



Wednesday 3rd February 2010

**SCIENTIFIC MEETING:
Thinking under Fire:
Child mental health care training of Palestinian
primary health care workers in the West Bank
during the Israeli military incursion on Gaza**

7:00pm - 9:30pm

**Registration and refreshments
from 6:30pm -7:00pm**

**Hughes Parry Hall,
University of London
36-45 Cartwright Gardens
London WC1H 9EF**

Fee: £30 (OPUS Associates £15)

**NB. You can become an Associate
when booking for this event
OPUS Associate Membership**

Presenters: Dr. Nadia Dabbagh and Dr Aoife Roche

Chaired by: Jan McHugh (OPUS Associate)

Dr Nadia DABBAGH trained in University College London and is currently in her final year of higher specialist training in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Tavistock Centre London. She is of Anglo-Arab heritage and has written a book entitled 'Suicide in Palestine: Narratives of Despair' which was based on a PhD in Medical Anthropology.

Dr Aoife Roche trained in paediatrics and psychiatry in Trinity College Dublin and has spent three years at the Tavistock Centre in London carrying out higher specialist training in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. She has a particular interest in the psychological impact of trauma and conflict.

In January 2009 Nadia & Aoife went to Ramallah to run a three day module in child mental health for primary health care workers, this coincided with the Israeli air, sea and ground offensive on Gaza. The paper will focus on the challenge of creating a space for reflection

and learning in these circumstances — that is, of 'thinking under fire'. An important theme will be the interplay between external and internal conflict and the impact on systems from the global to the local to the individual. A related theme will be the consequences of living under one of the longest military occupations in modern times; the impact of chronic trauma and occupation on the mind. Building on these themes they will raise questions about how an understanding of these processes may shed light on the dynamics that perpetuate the tragedy of the Palestine/Israel conflict. They will draw from a range of psychological sources such as Winnicott and Bion.