



BEYOND POSTMEMORY

April 2026

Conferences & Events

YSABELLA PACHANO'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE ARCADI OLIVERES AWARD

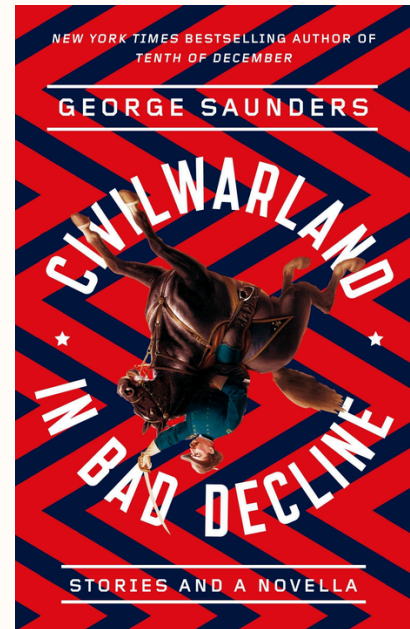
On Tuesday, 28 April, the Sala de Cinema at UAB hosted the ceremony for the 9th edition of the Arcadi Oliveres Award, which took place during the Jornada amb Impacte Social. One of our BA students, Ysabella Pachano Contreras, was awarded the Premi Arcadi Oliveres a Treballs de Fi de Grau de transformació per a la Justícia Global.



Supervised by Dr Cristina Pividori, Pachano Contreras' dissertation, "The American't Dream: The Roles of Irony,, Magical Realism and Empathy in George Saunders' Short Fiction "The Semplica Girls Diaries" and "CivilWarLand in Bad Decline," examines the idea of the American Dream and the New Sincerity Movement in twenty-first-century George Saunders.



The project explores the extent to which Saunders uses different forms of irony—situational, verbal, dramatic and cosmic—together with elements of magical realism, such as ghosts, to subvert the American Dream and foster empathy in readers. It argues that “CivilWarLand in Bad Decline” and “The Semplica Girls” expose the alienation, exploitation, and violence embedded in the pursuit of commodified ideals within capitalist American society.



In doing so, Saunders’s short fiction challenges the core tenets of the American Dream—equality, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—by revealing the contradictions through irony, magic realism, and empathy.



Ysabella Pachano holding her award certificate



ELVIRA AGUILERA: "NARRATIVES DE LA DIÀSPORA PALESTINA. ISABELLA HAMDAD"

On Sunday, 19 April, Elvira Aguilera delivered the talk "Narratives de la Diàspora Palestina. Isabella Hammad." Aguilera presented part of her PhD project to a broader audience, bringing her academic research into an accessible context.

Elvira Aguilera focused on Isabella Hammad's novel *Enter Ghost* (2024) to talk about Anglo-Palestinian literature. Aguilera provided the audience with an introduction to Isabella Hammad and a historical contextualisation of Palestine and the Israeli settler-colonial project in Palestine since the British Mandate.

During the session, she actively engaged with attendees by reading excerpts from *Enter Ghost* alongside passages from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, encouraging the audience to participate in close reading and critical examination of the texts. This interactive approach fostered a collaborative environment, inviting reflection on themes of diaspora, memory, and literary reinterpretation.



Elvira Aguilera reading an excerpt of *Enter Ghost*



"PALESTINE: CULTURE, IDENTITY, AND HERITAGE," A TALK

On Friday, 8 May, as a closing event to the exhibition "Palestine: Culture, Identity, and Heritage," la Biblioteca de Humanitats will host a talk by its curator, Dr Enas Hamidi, and the members of the Beyond Postmemory research group, Dr Cristina Pividori, Elvira Aguilera and Hanadi Abu Jazar. The event aims to offer an in-depth exploration of the objects and themes featured in the display. The session will open with an introduction by Dr Cristina Pividori, who will outline the project's main research and action lines on Palestine.

This will be followed by a presentation from Dr Enas Hamidi, curator of the exhibition, who will examine the conceptual framework underpinning the selection of artefacts and materials on display.

The event will conclude with contributions from our students, Elvira Aguilera and Hanadi Abu Jazar, who will present their research on Anglo-Palestinian literature as part of their PhD and Master's projects, respectively.



8 MAY

**PALESTINE:
CULTURE, IDENTITY,
AND HERITAGE**

A JOURNEY THROUGH PALESTINIAN CITIES,
CULTURE, AND EVERYDAY LIFE

IN CONVERSATION WITH

DR ENAS HAMIDI
Curator of the Exhibition

DR CRISTINA PIVIDORI
PI of the Beyond Postmemory Project

ELVIRA AGUILERA GARCÍA
PhD Student of Anglo-Palestinian Literature

HANADI ABU JAZAR
MA Student of Anglo-Palestinian Literature

SALA GOYTISOLO (3RD FLOOR)
BIBLIOTECA D'HUMANITATS, UAB
FRIDAY, 8 MAY 2026 - 13:00H

UAB
Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona

Organised by Casa Palestina de Aragón
and Beyond Postmemory Project



DR ANDREA BELLOT AT FALKLANDS/MALVINAS CONFLICT CONFERENCE

From 16 to 17 April 2026, the University of Manchester hosted the Falklands/Malvinas Conflict Conference, a major international conference examining the legacy of the 1982 Anglo-Argentinian conflict. The event brought together leading experts, veterans and students from both sides. The interventions explored the enduring significance of the conflict nearly 45 years on, addressing its historical impact, contemporary relevance and future directions for research.



University of Manchester
Photo by Dr Andrea Bellot

Dr Andrea Bellot participated in the panel 'National Imaginaries, Sovereignty and Identity' with the paper "'You have to get used to carrying two feelings at once,'" Falkland Sound and the Islander as Witness.' Dr Bellot's paper examines Brad Birch's *Falkland Sound*, the first major UK stage production in recent decades to revisit the 1982 Falklands/Malvinas conflict through the perspective of the islanders, and how the drama constructs the islander as witness and how its dramaturgy negotiates the tension between community self-definition and the external narratives imposed by both Britain and Argentina.



Drawing on cultural memory studies and theatre scholarship on narration, testimony, and affect, Bellot argues that Birch's play stages the conflict as an epistemological struggle over who has the authority to narrate the war. Ultimately, Bellot suggests that Birch's play contributes to a nascent Falklands/Malvinas theatre of memory by foregrounding small-scale affective histories—gossip, fear, resilience, and disorientation—while interrogating the competing national myths that continue to shape the conflict's legacy.



Publications

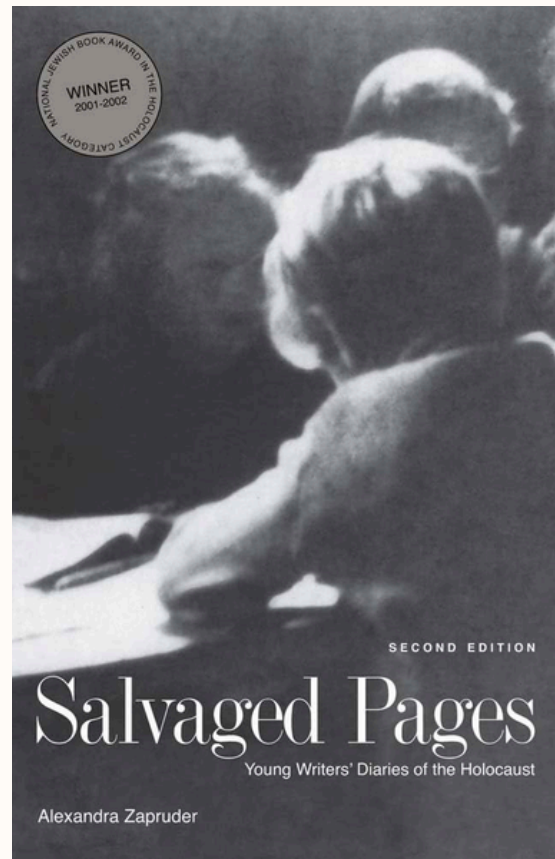
REVIEW OF ALEXANDRA ZAPRUDER'S "SALVAGED PAGES: YOUNG WRITERS' DIARIES OF THE HOLOCAUST."

BY DR CRISTINA PIVIDORI
JOURNAL OF JUVENILIA STUDIES

We are pleased to share that Cristina Pividori's review of Alexandra Zapruder's Salvaged Pages: Young Writers' Diaries of the Holocaust (2002) has been published in the Journal of Juvenilia Studies 7.2 (2026), pp. 157-161.

In the review, Pividori examines Zapruder's important contribution to Holocaust memory through her careful curation of fourteen diaries written by young Jewish authors across Nazi-occupied Europe. She highlights the volume's value not only as a historical and pedagogical resource, but also as a powerful reminder of the fragmentary, unfinished, and deeply human nature of Holocaust testimony.

As she argues, *Salvaged Pages* resists comforting or romanticised narratives and instead preserves these writings as urgent historical fragments that continue to speak to readers today.





Call for Papers

MEMORY AND TRAUMA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
LONDON CENTRE FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, LONDON/ONLINE
5-6 DECEMBER 2026
BIRKBECK COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON


Memory and trauma are two deeply interconnected phenomena that have captivated the attention of scholars and professionals across various disciplines. Understanding the complex interplay between these two elements is essential for comprehending how individuals, communities, and societies cope with and recover from traumatic experiences.

The International Conference on "Memory and Trauma" provides a platform for in-depth exploration of these and other aspects of memory and trauma. Through interdisciplinary dialogue, we aim to advance our understanding of how memory influences and is influenced by traumatic experiences, fostering resilience, healing, and justice for individuals and communities affected by trauma.


The conference invites scholars, researchers, and practitioners from around the world to submit their research proposals for an interdisciplinary exploration of the complex relationship between memory and trauma. It aims to foster critical discussions and offer a platform for sharing innovative research, insights, and perspectives on how memory shapes and is shaped by traumatic experiences.

SUGGESTED THEMES AND TOPICS

- 1. Historical Trauma:** Examining the intergenerational transmission of trauma, collective memory, and the impact of historical events on individuals and communities.
- 2. Psychological and Neurological Aspects:** Investigating the cognitive and psychological processes involved in the formation and retrieval of traumatic memories, as well as the neurological underpinnings of trauma-related disorders.

- 
3. **Narrative and Representation:** Analyzing the role of literature, art, film, and other forms of cultural expression in representing and processing traumatic memories.
 4. **Social and Cultural Dimensions:** Exploring how memory and trauma intersect with identity, gender, ethnicity, and other social and cultural factors.
 5. **Therapeutic Approaches:** Discussing therapeutic interventions, including psychotherapy, art therapy, and other modalities, for individuals and communities affected by trauma.
 6. **Legal and Ethical Considerations:** Examining the legal and ethical implications of memory and trauma, including issues related to testimonies, justice, and accountability.

GUIDELINES

- Abstracts of 250 words and short bios following [this paper proposal form](#).
 - Deadline: **5 July 2026** to [**memory@lcir.co.uk**](mailto:memory@lcir.co.uk)
 - Registration fee (online participation) - 90 GBP
 - Registration fee (physical participation) - 150 GBP
- 

News

IRAN AND LEBANON UNDER US AND ISRAELI ATTACKS

On 7 April 2026, after President Donald Trump's constant threats and deadlines for the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, the United States, Israel, and Iran agreed to a two-week ceasefire. Thanks to Pakistan's mediation, the deal was reached a few hours after the US President stated that "a whole civilisation will die tonight" if the Strait were not reopened. The ceasefire will allow shipping traffic through the West Asian commercial pathway. Although Israel backed the agreement, it intensified its attacks in the hours preceding the ceasefire, hitting civilian infrastructure such as electricity outposts, bridges, the railway network, and Iran's largest aluminium production facility, the Iranian Aluminium Company in Arak.

Although it initially seemed that the ceasefire would include Lebanon, Israel denied this and launched a massive aerial attack that killed 303 people and wounded 1,150 others. Lebanese officials have declared that more than 2,000 citizens have been killed since Israel launched its latest campaign last month, aimed at dismantling the Iran-backed Hezbollah militia. With the aim of protecting citizens living in northern Israel, the Israeli army has launched a campaign to raze entire villages across southern Lebanon.



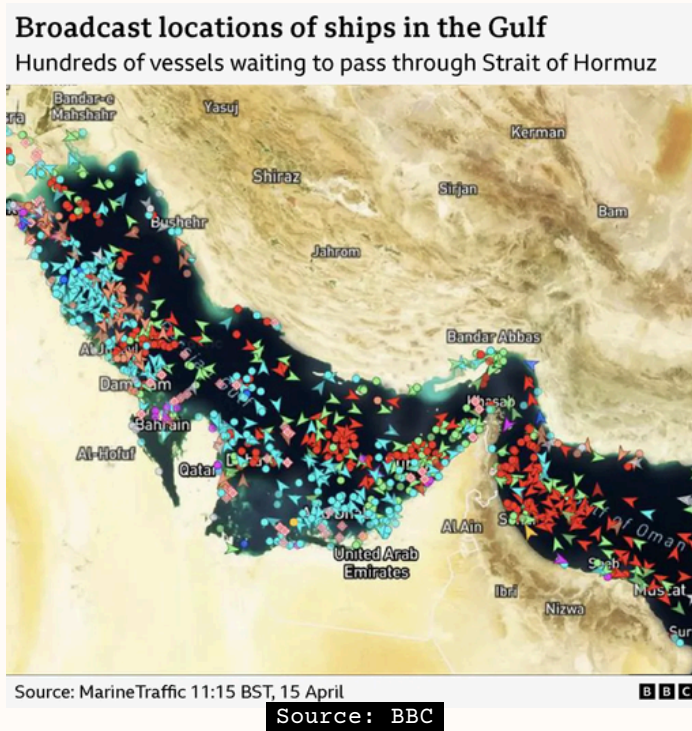
Smoke rises after an Israeli strike in southern Lebanon

[Ammar Awad /Reuters]

Source: Al Jazeera



Civilian infrastructure has been targeted, including the remaining bridge into the city of Tyre, isolating 30,000 people from the rest of the country, and a school in the city of Marwahin. Healthcare workers have been particularly affected, having lost 91 colleagues on duty by 16 April. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon has resulted in the displacement of approximately one million people in a country with a total population of five million.



Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, speaker of the Iranian parliament and lead negotiator, stated that the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz would be impossible after the United States and Israel had committed breaches of the ceasefire. More than 850 ships, with approximately 20,000 sailors on board, have been trapped in the Strait since 28 February, when the US and Israel launched their attack on Iran. In an attempt to break the blockade, the US has launched an operation called "Project Freedom."





SOURCES :

Bachega, Hugo, Samantha Granville, and Paulin Kola. "Lebanon thought there was a ceasefire - then Israel unleashed deadly blitz." BBC News, 9 Apr. 2026, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgk0edynpmzo>. [Accessed 6 May 2026].

Borger, Julian. "Shipping Bosses Nervous over Trump Plan to Guide Vessels through Strait of Hormuz." The Guardian, 4 May 2026, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/may/04/shipping-bosses-nervous-trump-plan-to-guide-vessels-strait-of-hormuz-iran>. [Accessed 6 May 2026].

Cheetham, Joshua, Shruti Menon, and Thomas Copeland. "How many ships are crossing the Strait of Hormuz?" BBC News, 15 Apr. 2026, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c3w39lg84w2o>. [Accessed 6 May 2026].

Christou, William. "Israel Escalates Attacks on Medics in Lebanon with Deadly 'Quadruple Tap.'" The Guardian, 16 Apr. 2026, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/apr/16/israel-escalates-attacks-on-medics-in-lebanon-with-deadly-quadruple-tap>. [Accessed 6 May 2026].

Christou, William, Julian Borger, and Joseph Gedeon. "Trump Announces 10-Day Ceasefire in Lebanon after 'Excellent Conversations.'" The Guardian, 16 Apr. 2026, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/apr/16/trump-announces-10-day-ceasefire-in-lebanon-after-excellent-conversations>. [Accessed 6 May 2026].

Holmes, Oliver. "Iranian Forces Seize Ships in Strait of Hormuz amid US Peace Talks." The Guardian, 22 Apr. 2026, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/apr/22/iranian-forces-ships-seized-strait-of-hormuz-us-peace-talks>. [Accessed 6 May 2026].

Lowell, Hugo. "Trump Says He Will Resume Bombing Iran after Ceasefire." The Guardian, 21 Apr. 2026, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/apr/21/trump-resume-bombing-iran-ceasefire>. [Accessed 6 May 2026].



Motamedi, Maziar. "Iranians Breathe a Ceasefire Sigh of Relief as All Sides Claim Victory." Al Jazeera, 8 Apr. 2026, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/4/8/iranians-breathe-a-ceasefire-sigh-of-relief-as-all-sides-claim-victory>. [Accessed 6 May 2026].

Shah, Saeed. "Pakistan Seeks Global Standing as Mediator in US-Iran Talks in the Middle East." The Guardian, 20 Apr. 2026, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/apr/20/pakistan-global-standing-mediator-us-iran-talks-middle-east>. [Accessed 6 May 2026].

The New York Times. "Iran War Live Updates: Trump and Global Reactions." The New York Times, 7 Apr. 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2026/04/07/world/iran-war-trump-news>. [Accessed 6 May 2026].

"Israel Issues New Forced Displacement Orders in Southern Lebanon." Al Jazeera, 3 May 2026, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/5/3/israel-issues-new-forced-displacement-orders-in-southern-lebanon>. [Accessed 6 May 2026].

"Israeli Attacks on Southern and Eastern Lebanon Kill at Least Six People." Al Jazeera, 6 May 2026, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/5/6/israeli-attacks-on-southern-eastern-lebanon-kill-at-least-six-people>. [Accessed 6 May 2026].





THE GLOBAL SUMUD FLOTILLA IS INTERCEPTED BY ISRAEL 1,000 KILOMETRES FROM GAZA

On 30 April, Israeli naval forces intercepted and disabled boats of the Global Sumud Flotilla in international waters, near the Greek island of Crete and more than 1,000 km from Gaza. The flotilla had departed from Italy on Sunday, 26 April, with 58 vessels. Israel's foreign ministry stated that the Israel Defence Forces had taken control of more than 20 boats carrying around 175 activists from across 70 countries. According to the Global Sumud Flotilla's live tracker, 22 boats have been intercepted, while 51 others remain at sea. The intercepted boats were not only captured, but their communications were jammed, preventing them from requesting assistance in open waters amid a forthcoming storm.

Whereas most of the activists were taken to Crete, Spanish national Saif Abu Keshek and Brazilian Thiago Ávila were transferred to Israel for questioning. The Spanish foreign ministry has demanded the immediate release of Keshek, who is being held illegally. Both activists have gone on a hunger strike in protest against their unlawful detention and alleged mistreatment. Whereas Abu Keshek has reportedly been hand-tied, blindfolded, and forced to lie face down on the floor, Ávila has reported that he was dragged face down across the floor and beaten until he lost consciousness.



Saif Abu Keshek, a Spanish national, is detained in Israel.
[Amir Cohen/Reuters]
Source: The Guardian





Israel's foreign ministry has accused both activists of being affiliated with an organisation subject to US Treasury sanctions, stating that Abu Keshek was a leading PCPA member and that Ávila was also linked to the organisation.



Saif Abu Keshek and Thiago Ávila in Ashkelon
[Ilia Yefimovich/AFP]
Source: Al Jazeera

The Spanish and Brazilian governments have called for the immediate return of their citizens, adding that their capture constitutes a violation of international law and a criminal offence under their respective national jurisdictions.

SOURCES:

Amnesty International. "Israel's Brazen Interception of Global Sumud Flotilla Bound for Gaza Sparks Fears for 175 Arbitrarily Detained." Amnesty International, 30 Apr. 2026, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2026/04/israels-brazen-interception-of-global-sumud-flotilla-bound-for-gaza-sparks-fears-for-175-arbitrarily-detained/>. [Accessed 6 May 2026].

Global Sumud Flotilla. GSF Press Release: GSF Sabotaged at Sea. 30 Apr. 2026, https://globalsumudflotilla.org/static/storage/press/GSF%20Press%20Release%202026.04.30%20_%20GSF%20Sabotaged%20at%20Sea.pdf. [Accessed 6 May 2026].

Jamal, Urooba. "Gaza Flotilla Activists Appear in Israeli Court, Allege Torture in Custody." Al Jazeera, 3 May 2026, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/5/3/gaza-flotilla-activists-appear-in-israeli-court-allege-torture-in-custody>. [Accessed 6 May 2026].

Kassam, Ashifa. "Gaza Flotilla Activists from Spain and Brazil Appear in Israeli Court." The Guardian, 3 May 2026, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/may/03/gaza-flotilla-activists-spain-brazil-appear-israel-court>. [Accessed 6 May 2026].





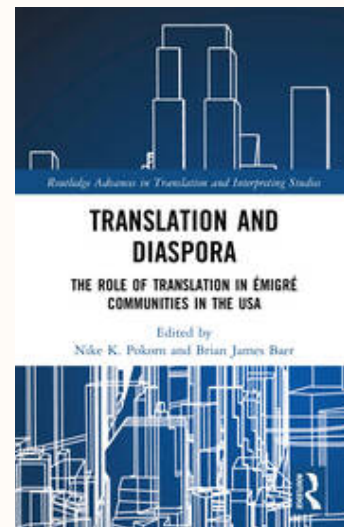
Don't Miss . . .

TRANSLATION AND DIASPORA THE ROLE OF TRANSLATION IN ÉMIGRÉ COMMUNITIES IN THE USA EDITED BY NIKE K. POKORN AND BRIAN JAMES BAER

The collective volume, *Translation and Diaspora*, explores for the first time in a systematic way diasporic communities as a distinct site of translational activity and highlights how fundamental translational activity has been to the development of diasporas in the USA.

Contrary to the quite extensive research on translation and migration, *Translation and Diaspora*, with its exploration of interlingual translational activity of non-Anglophone émigré communities in the USA places greater emphasis on the dwelling than on the transit, highlighting how translational activity is shaped by the broader socio-economic and political forces that underpin the development of diasporic communities. The collection is organized into sections featuring historical case studies on key venues of diasporic translation—periodicals and publishing houses—and key agents in diasporic translation: translators, editors, and associations. Taken together, the chapters demonstrate how the study of translation can offer unique insights into the relational and constructed nature of national and cultural identities in diasporic communities in the USA and beyond.

Translation and Diaspora will be of interest to scholars in translation studies, as well as to those from related fields such as migration, diaspora and exile studies, comparative literature, and American studies.





QUAN LA GUERRA ÉS UNA NOTA A PEU DE PÀGINA

A DEBATE WITH ZENIAB SALIH AND MIRIAM BARGHOUTI
10 JUNE 2026, 18:30 - 20:00



Mariam Barghouti and Zeinab Salih, journalists working from the heart of conflict in the West Bank and Sudan, discuss the need to bear witness and the difficulty of reporting when the world does not want to listen.

Mariam Barghouti has been reporting from the West Bank for more than a decade. Zeinab Salih has done the same from Sudan and other countries in the region. As journalists, they share many experiences. Both practice journalism in the countries where they were born and have had to confront editorial boards that reduce the suffering and oppression of their peoples to a footnote. They also have in common a refusal to normalize dehumanization. In their cases, bearing witness inevitably means challenging the international media system, rejecting simplification, and refusing to disappear as stories, lives, and voices that also matter.

Drawing on their experience in the field, Barghouti and Salih explore the parallels between practicing journalism in Sudan and Palestine, and discuss the costs of reporting and bearing witness despite geography, racism, and global media silences.