

CMES

NEWS

THE CENTER FOR
MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

فنون
الشرق الأوسط
القديم

الفنون
الشرق الأوسط
القديم

SPRING 2016

2 LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

A message from
William Granara

3 WINTER TERM IN TURKEY AND TUNISIA

CMES inaugurates two new
study excursions

5 NEWS AND NOTES

Updates from faculty, students,
alumni, and visiting researchers;
Q&A with Sheida Dayani

16 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Spring lectures, workshops,
and conferences



SPRING 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

AS WE DRAW TO THE CLOSE OF ANOTHER ACADEMIC YEAR, CMES can take great pride in this year's roster of events and accomplishments.

Among the highlights were visits by Ambassadors Frank Ricciardone (fall) and Greta Holtz (spring) from the US Department of State, who met with our master's students to discuss careers in government and foreign service. CMES also hosted a lecture by Algerian journalist and novelist Kamel Daoud, author of the highly acclaimed *Meursault Investigation*, who discussed the role and challenges of public intellectuals in today's Middle East.

This year's symposia and workshops included *Symposium on Gallipoli 1915, Iraq: Possible Futures—Including a Return to the Past*, both convened by Professor Roger Owen, and *The Iran–Iraq War: Literature, Art, and Film*. CMES visiting scholars Elizabeth Shlala and Saime Ozcurumez organized a workshop, *Migration and Health Care*. Finally, I would like to congratulate Professor Cemal Kafadar for completing an outstanding year with his *Sohbet-i Osmani* forum, which enjoyed a record-breaking number of lectures and attendance.

Among the most exciting additions to CMES this year were the inaugural winter term programs for CMES students. In January, I led a group of nine students to Tunis, Tunisia, to tour the country, meet with writers, filmmakers, and academics, and to introduce them to national sites for archival research. Also in January, CMES doctoral student Jesse Howell and CMES administrative and academic assistant Carol Ann Litster accompanied eight undergraduates to Cunda, Turkey, to explore the country's rich heritage as a bridge between east and west.

I would take this time to pay special tribute to Professor Roy Mottahedeh, Gurney Professor of History and former CMES director, who will retire after thirty years of stellar teaching of Islamic history, mentoring students, supervising dissertations, and adding richly to the CMES community. We offer him and his wife, Pat, all best wishes for a flourishing retirement!

In closing, I'm happy to say that I have concluded my first three-year term as CMES's director, and have happily accepted the offer to serve another term. I thank my highly efficient and professional staff, my esteemed colleagues, and especially our magnificent students, who make CMES such a pleasurable workplace.

Wishing you all a well deserved summer break, full of peace, good health, and many days at the beach,

—WILLIAM GRANARA, CMES DIRECTOR

WINTER TERM IN TURKEY AND TUNISIA

“The Middle East is a part of the world that you’ll never really understand fully unless you get your feet on the ground, unless you go there and smell it and taste it and feel it and breathe and eat and sleep it,” says William Granara, CMES Director and Gordon Gray Professor of the Practice of Arabic. “It’s very important that all of our students, whether master’s or PhD students or undergraduates who enroll in our language programs or in any Middle Eastern regional studies courses, have opportunities to go to the region.” This January CMES created two more such opportunities. Through vigorous fundraising efforts and the generous support of donors, CMES inaugurated what will become annual winter term study excursions to the Middle East and North Africa region: “Continuity and Change in Aegean Turkey and Istanbul” and “Tunisia: Mediterranean Crossroads.”

Eight undergraduates made the trip to Turkey. Some had previously traveled to the Middle East while others had not. “Because of travel restrictions, this first year we were advised not to send undergrad-



Alex Dagi, Caleb Lewis, Raya Koreh, Colton Peppelman, Cybele Greenberg, Alice Hu, Seniha Ipekci, Carol Ann Litster, and Nancy Ko in Turkey

uates to Tunis, so we devoted all the spaces in the Turkey trip to undergraduates,” said Granara.

The students began with four days in Istanbul, visiting the Sultanahmet Mosque, Topkapı Palace, the Hagia Sophia Museum, and other monuments from the city’s Byzantine and Ottoman past. They explored the layers of history found in the old city and along the Bosphorus, taking time to sample Turkey’s exquisite cuisine along the way.

The trip was led by Jesse Howell, an advanced PhD student at CMES currently completing his dissertation on overland travel networks in the Ottoman Balkans, and CMES administrative and academic

assistant Carol Ann Litster. Howell has traveled to all corners of Turkey, spent a year living in Istanbul as a research fellow, and during the past two summers has worked as the program coordinator for the Harvard–Sabancı University Summer Program. Litster has visited Turkey on several occasions and previously helped lead a group of high school students on a month-long trip to the country.

“One of the best features of this trip was the opportunity to travel with Jesse, who is such a well-informed source on Ottoman history,” said Cybele Greenberg (‘16).

“In Istanbul we walked to all these monuments, thinking

about how history was right in front of us, and Jesse would explain the histories and how they connect to the present context in a way that was academic but also accessible. It really epitomized what learning on the ground is about,” said Alice Hu (‘18). “There was a synergy between our formal learning, what we were reading, and what was before our eyes: being on the Bosphorus, seeing the fog, the water, and the waves, learning about *hüzün*, this untranslatable term that kind of means melancholy but also something different. Everything just pieced together so well.”

The heart of the trip was an extended stay on Cunda Island on Turkey’s Aegean coast, at the

(continued on next page)

Ayışığı (Moonlight) Monastery, a recently restored Greek monastery. Located directly on the sea and surrounded by olive groves, the monastery is a serene location for reading, reflection, and conversation. During their stay on the island, students engaged with the region's complex past through a variety of readings and films, explored enduring local traditions such as olive oil production and shipbuilding, and enjoyed a hands-on introduction to Aegean cuisine.

"I think the food was a central part of the learning in that the most interesting conversations we had happened over food," said Greenberg. "Food is such a good way to connect to people when you're in a foreign place, and food is a core part of the culture: this is what people eat here; this is their sustenance."

"It was the best food I've ever had, period," said Hu.

"I dream about it," added Nancy Ko ('17).

From their base on Cunda students spent a day exploring the archaeological sites of ancient Bergama (Pergamon), made an overnight trip to Efes (Ephesus) and the port city of Izmir (Smyrna), and then returned to Istanbul for additional museum visits and

shopping in the city's famed bazaars.

"Even though there weren't formal academic requirements, we studied every day on this trip," said Greenberg. "But our study was to be immersed in this new environment. There were no superfluous activities. All the activities had been very well developed and organized so that we could learn something about the culture. We studied by doing and by experiencing, and that was supplemented on Cunda with more traditional seminar-style discussion. Walking around, seeing monuments, learning the place of the bazaars in everyday culture for Turkish people—that was definitely the biggest learning experience."

Regardless of students' expectations or previous experience going in, they all encountered surprises during the course of the trip.

"I expected to be immersed in the history and culture of Turkey," said Ko. "What I didn't expect was this increased awareness of how there wasn't just a transition from the Ottoman Empire to Turkey, but a transition from the Ottoman Empire to a kind of modernization that affected what would become all the nation-states surrounding Turkey as well. I

think what highlighted this was the fact that we were on Cunda, an island that used to be 'Greek' and is now 'Turkish,' and I put those in quotation marks because these nation-state identities are very real but also constructed by modernization. Being on that island that is at once Turkish but also Greek made me more alert to other possible legacies of empire into modernization, not just in Turkey but around the world."

"I was surprised by how deep a connection I feel like I made with Turkey, even though we were only there for three weeks," said Caleb Lewis ('17). "Turkey had never really been on my radar in a thoughtful, real way, but now I find myself reading news about Turkey, about Istanbul, things that are going on in areas that we saw, and I feel like I have some sort of connection to or investment in a part of the world that I had never come into contact with before. I feel like I learned more on the trip than I've learned in a lot of classes on campus."

"It was very much learning for the sake of learning," said Greenberg. "And that's what a liberal arts institution's goal for its students is: to get them to a point where they want to learn just for the sake of learning. I think this trip represented the

endpoint of what Harvard tries to do in a lot of ways."

The Tunisia excursion was led by Professor Granara. Three PhD and six master's students made the trip, which covered Tunisia's Carthaginian, medieval Islamic, Ottoman, French Colonial, and modern (republic) histories, combining readings and visits to sites of academic and cultural interest including ruins at Carthage, the grand mosque of Kairouan, the Bardo and Raqqada museums, and the medinas of Tunis and Kairouan.

"We covered a lot of territory," said Granara, "geographic, historical, and academic as well. Most of the students already had some experience with Middle Eastern cultures and countries but not Tunisia per se, so this trip opened the door to them, not only to Tunisia but also to North Africa, and to the specificities of Tunisia within the broader North African, Mediterranean, and Middle East and Islamic worlds. We also had the opportunity to give students time in the archives, the Bibliothèque Nationale and the Archives Nationales, to access documents and other material they may be interested in for their academic work."

➔ [Read the complete story at cmes.fas.harvard.edu](https://cmes.fas.harvard.edu)

NEWS AND NOTES

FACULTY NEWS

Dalia Abo-Haggar, Preceptor in Arabic, was awarded a Certificate of Teaching Excellence for fall 2015. CMES Associate **Don Babai** gave the talk “Dueling Narratives on the Saudi Economy” in Riyadh in January 2016 before the INSEAD Alumni Association. He wrote “The Washington Consensus” in *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Economics and Society* (SAGE, 2016). **Sibel Bozdoğan**, Lecturer in Urban Planning and Design at the Graduate School of Design, delivered a talk at SALT, Istanbul, in October 2015 on the work of the late Behruz Çinici, leading modernist architect of Turkey, and served on the jury selecting the Turkish pavilion for the Venice Architecture Biennale 2016. She published “A Case for Spatial Agency and Social Engagement in the Middle East” in the *International Journal of Islamic Architecture* 4.1 (2015) and a chapter on Turkish architectural culture in the 1950s in *Mid-Century Modernism in Turkey* (Routledge, 2016). Professor of Government

Melani Cammett's book *Compassionate Communalism: Welfare and Sectarianism in Lebanon* (Cornell University Press, 2014) won the 2015 Giovanni Sartori Book Award, American Political Science Association Section on Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, and Honorable Mention for the 2015 Gregory Luebbert Book Award, American Political Science Association Section on Comparative Politics. *The Politics of Non-State Social Welfare*, co-edited with Lauren Morris MacLean (Cornell University Press, 2014), won Honorable Mention for the 2015 Outstanding Book in Nonprofit and Voluntary Action Research of the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action. **Gareth Doherty**, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture and Senior Research Associate at the Graduate School of Design, co-edited *Is Landscape . . . ? Essays on the Identity of Landscape* with Charles Waldheim (Routledge, 2016). A revised edition of *Ecological Urbanism*, edited with Mohsen Mostafavi, is forthcoming in



Dalia Abo-Haggar

Kristen Stilt and Khaled Fahmy



David Roxburgh and William Granara at the Iranian Gala

summer 2016. **William Granara**, CMES Director and Gordon Gray Professor of the Practice of Arabic, organized the symposium *The Iran–Iraq War: Literature, Art, and Film*, in February 2016. In January he led graduate students on a three-week trip to Tunisia, one of two annual winter term study excursions CMES inaugurated this year. **Cemal Kafadar**,

Vehbi Koç Professor of Turkish Studies, co-organized a one-day symposium in October 2015 on the 1915 Battle of Gallipoli, as part of the CMES program commemorating various centenaries associated with the First World War in the Middle East. He co-convened the conference *Soccer as a Global Phenomenon*, sponsored by Harvard's Weatherhead

(continued on next page)

NEWS AND NOTES

Initiative on Global History, in April 2016. **Ousmane Kane**, Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor of Contemporary Islamic Religion and Society, published *Beyond Timbuktu: An Intellectual History of Muslim West Africa* (Harvard University Press, 2016) and “Arabic Sources and the Search for a New Historiography in Ibadan in the 1960s,” *Africa* 86.2 (2016). He received the Harvard University Center of African Studies Faculty Grant in January 2016. He presented the Frederick Lugard Lecture, “Islamic Education in West Africa: The Past and the Present,” at the International African Institute in Paris in July 2015. **Lenore G. Martin**, CMES Associate and Chair of the Department of Political Science at Emmanuel College, wrote “Turkish–Chinese Bilateral and Multilateral Security Cooperation,” *Sociology of Islam* 4.1-2 (2016). She gave two talks in November 2015, “Turkey Under Siege, Inside and Out: The Regional Dimension,” Herbert C. Kelman Seminar on International Conflict Analysis and Resolution, Harvard, and “Turkish Foreign Policy: The Kurdish Challenge,” *Decision-Making and Cases of*

Foreign Policy panel, Northeast Political Science Association Meeting, Philadelphia, and two talks in March 2016, “The Neoliberal Relationship Between the Kurdish Regional Government and Turkey: Is There a Role for China?” *Conference on China in the Middle East*, Qatar University, and “Turkey and the Middle East,” *Peace at Home, Peace in the World: How Relevant in Turkish Foreign Policy?* roundtable, International Studies Association Meeting, Atlanta. **Susan Gilson Miller**, CMES Associate and Professor of History at the University of California at Davis, was keynote speaker at the annual American Institute for Maghrib Studies Dissertation Workshop at the University of California at Berkeley in October 2015 with a talk titled “A Global Maghrib: Thinking beyond the Thesis.” She presented the paper “Writing about the Holocaust on the Imagined Periphery” at the *New Directions in Sephardi Studies* conference at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, in February 2016. In March 2016 she presented the paper “Sacred Ruins and Secular Politics in Contemporary Morocco,” at Ca’ Foscari University, Venice, at a conference celebrating the



CMES Associates Sara Roy, left, and Lenore G. Martin with Middle East Seminar Co-Chair Herbert C. Kelman and April 2016 speaker James Dorsey

500th anniversary of the Venice Ghetto. Her article “Moïse Nahon and the Invention of the Modern Maghrebi Jew” appears as a chapter in *French Mediterraneans: Transnational and Imperial Histories* (University of Nebraska Press, 2016). **Justine Landau**, Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, received the World Award for the Book of the Year of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of Iranian studies, for her book *De rythme & de raison. Lecture croisée de deux traités de poésie persans du XIII^e siècle* [Of Rhythm and Reason: A Comparative Reading of Two Thirteenth-Century Persian Treatises on Poetics] (Presses Sorbonne Nouvelle/Institut Français de Recherche en Iran, 2013) in Iran in February 2016.

Payam Mohseni, Director of the Iran Project and Fellow for Iran Studies, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, HKS, was an honoree at the Second Annual Iranian Gala in April 2016. He was awarded a Certificate of Teaching Excellence for his fall 2015 course on Iranian politics. He spoke at the Middle East Institute’s 69th annual conference, gave talks on Iran’s domestic and foreign policy at the Naval War College, MIT, Tufts, and Harvard, and published several op-eds in the *National Interest* and the *Washington Post*. **Roy P. Mottahedeh**, Gurney Professor of History, gave two talks in February: “Aja’ib in the Book of Qazwini,” at the Yarmouk Cultural Center in Kuwait, and “Jihad and the Caliphate in

Islamic History,” as part of the *ISIS and Islam* panel at the New York City Bar Association.

Afsaneh Najmabadi, Francis Lee Higginson Professor of History and of Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, was an honoree at the Second Annual Iranian Gala in April 2016. Her digital archive and website, *Women's Worlds in Qajar Iran*, has received another two-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. **Roger Owen**, A.J. Meyer Professor of Middle Eastern History *Emeritus*, co-organized a symposium in October 2015 on the 1915 Battle of Gallipoli, as part of the CMES program commemorating various centenaries associated with the First World War in the Middle East. He co-organized the symposium *Iraq: Possible Futures—Including a Return to the Past* in March 2016. He gave the talk “A Life in Middle East Studies,” based on his book of the same title forthcoming from Tadween Publishing, at the Arab Studies Institute at George Mason University in April 2016.

Intisar Rabb, Professor of Law, Co-Director of the Islamic Legal Studies Program at HLS, wrote “Society and Propriety: The Cultural Construction of Defamation and Blasphemy as

Crimes in Islamic Law,” in *Accusations of Unbelief in Islam: A Diachronic Perspective on Takfir* (Brill, 2016), “‘Reasonable Doubt’ in Islamic Law,” *Yale Journal of International Law* 40.1 (2015), and “Against Kadijustiz: On the Negative Citation of Foreign Law,” *Suffolk University Law Review* 48.2 (2015). She received Iran's Book of the Year Award for *Doubt in Islamic Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2015). She gave the inaugural Mohannad T. Malas Lecture in Islamic Legal Studies at the University of California at Irvine, “The Decline of Doubt in Islamic Law,” in September 2015, and participated in panels and workshops at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, HLS, the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and the Library of Congress. She presented “Procedure in Motion in Early Islamic Law: Some Notes on Law and Literature, Sources and Methods,” at the workshop *Sharia in Motion* at Yale University, April 2016, and organized the conference *Courts and Judicial Procedure in Early Islamic Law* at Harvard in May 2016. She was selected for 2015–16 MacArthur Foundation and Luce Foundation awards for work on SHARIAsource, an

online portal and peer-reviewed scholarly forum designed to develop and provide access to authoritative legal and academic content and context on Islamic law to academic, media, and policy circles, an initiative of the Islamic Legal Studies Program. **David Roxburgh**, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor of Islamic Art History, presented a lecture at Tsinghua University, Beijing, in August 2015, before embarking on site visits throughout Beijing and in Zhengding, Xi'an, and Dunhuang with Professor Eugene Wang and graduate students in Chinese and Japanese art. He also traveled to India and the Deccan, in January 2016, with Professor Jinah Kim and her seminar students on the South Asian temple. They visited Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, and Muslim monuments in Mumbai, Kanheri, Elephanta, Ajanta, Ellora, Aurangabad, Dawlatabad, Khuldabad, Bijapur, Pattadakal, and Badami. In April 2016 he participated in a conference on new approaches to the study of Islamic painting at Northwestern University. He reviewed the Walid Raad retrospective at MoMA in *Artforum* (January 2016) and wrote “Timurid Architectural Revetment in Central Asia,

1370–1430: The Mimeticism of Mosaic Faience,” in *Ornament as Portable Culture: Between Globalism and Localism* (Princeton University Press, 2016). He will lead a study group to Iran in May 2016 for the Harvard Alumni Association. **Kay Kaufman Shelemay**, G. Gordon Watts Professor of Music and Professor of African and African American Studies, has spent the 2015–16 academic year on sabbatical as the Marta Sutton Weeks Fellow at the Stanford Humanities Center. She is writing a book on musicians from the Horn of Africa in their North American diaspora. **Kristen Stilt**, Professor of Law, Co-Director of the Islamic Legal Studies Program, and Director of the Animal Law Program at HLS, hosted the workshop *Animals in Comparative Constitutional Law* in February and presented a recent article, “Constitutional Animal Protection in Egypt and the Making of a Social Movement.” She presented “Animals in Motion: Slaughter, Animal Welfare, and Islamic Law” at the workshop *Sharia in Motion* at Yale University, April 2016, and is hosting at Harvard this spring the workshop *Animals, Law, and Religion*, which will bring together experts on many religious traditions.

Q&A WITH SHEIDA DAYANI

Sheida Dayani is a Preceptor in Persian in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Her research is on modern theatre and playwriting in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Iran.

What does your current research focus on?

I work on Iranian theatre of the mid-nineteenth to early-twentieth centuries. I look at cultural and political history to understand the transition of Iranian comedy from traditional spectacles to modern playwriting. My focus is on the relationship of Iranian theatre to translation, journalism, lawmaking, and civil rights movements. I am interested in how the correlation between text and performance in modern playwriting changes in relation to established theatrical traditions, and vis-à-vis the sociopolitical events of each period.

How and why did you start looking at Iranian theatre in this context?

Before this project, I was studying legal history of Iran, and I realized that during the Constitutional Revolution, a large number of politically

active figures turned to modern playwriting to advocate for their values and implement cultural change. Meanwhile, my earlier passion was in literature and theatre, and my undergraduate degree was in English literature with a focus on translation. I took on this research because theatre is a perfect conjunction of history and literature, so it accommodates my two interests, but also because Persian and Iranian studies have paid little to no attention to the field of theatre.

In addition to your scholarly work, you write and translate poetry. Do you write poetry in Persian, English, or both?

I used to write in both languages, but now I stop myself from writing in English. About ten years ago, I vowed to myself to write in only one language. The vow has been broken at times, but I'm mostly faithful. There are certain things in every language that can be said only in that language. Once you really grasp what this means, and I mean experience it with your blood and flesh, then you understand that as a bilingual poet, you have a choice of either being a boring



poet in two languages, or an original poet in one language. Exactly because there are things in every language that can be said in that language alone, we have poets in this world, whose first job is to think of those things in the most innovative way, and their second job is to write those thoughts in the most impossible way. So, the job of the poet is first to alienate, then to defamiliarize, and then to create the means for saying the impossible. Bilingual writers have this capability twice as much, but this capability is a double-edged sword. Either, they can practice saying the ordinary in ordinary ways in two languages, or they can master bringing

out the impossibilities of one language; the latter they do by travelling in one language, and alienating and defamiliarizing with the help of the other language(s). Of course, every bilingual poet has moments when s/he does the impossible in the other language(s). It is not just inevitable but necessary; you need testing grounds to determine what is the right place for you. But in order to create a canon, there is no option but to choose one language, and “sweat white beads” over it. The job of a bilingual poet is twice what Aristotle assigns to the poet. He has famously said, “The poet should prefer probable impossibilities to improbable

possibilities.” The bilingual poet can either strive for saying the likely impossibilities twice better than a monolingual poet, or can fail twice miserably by saying the unlikely possibilities.

Now, we are left with which language to choose. It is a personal decision. I chose Persian over English, partly for reasons that I will not reveal here, and partly because living in an English-speaking environment gives me a critical distance from the Persian language, and this critical distance is to some extent what alienates and defamiliarizes me from Persian, and makes my poetics grotesque in the theatrical sense of the word. This grotesqueness of poetics is a curious animal; it is not just in diction, but in other aspects such as structure, rhythm, and subject matter; it works the same way that silence makes alchemy for music.

You teach Persian courses from Elementary to Advanced. How do you incorporate your particular areas of interest into the coursework, and are you able to do this at all levels of instruction?

My Advanced course is a survey of modern Persian literature. We read *Ta’ziyehs*,

modern plays, folk literature, travelogues, poetry, short stories, novels, etc., in the original Persian from mid-nineteenth century until today. When there is not a technological barrier, we also read audio-visual material; feature films, documentaries, songs, etc. My Intermediate course is half language, half film; after every lesson, we watch a feature film or a documentary related to the material of the previous lesson to solidify the vocabulary, we discuss the film in class, and for their weekly assignments, students write film reviews. My Elementary courses are traditional language courses, but from the very first weeks, I bring dabs of Persian poetry to class; we start with modern and work our way into classical. For instance, this week, my Elementary students read excerpts of Shāmlu, Sepehri, Sa’di, and Khayyām, and each excerpt was directly related to their vocabulary and grammar lessons of this week. Also, I use the Elementary Persian textbook by Mehdi Khorrami, which begins the lessons with passages of a novel, and students tend to like that.

→ **Read the complete story at cmes.fas.harvard.edu**

STUDENT NEWS

AM STUDENTS

Zena Agha’s poem “The Sea Is Big” was filmed in collaboration with PRI’s The World and was followed up with a radio interview and article on the Syrian migrant crisis. In addition to being a panellist, she performed it at The Forum at the Harvard Kennedy School in a talk entitled “Taking Action on the Syrian Refugee Crisis.” She delivered a talk at the Harvard Arab Weekend HAWTalks event on the need for poetry and art in the Middle East and performed poetry at the finale of the Boston Palestine Film Festival and Berklee College of Music. In September, she wrote an article in *The Independent* on Europe’s selective compassion regarding Syrian refugees.

Amir Mahdavi published an op-ed in *The Washington Post*, “Iran’s Election Wasn’t about Moderation or Democracy: It Was about How Iran Will Re-engage with the World,” in March 2016 and wrote “Can the Vienna Agreement Solve Iran’s Problem?” Middle East Brief 96, Crown Center, Brandeis University (January 2016). He gave the talks “Two Major Iranian Crises the Nuclear Deal Does Not Neces-

sarily Solve,” at the CMENAS Graduate Student Symposium, University of Michigan, March 2016, and “Iran in the Post Deal Era, Shifting Global System,” at the Pardee Graduate Conference, Boston University, February 2016. **Aya Majzoub** co-chaired Harvard Arab Weekend, North America’s largest student-led pan-Arab conference, with over 1300 attendees and 75 speakers, in November 2015. She also led a 10-day trip to the Middle East over spring break, taking 120 students from Harvard to meet with politicians, journalists, and civil society activists.

PHD STUDENTS

Belle Cheves presented her work for the first time at the symposium *Iran: Animating the Archives*, at NYU in fall 2015. Over the summer she plans to continue her research in Tajikistan and Iran. **Jesse Howell** took part in the inaugural Digital Ottoman Platform workshop organized by Amy Singer at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton in summer 2015. He returned to Istanbul as coordinator for Harvard Summer School’s History and Human Rights program, directed by Cemal Kafadar and taught in partnership with Sabancı University. In fall

(continued on next page)

NEWS AND NOTES



Jesse Howell and friends in Izmir, Turkey



Gülrü Necipoğlu, Nora Lessersohn, Cemal Kafadar, and Sean Gilsdorf



Aleksandar Shopov (Photo: Rose Lincoln/Harvard University)

2015 he developed and taught a history survey course, “The World Before 1500,” at Soka University of America, in Aliso Viejo, California. Jesse was back in Turkey during winter term as leader of a CMES study trip to Istanbul and the Aegean Coast. He, co-leader Carol Ann Litster, and the undergraduate participants were all dazzled by their accommodations at the newly restored “Moonlight Monastery” on Cunda Island. In May 2016 he presented a paper on Ottoman road systems at the *Rethinking the Adriatic* conference at the University of Minnesota. **Nora Lessersohn** presented her work on Ottoman Armenian history at the annual meetings of both the Middle East Studies Association and the American Anthropological Association in November 2015. She published book reviews in the *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association* and the *Armenian Review*, and organized and moderated the symposium *What Is Islam?* in memory of Shahab Ahmed in April 2016. **Ian McConigle** was awarded an Israel Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship to undertake fieldwork in Israel, where he is now a Fellow at the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Tel Aviv University. He published several articles,

including “Spirits and Molecules: Ethnopharmacology and Symmetrical Epistemological Pluralism,” *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology* (2015), “‘Jewish Genetics’ and the ‘Nature’ of Israeli Citizenship,” *Trans- versal: Journal for Jewish Studies* 13.2 (2015), “Patenting Nature or Protecting Culture? Ethnopharmacology and Indigenous Intellectual Property Rights,” *Journal of Law and the Biosciences* (2016), and “The Collective Nature of Personalized Medicine,” *Genetics Research* 98.e3 (2016). In April 2016 he co-organized a two-day interdisciplinary conference, *The Molecularization of Identity: Science and Subjectivity in the 21st Century*, co-sponsored by CMES. **Aleksandar Shopov** presented the paper “From Morocco to Istanbul via Cairo: The Early Reception of a Manuscript on ‘A Green-Colored Leaf Called Tabaka’ (1608)” at the Middle East Studies Association meeting in November 2015. In April 2016 he was profiled in the *Harvard Gazette* about his work to preserve urban gardens in Istanbul. **Keye Tersmette** received a Weatherhead Center for International Affairs foreign language study grant and will be a Graduate Student Affiliate of the Weatherhead Center for 2016–17.

CONGRATULATIONS AM GRADUATES!

- **Hind Al-Ansari** of Gender on Frontline Humanitarian Negotiations.”
Advisor: Claude Bruderlein
- **Wadah Al Shugaa**—*Thesis:* “The Race for the Money: The Rivalry between Doha, Dubai, and Manama to Become the Region’s Financial Center.”
Advisor: Roger Owen
- **David Babaian**—*Thesis:* “Omar ibn Said, Son of Adam, and the People of Abraham.”
Advisor: Marc Shell
- **Federica du Pasquier**
Thesis: “Assessing the Impact
- **John Hambley**
- **David Max Korzen**
- **Medhini Kumar**
- **Aya Majzoub**
- **Kevin Moss**
- **Finn Quigley**
- **Elad Vaida**—*Thesis:* “The Rise of Romanian National Consciousness and Identity.”
Advisor: Cemal Kafadar



Federica du Pasquier, David Babaian, Elad Vaida, and Wadah Al Shugaa

UNDERGRADUATE PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE REGION

CMES awarded a first prize and three honorable mentions in the 2015–16 Harvard College International Photo Contest for photos taken in the Middle East region. Aubrey Stoddard ('17), studying history and government, received first prize for an image she captured during her internship at the Institute for Counter Terrorism during summer 2015 in Israel. Honorable mentions were awarded to archaeology concentrator Jingxiu Jin ('18), for this image of contrasting colors and ancient city walls in Jerusalem, social studies concentrator Siobhan McDonough ('17), who captured this blue architecture in Chefchaouen, Morocco, and NELC concentrator Charles Sutherland ('16), who photographed this traditional vessel on the Nile while in Egypt.



"A Piece of Advice," Aubrey Stoddard



"Black and Color," Jingxiu Jin



"(Window)shades of Blue," Siobhan McDonough

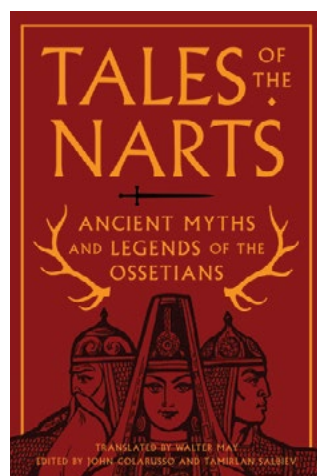


"Sailing in the Desert," Charles Sutherland

ALUMNI NEWS

AM ALUMNI

Pouya Alimagham ('09) completed his PhD in History at the University of Michigan in December 2015 and has accepted a position as lecturer to teach modern Middle East history at MIT beginning fall 2016. **Hannah-Louise Clark** ('05) has two journal articles forthcoming: "Expressing Entitlement in Colonial Algeria: Villagers, Medical Doctors, and the State in the Early 20th Century," *IJMES* 48.3, and "Administering Vaccination in Interwar Algeria: Auxiliaires médicaux, Smallpox, and the Colonial State in the Communes mixtes," *French Politics, Culture, and Society* 34.2. **John Colarusso** ('70),



Professor in Anthropology and Linguistics and Languages at McMaster University, recently published his sixth book, *A North West Caucasian Linguistic Reader* (LINCOM, 2015). His seventh book, *Tales of the Narts: Ancient Myths and Legends of the Ossetians*, is in press with Princeton University Press. An earlier volume, *Nart Sagas from the Caucasus: Tales of the Circassians, Abkhazians, and Ubykhs* (Princeton University Press, 2002) will appear in a paperback edition this summer. Despite turning 70 last June, he taught five courses this past academic year and gave talks at Baylor and Leiden Universities. **Eric B. Evans** ('97) is a litigation partner at Mayer Brown LLP. He concentrates his practice in complex litigation matters, with special emphasis on technology and electronic discovery issues. He's had occasion to use his Arabic to help clients. **Anna Carolin Haleblan** ('14) moved to Qatar last year to help build one of the fastest growing Arabic websites online, Kasra.co. She started as a Community Manager and now leads the Marketing Department of the Arabic publishing platform, which trains youth in writing bite-sized articles in a safe online space away from politics,

violence, and religion, working to increase both the quality and quantity of Arabic content on the World Wide Web. **Iza Hussin** ('00) published *The Politics of Islamic Law: Local Elites, Colonial Authority, and the Making of the Muslim State* (University of Chicago Press, 2016). **Lami Kim** ('08), who joined the South Korean Foreign Service after graduation, is back in Boston, teaching international relations at Boston College as a lecturer and pursuing a PhD degree at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts. She will be a predoctoral research fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School starting this July. Turkish journalist **Fehmi Koru** ('82) published *Ben Böyle Gördüm* [Thus I Have Seen] (ALFA Publishing House, 2016). **Scott Liddle** ('12) has been working for the Turquoise Mountain Foundation in Afghanistan since November 2014, and in June 2015 became Country Director of the organization. **Jeffrey K. Lorch** ('06) has been elected Principal at McKinsey and Company, where he is a global mineral and metal commodity market expert based in Dubai. **Katherine Lyman** ('15) contributed to *A Comprehensive Student Support Program in Mental Health*, which was

presented at the First Annual Conference of Psychology at Bethlehem University in April 2016. She published two articles in the *Washington Psychiatrist*: "Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in Palestine" (Spring 2016) and "School-Based Interventions Supporting Students in Palestine" (Winter 2016). She will begin medical school at Stanford in August 2016. **Bruce Maddy-Weitzman** ('77) is a professor in the Department of Middle Eastern and African History, Tel Aviv University. His latest book is *A Century of Arab Politics: From the Arab Revolt to the Arab Spring* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2016). His previous book, *The Berber Identity Movement and the Challenge to North African States* (University of Texas Press, 2011), won the American Institute of Maghrib Studies L. Carl Brown Book Prize for outstanding new book in the field of North African Studies. **Aaron Magid** (AM '15) is working as a journalist in Amman while also a CASA fellow. Recent publications include "ISIS Meets Its Match?" *Foreign Affairs*, February 17, 2016, and "Jordan Blocks 50,000 Syrian Refugees Near Border," *Al-Monitor*, April 5, 2016. **Joseph V. Montville** ('61) currently heads the Program on

Healing Historical Memory in the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (S-CAR) at George Mason University. A retired career Foreign Service officer, he served in Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, and Morocco, and was Near East division chief in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research in the State Department. He is involved in an effort to raise funds to name S-CAR for the late assistant secretary of state for the Near East and South Asia Harold H. Saunders, who was a key aid in Henry Kissinger's Middle East policy and Jimmy Carter's negotiation of the Camp David agreements resulting in the Egyptian–Israeli peace agreement. **Jennifer Quigley-Jones** ('15) spoke in March 2016 at a hackathon hosted by the European Broadcasting Union in Geneva on digital storytelling and Europe's migration crisis. She spoke about her experience of the Syria crisis and volunteering at Moria camp in Lesbos, Greece, over Christmas. **Alex Shams** ('13) is in the first year of a PhD program in anthropology at the University of Chicago focused on gender politics and urbanism in modern Iran. An article based on his AM thesis, "Revolutionary Religiosity and Women's Access to Higher

Education in the Islamic Republic of Iran," was recently published in the *Journal of Middle Eastern Women's Studies*. He also published two book chapters: "Urban Space and the Production of Gender in Modern Iran" and "Are Iranians People of Color? Persian, Muslim, and Model Minority Race Politics." **Hassan Shibani** ('13) finished the CASA program in Amman almost a year ago and is now working as Intake Coordinator with the International Refugee Assistance Program in Lebanon. **Marian Elizabeth Smith** ('12) is a PhD candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Michigan. She was awarded a summer fellowship from the American Institute for Iranian Studies to participate in a language exchange program in Tehran. She received a Mellon Fellowship for Dissertation Research in Original Sources from the Council on Library and Information Resources and will be conducting 11 months of fieldwork abroad starting in August 2016. **George Somi** ('12) will start the JD program at Brooklyn Law School in fall 2016. **Mandy Terc** ('04) became the Director of the Sheikh Faisal Center for Entrepreneurship in the Middle East at DePaul

University. The center runs programs that promote entrepreneurship in Qatar and that connect entrepreneurs in Doha and Chicago. **Alex Winder** ('09) edited and introduced *From Jaffa to Mount Hebron: The Diaries of Muhammad 'Abd al-Hadi al-Shrouf, 1943–1962*, published earlier this year in Arabic by the Institute for Palestine Studies. He also contributed a chapter titled "Rumor and Conspiracy Theory in Tahrir Square" to the collection *The Birth of the Arab Citizen and the Changing Middle East* (Interlink Books, 2016). **John Zavage** ('13) is finishing a three-year tour at US Central Command and will attend a one-year program at the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama.

PHD ALUMNI NEWS

Arbella Bet-Shlimon ('12) is finishing the initial manuscript of her first book, a history of Kirkuk in the twentieth century, based on her dissertation. She has been invited to lecture on her research at Ohio University and the University of Georgia. **Nadia Maria El Cheikh** ('92), Professor of History at the American University of Beirut, has been appointed Interim Associate Provost. Her most

recent book, *Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity*, was published by Harvard University Press in 2015. She also co-edited the book *One Hundred and Fifty* (AUB Press, 2016), in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the American University of Beirut. **Alireza Doostdar** ('12) published "Empirical Spirits: Islam, Spiritism, and the Virtues of Science in Iran," in *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 58.2 (2016). **Aykan Erdemir** ('04) was awarded the 2016 Stefanus Prize for Religious Freedom, joined the Foundation for Defense of Democracies as a senior fellow, and co-authored a new book, *Antagonistic Tolerance: Competitive Sharing of Religious Sites and Spaces* (Routledge, 2016). The 11th edition of **Arthur Goldschmidt's** (AM '61, PhD '68) *A Concise History of the Middle East* (Westview Press) came out late in 2015. He was joined for this edition by Aomar Boum. **Emily Gottreich** (AM '93, PhD '99) was named Chair of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of California at Berkeley. She began a five-year term in July 2015. **Zahra N. Jamal** ('08) started a new job as Associate Director for Community Engagement at Rice Univer-

(continued on next page)

sity's Boniuk Institute for Religious Tolerance in July 2015. She was named Rice University's representative to President Obama's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge by the US Department of Education. Under the direction of its founding chair, Professor **Philip S. Khoury** ('80), the Emile Bustani Middle East Seminar at MIT celebrated its 30th anniversary this academic year. **Mana Kia** ('11), Assistant Professor in the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies at Columbia University, won a Social Science Research Council fellowship for next year for her project "Significant Others: Forms of Companionship across Early Modern Iran and India," which focuses on the various forms of companionship in early modern Persianate Asia. **Asher Orkaby** ('14) published "The 1964 Israeli Airlift to Yemen and the Expansion of Weapons Diplomacy" in *Diplomacy and Statecraft* 26.4 (2015). He was awarded a Harry Frank Guggenheim Research Grant for his forthcoming book on Egypt's use of chemical weapons in Yemen during the 1960s. **Daniel Pipes** ('78) writes: "My Medicare card arrived

one and a half years ago but the Middle East and Islamism are more in the news than ever, so I am hard at work. I like to note that I began my career writing books, then I moved to long articles, then short articles, then newspaper columns, then blogs . . . and now I tweet. (Other than the books and tweets, my writings are available at DanielPipes.org.) I head the Middle East Forum, a think tank founded in 1994 that has grown into a substantial organization with two dozen staff and an annual budget of over \$4 million. I founded Campus Watch in 2002 with the purpose of critiquing Middle East studies at North America universities. I wish I could say that CMES is an exception to the generally dismal record but it is not. Here's hoping for (but not counting on) improvements." **John Voll** (AM '60, PhD '69) spent his first year of retirement (2014–15) enjoying a new flexibility of schedule and, with Georgetown University colleagues John Esposito and Tamara Sonn, wrote *Islam and Democracy after the Arab Spring* (Oxford University Press, 2016). He is currently working on a long-term project on Muslim–Christian relations in world history.

VISITING RESEARCHER NEWS

Visiting Scholar **Ali Akbar Alikhani** published two articles, "Methodological Impediments to Innovation on Political Thought of Islam," *Sociology and Anthropology* 10 (2015), and "Conceptual Network of Islamic Political Philosophy," *Research Journal of Political Science* (Iranian Political Science Association), Spring 2016, and a book chapter, "Fundamentals of Islam in International Relations," *Islam and International Relations: Contributions to Theory and Practice* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016). He gave a talk at CMES in April, "Political Thought in The Islamic World: Findings from a Study of 280 Muslim Scholars from the 7th Century to the Present." Visiting Scholar **Günül Özlem Ayaydin Cebe** presented "Advertising Literature in Ottoman-Turkish Periodicals" at the ACLA Annual Meeting at Harvard in March 2016. She gave a talk about the Turkish national anthem in May 2016 at CMES. Visiting Post-doctoral Fellow **Gökten Doğangün** gave the talk "The Reconstruction of Gender Regimes in Contemporary Turkey and Russia" for the WCFIA/CMES Seminar

on Turkey in the Modern World series in February 2016. Post-doctoral Fellow **Özge Ertem Artvinli** gave three talks in 2016: "The Pain of All: Coping with Post-War Famine, Hunger, and Despair in Ottoman Anatolia in 1870s," *Disease and Disaster in Ottoman Anatolia* conference, Skilliter Center for Ottoman Studies, University of Cambridge, in March; "Under the Same Sun and Guns, Cold and Drought: A Shared History of Famine, Scarcity, and Survival in Ottoman Anatolia (1879–1881)," at CMES in April; and "Cumhuriyet Dönemi Çocuk Dergilerinde Sahil ve Sokak Çocukları" [Children on the Beaches and Streets of the Republic in Children's Periodicals in Turkey, 1930s–1940s], *International Symposium on the History of Childhood in the Ottoman Empire*, Akdeniz University, Antalya, in May. She reviewed Nazan Maksudyân's *Orphans and Destitute Children in the Late Ottoman Empire* (Syracuse University Press, 2014) in *New Perspectives on Turkey* 53 (November 2015). Post-doctoral Fellow **Hilary Falb Kalisman** gave two talks in March 2016: "Reading, Writing, Revolution: Educators in the Interwar Middle East," at Brown University, and "School-

ing the State: A Transnational History of Public Education and Governance in the 20th Century Middle East,” at CMES. She will be accepting a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of History at Furman University in fall 2016. Visiting Scholar **Hussein Kalout** gave talks at the Senate Commission on Foreign Relations of Brazil, March 2016, the Brazilian War College, January 2016, and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, November 2015. He has begun writing a weekly column, as a Senior Columnist on International Politics, in the Brazilian daily *Folha de São Paulo*. In February 2016, he was short-listed by the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva for the position of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967. He wrote “The Dynamics of Hezbollah–Israel Mutual Deterrence and Reshaping the Rules of the Game” in *Tipping the Balance? Implications of the Iran Nuclear Deal on Israeli Security* (Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, HKS, December 2015). Post-doctoral Fellow **Maryam Kamali** published *Social Change in Iran: the Perspective of Persian Writing Historians* (Roshangaran, 2015)



Ali Akbar Alikhani

and “Mo’ayid Aybeh, the Saljuq Ruler,” *Encyclopedia Iranica*, Spring 2016. She gave three talks in 2016: “Locating Iranian Historical Memory: The Transformation from Zoroastrianism to Islam,” at Stanford University, in January; “The Concept of Destiny in the Medieval Persian Historiography,” Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard, in March; and “Collapse of the Khwarazmshah Dynasty in Iran: Reasons and Consequences,” at CMES in April. Post-doctoral Fellow **Lorenzo Kamel** published two edited volumes in 2016: *Arab Spring and Peripheries: A Decentring Research Agenda* (Routledge) and *Changing Migration Patterns in the Mediterranean* (ENC). He was awarded a Marie Curie Experienced Researcher fellowship by the European Commission at FRIAS and in



Özge Ertem Artvinli

December 2015 convened an international conference in Ankara titled *Radicalization in the Mediterranean Region: Old and New Drivers*. Visiting Scholar **Saime Ozcurumez** published “What moves the High Skilled and Why? Comparing Turkish Nationals in Canada and Germany” in *International Migration*. She gave the talks “The Emerging Immigration and Asylum Regime in Turkey,” for the WCFA/CMES Seminar on Turkey in the Modern World, “Refugees and Health Care Policies: How Does Europe Cope?” at the University of Michigan, both in March 2016, and “Health Care Service Delivery in Times of Crisis: Turkey and the Syrian Crisis,” at the *Migration and Health Care* panel discussion at CMES in May 2016. Visiting Scholar **Mohammed Sharafuddin**



Saime Ozcurumez

presented the paper “Poetry and Intellectual Tolerance in Yemen” at the Middle East Studies Association annual meeting in November 2015. His article “Avicenna’s Philosophy of Education” has been accepted for publication in the *Kuwait University Journal for Humanities*. He gave the talk “The Imaginative Orientalism of Washington Irving” at CMES in May 2016. Visiting Scholar **Lisa Urkevich** received the University of Maryland Alumna of the Year Award in Visual and Performing Arts, received a grant from Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, and was promoted to full professor at the American University of Kuwait. She gave the talk “The Shaping of Modern Khaliji Popular Culture: Music, Mass Media, and Kuwait” at CMES in April 2016.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2016

On the Razor's Edge: The State of the Judiciary in Turkey:

A talk with Justice Robert Cordy, Associate Justice, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Co-sponsored with the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.

FEBRUARY 2016

Current Challenges of Development Assistance in Palestine: The Politicization of Aid to Gaza and the West Bank:

A talk by Bill Corcoran, President and CEO, American Near East Refugee Aid. Co-sponsored with the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.

Studying Classical and Modern Arabic Literature in the UAE Today:

A lecture in Arabic by Omar Shehadeh Fajjawi, Arabic Language Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, American University of Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates.

Islamophobia in America: Empirical Evidence and Beyond:

A talk by Karam Dana, Assistant Professor, School of Interdisciplinary Arts

and Sciences, University of Washington; Director, American Muslim Research Institute.

Evangelicals and Warlords: Christian Television in the Middle East, 1981–2000:

A presentation by Febe Armanios, Associate Professor of History at Middlebury College and fall 2015 Visiting Fellow at the Islamic Legal Studies Program at HLS, which co-sponsored the talk.

The Iran–Iraq War: Literature, Art, and Film:

A symposium organized by CMES Director William Granara. “Abdul Razzak Abdul Wahid: Fighting a Secular Holy War,” Yousif Hanna, Harvard College; “Reading the Other in War: Americans Reading Iranians Reading Iraqis,” Sheida Dayani, Harvard; “Tales of War, Violence, and Loss in the Fiction of Muhsin Al-Ramli,” Khaled Al-Masri, Swarthmore College; “Cracks in the System: Literary Challenges to the Iranian Narrative of Sacred Defense from Within,” Amir Moosavi, NYU; “Desertion and Art during the Iran–Iraq War,” Ikram Masmoudi, University



Robert Labaree and Mehmet Ali Sanlikol



Will McCants



Cansu Çamlıbel

of Delaware; “Intertextuality, Immortality, and the Universal Author in Muhammad Khudayyir’s ‘Yusuf’s Tales,’” William Tamplin, Harvard; “The Sacred Defense: Fade to Black—Panahi, Kiarostami, Hatamikia,” Justine Landau, Harvard; “The Enemy Is Us: Spectral Foes in Iranian War Cinema,” Kamran Rastegar, Tufts University. General discussion moderated by Sinan Antoon, NYU.

What Is Islamic in the Islamic State? A talk by Jocelyne Cesari,

Chair of Religion and Politics, University of Birmingham, UK; Senior Research Fellow, Georgetown University Berkley Center on Religion, Peace, and World Affairs; Visiting Professor of Religion and Politics and Associate, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Program, and Director, Islam in the West program, Harvard.

The ISIS Apocalypse: The History, Strategy, and Doomsday Vision of the Islamic State: A talk by Will



Eric Davis, Sami Zubaida, and Roger Owen



Kamran Rastegar, Yousif Hanna, William Granara, Ikram Masmoudi, Justine Landau, Amir Moosavi, Sheida Dayani, Sinan Antoon, and William Tamplin

McCants, Senior Fellow, Center for Middle East Policy, and Director, Project on US Relations with the Islamic World, the Brookings Institution.

The Ceaseless Quest for Saudi Arabia: Central Arabian Nationhood and Its Spillover Effects:

A talk by Nadav Samin, Lecturer, Anthropology and Government, Dartmouth College. Co-sponsored with the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.

Episteme, Phronesis, and Performance: Towards a Ritual History of Qizilbash-Alevi People: A talk by Riza Yildirim, Associate Professor, History, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Ankara; 2015–16 Fulbright Scholar, Boston University.

Intercultural Musical Explorations in “A Coffee-house Opera”: Shakespeare’s *Othello*, an Ottoman Eunuch, and Bektashi Sufism: A

presentation with music by Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol, Emerson College, and Robert Labaree, New England Conservatory.

The “New Turkey” and Individual Freedoms: Is There Still Room for Coexistence?

A talk by Cansu Çamlıbel, writer and Senior Diplomatic Correspondent, *Hürriyet*; 2015–16 Nieman Fellow, Harvard. Co-sponsored with the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.

Through the Lens: Iraq at War: A talk and photo presentation by Andrea Bruce, documentary photographer with NOOR Images and 2015–16

Nieman Foundation Fellow, Harvard. Co-sponsored with the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.

MARCH 2016

Refugees in Turkey and the US Response: A talk by Joseph Livingston, Associate Director for Government and NGOs with Project C.U.R.E and former Foreign Service Officer, US Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, 2007–16. Co-sponsored with the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.

Middle East Quagmire: What Hope for Palestine Refugees?

A talk by Pierre Krähenbühl, Commissioner General, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. Co-sponsored

with the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and the Middle East Initiative, HKS.

Subterfuge and Deception in the Pre-Modern Mediterranean:

A workshop organized by and co-sponsored with the Mediterranean Seminar, Brian A. Catlos, University of Colorado at Boulder, and Sharon Kinoshita, University of California at Santa Cruz, Co-Directors.

How Did Salafism Become an Ideology?

A talk by Henri Lauzière, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Northwestern University. Co-sponsored with NELC, the Islamic Legal Studies Program (HLS), Prince Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program, and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs. Lauzière

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

also participated in a workshop for graduate students and faculty working in related areas.

Iraq: Possible Futures—Including a Return to the Past:

A symposium organized by Roger Owen, A.J. Meyer Professor of Middle East History *Emeritus*, and Dr. Muhamed H. Almaliky, Associate, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard.

- **Political Panel:** *Reflection on the Past and an Update on the Present*. Moderator:

Muhamed Almaliky; Sami Zubaida, University of London; Kanan Makiya, Brandeis University.

- **Economic Panel:** *Oil, Flood, and Corruption*. Moderator: Roger Owen; Joseph Sassoon, Georgetown University; Luay al-Khateeb, Columbia University.

- **Cultural Panel:** *Expressing Identity through Poetry, Art, and Religion*. Moderator: William Granara, Harvard; Eric Davis, Rutgers University; Orit Bashkin,

University of Chicago; Roy P. Mottahedeh, Harvard.

- **Day 2 Session:** *Summing Up and Regional Implications*. Richard Norton, Boston University.

The Persian and Afghan Romance of Alexander the Great: Part II, The Seeker:

A presentation by Michael Barry, Lecturer, Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University. Co-sponsored with the Association for Central Asian Civilizations and Silk Road Studies.

Oman, Zanzibar, and the Politics of Becoming Arab:

The annual CMES Lecture on Arabian Peninsula Studies, by Mandana Limbert, Associate Professor, Anthropology, Queens College and the Graduate Center, CUNY.

Continuity and Change in Turkey's Political Economy:

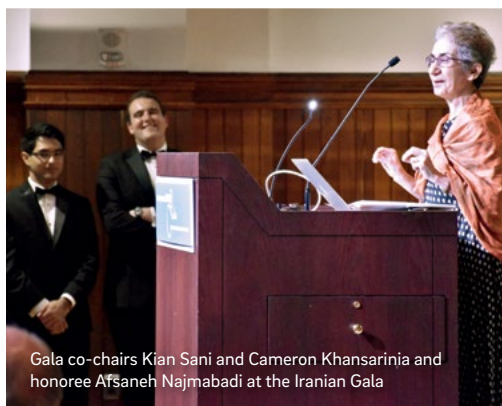
A talk by H. Tolga Bolukbasi, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Public Administration, Bilkent University, Ankara; Fulbright Senior Fellow and Visiting Scholar, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies. Co-sponsored with the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.

The Geopolitics of the Iran Deal: Winners and Losers:

A talk by Karim Sadjadpour, Senior Associate, Middle East Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Co-sponsored with the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.

Fail Better: The United Nations and Syria:

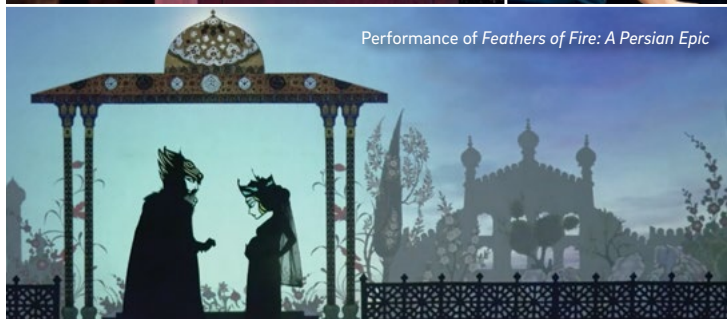
A talk by Mouin Rabbani, Senior Fellow, Institute for Palestinian Studies; independent analyst specializing in Palestinian affairs and the Arab–Israeli



Gala co-chairs Kian Sani and Cameron Khansarinia and honoree Afsaneh Najmabadi at the Iranian Gala



Mandana Limbert, Paul Beran, Hilary Rantisi, and Roy P. Mottahedeh



Performance of *Feathers of Fire: A Persian Epic*



Halil Ibrahim Yenigun

conflict. Co-sponsored with the Middle East Initiative, HKS.

APRIL 2016

The Second Annual Iranian Gala: Preserving the Past, Building for the Future:

A fundraiser to support Iranian studies at Harvard, organized by CMES, the Harvard College Iranian Association, and Harvard Iranian Alumni. Featuring keynote speaker Pejman Nozad, Founding Managing Partner of Pejman Mar Ventures, and honorees Ali Khademhosseini, Payam Mohseni, Afsaneh Najmabadi, and Roxane Zand, DL.

Analyzing the 2016 Parliamentary and Experts Assembly Elections in Iran:

A talk by Mehrzad Boroujerdi, Professor and Chair of the Political Science Department, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University.

Turkish Foreign Policy between the Syrian Civil War and Russia:

A talk by Soner Cagaptay, Bayer Family Fellow and Director, Turkish Research Program, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Co-sponsored with the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.

Defending Human Rights in Palestine:

A talk with Raji Sourani and Shawan Jabarin, moderated by Sara Roy, Harvard.

The Turbulent World of Middle East Soccer:

A talk by James Dorsey, Senior Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore Nanyang Technological University, co-director of the Institute of Culture, University of Wuerzburg. Co-sponsored with the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.

Feathers of Fire: A Persian Epic:

A visually breathtaking cinematic shadow play based on the Persian epic *Shahnameh* (Book of Kings). Conceived, designed, and directed by visual artist and 2014 Guggenheim Fellow Hamid Rahmanian in collaboration with Larry Reed and ShadowLight Productions.

From the National Epic of Shahnameh to the National Satire of the Rhyme of the Mouse and Cat: A Translator's Journey at the Extremes:

Ahmad Sadri, Professor of Sociology and James P. Gorter Chair of Islamic World Studies, Lake Forest College.

Philosophy in Turkey during the Turbulent Years:

Adnan Onart, Professor, Boston University.

Intellectuals and State: Personal and Scholarly Reflections on Turkish Democracy:

A conversation with Halil Ibrahim Yenigun, "Academic for Peace" and former Assistant Professor of Political Theory, Istanbul Commerce University.

MAY 2016

Coup d'État in Iran? Revisiting 1921 and 1953, and the

Problem of Modern Iranian Historiography:

A CMES Director's Series presentation by Yann Richard, Professor *Emeritus*, Director, l'Institut d'études iraniennes, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris.

Open Yet Invisible: The US Record on Israel and Palestine, 1948:

The 2016 Hilda B. Silverman Memorial Lecture, delivered by Irene Gendzier, Professor *Emeritus*, Department of Political Science, Boston University.



Ambassador Greta Holtz with CMES students and Visiting Scholar Mohammed Sharafuddin

This spring CMES hosted three more professional development talks for AM students. In conjunction with his public lecture in February, Will McCants talked with students about his work in government and at the Brookings Institution. Before his presentation in March, Joseph Livingston spoke with students about his experience in the Foreign Service and with Project C.U.R.E. And Greta Holtz talked about her career in the Foreign Service, including four years as US Ambassador to Oman and her current position on the State Department's "seventh floor."



AT A GLANCE

WINTER TERM IN TURKEY AND TUNISIA

FACULTY NEWS

Q&A WITH SHEIDA DAYANI

STUDENT NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS AM GRADUATES!

UNDERGRADUATE PHOTO CONTEST

ALUMNI NEWS

VISITING RESEARCHER NEWS

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS