

The Centre for Studies in Violence, Memory, and Trauma  
Department of English, Delhi University

Invites you to a talk

**Zionist Repression and Palestinian Resistance**  
**The Steven Salaita Case and Inter/Nationalism**

by

**Prof. Cynthia Franklin**

Time: Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 at 3.00 pm.  
Venue: Room 60, Faculty of Arts, Delhi University.

This paper reads Palestinian American Steven Salaita's 2015 memoir *Uncivil Rites* in relation to Zionist efforts to delegitimize and criminalize the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. In *Uncivil Rites*, Salaita responds to the controversies and issues surrounding his firing from a tenured position at the University of Illinois on the basis of angry tweets he issued during Israel's 2014 assault on Gaza. In his memoir, Salaita mobilizes solidly liberal tenets of what I call "narrative humanity"—the cultural codes, narrative conventions, and genres that structure our understandings of the human. As with the BDS movement and its demands that Israel simply adhere to international law, I look to how, in the face of a repressive Zionism in both the US and Palestine, Salaita's liberal humanism is contextually radical and consonant with the politics advanced in his latest book *Inter/Nationalism: Decolonizing Palestine and Native America*. In telling his own story in *Uncivil Rites*, Salaita does not merely expand understandings of who and what constitutes the human and the civil. Instead, Salaita radically reconfigures the human and the civil as he exposes an articulated set of oppressive conditions in the US and Palestine/Israel, and furthers the work of BDS as part of an inter/national decolonial vision.

**Cynthia Franklin** is Professor of English at the University of Hawai'i, where she teaches contemporary U.S. literature and cultural theory. She coedits *Biography*, and also has coedited three special issues of the journal, including "Life in Occupied Palestine" (2014). She is the author of *Academic Lives: Memoir, Cultural Theory, and the University Today*, and *Writing Women's Communities: The Politics and Poetics of Contemporary Multi-Genre Anthologies*. Publications appear in journals including *American Quarterly*, *Cultural Critique*, *American Studies*, *Gay and Lesbian Quarterly*, *Life Writing*, and *The Contemporary Pacific*, and in *This Bridge We Call Home* and *Diary of a Cancer Warrior: Fighting Cancer and Capitalism at the Cellular Level*. She has won two system-wide teaching awards: the Frances Davis Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the Board of Regents Award for Excellence in Teaching, and serves on the editorial board for *American Quarterly*. Cynthia is also a member of the Organizing Collective for the US Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (USACBI).

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