From *Paratroopers to Waltz with Bashir*: The Absence of Law from Israeli War Films

*Prof Shulamit Almog, University of Haifa*

**Date:** 27 January 2015  
**Time:** 2:00PM  
**Venue:** 22 Russell Square  
**Room:** T102

Map available at http://www.soas.ac.uk/visitors/location/maps/#RussellSquareCampusMap

Israeli reality is saturated with law. And yet, contemporary Israeli films, much like earlier ones, embrace a national heroic narrative that typically marginalises legal issues and legal proceedings. This talk will demonstrate law’s absence from Israeli cinema by looking closely at one of the most popular and influential genres of Israeli cinema: war films. Such films reflect and at the same time participate in the construction of Israeli collective consciousness, one in which military experience is central. Tracing law’s presence (or non-representation) in these films may shed light from a new angle on two issues: the role of films in shaping collective attitudes in Israel, and the gap between Israeli courts’ rhetoric and actual perceptions of law in Israeli society.

*Prof Shulamit Almog* is a Full Professor of Law at the University of Haifa, specialising in law and culture, children’s rights, and feminist legal studies.

**Chair:** Hedi Viterbo, SOAS

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