

# CMES

## NEWSLETTER

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

FALL 2013



ANNA KRESLAVSKAYA



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### A CONVERSATION WITH WILLIAM GRANARA

*William Granara is the Gordon Gray Professor of Arabic. He is currently the director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and director of the Moroccan Studies Program at Harvard. Professor Granara studied French and Arabic at Georgetown and earned a PhD in Islamic Studies from the University of Pennsylvania (1986). He has translated three Arabic novels into English, *The Earthquake* by Tahir Wattar (2000), *Granada* by Radwa Ashour (2004), and *The Battle of Poitiers* by Jurji Zaydan (2012). In addition to his scholarly publications on modern Arabic literature, his research focuses on the literature and cultures of medieval Muslim Sicily and Spain. Professor Granara began a three-year term as director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies in July 2013. We spoke with him at the start of the fall semester about his plans for the Center this year and beyond.*



ELIZABETH FLANAGAN

### WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE CENTER DURING YOUR TERM AS DIRECTOR?

What I'd like to see the Center do over the next three years is to integrate itself to a greater degree in the Yard. I'd like us to build and deepen relationships with humanities-centered entities such as the Mahindra Humanities Center and the Departments of History & Literature, Comparative Literature, and Romance Languages and Literatures. And I'd like to be sure that NELC undergraduate



ANNA KRESLAVSKAYA



JOHANNA BODNYK

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concentrators, Master's students, PhD students, and faculty are an integral part of CMES in the way that our historians and anthropologists are. I'd also like to see CMES become more accessible to undergraduates generally, and get undergraduate students involved in our activities in much more interesting ways.

**WHY THE HUMANITIES? WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HUMANITIES TO STUDYING THE MIDDLE EAST?**

It's really humanities, especially right now in the area of creative literature and film, where political expression is most articulated. That has been the case pretty much throughout the twentieth century and it's continuing into the twenty-first. Reading an Arabic novel brings you into the world of a whole host of issues in Arab society. One gets a better sense of Arab society and Arab culture, and that includes politics, from reading Arabic novels, more so than from reading political texts or other things. The fears and the hopes and the anxieties and the tensions and the aspirations of Israelis, Arabs, Turks, and Persians are articulated more often through creative writing, through the novel and the short story, through plays and through poetry, than through other fields of inquiry. So to

train our students in Arabic, Hebrew, Turkish, and Persian, and to get them reading contemporary novels in the original, is to give them access to a world that is informative and challenging.

**WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR ACHIEVING THESE GOALS OF ENGAGING CMES MORE FULLY WITH THE HUMANITIES, WITH NELC, AND WITH UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS?**

What I envision specifically is a focus on three broad areas, roughly defined as working groups. The first will center around contemporary political issues and modern Middle East history—current events, broadly defined—and will be called *“The Arab World in Transition: Politics and Social Movements.”* The second working group will revolve around modern Middle East literatures, and will integrate our Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and Modern Hebrew language programs with area studies. This second group, titled *“Middle East Literature in Transition: New Frontiers in the 21st Century,”* will explore the way in which novels and short stories, and to a lesser extent plays and poetry, express or articulate the sociological, religious, and cultural changes that are going on in the countries of the Middle East. The third

working group will be on *“Film and Visual Arts in a Changing Middle East.”* Artistic expression, including film, contemporary art, graffiti, rap and other music, and other visual expression, has been very rich in our part of the world, particularly with regard to the Arab Spring and its ongoing repercussions.

**WHO WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE WORKING GROUPS?**

I'm pleased to announce that Professor *Emeritus* Roger Owen will oversee the first working group, on contemporary political issues. I'll be chairing the second group, and working with my colleagues Irit Aharony in Modern Hebrew and Sami Alkayam, preceptor in Arabic. For the third working group I'd like to see the students, both graduate and undergraduate, involved more directly and taking greater control. But for all three, there will be representation both from faculty and from our graduate students and undergraduates.

I'd also like, in general and for these three working groups, to more effectively tap into the enormous amount of local expertise we have here, and involve as many faculty as possible. If you look around a small geographical area both inside the Harvard campus and nearby, there are a massive

number of people who have expertise in our area, many of whom graduated from Harvard University. Leila Fawaz and Philip Khoury, for instance, are two highly eminent scholars who are graduates of Harvard's History and CMES program. Eva Bellin from Brandeis is also a Harvard alumna, and there are many more.

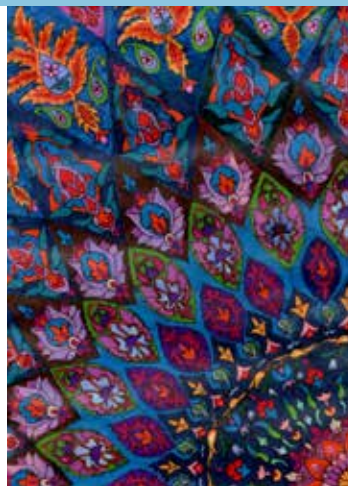
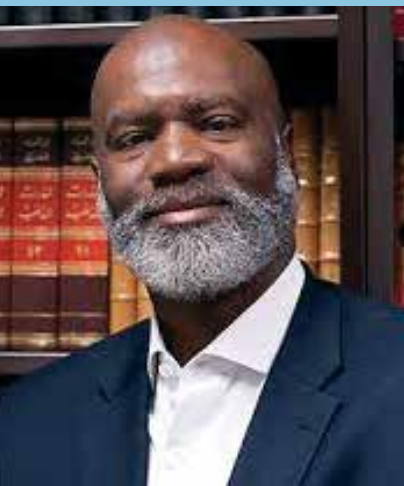
**ARE YOU EXCITED TO BE LEADING THE CENTER?**

I'm very excited. I have been a citizen of this building and a part of CMES, both physically and academically, for over twenty years. I think I know it very well, and from many angles. I'm excited about implementing these changes and programs and building on the strengths that I have been able to watch very closely over the years.

*Excerpted from a longer interview—read the full Q&A on our website at <http://hvr.d.me/18G7dKd>.*

**PREVIOUS PAGE: TOP ROW, LEFT** Persian Preceptor Daniel Rafinejad speaks at the Outreach Program's Nowruz celebration on March 27, 2013. **RIGHT** CMES Director William Granara. **MIDDLE ROW** CMES Associate Susan Miller (UC-Davis) speaks at "Jewish Studies in the Arab World" (see page 4). **BOTTOM ROW, LEFT** Members of CMES's 2012-13 graduating class. **RIGHT** Brett Levi (AM '13), winner of the 2013 CMES Prize for Outstanding Master's Thesis (see page 6).

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**FAR LEFT** 2013 H.A.R. Gibb Lecturer Sherman A. Jackson. **CENTER** "Z in Harvard" by cartoonist Z\_ (Arabic text: "The people want the regime to fall.") **NEAR LEFT** Detail of "Everyday Life" by Farrin Abbas Zadeh (2011; gridded paper, watercolor, and marker).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

The events listed here are a small sample of our Fall 2013 line-up of public lectures and seminars. Visit <http://hvr.d.me/1bXowqd> to view our online calendar and join our mailing list.

## 2013 H.A.R. GIBB LECTURER: SHERMAN A. JACKSON

November 19, 2013, 4:00–6:00pm

“Islamic Law and the State: Then and Now”

November 21, 2013, 4:00–5:45pm

“Islamic Law and Muslim Politics”

2013 H.A.R. Gibb Lecturer Sherman A. Jackson is the King Faisal Chair of Islamic Thought and Culture and professor of religion and American studies and ethnicity at the University of Southern California. His research interests begin in classical Islamic Studies, including law, theology, and intellectual history, and extend to placing this legacy in conversation with the realities of modern Islam in the West, most especially Muslim communities in America. Professor Jackson’s publications include *On the Boundaries of Theological Tolerance in Islam: Abû Hâmid al-Ghazâlî’s Faysal al-Tafrîqa* (2002), *Islam and the Problem of Black Suffering* (2009), and *Sufism for non-Sufis? Ibn ‘Atâ’ Allâh al-Sakandari’s Tâj al-‘Arûs* (2012). In addition to delivering two lectures, Professor Jackson will hold a master class for advanced Arabic students on Wednesday, November 20th. Both lectures will be held in the Belfer Case Study Room (S020) of the CGIS South Building, 1730 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA.

## FALL 2013 DIRECTOR’S SERIES: LEILA FAWAZ AND BRUCE MASTERS

October 3 & November 7, 2013, 5:00–7:00pm

CMES Director William Granara invited two speakers to CMES this fall as part of the 2013–14 Director’s Series. On October 3, 2013, Leila Fawaz, Issam M. Fares Professor of Lebanese and Eastern Mediterranean Studies at Tufts University, held a history conversation at the Center titled “Remembering World War I: The Memoir as Historical Document.” On November 7, 2013, Bruce Masters, John Andrus Chair of History at Wesleyan University, will deliver a talk at CMES titled “The Sectarian Crisis in the Contemporary Middle East: An Ottoman Perspective.”

## TUNISIAN CARTOONIST \_Z\_ TO VISIT HARVARD

Tunisian political cartoonist \_Z\_ will visit CMES in November 2013 for a series of events organized by the Center’s new working group on film and visual media (see page 2). The events, organized by CMES AM student Youssef Ben Ismail, will include an exhibit of his work, a “draw-as-you-speak”-style public talk, and a cartooning master class aimed at Harvard students. Check the CMES website for additional details.

## A WINDOW TO HEAVEN: EXHIBIT AND ARTIST TALK

October 15 – December 18, 2013

Work by architect, urban designer, and artist Farrin Abbas Zadeh, currently a visiting fellow at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC), will be on exhibit in the CGIS Knafel Concourse Gallery, 1737 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA, this fall from October 15 through December 18. Zadeh will give a talk on her work, which is inspired in part by the ornamentation and symbolism found in Persian architecture, on November 15 from 1:30 to 2:30pm in CGIS Knafel, Room 050, to be followed by a reception in the Knafel Concourse Gallery. The exhibit, talk, and reception are jointly sponsored by CMES and NELC.

## SERIES SPOTLIGHT: ISRAELI LAW, LITERATURE, AND SOCIETY SEMINAR

The Israeli Law, Literature, and Society Seminar series is a joint endeavor of CMES and the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard, intended to stimulate academic debate about the multifaceted nature of Israeli society by providing a forum for leading scholars and writers. The series is organized by Susan M. Kahn, CMES associate director and director of the AM Program, and Irit Aharony, senior preceptor of Modern Hebrew, and made possible with funding from the William Landau Lecture and Publication Fund and the U.S. Department of Education. All sessions meet from 10:00am to 12:00pm at CMES.

Friday, October 11, 2013

Between Hebrew and Arabic in Israeli Literature  
*Almog Behar, Hebrew poet, novelist, and literary critic*

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Oded Ezer: Letters from Tel Aviv  
*Oded Ezer, Graphic artist and typographer*

Friday, November 1, 2013

On the Impossibility of Writing in Israel Today  
*Dror Burstein, Israeli author, editor, and teacher*



LEFT “Typography,” set in a Hebrew font designed by Oded Ezer.

# RECENT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## MOROCCAN STUDIES PROGRAM HOSTS FILMMAKER NABIL AYOUC

In March 2013, acclaimed Moroccan filmmaker Nabil Ayouch visited Harvard to screen and discuss two of his films, the documentary film *My Land* (2011) and his most recent film, shown at Cannes in 2012, *Horses of God* (2012). Ayouch's visit was organized by the CMES Moroccan Studies Program and co-sponsored by Dartmouth College. The screenings and discussions were attended by approximately eighty people, including Harvard students and faculty, as well as members of the Moroccan community from the Boston area. Nabil Ayouch is a director and producer whose work includes nine films, for which he has won over forty awards at international film festivals. His 2012 film *Horses of God*, screened March 8, 2013 at Harvard, was inspired by the Casablanca suicide bombings of May 16, 2003. It tells the story of boys growing up in a Moroccan slum, an environment exploited by fundamentalist recruiters looking for terrorists and suicide bombers. Ayouch's first documentary film, *My Land*, which was screened March 7, 2013, features interviews with elderly Palestinians now living in refugee camps in Lebanon after leaving their homes in 1948, and young Israelis who live there now.

## THE RULE OF LAW AND THE COURTS IN THE NEW EGYPTIAN CONSTITUTION

The spring 2013 activities of the Working Group on Arab Transformative Movements included a visit by Dr. h.c. Adel Omar Sherif, Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt. Deputy Chief Justice Sherif delivered a public lecture on April 25 titled "The Rule of Law and the Courts in the New Egyptian Constitution," in which he discussed the history of the rule of law and judicial independence in Egypt since 1952, under Mubarak, and since his ousting in January 2011. During his visit he also met privately with members of the working group and other faculty and graduate students from Harvard and area universities.

## JEWISH STUDIES IN THE ARAB WORLD

On May 13 and 14, 2013, CMES held a workshop organized by former CMES Director Baber Johansen titled "Jewish Studies in the Arab World" that brought scholars of Jewish studies from universities in Egypt and Morocco together with faculty from five American and Canadian universities for a discussion of the history and current status of Jewish studies in the Arab world. The workshop was funded in part by CMES's U.S. Department of Education Title VI NRC grant and received additional generous support from Harvard's Center for Jewish Studies and the Alan M. and Katherine P. Stroock Fund for Innovative Research in Judaica. Participants included Abdelkrim Boufarra (University of Mohamed I, Oujda), Ahmed Chahlane (University Mohamed V, Rabat), Mark Cohen (Princeton), Shaye Cohen (Harvard), Jonathan P. Decker (Brandeis), William Granara (Harvard), Mohamed Hawary (Ain Shams University, Cairo), Susan Miller (UC-Davis), and Walid Saleh (University of Toronto).

## ARAB EXPATRIATES AND REVOLT IN THEIR HOMELAND

Former CMES Director Baber Johansen, together with Philippe Fargues of the Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute, Florence, organized a workshop held at Harvard on June 28 and 29, 2013 titled "Arab Expatriates and Revolt in their Homeland." Co-sponsored by CMES and the European University Institute's Migration Policy Center, the workshop examined the influence of Arab migration on the Arab Spring and its lead-up and aftermath in the period between 2006 and 2013. Participants included Ibrahim Awad (AUC), Jocelyne Cesari (Harvard University), Michael Collyer (University of Sussex), Leila Dakhli (IREMAM, Aix-en-Provence), Tamirace Fakhoury (Lebanese American University, Beirut), Sari Hanafi (AUB), Thibaut Jaulin (European University Institute), Peggy Levitt (Wellesley College), and Roger Owen (Harvard).

## 2013 SILVERMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE: SUSANNAH HESCHEL

The 2013 Hilda B. Silverman Memorial Lecture, titled "Judaism's Embrace of Islam: An Historical Inquiry into the Role of Islam in Modern Jewish Thought," was delivered by Susannah Heschel, Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies in the Department of Religion at Dartmouth College. Professor Heschel's scholarship focuses on Jewish-Christian relations in Germany during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the history of biblical scholarship, and the history of anti-Semitism. In her Silverman lecture, delivered on May 3, 2013, Professor Heschel discussed the study of Islam by European Jewish scholars from the 1830s to the 1930s, their alignment of Islam with Judaism in opposition to Christianity, and their use of Islam as a tool for de-Orientalizing Judaism. She demonstrated the widespread interest in Islam and the innovative scholarship promoted by Jewish scholars and rabbis during the nineteenth century. Placing Islam on a pedestal, they identified it with liberal Judaism, and called both of them religions of "ethical monotheism."

## OUTREACH WATER WORKSHOP

In August 2013 the CMES Outreach Program along with seven other Harvard area studies centers held a four-day workshop for junior and senior high school educators titled "Teaching Water: Global Perspectives on a Resource in Crisis." The program included lectures by Harvard faculty, curriculum development, and a water negotiation simulation, and covered themes including water security and development, access to water as a human right, and disasters and climate change. The workshop was attended by thirty-one participants from three states, and was jointly organized and sponsored by the Asia Center, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, the Committee on African Studies, the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, the Harvard Global Health Institute, the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Program, and the Reischauer Institute for Japanese Studies.

## 2012-13 VISITING RESEARCHER PANELS

CMES's 2012–13 cohort of visiting researchers discussed their current work in a series of panels in spring 2013:

**March 29** “Turkey’s Kurdish language policy, 1923–2012,” Zhiyu Li (Visiting Scholar); “Famine, Slavery and Power in Sudan, 1883–1956,” Steven Serels (Visiting Post-doctoral Fellow); and “Asylum Seekers in Israel: Political Discourses on the ‘Other,’” Sharon Weinblum (Visiting Post-doctoral Fellow).

**April 10** “From Freedom to the Ideology of Freedom: Conceptual History of Liberalism in the Arab Speaking Countries in the 19th Century,” Wael Abu-Uksa (Visiting Fellow); “The Reception of Greek Philosophy in Medieval Islam: A Phenomenological Perspective,” Michael Nafi (Visiting Post-doctoral Fellow); and “Law and Rhetoric in Averroes’ *Middle Commentary* on Aristotle’s *Rhetoric* (Talkhis Kitab al-Khataba li Aristutalis),” Ferial Bouhafa (Visiting Fellow).

**May 9** “Islam in Azerbaijan: Historical Background and Modernity,” Lala Aliyeva (Visiting Scholar); “Cultural Formations of Memory and Identity in the Context of Kırmızı Madrasa in Turkey,” Serdar Sengul (Visiting Scholar); and “Music of a Thousand Years: Intellectual Perspectives on Persian Music’s Antiquity and Modernity in Early Twentieth Century Iran,” Ann E. Lucas (Visiting Fellow).

**May 17** “Can Egypt Transform Itself? Ideological Rivalry, Economic Grievances, and Political Stalemate in the Post-Mubarak Era,” Ding Long (Visiting Scholar); “Religious and Sectarian: Thinking Through Categories in a Study of Lebanese Religious Leaders,” Alexander Henley (Visiting Fellow); and “Who Are the Reformist Muslim Intellectuals? Questioning the Social Construction of a Category,” Pegah Zohouri-Haghian (Visiting Fellow).

**May 22** “The Portrait of an Ottoman Port Town in the 16th century,” Özlem Sert (Post-doctoral Fellow).

**TOP ROW** Professor Jonathan Smolin (Dartmouth), Arabic Preceptor Nour Barmada, CMES Director William Granara, filmmaker Nabil Ayouch, and Arabic Preceptor Sami Alkyam. **SECOND ROW, LEFT** Dr. h.c. Adel Omar Sherif. **CENTER** Mohamed Hawary (Ain Shams University). **RIGHT** Mark Cohen (Princeton). **THIRD ROW, LEFT** Former CMES Director Baber Johansen and Philip Fargues (European University Institute). **RIGHT** Susannah Heschel (Dartmouth). **FOURTH ROW, LEFT** Visiting Scholar Serdar Sengul. **RIGHT** Visiting Fellow Ferial Bouhafa. **BOTTOM ROW, LEFT** Herbert C. Kelman speaking at the Middle East Seminar on March 28, 2013. Visit the CMES website for Lenore Martin’s introduction of Professor Kelman on the occasion of his birthday: <http://hvrd.me/lapvTnN>. **CENTER** The organizers of the 2013 multi-center Water Workshop for educators. **RIGHT** Outgoing CMES Director Baber Johansen at a May 2013 reception in his honor.



HASSAN SHIBAN



JOHANNA BODNYK



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ELIZABETH FLANAGAN



ANNA KRESLAVSKAYA



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JOHANNA BODNYK



MALORIE KRANIS



JOHANNA BODNYK

## CONGRATULATIONS 2012-13 GRADUATES!

### Joint PhD Programs

#### Aslihan Akisik

(History & MES)

*Dissertation:* “Self and Other in the Renaissance: Laonikos Chalkokondyles and Late Byzantine Intellectuals”

#### Arbella Bet-Shlimon

(History & MES)

*Dissertation:* “Kirkuk, 1918–1968: Oil and the Politics of Identity in an Iraqi City”

#### Will Day

(Anthropology & MES)

*Dissertation:* “In the City, Out of Place: Dispossession and the Economics of Belonging in Southeastern Turkey”

#### Nathan Fonder

(History & MES)

*Dissertation:* “Pleasure, Leisure, or Vice? Public Morality in Imperial Cairo, 1882–1949”

#### Leyla Kayhan Elbirlık

(History & MES)

*Dissertation:* “Negotiating Matrimony: Marriage, Divorce, and Property Allocation Practices in Istanbul, 1755–1840”

#### Julie Kleinman

(Anthropology & MES)

*Dissertation:* “Dangerous Encounters: Riots, Railways, and the Politics of Difference in French Public Space (1860–2012)”

#### Abigail Krasner Balbale

(History & MES)

*Dissertation:* “Between Caliphs and Kings: Religion and Authority in Sharq al-Andalus, 1145–1243”

#### Darryl Li

(Anthropology & MES)

*Dissertation:* “Jihad and Other Universalisms: Arab-Bosnian Encounters in the U.S. World Order”

#### Aria Nakissa

(Anthropology & MES)

*Dissertation:* “Islamic Law and Legal Education in Modern Egypt”

### AM Program

#### Geoffrey Allen

#### Rachel George

*Thesis:* “The Limits of International Human Rights Law: Ratification Politics in Selective Signatory States in MENA”

#### Edward Golden

#### Cristina Hughes

#### Brett Levi

*Thesis:* “Hasidic Geopolitics and the Greater Land of Israel: Israeli Hasidic Rebbes Encounter the West Bank, Gaza and Territorial Withdrawal, 1982–2013” (Winner CMES Prize for Outstanding Master’s Thesis 2013)

#### Salmaan Mirza

*Thesis:* “The Gospel of Business Education”

#### Reina Saiki

*Thesis:* “How Terrorism Endures: Factors that Affected the Longevity of the Kurdistan Worker’s Party (PKK)”

#### Alexander Shams

*Thesis:* “Daughters of the Iranian Revolution: Women’s Experiences of Increased Access to Higher Education in the Islamic Republic, 1987–1997”

#### Hassan Shiban

*Thesis:* “Redefining Syrian Identity in the Diaspora: A Glimpse into the Lives of Syrian Refugees in Jordan, June–July 2012”

#### Rustin Zarkar

*Thesis:* “Building an Insurgent Consciousness: Political Posters of the Fada’I Khalq (1978–80)”

#### John Zavage

*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”

### Brett Levi Wins AM Thesis Prize

Brett Levi (AM ’13) won the 2013 CMES Prize for Outstanding Master’s Thesis for his thesis “Hasidic Geopolitics and the Greater Land of Israel: Israeli Hasidic Rebbes Encounter the West Bank, Gaza and Territorial Withdrawal, 1982–2013.” Brett visited insular Hasidic communities across Israel to research how Israeli Hasidic rebbes, leaders of ultra-Orthodox Jewish sects, have responded to Jewish settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza and Israeli withdrawals from these areas. Susan Kahn, CMES associate director and director of the AM program, noted that Brett’s thesis stood out from a particularly strong cohort of AM theses last year, describing it as “a masterful project based on extensive use of primary sources, providing a detailed and comprehensive overview of the dynamic and diverse attitudes of Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) rabbis towards the territories they call Judea and Samaria.”

### Geoff Allen Serves As 2013 Commencement Marshal

AM graduate Geoffrey Allen was selected to serve as a Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) 2013 commencement marshal in May. Chosen by a committee of the Graduate Student Council, commencement marshals are members of the graduate student body who have “contributed meaningfully to student life.” Geoff’s contributions included serving as director of careers in the Business Club, and as vice president of the Harvard Middle East Cultural Association (HMECA). In his Business Club role, he contacted GSAS alumni in business careers and brought them to campus to talk to students about their experiences. As HMECA VP, he managed the group’s finances and helped to plan its winter reception and end of year party. Geoff also worked for CMES assisting with communications work in 2011–12.



ABOVE, LEFT CMES Associate Director Susan Kahn and Reina Saiki (AM ’13) at the 2013 Commencement Reception.

ABOVE, RIGHT Turkish Preceptor Himmet Taskomur, CMES Director William Granara, and Nathan Fonder (’13).  
RIGHT Geoffrey Allen (’13).



## ALUMNI PROFILES

CMES launched a new series of alumni profiles this fall. Check out the excerpts below, and read the full interviews on our website at <http://hvr.d.me/19iBtHt>.



### Kyle McEneaney

*Kyle McEneaney graduated with an AM in Middle Eastern Studies in 2007. Since graduating he has worked in consulting and investment banking, specializing in Iraq's emerging economy.*

"Iraq has been an incredibly interesting place to work, rife with challenges and opportunities.

I think the instinct to question assumptions is the most valuable skill I developed at CMES that has served me in my work in Iraq. It's an information-poor environment, and you really have to work to get to the bottom of any issue, whether it is how to incorporate a company, how to drive from Basra to Najaf, or what the demand is for hotels in Erbil. You have to be prepared to use different data sources and to evaluate different arguments to make sound decisions."



### Kristen Stilt

*Kristen A. Stilt is Harry R. Horrow Professor in International Law at Northwestern Law and Professor of History in Northwestern's Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. She received her PhD in History & Middle East Studies in 2004.*

"I think Harvard is exactly what you make of it. It provides you every possibility, every opportunity, but no one holds your hand and says: take this class, write on this topic, here is the road you must follow. I thought it was very liberating to take any class I thought would be helpful, and not be bound by a lot of rules in terms of classes and dissertation topic. The thing to remember is that graduate school is not a rigid, linear path."



### Chloe Safier

*Chloe Safier works for Oxfam International where she is the Gender Justice Coordinator. She graduated with an AM in Middle Eastern Studies in 2010.*

"I was surprised to find how much I enjoyed taking courses at the law school. In classes on gender-based violence, transitional justice, and international humanitarian law, among others, I found that legal instruments and the ways they are—or aren't—implemented provides a fascinating lens through which to understand power and inequality, particularly when applied to the context of the Middle East and towards the promotion of women's rights. I remember thinking then that I wanted to find a way to make a career out of working on these issues."

## CMES RECEIVES GIFT FROM HARVARD GRADUATE

CMES was honored to receive a generous donation this summer from Barbara Breasted Whitesides '63. As part of a larger donation to the University, Ms. Whitesides allocated a portion of her gift to the Center in recognition of events and other resources she enjoyed as a member of the CMES community, including Arabic classes and talks organized by Professor Roger Owen and Dr. Sara Roy. CMES is grateful for Ms. Whitesides' generous donation, which will help to enable the Center to continue providing teaching and resources on the Middle East to Harvard students and the surrounding community.

## CMES WINS RECYCLING CONTEST

CMES was the proud winner of the spring 2013 CGIS Complex Recycling Contest run by the FAS Green Program, which pitted the Center against neighboring CGIS units in a challenge to see which group could recycle most effectively. During the three-week contest, representatives from the Green Program performed audits of the trash and recycling bins in our common areas and in individual offices and assigned letter grades based on the results. CMES celebrated its win at an awards breakfast in March during which Green Program staff presented us with a hand-crafted trophy made from recycled materials by program intern Emma Framson '15.



ABOVE Outreach Program Director Sarah Meyrick shows off an LED lightbulb—a party favor at the CGIS Complex Recycling Contest awards breakfast.

## JOIN THE CMES LINKEDIN GROUP

CMES's new LinkedIn group is a networking tool for CMES students, alumni, faculty, researchers, and other affiliates, and a great way to keep in touch with the Center. Current and former affiliates of the Center and other Harvard affiliates with an interest in the Middle East are invited to join us at <http://linkd.in/16pJOhv>.

# THE OUTREACH PROGRAM

The CMES Outreach Program is launching a new book talk series this fall, bringing scholars who study the modern Middle East to CMES to discuss their recent publications. Authors Adel Iskandar and Carrie Rosefsky Wickham spoke about their recent work in September and October, and on November 21 the third talk in the series will feature Dina Rizk Khoury on her latest book, *Iraq in Wartime: Soldiering, Martyrdom, and Remembrance*. The series, which offers free copies of each book to Harvard students who attend the talks, is intended to attract undergraduate students who may be new to the field of Middle East studies, as well as lifelong learners from the surrounding community. Promoting lifelong learning is a current core focus of the Outreach Program—in spring 2013 Outreach partnered with the Chelmsford Public Library and UMass Lowell's Learning in Retirement Program to host two public lectures featuring CMES AM students Sarah Moawad and Rustin Zarkar. Moawad and Zarkar, who spoke about Egypt and Iran respectively, provided their audiences with brief but comprehensive historical context for the current political situations in those countries.

In the K-12 arena, the Outreach Program is committed to working with educators and district administrators to assist the Massachusetts K-12 teaching community in making a smooth transition to the Common Core State Standards while simultaneously offering the latest scholarship on Middle East-related topics. An example of this targeted professional development programming for educators was a three-part workshop on "Unearthing the Dead Sea Scrolls: Religion, Politics and the Science of Excavation" held in October 2013. Co-sponsored by Brandeis University's Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, the program was designed to be interdisciplinary—bringing together the fields of world history, physics, and life sciences—and to align with Common Core State Standards while allowing educators to engage with the material with their specific curriculum needs in mind. The Outreach Program also continues to partner with other NRCs on campus to provide educators with programming on

contemporary global topics—see page 4 for details on this year's interdisciplinary workshop on global water issues held in August 2013.

Visit the Outreach Program online at <http://hvr.me/GDjbtm> for information on upcoming events and other resources.

—Sarah Meyrick, CMES Outreach Program Director



**TOP ROW, LEFT** Professor Ali Asani, guest, and Persian Preceptor Daniel Rafinejad at the Outreach Program's Nowruz celebration on March 27, 2013, cosponsored by the Outreach Program at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies and the Prince Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program at Harvard. **TOP ROW, RIGHT** Workshop participants engage in a water negotiation simulation at the August 2013 Water Workshop. **BOTTOM ROW** The Water Workshop participants.

## CREDITS & CONTRIBUTORS

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## SEND US YOUR NEWS

**Faculty:**

Send your news to Johanna Bodnyk at [jbodnyk@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:jbodnyk@fas.harvard.edu).

**Students and Alumni/ae:**

Send your news to Sarah Stoll at [sstoll@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:ssstoll@fas.harvard.edu).

**Visiting Researchers:**

Send your news to Liz Flanagan at [elizabethflanigan@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:elizabethflanigan@fas.harvard.edu).



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