A Beastly Travelogue: Regulating Nonhuman Animals in Palestine/Israel
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26 | 12:00-1:00PM
GRACE CONFERENCE ROOM

Israel’s occupation and colonization of Palestine has brought with it an abundance of critical literature, most recently a hefty debate on the theoretical relevance and geographic scale of settler colonialism in this region. Much, if not all, of this literature focuses on humans. By contrast, my paper contemplates the making of the natural-national landscape in Palestine/Israel through nonhuman animals. Moving from the reintroductions of the biblical fallow deer, wild asses, and griffon vultures into this landscape, through the story of Bedouin camels’ prohibitions against drinking water in the Har ha-Negev nature reserve, and finally to the trafficking of protected goldfinches via the East Jerusalem corridor, I present a colorful bricolage of the shifting more-than-human hierarchies enforced by Israel’s nuanced regulatory regimes.

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