In 2009 filmgoers across the United States were flocking to theaters in droves to see Julie and Julia, a blog turned film about the imagined relationship between two ‘feminists’—a well known chef and an unknown blogger. Around the same time, a similar transaction was quietly getting off the ground on the blogosphere under the auspices of a project called “The Gaza Kitchen.” Based on the premise that the quotidian gendered realities in kitchens can tell us much about the difficult and paradoxical realities of Gaza after 3 years of unrelenting war, how cooks manage with limited resources, the necessary and painful reorganization of homes, the blog eventually became a cookbook that fit into a tradition of critical culinary discourse which, unlike its more contemporary counterpart in Hollywood, refuses to separate food consumption and preparation from its politicized contexts. In this presentation, I examine how the culinary, notably that provided in the recently published cookbook Gaza Kitchen problematize the very means by which a war on terror supported by US imperialism, continues to be waged on spaces in MENA. In particular, what happens when the spaces of terroir are not available except in the culinary practices of the everyday? What happens when the practices of embracing terroir allow for an articulation of place and rootedness amid a reality of displacement? What indeed can the culinary say about the political? In my presentation I analyze the cookbook alongside Conflict Kitchen, a take out restaurant in Pittsburgh, PA that re formats the preexisting social relations of food and economic exchange to engage the general public in discussions about cultures, and people that they might know little about outside of the polarizing rhetoric of U.S. politics and the narrow lens of media headlines by showcasing cuisines only of the nations with which the US is directly engaged in war. By staging a conversation between these two sites—a cookbook and a restaurant—I suggest that the culinary, an emerging theoretical space within the purview of transnational American studies, offers important ways to think about empire, territory and gender.