

The Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies and the Department of Sociology announce the following lecture:

**Politics and Violence in Israel/Palestine: Past, Present and Future**

Lev Luis Grinberg  
Ben Gurion University, Israel

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Time: 2:00-3:30 PM

Place: 513 Fayerweather Hall

The lecture is part of Soc G4407 'Dynamics of Israeli Society.' For further information contact Yinon Cohen at [yc2444@columbia.edu](mailto:yc2444@columbia.edu)

**ABSTRACT**

The Israeli regime is a paradox. Considered a democracy, it has no recognized borders, and controls the majority of Palestinians by military rule. In this peculiar dual military-democratic regime the military is a crucial political actor, while the resistance of non-citizen Palestinians - neither fully integrated nor completely separated - exerts major influence over politics and policies. In the absence of borders, conflicts cannot be successfully contained through political dialogue, and frequently deteriorate into violence. Within this analytical framework Grinberg analyzes the sequence of events that engendered mutual recognition between Israelis and Palestinians and peaceful negotiations during the 1990's, and its subsequent reversal, leading to escalating violence in the 2000's. The main argument is that Israelis and Palestinians could imagine the Oslo agreements as a peace process because the pre-1967 border was considered the basis for the "two-state solution" by both parties. The peace accords and their implementation, however, blurred the border, facilitating violent acts which derailed the negotiations, and encouraged the military occupation of the political space. Countering the political despair of many Israelis and Palestinians Grinberg suggests new options for the future, beyond the impasse of the dichotomous two-state or one-state solutions.

**Lev Grinberg**, author of *Politics and Violence in Israel/Palestine, Democracy vs. Military Rule* (Routledge, July 2009) is a political economist and sociologist in the Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, Ben Gurion University in Israel. He is the former Chair of the Department (2006-2009), and also former Director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research (1998-2003). His fields of specializations are the history of the Zionist Labor Movement, Israel's political economy, and the sociology of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. His previous books are *Split Corporatism in Israel* (1991), *The Histadrut Above all* (1993), and *Introduction to Political Economy* (1997). He is also the editor of *Contested Memory: Myth, Nation and Democracy* (2000), and co-editor of *Mizrachi Voices* (2005).