

# CMES

## NEWSLETTER

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

SPRING 2014



### A POSTCARD FROM SAUDI ARABIA

I have just completed a four-country tour of the Arabian Peninsula with the Harvard Alumni Association and am now on my way to deliver the address of welcome to Harvard's Arab Alumni Association in Dubai, UAE. As the academic year 2013–14 comes to an end, I am happy to report that this year was an unusually busy and exciting one, with activities including roundtables on recent events unfolding in Egypt, Syria, Iran, and Turkey; a colloquium on the Arab Spring; a series of lectures on early modern Middle Eastern history launched by Leila Fawaz, Harvard PhD and Issam M. Fares Professor of

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Lebanese and Eastern Mediterranean Studies, Tufts University; and an exhibition and talk series on political cartoons from Tunisia. CMES's Sohbet Osmani hosted a series of talks that covered various aspects of Ottoman Turkish language and culture. Our Outreach Program initiated a "new books" series featuring scholars who presented their recently published work. The academic year now wraps up with a two-day conference on Middle Eastern Literatures in the 21st Century, and a series of colloquia organized by CMES graduate students.

— William Granara, CMES Director  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, March 24, 2014



**ABOVE** CMES Director William Granara and Dr. Mazen Jaidah (CMES PhD '08), Director, Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.

**PREVIOUS PAGE: TOP ROW, LEFT** 2013 H.A.R. Gibb Lecturer Sherman A. Jackson (University of Southern California). **TOP ROW, RIGHT** CMES Director William Granara and Professor Neha Vora (Lafayette College). **MIDDLE ROW** CMES 2013 OIE Photo Contest Honorable Mention "Pyramids & Concrete" by Civry Melvin (see page 10). **BOTTOM ROW, LEFT** Professors Roy P. Mottahedeh and Ali Banuazizi (Boston College). **BOTTOM ROW, RIGHT** Professor William Graham (center) at Professor Leila Fawaz's Director's Series talk.

**BELOW, LEFT** 2013 H.A.R. Gibb Lecturer Sherman A. Jackson. **CENTER** Professor Leila Fawaz (Tufts University). **RIGHT** Philippe Fargues (European University Institute).

## CMES TO HOST CENTER FOR ARABIC STUDY ABROAD

CMES is delighted to announce that beginning in June 2014 it will serve as the new host of the Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA). CASA is a year-long intensive advanced level Arabic program held at the American University in Cairo, Egypt. (Due to recent political events in Egypt, the program has been temporarily relocated to the Qasid Arabic Institute in Amman, Jordan for the current academic year.) CASA is represented by a consortium of thirty-five universities and colleges in the U.S., and is primarily funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Nevenka Korica Sullivan, senior preceptor in Arabic in the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations at Harvard, will serve as the program's new stateside director. Nevenka Korica Sullivan has been teaching Arabic at Harvard since 2010. Prior to joining the Arabic teaching faculty at Harvard, she served as executive director of the CASA program in Cairo, from 2006 to 2010.

## THE NEEKEYFAR FUND FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

Recognizing the value in thoughtful and comprehensive research and analysis of Iran's important role in the world, as well as its rich and diverse history, CMES is pleased to announce a new Iranian studies programming initiative. This programming, made possible by a generous anonymous donation, will support an array of lectures and workshops and serve as a catalyst to ignite future Iranian programming at Harvard. Gurney Professor of History Roy P. Mottahedeh, who was "delighted to hear about this wonderful donation," will be leading the initiative. One of the first workshops in this series will analyze the local history of Iranian communities, an important but neglected area. These local histories from the tenth century up to the twentieth century offer a rich source for social and economic history as they reflect the actual structures of society in towns and their surrounding countryside. Material from this workshop will be collected for future publication.

**NEXT PAGE, LEFT** Professors Tarek Masoud and Roger Owen. **CENTER** Professors William Granara, Amr Al-Azm (Shawnee State University), Roger Owen, and Bassam Haddad (George Mason University). **RIGHT** A drawing by CMES Curriculum Coordinator Anna Mudd from the master class led by \_Z\_.



TARA JONES



JOHANNA BODNYK



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# FALL 2013 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from our Fall 2013 roster of seminars, lectures, workshops, and other events.

## FALL 2013 H.A.R. GIBB LECTURES

The Fall 2013 H.A.R. Gibb Arabic & Islamic Studies Lecture Series was delivered by Sherman A. Jackson, King Faisal Chair in Islamic Thought and Culture and Professor of Religion and American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. Professor Jackson delivered two lectures, on November 19 and November 21, 2013, titled “Islamic Law and the State: Then and Now” and “Islamic Law and Muslim Politics.” Video of both lectures is available on the CMES website at <http://bit.ly/1f189N6>.

## DIRECTOR'S SERIES

The CMES Director's Series comprised six lectures this year, featuring a range of topics and distinguished speakers invited by CMES Director William Granara:

**Leila Fawaz**, Issam M. Fares Professor of Lebanese and Eastern Mediterranean Studies, Tufts University | “Remembering World War I: The Memoir as Historical Document” (October 3, 2013)

**Bruce Masters**, John E. Andrus Professor of History, Wesleyan University | “The Sectarian Crisis in the Contemporary Middle East: An Ottoman Perspective” (November 7, 2013)

**Eve M. Troutt Powell**, Professor of History and Africana Studies; Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania | “Public Workers, Private Properties: Slaves in the Topography of 19th-century Egypt” (December 6, 2013)

**Philippe Fargues**, Director, Migration Policy Centre, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute | “The Syrian Refugee Crisis: How Best Can the World Respond?” (February 28, 2014)

**Bassam Haddad**, Director, Middle East Studies Program; Associate Professor, Department of Public and International Affairs, George Mason University | “The History of Syrian Revolt: Structural Causes and Dynamics” (March 4, 2014)

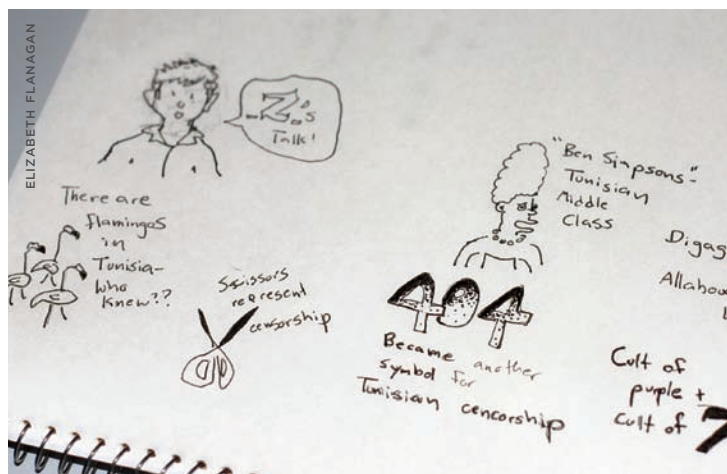
**Sahar Bazzaz**, Associate Professor, Department of History, College of the Holy Cross | “The Politics of Secular Pilgrimage: Paul-Emile Botta's Red Sea Expedition, 1836–1839” (May 1, 2014)

## ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS: EGYPT, SYRIA, IRAN

CMES hosted roundtable discussions on the political events in three countries this fall under the auspices of the Working Group on the Arab World in Transition: Politics and Social Movements. The first, on Egypt, was held on September 5, 2013 and featured Tarek Masoud, associate professor in public policy, John F. Kennedy School of Government, CMES AM student Sarah Moawad ('14), and Roger Owen, A.J. Meyer Professor of Middle East History *Emeritus*, Harvard University. The September 20, 2014 “Roundtable on Syria: Causes, Dynamics, and Prospects,” moderated by Professor Owen, featured Bassam Haddad, director, Middle East Studies Program, George Mason University, and visiting professor, Georgetown University and Amr Al-Azm, associate professor of Middle East History and anthropology, Shawnee State University. A roundtable titled “Iran: From Elections Until Now” was held on October 31, 2013 and featured Ali Banuazizi, professor of political science, and director, Program in Islamic Civilization & Societies, Boston College, and Eric Lob, postdoctoral research fellow, Crown Center for Middle East Studies, Brandeis University. It was moderated by Roy P. Mottahedeh, Gurney Professor of History at Harvard University.

## TUNISIAN CARTOONIST \_Z\_ VISITS HARVARD

The Tunisian political cartoonist who goes by the pseudonym Z made his first public appearance in November 2013 in a series of events sponsored by the CMES Working Group on Film and Visual Arts in a Changing Middle East. During his visit to Harvard he gave a master class at the Graduate School of Design, a talk in Arabic to upper-level Arabic language students, and a public talk discussing the Tunisian revolution and his own transition from architect to cartoonist and political activist. Z's visit was organized by CMES AM students Youssef Ben Ismail ('14) and Sarah Moawad ('14). An exhibit of his work is on display at CMES through May 31, 2014; a short video based on his public talk is available on the CMES website at <http://bit.ly/1iIG4L1>.





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## OUTREACH PROGRAM BOOK TALKS

Building on the success of three book talks held during the fall 2013 semester, the CMES Outreach Program more than doubled its line-up of author talks for spring 2014. The series offers the Harvard University and local communities the opportunity to connect directly with Middle Eastern studies scholars regarding their recent work. Of particular interest was a February 20, 2014 session featuring Harvard Professor Afsaneh Najmabadi discussing her book *Professing Selves: Transsexuality and Same-Sex Desire in Contemporary Iran*, which attracted an overflow crowd of students, faculty, and community members. Additional book talks for spring 2014 included *My Promised Land* by Ari Shavit (*Haaretz*), *Impossible Citizens* by Neha Vora (Lafayette College), *Moroccan Noir* by Jonathan Smolin (Dartmouth College), *The Struggle for Iraq's Future* by Zaid al-Ali (International IDEA), *Leisurely Islam* by Lara Deeb (Scripps College) and Mona Harb (American University of Beirut), and *A History of Modern Morocco* by Susan G. Miller (University of California, Davis).



ANNA MUDD



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## OUTREACH PROGRAM DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENINGS

In addition to its long-running film series co-sponsored with the Middle East Initiative at the Harvard Kennedy School, the Outreach Program organized two film screenings this year featuring recent documentary film releases. Both were followed by a Q&A with the director. On October 18, 2013, the Outreach Program screened Ra'anana Alexandrowicz's *The Law in These Parts*. Winner of numerous awards including the 2012 Sundance Film Festival World Cinema Jury Prize (Documentary) and Best Documentary at the 2011 Jerusalem Film Festival, *The Law in These Parts* explores the historical development of the Israeli military law governing the Palestinian territories. The second screening, held on April 9, 2014, featured the film *Sleepless Nights* by filmmaker Eliane Raheb. The film tells the interwoven stories of a former high ranking intelligence officer in a Lebanese Christian right wing militia and the mother of a missing young communist fighter who disappeared in Beirut in 1982.



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**TOP ROW** Professor Carrie R. Wickham (Emory University) discusses her book *The Muslim Brotherhood* at a fall 2013 book talk. **SECOND ROW, LEFT** Professor Dina Khoury (George Washington University) discusses her book *Iraq in Wartime* at a fall 2013 book talk. **SECOND ROW, RIGHT** Professor Afsaneh Najmabadi. **THIRD ROW** Author Ari Shavit and CMES Associate Director Susan Kahn. **BOTTOM ROW, LEFT** CMES Director William Granara introduces a film screening for the Outreach Program. **BOTTOM ROW, RIGHT** Filmmaker Ra'anana Alexandrowicz.



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## “LIKE” CMES ON FACEBOOK

Our Facebook page is a great way to keep up with the latest news from CMES. Find us at <http://www.facebook.com/HarvardCMES>

The Modern Hebrew program, under the direction of Senior Hebrew Preceptor **Irit Aharony**, has continued to create digitized tools for Hebrew students including a new digitized book for Hebrew B, a new book on tape, and a collection of “audio dictionary” image clusters in which students can click on an item within an image to view the corresponding vocabulary word and listen to its audio. The program presented its innovative tools in a meeting with a delegation of education professors from Thailand on February 20, 2014. Arabic Preceptors **Sami Alkyam** and **Feryal Hijazi**, CMES Associate Director **Susan Kahn**, and Persian Preceptor **Danny Rafinejad** received Certificates of Teaching Excellence from Harvard’s Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning for fall 2013 courses. Based on student evaluations, the Bok awards honor outstanding teachers. Dr. Kahn was also nominated for the Harvard GSAS Graduate Student Council’s Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Award. **Jocelyne Cesari** recently published two books, *The Awakening of Muslim Democracy: Religion, Modernity and the State* (Cambridge University Press, 2014) and *Why the West Fears Islam, An Exploration of Muslims within Liberal Democracies* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2013), and is editing a third, *Handbook of Islam in Europe* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2015). Cesari is a lecturer on Islamic studies at the Harvard Divinity School; associate of the Prince Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program; senior fellow at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs; and visiting associate professor in the Department of Government at Georgetown University. Assistant Professor of Economics **Eric Chaney** published two journal articles, “Revolt on the Nile: Economic Shocks, Religion and Political Power,” *Econometrica* 81.5 (2013) and “The Feudal Revolution and Europe’s Rise: Political Divergence of the Christian West and the Muslim World before 1500 CE” (with L. Blydes), *American Political Science Review* 107.1 (2013), and a working paper, “Economic Growth in the Malthusian Era: Evidence from the 1609 Spanish Expulsion of the Moriscos” (with Rick Hornbeck). Professor Chaney gave presentations in 2013 at Princeton, Rice, IMT Lucca, and Sciences Po. CMES Director and Gordon Gray Professor of the Practice of Arabic **William Granara** spent a week in Amman, Jordan in January 2014 at the Qasid Institute for the Teaching of Classical and Modern Arabic, where he conducted three teaching workshops on Arabic pedagogy and delivered a lecture in Arabic titled “Recent Trends in the Arabic Novel from Morocco to the Arabian Gulf.” Professor Granara delivered the welcome address for the Harvard Arab Alumni Association’s 2014 Harvard Arab World Conference in Dubai, UAE on March 27, 2014. Professor of Islamic Religious Studies **Baber Johansen** published a booklet on *The Changing Limits of Contingency in the History of Muslim Law*, The Third Annual Levtzion Lecture (The Nehemia Levtzion Center for Islamic Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2013) and a chapter on “Dissent and Uncertainty in the Process of Legal Norm Construction in Muslim Sunni Law (XI–XII Century)” in *Law and Tradition in Classical Islamic Thought* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013). Another chapter, “Capacity, Legal Personality and the Concept of Obligation in Transoxanian Hanafi Law” in *Universality in Islamic Thought. Rationalism, Science,*

*and Religious Belief* (I.B. Tauris, 2014) is forthcoming. Professor Johansen was invited as fellow by the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin from September 15 to December 15, 2013, and from April 1 to July 15, 2014, and by the Section Law of the 23rd Deutscher Orientalistentag as guest of honor to give one of the two public lectures of this section (“The historical development of an important court: The Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt,” delivered on September 26, 2013). He was one of the core faculty at Harvard Law School’s “Institute for Global Law and Policy: The Workshop” in Doha from January 3–11, 2014, where he gave one of the plenary lectures on “Dissent as a Construction Principle of Islamic Law.” **Cemal Kafadar**, Vehbi Koç Professor of Turkish Studies, spearheaded the formation of a new Harvard Summer School study abroad program on history and human rights in Istanbul, Turkey. Professor Kafadar will teach a course titled “City and Agriculture—Studying and Preserving the Historic Gardens of Istanbul” for the program, which begins this summer. Lecturer on Persian Literature and Culture **Chad Kia**’s paper “The Paradox of Reform in Ahmad Kasravi,” on the scholarly reception of the controversial twentieth century Iranian intellectual, which was presented at the Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Faculty Seminar in November 2013, will be published by the *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* under the title “The Scum of Tabriz: Ahmad Kasravi and the Impulse to Reform Islam.” **Lenore Martin**, CMES associate and professor of political science at Emmanuel College, recently published a chapter titled “Turkey’s Challenges,” in the Foreign Policy Association’s *Great Decisions 2014 Briefing Book* and an article titled “Turkey and the USA in a Bipolarizing Middle East,” in the *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies* 15.2 (2013). She delivered several papers and panel presentations in the spring and summer of 2013 and early 2014 at venues including the University of Pittsburgh, Beijing Foreign Studies University, the Northeastern Political Science Association, and Boston University. **Tarek Masoud**, associate professor of public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School, published a chapter titled “Losing Egypt” in *The Arab Revolutions and American Policy* (Aspen Institute, 2013) and a paper titled “Arabs Want Redistribution, So Why Don’t They Vote Left? Theory and Evidence from Egypt” (HKS Faculty Research Working Paper Series RWP13-007, April 2013). His latest book, *Counting Islam: Religion, Class, and Elections in Egypt*, is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press in May 2014. **Susan Miller**, CMES associate and professor of history at the University of California, Davis, recently published *A History of Modern Morocco* (Cambridge University Press, 2013), which received a favorable review in the *Times Literary Supplement* in December 2013. She discussed the book at CMES on April 17, 2014 as part of the Outreach Program’s Spring 2014 Book Launch Series. Professor Miller is a fellow this spring at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, where she is researching a new book on rescuing and humanitarian relief in the western Maghrib during World War II. Gurney Professor of History **Roy P. Mottahedeh** traveled to Iraq in February 2014 to give a talk titled “Religious Toleration in the Islamic Tradition and History” at

# FACULTY & ASSOCIATE NEWS



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the conference Religious Pluralism in the Dialogue of Civilizations at the University of Kufa. While there he also gave a separate talk on Baghdad one thousand years ago, titled “The Twilight of Buyid Baghdad,” which discussed among other things sectarianism, literary circles, and trade. Professor Mottahedeh’s book *The Mantle of the Prophet: Religion and Politics in Iran* (Oneworld Publications, second edition 2008) was recently cited by *Al-Monitor* in a list of “14 Must-Reads on the Middle East.” **Afsaneh Najmabadi**, Francis Lee Higginson Professor of History and professor of studies of women, gender, and sexuality, and chair of the Committee on Degrees in Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, published *Professing Selves: Transsexuality and Same-Sex Desire in Contemporary Iran* (Duke University Press, 2013), and gave a talk on the book as part of the CMES Outreach Program’s Spring 2014 Book Launch Series on February 20, 2014. Women’s World in Qajar Iran (<http://www.qajarwomen.org>), led by Professor Najmabadi, recently introduced its new feature: an interactive Collaborative Learning and Research Platform (<https://platform.qajarwomen.org/>). Made possible in part by a grant from Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute, the platform enables researchers to collaborate with each other and contribute to scholarship, and can be used for teaching purposes as well.

**Roger Owen**, A.J. Meyer Professor of Middle Eastern History Emeritus was interviewed by Zienab Badawi on the BBC World News in January 2014 regarding the referendum in Egypt. Professor Owen’s recent book *The Rise and Fall of Arab Presidents for Life* (Harvard University Press, 2012) has been favorably reviewed in several outlets including *The London Review of Books* 35.17 (September 12, 2013) and will be released in paperback by Harvard University Press. **Hashim Sarkis**, Aga Khan Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urbanism in Muslim Societies, recently published several articles and papers, including an op-ed in the *Lebanese Daily Star* on the controversial Fouad Boutros Bridge, a paper on Geo-Architecture in the *Harvard Design Magazine*, a paper titled “Bleu Outremer: The Displacement of Geography in Le Corbusier’s Urbanism,” in *Rencontres de la Fondation Le Corbusier* (2013), and “Disoriented: Kevin Lynch, around 1960,” in *A Second Modernism* (MIT Press, 2013). Professor Sarkis recently led a team of faculty that obtained a Mellon Foundation grant for Harvard University to develop interdisciplinary activities and courses on urbanism and the humanities, and received a grant with Erkin Ozay from the Kuwait Program at Harvard Kennedy School to study educational facilities in Kuwait. Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor in Contemporary Islamic Thought and Life **Malika Zeghal** published an article titled “Competing Ways of Life: Islamism, Secularism, and Public Order in the Tunisian Transition” in *Constellations* 20.2 (June 2013).

**TOP** Arabic Preceptors Feryal Hijazi, Dalia Abo-Haggag, and Nour Barmada and Senior Arabic Preceptor Nevenka Korica Sullivan at the 2013 Fall Reception. **CENTER** AM student Youssef Ben Ismail, CMES Associate Director Susan Kahn, and Arabic Preceptor Feryal Hijazi receive teaching awards from the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning. **BOTTOM** Turkish Preceptor Himmet Taskmur asks a question during the Fall 2013 H.A.R. Gibb Lectures.

## IN MEMORY OF RICHARD N. FRYE



CMES is saddened to report that Richard Nelson Frye, Aga Khan Professor of Iranian *Emeritus*, passed away on March 27, 2014 at the age of ninety-four. After receiving his PhD from Harvard in 1949, Professor Frye helped to found the Center for Middle Eastern Studies in 1954, and served as its first associate director until 1957, when he became Aga Khan Professor of Iranian. Upon his retirement in 1990 he remained an honorary associate of Kirkland House and an active participant in the life of the Center.

Dubbed “*Irاندوست*,” meaning “Friend of Iran,” by the scholar and linguist Ali-Akbar Dehkhoda, Professor Frye had a lifelong love of Iranian history and culture. His publications number over 20 books and 150 articles, including *The Heritage of Persia* (1963), *The Charisma of Kingship in Ancient Iran* (1964), and his latest, the autobiographical *Greater Iran: A 20th-century Odyssey* (2011).

Frye’s students include members of the foreign service and federal administration and many leading Middle East studies scholars, including Harvard professors William Graham and Roy P. Mottahedeh. Professor Graham recalls, “To sit in a class of his was always an adventure: He was a colorful man with many brilliant and sometimes quite quirky, but always stimulating, observations on history, religion, peoples, and places. He delighted in almost everything, from colleagues to languages—and he had a great many of both.” Professor Mottahedeh notes his contribution to and stature in the field of Iranian studies: “In his generation Richard Frye was a giant among scholars of Iranian studies. He spanned the entire range of Iranian studies from prehistoric times to the present day. We are unlikely to see again scholars of his breadth in the field of Iranian studies.”

## IN MEMORY OF WOLFHART P. HEINRICHS



CMES joins the Middle East studies community in mourning the unexpected loss of Wolfhart P. Heinrichs, who passed away on January 23, 2014. A long-serving member of the CMES Steering Committee, Professor Heinrichs was a professor of Arabic in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations since 1978, and held the James Richard Jewett chair since 1996. His numerous

publications include more than fifty articles in the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, second edition, for which he was also co-editor.

Professor Heinrichs was a beloved teacher and advisor for generations of CMES and NELC students. Avigail Noy, NELC PhD candidate and student of Professor Heinrichs, remembers the joy he took in teaching and mentoring: “His legendary Arabic philology class, where he would write personally tailored exams for each student; his meticulous analysis of term papers and dissertation chapters as if they were one of the classical texts themselves; his creativity in writing General Exam questions, which would always include one he knew the student could not answer (just for the fun of it); his trust in his students to pursue whatever paths their research led them to (even if it meant taking a year or two longer to finish); the much-awaited limerick he would write when the student finally did finish—all of these, together with his humble, kind, and shy demeanor, made Professor Heinrichs an object of admiration and inspiration for a generation of Arabists.”

## AM STUDENT NEWS

**Nicole Abi-Esber** received a 2013 Harvard Presidential Public Service Fellowship for her work in Washington, DC last summer creating conflict resolution workshops and programming related to the Syrian conflict for the DC policymaking community. Much of this work was done at a DC law firm called the Public International Law and Policy Group where she was an associate. Three members of the 2014 graduating class will begin PhD programs in the fall: **Youssef Ben Ismail** at Harvard's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, **Edith Chen** at Princeton's Near Eastern Studies Department, and **Yichen Guan** at the Department of Government at Harvard. Ben Ismail received a fall 2013 teaching award from Harvard's Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, and is writing a master's thesis titled "The Political Rise of Ennahdha's Women" **Anna Haleblian** interned at the UN Secretariat's Department of Public Information as Creative Community Outreach Intern last summer, supported by a fellowship from the Arab American Institute. She also participated in the Develop Armenia Program organized by LUYs Foundation, for which she did community work in Armenian villages including organizing a farmers market for eight villages and designing marketing, branding, and packaging strategies for local products. Last fall, she served as VP of marketing for the Harvard Arab Weekend. **Nora Lessersohn** presented her paper, "Provincial Cosmopolitanism' in Late Ottoman Anatolia: An Armenian Shoemaker's Memoir" at the MESAAS Graduate Conference in February 2014. **Aaron Magid** has published several articles over the past year including "The World Has Barely Noticed This Huge Political Development in Gaza" in *The New Republic*, "Israeli Supreme Court Rules for Democracy" in *Al-Monitor*, and "Being Erdogan Means Never Having to Say Sorry" in *Haaretz*. Last summer, **Stephanie Sobek** interned with the State Department on the Syria Desk where she worked with the Syrian opposition outreach team. In March 2014, Stephanie represented the United States as part of a student delegation in Morocco where she debated in Arabic against university teams from each country in the Maghreb.

BELOW, LEFT AM students Samah Choudhury, Kathleen Gillen, and Jason Wimberly with CMES Director William Granara at the 2013 Fall Reception. BELOW, RIGHT AM students Youssef Ben Ismail, Stephanie Sobek, and Sarah Moawad speak to students from Casco Bay High School on an Outreach Program-organized visit to Harvard.

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## PHD STUDENT NEWS

**Tarek Abu Hussein** and **Elise K. Burton** received fall 2013 teaching awards from Harvard's Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning. **Jesse Howell** and **Aleksandar Sopov** assisted Professor Cemal Kafadar with the development of the Harvard Summer School's new study abroad program in Istanbul; Howell will serve as the program coordinator this summer. Sopov presented his work at the University of Bern and the University of Chicago on Ottoman-Turkish and Arabic agricultural manuals in the early modern period and the diffusion of plants in the Eastern Mediterranean. He also published "The Soil Does Not Have History" in a *Cultural Anthropology* series titled *An Impromptu Uprising: Ethnographic Reflections on the Gezi Park Protests in Turkey*. Harvard History PhD graduate Clare Gillis interviewed Sopov and Professor Kafadar for a September 9, 2013 article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* on historical preservation efforts in Istanbul. **Gwendolyn Collaco** is organizing a production of Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard" to be staged in Istanbul during the new Summer School program. Designed to raise awareness about the Yedikule orchards, a historic site in Istanbul's Fatih district currently threatened by development plans, the production will be directed by Boston/New York-based director Jonathan Solari. **Salmaan Mirza** presented a paper titled "Preaching Business Education" at the MESAAS Graduate Conference in February 2014. **Asher Orkaby** will begin a position as a postdoctoral fellow at Brandeis University's Crown Center for Middle Eastern Studies in fall 2014. Last September, **Deniz Turker** began the two-year William R. Tyler Fellowship in Garden and Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks. She presented at the 2013 MESA conference in New Orleans as well as at a workshop on nineteenth-century ephemeral architecture at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Turker contributed to the *Harvard Library Bulletin* special issue on the Fine Arts Library's fiftieth anniversary with a short introduction to an Ottoman bureaucrat-turned-antiques dealer's Islamic art journal from the late-nineteenth century, which is in the Library's collection today. **Ekin Tusalp** graduated in March 2014 and has accepted a post-doctoral fellowship at the Foundation for Research and Technology—Hellas, Institute of Mediterranean Studies, Rethymno, Greece. She will be working on "OTTPOL—A history of early modern Ottoman political thought, 15th to early 19th centuries."



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## FIELD STUDY COURSE ASSESSING THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

This January, three CMES master's students participated in a Harvard winter term field study course on the Syrian refugee crisis led by Professor Claude Bruderlein of the Harvard School of Public Health. Supported by a financial grant from CMES, master's students Stephanie Sobek ('14), Jenny Quigley-Jones ('15), and Elsie van Pinxteren ('15) spent three weeks in Jordan examining the national and international response to the Syrian refugee crisis and learning strategic approaches to navigating the political and humanitarian issues surrounding it.

For van Pinxteren, who plans to pursue a PhD in political anthropology, the course was an opportunity to bridge the gap between her more theoretical academic studies and the real world and to gain perspective into how policy is made and applied at an on-the-ground level. Quigley-Jones's experience in Jordan strengthened her growing desire to go into humanitarian work. She cites Professor Bruderlein, whose career combines the academic and the applied, as an inspiring example of a potential career path. Sobek, who is at CMES on a Pickering Fellowship through the U.S. Department of State, will work for the Foreign Service for three years after graduation. Her experience in the J-term course provided insight into how she might form partnerships in the NGO world through her work for the Department of State.

Jointly offered by the Harvard Kennedy School and the Harvard School of Public Health, the "Winter Field Study Course in the Middle East 2014: Assessing the Syrian Refugee Crisis in [Jordan]" attracted graduate students from a wide range of backgrounds. Many days consisted of back-to-back meetings with government officials and NGO representatives, followed by debriefing sessions. The students often had only the tiniest biographies on their interview subjects before meeting them, approximating a real-life field environment in which information is frequently scarce. In these conditions, the combined knowledge of the group, and their familiarity with and trust in each other, was a key asset. Quigley-Jones was surprised by the level of synergy they attained by the end of the course: "It was amazing to learn a group so well. I've never been that organized with a group of people before," she says.

The purpose of the interviews was to develop and practice strategies for gathering information in a crisis situation in order to inform policy decisions. Van Pinxteren appreciated how much insight they gained into the underlying motivations—economic, political, legal—that drive decision-making by an individual or organization in humanitarian situations. "In a typical undergrad or graduate course, like a history course, you're not always confronted with that," she explains. "The experience has also triggered my interest in international law, because it made me understand the bigger picture, where you have so many forces that work with and against each other."

Sobek, Quigley-Jones, and van Pinxteren all say they would highly recommend the course to others, particularly CMES students with an interest in humanitarian work. All three felt challenged and enriched by the experience on a professional and personal level. "You haven't lived if you haven't taken this course!" says van Pinxteren.

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

<sup>1</sup> Originally planned for Lebanon, the course was moved to Jordan due to security concerns.



ABOVE Jenny Quigley-Jones, Elsie van Pinxteren, and Stephanie Sobek in Jordan.

## CMES FUNDS WINTER TERM RESEARCH IN ISRAEL

CMES's Henry Rosovsky Fellowship for Undergraduate Research in Israel provided funding for economics concentrator Josh Chmara ('15) to conduct research in preparation for his senior thesis in January 2014. Chmara, who is writing his thesis on start-up entrepreneurship in Israel, traveled to Tel Aviv to interview venture capitalists and government innovators in order to explore and refine the focus of his thesis. As a result of meetings held during his trip, Chmara now plans to focus specifically on how tech start-ups in Israel are funded (by venture capital versus by government investment) and to compare the effects of these funding sources on the development of companies. The Henry Rosovsky Undergraduate Research Fund was established in 1985 by an anonymous donation to commemorate the retirement of Henry Rosovsky (AM '53, PhD '59) as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. The fund awards summer and winter term funding for senior thesis research in Israel to approximately three to five undergraduates each year.

## 2013 HARVARD COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST

CMES awarded a first prize and two honorable mentions for photos taken in the Middle East in the 2013 Harvard College Photo Contest. First prize went to Aizhan Shorman for her photo “Afternoon in the Ziz River Valley.” Shorman’s photo was taken during a two-week stay in Errachidia, Morocco where she was doing volunteer work at a local school. Arifeen Rahman, who was in Saudi Arabia on a religious pilgrimage, received an honorable mention for her photo “Fajr Reflections,” taken at the Masjid al Nabawi mosque right after Fajr prayers in the early morning. The second honorable mention went to Civry Melvin for her photo “Pyramids & Concrete” taken in Cairo in January 2013. Melvin explains, “I love this photo because I think it manages to capture the complexity of the city; in addition to representing the past and present in Egypt’s cityscape, the teenagers in the foreground of the photo represent Cairo’s future and the many layers of history that will be added to the city in years to come.” For more on the three students and their experiences go to <http://bit.ly/1kLQFor>.



**ABOVE** First Prize: “Afternoon in the Ziz River Valley” by Aizhan Shorman. **LEFT** Honorable Mention: “Fajr Reflections” by Arifeen Rahman.

(Civry Melvin’s honorable mention pictured on front cover.)

## AM ALUMNI NEWS & UPDATES

**Shai Bronshtein** (’09) completed a clerkship with the Honorable Jerry E. Smith of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit Court last August and moved to Washington, DC, where he began a position as a trial and appellate litigator at the law firm Robbins, Russell, Englert, Orseck, Untereiner & Sauber. After making a short documentary about Palestinian music and dance in a unique diaspora community while at CMES, **Jennifer Fischer** (’03) is now an independent filmmaker. Her award winning film *SMUGGLED*, about immigration, has been screened at university campuses across the country and was featured at an American Bar Association Annual Meeting and a National Chicana and Chicano Studies Annual Meeting. **Perween Hasan** (’77) co-taught an undergraduate history course titled “Bay of Bengal, Flows of Change” which was offered jointly by the Department of History, Tufts University, and the Department of English and Humanities, BRAC University, Bangladesh. It dealt with the flow of ideas, art, architecture, and material goods across the Bay of Bengal rim over the ages. **Christopher Herbert** (’05) is a member of the vocal ensemble New York Polyphony, which specializes in early music. Their most recent album, “Times Go By Turns” on BIS Records, was nominated for a GRAMMY. **Yadin Kaufmann** (’85) co-founded Sadara Ventures Fund, the first fund focused on investing in Palestinian technology companies, which has now made its first three investments in companies in Ramallah. He gave a talk at TEDxRoma in February 2014 about their activity there, and about Tmura, the Israeli not-for-profit he also founded. **Scott Liddle** (’12) joined the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in May 2012, working first for eighteen months as an ICRC delegate in Algeria, responsible for visiting detainees all over the country, especially those detained on terrorism charges. He then took up a brief post in Najaf, Iraq, where he coordinated ICRC’s activities in Babel province, in particular providing assistance to families displaced by recent fighting in Anbar province. He is now based in Tripoli, Libya as ICRC delegate for the Nafusa mountains southwest of the city. **Heidi Morrison** (’02) received a Fulbright and NEH/PARC fellowship for research on oral histories of children and the Second Intifada. She is based in Ramallah and teaches a course at Birzeit University’s Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies. **Patrick J. Rooney** (’63) has retired after forty-six years in the international petroleum industry. He lived in the Middle East for eighteen years and worked as a commercial negotiator (exploration and production contracts) and in government relations. **Alex Shams** (’13) moved to the West Bank after graduation to become an editor at Ma'an News Agency, the largest independent Palestinian news organization.

## PHD ALUMNI NEWS & UPDATES

**Abby Balbale** ('12) has accepted a position as assistant professor of medieval Mediterranean history at the University of Massachusetts Boston, starting in September 2014. **Nadia Maria El Cheikh** ('92) is currently the chair of the Department of History and Archaeology at the American University of Beirut. Her book *Byzantium Viewed by the Arabs* (CMES Middle Eastern Monographs, 2004) has been translated into Turkish (Istanbul, 2012) and Greek (2013). She co-authored *Crisis and Continuity at the Abbasid Court: Formal and Informal Politics in the Caliphate of al-Muqtadir (295-320/908-32)* (Brill, 2013). **Leyla Kayhan Elbirlilik** ('13) and **Iktil O. Selcuk** ('09) founded a consulting company, HistorIst, based in Istanbul, which focuses on organizing events and excursions with historical/cultural themes for a range of customers from corporate to academic. **Daphna Ephrat** ('93) co-edited *Religious Knowledge, Authority, and Charisma: Islamic and Jewish Perspectives* (Utah University Press, 2013). **Arthur Goldschmidt** (AM '61, PhD '68) retired from teaching at Penn State University but continues to update his books, including *A Concise History of the Middle East* (10th ed. Westview Press, 2013) and the *Historical Dictionary of Egypt* (4th ed. Scarecrow Press, 2013). **Zahra N. Jamal** ('08) was named as a delegate to The Concordia Forum in September 2013, and addressed the United Nations NGO Committee on Mental Health Parallel Event as part of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations 58th General Assembly in March 2014. As director of the Civil Islam Initiative at University of Chicago, she hosted events in 2013–14 on homosexuality in Islam, women's rights in post-Morsi Egypt, Muslim women's power in sacred spaces, and sharia and alternate dispute resolution in the context of family law. **Julie Kleinman** ('13) will begin a tenure track position in French and African Studies at Penn State University in 2015, after completing her Mellon Humanities postdoc at Oberlin College. **Chotirat Komaradat** ('10) is currently the first secretary in charge of counter-terrorism, transnational crime, and cyber security at the International Security Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand. **Ira Lapidus** ('65), Emeritus Professor of Islamic History, University of California, Berkeley, is working on the third edition of *A History of Islamic Societies* (Cambridge University Press), forthcoming this summer. **Naghmeh Sohrabi** ('05) was awarded the Mellon New Directions Fellowship, which will enable her to receive training in cultural anthropology and ethnographic research methods for her new book about the 1979 Iranian revolution. As a New Directions fellow, Sohrabi will spend the 2014–15 academic year in France, England, and Iran. **Lucia Volk** ('01) edited *The Middle East in the World: An Introduction* (M.E. Sharpe, 2014). She hopes it will be useful in interdisciplinary classrooms that focus on multiple ways to learn about the region. **John O. Voll** (AM '60, PhD '69) will be retiring from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service Core Faculty this May. He will continue his research and writing on the history of Islamic reform movements and on the history of Muslim-Christian relations.

**RIGHT, TOP** Zahra N. Jamal (center) at the United Nations NGO Committee on Mental Health Parallel Event. **BOTTOM** Member of Turkish Parliament Aykan Erdemir (CMES AM '98, PhD '04) and CMES Associate Lenore Martin at a September 2013 Turkey in the Modern World talk delivered by Dr. Erdemir.

## RECENT ALUMNI FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

**Arbella Bet-Shlimon** ('12), Assistant Professor of Modern Middle East History, University of Washington, Seattle

**Alireza Doostdar** ('12), Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies and the Anthropology of Religion, University of Chicago Divinity School

**Ahmed El Shamsy** ('09), Assistant Professor of Islamic Thought, University of Chicago

**Rachel Goshgarian** ('08), Assistant Professor of Middle East History, Lafayette College

**Ayfer Karakaya-Stump** ('08), Assistant Professor of Middle East History, The College of William & Mary

**Mana Kia** ('11), Assistant Professor of Indo-Persian Studies, Columbia University

**Julie Kleinman** ('13), Assistant Professor, French and African Studies, Penn State University

**Abigail Krasner Balbale** ('12), Assistant Professor of Medieval Mediterranean History, University of Massachusetts Boston

**Aria Nakissa** ('12), Assistant Professor, Department of Religion and Culture, University of Winnipeg

**Martin Nguyen** ('09), Assistant Professor of Islamic Religious Traditions, Fairfield University

**Anthony Shenoda** ('10), Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Religion, Leiden University College

**Ali Yaycioglu** ('08), Assistant Professor of Middle East History, Stanford University



NASIRUDDIN M. JAMAL



JOHANNA BODNYK

# VISITING RESEARCHER NEWS

**Lala Aliyeva**, CMES visiting scholar and associate professor of history at Baku State University, recently published the chapter “The History of Islamic Education in Azerbaijan” in *Islamic Education in Secular Societies*, Wiener Islamstudien Vol. 4 (Peter Lang Verlag, 2013), and several articles: “Mutual Influence of Religious and Ethnic Processes: In the Case of Azerbaijan,” in the *International Journal of Art and Sciences: Social Sciences and Humanities* 2.4 (2013), “Vernacular Islam in Azerbaijan” *ibid.* 2.3 (2013), “Shia Islam in Azerbaijan: Historical Approach and Modernity” in *Humanities Letters* (2013), and “Islam During Mongolian Conquest” in *BSU Humanitarian Series* 2 (2013). She presented a paper titled “The Problem of National Identity: In the Case of Azerbaijan” at the ASN 2014 World Convention at Columbia University on April 25, 2014, and was awarded a research/publication grant for 2014 from the Open Society Foundation’s Global Faculty Grants Program. Visiting Fellow **Erdal Gezik**’s current research is on a creation story traced to Alevis in Turkey, which can be linked to similar concepts within the Ismaili thought in the tenth and eleventh centuries. He is writing an article on his findings titled “How Archangel Gabriel Became Our Brother for Hereafter.” Visiting Fellow **Alexander Henley** was awarded a PhD on March 19, 2014 for successful defense of a dissertation on “The Politics of Religious Leadership in Modern Lebanon” at the University of Manchester. Visiting Fellow **Lorenzo Kamel** has recently published “Whose Land? Land Tenure in Late

19th- and Early 20th-century Palestine” in the *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* (2014) and “The Impact of Biblical Orientalism in Late 19th- and Early 20th-century Palestine” in *New Middle Eastern Studies* (2014). He is now working to publish his PhD, awarded “with excellence” from Bologna University in December 2013. Visiting Fellow **Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol** spoke on a panel on “Music and Protest in the Middle East” at Tufts University on April 1, 2014 during an event on Turkish/Ottoman songs of protest throughout history.



ABOVE Post-doctoral Fellow Naofumi Abe asks a question during the Fall 2013 H.A.R. Gibb Lectures.

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