

# CMES

## NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

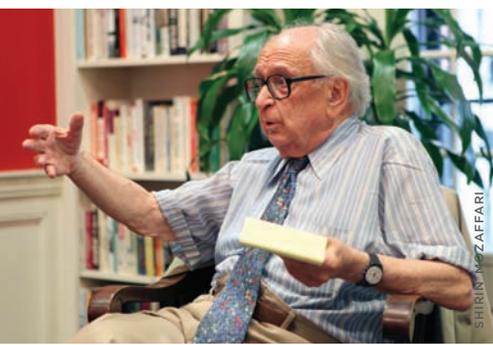
SPRING 2012



WILLIAM GRANARA

### REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

During the past year CMES has undertaken a series of initiatives to follow and study the quickly changing situations in the Middle East. My invitation to some of the most renowned scholars in the universities of New England to join together with CMES faculty in forming a *Working Group on the Transformation Movements in the Arab World* has found a positive echo. The working group now covers a large interdisciplinary field (Anthropology, Architecture and Urbanism, History, International Relations, Islamic Studies, Political Science, and Law) from many universities (Boston University, Boston



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College, Brown University, Harvard University, and Northeastern University). One of the members of the working group comes from Israel (Ben-Gurion University) and we do hope that in a few months we will have a growing number of scholars from the Arab world joining us.

This working group was formed to study the recent history and the near future of the Arab Transformation movements. It is organized into subgroups that analyze different aspects of these movements, and invites speakers from the Arab world to its meetings. The working group is funded by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Dean of the Division of Social Science, and the Donald T. Regan Lecture Fund. We have accepted with enthusiasm a condition linked to this funding, that the invitees from the Arab world should speak not only to the working group but also each give at least one lecture for Harvard's undergraduates. We hope to be able to publish every year a list of these lectures. On April 5, 2012, the first lecture sponsored by the working group was delivered by Professor Sami

Zubaida (London University) on "Iraqi Jews Between Millet and Public Life in the First Half of the Twentieth Century."

The second event sponsored by the working group was a panel discussion on "The Transition to Democracy in the Arab World," a joint initiative by the American University of Beirut (AUB), the Harvard Kennedy School's Middle East Initiative (MEI), and CMES. The AUB speakers were Professors Rami Khouri and Samir Makdisi; the working group and MEI were represented by Professors Augustus Norton (Northeastern University), Roger Owen (Harvard) and Ishac Diwan (Harvard). The lecture to the undergraduates was delivered by Professors Rami Khouri and Samir Makdisi on April 17, 2012.

While we expect the members and the subgroups to publish results of their research, the working group as a collective entity will start to publish the results of its work by 2014. We hope to finish the publication in 2015.

A second CMES initiative concerns immigration and the constitution of transnational

communities. Islam—and other religions—over the last sixty years increasingly expand in the form of transnational communities resulting from migration. This development ends the melting pot model and brings about a growing religious and cultural pluralism within the host countries and new discussions on legal and religious integration. Transnational communities keep close relations with their countries of origin. The question of in what way such transnational communities will be political and cultural assets for the home and the host countries in their mutual relations requires close investigation. In the last term and early this term CMES organized lectures by Professor Michael Gilson (NYU) on the transnational community of South Arab migrants in Singapore, by Dr. Greg Feldman (University of British Columbia) on migration from African countries to Europe, and by Professor Paul Silverstein (Reed College) on Berber migration from the south of Morocco to its north and to Europe and back (co-sponsored with the Center for European Studies [CES]). On April 14,

2012 we hosted a workshop, co-sponsored with the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (WCFA), in which the speakers discussed their material and their approach to these matters with Professor Trisha Craig (CES), Professor Peggy Levitt (Wellesley College, co-director of Harvard's Transnational Studies Initiative, and fellow at WCFA), and Professor Jonathan Laurence (Boston College, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution). We are looking forward to further scholarly exchanges with CES, WCFA, the Harvard Initiative on Transnational Communities, and the Political Science Department of Boston College in the near future.

—**Baber Johansen,**  
CMES Director

**PREVIOUS PAGE:** TOP ROW A celebration in Tunis on the one-year anniversary of the Tunisian revolution. MIDDLE ROW, LEFT Herbert Kelman, Richard Clarke Cabot Professor of Social Ethics, *Emeritus*, delivers a Mideast Newsreel talk. RIGHT Author David Grossman speaks to a standing-room-only crowd. BOTTOM ROW CMES PhD student Jennifer Gordon with William Granara at the CMES Fall Reception.

**BELOW, LEFT** 2011 H.A.R. Gibb Lecturer Maroun Aouad. **CENTER** Giovanni Careri, Directeur du Centre d'Histoire et Théorie des Arts, Paris/EHESS, and CMES Director Baber Johansen at the Protocol of the Gaze workshop. **RIGHT** Jeffrey Hamburger, Kuno Francke Professor of German Art & Culture, Harvard, and Dr. Maria Pia Di Bella, Paris/EHESS at the Protocol of the Gaze workshop.

**NEXT PAGE, LEFT** Greg Feldman, University of British Columbia. **CENTER** Paul Silverstein, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Reed College. **RIGHT** Khadija Mohsen-Finan, University of Paris VIII; NELC PhD student Allison Blecker (AM '10); and Ali Abdullatif Ahmida, chair of the Department of Political Science, University of New England, at the Moroccan Studies Program symposium.



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# FALL 2011 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from our Fall 2011 roster of seminars, lectures, workshops, and other events.

## FALL 2011 H.A.R. GIBB LECTURE SERIES

The idea that certain kinds of wars can be just, while others can be unjust, is rooted in Aristotle's *Rhetoric*, and explored in the writings of the medieval Muslim philosophers Averroes and Al-Fârâbî. Maroun Aouad, Director of Research, Centre nationale de la recherche scientifique, Paris, and the world's leading specialist of the Arabic reception of Aristotle in the work of Averroes, delivered the 2011 H.A.R. Gibb Lectures on the topic of "Just War According to Arabic Writing Philosophers." Over the course of three days, November 8–10, 2011, Aouad explored the doctrine of *jihad*, just versus unjust warfare, the perfect city, supreme happiness, and the relationship between knowledge and virtue. From these discussions, the audience was given unusual insight into a philosophical question: What is the ultimate aim of warfare? According to Averroes and Al-Fârâbî's understanding of Aristotle, the aim of warfare—if it is just—is "to bring happiness to people."

## THE PROTOCOL OF THE GAZE

What does it mean when we say that we "see" or "look upon" or "gaze at" something? How does the human gaze work, philosophically and theologically, to mediate the space between the beholder and the beheld? These were some of the questions addressed in the November 4–5, 2011 "Protocol of the Gaze" workshop organized by Dr. Maria Pia Di Bella and CMES Director Baber Johansen. Nine American, European, and Indian scholars discussed different domains (ritual, art, philosophy, science and law of different periods, cultures, and religions) trying to define the rules and assumptions that regulate the "visibility" and "invisibility" of actors and objects. The last session discussed the utility and justifiability of the notion of protocol concerning the gaze. The great majority of the participants developed their arguments in favor of that concept.

## ARAB IMMIGRATION

CMES Director Baber Johansen convened a lecture series this year to examine questions around immigration and transnational communities. Three public talks, by Michael Gilsean (NYU) on

South Arab migrants in Singapore, Greg Feldman (University of British Columbia) on migration from African countries to Europe, and Paul Silverstein (Reed College) on migration and the development of Berber consciousness, were held on October 12, 2011, November 30, 2011, and February 24, 2012. The speakers returned to Harvard on April 14, 2012 for a workshop with Harvard faculty. For more information on this initiative, see page 2.

## MIDEAST NEWSREELS ON TUNISIA, PALESTINE, AND YEMEN

The fall 2011 line-up of Mideast Newsreel talks included an October 13, 2011 discussion of Tunisia by Malika Zeghal, a September 14, 2011 talk in which Steve Caton discussed current events in Yemen, and a talk by Herbert Kelman on September 26, 2011 on the Palestinian bid for UN recognition. The series continues to be well attended by Harvard faculty and students as well as the wider Boston community, and prompts lively discussion between the audience and the speakers. Video of all three talks is available on the CMES website.

## POPULAR PROTESTS, GOVERNANCE, AND POLITICAL TRANSITIONS IN THE MAGHREB: ALGERIA, LIBYA, MOROCCO, AND TUNISIA

The CMES Moroccan Studies Program convened a symposium on October 20–21, 2011 on the political consequences of the Tunisian popular uprisings in the Maghreb region. Participants included organizers William Granara and Malika Zeghal, Ali Ahmida (University of New England), Michele Angrist (Union College), John Entelis (Fordham University), Abdeslam Maghraoui (Duke University), and Khadija Mohsen (Université de Paris 8), as well as many graduate students. The symposium consisted of two panels, chaired by Baber Johansen and Roger Owen, on the origins of the Tunisian revolution and "what happens next," and a comparison of popular uprisings in Algeria, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia, followed by a roundtable discussion titled "Democratic Transition Theories: How Can the Arab Revolutions/Reforms Help Rethink Them?" The presenters, most of whom had recently been in the region, represented a variety of disciplinary perspectives including historical, political, and anthropological.





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## AN EVENING WITH DAVID GROSSMAN

The Israeli Law, Literature, and Society Seminar Series, co-sponsored by CMES and the Center for Jewish Studies, hosted a talk by Israeli author David Grossman on November 15, 2011. Grossman's books, which include eight novels and two nonfiction works, have been translated into more than 30 languages and have won numerous prizes. For an audience of over 550 people, Grossman discussed his latest novel to be translated into English, *To the End of Land*, speaking especially about the theme of family and the special place of the Hebrew language in his writings. Video of the talk will be available on the CMES website.

## WORKSHOP ON PLURALISM, COEXISTENCE, AND CONFLICT: MAJORITY AND MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN MUSLIM SOCIETIES

Scholars from across the globe gathered at Harvard University on October 28–29, 2011 to participate in a workshop on pluralism, coexistence, and conflict in Muslim societies. Funded by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, and organized by the Initiative on Contemporary Islamic Societies, the workshop examined the following: How do diverse peoples coexist, and what institutional structures may promote or impede peaceful coexistence? When conflicts occur, how are they understood? How do societies move from coexistence to conflict and back? Discussions included a consideration of the role of political, legal, and theological institutions in mediating between states and diverse constituents, and an examination of “ethno-religious identity,” both Muslim and non-Muslim, as a minority presence in secular states. The final “policy panel” session asked questions such as whether removal of the military from positions of political rule is both necessary and sufficient to bolster a pluralist vision of society, and whether enhanced democratic institutions can ameliorate long-standing obstacles to coexistence between ethnic or religious communities. A video of session highlights will be available online in late spring.

## RELIGION AND DEMOCRATIZATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ARAB SPRING

Sponsored by the Islam in the West Program, this November 10, 2011 symposium featured Murat Borovali (Istanbul Bilgi University), Jocelyne Cesari (Harvard), Robert Hefner (Boston University), and Augustus Norton (Boston University) as speakers, and Malik Mufti (Tufts University) and Denis Sullivan (Northeastern University) as

**TOP ROW, LEFT** Steven C. Caton delivers a Mideast Newsreel talk. **RIGHT** An audience member takes notes at the November 30, 2011 immigration lecture. **SECOND ROW, LEFT** Author David Grossman. **RIGHT** John Entelis, Professor of Political Science, Fordham University, at the Moroccan Studies Program symposium. **THIRD ROW** Jocelyne Cesari; Denis Sullivan, Director, Middle East Center for Peace, Culture, and Development, Northeastern University; and Malik Mufti, Professor, International Relations, Middle East, Tufts University, at the Islam in the West symposium. **BOTTOM ROW, LEFT** Author Hisham Matar. **RIGHT** Bahtiar Effendy, dean of the Faculty of Social and Political Science, State Islamic University, Jakarta, at the ICIS workshop on pluralism.

discussants. Speaking to a packed room, the participants assessed the role of Islam in the transitions taking place in Egypt, Tunisia, and Iraq, and discussed scenarios for possible evolutions. One major point that arose was the necessity of distinguishing democracy from liberalism and avoiding projecting a Western secular experience on the current political development of Muslim majority countries. Video of the symposium is available on the CMES website.

## AUTHOR TALK BY HISHAM MATAR

On November 10, 2011, the CMES Moroccan Studies Program hosted a talk by Libyan author Hisham Matar titled “Men Who Tiptoe into Their Marital Bedroom: The Novelist in a Revolution.” Matar’s novels, which include *In the Country of Men* and *Anatomy of a Disappearance*, deal with parents and children and represent differing points of view across generations. Matar’s talk also shed light on the lives of Libyans living in exile.

## PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

On September 8, 2011, the Outreach Center, the Middle East Initiative at the Harvard Kennedy School, and the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Program organized an academic program on the ten-year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. The program analyzed events and developments of the last ten years and considered possible ways forward. Three Harvard scholars, Jocelyne Cesari, Duncan Kennedy, and Charlie Clements, spoke on the panel. They focused on religious understanding, conceptions of Americanism, legal jurisprudence, and the connection to other past tragedies in America’s history.

## ANNOUNCING THE FALL 2012 H.A.R. GIBB LECTURER



CMES is pleased to announce that Nelly Hanna, professor and chair of the Department of Arabic and Islamic Civilization at the American University in Cairo, will visit Harvard in late October as the 2012 H.A.R. Gibb Lecturer. Professor Hanna’s research focuses on the Ottoman history of the Arab world (1500–1800) with special focus on the

economic, social, and cultural aspects of this period. She is the author of *In Praise of Books, a Cultural History of Cairo’s Middle Class, 16–18th Centuries* (2003), *Making Big Money in 1600: The Life and Times of Isma`il Abu Taqiyya, Egyptian Merchant* (1998), *Habiter au Caire: La Maison Moyenne et ses habitants aux XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles* (1991) and *An Urban History of Bulaq in the Mamluk and Ottoman Periods* (1983). More information about Professor Hanna’s lectures at CMES will be posted on our website as it is available.

## LAW, LOYALTY, AND LEADERSHIP: ROY P. MOTTAHEDEH’S CONTRIBUTION TO MIDDLE EASTERN AND ISLAMIC STUDIES AT HARVARD



On April 12, 2012, CMES held a celebration in honor of Roy P. Mottahedeh, Gurney Professor of History and director of the Center from 1987 to 1990. The celebration began with a public lecture by Fred Donner, professor of Near Eastern history, University of Chicago, titled “How Ecumenical Was Early Islam?” followed by a

public reception and a dinner for Professor Mottahedeh’s current and former colleagues and students. On April 13, 2012 his students gathered for a private lunch with him at CMES. In lieu of a formal *Festschrift*, Professor Mottahedeh’s former students Sarah Savant (Aga Khan University) and Kristen Stilt (Northwestern University) organized a *tabula gratulatoria* of reflections and remembrances written by his colleagues and former students, which can be viewed on the CMES website.

Roy P. Mottahedeh is the recipient of both MacArthur and Guggenheim Fellowships, is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and has been recognized with honorary degrees, lectureships, and awards around the world as one of the leading intellectual historians of pre-modern Iran and the classical and medieval Middle East. His scholarship has laid the groundwork in fields as different as the social and cultural history of the tenth to twelfth-century history of Iranian peoples, an unparalleled and highly influential study in the technical terminology of twentieth century Shi`i law, and last but not least, the concepts of traditions and history that shape the historical and religious consciousness of present-day Shi`i scholars in Iran. He is the author of *Loyalty and Leadership in an Early Islamic Society* (1980), *The Mantle of the Prophet: Religion and Politics in Iran* (1985), and *Lessons in Islamic Jurisprudence* (2003), and the co-editor, with Angeliki E. Laiou, of *The Crusades from the Perspective of Byzantium and the Muslim World* (2001).

CMES was delighted to recognize Professor Mottahedeh’s contributions to the field with this celebration in his honor.

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## PHD STUDENT NEWS

**Sa'ed Atshan** co-led an LGBT delegation from the United States to Palestine in January 2012. **Abby Balbale** is finishing her dissertation with support from a Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies grant. In September 2011, she presented at a workshop on “Political Legitimacy in the Islamic West” at Cambridge University in England, and in December 2011, she organized a roundtable titled “Is Iberia a Middle Eastern Topic?” at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) annual meeting. **Alireza Doostdar** will begin teaching at the University of Chicago Divinity School in fall 2012 as assistant professor of Islamic studies and the anthropology of religion. **Jesse Howell** has been working on his dissertation research at the Croatian State Archives of Dubrovnik. In September 2011 he presented a paper at an international workshop organized by the Art, Space and Mobility Initiative at the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florence, Italy. **Leyla Kayhan** delivered the talk “Tapping Women’s Potential for Sustainable Economic Development” at the United Nations Conference in Istanbul (May 2011). A book she co-edited, *The Balat Ilyas Bey Complex: History, Architecture, and Restoration*, was published in Turkey (Soktas Inc. Company, 2011), and her article “The Chivalric Ethos and Reflections of Masculinity in Early Anatolian Frontier Culture” was published in the *Journal of Turkish Literature* 8 (2011). **Darryl Li** lectured at the University of Gaza, Cornell, and the U.S. Naval Academy and presented papers at the annual meetings of MESA and the American Anthropological Association, as well as the Latina & Latino Critical Legal Theory conference. He will join Columbia University’s Committee on Global Thought as a post-doctoral fellow in fall 2012. **Asher Orkaby** and alumnus **James Esdaile** (PhD ’11) presented a paper at MESA titled “Superpower Antagonism on the Periphery: The Two Yemens During the Cold War.” **Alek Sopov**, a 2011–12 junior fellow at the Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, presented papers at MESA, Boğaziçi University, and Saints Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, Macedonia. **Emrah Yildiz** presented papers last fall at conferences at Orient-Institut Beirut and American University of Beirut. He also received dissertation research funding from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, and completed two semesters of intensive Arabic at the Qasid Institute in Amman, Jordan.

## CMES 2011-12 GRADUATES

### Joint PhD Programs

#### Alireza Doostdar

(Anthropology & MES)

*Dissertation:* “Fantasies of Reason: Science, Superstition, and the Supernatural in Iran”

#### Huseyin Sukru Ilicak

(History & MES)

*Dissertation:* “A Radical Rethinking of Empire: Ottoman State and Society during the Greek War of Independence 1821–1826”

#### Mana Kia

(History & MES)

*Dissertation:* “Contours of Persianate Community, 1722–1835”

### AM Program

#### Jonathan Edwards

#### Elisabeth Johnson

#### Huseyin Konus

#### Scott Liddle

#### Ayse Lokmanoglu

*Thesis:* “The Implications of the Changes in the Elementary School Religious Education in Turkey between the Years 1980–1989”

#### Todd Mostak

*Thesis:* “Social Media as Passive Polling: Using Twitter and Online Forums to Map Islamism in Egypt”

#### Kelby Olson

#### Marian Smith

*Thesis:* “The Cultural Power of Poetry in Late Timurid Iran and its Representation in the Portable Arts”

#### George Somi

*Thesis:* “Beirut’s Reconstruction: Citizens’ Deaths, the Death of Citizenship?”

#### Jarrold Wickline

## OTTOMAN HISTORY STUDENTS ENJOY COOKING LESSONS

Award-winning local chef Ana Sortun, owner of Oleana restaurant and Sofra bakery, came to campus on two evenings this fall to lead cooking demonstrations with Cemal Kafadar’s Ottoman history class, “Ottoman State and Society I (1300–1550).” The class, which included undergraduate and graduate students, prepared dishes in teams under Chef Sortun’s supervision, and then shared the meal together. The first meal, “a fall dinner at the court of Mehmed II,” was based on fifteenth-century menus and recipes, translated and adapted for the class. The second meal featured traditional market food of Ottoman Istanbul—unfortunately, they were unable to procure sheep’s heads for the occasion. Class readings included selections from medieval medical literature, a thirteenth-century cookbook from Baghdad, and articles on the history and ethnography of food.



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LEFT George Theodosiou, Chef Ana Sortun, and CMES PhD student Eda Özel.

## AM STUDENT NEWS

**Scott Liddle** worked with a group of graduate students who won a grant to host this year's Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference at Harvard's Mahindra Humanities Center. The April 13–14, 2012 conference, *How to End a Revolution?*, addressed the ways in which revolutionary periods can give way to new, post-revolutionary orders. **Todd Mostak** presented a paper titled "Social Media as Passive Polling: Using Twitter to Map Islamist Sentiment" at the Center for Geographic Analysis conference *Re-Mapping Africa in GIS: From Humanities to Health* in March 2012. **Alexander Shams** frequently writes op-eds and blog posts for various newspapers and online news sources. His recent pieces include "Not Just Decor: The Struggle for Real Women's Rights in Lebanon," "The Arab Spring Reaches Palestine," and "Terrorism or Thought Crimes?" Three CMES AM students, **Alexander Shams**, **Marian Smith**, and **Rustin Zarkar**, along with CMES PhD student **Elise Burton** formed the Ajam Media Collective, an online space devoted to highlighting the myriad cultural contributions, both high and low, of Iranian, Central Asian, and diaspora communities.

## AM CAREER WORKSHOPS

CMES hosted two AM career workshops in fall 2011, giving current Master's students the opportunity to meet and talk to graduates of the program about their career paths. The first featured Marc Boxser ('04), head of partnerships, Information Technology Industry, at the World Economic Forum. The second workshop featured Kyle McEneaney ('07), vice president at Northern Gulf Partners, the leading merchant bank, alternative asset manager, and provider of financial advisory services in Iraq, and Middle East practice head at the global intelligence and advisory firm Ergo.

## NEW GRADUATE STUDENT WORKSHOP: MIDDLE EAST BEYOND BORDERS

Newly formed in fall 2011, "The Middle East Beyond Borders: Culture, Politics, Religion" is a graduate student workshop that welcomes students from all disciplines to present works at various stages of completion, aiming to challenge and support in a spirit of creative and profound discussion. This year in addition to regular bi-monthly meetings, the group invited two scholars already on campus for a lecture series on Arab immigration (see page 2), Michael Gilsenan and Paul Silverstein, to discuss their own ongoing projects in a workshop setting. "Middle East Beyond Borders" is led by student coordinators **Bethany Kibler** and **Aylin Yildirim Tschoepe**, both first year PhD students at CMES, and faculty organizer Malika Zeghal. Its members include students and postdoctoral fellows from religious studies, history, anthropology, design, sociology, and government. For more information contact Bethany at [bkibler@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:bkibler@fas.harvard.edu).

## 2011 HARVARD COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST

This fall for the second time, CMES sponsored a prize in the Harvard College International Photo Contest for the best photo taken in the Middle East. We awarded first prize to Karen Villegas ('13) for a photo taken in Morocco where she was studying at the Arabic Language Institute. Honorable mentions were awarded to three additional students (see photos below) who were in the Middle East region for study abroad, an exchange program, and with family. For more information visit <http://cmes.hmhc.harvard.edu/node/3022>.



**TOP** First Prize: "Stubborn" by Karen Villegas, taken in Morocco. **SECOND ROW, LEFT** "Moroccan Archway" by Sietse Goffard, taken at the Moulay Ismail Mausoleum in Meknes, Morocco. **RIGHT** "Too Young?" by Victoria Yeh, taken in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of Jerusalem. **BOTTOM ROW** "Smoke" by Punit Shah, taken in Dubai, UAE.

Arabic preceptor **Dalia Abo-Haggag** presented a paper titled “Similarity in the Qur'an” at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting in November 2011, and a paper titled “Repetition in the Qur'an and the Bible” at the international meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in London in July 2011. **Irit Aharony**, senior preceptor of Modern Hebrew, continued to oversee collaboration between the Modern Hebrew language program and Harvard’s Presidential Instructional Technology Fellows (PITF) initiative. Recent projects include online flashcards, robust course websites featuring audio and video language materials, and a “books on tape” program in which students can read Hebrew texts that are part of the curriculum while listening to them. **Ali Asani**, professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic religion and cultures and chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations was appointed director of the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Islamic Studies Program in fall 2011. The program hosted this year’s Alwaleed bin Talal Centers meeting in February 2012, which included a visit by Prince Alwaleed bin Talal and Princess Ameerah al-Taweel. Professor Asani published “Enhancing Religious Literacy in a Liberal Education through the Study of Islam and Muslim Societies” in *Harvard Sampler: Liberal Education for the Twenty-First Century* (Harvard University Press, 2011) and gave lectures at the Harvard Club of Western Pennsylvania; the Temple Church, London; the Aga Khan Development Network, London; the Harvard Graduate School of Education; and Georgia Institute of Technology. CMES associate **Don Babai** spent November and December 2011 in Riyadh, completing the first phase of a large-scale quantitative survey of family-owned firms in Saudi Arabia for *Business and the State in Saudi Arabia: Beyond Patriarchy?* which he is co-authoring with former CMES fellow Khalid Al Yahya. **Steven C. Caton**, professor of contemporary Arab studies, taught a new course in fall 2011 titled “The Anthropology of Arabia.” Professor Caton presented a paper titled “The Demon of Qat: Who is to Blame for Yemen’s Water Insecurity and Why” and served as a discussant at Biosecurity and Vulnerability, an advanced seminar at the School for Advanced Research, October 9–13, 2011. **Jocelyne Cesari**, CMES research associate, director of the Islam in the West program, and Minerva Chair at the National Defense University, has been nominated Senior Visiting Professor of Religion and International Relations at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at John Hopkins University (2012–2013). Dr. Cesari was a panelist for “Scholars and the Public Representations of Islam in the United States: The Park 51 Mosque Controversy and the Peter

King Hearings on the Radicalization of American Muslims” at the American Academy of Religion annual meeting on November 19, 2011; for the Islam in the West symposium on November 10 (see page 4); and for a discussion on the impact of 9/11 on Britain, Europe, and the U.S. at Johns Hopkins University on November 16. **William Graham**, dean of the Harvard Divinity School, Albertson Professor of Middle Eastern Studies (FAS), and John Lord O’Brian Professor of Divinity (HDS), contributed a preface in memory of Annemarie Schimmel for a collection of papers on Amir Khusrau from a 1987 conference that Professor Schimmel helped to organize. **William Granara**, professor of the practice of Arabic, visited Tunisia in January 2012 for the celebration of the one-year anniversary of the Tunisian revolution. He published an article titled “A Postcard from Tunis: One Year Later,” describing the celebration and the city on Jadaliyya.com. **Wolfhart P. Heinrichs**, James Richard Jewett Professor of Arabic, attended the symposium on Religious Diversity in Chinese Thought at the University of Münster (Westfalen) in October 2011, where he gave a short presentation on Xiao-er-jin (writing Chinese with Arabic letters). CMES Director and Professor of Islamic Religious Studies **Baber Johansen** continues to lead the CMES Working Group on Transformative Movements of the Arab World (see page 1). November 4–5, 2011 Baber Johansen and Dr. Maria Pia Di Bella (Paris/EHESS) organized a workshop on “The Protocol on the Gaze” (see page 3). Professor Johansen gave the opening lecture on “The Protocol of the Gaze.” Professor Johansen gave a talk titled “The Limits of Change and Contingency in the History of Muslim Law” at Georgetown University on October 6, 2011. On October 27–30, 2011 he participated in an international conference at Chicago University on “Images of the Divine and Cultural Orientation: Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Perspectives” where he lectured on “Invisibility and Power in Islamic Religion and Culture.” At the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association he gave, in a session titled “Does City Air Make One Free?” *Urban Identity and the Revolutionary Moment* (organized by Drs. Maria Pia Di Bella and Ulrich Ufer), a lecture on “Tahrir Square ‘Where they breathed the Air of Freedom.’” Vehbi Koç Professor of Turkish Studies **Cemal Kafadar** co-edited, with Nevra Necipoğlu, volume 36 of the *Journal of Turkish Studies*. The volume was dedicated to the memory of Angeliki E. Laiou, Dumbarton Oaks Professor of Byzantine History at Harvard University (1981–2008) and Director of Dumbarton Oaks (1989–1998), who left a strong imprint on the field of Byzantine studies. CMES Associate Director **Susan Kahn**’s book chapter “A



ALISON HOWE



WILLIAM GRANARA



Dog Without a People for a People Without a Dog” on the first Zionist dog trainer in Palestine is forthcoming in *A Jew’s Best Friend? The Image of the Dog throughout Jewish History*, Phillip Ackerman-Lieberman and Rakefet Zalashik, eds., Sussex Academic Press. **Chad Kia**, lecturer on Persian literature and culture, presented two papers: “Sufi Allegory and Representation before the Consolidation of Safavid Shi`ism,” at Harvard University, and “Allegory and Image in the Eastern Islamic World at the Turn of the Sixteenth Century” at the University of Georgia’s Visual Culture Colloquium. Arabic preceptor **Nevenka Korica Sullivan** completed work on *Umm Dunya*, an advanced level Egyptian Arabic textbook co-authored with Abbas Al-Tonsi and Heba Salem, forthcoming in 2012 from AUC Press. She also reviewed the translation from Arabic into Serbian of Naguib Mahfouz’s *Children of the Alley*, which will be published in Serbia this year. CMES research associate **Ahmad Mahdavi-Damghani** published a collection of his various articles titled *In the Memory of Companions and Rain Drops (Yadeh Yaran va Qatreh hayeh Baran)* in Iran in 2011. CMES associate **Lenore Martin** co-edited a special issue of *Turkish Studies* (vol. 12.4, 2011) on “Turkey and the Middle East” and wrote an article for the issue with Meliha B. Altunişik titled “Making Sense of Turkish Foreign Policy in the Middle East under AKP.” Dr. Martin was the keynote speaker at a NATO-sponsored conference, Security and Cross-Border Cooperation in the EU, Black Sea Region and the Southern Caucasus, at Middle East Technical University, Ankara in September 2011. In November, she contributed to a *New York Times* “Room for Debate” feature on “Why Turkey Turned Away From Syria.” **Susan Miller**, CMES associate and associate professor of history, University of California, Davis, has a book forthcoming from Cambridge University Press in fall 2012 titled *A History of Modern Morocco*. **Roy P. Mottahedeh**, Gurney Professor of History, published an essay titled “The Idea of Iran in the Buyid Dominions” in *Early Islamic Iran* (The Idea of Iran, vol. 5, I.B. Tauris, 2011) and delivered a lecture titled “Friendship in Islamic Moral Philosophy” at Oberlin College on November 7, 2011. **Afsaneh Najmabadi**, Francis Lee Higginson Professor of History and of Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, published the article “Verdicts of Science, Rulings of Faith: Transgender/sexuality in Contemporary Iran” in *Social Research* 78.2 (Summer 2011) and delivered talks in the fall at Brown University, Tehran University, and the International Conference on Women in the Islamic World in Tehran. Her book *Sex-in-Change: Configurations of Sexuality and Gender in Contemporary Iran* is forthcoming from Duke University

Press in 2012. **Gülru Necipoğlu**, Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art and director of the Aga Khan Program of Islamic Architecture, organized, with Professor Alina Payne, a conference titled Ornament as Portable Culture: Between Globalism and Localism held April 12–14, 2012 at Harvard. In November 2011, Professor Necipoğlu arranged a one-day meeting at the Harvard University History of Art and Architecture Department bringing together all the Aga Khan professors with Aga Khan Foundation (Geneva) and Aga Khan Museum (Toronto) directors and curators to discuss future collaborations. On January 8, 2012, she gave the opening lecture at a conference titled Oleg Grabar’s Contributions to the History of Turkish and Islamic Art/Architecture, held in honor of Oleg Grabar at Sakıp Sabancı Museum on the anniversary of his death. A.J. Meyer Professor of Middle Eastern History **Roger Owen** was awarded the 2011 Giorgio Levi Della Vida medal for excellence in Islamic Studies from the Gustav E. von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies at UCLA. The medal will be presented to Professor Owen at a scholarly conference on “Structures of Personalized Power in the Modern Middle East: Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Party Bosses” held at UCLA May 24 & 25, 2012. Professor Owen delivered a lecture titled “The Year of Egypt’s Second Revolution, the Balance Sheet So Far” at the London School of Economics on January 9, 2012, and published several op-eds and articles in publications including *Al-Hayat* newspaper, *Egypt Independent*, and the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. Professor Owen’s new book *The Rise and Fall of Arab Presidents for Life* (Harvard University Press, 2012) will be available in May. **David Roxburgh**, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor of Islamic Art History, participated in the Clark Art Institute conference In the Wake of the Global Turn: Propositions for an Exploded Art History without Borders in November 2011 where he spoke about the introduction of photography to Iran in the 1840s and the impact of the new medium on painting. In spring 2012 he presented two talks—on Turkman arts of the book and Timurid architectural epigraphy—at events sponsored by the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture. He published several short essays in 2011 and continues to work on his study of text and image in medieval Arabic manuscripts. CMES associate **Sara Roy** visited the Netherlands in January 2012 to lecture at the University of Groningen and the University of Amsterdam. While there she also had private meetings with two Dutch members of parliament on issues related to the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Dr. Roy’s recent book *Hamas and Civil Society in Gaza: Engaging the Islamist Social Sector*



ANNA KRESLAVSKAYA



ROSE LINCOLN

**PREVIOUS PAGE, LEFT** Cemal Kafadar and Roger Owen at Professor Owen’s last lecture class in November 2011. **MIDDLE** A celebration in Tunis on the one-year anniversary of the Tunisian revolution. **RIGHT** CMES Director Baber Johansen at the CMES Fall Reception. **THIS PAGE** Jamal Khashoggi of the Alarab news channel, Ali Asani, Vice Provost for International Affairs Jorge Dominguez, Harvard Provost Alan Garber, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, Harvard President Drew Faust, Princess Ameerah al-Taweel, and Noor al-Dabbagh, Alwaleed Foundation.

(Princeton University Press, 2011) was reviewed in *The Economist* in August 2011. She contributed an article about Hamas to *The Hill*'s "Congress Blog" in January 2012. **Hashim Sarkis**, Aga Khan Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urbanism in Muslim Societies, delivered lectures titled "The World According to Architecture," at the Ecole Speciale D'Architecture in Paris, and "Bleu Outremer," at a conference commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of Le Corbusier's visit to Istanbul. He also gave a lecture at the "Architecture and Knowledge" series at Harvard on his forthcoming book, "A Second Functionalism: Form, Flexibility and the Design of Schools in the United States during the 1950s." A pavilion by his design firm, Hashim Sarkis Studios, was exhibited at the Shenzhen/Hong Kong Biennale of 2011. Turkish preceptor **Himmet Taskomur** presented "From Great Sedition to Great Revolution: Ottoman Responses to the French Revolution" at the conference Well-Connected Domains: Intersections of Asia and Europe in the Ottoman Empire in Heidelberg in November 2011. He also participated in two recent workshops: one on Ottoman intellectual history organized by Sabancı University and the Center for Islamic Studies in Istanbul, and a second on the problem of Ottoman literary writing. Arabic preceptor **Paul Wulfsberg** has been working recently as an Arabic-English contract interpreter for State Department visitors from the Arab world, and is serving on CET Academic Programs' advisory board for their study abroad program in Irbid, Jordan. Persian preceptor **Dalia Yasharpour** published *The Haggadah of the Kaifeng Jews of China* (Brill, 2011) co-authored with Fook-Kong Wong. **Malika Zeghal**, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor in Contemporary Islamic Thought and Life, presented "The Islamists in the Tunisian Revolution and Transition: Religion, Public Order, and Secularism" at MESA in December 2011, and gave two talks: "From Popular Uprisings to Political Transition: Reflections on the Tunisian Revolution," Princeton University, November 22, 2011, and "Religion and Politics in North Africa: Islamist Movements and Parties in the Political Process," Smith College, November 14, 2011. Professor Zeghal also organized, with Professor Granara, a conference for the Moroccan Studies Program (see page 3).

**BELOW** Back Row: Baber Johansen, Jack Fairweather, Yoav Mehozay, Murat Borovali, and Çiğdem Benam; Front Row: Masayuki Ueno, Fariba Parsa, Susan Kahn, and Zhiyu Li.



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For information about the visiting researcher program, please visit <http://cmes.hmdc.harvard.edu/about/visiting-researchers>.

## 2011-12 VISITING RESEARCHERS

### Visiting Scholars

**Murat Borovali**'s work focuses on the presence of religion in the public square and the nature of secularism in a liberal democracy.

**Koray Durak** researches Byzantine and medieval Islamic trade and networks of exchange, historical geography, geographical imagination in the Middle Ages, and medieval imperial ideology.

**Mahdi Farhani Monfared** works on the use of criticism in history, with functional examples based on local historiography of medieval Iran.

**Zhiyu Li** focuses on Turkey's domestic and foreign affairs, as well as other Middle East countries.

### Visiting Fellows

**Lala Aliyeva** studies the ethnic and religious processes in the Caucasus in the medieval period.

**Ata Anzali** is investigating the socio-cultural forces behind the rise of the term *irfan*, at the expense of the traditional term *tasawwuf*, in contemporary Persian literature.

**Jack Fairweather** finished his book, *A War of Choice: The British in Iraq 2003–9* (Jonathan Cape, 2011), aided by access to the Harvard libraries.

**Erol Özvar** is studying the effects of *riba* (Islamic usury ban) on private and public finance in the Ottoman Empire in the pre-modern period.

### Post-Doctoral Fellows

**Naor Ben-Yehoyada** studies the historical anthropology of region formation in the Mediterranean, specifically between Sicily and Tunisia and in the Levant in the twentieth century.

**Çiğdem Benam** works on Turkish-Iranian relations in the post-Cold War era, specifically Turkish policies on Iran under the rule of the Justice and Development Party.

**Yoav Mehozay**'s research centers on the relationship between law and power. His current study looks at the role of emergency powers in Israel's transformation into a free market economy.

**Fariba Parsa** is working on an analysis of the concept of "secularism" in Iran, its links to European and American debates on the concept, and its effect on their conceptual world.

**Özlem Sert**'s project has been to reconstruct and document the everyday lives of the inhabitants of the sixteenth-century Ottoman town of Rodosçuk in the Eastern Roman Empire.

**Masayuki Ueno** studies the Armenian Patriarchate in nineteenth-century Ottoman society: its relations with provincial Armenians, other authorities in the Armenian Church, and foreign missionaries.

## AM ALUMNI NEWS & UPDATES

**Charles D. Smith** ('60), former head of the Near Eastern Studies Department at the University of Arizona, retired as professor of Middle East history in May 2011. He remains professionally active and is publishing the eighth edition of his *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (forthcoming August 2012) and a chapter titled "The United States and the 1967 War" in *The 1967 War: Origins and Consequences* (Cambridge University Press, 2012). **Stephen Ortega** ('94) teaches Middle Eastern and world history as an associate professor at Simmons College, where he recently accepted a tenured teaching appointment. **Alexander Schrank** ('01) has been a foreign service officer with the U.S. State Department since 2004, and recently served as Turkey desk officer in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs (2009–2011). He is now working at the U.S. Embassy in Paris. **Sarah Yerkes** ('03) published two chapters in *The Arab Awakening: America and the Transformation of the Middle East* (Brookings Inst. Press, 2011): "Making Reform Credible: The Critical Piece of the Puzzle," co-authored with Stephen R. Grand, Shadi Hamid, and Kenneth Pollack, and "Morocco: The Model for Reform?" She is currently completing her PhD in government at Georgetown University. **Aaron Bernay** ('05) is an associate with the law firm of Frost Brown Todd LLC in Cincinnati, Ohio, specializing in business litigation and cross-border transactions. He also serves as the U.S. representative to the Young Lawyers Committee of the International Bar Association, and presented at the IBA's annual conference in Dubai in November 2011.

## PHD ALUMNI NEWS & UPDATES

Three CMES alumni, **Koray Durak** ('08), **Nadia Maria El Cheikh** ('92), and **Dimitris Kastritsis** ('05), contributed papers to the *Journal of Turkish Studies* 36 (December 2011) (see page 8). **Surin Pitsuwan** ('82) is the secretary-general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). He brought prominent world leaders, including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, U.S. President Barack Obama, China Premier Wen Jiabao and numerous others to the recent 19th ASEAN Summit. **Ghada Osman** ('01) published *A Journey in Islamic Thought: The Life of Fathi Osman* (I.B. Tauris, 2011). The book chronicles the life of Fathi Osman (1928–2010), an Egyptian-born thinker at the forefront of Islamic reformism for five decades. **Cemil Aydin** ('02) accepted a tenured teaching appointment beginning January 2012 at the History Department of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. **Aida Othman** ('05) reported that since completing her postdoctoral fellowship at FAS in 2006 she has been working for Messrs. Zaid Ibrahim and Co. in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She is a partner there, and also manages ZI Shariah Advisory Services. **Kristin Smith Diwan** ('06), assistant professor of Middle East politics at American University, has been analyzing the impact of the Arab uprisings on the Gulf states in articles for *Foreign Affairs* ("Bahrain's Shia Question") and *Foreign Policy* ("Reform or the Flood in the Gulf," "Kuwait's Impatient Youth," and "Constitutional Showdown in Kuwait"), and in an appearance on Al-Jazeera English's *The Stream*. **Zahra Jamal** ('08) has been named a fellow at the

DC-based think tank Institute for Social Policy and Understanding and a gender specialist for USAID. She was recently called on to advise Special Representative Farah Pandith of the U.S. Department of State on opportunities for American Muslim engagement. The book to which she contributed, *I Speak for Myself*, was named by the Huffington Post as the #1 nonfiction book on religion in 2011. **Martin Nguyen** ('09) has published *Sufi Master and Qur'an Scholar: Abū'l-Qasim al-Qushayrī and the Latā'if al-Ishārāt* (Oxford University Press, 2012), the first extensive examination of the medieval Qur'an commentary known as the Latā'if al-Ishārāt and the first critical biography of its author, the famous spiritual master Abū'l-Qasim al-Qushayrī. **Sukru Ilicak** ('11) began a post-doctoral fellowship in January 2012 at the A. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation in Athens, Greece. **Mana Kia** ('11) is currently at the Center for the History of Emotions at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, where she is working on a project on friendship, love, and loyalty in eighteenth and early nineteenth century Persia, West and South Asia. In the summer of 2013 she will join the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies at Columbia University as an assistant professor.

## CMES@MESA

CMES graduate students, faculty, alumni, visiting researchers, and affiliates participated in over 60 panels during the MESA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, December 1–4, 2011.

TOP ROW, LEFT Cemal Kafadar talks to a guest at the CMES MESA reception. TOP ROW, RIGHT PhD student Rubina Salikuddin.

BOTTOM ROW Afsaneh Najmabadi and CMES PhD student Bethany Kibler.



JENNIFER GORDON



JENNIFER GORDON



SARAH STOLL

# THE OUTREACH CENTER

The CMES Outreach Center's main areas of focus for the 2011–12 academic year have been the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy and studying the evolving situation of transformative events in the Arab world. We held webinars for teachers, public panels, and on-campus workshops to discuss these subjects and their application in the K-12 classroom and beyond. Webinars were an increasingly important part of our education efforts this year. Featuring artists from the region involved with comics and graphic novels as well as street art and Arabic calligraphy, faculty researching religious pluralism and Iranian modernity, and Center staff and teachers on the role of the Arab transformation in the classroom, they connected Outreach's work and resources to participants around the U.S. and globally. In late March 2012, we hosted Tunisian-born street artist eL Seed for a live on-campus demonstration of his "calligraffiti"-style art. We continue to partner with local libraries, community groups, and schools to provide talks and facilitate school visits to Harvard museums. Our cross-campus Middle East Film Series, which screens films in the main Middle Eastern languages taught at Harvard, also continued this year.

For next year, the Outreach Center will focus on issues related to sustainability in the Middle East region, leveraging some of the research and teaching being done on campus on sustainable building, water, and employment issues in the region. This topic will allow a diverse range of resources to be discussed and learned from through workshops, webinars, and online content.

—Paul Beran, Outreach Center Director

**TOP ROW, LEFT** Teacher Amy Howland at an October 2011 workshop on the Arab Spring. **RIGHT** Sara Roy at a signing for her book *Hamas and Civil Society in Gaza: Engaging the Islamist Social Sector*. **MIDDLE ROW** Artist eL Seed at Harvard. **BOTTOM ROW** Anna Mudd, Outreach Curriculum Coordinator, in an educator webinar on literature in translation with William Granara.



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**Attention Alumni:** Send your news and contact/email updates to Sarah Stoll at [sstoll@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:ssoll@fas.harvard.edu).



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