



LSA

CENTER FOR
MIDDLE EASTERN & NORTH AFRICAN STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

NEWSLETTER 2015





The study of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region began at University of Michigan (U-M) in 1889. Since the inception of the program in 1961, U-M has been committed to area studies and language training. In 1993, the Center for Middle Eastern & North African Studies (CMENAS) became a member of the university's International Institute, which seeks to stimulate research and teaching on critical areas of the world and to foster cooperation among the university's departments, schools, and colleges.

Juan Cole
Director and Richard P. Mitchell Professor of History

Beth Dutridge-Corp
Program Specialist

Gloria Caudill
Manager, Global South Cluster

Kathy Covert
Office Coordinator, Global South Cluster

Raquel Buckley
*Newsletter Designer and Communications Editor,
LSA Events and Communications Support*

A big thank you to all who visited our pages to stay in touch and liked or shared our posts and Tweets!

Throughout 2014-15, CMENAS updated content on its website and increased the number followers on its social media sites, with the goal of connecting with our local community and with a broader national and international community interested in the MENA region. The center regularly announces events on its website and shares information on its Facebook and Twitter pages.

Last summer, CMENAS transitioned to a new blog, *CMENAS News*. It features information on regional, national, and international conferences, workshops, job opportunities, scholarships, internships, research, and travel abroad related to Middle Eastern and North African Studies. This year, the blog aims to include short articles on recent events in the MENA region contributed by our faculty and students, in addition to other center news and staff recognition. If you are interested in being a contributor to *CMENAS News*, please contact us at cmenas@umich.edu.

This fall, CMENAS also created an Instagram account where we will share pictures taken at our public lecture and events. Be sure to stay connected and follow CMENAS via our website and social media:

ii.umich.edu/cmenas

Facebook.com/umichCMENAS

Twitter.com/@UMCMENAS

Instagram.com/umcmenas

umichcmenas.wordpress.com

Stay Connected!

Stay in contact with our center and learn about upcoming events, current news, announcements, and funding opportunities available by subscribing to our bi-weekly email listserv. To update your info or to enroll in our listserv, fill out our form: ii.umich.edu/cmenas/aboutus/contactus.

Are you a MENAS graduate?

Stay in touch with CMENAS by updating your contact information and sharing your recent news and accomplishments by completing our online alumni update form: ii.umich.edu/cmenas/aboutus/contactus.



Juan Cole
Center for Middle Eastern and North
African Studies Director and
Richard P. Mitchell Professor of
History

This has been an exciting year at CMENAS, and we're so pleased by an up-tick in student and faculty grassroots programming and suggestions.

Last fall, CMENAS launched an attempt at establishing our first center endowment, with an initial goal of raising \$25,000. Because of your generosity, I am pleased to announce that we have met our goal.

We held our inaugural graduate student symposium on April 9, 2015, an event that we hope will be an annual tradition. We had two big book launching events last year, for UC Santa Cruz Research Professor Edmund Burke III's *The Ethnographic State: France and the Invention of Moroccan Islam* (University of California Press, 2014) and for U-M's own Fatma Müge Göçek's *Denial of Violence: Ottoman Past, Turkish Present, and Collective Violence against the Armenians, 1789–2009* (Oxford University Press, 2014).

Because of the summer 2014 Gaza conflict, our fall calendar had three related events on it. On October 5, we co-sponsored a teach-in at Rackham Auditorium, with perspectives on how academics and university students can fruitfully engage over such controversial issues. On November 5, we partnered with the Ford School in an event where an Israeli, a Palestinian, and an Egyptian scholar presented on the conflict. And on November 18, we were proud to co-host Professor Daniel Kurtzer of Princeton University, a former ambassador, who spoke on whether the two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli question is still relevant.

With NRC funding, we initiated a joint outreach program on the Middle East and the Iberian world with colleagues at the University of Puerto Rico, and held a one-day conference in San Juan for high school teachers on the subject. This past year, we had many exciting talks, some of them under the rubric of our one-credit MENAS 493 course, which was run last year by outgoing CMENAS Associate Director Professor Fatma Müge Göçek.

We have big plans for 2015–16, including hosting a joint symposium on Japan and the Middle East, lectures on climate and the region's crises, and many sumptuous talks. We look forward to seeing you all at our events this year.

Cheers!

New Director of International Institute

LSA Interim Dean Susan Gelman named Pauline Jones Luong director of the International Institute. She started her three-year term on July 1, 2014. Jones Luong previously served as director of the Islamic Studies Program and was instrumental in the launch of the Global Islam Initiative colloquium series and the recent establishment of the Digital Islamic Studies Curriculum. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and History from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Master of Science degree and PhD in Government from Harvard University. Jones Luong joined the Department of Political Science in 2012. Her work has been primarily focused on the former Soviet Union, particularly the five Central Asian republics. However, she has engaged in broad cross-national comparisons across regions, including Latin America, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa, utilizing a combination of controlled case comparisons and statistical analysis. Jones Luong replaced former International Institute Director Ken Kollman, who had been in the role since 2010.



In late August 2014, the center welcomed **Beth Dutridge-Corp** as the new academic program specialist. Beth's principal responsibilities are managing logistics, events organization, outreach, and the overall promotion of the center. An Ohio native, Beth received a BA in Asian Studies and an MA in American/World History from Bowling Green State University, and received an MA in East Asian History from Michigan State University in 2014. She looks forward to helping the center grow and serve the U-M and local community.

Eryn Kropf officially stepped in as the librarian for Near Eastern and Religious studies in January 2014. She received her BS in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and an MA in Information Science with a specialization in Library and Information Services from U-M. Eryn has been with the university and the U-M Library for quite some time, having served as the cataloguer for the library's "Collaboration in Cataloging: Islamic Manuscripts at Michigan" project (2009-2012) and recently as its curator.



CMENAS wishes to recognize and thank its outgoing affiliates—

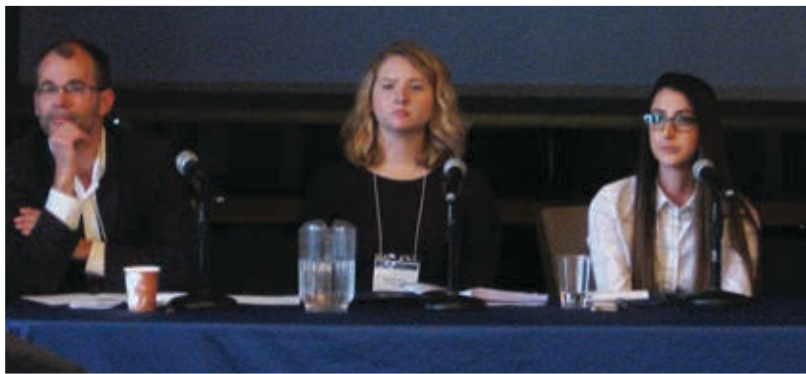
Nancy Becker, student services coordinator, retired on May 2015 after many years of service to the International Institute, to the Global South Cluster, and to CMENAS. Upon retirement, Nancy said that she was looking forward to sleeping in and doing some traveling.

Amber Blomquist, former academic program specialist, after many years of service, left the center in early 2014 and now serves as the administrator for the Michigan in Washington Program on campus.

Fatma Müge Göçek, outgoing associate director, not only helped to lead and plan the Middle Eastern and North African Studies (MENAS) 493 colloquium series, but also advised MENAS undergraduate majors/minors and graduate students.

Jonathan Rodgers, long-time librarian for Near Eastern and Religious studies, retired from the university at the end of December 2014.

Khaled Mattawa, associate professor of English, and **Khalid Al-Naif**, vice president of U-M's William Davidson Institute, served as elected executive committee members from 2013-2015. The new executive committee members will be elected in early fall 2015.



TOP LEFT: Yikuan Chen, Near Eastern Studies, presenting a comparative study of Darwinism in China and the Middle East.

TOP RIGHT: U-M graduate student symposium presenters with CMENAS Director Juan Cole.

BOTTOM LEFT: Discussant Gottfried Hagen, Near Eastern Studies, and presenters Britton Daley and Sakire Dogan field questions from the audience.

Inaugural CMENAS Graduate Student Symposium

Evolving Perspectives on the Middle East and North Africa

On April 9, 2015, CMENAS sponsored its inaugural Graduate Student Symposium, “Evolving Perspectives on the Middle East and North Africa.” The symposium was the initiative of a core committee of CMENAS MA students who came together to conceive of a forum where graduate students across the university and beyond can present original research concerning the modern Middle East and North Africa.

Courtney Lesoon chaired the organizing committee, working with Beth Dutridge-Corp to coordinate all the event details. The committee also worked on distributing a call for papers, took on the task of reading paper proposals and organizing panels, and sought co-sponsorship from U-M departments and units.

The symposium featured four panels, each with three presentations featuring a wide range of topics on geographical, cultural, and temporal milieus of the Middle East and North America. Each presentation informed one another, contributing new perspectives in their respective academic fields. University of Michigan and CMENAS affiliated faculty, in addition to U-M PhD candidates took part in the symposium as panel discussants. Committee member Jameel Brenneman (MA, MENAS) served as the emcee for the day’s events. Over 50 people were in attendance throughout the day.

This event would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the Symposium Organizing Committee: Jameel Brenneman, Anne Desiderio, Juliet

Happy, Crystal Labrosse, Courtney Lesoon; CMENAS and International Institute staff: Raquel Buckley, Kathy Covert, Beth Dutridge-Corp; and the co-sponsorship of: African Studies Center, Department of History, Department of History of Art, Department of Near Eastern Studies, International Institute, International Policy Center at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, Islamic Studies Program, and Rackham Graduate School and Dean’s Strategic Initiative.

The Symposium Organizing Committee is already in the process of planning the next graduate student symposium to be held in March 2016. Director Cole has expressed great enthusiasm for the continuance of the symposium and for it becoming a staple of the CMENAS graduate experience at the University of Michigan.

CMENAS Receives Title VI Funding from the U.S. Department of Education

by Juan R. Cole and Beth Dutridge-Corp

CMENAS has again been awarded by the Department of Education a Title VI federal grant and named as a National Resource Center in Middle East Studies—along with a grant for Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships for our students for 2014–18. Several established Middle East centers at prominent peer universities, with excellent faculty and programs, did not receive Title VI funding this year. We are grateful to the U.S. Department of Education staff and the faculty referees for this recognition.

The award is a testimony to the very substantial and consistent investment in Middle East studies made by the university over the decades. It speaks to the excellence of our faculty and students, our research and publication record, our talks, colloquia and conferences, and our language pedagogy. It also recognizes our efforts at outreach, at getting the results of our academic inquiry out to the public, and to secondary school teachers.

The grant affords CMENAS the opportunity to continue our mission of promoting a broader and deeper understanding of the region—its histories, cultures, languages, and peoples—through research, education, and outreach programs, and to be able to offer funding opportunities to students, secondary educators and community college instructors, and to our affiliated faculty and instructors. For more info, visit: ii.umich.edu/cmenas/funding.

U–M Delegation Attends International Conference in Oman

by Carlos Mendes de Leon, professor of epidemiology, School of Public Health

In the first week of March 2015, a delegation from the University of Michigan School of Public Health (U–M SPH) attended the 7th International Conference on Health Issues in Arab Communities, hosted by the Sultanate of Oman Ministry of Health in Muscat, Oman, and jointly organized by the Omani Ministry of Health and the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS), the Community Health and Research Center that serves the Arab American population in southeast Michigan. The delegation comprised five participants: Laura Rozek, associate professor in environmental health sciences; Carlos Mendes de Leon, professor of epidemiology; Mohammed–Ali Abazeed (health behavior & health education, MPH); Abbas Alaweih (Certificate in the Foundations of Public Health); and Farah Erzouki (epidemiology).

The conference brought together health professionals from a myriad of backgrounds, such as physicians, nurses, epidemiologists, environmental experts, and health promotion and policy administrators. Some of the major themes of the conference included capacity building in the MENA region, mental health, cancer, social determinants of health, infectious disease, ethics and palliative care,

and organ transplantation. Within these thematic areas, particular attention was given to the unique contexts and circumstances faced by Arab populations that affect their clinical and public health needs. The conference also provided a fruitful platform for networking and establishing initial contacts with researchers from the MENA region. Other valuable contacts were made with representatives from the Fogarty International Center at NIH, the American Cancer Society, and CRDF Global, an independent nonprofit organization that promotes international scientific and technical collaboration through grants, technical resources, training, and services.



Near Eastern Studies Launches New Initiative

by Kathryn Babayan, associate professor of Iranian history and culture, Department of Near Eastern Studies

During the 2014–2015 year, **Kathryn Babayan**, associate professor of Iranian history and culture, in association with the Department of Near Eastern Studies (NES), helped to launch the **Iranian Studies Initiative** as part of the Victors for Michigan Campaign. The generous gifts received by NES and donated for this initiative have been deposited in the **Allin K. Luther Fund for Excellence in Persian Studies**, established in 2001 by Marjorie Luther, the spouse of the late University of Michigan professor of Iranian history, Allin K. Luther. Contributions to the Luther Fund impact the sustaining and admitting of NES graduate students working on subjects related to Iran.

This year, the university's College of Literature, Science and the Arts (LSA) approved a new position for Persian literature with NES. **Cameron Cross** (PhD, University of Chicago) joins the department as assistant professor in Persian literature and culture. With this new position in Persian literature, U-M benefits from seven Iranist faculty members who cross the disciplinary boundaries

of archaeology (Henry Wright); art history (Christiane Gruber, Margaret Root); history (Kathryn Babayan, Juan Cole); and literature, language, and linguistics (Cameron Cross, Behrad Aghaei). No university in the United States enjoys such a large and distinguished concentration of scholars working on Iran.

Professor Babayan and NES aim to design a comprehensive, competitive, and multi-disciplinary program to help foster the study of Iranian history, languages, and literatures on campus. As a result, the **Iranian Studies Initiative** will be an ongoing fundraising campaign to support a new generation of students who will ensure the vitality of Iranian studies. All incoming donations will be deposited into the **Allin K. Luther Fund for Excellence in Persian Studies**.

For further information or to donate to this campaign, please visit the Department of Near Eastern Studies website at: lsa.umich.edu/neareast.

Near Eastern Studies Library Acquisitions

Thanks to funding from CMENAS via the U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant, the University of Michigan Library has recently acquired access to online versions of several important reference works from the publisher Brill.

Christian–Muslim Relations Online (600–1500)

lib.umich.edu/database/link/40070

and (1500–1900)

lib.umich.edu/database/link/40068

Christian–Muslim Relations Online (CMR Online) is the online version of the first five volumes of the series *Christian–Muslim Relations: A Bibliographical History*, covering the period 600 to 1500 CE. CMR Online II begins with volume six and once completed, will cover all parts of the world from the year 1500 to 1914. The CMR Online resource allows for full-text, cross searching and browsing of the volumes appearing in this important series.



Part of the Great Isaiah Scroll, one of the Dead Sea Scrolls "Psalms Scroll" by the Israel Antiquities Authority 1993; photographer not named. – Library of Congress. Licensed under Public Domain via Commons

Dead Sea Scrolls Electronic Library: Biblical Texts

lib.umich.edu/database/link/39855

The Dead Sea Scrolls Electronic Library of Biblical Texts (DSSEL-BT) presents a complete Hebrew transcription and English translation of the Biblical texts, together with high-resolution images. The collection provides users with a comprehensive tool for the study of the biblical texts from the Judaean Desert (the Dead Sea Scrolls). With the outright purchase, these incredibly valuable electronic resources will be available to students, faculty, and other affiliate researchers well into the future.

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships

A Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship provides tuition support and a stipend to students studying designated foreign languages in combination with area studies or international aspects of professional studies. The program's priority is to encourage the study of less commonly taught languages. FLAS Fellowships are awarded competitively through annual fellowship competitions. The U.S. Department of Education (US/ED) funds these awards under the provisions of Title VI of the Higher Education Act. The amount of funding and number of awards granted is contingent upon annual US/ED program approval, federal regulations, as well as continued congressional funding, all of which may change from year to year. The 2014–15 recipients are:

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Erin Collins

MA, MENAS, School of Law

Britton Daley

MA, MENAS

Ashley Dimmig

PhD, History of Art

Juliet Happy

MA, MENAS

Crystal Labrosse

MA, MENAS

Courtney Lesoon

MA, MENAS

Aaron Michka

PhD, Anthropology

Emma Nolan-Thomas

PhD, Anthropology & History

Shireen Smalley

MA, MENAS

Marian Smith

PhD, Near Eastern Studies

Hazel Unger

MA, MENAS

Matthew Van Zile

MA, Judaic Studies

Katherine Waggoner

PhD, History

Daniel Williford

PhD, History

Emily Woodard

MA, MENAS

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Tina Al-khersan

Mekarem Eljamal

Andrea Gillespie

Matthew Jackonen

Hazel Unger 2014–15 Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, Morocco

Hazel Unger (MA, MENAS) was one of 28 students from the University of Michigan to receive a 2014–15 Fulbright grant. The Fulbright Student Program makes fellowships available to approximately 1,900 U.S. students annually to study, conduct research, teach English, or train in the creative arts in more than 140 countries worldwide.



Anne Desiderio 2015–16 Boren Fellowship, Qatar

In April 2015, Ann Desiderio (MA, MENAS and Education) was awarded a Boren Fellowship to study in Qatar during the 2015–16 academic year. She will be working with Qatar University's Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) doing a stakeholder analysis of Qatari policy trends in postsecondary education and the effects of creating a Knowledge-Based Economy (KBE) in the country. Additionally, she will be taking intensive Arabic language courses in Qatar University's Arabic for Non-Native Speakers (ANNS) program. Anne also received a Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia (WCEE) Fellowship for summer 2015 to support an Overseas Professional & Intercultural Training (OPIT) program through American Councils in Tbilisi, the Republic of Georgia.

Jameel Brenneman Richard P. Mitchell Memorial Prize

Jameel Brenneman (MA, MENAS) presented a paper at the 13th Annual Meeting of the Cultural Studies Association in May 2015 held in the Greater Los Angeles area. The paper, titled "A Fictional True Story: The Complicated Storytelling of American Sniper," drew on the analysis of the portrayal of Arabs and Muslims in Western cinema and Chris Kyle's autobiography in order to address the importance of these contexts, not just for understanding the film but also for understanding its implications. Jameel is the 2014–2015 recipient of the CMENAS Richard P. Mitchell Memorial Prize. The Richard P. Mitchell Memorial Prize, initiated in 1986 to honor the late Professor Mitchell, who taught Middle Eastern and North African studies at the University of Michigan from 1956 to 1983, is awarded annually to an incoming or continuing graduate student in the center's Modern Middle Eastern and North African Studies MA program.

Celebrating the 2015 graduates!



On May 1, CMENAS, along with five other International Institute centers, hosted the annual graduation ceremony and reception. Undergraduate and graduate students from six centers were recognized for their effort and achievements.

Three students from centers within the International Institute, including **Nehal Amer** from the MENAS MA program, gave short presentations based on original research conducted while a student in their respective degree program. CMENAS staff and faculty were present to honor and celebrate with center graduates.

The following degrees in modern Middle Eastern & North African Studies (MENAS) were conferred upon these students in 2015:

Master of Arts: Nehal Amer, Britton Daley, Sakire Dogan, Juliet Happy, Lizz Huntley, Crystal Labrosse, Courtney Lesoon, Emily Woodard

Bachelor of Arts: Fatimah Farooq, Jonathan Goldstein, Yasmin Kasmikha, Mataan Lis, Taylor Mattia, Adam Miller, Nikhil Nandigam, Ashley Sherman-Hay, Maximilian Zeitlin

*CMENAS would like to welcome the incoming
fall 2015 MENAS MA cohort*

Mohammad Al-Ansari · Kristen Canavan · Emily Dittmar · Bryon Maxey · Alexander Scott

Presentations, Publications, and Research

Juan Cole, CMENAS director and Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History, published the following: *The New Arabs: How the Millennial Generation is Changing the Middle East* (Simon and Schuster, July 2014); *Democracy and the Arab Upheavals of 2011 and After* (edited by Howard Brick and Gregory Parker, Michigan Publishing); and *A New Insurgency: The Port Huron Statement and its Times* (edited by Howard Brick and Gregory Parker, Michigan Publishing, 2015). In March 2015, he presented a paper on Chinese green energy investment and diplomacy in the greater Middle East at a conference in Beijing hosted by Peking University and Indiana University. In May 2015, he was a presenter (in Arabic) at the annual Aljazeera Forum in Doha, Qatar.

Fatma Müge Göçek, professor of sociology & women's studies, published her book *Denial of Violence: Ottoman Past, Turkish Present, and Collective Violence against the Armenians, 1789–2009* (Oxford University Press, November 2014). In March 2015, CMENAS hosted a book event for Professor Göçek, who introduced her book and spoke to her interest in the topic, her methodologies, and research. Both Professor Ronald Suny (William H. Sewell, Jr. Distinguished University Professor of History) and Professor Hisyar Ozsoy (assistant professor of anthropology, UM-Flint) then offered responses to Professor Göçek's book.

*CMENAS would like to thank **Literati Bookstore** for attending the event and offering copies of Professor Göçek's book for purchase.

Jeffrey Heath, professor of linguistics with a courtesy appointment in the Department of Near Eastern Studies, recently published an article titled "D-possessives and the origins of Moroccan Arabic," in *Diachronica* 32(1):1-33, 2015.



Alexander Knysh, professor of Islamic studies, was appointed as executive editor of the *Encyclopedia of Islamic Mysticism* (E.J. Brill: Leiden and Boston). In addition, he continues to serve as section editor for "Sufism" on the editorial board of the *Encyclopedia of Islam Three* (3rd edition). In 2015, his book *Islam in Historical Perspective: The Beginnings and Principal Sources* (Taylor & Francis, 2011) was published in Russian by the Kazan University Publishing House ("Ислам в исторической перспективе: начальный этап и основные источники"; 192 pp). He also served as principal editor (in collaboration with Denis Brilyov and Oleg Yarosh), on the anthology *Sufism and the Muslim Spiritual Tradition: Texts, Institutions, Ideas and Interpretations*, published in June 2015 in Russian ("Суфизм и мусульманская духовная традиция: тексты, институты, идеи и интерпретации," *Peterburgskoe vostokovedenie*: St. Petersburg, Russia, 2015, 336 pp).

Khaled Mattawa, associate professor of English, published his book *Mahmoud Darwish: The Poet's Art and His Nation* with Syracuse University Press in 2014.

Brian B. Schmidt, associate professor of Biblical studies and ancient West Asian cultures, participated in the annual international conference of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) held July 19–25, 2015 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In addition to presenting a paper at the conference, Professor Schmidt served as the series editor for one of SBL's monographic series, *Archaeology and Biblical Studies*. During the conference proceedings, a brand new volume for which he is both editor and contributor was also released under the auspices of the SBL Press in another of its monographic series, *Ancient Israel and Its Literature*. This volume, *Contextualizing Israel's Sacred Writing: Ancient Literacy, Orality, and Literary Production: Ancient Israel and Its Literature*, was published July 20, 2015.



Ryan Szpiech, associate professor of Spanish, recently edited *Medieval Exegesis and Religious Difference: Commentary, Conflict, and Community in the Premodern Mediterranean* (Fordham University Press, 2015).



Mark Tessler, Samuel J. Eldersveld Collegiate Professor of Political Science, recently published the book *Islam and Politics in the Middle East: Explaining the Views of Ordinary Citizens* (Indiana University Press, 2015). Professor Tessler also completed and placed in the public domain for use by others the “Carnegie Middle East Governance and Islam Dataset”—a new public opinion dataset dealing with the views of ordinary citizens in the Middle East and North Africa toward governance, political Islam, gender equality, and other issues. Funded by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and based on 56 nationally representative surveys carried out in 17 countries, the dataset and documentation are available through the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research. In May 2015, he co-organized the workshop in Tunisia, “Linking Public Opinion and Political Action” sponsored by the American Institute for Maghrib Studies. It was attended by 21 scholars from North Africa as well as several from the U.S. He also co-organized “The Resource Curse in the Middle East and North Africa,” held in Doha, Qatar in May. It was sponsored by the American Political Science Association and was attended by 22 Arab and American doctoral students.

Awards and Recognitions



Students working with ancient artifacts from Israel/Palestine at the Kelsey Museum as part of the exercises developed by TLTC.

Yaron Eliav, associate professor of Rabbinic literature and Jewish history of late antiquity, recently received the Teaching and Learning for the Third Century (TLTC) Transformation grant. This five-year, \$750,000 grant will allow him to lead his project, “Changing the way we teach the Ancient World.” The project team will scale engaged learning tools that were developed and tested in Eliav’s popular, high-enrollment course, “The Land of Israel/Palestine through the Ages,” offered by the Department of Near Eastern Studies.

Christiane Gruber, associate professor of history of art, won a 2015 Guggenheim Fellowship, awarded annually for distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment. She was also recently named the Charles P. Brauer Fellow at the University of Michigan Institute for the Humanities. These fellowships will help support research projects and will enable her to write her fourth book, *Gezi Graffiti: Resistance and Visual Culture in Contemporary Turkey*.

Alexander Knysh, professor of Islamic studies, was a Senior EURIAS (European Association of Institutes for Advanced Studies, Paris) research fellow at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, Helsinki, Finland, from September 1, 2014–July 1, 2015.

Khaled Mattawa, associate professor of English, was named a 2014 MacArthur Fellow for his poetry, translations, and arts activism.



Newly Affiliated Faculty

Yasmin Moll (PhD, New York University) joined the University of Michigan in fall 2014 as a postdoctoral fellow with the Michigan Society of Fellows and as assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology. She is a socio-cultural anthropologist of the Middle East with interests in the intersections of religion, media, and politics in the region. Professor Moll plans to finish her book manuscript on Islamic television channels as sites of political and social contestations

among Islamic revivalists in Egypt both before and after the 2011 revolution. She hopes that the book will move the conversation about religion and politics in the Middle East away from the outdated binaries of Islamism versus secularism, and notes that the stimulating intellectual environment of the university is an ideal setting to carry out this work. She is pleased to be at one of the world's top research universities, and in close proximity to

Dearborn, especially during Ramadan, where she can get all the post-iftar sweets that are also favorites in Cairo!

Devi Mays (PhD, Indiana University) joined the University of Michigan in fall 2014 as assistant professor of Judaic studies. She came to the university from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America where she was the inaugural postdoctoral fellow in modern Jewish studies.



Cameron Cross (PhD, University of Chicago) joins the Department of Near Eastern Studies in fall 2015 as assistant professor of Iranian studies. We invited Professor Cross to answer a few questions to better acquaint the CMENAS community with our newest faculty affiliate.

Please tell us a little about yourself, where you come from, and what drew you to the University of Michigan.

I grew up in the mountains of Colorado. From an early age, I loved learning about languages and history, and by sheer coincidence I got interested in all things Persian—I think it was a combination of playing Sid Meier's *Civilization*, reading *Herodotus*, falling in love with the script, and having my first taste of Iranian food around the age of 10. I was hooked, and from that time onwards, I wanted to further my knowledge of the country and the broader region, so I studied medieval history and Italian at the University of Colorado Boulder, Arabic at the American University of Cairo, and Persian language and literature at the University of Chicago. I was drawn to apply to Michigan because of its breadth, depth, and reputation. What I look forward to the most, is joining the wonderful community of scholars and students here.

What are your research interests and current research projects?

My main area of research has been in medieval epic and romance, which I explore from the historical aspects of production, performance, and circulation; the theoretical aspects of mode and genre; and the literary aspects of narrative technique, psychology, gender, honor, and ethics. My dissertation discusses these issues in regards to the ancient poem of *Vis and Rāmin*, and I have done similar work on *The Books of Kings* and the romances of Nezāmi. I am also interested in modern literature and cinema, and will be teaching courses in both topics this upcoming year.

Do you have any specific plans for what you would like to accomplish during your time at U-M?

One thing in particular is that I hope to help set up a number of weekly language circles for students, faculty, and members of the community to meet and speak together in that language. This can be a wonderful way to learn about new things, keep up with your speaking and listening skills, and get to know your peers and colleagues.

Fall 2015 Events

*Supported by the U.S. Department of Education/Title VI funding.



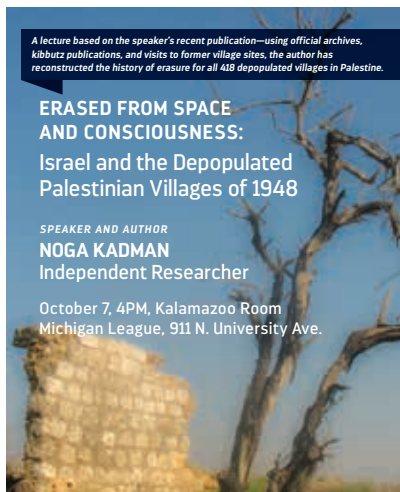
▶ International Institute Open House

September 24, 12-3 pm | SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK BUILDING

Tour the International Institute and centers; discover the academic and funding opportunities; connect with faculty, students and staff; attend information sessions focusing on academics, funding, advising, and more.

CMENAS Faculty/Student Welcome Reception

September 24, 5:30-7 pm | 1636 INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE/SSWB



▶ *CMENAS Lecture: “Erased from Space and Consciousness: Israel and the Depopulated Palestinian Villages of 1948”

October 7, 4-5:30 pm | KALAMAZOO ROOM, MICHIGAN LEAGUE

NOGA KADMAN, *Independent Researcher and Author*

CMENAS Lecture and Book Event: “Iffat Al Thunayan: An Arabian Queen”

October 22, 4-5:30 pm | 1636 INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE/SSWB

JOSEPH KECHICHIAN, *King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies*

*CMENAS Lecture: “Assessing al-Qaradawi”

October 27, 4-5:30 pm | 1636 INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE/SSWB

JAKOB SKOVGAARD-PETERSEN, *University of Copenhagen*



▶ CMENAS Special Event Exhibit. “This, too, is Iran”

October 27–November 13, 8 am–6 pm :: Photo Exhibition

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE GALLERY (1ST FLOOR), SSWB

November 2, 1 pm :: An informal discussion with the photographer

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE GALLERY (1ST FLOOR), SSWB

SALLY BJORK, *Department of the History of Art*

▶ *CMENAS and CJS Symposium: “Japan and the Middle East: Energy, Politics, and Culture”

November 19, 7-8:30 pm :: Keynote Lecture

HENDERSON ROOM, MICHIGAN LEAGUE

KOICHIRO TANAKA, *Japanese Institute for Middle Eastern Economies*

November 20, 1-5 pm :: Panel Discussion

1636 INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE/SSWB

KAZUHIRO ARAI, *Keio University*; **KEIKO SAKAI**, *Chiba University*;

DAI YAMAO, *Kyushu University*



For updates and other upcoming events, visit
ii.umich.edu/cmenas/events

2014–15 Sponsored Events

CMENAS is proud to have been a sponsor for over 30 public lectures, symposia, and events during academic year 2014–15. Events focused widely on the MENA region, from Morocco to Turkey to Afghanistan, and centered on numerous topics from politics to food culture to photography and film. Many of these events (indicated with *) were made possible thanks to the support from the U.S. Department of Education and Title VI funding.

*September 8–October 20 CMENAS Colloquium: Contested Spaces in the Middle East and North Africa

September 8
**Contested Spaces in
Contemporary Turkey**
FATMA MÜGE GÖÇEK,
University of Michigan

September 15
**"Imam Khomeini Advised Us to
Learn English": Clair de Lune, a
Story of Love, and the Howzevi
(Seminarian) Women in Tehran**

AMINA TAWASIL,
Northwestern University

September 22
**The Space of Narratives, and the
Narratives of Space**

RUTH TSOFFAR,
University of Michigan

September 29
**Spatiality of the Arab Spring and
its Aftermath: The Case of Egypt**

ATEF SAID,
University of Illinois–Chicago

October 20
**Spaces of Modernity: Territory,
Difference, and Citizenship**

SHAZIA IFTKHAR,
University of Michigan

*November 5 | CMENAS Lecture The Gaza War: A Different Approach to Understanding the Arab–Israeli Conflict

KHALIL SHIKAKI, University of
Michigan Visiting Scholar, Palestinian
Center for Policy and Survey
Research; **SHAI FELDMAN**, Brandeis
University; **ABDEL–MONEM SAID ALY**,
Regional Center for Strategic Studies,
Crown Center at Brandeis University
Co-sponsors: Ford School of Public Policy,
International Policy Center, Jean & Samuel
Frankel Center for Judaic Studies

*November 14 | CMENAS Lecture The Ethnographic State: France and the Invention of Moroccan Islam

EDMUND BURKE III, University of
California–Santa Cruz
Co-sponsors: Islamic Studies Program,
Center for European Studies

*January 29 | CMENAS Lecture My Hummus Is Bigger Than Your Hummus: On Food and Politics in Israel

DAFNA HIRSCH, Open University of Israel
Co-sponsors: Department of Anthropology,
Department of Comparative Literature, Jean
& Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies

*February 27 | CMENAS & LACS Symposium Intimate Strangers: Latin America, Spain, and the Middle East

JUAN COLE, University of Michigan;
JAVIER CASTILLO, University of
Puerto Rico; **SERGIO MOYA–MENA**,
University of Costa Rica
Co-sponsors: Center for Latin American and
Caribbean Studies; University of Puerto Rico
– College of Humanities, College of Social
Sciences, College of Education

March 11 | CMENAS Lecture Denial of Violence: Ottoman Past, Turkish Present and Collective Violence against the Armenians, 1789–2009

FATMA MÜGE GÖÇEK, University
of Michigan. Discussants: **RONALD
SUNY**, University of Michigan;
HISYAR OZSOY, University of
Michigan–Flint

*March 23 | CMENAS Exhibit and Lecture Afghanistan– A Distant War

ROBERT NICKELSBURG,
Photojournalist
Co-sponsors: Center for South Asian
Studies, Residential College

April 9 | CMENAS Symposium Inaugural MENAS Graduate Student Symposium: Evolving Perspectives on the Middle East and North Africa

Co-sponsors: African Studies Center,
Department of History, Department of
History of Art, Department of Near Eastern
Studies, Ford School of Public Policy–
International Policy Center, International
Institute, Islamic Studies Program, Rackham
Graduate School

Co-sponsored Events in 2014–15

September 4 Arabic and Chinese Calligraphy: A Short Introduction

HAJI NOOR DEEN, Calligrapher
Sponsored by: Islamic Studies Program

September 17 After the Spring: Measuring Transition to Democracy in the Arab World

KHALIL SHIKAKI, University of
Michigan Visiting Scholar, Palestinian
Center for Policy and Survey Research
Sponsored by: Institute for Social Research,
Center for Political Studies

September 22 Energy, Security, and America's Long War in the Middle East

TOBY JONES, Rutgers University
Sponsored by: Science, Technology and
Society Program

September 30 The Foreign Mother Tongue: Living and Writing as a Palestinian in Israel

SAYED KASHUA, Author and
Journalist
Sponsored by: Jean & Samuel Frankel Center
for Judaic Studies

October 7**SAFE Palestinian Awareness Week: “Resistance through the Arts”**REMI KANAZI, Spoken Word Artist ;
TAHANI SALAH, Spoken Word Artist

Sponsored by: Students for Freedom and Equality

October 8**The Epidemic of Birth Defects in Iraq and the Duty of Public Health Researchers**

DR. MUHSIN AL-SABBAK, Basra Maternity Hospital, Iraq; DR. MOZHGAN SAVABIEASF AHANI, Environmental Toxicologist

Sponsored by: School of Natural Resources and Environment

October 21**Law’s Preoccupation with the Muslim Psyche: Contemporary Biological Racism**

SHERENE RAZACK, University of Toronto

Sponsored by: Arab and Muslim American Studies Program, Department of Communication Studies

October 21**Thinking and Talking about Conflict: Perspectives on Gaza and Israel**

KHALIL SHIKAKI, University of Michigan Visiting Scholar, Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research; MARK TESSLER, University of Michigan; JOSHUA COLE, University of Michigan; SHACHAR PINSKER, University of Michigan; MAY SEIKALY, Wayne State University; ANGELA DILLARD, University of Michigan

Sponsored by: Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, Office of the Provost

October 29**II Roundtable: Understanding ISIS: Evolution, Ideology, and Implications**

JUAN COLE, University of Michigan; MOHAMMAD KHALIL, Michigan State University; JAMES MORROW, University of Michigan; MARK TESSLER, University of Michigan; PAULINE JONES LUONG, University of Michigan

Sponsored by: International Institute

November 13**Toward a Comparative History of the Modern Mediterranean**

EDMUND BURKE III, University of California–Santa Cruz

Sponsored by: Center for European Studies, Mediterranean Topographies Interdisciplinary Workshop

November 17*Crusade, Jihad, and the Multi-sectarian State**

ASMA AFSARUDDIN, Indiana University; CHRISTOPHER MACEVITT, Dartmouth College; STUART A. WRIGHT, Lamar University

Sponsored by: Center for European Studies

November 18**The “New” Middle East and the “Old” Peace Process: Is the Two-State Solution Still Relevant?**

DANIEL KURTZER, Princeton University, Former U.S. Ambassador to Egypt

Sponsored by: International Institute

December 1**The Walking Qu’ran: Islamic Education, Embodied Knowledge, and History in West Africa**

RUDOLPH WARE, University of Michigan

Sponsored by: Interdisciplinary Islamic Studies Seminar, Islamic Studies Program

January 22*Re-fashioning Iran’s Poetic Landscape: Hierarchy and Geography in the Early Qajar Tadhkira**

DOMINIC BROOKSHAW, University of Oxford

Sponsored by: Department of Near Eastern Studies

February 5**II Roundtable: Free Speech on the Front Lines**

KARLA MALLETTE, University of Michigan; JUAN COLE, University of Michigan; DANIEL HERBERT, University of Michigan; DON HERZOG, University of Michigan; STEVEN RATNER, University of Michigan

Sponsored by: International Institute

February 18**Israel: Facing the New Challenges in the Current Middle East**

ROEY GILAD, Israeli Consul General to the Midwest

Sponsored by: Israel Leadership, Education Advocacy and Dialogue

February 27**Fusion Jazz: The Poetry of Rumi & Hafez**

RANA FARHAN, artist and musician

Sponsored by: Iranian Graduate Student Association

March 18**Film screening and Q & A: BESA: The Promise**

STUART HUCK, photographer; FRANCES TRIX, Indiana University

Sponsored by: Albanian American Student Organization

March 19**“Bidesh Kara” (Doing Abroad): Circular Migration and Bangladeshi Contract Workers**

MAHUA SARKAR, Binghamton University – State University of New York

Sponsored by: Interdisciplinary Islamic Studies Seminar, Islamic Studies Program

March 19–22**Ann Arbor Palestine Film Festival**

Co-sponsors: Central Student Government SOFC Funding, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives, Islamic Studies Program, Arts at Michigan, Department of Screen Arts and Culture, Language Resource Center, Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, Institute for Humanities, Department of Comparative Literature

April 13**Giving to God: On Islamic Charity in Egypt**

AMIRA MITTERMAIER, University of Toronto

Sponsored by: Interdisciplinary Islamic Studies Seminar, Islamic Studies Program

July 6 & 8–9**Film screening: About Elly**

Sponsored by: Michigan Theater



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The Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies (CMENAS) is dedicated to promoting a broader and deeper understanding of the region—its histories, cultures, languages, and peoples—through research, education, and outreach programs. CMENAS is committed to creating a supportive environment where scholars, educators, students, and the community have the opportunity to engage in dialogue and to study current and historical events related to the Middle East and Northern Africa.

CMENAS gifts help support internships, student groups, faculty and student travel, workshops and lectures, visiting scholars, artists, and performers, and special courses related to the Middle East and Northern Africa. To make a donation to CMENAS online, visit: ii.umich.edu/cmenas/giving

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