



Endangered Heritage in Gaza: Expert Conversation



Mar 31, 2026, 04:15 – 06:00 p.m.

Tuesday Afternoon Conversation (Online, Zoom link upon request only)

Speakers: Muneer Elbaz (RIWAQ & CISS, Gaza), Seif El Rashidi (Barakat Trust, London)

Abstract: This conversation among two heritage experts will shed light on how Palestinian heritage sites and thereby crucial sites of both memories and futures are endangered. How can this heritage be safeguarded under hostile conditions – and how does this affect the communities involved?

Bios: **Muneer Elbaz** is an architect and urban planner specializing in urban development and cultural heritage conservation. He worked with the Aga Khan Development Network on urban regeneration projects in Egypt and Pakistan and has led numerous initiatives to safeguard and revitalize Gaza's cultural heritage. He strongly advocates for the role of historic cities in driving local economic development. Muneer has participated in international training on heritage conservation and post-war recovery across Egypt, Germany, Turkey, Tunisia, and Palestine. Amid the ongoing war in Gaza, he is actively joining with RIWAQ and CISS on cultural emergency efforts to safeguard Gaza's heritage.

Seif El Rashidi is currently the director of The Barakat Trust, an organisation that supports the preservation of the cultural heritage of the Islamic world. Seif was formerly the Project Manager of Layers of London (2016-2020), developed by the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London; Project Manager at the Guildhall Library (2016-2018); Magna Carta Programme Manager for Salisbury Cathedral (2014-2016); the coordinator of Durham's UNESCO World Heritage Site (2008-2014); a team member of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture's Darb Al-Ahmar Revitalisation Project in Cairo (1997-2008) and at Ahmad Hamid Architects (1995-1997).

Important detail: The Zoom link will only be disseminated upon request. Please email rebecca.sauer@aoi.uzh.ch, subject line «Endangered Heritage Zoom link request» **no later than March 30, 5 p.m. CET.**