Helena de Morais Manfrinato Othman, Ph.D. candidate

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1. **Research Areas**

Palestinian Refugees; Arab and Muslim Populations; Social Movements; Political Anthropology; Anthropology of Religion.

1. **Education and Academic Titles**

2016-present – Ph.D. in Anthropology. University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil. Supervisor: Paula Montero. Grant: São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), São Paulo, Brazil.

Title: Refugees, Constricted Territories: on Humanitarianism, Visibility, Memory and Blood Among Palestinian Refugee Families From Syria.

2013-2016 – M.A. in Anthropology. University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil.

Supervisor: Ana Lúcia Pastore Schritzmeyer. Grant: Coordination for Higher Education Staff Development (CAPES), Brazil.

Title: Islam, Media and Human Rights: Policies of Representation and Visibility Through the Agency of a Network of Islamic Institutions in the Post-September 11.

2007-2013 – B.A. in Social Sciences. Universidade Estadual Paulista Júlio de Mesquita Filho, UNESP, Brazil. Supervisor: Renata Medeiros Paoliello. Grant: National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), Brazil.

Title: Islam and Human Rights: Mediation in an Islamic Institution of São Bernardo do Campo.

1. **Research Groups**
2. **2016-Present – Religion and Public Sphere (NUPRE)**

 I am a researcher in the Thematic Project “Religion, Law and Secularism: The Reconfiguration of the Civic Repertoire in Contemporary Brazil” (CEBRAP/FAPESP). This project is coordinated by Professor Paula Montero and seeks to understand the recent reconfiguration of Brazilian secularism, traditionally marked by Catholic roots, in light of the expressive expansion of Pentecostal Protestantism and its growing influence in Congress, the media and government branches. Our starting point is the hypothesis that the competition for civic-political spaces on behalf of religions has an effect, on the one hand, on the decline of the hegemony of the Catholic Church, and, on the other hand, on the juridification of social relations or, in a broader sense, the translation of disputes between collective agents into the code of law. These changes have forced religions to develop public languages capable of triggering their claims and convictions in legal-political languages of rights recognized by constitutional democracies, such as Human Rights, Religious Freedom, Laicité, Tolerance, etc. Our aim is to explore the ways in which religions incorporate their universalist and differentialist salvationist repertoires into the secular semantic field, reconfiguring the matrix that guides and gives meaning to the discursive practices that concern the civic space in contemporary Brazil. To this end, we focus our investigation on three main axes: the first deals with the relationship between the juridical normativity and social agents; the second analyzes evangelical political activism, and religious and secular public manifestations; and the third examines religious debates around homoafetivity and the forms of production of evangelical civic-religious subjects.

 I am part of Axis 2B, which analyzes the religious expressions developed at the street level in performances that involve movements, interventions, images and sounds. We seek to understand how these practices are mobilized as a resource aimed at creating publics and audiences that do not represent a set of beliefs to be strengthened, but present ways of practicing religion. This change in sensitivity, not limited to evangelicals, compose the repertoire of Catholics, Muslims, nonreligious and antireligious people, impacting on the aesthetics that they use to ensure their visibility. There are three ethnographic objects: Palestinian refugees from the Syrian conflict and social movements in an urban occupation, the hijab – or Islamic veil, and the modes of political organization led by Muslims. These choices originate from the very dynamic of production of visibility and political participation of these actors, related to their religious expressiveness and sensibility, understood, among other things, as “foreigners.”

1. **2019-Present – Latin American Center for Palestinian Studies (NEPLA)**

 I am member and one of the coordinators of the group. It is currently in a period of formation and development of its research agenda, starting with ethnographic productions about Palestinians in Brazil and Latin America, which cover topics such as identity and political processes arising from migration processes. The group aims to broaden epistemological boundaries, focusing on a South-South dialogue on issues of the Palestinian Diaspora, refugees, and the effects of permanent or temporary establishment of Palestinians in Latin America.

1. **Publications**

MANFRINATO, Helena de Morais. “Dos quadros de guerra à participação: novas sobre a jornada do refúgio palestino em São Paulo” [From War Frames to Participation: News on the Journey of the Palestinian Refugees in São Paulo]. São Paulo: Cadernos de Campo, 2017.

MANFRINATO, Helena de Morais; SANCHEZ, Henrique. “Bolsonaro e Israel: alianças eletivas e o triunfo das utopias regressivas” [Bolsonaro and Israel: Elective Alliances and the Triumph of Regressive Utopias]. Revista Diáspora (online). Niterói, 2018.

ALVES, Mirian; MANFRINATO, Helena de Morais. Refugees of the Syrian Conflict and the Struggle for Housing in Brazil. In: The Refugee Outreach & Research Network (ROR-n) (online) Austria, 2019.

MANFRINATO, Helena (org.). “Introdução, Dossiê Palestina em foco: território, tecnologia e refúgio” [Introduction, Dossier Palestine in Focus: Territory, Technology and Refugees]. In: Revista Diáspora [Diaspora Magazine] (online). Niterói, 2019.

MANFRINATO, Helena de Morais. “Teto, solidariedade e o direito de retorno: percursos do internacionalismo na ocupação Leila Khaled” [Shelter, Solidarity and the Right to Return: paths of internationalism in the Leila Khaled occupation]. In: *Dossiê Palestina em foco: território, tecnologia e refúgio* [Dossier Palestine in Focus: Territory, Technology and Refugees]. In: : Revista Diáspora [Diaspora Magazine (Online). Niterói, 2019

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MANFRINATO, Helena de Morais. MAGALHÃES, Luís Felipe Aires, WALDMAN, Tatiana (org.). “Família, moradia e solidariedade: a experiência da ocupação Leila Khaled em São Paulo” [Family, Housing and Solidarity: The Experience of the Leila Khaled Occupation in São Paulo]. In: *Migrações Internacionais Contemporâneas e Refúgio no Brasil* [Contemporary International Migration and Refugees in Brazil]. Online. ISBN: 978-85-7118-007-9. Centro Paula Souza - Setec/MEC, 2018.

MANFRINATO, Helena de Moraes & SOUZA, Mirian Alves de. Refugees of the Syrian Conflict and the Struggle for Housing in Brazil. Leonardo Schiocchet, Christine Nölle-Karimi, Monika Mokre (Eds.) *Agency and Tutelage in Forced Migration*. Vienna: ROR-n and the ÖAW, 2020. In: http://www.ror-n.org/uploads/7/3/0/9/73095249/plattform\_2\_1\_\_-\_final\_\_online\_\_june2020.pdf

1. **Lectures**

“Mais do que um menos que muitos: conexões parciais em uma ocupação intercultural e pluri-institucional em São Paulo” [More Than One, Less Than Many: Partial Connections in an Intercultural and Multi-institutional Occupation in São Paulo*]. Seminário: Refugiados Árabes: Brasil e Áustria em perspectiva* [Seminar: Arab Refugees: Brazil and Austria in perspective]. Promoted by the Center of Middle East Studies (PPGA/UFF). Location: Campus Gragoatá, UFF, Niterói.

“Vidas que sofrem, vidas que importam: compaixão, solidariedade civil e visibilidade do refúgio palestino em São Paulo” [Lives That Suffer, Lives that Matter: Compassion, Civil Solidarity and the Visibility of the Palestinian refugees in São Paulo]. *Lecture: Migrations series*. Promoted by Center of Studies on Migration and Refugee Rights. Location: Casa de Rui Barbosa Foundation (Rio de Janeiro).

1. **Other Activities**

 Founding member of RABET, a non-profit organization for the insertion of the debate on Palestine in Brazil, based on advocacy work focused on human rights. The organization works with a network of human rights activists and organizations on the ground in Palestine, as well as Palestinian refugees who live in Brazil, especially newcomers from the Syrian conflict.