

ISA INTERNATIONAL GUEST LECTURE

# Producing a State: Human Rights and Political Disenchantment in Palestine

Lori Allen

Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2011, 4.00 pm [c.t.]

**Centre for Studies in Asian Cultures and Social Anthropology**

Seminar room A-1030 Wien, Apostelgasse 23

In this talk I examine the central but ambiguous role that human rights play in the production of a Palestinian "state" in the West Bank. The paper is part of a larger study that explores the social, political, and economic work of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories over the last thirty years. I argue that a dialectical interaction operates between, on the one hand, the role of human rights in political claims and their framings for international interlocutors, and on the other, the role of human rights in Palestinian state creation and the formation of local governance and political subjectivity.



**Lori Allen** is a Fellow of King's College and University Lecturer in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Cambridge, UK. An anthropologist whose primary research interests center on human rights, nationalism, and Palestine, she received her PhD in Anthropology from the University of Chicago, and subsequently enjoyed postdoctoral fellowships at Brown University's Pembroke Center, and at the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies. She has written articles that treat the problem of how Palestinians experience, memorialize, and adapt to political violence, published in journals including *Cultural Anthropology*, *American Ethnologist*, *History and Memory* and others. While completing her first book, "The Rise and Fall of Human Rights: Cynicism and Politics in Occupied Palestine," she is also conducting archival research for her next book, "Suffering for Rights: A Genealogy of Palestinian Nationalism."