

# CVES

NEWS

THE CENTER FOR  
MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES,  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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## SPRING 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

I'M HAPPY TO REPORT THAT WE ARE DRAWING TO THE CLOSE OF AN ACADEMIC YEAR FULL OF ACTIVITY. CMES was honored to host a considerable number of outstanding lectures this year by eminent scholars from throughout the U.S. as well as from the Middle East and Europe. I mention only a few highlights below.

Our new Middle Eastern Literatures initiative was advanced by several events: campus visits by Arab novelists Mai Nakib (Kuwait), Ahmed Khaled Towfik (Egypt), and Ali Bader (Iraq); academic lectures by a range of literary scholars including Hannan Hever (Yale) on Zionist literature and Sheida Dayani (NYU) on contemporary Persian theater; and a highly successful seminar on intersections between Arabic and Turkish literatures held at Bilgi University in Istanbul, which included our own Professor Cemal Kafadar, several of our graduate students, and myself.

In early April, CMES along with two Harvard Iranian student groups hosted the first Harvard Iranian Gala, which featured a lecture by Professor Abbas Milani of Stanford University and was attended by over one hundred guests from the broader Boston Iranian community. Also in April, CMES co-sponsored an international multilingual conference on *The Thousand and One Nights* with INALCO, Paris. Our new Arabian Peninsula Studies Lecture Series was inaugurated with a lecture by Professor David Commins of Dickinson College, and we are happy to report that this series will continue in both the fall and spring semesters of next year thanks to the generous support of CMES alumni. Finally, we capped off the academic year in early May with our Iranian Cities conference, organized by Professor Roy Mottahedeh.

I close with thoughts of hope and best wishes for all the members of the CMES community who have family and friends throughout the Middle East who have been, and continue to be, subjected to the violence and turmoil that is scarring the areas so very close to all of us.

—WILLIAM GRANARA, CMES DIRECTOR

# SHIFTING TOWARDS THE ARABIAN PENINSULA

*The following is an excerpt of an interview with CMES Director William Granara about CMES's new Arabian Peninsula Studies Lecture Series.*

## **Why Arabian Peninsula Studies?**

Over the last twenty years the Arabian Peninsula has grown in both geopolitical and academic importance. When I was a student twenty or thirty years ago, the Arabian Peninsula was essentially a footnote. For a long time Middle Eastern studies has been thought of as centering around the Mediterranean and looking up towards Europe—both during the colonial and post-colonial periods, the field assumed a long historical connection to Western Europe. More recently however, there has been a major shift in Middle Eastern studies, from a Mediterranean-centered perspective towards the Persian Gulf. In response, I would like to start building up a multidisciplinary program focused on this area of the world, not to replace, but to broaden the Middle Eastern studies curriculum at Harvard University, and to encourage and support faculty in including

the study of the countries of the Arabian Peninsula in their courses. Our new lecture series is the first small step in that direction, made possible by generous alumni gifts, which we will use to bring scholars to CMES once a semester to give public lectures. [David Commins, Professor of History at Dickinson College, delivered the series' inaugural lecture on April 21, 2015.]

Another factor that has drawn my attention to the Arabian Peninsula is that over the last twenty years, we've seen a dramatic rise in the production of the Arabic novel in the Arabian Peninsula, particularly in Saudi Arabia. Our effort to bring Saudi writer and scholar Moneera Al-Ghadeer here as the Shawwaf Visiting Professor last fall was part of this larger project as well. Professor Malika Zeghal and I organized a conference at Radcliffe last fall that brought Professor Al-Ghadeer and Umayma Khamis, a prominent



William Granara (left) introduces David Commins

novelist and public intellectual from Saudi Arabia, together with faculty from Harvard. CMES also recently invited Mai Nakib, a short story writer from Kuwait, to give a talk for the Director's Series.

## **What are your hopes for a larger program of Arabian Peninsula Studies?**

A program like this should be multi-targeted and multi-purposed, engaging undergraduates and graduate students and as many faculty as we can, not only from FAS

but also from other schools on campus. I would like to encourage all of our students from undergraduates to master's and doctoral students to consider going to the Arabian Peninsula to conduct fieldwork for their theses, and to facilitate faculty exchanges, offering short-term grants for our faculty to go to the region, and inviting scholars from the Arabian Peninsula to come to Harvard.

→ Visit <http://cmes.fas.harvard.edu/news/aps> to read the full interview.

# NEWS AND NOTES

## FACULTY NEWS

Hebrew Preceptor **Irit Aharony** recently organized two talks for the Modern Hebrew program: a talk by Lilach Lachman entitled “Veiling and Unveiling: The poetry of Avot Yeshurun, Erez Biton and Haviva Pdaya,” and a second by Edna Shemesh entitled “We, The Children—Second Generation to the Holocaust: Complex Past, a Contemplative Present.” CMES Associate **Don Babai** contributed an article to the third edition of the *Wiley Encyclopedia of Management* (2014), entitled “Business Ethics in the Middle East.” Persian Preceptor **Nicholas Boylston** co-translated, along with PhD candidate Farhad Dokhani, an article on Mulla Hadi Sabzawari’s *Ghurar al-Fara’id* (The Blazes of the Gems) for the *Oxford Handbook of Islamic Philosophy* (forthcoming). Professor of Government **Melani Cammett** published *A Political Economy of the Middle East* (Westview Press, Fourth Ed., 2015). Since joining the Harvard faculty on January 1, 2015, she has given

talks at the American University of Beirut, Princeton, Yale, Brigham Young University, University of Connecticut, George Mason University, Ohio State University, and Harvard. Murray A. Albertson Professor of Middle Eastern Studies **William Graham** wrote the section “The Qur’an as a Discourse of Signs,” for *No Tapping Around Philology: A Festschrift in Honor of Wheeler McIntosh Thackston Jr.’s 70th Birthday* (Harrassowitz Verlag, 2014). **William Granara**, CMES Director and Gordon Gray Professor of the Practice of Arabic, visited Egypt and Turkey in January. His trip included consultations with university faculty and administrators at the American University in Cairo. At Bilgi University in Istanbul on January 16, he co-led, with Cemal Kafadar, a roundtable discussion entitled “Intersections between Turkish and Arabic Literature.” They were joined by Turkish literary scholars Murat Belge and Jale Parla as well as several graduate students from CMES and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.



Afsaneh Najmabadi



Ousmane Kane



William Graham speaks with a guest at the Iranian Gala in April

Vehbi Koç Professor of Turkish Studies **Cemal Kafadar** will again direct the Harvard Summer School program in Istanbul on “History and Human Rights” in 2015 for its second year. Professor Kafadar is part of a team of Harvard faculty including **Gülru Necipoğlu**, Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art, involved in a

Getty Project on cultural history in the Balkans. In October and December 2014, Professor Kafadar gave lectures at two conferences in Istanbul, on the reign of Mahmud I and intellectual life under Mehmed II, and in March 2015 he gave a series of lectures and seminars at the University of North Carolina and Duke University.

CMES Associate Director and Director of the AM Program **Susan Kahn** chaired a session on “Ethics and Regulation of Inter-Country Medically Assisted Reproduction” at the UNESCO 10<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics & Health Law in January 2015 in Jerusalem. Dr. Kahn is also coordinating the “Harvard Animal Studies Project,” a new interdisciplinary initiative to bring animal studies to Harvard—Kristen Stilt, Cemal Kafadar, and Roy Mottahedeh are among the many esteemed faculty on the steering committee. **Ousmane Kane**, Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor of Contemporary Islamic Religion and Society, wrote the chapter “Negotiating Settlement: Senegalese Muslim Immigrants and the Politics of Multiple Belongings in New York City” for *Religion in Diaspora, Cultures of Citizenship* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015). Professor Kane earned the Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Award from the Harvard Graduate Student Council in April 2015, and received a grant from the Presidential Fund for International Experience for

the Harvard West Africa Program 2015–2017. Lecturer on Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations **Luke Leafgren** translated two Arabic novels: *Dates on My Fingers* by Muhsin al-Ramli (AUC Press, 2014), and *Oh, Salaam!* by Najwa Barakat (Interlink, 2014). **Lenore Martin**, CMES associate and chair of the Department of Political Science at Emmanuel College, was interviewed in the Turkish publication *Analist* in January 2015 on “Turkey-U.S. Relations in 2014.” She presented several papers over the last year including “China and Turkish Foreign Policy Through a Security Lens,” Shanghai International Studies University, March 2015; “Turkey Has Read Its Davutoglu But Has It Read Its Morgenthau?” International Studies Association, New Orleans, February 2015; and “The Kurds and Turkish Foreign Policy in a Tumultuous Middle East,” Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and Middle East Technical University, Ankara, November 2014. **Susan G. Miller**, CMES associate and professor of history at the University of California, Davis, is working on a biography of the charismatic Moroccan Jewish lawyer H  l  ne Cazes Benatar, who was instrumental in

rescuing hundreds of refugees during and after World War II. Last fall Professor Miller received an Honorable Mention from the American Institute of Maghribi Studies’ L. Carl Brown Book Prize for her book *The History of Modern Morocco* (Cambridge University Press, 2013). **Roy P. Mottahedeh**, Gurney Professor of History, was an honoree at the first annual Iranian Gala held in April 2015, and gave a talk at Princeton on March 31, 2015 entitled “Ghaznavid Panegyrics as Historical Source.” Professor Mottahedeh’s recent publications include “The Quandaries of Emulation: The Theory and Politics of Shi’i Manuals of Practice” (2011 Ziadeh Lecture, University of Washington, December 2014). Francis Lee Higginson Professor of History and of Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality **Afsaneh Najmabadi**



was a finalist in the Lambda Literary Award for her 2014 book *Professing Selves: Transsexuality and Same-Sex Desire in Contemporary Iran* (Duke University Press). The book received the 2014 Joan Kelly Memorial Prize from the American Historical Association for best book in women’s history and feminist theory, and was co-winner of the 2015 John Boswell Prize from the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender History. **Roger Owen**, A.J. Meyer Professor of Middle Eastern History Emeritus, continues to write regular bi-monthly op-eds for *Al-Hayat* and is working on a memoir called *My Life in Middle Eastern Studies* that has been accepted for publication by Tadween, the publishing arm of Jadaliyya Enterprises. Professor Owen reviewed *Edward Said: A Legacy of Emancipation and Representation*, Iskandar and Rustom, eds. (2010), for *The European Legacy* 19.4 (2014). He is serving as a technical expert for Michal Goldman’s documentary “Nasser: An Egyptian Story.” Professor of Law and Islamic Legal Studies Program (ILSP) Co-Director **Intisar Rabb** published *Doubt in Islamic Law* (Cambridge

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## NEWS AND NOTES

University Press, 2015). As a part of the 2015 Law and Society Program organized by the Federal Judicial Center in April, Professor Rabb presented “Against Kadijustiz: On the Negative Citation of Foreign Law” to a group of judges from around the world. Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor of Islamic Art History **David Roxburgh** attended the Fourth Biennial Symposium of the History of Islamic Art Association at the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto in October where he formally presented *Envisioning Islamic Art and Architecture: Essays in Honor of Renata Holod* (Brill, 2014), which he edited, to its dedicatee. Professor Roxburgh’s recent lectures

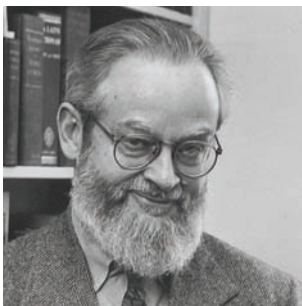
include “My love for writing went beyond everything”: The Life and Times of Sultan Ali Mashhadi,” Freer|Sackler, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, December, 2014; and “In the Rays of Light of Imperial Favour’: The Visual Arts of Early Fifteenth Century Timurid Herat,” Yarshater Lecture Series, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, February 2015. CMES Associate **Sara Roy** organized and chaired a panel entitled “Abandoned yet Central: Gaza and the Resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” at the Middle East Studies Association Meeting in November 2014. In March she delivered the 2015 Islamic

Studies Annual Lecture at Swarthmore College, entitled “Gaza Deserta’: New Dynamics, Future Prospects” and in April and May she spoke at the Middle East Policy Council and the Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington. Professor of Law and ILSP Co-Director **Kristen Stilt** gave a talk in April entitled “Constitutional Animals: Promoting Animal Welfare through Constitutions in India, Germany, and Egypt” at the 2015 Law and Society Program organized by the Federal Judicial Center. Professor Stilt is the director of the new Animal Law Program at Harvard Law School.

## STUDENT NEWS

### AM STUDENTS

*Amreeka Laa!*, a short film written and directed by **Hind Al-Ansari**, was screened at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2015. **Logan Heiman** has received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Turkey for the 2015–2016 academic year. **Nora Lessersohn** published “Provincial Cosmopolitanism” in *Late Ottoman Anatolia: An Armenian Shoemaker’s Memoir* in *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (April 2015). She presented “Forces of Ownership, Sources of Dispossession: The Memoir of Hovhannes Cherishian of Marash (1886–1967)” at “Three Apples Fell From Heaven” (CMES, April 2015) and “Provincial Cosmopolitanism” at the conference Genocide and Global History (University of California, Los Angeles, April 2015). Lessersohn will begin the CMES PhD program in History and Middle Eastern Studies in Fall 2015. **Aaron Magid** published several newspaper articles over the last year including “Jordan Admits to Barring Entry of Palestinian Refugees from Syria” in *Al-Monitor* on July 8, 2014, “Jordanians ‘Disappointed’ with



## IN MEMORY OF EDWARD L. KEENAN

The CMES community mourns the passing of Edward L. “Ned” Keenan, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of History *Emeritus* who died on March 6, 2015 at his home in Deer Isle, Maine at the age of 79. Keenan spent much of his adult life at Harvard, receiving his AB degree in Slavic Languages and Literatures in 1957, his AM in Regional Studies in 1962, and his PhD in History and Middle Eastern Studies in 1962. He received tenure in the History Department in 1970. After becoming an *emeritus* faculty member in 2008, he was the Andrew W. Mellon Research Professor of

History until 2011. In addition to his outstanding scholarship in Russian medieval history, he served in many Harvard leadership positions, including long stints as the director of the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, chair of the History Department, dean of GSAS, and director of the Russian Research Center. A longtime CMES affiliate, Keenan served in leadership roles multiple times in the 1980s and 1990s as the director, and acting director, of the Center.



Nora C. Lessersohn (AM '15)



George C. Kraehe (AM '15), Professor Steven Caton, D. Max Korzen (AM '16), John M. Hambley (AM '16), PhD student Bethany Kibler, and Andrew H. Watkins (AM '15)

Response to Killing of Judge at Israeli Border” in *Haaretz* on June 29, 2014, and “Senior Fatah Official: PA Will Never be Disbanded” in *Al-Monitor* on January 16, 2015.

#### PHD STUDENTS

**Farhad Dokhani** co-translated, with Persian Preceptor Nicholas Boylston, an article on Mulla Hadi Sabzawari’s *Ghurar al-Fara’id* for the *Oxford Handbook of Islamic Philosophy* (forthcoming).

**Aslhan Gürbüz** received a fellowship at the Orient-Institut Istanbul, and was a visiting researcher at the Center for the Study of Manuscript Cultures at the University of Hamburg. She presented her work on seventeenth-century manuscript sources on preachers and sermons at both centers. **Jesse Howell** presented a paper at the Renaissance Society

of America’s 2015 annual conference in Berlin in March entitled “Ottoman Roads and Mobile Ragusans: Linkages between Ottoman Istanbul and the Republic of Ragusa.” He will spend this summer as Program Coordinator for the Harvard Summer School program on “History and Human Rights,” in Istanbul, Turkey.

**Han Hsien Liew** presented a paper entitled “The Caliphate of Adam” at the Middle Eastern Studies Association conference in November 2014, and received a Bok Center Certificate of Teaching Excellence from Harvard in Spring 2015. **Aylin Yildirim Tschoepe**’s chapter “Changing Landscapes of Education: Teaching Architecture through Inquiry-Based Approaches” was published in *Inquiry-Based Learning for the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences* (Emerald Group,

2014). She gave presentations this year for Harvard’s Global Studies Outreach Program (on the nexus between architecture, spatial studies, and anthropology), as well as at Istanbul Bilgi University and Technical University Berlin’s

Center for Metropolitan Studies. Yildirim Tschoepe has received a TUBITAK/EU co-funded research grant for fieldwork in Turkey. **Deniz Türker**’s article on the late-nineteenth century Ottoman art collector Hakky-Bey was published in *Muqarnas* 31 (2014). In November 2014, she presented at an international symposium commemorating the life and work of architectural historian Ekrem Hakki Ayverdi, and in February 2015 she delivered a talk for the Harvard AKPIA Lecture Series, a version of which will appear in the *International Journal of Islamic Architecture* in Summer 2015.

## CMES STUDENT PROFILES



### Wadah Al-Shugaa

*Master of Arts in Regional Studies—Middle East*

“After taking a survey class on the political economy of the Middle East as an undergraduate, I became interested in questions like: how can trade and mutual

economic interests build bridges between the people of the Middle East and the international community? How can free and open markets build understanding and mutual respect across cultures? My master’s thesis will examine the race between Doha, Manama, and Dubai to become the Middle East’s financial center and will attempt to analyze what impacts those efforts will have on the countries’ political economies, institutional arrangements, business laws, government-market relations, and regulatory infrastructures.”

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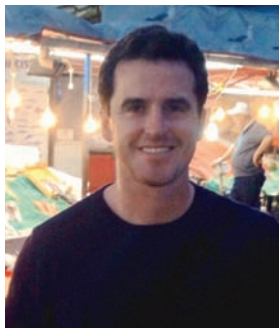


**Gwendolyn Collaco**

*Joint PhD Program in History and Middle East Studies*

“I research the intersections between popular and material culture in the early modern Ottoman Empire. As of now, I’m working on costume albums made in the bazaars of Istanbul and their translations into the *turquerie* fashion movement in European

states. The wealth of museums in the area has contributed a great deal to studying here. Especially after the reopening of the Harvard Art Museums, I have had multiple classes in the art study center and viewing sessions with curators and conservators in the lab. I cannot express what a privilege it is to study these items up close and in person. From Qajar albums and Mughal paintings to World’s Fair ephemera, the collections offer a great scope to explore.”

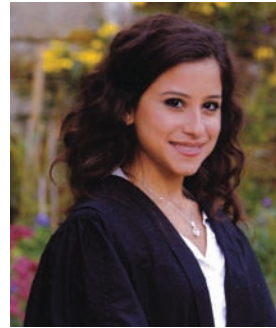


**John Hambley**

*Master of Arts Program in Regional Studies—Middle East*

“My interest in the Middle East began as an undergraduate—from the safety of a college campus, I started studying the political dynamics following the 2003 invasion of Iraq, and slowly became fascinated by the region as a whole. After college, I served in

the U.S. Marine Corps as an Intelligence Officer, and then worked for a consulting firm supporting national security projects. I chose CMES based on the program’s flexibility. While providing an academic structure based around language and Middle East history requirements, it also grants students the opportunity to take advantage of Harvard’s extensive resources, encouraging them to take classes at the professional schools based on their academic interests and focus.”



**Aya Majzoub**

*Master of Arts Program in Regional Studies—Middle East*

“I grew up in Saudi Arabia because my parents left Lebanon after the civil war. However, I remained hopeful that our generation could accomplish what our parents couldn’t, and bring political stability and economic opportunity back to Lebanon and the region.

While I was pursuing an undergraduate degree in politics at the University of Cambridge, the Arab Spring erupted in the region, demonstrating that we were indeed capable of effecting change. My work now focuses on conflict resolution and democratization. As a region undergoing a tumultuous transformation, we need to focus on mechanisms for creating a sustainable peace. However, we should not compromise justice for order, and as such, democratization should not become sidelined.”



**Mira Schwerda**

*Joint PhD Program in History of Art & Architecture and Middle East Studies*

“I specialize in the visual culture, art, and architecture of 19<sup>th</sup>-century Iran and Central Asia. My main focus is the history of photography and printing. In my dissertation I analyze visual and written sources related to political imagery of the

Qajar period, which have received little attention so far. The idea of a joint program and an interdisciplinary approach perfectly corresponds to my dissertation research, which bridges different disciplines. At Harvard I am able to learn from many different specialists, not only professors, but also curators, librarians, and conservators. Harvard also has wonderful libraries and great collections of manuscripts and works of art.”

→ Visit <http://cmes.fas.harvard.edu/applying/profiles> to read these students’ full profiles.

## CONGRATULATIONS 2014–15 AM GRADUATES!

- **Paul Fargues**
- **Philip Gardner**
- **Logan Heiman**
- **George Kraehe**  
*Thesis:* “First Do No Harm: A Critique of the International Counternarcotics Regime in North Africa and the Sahel”  
*Advisor:* Ousmane Kane
- **Nora Lessersohn**  
*Thesis:* “Armenian Self and Ottoman Society: Christopher Oscanyan’s Oriental and Turkish Museum in London (1853–54)” *Advisors:* Cemal Kafadar, Gülru Necipoğlu
- **Wan Li**
- **Katherine Lyman**
- **Aaron Magid**
- **Jonathan Mautner\***  
*Thesis:* “Financing Jihad: ISIL, Al-Qaeda and the Money Behind Mass Casualty Terrorism”  
*Advisor:* James A. Baker
- **Jennifer Quigley-Jones**  
*Thesis:* “Syrian Refugee Adolescents and Parental Involvement in Livelihood Programs in Lebanon”  
*Advisors:* Denis Sullivan, Rima Rassi
- **Elsien van Pinxteren**  
*Thesis:* “Gender, Parody, and Activism: Rethinking Conceptual Tools through Drag Performances in Lebanon”  
*Advisor:* Soha Bayoumi
- **Andrew Watkins**  
*Thesis:* “To Coin a Phrase: Counterinsurgency, Innovation, and the U.S. Military’s Enlistment of ‘Enablers’ in Iraq and Afghanistan”  
*Advisor:* Tad Oelstrom

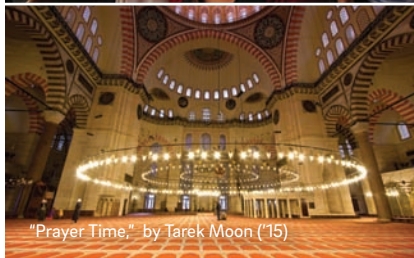
\* Winner of the 2015 CMES AM Thesis Prize.



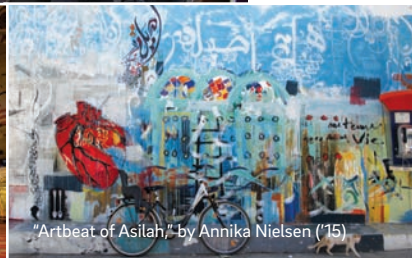
Philip Gardner (AM '15)



“Gay Pride in the Middle East,” by Vanessa Rodriguez ('16)



“Prayer Time,” by Tarek Moon ('15)



“Artbeat of Asilah,” by Annika Nielsen ('15)

## UNDERGRADUATE PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE REGION

CMES awarded a first prize and three honorable mentions in the 2014–15 Harvard College International Photo Contest. Vanessa Rodriguez ('16), a sociology concentrator with a history secondary, received first prize for an image she captured while studying abroad last summer in Turkey. Her bright and energetic photo of a gay pride parade in Istanbul captured for her “the nation’s unique intersection of modern and traditional institutions.” Turkey was a popular photo opportunity this year: honorable mentions were awarded to government concentrator Caroline Silber ('17) for an atmospheric image of a ferry ride along the Bosphorus (cover

photo), and to applied math and computer science concentrator Tarek Moon ('15) for a grand interior shot of Istanbul’s Blue Mosque. Social studies concentrator Annika Nielsen ('15) received the third honorable mention for her photo of a colorful street scene taken in Asilah, Morocco.

→ Learn more about the winners at <http://cmes.fas.harvard.edu/2014-15-photo-contest>

**ALUMNI NEWS**

**AM ALUMNI**

**Kay H. Campbell** ('83) spoke at the NYU–Abu Dhabi Conference on Music of the Arabian Gulf, March 1–3, 2015 on “Researching Women’s Folk Dances of the Arabian Peninsula.” **Samah Choudhury** ('14) has been working at the Duke University Middle East Studies Center for the last year. She will begin a PhD program in Islamic Studies at UNC Chapel Hill in the fall.

**Hannah-Louise Clark** ('05) defended her dissertation in the history of science at Princeton in September 2014 and is currently a departmental lecturer in European and world history at the University of Oxford, Trinity College.

After a decade as a journalist reporting on oil, **Ayesha Daya** ('04) has founded a strategic communications consultancy called Al Kalima in Dubai.

**Marwan D. Hanania** ('02) received his PhD in history from Stanford in 2011. He will begin a position as assistant professor in the Department of International Studies at the American University of Sharjah in the fall. Hanania is working on a book project about the history of modern Amman.

**Christopher Herbert** ('05)

IN MEMORY OF IRENE A. BIERMAN-MCKINNEY

Irene “Renie” A. Bierman-McKinney (1942–2015) earned an AM from CMES in 1966 and went on to receive her PhD from the University of Chicago in 1980. She joined the art history faculty at UCLA in 1982, retiring as professor *emerita* in 2012; during her tenure at UCLA she served as director of the Middle East Center for eight years, and as chair of the Department of Art History. Professor Bierman’s seven authored and co-edited books include *Writing Signs: The Fatimid Public Text* (University of California Press, 1998) and *Text and Context in Islamic Societies* (Ithaca Press, 2004). Nasser Rabbat,

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“Her work on the role of public writing in Islamic iconography was path-breaking; her study of the Ottomanization of cities extremely inventive, and her understanding of the function of conservation in our understanding of cities today constructively critical.”

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Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Architecture at MIT, writes: “Her work on the role of public writing in Islamic iconography was path-breaking; her study of the Ottomanization of cities extremely inventive, and her understanding of the function of conservation in our understanding of cities today constructively critical.”

*Special thanks to Jere Bacharach (AM '62), a longtime friend and colleague whose memorial note on Professor Bierman will appear in the MESA Review of Middle East Studies.*

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is currently working on his doctorate at the Juilliard School, and recently scored two Grammy nominations for work with his ensemble New York Polyphony. **Iza Hussin** ('00) has accepted a permanent position in the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Cambridge, and is the Mohamed Noah Fellow in Asian Studies at Pembroke College, Cambridge. While enjoying retirement, **David Mack** ('60) continues to write occasional articles and give lectures and interviews on topics involving

the Middle East and North Africa. He published an article in January on the website of the Middle East Institute entitled “Cold Lessons from the Balmy Euphoria of the ‘Arab Spring’.” Since graduating from CMES, **Murat Metin Hakki** ('06) has been admitted to the New York State Bar, Gray’s Inn (London), the Cyprus Bar Association, and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and in 2012 set up his own law firm in Nicosia, Cyprus (Metin A Hakki & Murat M Hakki Advocates & Legal Consultants). After ten years of retirement,

**Malcolm Peck** ('66) returned to Meridian International Center as a “seasonal” program officer for most of 2014, working on programs for visitors from the Middle East and wider Islamic world for the State Department’s Office of International Visitor Leadership Programs. He published a chapter on the UAE in the 2013 edition of the *World Almanac of Islamism* (American Foreign Policy Council). **Alex Shams** ('13) has been working as an editor at Ma’an News Agency in Bethlehem, Palestine since graduation. He will start

a PhD program in anthropology in Fall 2015 at the University of Chicago, focusing on gender, piety, and urban space in modern Iran. **Charles D. Smith** ('60) is currently preparing the ninth edition of his *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (Bedford/St. Martins), and writing a bibliographic essay of publications in English and French dealing with World War I from 1918 to the present. He received the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Mentoring Award in 2012, and his book *The Middle East and North Africa: A Documentary History* received a MESA prize in 2013. **Stephanie Sobek** ('14) joined the United States Foreign Service after graduation and is currently serving as a political officer at the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan. Her work is primarily focused on the human rights portfolio, including trafficking in persons, labor rights, and religious freedom in Jordan. **Jason Wimberly** ('14) published a book review on *Shiism and Politics in the Middle East*, by Laurence Louër, translated by John King, in the *Arab Studies Journal* XXII.1 (Spring 2014). A paper he wrote at CMES on Hizballah has been accepted pending revisions to *Middle Eastern Studies*.

#### PHD ALUMNI NEWS

**Abigale Balbale** ('12) gave a talk titled "Constructing Legitimacy: Ibn Mardanish's Quest for Power in Sharq al-Andalus," on March 5, 2015 for the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University. **Mark Farha** ('07) presented "The Sectarian Tide in the Middle East: Sources, Symptoms, and Solutions" for the New York/New Jersey Alumni chapter of Lebanese American University in July 2014. **Richard Foltz** ('96), professor and founding director of the Centre for Iranian Studies, Concordia University, Montréal, Canada, gave a book talk hosted by *Bukhara* magazine in Tehran on April 24, 2015. The eleventh edition of **Art Goldschmidt's** (AM '61, PhD '68) *Concise History of the Middle East* is forthcoming from Westview Press in July. **John Gault** ('75) is co-director of the International Oil and Gas Leadership program at the Graduate Institute, Geneva. His latest article, "OPEC faces \$750bn losses from market share strategy," co-authored with former Algerian oil minister Nordine Ait-Laoussine, was published in *Middle East Economic Survey* on March 13, 2015. **Zahra N. Jamal** ('08) delivered a lecture on cultural assets among Shi'as

in Soviet and Post-Soviet Tajikistan entitled, "Surviving Stalin: Practicing Islam Amidst the Purges" at the Boniuk Institute for Religious Tolerance at Rice University in December 2014. **Philip S. Khoury** ('80) continues to serve as Associate Provost and Ford International Professor of History at MIT and as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American University of Beirut. **Paul J. Magnarella** ('71) has given a series of lectures on "The Turbulent Middle East: Iraq, Syria, ISIS, and Other Major Players" at Georgia Southern University, Armstrong State University, Warren Wilson College, and the Savannah World Affairs Council. **Jessica Marglin** ('06) is beginning a position as Assistant Professor of Religion at the University of Southern California this summer. **Aria Nakissa** ('12) has

accepted an assistant professor position at Washington University in St. Louis in the Department of Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. **Daniel Pipes** ('78) has a new book forthcoming in 2015: *Nothing Abides: Perspectives on the Middle East and Islamism* (Transaction). **Asher Orkaby** ('14) published an article in the *Wall Street Journal* on April 9, 2015 titled "A Road Map to Chaos in Yemen." **Aida Othman** ('05) spoke on Islamic banking and finance at a session on "Challenges Facing Banks in Asia" at the Asia Desk Forum at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, in April 2015. **Nicolas Trépanier** ('08) published *Foodways and Daily Life in Medieval Anatolia: A New Social History* (University of Texas Press, 2014), which is based on his dissertation.



Rachel Goshgarian (PhD '07)

## VISITING RESEARCHER NEWS

Visiting Scholar **Günil Özlem Ayaydin Cebe** delivered a talk in April 2015 for CMES's Sohbet-i Osmani lecture series entitled "Polychrome Literature in Black and White: 19th Century Ottoman Society and Print Culture." Visiting Fellow **Cumhur Bekar** delivered a paper entitled "Remembering Violence, Forgetting Consultation: The Image of Murad IV in *Şehen-Şeh-Name-i Muradi* (c. 1638)," in May 2015 at the 30th Annual Middle East History and Theory (MEHAT) Conference at the University of Chicago. Post-doctoral Fellow **Alexander Henley** spent the Spring 2015 semester on joint fellowship at the Brookings Doha Center and Qatar University. In Fall 2015 he will start a post-doctoral research fellowship at Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. Post-doctoral Fellow **Maryam Kamali** gave three talks in Spring 2015: "The Mongol Invasion, Challenging the Religion and Legal System of the Islamic Society," Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program, Harvard University, March 11; "History as a Science in the Iranian Medieval Time,"



Visiting Scholar Fatih Usluer

Iranian Studies Group, MIT, April 17; and "The Failure of the Khwarazmian Dynasty (1202–1231) in Conquering Baghdad and Western Iran," MEHAT Conference, May. Post-doctoral Fellow **Lorenzo Kamel** has two publications forthcoming: *Imperial Perceptions of Palestine: British Influence and Power in Late Ottoman Times* (I.B.Tauris) and *Arab Spring and Peripheries* (a special issue of *Mediterranean Politics* [Routledge]). In November 2014, he presented "Redrawing Borders? The Middle East Between Past and Present" at CMES's Middle East Forum. He chaired the session on "The Arab Uprisings and Changing Migration Patterns in the Mediterranean" at the OSCE, New-Med Research Network conference, April 2015. Visiting Scholar **Bayram Soy** published two articles in March 2015: "1877–1878 Osmanlı-Rus Savaşı'ndan NATO Üyeliğine: Boğazlar Sorunu ve Türkiye'nin Batı ile 'İttifakı,'" *Karadeniz Araştırmaları*, XII.45 (Bahar



Visiting Scholar Bayram Soy

2015) and "Birinci Dünya Savaşı Osmanlı Devleti'ni Parçalamak İçin mi Yapıldı? Savaşın Çıkış Sebeplerine Osmanlı Devleti Bağlamında Yeniden Bir Bakış," *Savaş Tarihi Araştırmaları*



Visiting Scholar Günil Ayaydin Cebe

*Uluslararası Kongresi: 100. Yılında I. Dünya Savaşı ve Mirası, Bildiriler, cilt 1* (2015). He also delivered a talk in April 2015 for CMES's Sohbet-i Osmani lecture series.

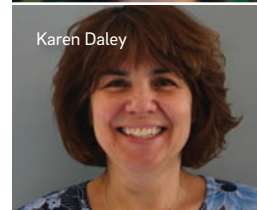
## AT THE CENTER

### CMES WELCOMES NEW STAFF

CMES welcomed two new staff members in December 2014: our new Staff Assistant, helping to provide administrative and academic support at the Center, is **Carol Ann Litster**. Carol Ann, who has a BS in Sociology and Social Studies Teaching and an MA in Teacher Education from Brigham Young University, joins CMES after having spent the last few years as a classroom instructor. While at BYU she studied and traveled in Israel, Egypt, and



Carol Ann Litster



Karen Daley

Jordan, and supplemented a deep interest in Middle Eastern studies with courses such as Middle East geography and Arabic 101. **Karen Daley**, the Center's new Financial Associate, is a seasoned professional accountant with a BS in Business Administration from Salem State College. She returns to Harvard after a hiatus of many years, and brings with her a perspective gained from nearly twenty years of accounting, payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, and budgeting experience.

# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## FEBRUARY 2015

### American Sniper's Cultural Moment: A Student-veteran Roundtable Discussion:

Reactions to the film, its wider reception, and reflections by several CMES student-veterans: AM students John Hambley, Max Korzen, George Kraehe, and Andrew Watkins, and PhD student Bethany Kibler. Moderated by Steven C. Caton, Harvard.

### Conducting Research in

**the Middle East:** A one-day methodology workshop for advanced graduate students, sponsored by CMES and the Boston Consortium for Arab Region Studies (BCARS), and organized by Sara Roy, CMES, and Denis Sullivan, BCARS and Northeastern University. Student participants came from Boston College, Boston University, Brown University, Harvard University, NYU New School, Pompeu Fabra University (Spain), Princeton University, and Tufts University.

**Presenters:** *Opportunities and Challenges Conducting Research in Palestine: The PAL Study,*

Clea McNeely, University of Tennessee; *The Challenge of Public Opinion Survey Data: Lessons from Muslim Americans and Palestine*, Karam Dana, University of Washington; *Conducting Field Research in the Middle East: Lessons and Recommendations*, Rima Rassi, American University of Beirut; *Surveying in Difficult Environments: The Case of Lebanon*, Royce Hutson, Boise State University.

## MARCH 2015

### The Middle East at War

– 1914–1922: A roundtable organized by Professors Roger Owen and Cemal Kafadar to address the centenary of the Ottoman Declaration of War against Britain, France, and Italy. Invited scholars included M. Talha Cicek, İstanbul Medeniyet University; Hasan Kayali, UC San Diego; Tilman Lüdke, Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institut für kulturwissenschaftliche, Freiburg; and Elizabeth Thompson, University of Virginia. A second centenary event on the Ottoman victory at Gallipoli will be held in October 2015.



Laura Nasrallah and Jason Ur



Afarin Vafa, Forough Dabban, and Cumrun Vafa

Abbas Milani



Sahand Moarefy ('10, JD '16) and Ava Nasrollahzadeh ('16)

### Ancient Christian Communities and Current Events:

A panel discussion sponsored by CMES and the Harvard Divinity School (HDS) Center for the Study of World Religions, featuring Sargon Donabed, Roger Williams University; Charles Stang, HDS; Laura Nasrallah, HDS; and Jason Ur, Harvard. Moderated by Susan Kahn, CMES.

## APRIL 2015

### The First Annual Iranian Gala: Preserving the Past,

**Building for the Future:** A fundraiser to support Iranian Studies at Harvard organized by CMES, the Harvard College Iranian Association, and the Harvard Middle East Law Students Association. Featuring keynote speaker Abbas Milani of Stanford University and

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

special honorees Bahram Beyzai, Maryam Eskandari, Roy P. Mottahedeh, Pardis Sabeti, and Cumrun Vafa.

### **The Thousand and One Nights: Sources, Transformations, and Relationship with Literature, the Arts and the Sciences:**

A conference organized by William Granara and Sandra Naddaff, Harvard, and Aboubakr Chraïbi, Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO), Paris. Co-sponsored by the CMES Working Group on Middle East Literature in Transition: New Frontiers in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and INALCO.

- **Panel I:** *Chair:* William Granara; *Les premiers lecteurs des premiers manuscrits des Mille et une nuits*, Ibrahim Akel, INALCO; *Fables in the 1001 Nights*, Ulrich Marzolph, Göttingen Academy; *The Arabian Nights transmission in Turkish tradition: an overview*, Delio Proverbio, Vatican Library; *The Garshuni dimension of the Nights—Texts of the Arabian Nights genre addressing the Christian Arabic audiences*, Francesca Bellino, University of Turin.
- **Panel II:** *Chair:* Sandra Naddaff; *Genie in a Book: Print Culture, Authorship*



Delio Proverbio



Sandra Naddaff



David Commins

*and “L’affaire du tome VIII” in the History of Les Mille et une nuits*, Arafat Abdur Razzaque, Harvard; *The Arabian Nights and the Ottoman Imperial Harem*, Daria Kovaleva, Harvard; *The “Sleeper” and Christopher Sly: Shakespeare and the early-modern circulation of Nights tales*, Paulo Horta, NYU-Abu Dhabi; *Harun al-Rashid: Modernity and Kingship on the Arabic Stage, 1850s–1890s*, Adam Mestyan, Harvard; *Jaqueline Kahanoff on the margins of A Thousand and One Nights*, Daniel Behar, Harvard.

- **Panel III:** *Chair:* Sandra Naddaff; *Eugénie et les deux rêveurs*, Abdelfattah Kilito, University of Mohammed V, Rabat; *Modern Irony, Creative Writing and Inefficient Arabian Nights Tales*,

Evangelhia Stead, Freiburg Institute of Advanced Studies; *Psychological Realism and The 1001 Nights: The Dreams’ of Abû al-Hasan*, Henry M. Bowles, Harvard; *1001 Days in Alt-Muslim Fantasy: G. Willow Wilson’s Alif the Unseen*, Margaret Litvin, Boston University.

- **Panel IV:** *Chair:* Roy P. Mottahedeh, Harvard; *Demons and Fish Bones: Towards a history of illness in Alf Layla*, Ahmed Ragab, Harvard; *Healing by exempla: political therapy in the Nights’ hypertext*, Dominique Jullien, UCSB; *Flowers as Pharmacy: Engendering Subjectivities in The Thousand and One Nights*, Anny Gaul, Georgetown University; *L’héritage des Mille et une nuits dans l’oeuvre de*

*Michel Ocelot*, Ilaria Vitali, University of Bologna.

### **Three Apples Fell from Heaven: An Exploration of Armenian Identities in the Ottoman and Post-Ottoman World:**

A commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian Genocide: *A 17th-century Armenian (Dis)Placement: Deacon Mikayel of Kaffa (d.c. 1670) and his Armenian and Turkish Texts*, Rachel Goshgarian, Lafayette College; *Sources of Ownership, Forces of Dispossession: The Memoir of Hovhannes Cherishian of Marash (1886–1967)*, Nora Lessersohn, Harvard; *Speaking Feminist while Armenian in Post-Genocide Turkey: Hayganush Mark (1885–1966)*, Lerna Ekmekcioglu, MIT. Moderated by Cemal Kafadar, Harvard.

**Wahhabism: From Provincial Heresy to Arabian Hegemony:**

The inaugural CMES Lecture on Arabian Peninsula Studies, by David Commins, Professor of History, Dickinson College (see page 2 for more about this new series).

**MAY 2015**

**Iranian Cities from the Arab Conquest to the Early Modern Period:**

A conference organized by Roy P. Mottahedeh, Harvard, and funded by CMES's new Neekeyfar Fund for Iranian Studies.

- **Day 1:** “From Shahrستان to Medina” Revisited, Donald Whitcomb, University of Chicago; *Inherited Landscapes in Muslim Bactra*, Etienne de la Vaissière, CETOBAC, EHESS, Paris; *Iranian Cities: Settlements and Water Management between Antiquity and the Islamic Period*, Rocco Rante, Musée du Louvre; *Early Islamic Marv: From the Islamic Conquest to the Ghaznavid Era*, Deborah Tor, University of Notre Dame; *What is Really Known about Ancient and Medieval Yazd?* Jamsheed K. Choksy, Indiana University, Bloomington; *Balkh from*

*the Seljuqs to the Mongol Invasion*, Juergen Paul, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenburg; *Kashan, A Crossroad of Knowledge*, Mehrdad Amanat, University of California, Santa Barbara.

- **Day 2:** *Isfahan under Turko-Mongol Rule (11<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> centuries)*, David Durand-Guédy, Institut Française de Recherche en Iran, Tehran; *Early Sufis of Isfahan: A Forgotten Path*,

Hossein Kamaly, Barnard College; *An Arabized Exile’s Perspective on Intellectual Life in Seljuq Isfahan*, Lutz Richter-Bernburg, Eberhard Karls Universität, Tübingen; *The Shiraz of Hafez: A Most Learned, Poetic, and Violent Place*, John Limbert, U.S. Naval Academy; *Tabriz Before, Under and After Mongol Rule (6<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> centuries)*: *From the City Turning Imperial to the*

*Kingdom Localized*, Daniel Zakrzewski, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenburg; *The Writing Culture of Nishapur in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century*, Sarah Savant, The Aga Khan University, London and Maxim Romanov, The Perseus Digital Library, Tufts University; *A Tale of Three Cities: Nishapur, Tus, Jurjan*, Richard Bulliet, Columbia University.



Donald Whitcomb presents an aerial photo at Iranian Cities as Roy P. Mottahedeh looks on



Sarah Bowen Savant



Ambassador John W. Limbert and Roy P. Mottahedeh

الفن والدراسات  
الاربية



Detail of *The Conquest of Balkh*



Efe Murat Balikcioglu and Cemal Kafadar celebrate Imprint Press's first publication, *Defense Against the Night*



Susan Kahn at Dudley House

## AT A GLANCE

ARABIAN PENINSULA STUDIES LECTURE SERIES  
FACULTY NEWS  
IN MEMORIAM: EDWARD L. KEENAN  
STUDENT NEWS  
CMES STUDENT PROFILES  
CONGRATULATIONS AM GRADUATES  
UNDERGRADUATE PHOTO CONTEST  
ALUMNI NEWS  
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VISITING RESEARCHER NEWS  
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