This talk focuses on Arab Palestinian Bedouin women’s everyday struggles in Rahat, one of the seven townships in the Naqab, Southern Israel, where the Bedouins were forcibly settled in the early 1970s. Relying on ethnographic fieldwork, the presentation investigates how Israeli sedentarisation (and so-called ‘modernisation’) policies have transformed Bedouin gender norms and practices. It also shows how Bedouin women from different generations negotiated and resisted these drastic changes and Israeli state control over their lives and bodies.

**ISLAM’S WEDDING**...and other Bedouin Stories from the Naqab
A film by Yiannis Kanakis

Rahat and Laqiya are two of the seven Bedouin townships built by the Israeli authorities from the early 1970s onwards to settle the semi-nomadic Arab Bedouin population of the Naqab. Today 50% of the Bedouin population lives in the townships; the other half resides in villages that remain unrecognized by the Israeli state. The film traces the stories of different Bedouin residents of Rahat and Laqiya and how the young and old have coped with the forced shift to urban life.

**Naqab Bedouin Women in Rahat: Between ‘Tradition’ and ‘Modernity’**

**LECTURE & FILM DISCUSSION BY**

**Dr. Sophie Richter-Devroe**
Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies—University of Exeter, U.K.

**Monday**
**April 20, 2015**
**7 pm**
**Slayter University Room**
**4th Floor**

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