

# CMES

## NEWSLETTER

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

SPRING 2011



MIQUEL COLL / EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

### CMES FACULTY RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

*By Baber Johansen*

The excellence of CMES's faculty is one of the core strengths of the Center. In 2010, CMES faculty received international recognition on three separate occasions for their contributions to Middle East scholarship. CMES is thrilled to report these honors and to congratulate the recipients.

In July, CMES faculty member, former director, and noted historian E. Roger Owen, A.J. Meyer Professor of Middle East History, was honored with the "Award for Outstanding Contributions to Middle Eastern Studies, 2010" by the World

*continues on next page...*



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

# CHANGE IN THE ARAB MIDDLE EAST

Since the end of January, CMES has been busy analyzing and commenting on the historic events in the Middle East. Panel discussions and talks on Tunisia and Egypt have drawn large audiences and fostered cross-campus cooperation. Our website reflects these activities, and its newly created resource page highlights recent media contributions by faculty and staff. Due to the extraordinary nature of these events, we are creating additional working groups and workshops to analyze, learn more, and hear from our resident experts. We hope you will join us for these discussions.



A post-revolution mural in Cairo, photographed on February 20, 2011 by CMES Outreach Director Paul Beran.

Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES). Professor Owen shared the award with Josef Van Ess, Emeritus Professor of Islamic Studies and Semitic Languages at the University of Tübingen, Germany. The citation that accompanied the award noted that Professor Owen's "work on the early modern and modern Middle East is a reference in the field" and that his "path breaking works on social, economic, and political histories of the Arab World in general, and in Egypt in particular, have positioned him as the leading historian of our time." Professor Owen's "position on crucial questions about contemporary issues of the Middle East" has also been "highly appreciated."

Roger Owen's books include *State, Power, and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East* (Routledge, 2004), *A History of Middle East Economies in the Twentieth Century*, with Şevket Pamuk (Harvard U Press, 1999), *The Middle East in the World Economy, 1800–1914* (Routledge, 1987), and *Lord Cromer: Victorian*

*Imperialist, Edwardian Proconsul* (Oxford U Press, 2004). BBC Radio and Bloomberg Television have recently sought him out for analysis of political demonstrations in Bahrain and Egypt.

Professor Owen received a second major honor in November, when the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) announced the creation of a book award in his name. MESA's Owen Book Award will recognize work on the economics, economic history, or political economy of the Middle East and North Africa in the modern period. According to MESA, "The new award is made possible by the generous support of donors who wish to honor the scholarship of Roger Owen and encourage wide-ranging research incorporating economics and economic factors."

Just one month later, CMES faculty member and former director Cemal Kafadar, Vehbi Koç Professor of Turkish Studies, was one of three recipients of Turkey's 2010 Presidential Grand Award in Culture and the

Arts. In a December 2010 ceremony at the Çankaya Presidential Palace, President Abdullah Gül presented Professor Kafadar with the award for his work in Ottoman history. In his speech, President Gül discussed the significance Turkey places on the arts, culture, and science and said, "The best demonstration of this is that we appreciate the very assets of Turkey and introduce them to the Turkish public and the whole of the world with these awards."

Professor Kafadar is a distinguished historian who has contributed significantly to the development of Ottoman and contemporary Turkish studies. His pioneering research on the political, social, and cultural history of the Ottoman Empire, his outstanding role in forming a highly qualified student generation in Ottoman and Turkish history, and his tireless efforts to introduce students and the general public to prominent Turkish scholars in both fields have long been known to his students and colleagues.

His publications include *Between Two Worlds: The Construction of the Ottoman State* (U of California Press, 1995), *Suleyman the Second and His Time*, edited with Halil Inalcik (Isis, 1993) and *Kim var imiş biz burada yoğ iken* (Metis, 2009).

CMES is proud to congratulate Professors Owen and Kafadar on their recent achievements, and gratified by the recognition they have received from the Middle East Studies community.

**PREVIOUS PAGE:** TOP Roger Owen (right) receives the WOCMES Award for Outstanding Contributions to Middle Eastern Studies. **BOTTOM LEFT** Cemal Kafadar (left) receives the Presidential Grand Award in Culture and the Arts from President Abdullah Gül. **BOTTOM RIGHT** Cemal Kafadar speaks during the award ceremony.

# CMES EVENTS

Highlights from our Fall 2010 and early Spring 2011 roster of seminars, lectures, workshops, and other events.

## FALL 2010 H.A.R. GIBB LECTURE SERIES

This year's Hamilton A.R. Gibb Lecture Series was delivered by Stefan Wild, Professor Emeritus at the University of Bonn. Professor Wild is one of the world's leading scholars in the field of Qur'anic Studies and Classical Arabic literature. His three lectures, delivered October 26, 27, and 28, 2010, were entitled "The History of the Qur'an: Why Is There No State of the Art?," "The Language of the Qur'an: Is Arabic a Sacred Language?," and "The Qur'an Today: Why Translate the Untranslatable?" The first was dedicated to the history and current status of different—and often incompatible—approaches to the language, the literary form, and the religious content of Islam's sacred book. The lecture provided fascinating insights into the intimate relation between historical change and Qur'an analysis. The second, based on these insights, presented the varied efforts, within the Muslim world and outside of it, to understand the Qur'an's language and terminology. The third lecture provided compelling reasons for the renewed efforts by each generation to understand and translate the Qur'an anew. More than 100 students, faculty, and staff attended the discussions, which were lively, lasted long, and showed the participants' respect for Professor Wild's scholarship. Video of the lectures is available on the CMES website.



ALISON HOWE



ROSE LINCOLN



ROSE LINCOLN



STEPHANIE MITCHELL



ROSE LINCOLN

## “CHRISTIAN-JEWISH AND MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS IN THE FIELDS OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY (12TH-16TH CENTURY EUROPE)”

On February 18 and 19, 2011, CMES hosted a workshop on Muslim-Christian-Jewish relations in the fields of economy and finance. Organized by CMES Director Baber Johansen and Giacomo Todeschini, Professor of Medieval History at the University of Trieste, the workshop treated the change in Christian and Jewish financial practices and concepts during the transition from the European High Middle Ages to the Renaissance, as well as Muslim concepts of the differences between political, economic, and social integration of non-Muslim religious communities in Muslim empires. The workshop provided an invaluable setting for the comparative discussion of the role assigned to financial institutions and value concepts as expressed in inter-religious financial practices in both contexts. It united leading specialists in Jewish-Christian relations in European finance, including Giacomo Todeschini, Joseph Shatzmiller (Duke University), Francesca Trivellato (Yale University), Javier Castano (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid), Bernard Cooperman (University



JON CHASE

**TOP ROW** Baber Johansen, Giacomo Todeschini, and Bernard Cooperman at the finance workshop. **SECOND ROW, LEFT** Fall 2010 Gibb lecturer Stefan Wild. **RIGHT** Stefan Wild talks to CMES PhD student Arafat Razaque (center) and Post-doctoral Fellow Doğan Gürpınar. **THIRD ROW, LEFT** Diana Eck and Mark Tushnet at the Muslim community center talk. **RIGHT** William Granara and Malika Zeghal at "Assessing Tunisia." **BOTTOM ROW** Moderator Nicholas Burns (far left) and panelists Tarek Masoud, Malika Zeghal, Roger Owen, and Rami Khouri at the HKS Forum.

of Maryland), and Benjamin Ravid (Brandeis University). The relations between Muslims and non-Muslims in the Middle Eastern finance of the period were discussed by leading experts such as Abraham L. Udovitch (Princeton) and Erol Ozvar (Marmara University) and—from a legal standpoint—by Baber Johansen. The discussions touched on fundamental questions of finance and religion; they were rich in historical data and their conceptual interpretation. A second workshop on the same subject is planned for the spring of 2012.

## PANEL TALK ON THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY CENTER CONTROVERSY

CMES responded to the controversy around the building of a Muslim community center in Manhattan with an Outreach Center—organized campus-wide panel talk on September 23, 2010. A group of over 100 gathered to hear the panel, made up of Professors Ali Asani, Diana Eck, and Mark Tushnet. Diana Eck contributed the point that the discrimination against Muslims in the U.S. is not new, and follows an unfortunate pattern of discrimination against other minority groups. Ali Asani touched on the factor of religious illiteracy, and Mark Tushnet contributed a legal understanding of the First Amendment issues at stake. Video of the discussion is available on the CMES website.

4

## PUBLIC TALKS ON EGYPT AND TUNISIA REACH THOUSANDS

Providing analysis on the changing political landscape of the Arab Middle East has been a priority for the Center this semester. Two events in particular, both jointly sponsored by the Outreach Center and the Middle East Initiative at the Harvard Kennedy School, highlighted the depth and expertise of Harvard faculty on the issues of Arab political change and the growing cooperation on campus around Middle East studies. On January 26, 2011, CMES Professors William Granara and Malika Zeghal spoke to a packed room of over 100 on the changing political order in Tunisia. On February 4, 2011, CMES Professors Malika Zeghal, Roger Owen, and Tarek Masoud, along with Dubai Initiative Fellow Rami Khouri, spoke at the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum on the protests to remove Hosni Mubarak in Egypt. The talk drew a crowd of over 700 and has been viewed over 8,000 times on the Kennedy Forum website.

BELOW, LEFT Ailya Vajid, Naila Baloch, and Celene Ayat Lizzio at “Women, Men, and Veiling.” RIGHT Tarek Masoud at the March 2 Newsreel.



## NEW SERIES HIGHLIGHTS STUDENT RESEARCH

Demonstrating a redoubled commitment to connecting student work with the scholarly life of the Center, CMES has launched a new series of student panels. The first, “Women, Men and Veiling: A Muslim Feminist Inquiry into Class, Gender and Religious Law,” held September 30, 2010, was organized by Harvard Divinity School (HDS) students Ailya Vajid and Celene Ayat Lizzio, and HDS alumna Naila Baloch. The second, held February 23, 2011, featured doctoral candidates Fares Alsuwaidi (Comparative Literature) and Benjamin Smith (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations), in a discussion titled “Mapping New Territory in Modern Arabic Writing.” PhD students Sreemati Mitter (History) and Arbella Bet-Shlimon (History & MES) gave a talk entitled “From the Ground Up: Local Interactions with British Authority in Iraq and Palestine” on April 5, 2011. Johan Matthew (History) and James Esdaile (History & MES) are scheduled to present in late April.

## “LOVE AND ORDER IN THE BIBLE”

On March 2, 2011, CMES and the Center for Jewish Studies co-sponsored a lecture by award-winning Israeli writer Meir Shalev. Mr. Shalev discussed his new book *Beginnings: Reflections on the Bible’s Intriguing Firsts* (Harmony, 2011). Over 200 people attended the talk, which focused on central figures in the Bible and their value as parables for contemporary human relationships.

## MIDEAST NEWSREEL SERIES FOCUSES ON CURRENT EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Mideast Newsreel series, inaugurated in Fall 2010, is a public discussion program in which CMES faculty and affiliates present analyses of current events as a key to understanding contemporary Middle East history. On October 21, 2010, Roger Owen gave a talk titled “Iraq’s Weak Sectarian Government: An Anomaly in an Oil State with a Large Army?”; Tarek Masoud spoke on March 2, 2011, giving a talk titled “Egypt: The Road to and from Liberation Square”; and on March 24, 2011, Cemal Kafadar discussed current events in Turkey after a recent trip to the country. This spring’s final newsreel, on May 3, 2011, will feature Sara Roy discussing Israel and Palestine.

See page 11 for a list of upcoming spring events.

BELOW, LEFT The audience at Tarek Masoud’s Newsreel talk. RIGHT Roy Mottahedeh and Roger Owen at the first Mideast Newsreel.

## PHD STUDENT NEWS

As part of her Fall 2009 fellowship with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, **Yasmine Al-Saleh** wrote a thematic essay, “Amulets and Talismans from the Islamic World,” for the museum’s online Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, and selected museum objects to illustrate it. **Arbella Bet-Shlimon** presented her paper “Development and Politics in an Iraqi Oil City: Kirkuk, 1946–58” at the MESA Annual Meeting (November 2010, San Diego). **Elise Burton** published two articles, “Evolution and Creationism in Middle Eastern Education: A New Perspective,” *Evolution* 65.1 (January 2011), and “Teaching Evolution in Muslim States: Iran and Saudi Arabia Compared,” *Reports of the National Center for Science Education* 30.3 (May–June 2010), and presented at the Eighth Conference of the Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies (September 2010, Bergen, Norway). Five CMES students received Certificates of Distinction in Teaching from Harvard’s Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning for Spring or Fall 2010 courses: **Alireza Doostdar**, **Sumeyra Aslihan Gurbuzel**, **Abigail Krasner Balbale**, **Rubina Salikuddin**, and **Leonard Wood**. Wood was also voted one of the Class of 2011’s favorite instructors in a Harvard Yearbook poll. **James Esdaile** presented a paper at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting (November 2010, San Francisco). **Abigail Krasner Balbale** presented “Processes of Political Legitimation in Medieval Iberia: The Case of Sharq al-Andalus” at MediterraneoS: International Conference of Junior Researchers in Mediterranean and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (December 2010, Madrid). **H. Sükrü Ilicak** is publishing a chapter of his dissertation (translated into Greek, along with an article by Paschalis Kitromilides) as the fifth volume of a series on the Greek War of Independence: *Ιδεολογικά ρεύματα: Έλληνες—Οθωμανοί* [Ideological Currents: Greek–Ottoman] (Skai, 2010). **Darryl Li** passed the New York bar examination in November 2010, delivered two invited lectures at UCLa in March 2011, and presented a paper at the Orientalism at War Workshop at Oxford University in June 2010. **Aleksandar Sopov** presented a paper at the Fourth International Congress on Islamic Civilization in the Balkans (October 2010, Skopje, Macedonia) and is a Spring 2011 fellow of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Project on Justice, Welfare, and Economics.

## AM STUDENT NEWS

**Steven Brothers** wrote a letter to the editor, published February 23, 2011, in response to a *New York Times* article on the effect of Libyan protests on oil prices. **Jonathan Edwards** will have a paper about diplomacy focused on the Middle East, titled “Is He Really ‘Our Son of a Bitch?’” published in the *Kennedy School Review* (April 2011). **Scott Liddle** published a book review on *Guardians of the Revolution: Iran and the World in the Age of the Ayatollahs* by Ray Takeyh (Oxford U Press, 2009) in the Fall 2010 issue of *Middle East Policy*. **Marshall Nannes** gave a talk on his AM thesis, tentatively titled “Foreign Boots, Arab Soil: Popular Views of US Bases in Kuwait and Bahrain,” at a meeting of the Harvard Middle East Politics Workshop on February 15, 2011.

## CONGRATULATIONS MARCH 2011 GRADUATES

### Joint PhD Programs

**Leonard Wood** (PhD, History and MES) *Dissertation*: “Reception of European Law, Origins of Islamic Legal Revivalism, and Foundations of Transformations in Islamic Legal Thought in Egypt, 1875–1960”

### AM Program

**Steven Brothers**

BELOW, FIRST ROW CMES AM students Kelby Olson, Elisabeth Johnson, Ayse Lokmanoglu, and Todd Mostak at CMES’s fall reception. SECOND ROW, LEFT CMES AM students Huseyin Konus and Steven Brothers. RIGHT CMES AM student Marshall Nannes (right) talks to a member of the Iraqi rowing team at a HMECA breakfast in October 2010.



## HARVARD MIDDLE EAST CULTURAL ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

The Harvard Middle East Cultural Association (HMECA) is a CMES-affiliated organization run by students for students. We are dedicated to creating opportunities, such as our weekly breakfasts (Tuesdays, 9:30–12:00), for cultural, educational, and social interaction between CMES and those who are interested in the Middle East across the University. We’re pleased to report that our inaugural “Movies in March” film series was a success, and look forward to continuing the series next year. We hope to see the CMES community at our end-of-term party on April 28 at 4:00 p.m. at CMES.

## ANNOUNCING THE CMES AM THESIS PRIZE

CMES is delighted to announce the establishment of a thesis prize for the best Master’s thesis in Middle Eastern Studies. The \$300 prize will be awarded annually at the end of the spring semester.

## UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER TRAVEL TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Each year, CMES awards funding to Harvard undergraduates for summer research and language study in the Middle East. Awards are made from three funds: the Henry Rosovsky Summer Fellowship for Undergraduate Research in Israel, the A.J. Meyer Fund for Arabic Language Study in the Middle East, and the Moroccan Studies Summer Awards. Stories and photos from two 2010 recipients, Oded Oren and Anna Trowbridge, can be found on our website, along with application information. This fall, CMES further demonstrated its support for undergraduate summer travel by sponsoring a special prize in the Harvard College International Photo Contest recognizing the best photograph taken in the Middle East.

**FIRST PRIZE (TOP)** "Sacred Innocence" by Alexander Cox, taken at the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus, Syria. **HONORABLE MENTION (MIDDLE)** "To Exist Is to Resist" by Eva Ghirmai, taken in Qalandia, Israel. **HONORABLE MENTION (BOTTOM)** "Children of the Manassra Family" by Chloe Goodwin, taken in Bani Naim, Palestine.



### 1950s-1980s

**Gene Becker** (AM '57) is currently President of the National Cryptologic Museum Foundation in Ft. Meade, MD. *The Department of State in the Middle East 1919-1945* by **Phillip Baram** (PhD '61) has been reissued (KTAV Publishing House, 2009) with a new introduction and maps. **Paul J. Magnarella** (PhD '71) is currently the Director of Peace and Justice Studies at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, NC. In Fall 2011 he will serve as Visiting Professor at Georgetown University's Center for East Mediterranean Studies in Alanya, Turkey.

### 1990s

**Meir Litvak** (PhD '91), was appointed Director of the Center for Iranian Studies at Tel Aviv University in October 2010. His book *From Empathy to Denial: Arabic Responses to the Holocaust*, co-authored with Esther Webman, (Columbia U Press, 2009) won the 2010 Gold Prize of the Washington Institute for Near Eastern Policy Book Award. **Anne T. Sweetser** (PhD '92) is a member of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Working Group on US Civilian Aid to Pakistan in Washington, DC, and has contracts with Millennium Challenge Corporation and Urban Institute for local governance and social development consulting. **Moshe Gershovich** (PhD '95), is Professor of History at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and Director of the Middle East Project Fund at UNO's Department of History. In February 2011, Dr. Gershovich organized a panel on "Turmoil in Egypt and the Middle East: Contextualizing History in the Making." **Richard Foltz** (PhD '96) has published a revised second edition of his book *Religions of the Silk Road* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010). A Persian translation of his book *Spirituality in the Land of the Noble: How Iran Shaped the World's Religions* (Oneworld, 2004) is currently in production. **Dorian LaGuardia** (AM '96) is delivering a management development program for UNESCO in 33 countries. The programs have been noted by UNESCO as an integral element in its effort to enable staff to achieve UNESCO's mandate. **Emily Gottreich** (PhD '99) is currently on leave from University of California at Berkeley and living in Marrakech, Morocco with the help of a Fulbright Senior Scholar award. She is working on a project concerning the impact of Sabbateanism and the question of early modernity in Moroccan Jewish history. This past fall Emily became President of the American Institute of Maghrib Studies.

### 2000s

**Alexander Lewko** (AM '02) and his spouse, Erika Meyer Lewko, are currently in a Master's program in Teaching English as a Foreign Language at the American University in Cairo. They are living in Maadi. **Kurt Werthmuller** (AM '02), Assistant Professor of History at Azusa Pacific University, published *Coptic Identity and Ayyubid Politics in Egypt, 1218-1250* (AUC Press, 2010). **Marc Boxser** (AM '04) recently transitioned roles from Head

of Membership, Middle East & Africa, Global Growth Companies to Head of Partnerships, Information Technology Industry at the World Economic Forum. He is currently based in Geneva and will be moving back to New York this spring. **Aykan Erdemir** (AM '98, PhD '04) has been elected to the Party Assembly of the Republican People's Party (CHP) that will carry the party to the June 2011 elections in Turkey. **Christopher Herbert** (AM '05) recently served as Vice President for the international strategic communications firm Brown, Lloyd, James, where he worked with many Qatari clients, and oversaw logistics for Muammar al-Qadhafi's visit to the UN. He currently works independently as a consultant and musician. **Naghmeb Sohrabi** (PhD '05) is the Assistant Director for Research at the Crown Center, and lecturer in history at Brandeis. Her book on 19th-century Persian travelers to Europe is forthcoming from Oxford University Press. **Ahmed Kanna** (AM '00, PhD '06) is an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of the Pacific. His book, *Dubai, The City as Corporation*, will be published this summer by the University of Minnesota Press. **Lucia Volk** (PhD '01) is currently an associate professor of anthropology and Co-Director of Middle East and Islamic Studies at San Francisco State University. Her book, *Memorials and Martyrs in Modern Lebanon*, was published last fall (Indiana U Press, 2010). **Rachel Goshgarian** (PhD '08), currently a Senior Fellow at Koç University's Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations in Istanbul, was recently appointed Assistant Professor of Middle Eastern History at Lafayette College, where she will begin teaching in August 2011. Along with articles by fellow CMES alums **Iktil Erefe** (PhD '09) and **Nicolas Trepanier** (PhD '08), an article of Goshgarian's appears in *Starting with Food: Culinary Approaches to Ottoman History* (Markus Wiener, 2011). **Zahra N. Jamal** (PhD '08) is Assistant Professor of Comparative Cultures and Politics at James Madison College as well as the Program Director of Central Asia and International Development at Michigan State University, where she founded the Central Asia and Caucasus Faculty (CAC) Working Group in 2010. Dr. Jamal contributed to *I Speak for Myself* (White Cloud Press, 2011), a collection of essays by Muslim American women leaders. **Ayfer Karakaya Stump** (PhD '08) will start a new appointment at the College of William & Mary as an assistant professor of Middle East history in the fall. **Ali Yaycioglu** (PhD '08) will begin a new position as an assistant professor in history at Stanford University in September 2011. Currently, he is teaching history at Fairfield University in Connecticut, and his book, *Partners of the Empire: The Rise of the Provincial Notables and the Crisis of the Ottoman Order (1760–1812)*, is forthcoming. **Pouya Alimaghani** (AM '09) is a second-year PhD student in history at the University of Michigan. He participated in a panel discussion, along with Professors Juan Cole and Susan Waltz, on the events in Egypt and the rest of the Middle East at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy in February 2011. **Ahmed El Shamsy** (PhD '09) began a new position as Assistant Professor of Islamic Thought at the University of Chicago in July 2010. **Henry Bowles** (AM '10) published a review of *Passionate Uprisings: Iran's Sexual Revolution* by Pardis Mahdavi (Stanford U Press, 2009) in *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication* 4 (2011). **Aaron Shakow** (PhD '10) published

“‘Oriental Plague’ in the Middle Eastern Landscape: A Cautionary Tale” in *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* 42.4 (November 2010).

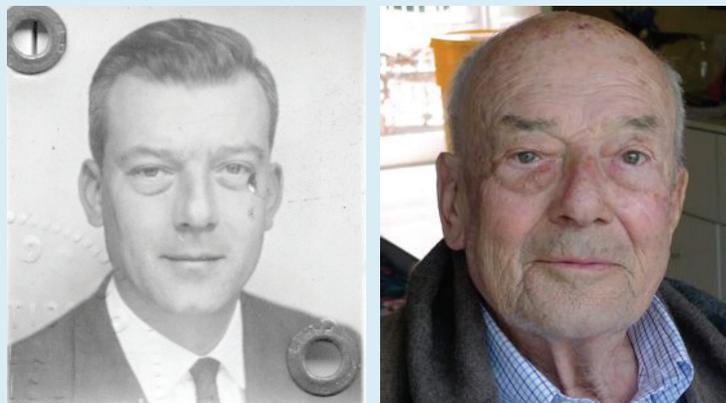
## In Memory

CMES is sad to learn that **Leslie William Poe**, who began the joint PhD in History of Art & Architecture and Middle East Studies in 1990, passed away last September. He worked as an intelligence analyst for the US government specializing in the Middle East. Leslie thoroughly enjoyed immersing himself in other cultures, and was fluent in several languages. He studied abroad in Jordan, Morocco, and Spain. From several accounts, Leslie had a wide range of interests including music, literature, and Washington politics, but his biggest love was for his three children.

**Donald Quataert** (AM '68), a Distinguished Professor at State University of New York, was an Ottoman historian interested in labor, social, and economic history during the period 1750 to 1923. He was an inspiring teacher to undergraduates, a careful and caring mentor to graduate students, and a prolific scholar. Through his passion for history of the Ottoman Empire, he became one of the most distinguished scholars in the field, a tireless advocate for studying the lives of ordinary people, called “history from below.” Much beloved by the academic and Ottoman history community, he will be greatly missed.

## CMES ALUMNUS DONATES BOOK COLLECTION TO OUTREACH CENTER

The CMES Outreach Center's education library received a generous donation this fall of approximately 150 titles from the library of the late François Michel Messud, 1931–2010. The donation was facilitated by Mr. Messud's daughter Claire who related that her father cherished his experiences as a student at the Center. François Michel Messud came to the US from France on a Fulbright scholarship to Amherst College in 1952. He received his AM from CMES in 1961, took an MBA at CEI, Geneva (1963), and subsequently went to work with the Pêchiney Corporation, where he worked until his retirement in 1993, at which time he was the president of Pêchiney World Trade.



François Michel Messud 1931–2010.

CMES Associate **Don Babai** recently signed a contract with Edward Elgar Publishing for the publication of *Business and the State in Saudi Arabia: Beyond Patriarchy?*, which he is co-authoring with former CMES fellow Khalid Al-Yahya. **Steven Caton**, Professor of Contemporary Arab Studies, is organizing an interdisciplinary workshop on water issues this spring (see page 11 for details). CMES Associate and Islam in the West Program Director **Jocelyne Cesari** published "'Islamophobia' in the West: A Comparison Between Europe and America" in *Islamophobia: The Challenge of Pluralism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (Oxford U Press, 2011). Assistant Professor of Economics **Eric Chaney** authored the chapter "Islam and Human Capital Formation: Evidence from Pre-Modern Muslim Science" in *Handbook of the Economics of Religion* (Oxford U Press, 2010). **Luis Giron-Negrón**, Professor of Comparative Literature and of Romance Languages and Literatures, contributed an essay entitled "Fortune ibero-medieval d'une epigramme arabe" to a monographic issue of *Horizons Maghrébins* 61 (2010). His study on Jewish, Christian, and Muslim versions of a Joseph-related legend in Old Spanish literature is forthcoming in *Hebrew Literature, the Bible and the Andalus Tradition in the Fifteenth Century* (Brill, 2011). **William Graham**, Dean of the Harvard Divinity School, Albertson Professor of Middle Eastern Studies (FAS), and John Lord O'Brian Professor of Divinity (HDS), delivered the keynote address for the Third Interdisciplinary Symposium on "Iconic Books" at Syracuse University in October 2010, and published *Islamic and Comparative Studies: Selected Writings* (Ashgate, 2010). **William Granara**, Professor of the Practice of Arabic, travelled to the University of Texas at Austin March 3–6, 2011 to deliver a lecture titled "The Female Protagonist and Rethinking the National Allegory Debate in Arabic Literature," and to Menton, France March 14–16 to work with Sciences-Po faculty on the first Harvard summer program there. **Wolfgang Heinrichs** gave a lecture titled "Literal and Figurative Meaning (*haqīqa* and *majāz*) in Muslim Legal Hermeneutics (*uṣūl al-fiqh*), with Special Emphasis on Najm al-Dīn al-Tūfī (d. 716/1316)" at a conference of the Research Group Encountering Scripture in Overlapping Cultures (Jewish, Christian, Muslim) held at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem, January 2011. CMES Associate **Derya Honça** is the Program Manager for the Initiative on Contemporary Islamic Societies, which recently received a \$156K grant from the Henry Luce Foundation (see page 12 for details). CMES Director **Baber Johansen**, Professor of Islamic Religious Studies, Harvard Divinity School, presented, on November 17, 2010, a paper titled "Pilgrimage as a Quest for Traces and Identity," in the session *Trauma Trails and Memory Walks* at the American Anthropological Association's Annual Meeting. December 14–20, 2010, he traveled to Morocco to discuss forms of closer cooperation of CMES with Al-Akhawayn University. On February 17 and 18, 2011, he organized, together with Giacomo Todeschini (University of Trieste) a workshop on "Christian-Jewish and Muslim-Christian-Jewish Relations in the Fields of Finance and Economy (12th–16th Century Europe)" at CMES. On February 25, 2011, he contributed a paper titled "The Legal Personality (*dhimma*) in Islamic Law: An Inexhaustible Source of Credit" to a

workshop organized by the Program for Economic History (Yale) on the subject of "Before and Beyond Europe: Economic Change in Historical Perspective." On March 17, 2011, he participated in the meeting of the Harvard Arab Alumni Association in Damascus in order to discuss an intensification of the working relations between CMES and the HAAA. On March 28 he lectured on "The Legal Personality (*dhimma*) as Collateral: the Function of a Legal Category of the Muslim *Fiqh*" at The Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, NYU. **Cemal Kafadar**, Vehbi Koç Professor of Turkish Studies, presented "Ottoman Debate on Ottoman Decline in the Long Seventeenth Century" at the International Symposium on the "Inhitat" at AUB in December 2010, and spoke at the University of Chicago's Center for Middle Eastern Studies on March 3 and 4, 2011. **Susan Kahn**, Associate Director of CMES, published two book chapters: "The Mirth of the Clinic: Fieldnotes from an Israeli Fertility Center" in *Kin, Gene, Community: Reproductive Technologies among Jewish Israelis* (Berghahn Books, 2010); and "Are Genes Jewish? Conceptual Ambiguities in the New Genetic Age" in *Boundaries of Jewish Identity* (U of Washington Press, 2010). She is presenting a paper entitled "Middle Eastern Hunting Hounds" at the American Society for Environmental History's annual conference in April 2011. Dr. Kahn's article "New Jewish Kinship—with Dogs" will appear in the Spring 2011 issue of *AJS Perspectives: The Magazine of the Association for Jewish Studies*. Arabic Preceptor **Nevenka Korica Sullivan** gave a talk in November 2010 to 3rd- and 4th-year Arabic students and their professors at Tufts, titled "Beyond Grammar and Vocabulary Learning—Cultural Issues in Arabic Language Acquisition." She is part of a team working to design the first online proficiency test for Arabic in reading and listening skills, and a member of another team working on updating ACTFL proficiency guidelines for listening skills in Arabic. **Tarek Masoud**, Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Harvard Kennedy School, published a chapter, "Egypt," in the textbook *The Middle East* (CQ Press, 2010). He also published op-ed pieces on Egypt on ForeignPolicy.com (September 20, 2010), *The New York Times* (February 3, 2011), and *The Los Angeles Times* (February 9, 2011), and was interviewed in January and February 2011 on National Public Radio, CNN, Al Jazeera English, and other media outlets. CMES Associate **Susan G. Miller**, Associate Professor of History, University of California, Davis, has a book chapter, "Making Tangier Modern: Ethnicity and Urban Development," forthcoming in *Jewish Culture and Society in North Africa* (U of Indiana Press, 2011). **Roy Mottahedeh**, Gurney Professor of History and Chair of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Program, published a chapter titled "Pluralism and Islamic Traditions of Sectarian Divisions" in *Diversity and Pluralism in Islam: Historical and Contemporary Discourses Among Muslims* (I.B. Tauris, 2010). **Gülru Necipoğlu**, Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art and Director of the Aga Khan Program of Islamic Architecture at Harvard, delivered several lectures last semester including the Fall 2010 Warnock Lecture at Northwestern University (October 2010), and participated in a round table discussion for Oleg Grabar's Chairman's Award at the Aga Khan

Awards for Architecture Ceremony in November 2010. Her book *The Age of Sinan: Architectural Culture in the Ottoman Empire* was released in a revised second paperback edition (Reaktion Books, 2010), with new illustrations, and is being translated into Turkish under her supervision. **Roger Owen**, A.J. Meyer Professor of Middle Eastern History, delivered the Ninth Wadie Jwaideh Memorial Lecture at Indiana University in November 2010, and gave a February 2010 lecture at Ohio State titled “Presidents for Life in the Arab World: Whose Turn Next?” He organized two conferences this March: one on his forthcoming book, *Presidents for Life: Monarcho/Presidential Republics and the Politics of Succession in the Arab World*; and one titled “The Study of the History of Middle Eastern Economic Institutions,” held March 11 and 12 at CMES. CMES Associate **Sara Roy**’s book *Hamas and Civil Society in Gaza: Engaging the Islamist Social Sector* will be published by Princeton University Press in June 2011. She was the keynote speaker at three conferences last semester: The Geographies of Aid Intervention in Palestine, Middle East and North Africa Research Group, Birzeit University and Universiteit Gent, West Bank (September 2010); Gaza-Palestine: Out of the Margins, Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute for International Studies, Birzeit University, West Bank (October 2010); and We the Peoples: An International Conference on Human Rights, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse (October 2010). **David Roxburgh**, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor of Islamic Art History, published “Chinese Art in a Persian Mirror: Artistic Production Under Yongle and Shahrukh, ca. 1420–1450,” *Muqarnas* 28 (2011). Turkish Preceptor **Himmet Taskomur** gave a presentation titled “Legal and Political Pamphleteering in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries” at the International Symposium on the “Inhitat” at AUB in December 2010. **Malika Zeghal**, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor in Contemporary Islamic Thought and Life, was interviewed on Egypt and Tunisia in January and February 2011 by media outlets including Charlie Rose, the BBC World Service, and The Arabic Hour, and contributed an article titled “The Power of a New Political Imagination” to the Social Science Research Council’s blog, Immanent Frame.

## DEPARTURES

Arabic Preceptor **Mostafa Atammia** will be leaving Harvard for a position as Assistant Professional Specialist in the Department of Classics and Program of Arabic Language and Culture at the University of Notre Dame, College of Arts and Letters, beginning August 22, 2011.

## IN MEMORIAM: OLEG GRABAR 1929–2011

By *Gülru Necipoğlu*



The Islamic art and architecture community mourns the loss of one of the field’s most influential and insightful scholars this year. Oleg Grabar, Professor Emeritus of the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study, and Aga Khan Professor Emeritus at Harvard University, passed away at his home in Princeton, NJ on January 8, 2011.

Oleg Grabar, who taught at the Harvard Department of History of Art and Architecture for 21 years (1969–90), was instrumental in founding the Aga Khan Program of Islamic Architecture. He was the first Harvard Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art (1980–90), and the founding editor of the Aga Khan Program’s annual journal *Muqarnas*. He was the author of over twenty books and more than 120 articles, 83 of which are reprinted in the four volume collection *Constructing the Study of Islamic Art* (Ashgate, 2005–06). Among his best-known works are *Formation of Islamic Art* (1973), *The Alhambra* (1978), *Great Mosque of Isfahan* (1990), *Mediation of Ornament* (1992), *Shape of the Holy* (1992), *Mostly Miniatures* (2000), and *Masterpieces of Islamic Art* (2009).

Through the originality and wide range of his prolific publications and six decades of teaching, Oleg Grabar was hugely influential in shaping and leaving an enduring mark on the fields of Islamic art, architecture, and archaeology. His contributions were recognized by prestigious awards, including most recently the Chairman’s Award of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture (2010). As a student and colleague of Professor Grabar’s and his successor as Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art at Harvard, I experienced firsthand his profound impact on our field in which he trained hundreds of students and so many prominent scholars, educators, curators, and architects. He will be greatly missed and the field will not be the same without him.

A public memorial service and reception organized by the Aga Khan Program at Harvard University and the Historians of Islamic Art Association will take place on Saturday, April 23, at 2:00 p.m. at Memorial Church, Harvard Yard. Reservations are requested for the reception to follow at Harvard’s Adolphus Busch Hall, 3:30 p.m. ([agakhan@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:agakhan@fas.harvard.edu)).

*Gülru Necipoğlu is Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art and Director of the Aga Khan Program of Islamic Architecture at Harvard, Department of History of Art and Architecture.*

# 2010-11 VISITING RESEARCHERS



For information about the visiting researcher program including application procedures and deadlines, please visit <http://cmes.hmhc.harvard.edu/about/visiting-researchers>.

## VISITING FELLOWS

**Butrus Abu-Manneh** is working on a book about the Ottoman Empire during the Tanzimat period.

**Omayra Herrero Soto** studies Medieval Arabic historiography and political culture in pre-modern Islamic societies.

**Nahid Kabir** has just published her book on Muslim British youth identity.

**Elaheh Kheirandish** studies Islamic intellectual, cultural, and scientific history.

**Frode Saugestad** studies Moroccan personal and national identity in the post-independence Arabophone novel.

**Mark Tomass** is researching his book "The Unmaking of States."

**Michael Winter** is researching scholarly and social relations and influences between Ottoman and Arab ulema from the early Ottoman period.

**Husam Zomlot** examines international politics of peacebuilding and reconstruction in the Middle East.

## POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS

**Mustafa Beyazit** examines construction activities subsequent to the Yesil Mosque and Ottoman art of the 15th century.

**Yasemin Beyazit** studies the position of the *cihet ehli* in 16th-century Ottoman society.

**Doğan Gürpınar** studies late Ottoman and contemporary Turkish political thought.

**Fariba Parsa** is researching discourse, ideologies, and political power in Iran.

**Özlem Sert** is reconstructing the town of Rodosçik from its court records from 1546 to 1552.

**Masayuki Ueno** studies the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul and provincial Armenians in the 19th-century Ottoman Empire.

**Richard Wittmann** studies 17th-century Ottoman social and legal history.

## VISITING SCHOLARS

**Mesut Aydiner** studies Ottoman Armenian socio-cultural and economical life in the 18th century.

**Mehmet Bulut** is investigating the rise of merchant's networks between Ottomans and the French, English, and Dutch from 1450 to 1850.

**Mahdi Farhani Monfared** examines critical approaches to Persian historiography.



**TOP** Visiting Fellow Nahid Kabir delivers a talk on her book *Young British Muslims: Identity, Culture, Politics and the Media* (Edinburgh U Press, 2010) on February 10, 2011. **CENTER** Visiting Fellow Butrus Abu-Manneh. **BOTTOM** Post-doctoral Fellow Fariba Parsa talks to Sarah Stoll.

# THE OUTREACH CENTER

## USING ART, ARABIC, AND TECHNOLOGY TO EXPAND MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

Through webinars, workshops, and aggressive use of our library collection, the Outreach Center has worked this year with K-12 teachers, artists, scholars, and the general public, around the US and in the Middle East, on the use of graphic novels in teaching about the diversity of cultures in the Middle East. Our efforts to promote the teaching of Arabic through cultural studies moved forward with the submission of a three-year Title VI proposal to the US DOE. If approved, the grant would support a major effort to develop K-12 curriculum resources for teaching Arabic through cultural studies and introducing Middle East studies in the classroom. Throughout the year, new technology—from webinars to blogs, Twitter to Facebook—was used to reach thousands more than we have in previous years. Webinar-based workshops helped us respond quickly to events in the news, such as the political change in Egypt, to assist teachers in using them as teachable moments in the classroom. One of these webinars in mid-February reached teachers in eight states. Our Egypt Forum program of training for K-12 teachers is in its fourth year, with over 40 alumni of the advanced program working in classrooms and communities. Looking ahead, future efforts will build upon our graphic novel initiative by inaugurating programs with teachers and artists from the Middle East, developing the newly created Muslim Superhero Comic Collection in the Outreach Library, and using technology to reach underserved schools and teachers throughout the US. Of special focus will be to connect some of the public protests for political change in the Arab Middle East with similar themes from American history taught in the K-12 classroom.

**BELOW** Some of the books used in Outreach's graphic novel programs.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## THE MEDITERRANEAN, CRISSED AND CONSTRUCTED

April 28-30, 2011, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs

Organized by Professors William Granara, Michael Herzfeld, and Cemal Kafadar, and graduate students Naor Ben-Yehoyada and Daniel Hershenzon, this conference of leading Mediterraneanist historians, anthropologists, and literary critics will offer a new kind of historical anthropology of the Mediterranean, one that illustrates how the sea has been recreated through the interaction between cross-boundary practices and official region-making processes.

## WATER WORKSHOP

April 29-May 1, 2011

Understanding the challenges to water sustainability in the Middle East requires comparison across regions and involvement of multiple disciplines. This workshop will draw together anthropologists, development economists, water engineers, historians, urban planners and architects, and archaeologists from the Middle East, South Asia, Japan, and the Pacific to present early-stage papers for in-depth criticism by Harvard faculty and students across the university. This workshop is closed to the general public.

## GRAPHIC NOVELS, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

April 30, 2011, CMES

Open to the public, this workshop will feature Harvard faculty, researchers, and students as well as experts from related organizations. The one-day panel-led discussion is the final installment in the Outreach Center's yearlong focus on graphic novels from the Middle East. During the workshop, the Outreach Center will present its new Muslim Superheroes Comic Collection, part of its lending library.

## MOURNING FOR JERUSALEM: THE JEWISH PROPHETIC AND THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

2011 Hilda B. Silverman Lecture

May 6, 2011, Thompson Room, Barker Center

CMES is pleased to announce the 2011 Hilda B. Silverman Lecturer, Marc H. Ellis, University Professor of Jewish Studies, Professor of History, and Director of the Center for Jewish Studies at Baylor University. Professor Ellis has devoted his scholarship to the study of the Jewish ethical tradition and the challenges and dissonance of Jewish life after the Holocaust and after the establishment of the State of Israel, themes that were very important to Hilda Silverman and profoundly influenced her thinking and writing.

Visit <http://cmes.hmdc.harvard.edu/events/calendar> for more upcoming events.

## CMES WELCOMES TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS

CMES is pleased to welcome **Elizabeth Flanagan**, who joined us in November 2010 as Program Coordinator, and **Michelle Monestime**, who came on board in January 2011 as the CMES Financial Associate. Both have prior experience at Harvard: Liz was most recently an Executive Assistant and Project Coordinator in the Office of the Vice President for Administration; Michelle was a Financial Associate and Administrative Assistant at the School of Public Health.

## HENRY LUCE FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO INITIATIVE ON CONTEMPORARY ISLAMIC SOCIETIES

Harvard's interdisciplinary Initiative on Contemporary Islamic Societies, housed at CMES and led by **Cemal Kafadar**, was recently awarded a \$156K grant from the Henry Luce Foundation. The grant will enable Professor Kafadar, CMES Research Associate **Derya Honça**, and Harvard Law School Wertheim Fellow **Emran Qureshi** to develop a collaborative research network exploring peace, coexistence, and conflict in Muslim-majority and Muslim-minority countries spanning Europe, the Middle East, and South and South East Asia.

## NEW RESOURCE PAGE CONNECTS JOURNALISTS AND THE PUBLIC TO MIDDLE EAST ANALYSIS AT HARVARD

In response to the rapid political changes in the Arab Middle East, CMES developed a new webpage to make it easier for the public and the media to learn from and use the research and teaching expertise found in and around the Center: [http://cmes.hmdc.harvard.edu/outreach/onlineresources/political\\_change](http://cmes.hmdc.harvard.edu/outreach/onlineresources/political_change). The page, which has

become one of the most heavily used on the CMES website since it was created in mid-January, contains links to op-eds and television, radio, and blog interviews by Harvard faculty and CMES staff, students, and researchers with outlets such as National Public Radio, CNN, the Voice of America, Al Jazeera English, and *Al Hayat*. The page is being maintained by CMES AM student **Todd Mostak**.

BELOW New CMES staffers Elizabeth Flanagan and Michelle Monestime.



## CREDITS & CONTRIBUTORS

**Writing:** Paul Beran, Johanna Bodnyk, Elizabeth Flanagan, Baber Johansen, Gülru Necipoğlu, and Sarah Stoll

**Copyediting:** Michelle Monestime

**Design:** Laura Weiler

## CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence regarding this newsletter should be sent to Johanna Bodnyk, CMES Communications Coordinator, at [jbodnyk@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:jbodnyk@fas.harvard.edu).



## CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES HARVARD UNIVERSITY

38 KIRKLAND STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

PHONE: 617.495.4055 FAX: 617.496.8584 EMAIL: [CMES@FAS.HARVARD.EDU](mailto:CMES@FAS.HARVARD.EDU)

*The Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, is a US Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center.*