



## Samar Al-Bulushi

### Home as Thoroughfare: Surveillance, Infrastructure, and the 'War on Terror' in East Africa

UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Anthropology  
at the University of California, Irvine

*As the U.S.-led 'War on Terror' expands across the African continent, the intimate everyday space of the home is increasingly folded onto the battlefield. Drawing on ethnographic research in the Kenyan cities of Nairobi and Mombasa, this talk will explore how the governing intrusion into the homeplace---through police raids, arrests, and aerial and telecommunications surveillance---constitutes subjects and structures social relationships. Traumatic events related to the homeplace have implications for our understandings of material infrastructures as repositories for meaning, as well as for the home's relationship to race and empire---made poignantly visible in the 2016 film, 'Eye in the Sky,' in which Euro-American drone strikes are rationalized not only as legal, but as ethical and necessary. The so-called terror suspect's home is a site through which to understand how the 'local' and the 'global' are co-constituted: it is a space where geopolitical knowledge circulates with a certain urgency, as family members and visitors relay the latest information about the scattered hegemonies of the counter-terror apparatus, and about the ongoing search for missing kin.*

#### Co-sponsors



DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

## Samar Al-Bulushi



**Samar Al-Bulushi** is a UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Irvine. Her research and teaching interests include critical security studies, the racialization of Islam and Muslims, and Africa's relationship to empire. Her work has appeared in *Africa is a Country*, *Transforming Anthropology*, *Jacobin*, *Intercepted*, *The Guardian*, *Al-Jazeera*, and *Pambazuka News*.

Tuesday,  
November 21, 2017  
3:30-5:00pm  
Social & Behavioral  
Sciences Gateway,  
Room 1321

For more information  
please visit

[Internationalstudies.socsci.uci.edu](http://Internationalstudies.socsci.uci.edu)