

# Investigating the territorial dimensions of the Israeli-Palestinian question

**Funded by:**

DIST - Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, Politecnico di Torino and University of Turin

**Supervisor:**

The supervisor will be chosen at the beginning of the PhD research process.

**Contact:**

Francesco Chiodelli ([francesco.chiodelli@unito.it](mailto:francesco.chiodelli@unito.it))

**Context of the research activity:**

The research grant is aimed at investigating the territorial dimensions of the Israeli-Palestinian question; it is part of a research activity supported by several members of the teaching committee of the PhD in Urban and Regional Development, including: Silvia Aru, Francesco Chiodelli, Giancarlo Cotella, Mara Ferreri, Lorenza Fontana, Paolo Giaccaria, Michele Lancione, Tatiana Mazali, Andrea Pollio, Elena Pede, Luca Staricco, Elisa Vitale, Willeke Wendrich,

**Objectives**

The research aims to analyse the territorial dimensions of the Israeli-Palestinian question. As a large body of literature has shown (see, among others: Cheshin et al. 1999; Kedar et al. 2018; Puar 2017; Yiftachel 2006; Weizman 2007<sup>1</sup>), one of the most fundamental interpretive keys of the Israeli-Palestinian question is the control of the possibilities of using space and land: restrictions on movement, segregation of populations, discriminatory urban planning policies, processes of colonisation and land occupation, violent forms of territoriality, militarisation of urban space and urbicide are just some of the thematic kernels that exemplify the importance of the spatial dimension (in its social, economic, political and cultural aspects) in the Israeli-Palestinian question.

Within this framework, the PhD candidate will define, in agreement with the chosen supervisors, specific topics to be explored during his/her research. The research work may cover different time periods as well as different areas of Israel-Palestine.

**Skills and competencies for the development of the activity**

We are looking for highly motivated candidates with:

- a strong interest in the Israeli-Palestinian question. Previous research experience on the Israeli-Palestinian context is not required (although, if it is present, it will be positively assessed when the application is reviewed);
- a research background in geography, urban planning and policy, sociology political science, anthropology or history;
- critical and analytical thinking skills, with the ability to engage with interdisciplinary methodologies;
- the ability to work both independently and within a collaborative team;
- a willingness to conduct fieldwork and research stays abroad.

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<sup>1</sup> Cheshin, A. S., Hutman, B. & Melamed, A. (1999). *Separate and unequal. The inside story of Israeli rule in East Jerusalem*. Harvard University Press; Kedar, A., Amara, A., & Yiftachel, O. (2018). *Emptied lands: A legal geography of Bedouin rights in the Negev*. Stanford University Press; Puar, J. K. (2017). *The right to maim. Debility, Capacity, Disability*. Duke University Press; Yiftachel, O. (2006). *Ethnocracy. Land, identity, and politics in Israel/Palestine*. University of Pennsylvania Press; Weizman, E. (2007). *Hollow land. Israel's architecture of occupation*. Verso.

Deadline for applications: 30 April 2025

Info on the PhD programme:

<https://www.polito.it/en/education/phd-programmes-and-postgraduate-school/phd-programmes/urban-and-regional-development>

Applications:

<https://www.polito.it/en/education/phd-programmes-and-postgraduate-school/admissions-to-phd-programmes/admissions/call-for-applications>