

# The Centre for Humanities Research of the University of the Western Cape, the District Six Museum, and the Harold Wolpe Memorial Trust

Invite you to a public lecture by

**PROFESSOR SAREE MAKDISI (UCLA)**



**“The Architecture of Erasure in Jerusalem”**

**Date: 7th February 2011**

**District Six Museum, 25A Buitenkant Street**

**Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

In 2004, construction began in Jerusalem on the local branch of the Los Angeles-based Museum of Tolerance, designed by the leading American architect, Frank Gehry. The museum is now being built over the remains of what had been the largest and most important Muslim cemetery in Palestine, which had been in continual use from the time of the Crusades up until 1948. The clash between the two competing claims to the same site offers a paradigmatic case to explore and rethink the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, since all of the elements of the larger conflict are also in play in the struggle over this specific site.

**Professor Saree Makdisi** is a professor of English Literature at the University of California in Los Angeles, UCLA and the author of several books on British Romanticism, which is his area of expertise, and he writes on contemporary Arab politics and culture.

Widely published in his academic area, Makdisi has also written many commentaries on Palestine for publications such as the *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle*, *London Review of Books* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. In 2008 Makdisi published his book *Palestine Inside Out: Everyday Occupation*. The book combines the personal experiences of daily life under occupation with an analysis of how the occupation functions as a whole. "What I discovered when I went there, for all that I knew, I still found myself shocked" he explained.



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