

## **6B—Contested Knowledges**

*Stolen Memories: Israeli State Repression and Appropriation of Palestinian Cultural Memory*, Blair Kuntz (University of Toronto).

While libraries, archives, and other cultural institutions function as sites where the public memory of individuals, events, and cultures are constructed and preserved, in instances of conquest and occupation they may also act as places where cultural memory is repressed, hidden, and appropriated. After the 1948 Palestinian *nakba* (“catastrophe”), teams of librarians followed Israeli soldiers collecting books appropriating them as “absentee property” and incorporating them into the general collection of Hebrew University. Other archival materials were stolen or destroyed. Palestinians still find their cultural memory suppressed as Israel arbitrarily closes, invades, and destroys library and archival materials for specious “security concerns.”