Center Scholarship	UC San Diego	2009
California Cultures in Comparative Perspective Grant	UC San Diego	2009
Ford Foundation Fellowship, Honorable Mention	Ford Foundation	2010
Summer Graduate Teaching Fellowship	UC San Diego	2012
IICAS Graduate Travel Grant	UC San Diego	2012
Cross Cultural Center Honoree for Contribution to Diversity	UC San Diego	2012
Bouchet Honors Society Select Awardee	Yale University	2014
UC President's Postdoctoral Diversity Fellowship	UC Berkeley	2014-2016
Empowered Arab Woman of the Month Award	Epsilon Alpha Sigma, Inc. of UCLA	2014
International Women's Day Honoree	Palestinian American Women's Association	2014
Ralph Henry Gabriel Dissertation Prize Finalist	American Studies Association	2015
UCHRI Residential Research Fellowship	UC Humanities Research Institute	2016
International Research Travel Grant	Illinois International Programs	2017
Junior Faculty Retreat Selectee	AAS -Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center	2017

**Publications:**

“Savory Colonialism: Land, Memory and the Eco-Occupation of Palestine”, Dissertation Abstract in the *Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies*: Duke University Press, July 2015.

Book Review *Books that Cook: The Making of a Literary Meal* edited by Jennifer Cognard-Black and Melissa Goldthwaite, *American Studies Journal* Vol. 54, No. 2. June 2015.

“Vanishing Palestine” in the *Critical Ethnic Studies Journal*. This article argues for Palestinian literature as a form of environmental justice praxis (*Ethnic Studies Journal*, Spring 2016)

**Select Presentations:**

“Olive Insurrections: Notes on Conducting Ethnography in a Vanishing Context” for the Department of Sociology’s Colloquium Series. University of Illinois, at Urbana Champaign. September 29, 2017.

“Towards a Critical Feminist Refugee Epistemology” at the Association for Asian American Studies annual meeting, Portland, Oregon; April 13-15, 2017.

“A Taste for Palestine: The Transnational Business of Eating Indigeneity” at the American Studies Association annual meeting. Denver, Colorado. November 19, 2016.

“Consuming Palestine in the 21st Century: A Foray into Transnational Feminist Food Studies”, University of California, Berkeley’s Center for Race and Gender and Center for Middle East Studies, Spring 2015.

“From Ferguson to Palestine to Mexico: Transnational Militarization and Traveling Borderlands” as part of the American Studies Association Critical Prison Studies Caucus, Presented at American Studies Association’s annual meeting in Toronto, Canada, October 8, 2015.

“Anti/Colonial Convergences: Indigeneity, Sovereignty and Transnational Circuits of Militarization from the Pacific to Palestine” as part of the launch of the Asian Pacific Islander Middle East and Desi American (APIMEDA) Project on Militarism and Migration at the University of California, San Diego, March 4, 2015 (Invited Speaker).

“Consuming Indigeneity: Conflicting Narratives at the Palestinian Hearth” Presented for Department of Gender and Women’s Studies, University of California, Berkeley, October 29, 2015 (Invited Speaker).

“Livelihoods and Barriers: Making Sense of the Apartheid Wall in Palestine”, University of California, San Diego’s Student Sustainability Collective’s *Beyond Borders* Panel, January 14, 2015 (Invited Speaker).

“Writing Alongside Decimated Trees: Conducting Ethnography in the Context of Vanishment” Keynote for the Palestinian American Women’s Association of Southern California’s 30th Annual International Women’s Day Celebration, Embassy Suites, Garden Grove, CA, March 8, 2014 (Invited Speaker).

“Dismantling Walls With Words: A Poetics of Resilience” with Poet Tahani Salah, University of California, Los Angeles, November 4, 2013 (Invited Speaker).

**Select Courses Taught:**

- *War, Race and Cinema*. Department of Asian American Studies. University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign. Spring 2018.
- *Introduction to Asian American Studies*. Department of Asian American Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign. Spring 2017 and Fall 2017.
- *Transnational Race Issues*. Department of Asian American Studies. University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign; Spring 2017.
- *Race and Empire*. Departments of Asian American Studies and Latin American Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign; Spring 2017 and Fall 2017.
- *Food and Race*. Department of Asian American Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign; Fall

2016.

- *Global Inequalities*. Department of Sociology, University of San Diego; Spring 2014. □
- *U.S. Militarism and its Legacies*. Department of Ethnic Studies and Critical Gender Studies, □University of California, San Diego; Winter 2014. □
- *Introduction to Sociology*, Cuyamaca Community College; Summer 2013. □
- *Arab and Muslim Identities in the United States*, Departments of Ethnic Studies and □Literature, University of California, San Diego; Summer 2012.
- *Race, Culture, and Social Change*, Departments of Ethnic Studies and Music, University □of California, San Diego; Summer 2012. □□
- *Introduction to Society*. Department of Sociology, University of California, San Diego; □Summer 2011. □
- *Introduction to Social Inequalities*, Department of Sociology, University of California, □San Diego; Winter 2011. □
- *Jafar, Mosques, and Terrorism: Investigating Our Perceptions of the Middle East* as Associate Instructor, Muir □College Writing Program, University of California, San Diego; Spring 2008. □

**Languages:** English (fluent), Arabic (fluent) and Spanish (intermediate).