

## Visiting Speaker Series

**The Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies is pleased to present a talk by esteemed academic**

**Privatization of Israel's Security: Is the occupation a lucrative resource or a hot potato?**

**Shir Hever, Author**

Shir Hever is an Israeli political economist and activist now living in Berlin. He conducts research for the Alternative Information Center, a Palestinian-Israeli organisation active in Jerusalem and Beit Sahour. He is the author of *The Political Economy of Israel's Occupation* (2010) and *The Privatisation of Israeli Security* (2017).



Although security has not been privatized more extensively in Israel than it has in the US or UK, it has nevertheless undergone a very rapid process of privatization since the early 1990s. Shir will discuss the Israeli government's abrupt change of direction from a highly nationalized "nation in uniform" model to widespread privatization of the very core function of the Israeli military and security forces: the occupation of the Palestinian territory and people.

The Israeli security elite is undergoing a prolonged crisis, and their resistance is faltering. Rather than waging war against conventional armies, it has been tasked with policing a resisting civilian population in the occupied Palestinian territory, a task which brings very little prestige. Privatization creates the potential for members of the security elite to move to the private sector where they can capitalize on their "security expertise" gained in the course of the occupation, and to turn this experience into an exportable commodity.



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