More than a Critique? Revisiting the ‘Third World Approach to International Law’ (TWAIL)

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TWAIL scholarship grew out of claims that colonial legacies and imperial interests continue to structure the operation of international law. Despite this ‘dark side’ of international law, the decolonial era sees peoples of the Global South, social movements and rights activists continue to place hope in international law. Can the potential for international law be unlocked through its transformation from Global South’s below?

Nahed Samour has studied law and Islamic studies at the universities of Bonn, Birzeit/Ramallah, London (SOAS), Berlin (HU), Harvard, Damascus and was a doctoral fellow at the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History in Frankfurt/Main. She clerked at the Court of Appeals in Berlin, and held a Post Doc position at the Eric Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights, Helsinki University, Finland and was Early Career Fellow at the Lichtenberg-Kolleg, Göttingen Institute for Advance Study. She is Junior Faculty at the Harvard Law School, Institute of Global Law and Policy.

Amongst her publications on TWAIL are:

“From Imperial to Dissident: Approaches to Territory in Islamic International Law”, in International Law and Religion. Historical and Contemporary Perspectives, Martti Koskenniemi,Monica García-Salmones & Paolo Amorosa (eds.), Oxford University Press 2017, pp. 239–268;

