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INPLASY

Contemporary constructions and representations of Palestine in media, political, and institutional discourse since 7 October 2023: A qualitative evidence synthesis protocol (provisional)

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Support - The current study is part of a clinical psychology training doctorate funded by the NHS. A nominal amount of funding has been allocated towards the research from the university.

Review stage at the time of initial registration - The review has not yet started.

Conflicts of interest - None declared.

INPLASY registration number: INPLASY2026110014

Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 5 November 2026 and was last updated on 5 November 2026.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective Primary review question

How is Palestine constructed and represented within contemporary media, political, and institutional discourse published since 7 October 2023?

Review objective

To systematically identify, critically appraise, and synthesise qualitative studies examining the construction and representation of Palestine, Palestinians, Gaza, and the Israel-Palestine context across media, political, institutional, and organisational discourse.

How is Palestine constructed and represented within contemporary media, political, and institutional discourse published since 7 October 2023?

Rationale Recent geopolitical developments following 7 October 2023 have led to a substantial increase in academic literature examining Palestine, Gaza, and the Israel-Palestine context. Existing primary studies have explored discourse, framing, narrative construction, and representation across media, political, and institutional settings. However, preliminary scoping searches of Scopus, PROSPERO, Open Science Framework and Inplasy did not identify a published or registered systematic review synthesising this body of qualitative evidence.

A qualitative evidence synthesis is therefore warranted to identify patterns across studies, examine dominant discursive constructions, and develop a comprehensive understanding of how Palestine is represented within the most

contemporary discourse since the 7 October 2023. The findings may contribute to discourse studies, media studies, political communication, and critical social research by providing an integrated synthesis of emerging qualitative evidence.To systematically identify, critically appraise, and synthesise qualitative studies examining the construction and representation of Palestine, Palestinians, Gaza, and the Israel-Palestine context across media, political, institutional, and organisational discourse.

Condition being studied The review examines contemporary discursive constructions and representations of Palestine, Palestinians, Gaza, and the Israel-Palestine context. Particular attention is given to discourse, framing, narrative construction, rhetoric, representation, and ideological positioning within media, political, institutional, organisational, and policy-related contexts. The review focuses on how meanings are produced and communicated rather than on psychological, educational, health, or clinical outcomes.

METHODS

Search strategy The search strategy was developed using the PICo framework (Population, Phenomenon of Interest, Context) in accordance with guidance for qualitative evidence synthesis. Search terms were informed by preliminary scoping searches, consultation with research supervisors, discussion with a specialist librarian, and analysis of keywords and indexing terms used within relevant studies.

Search concepts

Population

Palestin*

Gaza

"Israel-Palestine"

"Palestine-Israel conflict"

"Occupied Palestinian Territories"

Phenomenon of Interest

Discourse

"Critical Discourse Analysis"

"Discourse Analysis"

Foucault

Framing

Representation

Narrative*

Context

Media

"Media discourse"

Journalism

News

"Political Discourse"

Institution*

Organisation*

"International organisation"

Academia

"Cultural institution"

"Professional body"

Policy

Policies
Core search string

Plain Text

(Palestin* OR Gaza OR "Israel-Palestine" OR "Palestine-Israel conflict" OR "Occupied Palestinian Territories")

AND

(Discourse OR "Critical Discourse Analysis" OR "Discourse Analysis" OR Foucault OR framing OR representation OR narrative*)

AND

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(Media OR "Media discourse" OR journalism OR news OR "Political Discourse" OR Institution* OR Organisation* OR "International organisation" OR academia OR "cultural institution" OR "professional body" OR Policies OR Policy)

Searches were limited to:

English-language publications;

Studies published from 7 October 2023 onwards;

Peer-reviewed publications and eligible doctoral theses/dissertations where appropriate.

Database-specific adaptations were applied as required by individual database interfaces. Search alerts will be maintained until completion of the review.

Participant or population The review does not examine individual participants but examines existing data. The units of analysis are qualitative studies investigating discourse relating to Palestine, Palestinians, Gaza, or the Israel-Palestine context. Included studies may analyse media texts, news reporting, political speeches, institutional communications, policy documents, organisational statements, academic discourse, or other forms of public communication.

Intervention The phenomenon of interest is exposure to and analysis of discourse concerning Palestine. This includes discourse, narratives, framing devices, rhetorical constructions, representations, ideological positioning, and communicative practices relating to Palestine, Palestinians, Gaza, and the Israel-Palestine context.

Comparator Not applicable. The review seeks to synthesise qualitative evidence concerning discourse and representation and does not compare interventions or exposure groups.

Study designs to be included Eligible studies will include qualitative research employing discourse-oriented methodologies, including: Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) Discourse Analysis Narrative Analysis Framing Analysis Corpus-Assisted Discourse Analysis Critical Narrative Analysis Related qualitative approaches examining discourse and representation Mixed-methods studies will be included where qualitative findings can be extracted separately.

Eligibility criteria Inclusion

Focus on Palestine, Palestinians, Gaza, or the Israel-Palestine context.

Examine discourse, representation, framing, narratives, rhetoric, communication, or language use.

Qualitative studies or mixed-methods studies with extractable qualitative findings.

Published between 7 October 2023 and final search date.

English language.

Peer-reviewed articles and relevant doctoral theses/dissertations.

Exclusion

Quantitative-only studies.

Studies focusing primarily on mental health, wellbeing, trauma, PTSD, resilience, education, or clinical outcomes without discursive analysis.

Studies where Palestine is only a geographical setting.

Editorials, opinion papers, conference abstracts, protocols, book reviews, news reports, and unpublished manuscripts.

Non-English publications.

Information sources Electronic searches were conducted in the following databases:

EBSCOhost

CINAHL Complete

MEDLINE Complete

E-Journals Collection

Psychology and Behavioural Sciences Collection

Ovid

APA PsycINFO

Social Policy & Practice

ProQuest

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Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts (LLBA)
In addition, reference lists of included studies, forward citation searching of key papers, and database alerts will be used to identify additional relevant studies.

Main outcome(s) The primary outcome will be the identification and synthesis of themes relating to the construction and representation of Palestine within contemporary discourse.

This includes:

Discursive constructions of Palestine;

Framing strategies;

Narrative patterns;

Representational practices;

Ideological positioning;

Rhetorical and linguistic strategies.

Additional outcome(s) Differences across media, political, and institutional settings.

Methodological approaches used.

Theoretical frameworks employed.

Geographical and contextual variation in representations.

Identified gaps within the literature.

Data management Records will be imported into Covidence. Duplicate records will be removed automatically and manually verified where necessary. Title/abstract and full-text screening will be conducted independently by reviewers against predefined eligibility criteria listed in the above sections. Covidence will be employed to record screening process and shared review of papers. Reasons for exclusion at title/abstract stage and full-text stage will be recorded. Data extraction will be undertaken using a piloted extraction form. Disagreements will be resolved through discussion and consultation with supervisors where required. A second reviewer will be double- screening all studies, while supervisors will be double-screening 50% of the studies screened. A third reviewer will be double-screening the data extraction and quality appraisal.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis Methodological quality will be assessed using the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) Critical Appraisal Checklist for Qualitative Research. Some checklist items may not apply equally across discourse-analytic traditions and will be interpreted in relation to the specific methodology employed

Quality appraisal will be conducted independently by reviewers, with disagreements resolved through discussion. Studies will be retained and appraisal findings will inform interpretation of results but will not be used as sole grounds for exclusion.

Strategy of data synthesis Consistent with a social constructionist epistemology, theme development will be understood as an interpretative process rather than objective discovery. Reflexive engagement with the data will be supported through supervisory discussions, documentation of analytic decisions, and consideration of alternative interpretations to enhance the credibility and transparency of the synthesis. The synthesis will involve line-by-line coding, development of descriptive themes, and generation of higher-order analytical themes relating to the construction and representation of Palestine.

Subgroup analysis No formal subgroup analysis is planned. Where sufficient data exist, comparisons across media, political, and institutional contexts may be explored narratively.

Sensitivity analysis Sensitivity analyses will be undertaken, where possible, to assess the influence of methodological decisions on the synthesis. Specifically, the review will explore whether the inclusion or exclusion of doctoral theses and studies with substantial methodological limitations affects the development of descriptive and analytical themes.

Language restriction Only studies published in English will be included due to resource and translation constraints.

Country(ies) involved United Kingdom.

Other relevant information This review forms part of a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology research project. Preliminary scoping searches did not identify an equivalent published or registered systematic review addressing the construction and representation of Palestine in contemporary discourse following 7 October 2023.

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Keywords Palestine; Palestinians; Gaza; Discourse Analysis; Critical Discourse Analysis; Representation; Framing; Qualitative Evidence Synthesis.

Dissemination plans Findings will be reported in a doctoral thesis and prepared for publication in a peer-reviewed academic journal. Results may also be presented at relevant conferences and disseminated through academic and professional networks. Any protocol deviations will be transparently reported in the final publication.

Contributions of each author

Author 1 - Francesca Marras - Conception, protocol development, searching, screening, extraction, synthesis, writing.
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