**Karen Buhler-Wilkerson Faculty Research Fellowship**

**For Historical Research in Nursing**

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1. A concise statement of the research aim and purpose:

Military nursing during World War I (WWI) 1914-1918, is very popular topic in history of nursing's research. Literature review reveals many manuscripts and books, dealing with nursing professional aspects and contributions to the war efforts. Nursing role was highly examined, especial from the American and British armies' involvement in battles arenas all over the globe. However, there is a gap of knowledge about nursing and military nursing participation in the WWI in Palestine. Palestine that was under the Ottoman Empire regime, stood in the middle of a strategic military crossroads between the British and Turkish- Ottomans' forces in the Middle-East. Health situation in Palestine during the wartime was in a very low sanitation condition. The country was suffered from a serious shortage of medicines and medical equipment. All over the country was plagued by Cholera and Spotted Fever. Nursing service was provided by few local Jewish nurses and mostly provided by German, French and Austrian nuns. The American colony settlers in Jerusalem have an essential role in healthcare and welfare for the local population. When the war broke out and in particular when the American Army were joined the war against the Turkish, Their political status was problematic. Although they had good relationships with Turkish governor, opened 4 military hospitals and kept nursing and caring for British and Turkish soldiers parallel to the civilian population. Yet, there is a short of published knowledge about them and in particular about nursing in Palestine those days.

The aim of this research is to fill in the gap of knowledge about the roots of the Israeli nursing. This research may shed light from a new angle on the understanding the pivotal role of military nursing. The following research questions will enable me to achieve these goals:

1. Who were the nurses in Palestine in WWI? How did they trained? What were their qualifications? What was their military/civilian status?

2. Where did the nurses served? What was their clinical and management role?

3. What was the nurses' contribution? What was their influence on health, welfare and political aspects in Palestine? What was their influence on designing nursing in Palestine towards the British Mandatory time and Later, Israeli nursing?

The Karen Buhler-Wilkerson fellowship research award will enable me to reach the most exclusive and essential historical materials for my research on WWI: books, articles and archive materials located in **The Barbara Bates center for the study of the history of Nursing**. In addition, the fellowship travel will be an excellent opportunity to meet the most experienced nurse historians' scholars for advising and discuss with them about the project.

2. The project description:

Title: "Nursing the Ottomans: Military nursing in Ottoman Palestine during World War I": The First World War outbreak on 1914, was the first biggest fatal conflict up to that time, involving entire societies fight each other. At the end of four years of fighting (1918), a total of ten million military personnel had died and the world order had totally changed. Empires were fall and the entire world had to face with new challenges of totalitarian regimes and ethnic-religious conflicts (Ahlstrom, 2014). For the first time, new fatal weapons were used in that war for example: exploding artillery and smokeless powder propelled rifle, faced military medicine with new demands for advanced care. During this war a new medical develops were observed: Diagnosing bacteriology, improvements of X-ray mobile machine, an intravenous saline infusion in resuscitation procedure and developed of advanced surgical devices. All of that were crucial for treating the wounded (Gabriel, 2013). Alongside medicine advancement, the demand for professional physicians and nurses arose. British army nurses were drafted to frontlines without any early preparation (Bernthal, 2014). Nurses functioned as a surgeon assistant during the surgery and anesthesia procedure. They also cared the gas burn wounded, washed the deep abdominals injury infections with antiseptic solutions and managed the wounded evacuation from frontline to home front's hospitals through hospitals ships and trains (Summers, 1988). Nurses' contribution was not limited on the physical injury. Hallett (2010) argued that nurses functioned also as containment for physiological soldiers' trauma, making them sustain themselves in a state of completeness.

With the entrance of the American Army to the war in April 6, 1917, 403 nurses were served together with 170 reservation nurses, year later their numbers arose to 12,186, sent for service all over the world (Feller & Cox, 2000). The war emphasized the need for qualified nurses and contributed in acceleration of the academization education on military and civilian nursing (Palmer, 1991).

What about the Ottoman military nurses? Until 1910, men health care in the Ottoman Empire was taken by untrained men. In 1910, women begun to participate in work labor and social activities. The first Turkish military nurses' experience was in the Balkan war, 1912. Unfortunately, their number was very low and the Ottoman relied on the 7 Red Cross nurses and 11 German nuns who cared for the Ottoman army wounded in the First World War. The Red Crescent for "Ottoman Society for the Wounded and ill Soldiers" was founded in 1868, although until 1913, nursing practice in the organization was based on women traditional rule abilities as mothers-caregivers, characterized with sensitivity and mercy for the wounded. Nursing courses in Turkey were opened in 1913-1914 and released 300 graduated nurses to serve in several fronts (Sançar, 2016). The Red Crescent nurses work during the war and particularly in the Palestine front, is still missing in literature.

Palestine in the First World War was in a deep political, economic and health crisis (Bar-El & Greenberg, 2006). The country was severely beaten by the Turkish restrictions of the foreign countries' money transferred to the population and from the confiscation of food, water, oil and goods for their military demands. Jerusalem was recognized as the center of the Turkish home front in Palestine and drained off the medical and economical aspects of the Turkish army (Shiloni, 1991). As a result of bad sanitary conditions, pandemic of Cholera, Spotted Fever, Varicella and Malaria were everywhere (Shiloni, 1991). The diseases and the starvation caused to 15,000 deaths among the civilian population (Ruppin, 1968). In addition to the worsening of health situation, The Turkish military was recruited the majority of the Jewish physicians and nurses and confiscate all elementary medical equipment from local clinics (Smilansky, 1934), while they were deported the foreign nurses from enemy countries such as Russia, Britain and France (Shiloni, 1991). Under those complicated political and health conditions, nursing become a very challengeable job. With the few sources mention military nursing in Palestine, appoint the American Colony Nurses who managed 4 Turkish military hospitals under the complicated political relations between USA and Turkey (Spafford, 1951). Another testimony of the military nursing activity is reflected only by pictures, showed the Turkish Red Crescent nurses (Kalbian, 2015) and the Rosary sisters stands next to medical officers staff (Schwake, 2014 ). The nursing role and their function remained shrouded in mist. Keeling & Mann Wall (2015), argued nurses abilities of creating an innovation and acting in political sensitivities and in international conflicts are critical part of disaster response. Wartime nursing also challenged nurses' practice and exams their social and professional place from gender perspective (Dixon Vuic, 2013). This Project aims to exam those aspects.

3. The center's collections parts that I will be using the fellowship: I wish to use the World War I center's books, monographs and other printed materials the center's offer. For example: the MC: 227, 236, 224, 10, 171, 222, 220, 188.

4. The fellowship Budget's itemized details: the fellowship will enable me travel (air fare+ hotel costs) to the center, find crucial materials for my project and have an appointments with center's nurse historians. It will also enable me to visit archives, purchase documents duplication and photographs ; in USA: National Archives, Library of Congress, The women's Memorial Foundation, Five College Archives & Manuscript Collections, and interviewing Dr. Kalbian-hold a private collection of military medicine in Palestine during WWI. In Israel: Central Zionist Archive, Yad Izhak Ben Zvi Archive, Jerusalem Municipality Archives. In Turkey: Red Crescent Archives. In Britain: Wellcome Library, The National Archives Kew. All those centers contain essential primary and secondary sources for my research project.

**Project Time-Line:** September 2021- September 2022- data collecting, October –December 2022- manuscript writing, January 2023- Presenting and Publishing the Project's Outcomes.

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**Summary of my Activities and Future Plans**

I am a lecturer and a nephrology nurse, who is primarily interested in: (1) Medical Education- Military nursing history, Nursing history and healthcare systems developments. (2) Transcultural Nursing and cultural competence in health care systems, and (3) Nephrology Nursing- improves patients' quality of life, nursing clinical skills.

I am working on historical research projects about the history of “Laniado”- Jewish Ultra-orthodox nursing school, history of nephrology nursing aspects, and clinical researches simultaneously with multidiscipline colleagues. I intend to continue applying new nephrology nursing treatments and methods issues involving quality of life measures, and thus improving the health of End Stage Renal Disease patients'. In the transcultural nursing arena, I collaborate with few colleagues from the social work and behavioral sciences' discipline. I plan to focus on conducting more of history projects in the military nursing during wartime and conflict in the Middle East and global arenas.