Research Objective

The objective of this research is to analyze the failure of state formation in Palestine in the past seventeen years, through pursuing a ‘good governance approach’, and examining the interrelationship between ‘good’ governance and development in Palestine within the high level of aid dependency and the absence of a real state or government.

Research Questions

- Does governance really matter for Palestine and is the good governance a pre-requisite to the state formation in Palestine?
- Is ‘good’ governance viable under occupation, and with the absence of ‘real’ state?
- Why the Arafatism approach failed? And why the neo-liberal Fayyadism approach seems to be successful in promoting good governance, fighting corruption, building institutions and the state, although of the widening in the authority’s legitimacy gap?
- Does aid dependency and donors intervention ‘hinder’ the quality of governance in Palestine?
- To what extent does the current governance indicators are suitable to be used in evaluating governance in Palestine? And what are the ‘missing’ aspects?

Research Methodology

- Two mini-questionnaires for 50 donor representative and the 50 Palestinian NGOs working in governance.
- Semi-structured interviews, case studies, and observations from the field.

This research aims to:

- Analyze the leadership approaches and compare between the Arafatism and Fayyadism.
- Examine the role of international aid in governance and state failure/building, and inspect the potential impact of aid dependency on the quality of governance.
- Study the role, impact, and effectiveness of the Palestinian NGOs working in good governance realm on stimulating a better governance culture and helping in state building.
- Investigate the institutional reform and development plans since the Palestinian Authority establishment with special focus on the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan, PRDP I, II and the 13th government plan.
- Come up with a national measurement and assessment of the governance status, according to international best practices, considering the particularity of the Palestinian case.