

Teaching Life in Gaza

Dr. Jennifer Lynn Kelly
University of California, Santa Cruz

Friday March 22nd, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
(Zoom Webinar)

Register: <https://tiny.utk.edu/badTo>

A lecture by Dr. Jennifer Lynn Kelly, Associate Professor of Feminist Studies and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies at University of California, Santa Cruz, and author of *Invited to Witness: Solidarity Tourism Across Occupied Palestine* (Duke University Press, 2023). In this work Dr. Kelly “shows how Palestinian guides and organizers wrest from Israeli control the capacity to invite and the permission to narrate both their oppression and their liberation.”

Read more about Dr. Kelly’s work:
<https://www.jenniferkellyphd.com/>



INVITED TO WITNESS



SOLIDARITY TOURISM ACROSS OCCUPIED PALESTINE

JENNIFER LYNN KELLY

This lecture, formed through heartbreak and outrage, details what it means to teach life in Gaza amidst cyclical genocidal bombardment. I draw from the sixth chapter in my first book, *Invited to Witness: Solidarity Tourism across Occupied Palestine*, which follows myriad virtual tours in Gaza and details the labor of Palestinian guides and organizers in the moments between the past several Israeli military incursions into the Strip. I argue that, through these virtual tours, Palestinian guides, organizers, and activists in Gaza resist the severing of Gaza from the rest of Palestine and from the rest of the world, disrupting the circumscription of Palestine to the geographical borders of the West Bank, and intervening in narratives that position Gaza as solely a site of suffering, where tourism could never flourish. They ask instead, what it would mean if Palestinians in Gaza could invite tourists, host their own tours, control their own borders, live freely. I will speak about what this chapter means now, in a time of genocide, and the role of Palestinian journalists on the ground to similarly bring Gaza to the rest of the world as Israel attempts—via orchestrated blackouts—to render that connection impossible. In total, I will reflect on what is incumbent upon all of us as witnesses to this genocide.

Dr. Jennifer Lynn Kelly is an Associate Professor of Feminist Studies and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies at University of California, Santa Cruz. Her research broadly engages questions of settler colonialism, U.S. empire, and the fraught politics of both tourism and solidarity. Her first book, *Invited to Witness: Solidarity Tourism Across Occupied Palestine* (Duke University Press, 2023), is a multi-sited interdisciplinary study of solidarity tourism in Palestine that shows how solidarity tourism has emerged in Palestine as an organizing strategy that is both embedded in and working against histories of sustained displacement. Her next project, co-edited with Somdeep Sen (Rothskilde University) and Lila Sharif (Arizona State University) is *Detours: A Decolonial Guide to Palestine*, the next volume in the *Detours Series* at Duke University Press. Dr. Kelly is a Founding Collective member of the Institute for the Critical Study of Zionism and UCSC’s Faculty for Justice in Palestine.