

# CMES

## NEWSLETTER

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

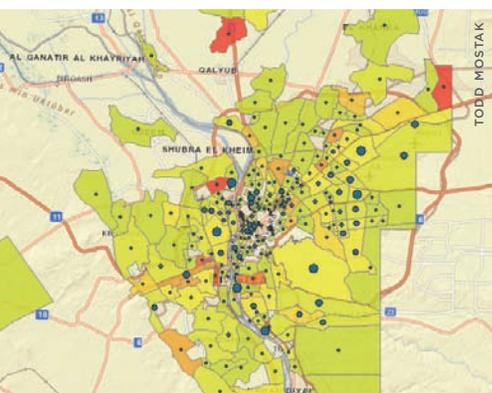
SPRING 2013



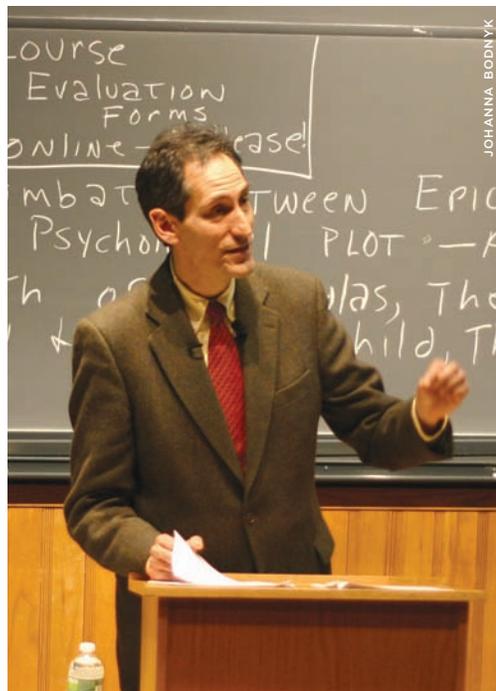
ROSE LINCOLN



ELIZABETH FLANAGAN



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### DEAR CMES COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS,

As I approach the end of my term as the Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, I am pleased to report on some of our accomplishments during the past three years as well as on our upcoming plans for this spring.

In 2011 in the wake of the Arab Spring, I formed the Working Group on Arab Transformative Movements, comprising an interdisciplinary group of faculty from Harvard and other area universities. With generous support from the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Dean of the Division of Social Science, and the Donald T. Regan Lecture Fund, the

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working group has invited a number of prominent scholars and experts who study or have participated in the Arab transformations to meet with its members and to deliver public talks at Harvard. These include Yadh Ben Achour, former head of the High Authority for the Achievement of Revolution Objectives in Tunisia; Bassam Haddad of George Mason University; Sami Zubaida, professor emeritus at Birkbeck College, University of London; and Samir Makdisi and Rami G. Khouri of the American University in Cairo. Nelly Hanna, Distinguished University Professor at the American University of Cairo and Fall 2012 H.A.R. Gibb lecturer (see page 4), met with the working group during her visit to Harvard in October to share her experience of the Egyptian revolution. In February 2013, working group members Roger Owen and Yoram Meital, of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, organized a workshop titled “Political Transformation in North Africa: Egypt, Libya, Tunisia” which brought together a select group of politicians, financial advisers, and journalists to discuss economic and political challenges and constitution-making processes. In late April CMES will host a visit by Adel Omar Sherif,

deputy chief justice of Egypt’s Supreme Constitutional Court. He will give a public lecture for undergraduates and other members of the Harvard community (see <http://bit.ly/WkDroH> for details) and a lecture before the working group. And coming up in June will be a workshop on “Arab Expatriates and Revolt in their Homeland,” which I am organizing under the auspices of the working group in conjunction with Philippe Fargues, director of the European University Institute’s Migration Policy Center.

Several other new series and programs have been inaugurated during the past two and a half years which have opened new areas of research and made the work of the Center’s faculty and students more accessible to our community and the general public. In 2011–12, I convened a lecture series and workshop to examine questions around immigration and transnational communities; the theme of migration continues as a topic of study this year in the seminar on Arab expatriates mentioned above. The Mideast Newsreel, a new lecture series begun in 2010–11, has offered audiences a chance to hear from renowned experts on contemporary Middle East

issues. And a series of student panels has given advanced PhD students working on the Middle East the opportunity to present their research and receive feedback from CMES faculty and researchers.

With Maria Pia Di Bella (IRIS-EHESS, Paris), I organized a November 2011 conference on “The Protocol of the Gaze.” I also organized a conference on “Christian-Jewish and Muslim-Christian-Jewish Relations in the Fields of Finance and Economy (12th–16th Century Europe)” held February 2011. Follow-up conferences on both topics are currently in the planning stages. Also since fall 2010, Center affiliates have held CMES-sponsored conferences and workshops on the Mediterranean, water, political transition in the Maghreb, pluralism, and the Arab Spring. This May we will hold a workshop on Jewish studies in the Arab world, bringing together professors of Jewish studies from universities in Egypt and Morocco with American and Canadian Jewish studies faculty.

Over the past two and a half years we have also begun the work of strengthening the visiting researcher program, and have enjoyed the contributions of each year’s cohort of visiting

scholars to the academic life of the Center.

While much has been accomplished, new financial realities have presented an ongoing challenge. The financial crisis of 2008/09 and a 40% cut in funding received from the Department of Education have combined to create new financial constraints for CMES. The Center’s focus going forward must include the building of new partnerships and strategies to enable CMES to continue its important work of fostering knowledge and study of the Middle East at Harvard.

My term as director will end this summer, and I am pleased to announce William Granara, Professor of the Practice of Arabic on the Gordon Gray Endowment, as CMES’s new incoming director, for a three-year term beginning July 2013. Professor Granara knows the Center well, having served on its steering committee since 1994 and as the director of the Moroccan Studies Program for the past three years. I look forward to working with him and to his stewardship of CMES going forward.

—Baber Johansen,  
CMES Director



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# FALL 2012 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## FOCUS ON: ARAB TRANSFORMATION

CMES held a series of public lectures in the fall of 2012 focusing on the ongoing transformations in the Arab world.

### The Syrian Revolution: What Lies Ahead?

September 6, 2012

**Murhaf Jouejati**, Professor of Middle East Studies, National Defense University, and member of the Syrian National Council<sup>1</sup>

### Religion, Revolution, and Constitution: The Case of Tunisia

September 17, 2012

**Yadh Ben Achour**, Head of the High Authority for the Achievement of the Revolution Objectives, Tunisia<sup>2</sup>

Video available at <http://bit.ly/XxAH7S>

### A Woman in the Crossfire: Diaries of the Syrian Revolution

September 21, 2012

A book talk by author **Samar Yazbek**<sup>3,4</sup>

### Reconstituting Egypt: Political, Economic, and Security Challenges

October 4, 2012

**Denis Sullivan**, Professor, Director of the International Affairs Program, and Director of the Middle East Center for Peace, Culture, and Development, Northeastern University<sup>1</sup>

### Yemen in Transition: Challenges and Opportunities

October 19–20, 2012

A conference organized by **Steven C. Caton**, Khalid Bin Abdullah Bin Abdulrahman Al Saud Professor of Contemporary Arab Studies, and the Yemen Working Group

Video available at <http://bit.ly/15eZGzd>

### Political Islam in Post–Ben Ali Tunisia

November 15, 2012

**Malika Zeghal**, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor of Contemporary Islamic Thought and Life, Harvard University<sup>1</sup>

### The Syrian Revolution as Seen from Inside

November 28, 2012

**Christina Lassen**, Fellow at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs; former Ambassador from Denmark to Syria and Jordan

### Can Egypt Reconstitute Itself? Archeology, Engineering, and Politics

November 29, 2012

**Nathan Brown**, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, George Washington University<sup>1</sup>

Audio recording available at <http://bit.ly/XX2HOu>

### The Egyptian Revolutions and Defining the New Normals

December 3, 2012

**Jon B. Alterman**, Zbigniew Brzezinski Chair in Global Security and Geostrategy and Director, Middle East Program, Center for Strategic & International Studies

Video available at <http://bit.ly/15eZOHS>

### Political and Economic Challenges in the Arab Transitions

December 6, 2012

**Melani Cammett**, Associate Professor of Political Science, Brown University; CMES Visiting Scholar<sup>3</sup>

Video available at <http://bit.ly/YTGUbe>

### The Limits of Human Rights Advocacy: Syria and the Blowback of the Arab Spring

December 6, 2012

**Sarah Leah Whitson**, Executive Director, Middle East & North Africa Division, Human Rights Watch<sup>1</sup>

### Why Did Iran's Green Movement Fail and the Arab Spring Triumph?

December 6, 2012

**Ali Banuazizi**, Professor of Political Science, Boston College, and Director of the Program in Islamic Civilization and Societies<sup>4</sup>

### The Arab Uprisings: An Analytical Framework

December 11, 2012

**James L. Gelvin**, Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History, University of California, Los Angeles<sup>5</sup>

Video available at <http://bit.ly/XaQOXT>

<sup>1</sup> Presented by the WCFLA/CMES Middle East Seminar. <sup>2</sup> Presented by the Working Group on Arab Transformative Movements. <sup>3</sup> Co-sponsored by the Middle East Initiative, Harvard Kennedy School. <sup>4</sup> Presented by the Mideast Newsreel series. <sup>5</sup> Presented by the CMES Middle East Forum.



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**COVER: TOP** 2012 H.A.R. Gibb Lecturer Nelly Hanna and CMES Director Baber Johansen. **MIDDLE, LEFT** The audience at Ali Banuazizi's Mideast Newsreel talk. **RIGHT** Jon B. Alterman. **BOTTOM** Mapping Islamist sentiment in Cairo, from Todd Mostak's AM thesis. Full map at <http://bit.ly/XMcGut>; story on page 11.

**FACING PAGE: LEFT** Christina Lassen. **MIDDLE** Nathan Brown. **RIGHT** Yemen in Transition conference panelists Elham Manea, Political Science Institute, University of Zurich; Sheila Carapico, University of Richmond; and Thanos Petouris, School of Oriental & African Studies London.

**THIS PAGE: LEFT** James L. Gelvin. **RIGHT** Roger Owen, Jon B. Alterman, and Susan Kahn.



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ABOVE, TOP Nelly Hanna and CMES Director Baber Johansen. BOTTOM William Granara, CMES alumna Sahar Bazzaz (PhD '02), and CMES PhD student Han Hsien Liew at Nelly Hanna's Gibb lecture.

## FALL 2012 H.A.R. GIBB LECTURES

Nelly Hanna, Distinguished University Professor and chair of the Department of Arabic and Islamic Civilizations at the American University in Cairo, visited Harvard in October to deliver the 2012 H.A.R. Gibb Lecture Series. Professor Hanna delivered two lectures (the third being unfortunately cancelled due to weather), titled “The Local and the Global in the Lives of 18th-century Artisans” and “Artisans, Spies, and Manufacturers: 18th-century East-West Transfers of Technology.” The first lecture drew attention to the transfer of technical knowledge from the Middle East to Europe during the 18th century. The second one focused on the multiplication and intensification of world trade connections in the 17th and 18th centuries. Nelly Hanna indicated that in this period relations within the Cairo guild system and the accounting practices of the foundations to which the guilds were connected were increasingly monetarized. Both lectures gave rise to useful and animated discussions. The first lecture was preceded by a reception in her honor attended by faculty, students, and researchers. During her stay Professor Hanna also met with the members of the Working Group on Arab Transformative Movements to discuss her experience during the 2011 Egyptian revolution.

## UPCOMING SPRING 2012 EVENTS

Check out our calendar at <http://bit.ly/W9pxIy> for upcoming events including lectures by Malika Zeghal (April 8) and Ousmane Kane (April 25) for our spring lecture series “Updates on the Arab Transformative Movements,” and a lecture for the Working Group on Arab Transformative Movements by Adel Omar Sherif (April 25).

## WELCOME TO OUTREACH DIRECTOR SARAH MEYRICK

CMES is very pleased to welcome, after an extensive search, our new Director of Outreach Sarah Meyrick. A Massachusetts native, Meyrick has BAs in political science and Middle Eastern studies from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and an MA in Near Eastern studies from New York University. She has travelled extensively in the region and is conversant in Arabic. Her Senior Honors thesis, “Neoliberalism in a Digital Political Age: Queen Rania of Jordan’s YouTube Channel,” and Master’s thesis, “How Democracy Promotion is Practiced in Post-2003 Iraq,” were presented at the 2010 and 2011 MESA annual meetings. Meyrick joins CMES from the Institute for Middle East Studies (IMES) at George Washington University, where she was responsible for K-12 outreach and for managing IMES’s U.S. Department of Education Title VI NRC grant. Meyrick will continue to build upon the excellent work of the CMES Outreach Center as she looks for ways to expand its reach to even greater constituencies in the New England region and beyond. A particular focus of Sarah’s work here will be to continue to broaden relationships with area K-12 teachers, community college instructors, and the general public as we enter the next competition for renewal of our own Department of Education Title VI NRC grant in 2014.

—Lauren Montague, CMES Executive Director



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ABOVE Outreach Director Sarah Meyrick.

## FALL 2012 OUTREACH EVENTS

### WATER IN CONTEXT

This one-day workshop for K-12 educators, run by the CMES Outreach Center, explored the role of water in the Middle East region through the lenses of anthropology, remote sensing, GIS, and quantitative analysis. Presenters at the September 28, 2012 workshop included Jeffrey Blossom, senior GIS specialist, Center for Geographic Analysis at Harvard; Steven C. Caton, Khalid Bin Abdullah Bin Abdulrahman Al Saud Professor of Contemporary Arab Studies, Harvard University; Jason Ur, John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences, Harvard University; and Farouk El-Baz, director of the Center for Remote Sensing and research professor at the Departments of Archaeology and Electrical and Computer Engineering, Boston University. Recordings of the presentations, along with viewing guides with discussion questions for the K-12 classroom, are available at <http://bit.ly/WVcYLU>.

### GLOBAL LITERATURE ONLINE BOOK GROUP

Building on its success in 2011–12 with webinar-based online workshops, the CMES Outreach Center partnered with six other Harvard area studies centers this year to hold a year-long online book group aimed at K-12 educators. For each session, participants read a book chosen by the “host” center, then a join a live web-based discussion with the book’s author and/or a faculty member specializing in that area of the world. The first session, held August 16, 2012 and hosted by CMES, featured Margaret Litvin, assistant professor of Arabic and comparative literature at Boston University, discussing Hisham Matar’s *In the Country of Men*. More information about the program can be found on the CMES website at <http://bit.ly/13bKUen> and in the *Harvard Gazette* at <http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2012/09/the-book-club-goes-online/>.

### THE CLASH OF (MIS)UNDERSTANDINGS

On November 15, 2012, the Outreach Center held an online webinar for K-12 educators titled “The Clash of (Mis)understandings: A K-12 Educator Webinar Exploring the Roots of Anti-American and Anti-Muslim Sentiments in our World.” Co-sponsored with the Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program (AISP), the webinar featured Ali Asani, AISP director and professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic religion and cultures, and Malika Zeghal, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor in Contemporary Islamic Thought and Life. An audio recording of Professor Asani’s presentation is available at <http://bit.ly/W9pRHc>.



**TOP** Farouk El-Baz. **CENTER** Curriculum Coordinator Anna Mudd presents a poster on the Outreach Center’s water workshop at an October 2012 Radcliffe Institute conference. **BOTTOM** Jason Ur.

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Arabic Preceptor **Dalia Abo-Haggag** presented a paper titled “The Queen of Sheba, the Hoopoe, and the Ant: A Structural Analysis of the Role of the Story of Solomon in Surat al-Naml” at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting in November 2012. CMES Associate **Don Babai** spent a month in Saudi Arabia in late 2012 doing research for his book on business and the state in the kingdom, and gave a talk on Saudi employment policies and energy subsidies at a majlis in Riyadh attended by notables, university professors, and embassy officials. **Steven C. Caton** was recently named the Khalid bin Abdullah bin Abdulrahman Al Saud Professor of Contemporary Arab Studies at Harvard University. A reference book on Yemen which he edited and contributed to will be published this spring by ABC-Clip Press. With the Yemen Working Group, Professor Caton organized a two-day conference titled “Yemen in Transition: Challenges and Opportunities” held at Harvard October 19–20, 2012. CMES Research Associate **Jocelyne Cesari** was chosen as a Global Ethics Fellow by the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, and organized a January 28, 2013 conference titled Civil Rights in Muslim Democracies at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs at Georgetown University. Dr. Cesari spoke at the Middle East Policy Council’s 70<sup>th</sup> Capitol Hill Conference, titled The Middle East: Policy Choices for the New Administration, on October 17, 2012, and published a November 17, 2012 piece on the anti-Muhammad movie protests in a *Washington Post* blog. On September 28th, at the annual conference of the *Journal of Law and Religion* at Hamline University in Minneapolis, Albertson Professor of Middle Eastern Studies **William Graham** was presented with the journal’s annual “Lifetime Achievement Award” for his scholarship in Islamic studies and the history of religion. Professor of the Practice of Arabic **William Granara** was invited to join an international committee convened by the Office of the Prime Minister in the United Arab Emirates to advise the UAE government on the renewal and promotion of the Arabic language in the Arab world. He traveled to Dubai in September, November and recently in January. He is working with the committee especially on issues pertaining to the teaching of Arabic to non-native residents in the Arabian Gulf area. Professor Granara will serve as the next director of CMES for a three-year term beginning July 2013. Arabic Preceptor **Feryal Hijazi** participated in the evaluation of the CET Intensive Arabic Language and Culture Studies Program at Yarmouk University in Irbid in June

2012, where she attended several classes and met with students and the management of the program and Yarmouk University. In January 2013, CMES Director and Professor of Islamic Religious Studies **Baber Johansen** participated in a conference in Tunis titled Integrating the Islamic/Middle Eastern Legal Traditions in a Twenty-first-century Constitution. Organized by the international NGO Right to Nonviolence (RN) with funding from the National Endowment for Democracy, the conference was moderated by RN chair Chibli Mallat, former Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Visiting Professor of Islamic Legal Studies at Harvard Law School. Professor Johansen’s lecture focused on the line of thought in Islamic law from Ibn ‘Aqil to Egypt’s Supreme Constitutional Court. Professor Johansen participated January 4–11, 2013 at Doha (Qatar) in a workshop jointly organized by Harvard Law School’s Institute for Global Law Policy and the Hamad bin Khalifa University. He gave a lecture on “Innovation as a Human Tradition” focusing on innovative approaches in Islamic Law and religion from the 12th to the 20th century. He also served as discussant for panels and other speakers as well as for students who had submitted papers to the workshop. Professor Johansen is teaching two new courses this spring, “Does the Fiqh Know a Concept of Natural Law?” and “The Spring of 2011 in the Middle East.” CMES Associate Director **Susan Kahn** will give a paper on Bedouins and their hunting hounds at the Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program’s fifth annual conference, on Islam and animals, to be held April 5–6, 2013. Her article “The End of Ambiguity in the New Genetic Age” is forthcoming in *Human Biology*. Herbert C. Kelman, Richard Clarke Cabot Professor of Social Ethics, *Emeritus*, received the Gold Medal of Honor from the Federal Capital of Vienna, “in recognition of his significant achievements.” The medal was presented to him at a ceremony in Vienna’s City Hall on December 12, 2012. Lecturer on Persian Literature and Culture **Chad Kia** published “Sufi Orthopraxis: Visual Language and Verbal Imagery in Medieval Afghanistan” in *Word & Image: A Journal of Verbal/Visual Enquiry* 28.1 (2012). Arabic Preceptor **Nevenka Korica Sullivan** translated the novel *Voices* by the Egyptian writer Suleyman Fayyad from Arabic into Serbian for the publishing company Clio in Belgrade, Serbia, and was asked to join the Advisory board of AMEDEAST for their Arabic programs abroad. She continues working as item writer on the Arabic team developing an online listening and reading proficiency test for modern standard Arabic



ELIZABETH FLANAGAN



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**LEFT** Roy P. Mottahedeh (left) chairs a December 6, 2012 discussion with Ali Banuazizi on Iran’s Green Movement and the Arab Spring. **RIGHT** Steven C. Caton at the October 2012 Yemen in Transition conference.

## CATON NAMED AL SAUD PROFESSOR OF CONTEMPORARY ARAB STUDIES



Congratulations to Steven C. Caton, who last semester was named the Khalid bin Abdullah bin Abdulrahman Al Saud Professor of Contemporary Arab Studies at Harvard University. The chair was established through the gift of His Highness Prince Khalid bin Abdullah bin Abdulrahman Al Saud for a scholar of the contemporary Arab

world who maintains a high degree of interaction with Arab scholars and societies. Professor Caton is an anthropologist and an expert on Yemen and oral poetry, whose latest work focuses on the anthropology of water use and sustainability. His publications include *Peaks of Yemen I Summon* (University of California Press, 1990), *Lawrence of Arabia: A Film's Anthropology* (University of California, 1999), and *Yemen Chronicle* (Hill & Wang, 2005).

## SPRING 2013 SHAWWAF VISITING PROFESSOR SALIM TAMARI



CMES is pleased to welcome Salim Tamari as the Spring 2013 Shawwaf Visiting Professor. Professor Tamari is professor of sociology at Birzeit University, senior fellow at the Institute for Palestine Studies, and the editor of *Jerusalem Quarterly* and *Hawliyyat al Quds*. His recent publications include *Year of the*

*Locust: Palestine and Syria during WWI* (U of California Press, 2010). Professor Tamari is teaching two courses this spring at Harvard: "Urban Landscapes: The City and Contemporary Arabic Literature and Culture," and the second half of the Arabic program's new fifth-year Arabic class, which will be on "Writing self and other: (auto)biographies and the formation of modern identities."

for the National Middle East Language Resource Center and the Arabic Flagship Program. On June 22, 2012, the International Society for Iranian Culture and the American Institute of Iranian Studies held a seminar on "Promotion of the Persian Language in North America" at Columbia University in honor of CMES Associate **Ahmad Mahdavi-Damghani**. The session featured seven speakers including Dr. Mahdavi-Damghani as well as Roy P. Mottahedeh, and ended with a performance of Persian music. CMES Associate **Lenore Martin** was a senior associate member of St Antony's College, University of Oxford for the 2012 Trinity Term, where she delivered a lecture titled "What Does a Restructuring Middle East Mean for Turkey, the US, and Its Foreign Policies." CMES Associate Susan Miller's new book, *A History of Modern Morocco*, a synthesis of the period 1830–2000, was published by Cambridge University Press in January 2013. Professor Miller will be a visiting fellow at the Woolf Institute's Centre for the Study of Muslim-Jewish Relations, University of Cambridge, during their 2013 spring quarter. Gurney Professor of History **Roy P. Mottahedeh** spoke about the differences between Iran and Iraq's Shi'a legal traditions at a conference titled "Iran, Iraq, and the GCC: New Realities in Persian Gulf Security" at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars on September 28, 2012. He also gave a talk at Columbia University on November 9, 2012 titled "A History of Shi'a Juridical Thought," and several talks at Harvard. Professor Mottahedeh's recent publications include "Qur'anic commentary on the verse of *khums* (al-Anfāl VIII:41)" in *Sayyids and Sharifs in Muslim Societies* (Routledge, 2012), and "The Idea of Iran in the Buyid Dominions" in *Early Islamic Iran: The Idea of Iran, Vol. 5* (I.B. Tauris, 2012). **Afsaneh Najmabadi**, Francis Lee Higginson Professor of History and of Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, and chair of the Committee on Degrees in

Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, delivered the Fall 2012 McMillan-Stewart Lecture for the Program in Women's and Gender Studies at MIT. The November 13 lecture was titled "Making (up) an Archive: Women's History in a Digital Mode." Professor Najmabadi published "Is Another Language Possible," in *History of the Present 2.2* (Fall 2012). The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded her research project Women's Worlds in Qajar Iran (<http://www.qajarwomen.org>) continued support for 2012–14, and selected it for a White House presentation held May 30, 2012. The project also recently received a grant from Roshan Cultural Institute. **Roger Owen**, A.J. Meyer Professor of Middle Eastern History, *Emeritus*, gave a talk titled "Causes and Consequences of the Stalemate in Syria" at Harvard Law School on April 10, 2012; spoke on the keynote panel for the conference Arabic Thought Beyond the Liberal Age: New Directions in Middle East History at Princeton University on September 16, 2012; delivered a lecture titled "Year II of the Arab Revolutions: 'Some Thoughts on the Road Ahead'" at the University of Vermont on October 11, 2012; and was a panelist for the Harvard Mahindra Humanities Center's "Arab Spring in the Fall" panel on November 29, 2012. Professor Owen's recent book, *The Rise and Fall of Arab Presidents for Life* (Harvard U Press, 2012) has been reviewed in numerous outlets including the website *Inside Higher Ed* and a *Foreign Policy* blog. Professor Owen spoke about his book at the U.S. Department of State's Ralph J. Bunche Library on June 28, 2012, and in a live interview on BBC World Service with Zeinab Badawi in October 2012. In a ceremony held in London on November 30, 2012, CMES Associate **Sara Roy** won the 2012 Academic Award of the Middle East Monitor's Palestine Book Awards for her book *Hamas and*

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*Civil Society in Gaza: Engaging the Islamist Social Sector* (Princeton U Press, 2011). The book was also the runner up for the University of Cambridge's British-Kuwait Friendship Society Book Prize in Middle Eastern Studies for 2012, and was chosen as one of twenty-five "Outstanding Academic Titles of 2012" by *Choice* 50.5 (January 2013). Dr. Roy published an op-ed titled "Where's our humanity for Gaza?" in the *Boston Globe* on November 23, 2012. Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Professor of Islamic Art History **David Roxburgh** published a review of Hans Belting's *Florence and Baghdad Renaissance Art and Arab Science* in *Art Forum* 50.8 (2012), and another on the new galleries for "The Art of the Arab Lands, Turkey, Iran, Central Asia, and Later South Asia" at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, in *Art Bulletin* 94.4 (2012). He also reviewed the new Islamic galleries at the Louvre Museum, which appeared in *Art Forum* 51, 5 (2013). Professor Roxburgh presented last spring at the Harvard conference "Ornament as Portable Culture: Between Globalism and Localism" organized by Professors Gulru Necipoglu and Alina Payne, and participated in a panel funded by the ILEX Foundation at the International Society of Iranian Studies conference in Istanbul over the summer. In 2011–12 **Hashim Sarkis**, Aga Khan Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urbanism in Muslim Societies, conducted a studio course on Istanbul's Sulaymaniye district and gave a series of lectures on the urban development of Beirut. His lecture titled "Bleu Outremer" at a conference organized by Fondation le Corbusier is now being published in the proceedings of the conference. Professor Sarkis's design work was featured in several publications including in Mohammad al Asad's *Contemporary Architecture and Urbanism in the Middle East* (U Press of Florida, 2012).

## WELCOMING OUSMANE KANE



CMES welcomes Ousmane Kane, Harvard's new Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor of Contemporary Islamic Religion and Society and professor of Near Eastern languages and civilizations. Professor Kane joined the faculties of Harvard Divinity School and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations in July 2012, and will

teach two new courses this spring: "Islam in African History" and "Islam, Modernity, and Politics." Professor Kane's work focuses on Muslim globalization, the history of Islamic religious institutions, and the intellectual history of Islam in Africa. His publications include *Muslim Modernity in Postcolonial Nigeria* (E.J. Brill, 2003) and *The Homeland Is the Arena: Religion, Transnationalism, and the Integration of Senegalese Immigrants in America* (Oxford U Press, 2011). Professor Kane comes to Harvard from Columbia University.

## AM STUDENT NEWS

**Bandar Shawwaf** published a commentary titled "Are we near the final act in Damascus?" in the Lebanese English-language newspaper *The Daily Star* on January 15, 2013. As part of her Pickering Fellowship, **Stephanie Sobek** has an internship this summer with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs at the office of the director of Egypt and Levant affairs. In March, Sobek traveled to Morocco for a ten-day study abroad trip with the Harvard Kennedy School. **John Zavage** published an article in the University of Chicago Middle Eastern Studies Students' Association journal *Lights* 3.1 (Spring 2012), and a review of *Ordinary Egyptians: Creating the Modern Nation Through Popular Culture* (Stanford U Press, 2011) by Ziad Fahmy in *Middle East Quarterly* 19.4 (Fall 2012). He completed the AM program in December 2012 and is now working for the Security Cooperation division of the USCENTCOM (U.S. Central Command) headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida.

## FALL 2012 HMECA ACTIVITIES

In fall 2012 the Harvard GSAS Middle East Cultural Association (HMECA) held a networking happy hour at the Queen's Head, a movie night featuring the Academy Award-winner *A Separation*, and an end of semester Winter Reception, which had a wonderful turnout of professors, students, staff, and visiting researchers from CMES. HMECA's vice president also created and began posting student work on a newly developed blog. Keep watch for upcoming events this spring! (Harvard students can receive updates on HMECA activities by joining HMECA's Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/113883088718554/>).

**BELOW** 2012 HMECA officers (and CMES AM students) Geoffrey Allen, Cristina Hughes, and Rachel George.

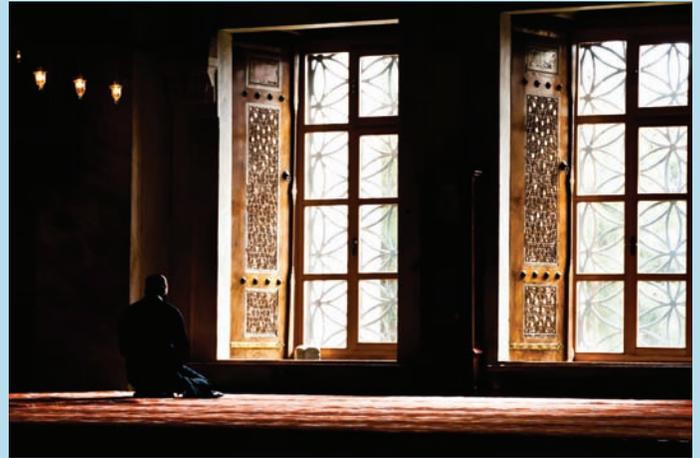


## PHD STUDENT NEWS

**Abigail Balbale** graduated in November 2012 and has accepted a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in Islamic material culture at the Bard Graduate Center in New York. **Arbella Bet-Shlimon**, who also graduated in November 2012, is teaching three courses this year as a Harvard College Fellow in the History Department (see page 11). She will begin a tenure-track position as assistant professor of modern Middle Eastern history at the University of Washington, Seattle in September. Currently a junior fellow at Koç University's Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, **Jesse Howell** is conducting archival research and tracing the geography of the caravan route he is writing his dissertation on by visiting sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. He spoke recently in the "Trade, Pilgrimage & Colonization" lecture series of the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul. **Julie Kleinman** was awarded the Society for the Anthropology of Europe Paper Prize at the 2012 annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association for "The Riot Reconfigured: Narrative Practice and the 'Political' Event at a Border Zone in the Middle of Paris." November 2012 graduate **Darryl Li** is currently a post-doctoral research scholar with the Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University. First year PhD student **Han Hsien Liew** received the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Fellowship for the 2012–13 academic year. **Aria Nakissa** graduated in November 2012 and is currently a Junior Research Fellow at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies, Brandeis University. **Asher Orkaby** is a visiting instructor in Middle Eastern History at Wheaton College, and received the Samuel Flagg Bemis Dissertation Research Grant from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, the IHR Mellon Research Fellowship, and the Bradley Foundation Research Grant for National Security. He presented a paper titled "1962–2012: A Half Century's Perspective on the Yemeni Civil War" at the 2012 MESA annual meeting in November. Based in Cairo for the spring term, **Aleksandar Sopov** is working in the National Library of Egypt and has received a two-year William Tyler Fellowship in Garden and Landscape Studies from the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection. **Ekin Tusalp** presented her paper "The Katiban in the Seventeenth Century: Intersections of Genre, Identity and Ethos in Ottoman Bureaucracy" at the 2012 MESA annual meeting in November.

## 2012 HARVARD COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST

CMES awarded first prize for best photo taken in the Middle East in the 2012 Harvard College International Photo Contest to **Minh Trinh** ('14) for his photo, below, taken in Istanbul's Blue Mosque. Trinh traveled to Istanbul last spring during a semester abroad with the new Harvard College Europe Program. An honorable mention was also awarded to **Heidi Hurst** ('15) for a photo taken in Morocco, where she studied Arabic last summer. For more on Trinh and Hurst and their experiences abroad visit <http://bit.ly/YTHcP7>.



**TOP** "Praying in the Blue Mosque" by Minh Trinh ('14), Istanbul, Turkey.  
**BOTTOM** "The Admonition" by Heidi Hurst ('15), Sefrou, Morocco.



**LEFT** John Zavage presents his AM thesis, "More Than Just Sunnis, Shi'ites and Kurds: A Flawed Constitution, the Failure of Parliamentary Oversight and the Rise of Nuri Al-Maliki in Iraq."  
**RIGHT** AM students Geoffrey Allen, Bandar Shawwaf, and Sarah Moawad at the HMECA Winter Reception.

## AM ALUMNI NEWS & UPDATES

**Pouya Alimaghani** ('09), a PhD candidate at the University of Michigan, presented a paper titled "The Iranian Legacy in the 2011 Egyptian Revolution: Military Endurance and U.S. Foreign Policy Priorities" at the UCLA History Graduate Students Association Conference, which will be published in the *UCLA Historical Journal*. **Umej Bhatia** ('05) was appointed as Singapore's first resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United Arab Emirates on January 2, 2013. **Marc Boxser** ('04) began a new position as the vice president for strategic affairs at GEMS Education last May. **Stephen Buck** ('65), whose career with the U.S. Foreign Service spanned thirty-nine years and included eight Arab posts, is currently working on his oral history for the Foreign Affairs Oral History Collection at the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training. **Carole Corm** ('02) started her own publishing house in Beirut, Darya Press, specializing in travel, food, architecture, and history of the Middle East. The first title, *Beirut: A City Guide*, was released last December. **Jennifer Fischer** ('03) is an independent filmmaker whose company, Think Ten Media Group, hopes to take its digital media/arts programs for youth to the Middle East. Their latest film, *SMUGGLED*, received five awards with fifteen official film festival selections. After many years investing in high-tech start-ups in Israel, **Yadin Kaufmann** ('85) recently co-founded Sadara Ventures/The Middle East Venture Capital Fund, the first venture fund targeting investments in export-oriented technology companies originating in Palestine. **Brandon Kennedy** ('09) wrote "The Hijacking of Foreign Policy Decision-Making: Groupthink and Presidential Power in the Post-9/11 World," which will be published

in *Southern California Interdisciplinary Law Journal* 21.3 (Fall 2012). **Alexander Lewko** ('02) completed a Master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages at the American University in Cairo and is now teaching for the AUC Intensive English Program. The Library of Congress website "Frontline Diplomacy," a resource on history as viewed by career diplomats, has posted the oral history of **David Mack** ('64), former U.S. Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, covering the years he spent in the Middle East (1964–1995) with the U.S. Foreign Service. Former diplomat **Joseph V. Montville** ('61) spoke at the Washington National Cathedral on February 24, 2013 about his current project, "Toward the Peace of Jerusalem," which focuses on restoring positive Jewish-Muslim history. A recent book that he edited, *History as Prelude: Muslims and Jews in the Medieval Mediterranean* (Lexington Books, 2011), has been reviewed in the *Middle East Journal* (Fall 2012) and *Intertwined Worlds* (October 22, 2012). **Charles Smith** ('60) received the 2012 MESA Mentoring Award, which recognizes exceptional contributions retired faculty have made to the education and training of others in Middle Eastern studies. **Aaron Williams** ('09) is currently a consultant for International Development Solutions in Afghanistan. **Caroline Williams** ('66) contributed to *Masterpieces of Orientalist Art: The Shafik Gabr Collection* (ACR edition, 2012), a survey on the development of Orientalist painting in nineteenth-century Egypt. **Alex Winder** ('09), a PhD candidate at New York University, recently published, "The 'Western Wall' Riots of 1929: Religious Boundaries and Communal Violence," in the *Journal of Palestine Studies* 42.1 (Fall 2012).

## PHD ALUMNI NEWS & UPDATES

Member of Turkish Parliament **Aykan Erdemir** (AM '98, PhD '04) serves on the European Union–Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee as well as the ad hoc Committee on Information Technology and the Internet, and introduced Turkey's first draft bill against hate crimes. **Carter Findley** ('69) received an honorable mention in the M. Fuat Köprülü Book Prize of the Turkish Studies Association for his book *Turkey, Islam, Nationalism, and Modernity: A History, 1789–2007* (Yale UP, 2010). He was recently a guest on Turkey's popular history talk show *Eski Defterler*. **Richard Foltz** ('96) has been named conference chair for the next International Society for Iranian Studies meeting in 2014. He has two books forthcoming in 2013: *Religions of Iran: From Prehistory to the Present* (Oneworld Publications) and an Italian translation of his book *Religions of the Silk Road*. **Perween Hasan**, (AM '78, PhD '84) has been confirmed as vice-chancellor of Central Women's University, Dhaka, Bangladesh. She retired from her faculty position in the Department of Islamic History and Culture at the University of Dhaka last June after nearly 30 years of teaching. As senior research associate at the University of Chicago, **Zahra Nasiruddin Jamal** ('08) founded the Civil Islam Initiative, offering research and programming on women, Islam, and the public sphere.

In March 2012 she spoke at the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women, and in July 2013 she will speak at the International Academy of Law and Mental Health. **Anthony Shenoda** ('10) began a new position as assistant professor of anthropology and religion at Leiden University College, The Hague in fall 2012. **Eve M. Troutt Powell** ('95) published *Tell This in My Memory: Stories of Enslavement from Egypt, Sudan and the Ottoman Empire* (Stanford U Press, 2012). While pursuing a J.D. at Harvard Law School, **Leonard Wood** ('11) continued to teach "Introductions to the Modern Arab World I and II." Last spring, he was elected editor-in-chief of the *Harvard Business Law Review* and received the Harvard Undergraduate Council's John R. Marquand Award for Exceptional Advising and Counseling of Harvard Students.

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## PHD GRADUATE TEACHES PERSIAN GULF HISTORY



This fall, Harvard's History Department offered a new course called "The Modern Persian Gulf Region: Politics, Economy, and Society." Developed and taught by Arbella Bet-Shlimon, who graduated from CMES's joint PhD program in History and Middle Eastern Studies in November 2012, the course is one of few Harvard history courses in recent memory to focus on the

modern Persian Gulf region. As a 2012–13 Harvard College Fellow, Bet-Shlimon had the opportunity to choose topics for and develop three new courses. (She taught a second course, on cities and borderlands, also in fall 2012, and is teaching a course on modern Iraq in the media in spring 2013). Bet-Shlimon, whose dissertation on the Iraqi city of Kirkuk explored the role of oil in the city's history, saw a gap she could fill with a new course on Gulf history. The topic, she explains, is not a common one in Middle Eastern studies in the U.S. Egypt and the Levant are usually viewed as the core of the Arab world, receiving the most attention in scholarship and on syllabuses, while the Gulf is often treated as a side topic. That's a mistake, according to Bet-Shlimon. "The Gulf needs to be centered rather than marginalized within the broader Middle East,"

she says. She also emphasizes the importance of considering the entire Persian Gulf region, Iran and Iraq as well as the Arabian peninsula's Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, most traditionally thought of as the Gulf states, as a coherent subject of historical inquiry. The dynamics between all these countries, Bet-Shlimon explains, are significant. Viewed together, patterns begin to emerge. She cites as an example a series of oil workers' strikes, in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia in 1945, Kirkuk, Iraq in 1946, and Abadan, Iran also in 1946. These events are rarely considered in the same context, she explains, "But I would argue that you have to see it as a wave of labor movements in the oil industry that happened in this region, and you can only see that if you look at all those countries together." Though historically understudied, the Gulf region has recently been gaining prominence as a topic of study. "Gulf history is something that's buzzing in the air right now," Bet-Shlimon says. As critical independent study of the region becomes more common, she hopes courses like hers will become a standard part of Middle Eastern studies curricula. Bet-Shlimon will begin a tenure-track position as assistant professor of modern Middle Eastern history at the University of Washington, Seattle in September 2013.

Read the full article at <http://bit.ly/YTHiGE>.

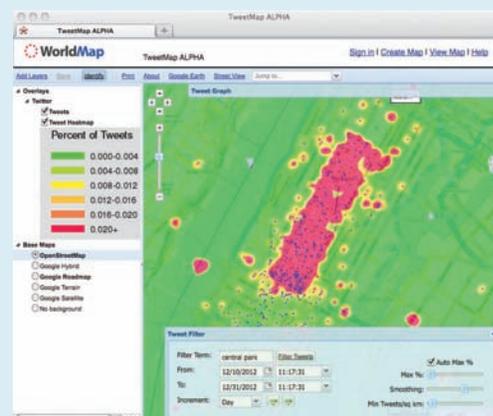
## AM GRADUATE EXPLORES TWITTER AS BIG DATA



In the wake of the Arab Spring, many observers have commented on the democratizing power of social media and its potential as a revolutionary tool. Todd Mostak, a 2012 graduate of the CMES Master's program who was in his first year at CMES when the revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt began, recognized in social media a different kind of potential. Mostak's work

approaches social media, Twitter in particular, as a massive source of public opinion data. For his Master's thesis, Mostak set out to examine Twitter in the context of the 2011 Egyptian revolution. "I became more and more fascinated by Twitter not as the phenomenon you're trying to study but as the tool to give you a massive amount of data," he says. "It's a great way to figure out what people are thinking." For his thesis, Mostak first aggregated Tweets in Egypt by district, then attempted to determine whether the degree of Islamism expressed in those Tweets correlated with the degree of poverty in the district. He found a correlation with rurality, but no significant correlation with poverty, instead finding that Islamism as measured by Tweets seemed to cut across wealth. Along the way, the project taught him a lot about the kinds of issues this type of analysis encounters. One major challenge he faced was the sheer volume of data he was trying to analyze and map—one analysis was going to take forty days to run. So he built a faster database. In his last semester at CMES, Mostak cross-registered for a database systems class at MIT, and for his final project built a

prototype database that ran on graphics cards, or graphical processing units (GPUs). In the past nine months he has developed that project into a fully functional and staggeringly fast SQL database. Called MapD, Mostak's GPU database powers TweetMap (<http://worldmap.harvard.edu/tweetmap>), a project he developed in collaboration with the Harvard Center for Geographical Analysis to render geo-coded Twitter data on an interactive map. In February, after finishing a Harvard Kennedy School fellowship working with his thesis advisor Professor Tarek Masoud, Mostak began working as a researcher at MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory. His projects for MIT will include a partnership with researchers from Charles-MGH, who hope to use the TweetMap platform to examine health trends. Though his attention is focused on a wide variety of projects recently, Mostak remains deeply interested in the Middle East and hopes to continue working on projects related to the region, particularly where he can develop computational tools to further social science research.



Read the full article at <http://bit.ly/1ohSkbZ>.

LEFT Manhattan's Central Park stands out in red on a TweetMap-generated heat map of Tweets including the term "central park."

# VISITING RESEARCHER NEWS

Post-Doctoral Fellow **Wael Abu-'Uksa** has two articles forthcoming, in the *Journal of Levantine Studies* 3.1 and in the collection *Liberal Discourse in the Middle East After 1967*. He presented at the Harvard Divinity School conference *Ways of Knowing* in October 2012 and is currently working on his research "From Freedom to the Ideology of Freedom: Reconsidering Liberalism in the Arab Speaking Countries in the 19th Century." Visiting Scholar **Melani Cammett** has several recent and forthcoming publications, including two forthcoming books: *Compassionate Communalism: Welfare and Sectarianism in Divided Societies* (Cornell U Press), and *The Politics of Non-State Social Welfare Provision in the Global South*, co-edited with Lauren Morris MacLean (Cornell U Press). In the past year she has given talks at Harvard, the University of Michigan, the University of Toronto, the University of Guelph, Centre d'Etudes Maghrébines à Tunis (CEMAT) in Sidi Bou Said, Tunisia, and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Gammarth, Tunisia. Professor Cammett will return to Harvard next year on a Mellon Foundation fellowship to pursue training and research at the Harvard School of Public Health for her project on the quality of health care provision by Islamists and other public and private actors in the Middle East. Visiting Fellow **Alex Henley** gave a presentation titled "Making a Mufti Grand: Creating Religious Leadership in Colonial and Post-Colonial Lebanon" for the CMES-sponsored graduate student workshop *Middle East Beyond Borders* on October 11, 2012. Visiting Scholar **Zhiyu Li** published "An Analysis on the Reasons of Turkish Foreign Policy under the JDP Government" in *Arab World Studies* 5 (September 2012). Visiting Scholar **Serdar Sengul** gave a November 14, 2012 talk for CMES's Seminar on Turkey in the Modern World titled "Reading Ottoman Modernisation from the Margins: The Case of Kurdish Madrasas." Post-doctoral Fellow **Özlem Sert's** article "As the Right to the City and the Right to Creativity, the Right to History in Open Identity Politics" (*Açık Kimlik Politikasında Bir Kent Hakkı ve Yaratıcılık Hakkı Olarak Tarih Hakkı*), will be published in the spring 2013 issue of *Cogito*. Post-doctoral Fellow

**Sharon Weinblum** co-edited, with Julien Danero Iglesias and Nenad Stojanovic, a book titled *New Nation-States and National Minorities: A Comparative Perspective* (ECPR Press, 2013), and published an op-ed on the Israeli elections on *GlobalPost.com* on January 26, 2013.



**ABOVE** Visiting Fellow Alex Henley talks to Post-Doctoral Fellow Sharon Weinblum at the HMECA Winter Reception. **LEFT** Visiting Scholar Melani Cammett gives a talk for CMES on "Political and Economic Challenges in the Arab Transitions" on December 6, 2012.

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