

Program in Middle Eastern Studies



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2017

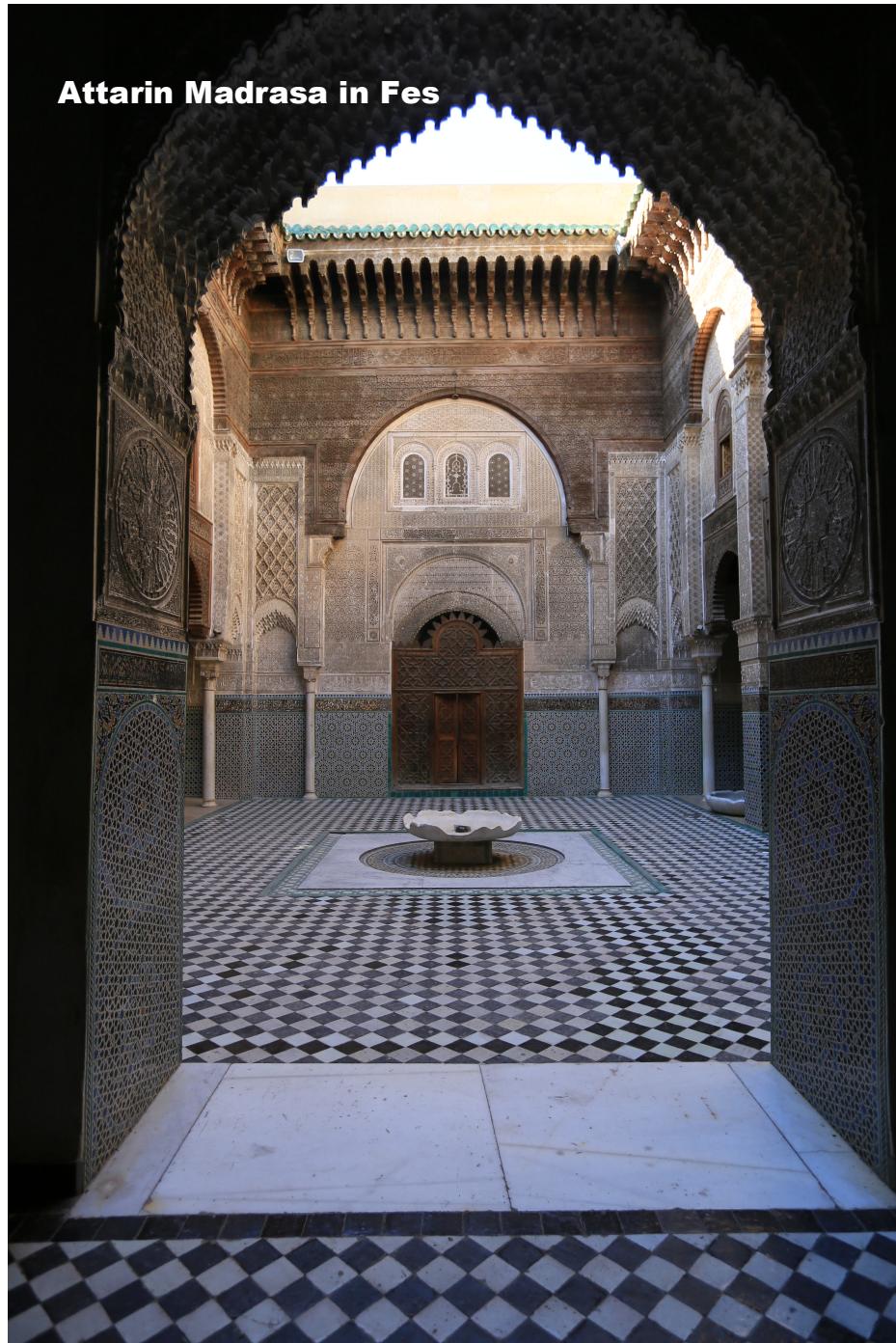
Dear Students, Alumnae, Colleagues and Friends of Middle Eastern Studies,

As academic year 2016-17 comes to a close, we would like to take a moment to congratulate our graduating seniors and to extend warm greetings to our continuing students and to our alumnae, colleagues and friends. This year has indeed been very challenging on many levels, both here and around the world, but we hope that in the midst of all the uncertainty and anxiety that it has been a rewarding and productive one.

I would like to thank Prof. Louise Marlow for her excellent stewardship of the Program in Middle Eastern Studies and for her continued support and advice. My hope is to build on the wonderful goals we achieved under Prof. Marlow's leadership to strengthen our program and consolidate and develop our offerings in the Arabic language. Over the next few years we would like to explore new pedagogical techniques and methodologies to help our students make the most of our Arabic language offerings. On the Modern Standard Arabic front, we would like to see more of our introductory materials made available online so that class time can be devoted to more meaningful reading, listening and conversation activities. We are also hoping to start an online resource exclusively devoted to colloquial Arabic in order to provide students with a basic level of exposure to forms of the language they will encounter while studying overseas in North Africa and the Middle East.

It is also my pleasure to thank this year's Fulbright Teaching Assistant, Ms. Muneera Al-Khulaifi, for her extremely valuable and greatly appreciated service to the Arabic Language Program throughout the year, especially for the wonderful editorial work she did with the students of Arabic in order to launch our very own Arabic language newspaper: *Sawt Al-Qarya*. I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate our former Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant, Ms. Sana Benjanet, on her upcoming wedding. We wish her all the happiness in the world.

Finally I would like to thank Suzette Dauch Schochet '58 for her continuing support for our program. The Program in Middle Eastern Studies deeply appreciates her generous support. Indeed it is thanks to this support that we are able to complement our course offerings with informative lectures and exciting cultural events. As a token of our appreciation and gratitude, all of our lectures and cultural events this year were dedicated to the memory of Jay R. Schochet and his support for our program



CURRICULAR NEWS

COURSE OFFERINGS IN ARABIC AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES 2015-16

FALL 2017 COURSES

ARAB 101 - Elementary Arabic (1.0)

An introduction to the Arabic language. The course takes a comprehensive approach to language learning and emphasizes the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students are introduced to the principles of grammar, taught how to read and write in the Arabic alphabet, and trained in the basics of everyday conversation. Through the use of a variety of written, video and audio materials, as well as other resources made available through the Web, the course emphasizes authentic materials and stresses the active participation of students in the learning process.

Instructor: Zitnick

Prerequisite: None

Term(s): Fall. M,T,W,Th 8:30-9:40; M,T,W,Th 9:50-11:00

Each semester of ARAB 101 and ARAB 102 earns 1.0 unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.

ARAB 201 - Intermediate Arabic (1.0)

A continuation of ARAB 101-ARAB 102. The course takes students to a deeper and more complex level in the study of the Arabic language. While continuing to emphasize the organizing principles of the language, the course also introduces students to a variety of challenging texts, including extracts from newspaper articles, as well as literary and religious materials. Students will be trained to work with longer texts and to gain the necessary communicative skills to prepare them for advanced-level Arabic.

Instructor: Aadnani

Prerequisite: ARAB 102 or permission of the instructor.

Term(s): Fall. M,W,Th 8:30-9:40am;

M,W,Th 9:50-11:00am

Each semester of ARAB 201 and ARAB 202 earns 1.0 unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course

ARAB 301 – Advanced Arabic I

Continuation of ARAB 201-202. Involving further development of students' skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, this course exposes students to a variety of authentic Arabic materials, including print and online sources, incorporating MSA and diglossia. Focus on enhances communication skills in Arabic and attention to the use of language in its sociocultural context. Appropriate for students who have completed ARAB 201-202 at Wellesley or the equivalent in summer courses or international study programs.

Instructor: Zitnick

Prerequisite: ARAB 201-202 or permission of the instructor

Distribution: LL

Term(s): Fall



REL 260 - Islamic/ate Civilizations (1.0)

Historical survey of Muslim-majority societies and the diverse cultural forms produced within them from the seventeenth century to the beginnings of the modern period. Topics include literary and artistic expression, architecture, institutions, philosophical and political thought, religious thought and practice. Critical attention to the concept of “civilization” and its uses and drawbacks for understanding the complex historical and cultural processes under study in the course.

Instructor: Marlow

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: REP, HS

Term(s): Fall;

Normally alternates with REL 269.

REL 364 – Seminar: Sufism: Islamic Mysticism

An interdisciplinary exploration of the diverse manifestations of mysticism in Islamic contexts. Topics include the experiences and writings of individual Sufis, including Rabi'a, al-Junayd, Hujwiri, Ibn al-'Arabi, Jalal al-Din Rumi, 'Abd al-Qadir Jilani, Ruzbihan Baqli; the place of Sufism in Islamic legal, theological, and philosophical traditions as well as in Muslim religious practice; Sufism in local contexts, both urban and rural; holy men and women; Sufism's permeation of artistic and aesthetic traditions, especially poetry and music; the reception, interpretations, and practices of Sufism in Western countries.

Instructor: Marlow

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors, students who have taken at least one unit in Middle Eastern Studies or Religion, and by permission of the instructor.

Distribution: REP; HS

Term(s): Fall



HIST 284 – The Middle East in Modern History

This course provides a survey of Middle Eastern history from c. 1900 to present, with an emphasis on the Arab Middle East. It will focus on the historical developments of the period: the demise of the Ottoman Empire at the end of World War I; the Armenian genocide; the establishment of European “mandates” in most of the Arab world and the nationalist struggles for independence that ensued; the establishment of Israel and the expulsion of Palestinians in 1948; the Lebanese Civil War of 1975-1990; the Iranian Islamic Revolution of 1979 and the rise of Islamist political movements elsewhere; the regime of Saddam Hussein; the occupation of Kuwait and the Gulf War of 1990-1991; the failure of the Oslo peace process, Israeli settlements, and the increasing political power of HAMAS and Hezbollah; the war in Iraq; the challenge of a potentially nuclear Iran; and the still unfolding and perhaps misnomered “Arab Spring.”

Instructor: Kapteijns

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: HS

Term(s): Fall

POL2 217 – Politics of the Middle East and North Africa

How do Arab-Islamic history and culture shape politics in the contemporary Middle East and North Africa? Why is the Arab world – despite its tremendous oil wealth – still characterized by economic underdevelopment and acute gaps between rich and poor? How have the events of September 11 and the US-led “war on terror” affected the prospects in the Middle East in the future? What do the 2011 revolts mean for the existing regimes and prospects for democracy? These are some of the questions we will examine in this course. In readings, lectures, and class discussions, the analysis of general themes and trends will be integrated with case studies of individual Arab states.

Instructor: Hajj

Prerequisites: One unit in political science

Distribution: SBA

Term(s): Fall

POL4 346 – Encountering Islamist Political Thought

Political Theory is usually understood as Western, but questions about the nature and value of politics are central to intellectual traditions in a wide range of non-Western cultures. This course is an investigation of the most visible but least understood Muslim intellectual tradition today: Islamist (often called fundamentalist) political thought from the early twentieth century to the present. It is organized around themes such as Islam and democracy; violence and political action; women, gender, and Islamization; and the politics of language (eg the terminology of fundamentalism, Islamism, Western/non-Western, Islam vs the West).

Authors include Hasan al-Banna, Sayyid Abu'l-A'la Mawdudi, Sayyid Qutb, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Yusuf al-Qaradawi, Zaynab al-Ghazali, Nadia Yassine, and Osama bin Laden.

Instructor: Euben

Prerequisite: One 200 level unit in political theory, philosophy, or a course on Islam in the history or religion departments

Distribution: REP

Term(s): Fall



SPRING 2018 COURSES

ARAB 102 - Elementary Arabic (1.0)

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Instructor: Zitnick

Prerequisite: ARAB 101

Term(s): Spring. M,T,W, Th 8:30-9:40;
M,T,W,Th 9:50-11:00

Each semester of ARAB 101 and ARAB 102 earns 1.0 unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.



ARAB 202 - Intermediate Arabic (1.0)

A continuation of ARAB 201. The course takes students to a deeper and more complex level in the study of the Arabic language. While continuing to emphasize the organizing principles of the language, the course also introduces students to a variety of challenging texts, including extracts from newspaper articles, as well as literary and religious materials. Students will be trained to work with longer texts

and to gain the necessary communicative skills to prepare them for advanced-level Arabic.

Instructor: Aadnani

Prerequisite: ARAB 201 or permission of instructor.

Term(s): Spring. M,W, Th 8:30-9:40am;
M,W,Th 9:50-11:00am

Each semester of ARAB 201 and 202 earns 1.0 unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.

ARAB/MES 310 - Resistance and Dissent in North Africa and the Middle East (1.0)

An exploration of themes of resistance and dissent in the literatures and cultures of North Africa and the Middle East since the early 1980s. Topics include the rise of democratic movements, such as political parties, associations, and NGOs; the role and importance of Islam to the identity of contemporary nation-states in the region; the status of women and minorities in the ideologies of the movements under study; and the status and implications of dissent. Materials studied include works of fiction and nonfiction, films, speeches, song lyrics, and online publications.

Instructor: Aadnani

Prerequisite: Open to students who have taken at least one course in Middle Eastern Studies, and to juniors and seniors by permission of the instructor.

Term(s): Fall.

REL 261/365 – Cities of the Islamic World

In what ways have Muslim-majority communities shaped the diverse urban environments in which they have lived? This course examines and critiques the concept of “the Islamic city”. It focuses on the many and varied factors that have contributed to gradual processes of change in selected cities of Western Asia, North Africa, Iran, and Central Asia from late antiquity to the present. Discussion focuses on the distinctive experiences and qualities of



Samarkand Madrasa

particular cities, such as Damascus, Baghdad, Cairo, Istanbul, Isfahan, Samarkand, Lucknow, and Lahore. Topics include: migration settlement, and the construction of new cities; commerce and conversion; the emergence of “holy cities” as centers for pilgrimage, religious education, and Islamic legal scholarship; sacred space and architecture; religious diversity in urban environments; cultural heritages and conservation; and colonial and postcolonial interventions in the fabric and forms of urban life.

Instructor: Marlow
Prerequisite: None
Distribution: REP, HS
Term(s): Spring

REL 269 – Religion and Culture in Iran
An exploration of the history of Iran and its peoples from antiquity to the present. Topics include cultural and religious life; social and economic developments; government and court policies; the interactions among rural, urban, and nomadic communities; the lives and roles of

women; commerce, cultural exchange, and the impact of Iran on European imperial rivalries; the forging of the nation-state, discontent, and dissent; the Islamic Revolution, post-revolutionary Iran; and the Iranian diaspora.

Instructor: Marlow
Prerequisite: None
Distribution: REP, HS
Term(s): Spring

POL2 217 – Politics of the Middle East and North Africa

How do Arab-Islamic history and culture shape politics in the contemporary Middle East and North Africa? Why is the Arab world – despite its tremendous oil wealth – still characterized by economic underdevelopment and acute gaps between rich and poor? How have the events of September 11 and the US-led “war on terror” affected the prospects in the Middle East in the future? What do the 2011 revolts mean for the existing regimes and prospects for democracy? These are some of the questions we will examine in this course. In readings, lectures, and class discussions, the analysis of general themes and

trends will be integrated with case studies of individual Arab states.

Instructor: Hajj

Prerequisites: One unit in political science

Distribution: SBA

Term(s): Spring

HIST 266 - Port Cities of the Indian Ocean in Historical Perspective

The history of Indian Ocean port cities situated on the littorals of the Red Sea, East Africa, the Persian Gulf, and the west coast of India, which together enclose the western Indian Ocean. Time period: from c. 1600 to the present, with special emphasis on the transition to, and impact of British colonial rule. Focus on the local life and contexts of these port cities, as well as their relations across the ocean: the movements and networks of people; products of exchange; technologies, legal and other; religious and political ideas, as well as common health challenges. Port cities to be studied include Zanzibar, Brava, Mombasa, Aden,

Jeddah, Kuwait, Bahrain, Dubai, Diu, and Bombay/Mumbai.

Instructor: Kapteijns

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: HS

Term: Spring

POL2 358 – Seminar: Political Conflict in the Middle East

Topic for 2017-2018:

This class will provide an in-depth understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the evolution of the conflict over time. Our goal is to develop an appreciation of the complexities and the dynamism of this conflict through an examination of its origins, the actors involved, and the key historical and political factors that have shaped it.

Instructor: Hajj

Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

Enrollment is limited, interested students must fill out a seminar application available on the political science department website homepage

Distribution: SBA

Term(s): Spring

The city of Moulay Idris Zerhoun



EVENTS

MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

PRESENTS

THE JAY R. SCHOCHET MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES:

NADJE SADIG AL-ALI

Dilemmas for Transnational Feminist Solidarity: How to talk about gender based and sexual violence in the Middle East?



Nadje Al-Ali is Professor of Gender Studies at the Centre for Gender Studies, at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Her main research interests revolve around gender theory; feminist activism; women and gender in the Middle East; transnational migration and diaspora mobilization; war, conflict and reconstruction.



PENDELTON ATRIUM
NOVEMBER 16 AT 5:30 PM



more info|updates | wellesley.edu/MES
Disability accommodations: Jim Wice x2434

Middle Eastern Studies in collaboration with Religion and CAMS

Present
In memory of Jay R. Schochet

a screening of



TICKLING GIANTS

A FILM BY SARA TAKSLER

*Are you brave enough
to tell a joke?*

followed by Q&A with Director

Sara Taksler
(of The Daily Show)

Collins Cinema, April 11 @7:00
Free and Open to the Public
For more information | raadnani@wellesley.edu
Disabilities | jwice@wellesley.edu



alm presents

Queerness, Muslims, Art, and Activism

An Exhibition and Talkback

Location: Tishman Commons
Date: Friday, March 17
Time: 6pm
There will be food!

Funding provided by the Baum fund
Co Sponsors: Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, South Asia Studies, Wellesley Centers for Women, Office of Asian Student Advising, Office of LGBTQ Programs and Services, American Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, Sociology, Middle Eastern Studies, and Art Department

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS: DISABILITYSERVICES@WELLESLEY.EDU 781.283.2434 / 772.3146 EXP. 2077

Please mark your calendar for these other exciting Middle Eastern Studies events:

Where do We Go Now? by Nadine Labaki

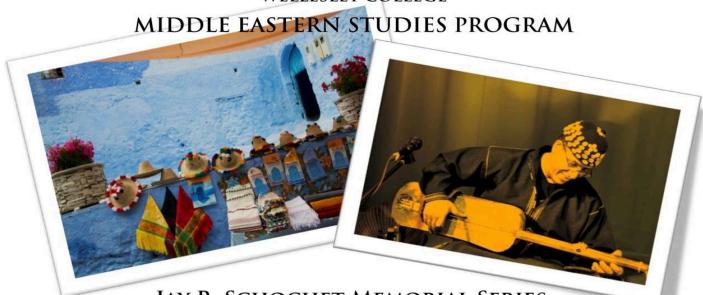
WHERE DO WE GO NOW?
Sunday, April 9 | 5 PM | Collins Cinema

April 9th @ 5:00 pm, Collins Cinema
in Collaboration with CAMS

From Al-'Ala to Gnawa: A Musical Journey through Morocco

May 1st @ 7:00 pm, Music Salon 101, PNW

WELLESLEY COLLEGE MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES PROGRAM



JAY R. SCHOCHET MEMORIAL SERIES

FROM AL-'ALA TO GNAWA: A MUSICAL JOURNEY THROUGH MOROCCO

FEATURING ARTIST BOUJEMAA RAZGUI

MONDAY, MAY
1, 2017

7:00 P.M.

JEWETT
AUDITORIUM

MORE INFORMATION:
RAADNANI@WELLESLEY.EDU
ACCESSIBILITY:
JWICE@WELLESLEY.EDU



WINTER SESSION IN MOROCCO

In the fall semester of 2015, Middle Eastern Studies applied for a new winter session course to take place in Morocco. The curriculum committee positively reviewed our application and we were given the green light to start planning MES's Morocco Winter Session. The focus of MES270 was on Moroccan Arabic and current political and cultural issues in the North African kingdom. Eleven students were accepted into this program.

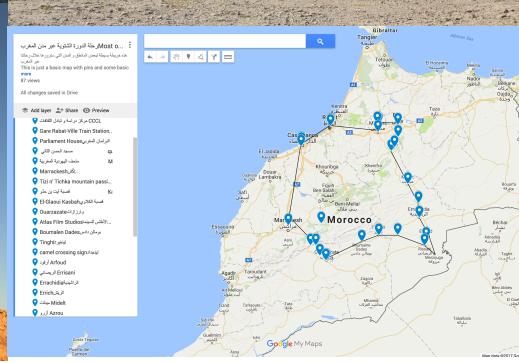
The trip was organized and headed by Professor Aadnani along with Professor Daniel Zitnick who also took part in the trip in a faculty development capacity. In addition to intensive language classes in the morning (9:15 to 12:15), students usually had two lectures or scheduled events in the afternoons (2:00 - 5:30). The focus of the language classes was on Moroccan *Darija*. Given that here in Wellesley, our focus is on Modern Standard Arabic, the focus in Morocco

was switched to colloquial Arabic in order to expose students to the vernacular and help them build useful communication skills to enhance their social life.

The *Darija* that students learned in the mornings was put to use in the evenings to interact with their host families. Indeed, each student was matched with a Moroccan host family that resided within walking distance from the Center for Cross Cultural Learning, which was our host organization in Rabat, Morocco.

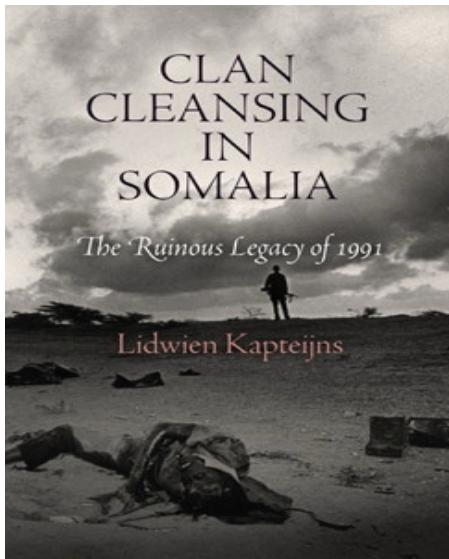
All the host families come from a lower middle class background and are part of a program spearheaded by CCCL that seeks to reach out to poorer families that usually do not have much access to the outside world. The philosophy behind this initiative is to bring college level US students into lower income Moroccan families to open the local younger generation's eyes to the world of higher education and the opportunities it holds.

In addition to the two weeks in the capital, Rabat, MES270 included an excursion through some of the country's most important urban centers such as Casablanca, Marrakech, Ouarzazate, Errisani, Erfoud, Errachidia, Midelt, Azrou, Fes, and Meknes. The winter session started on January 3rd and ended on the 23rd.

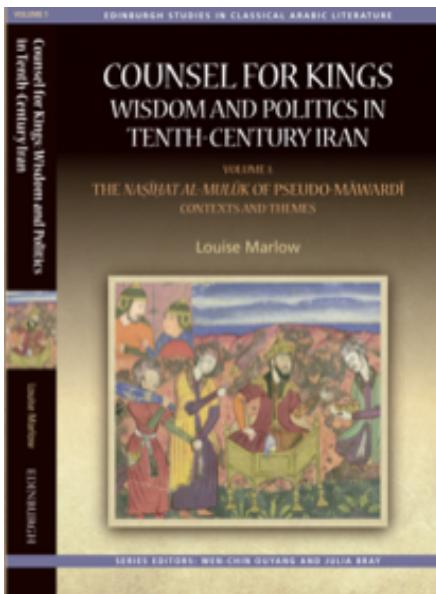


FACULTY NEWS

Professor Kapteijns has published a new book, *Clan Cleansing in Somalia: The Ruinous Legacy of 1991*.

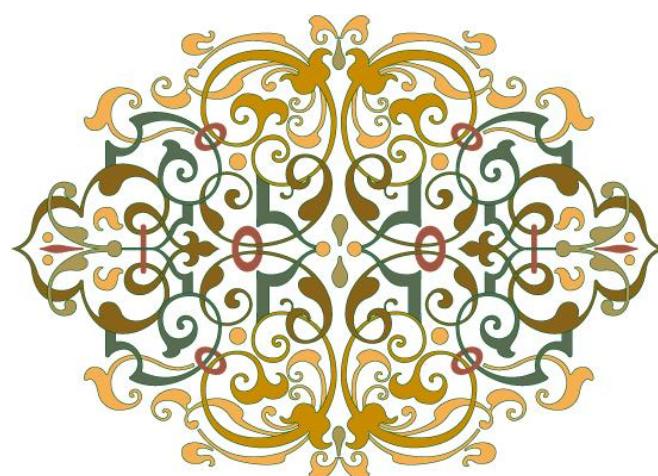
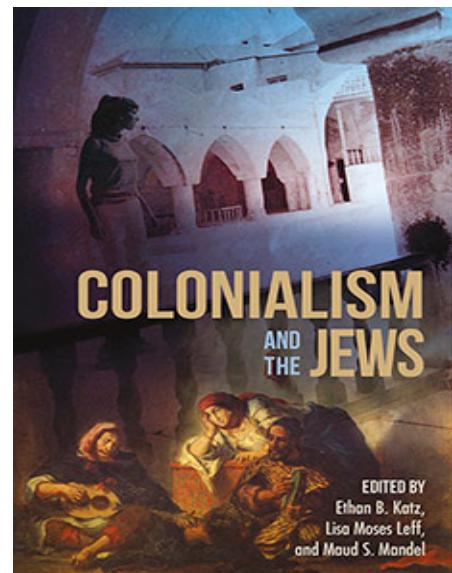


Professor Marlow's new book, *Counsel for Kings: Wisdom and Politics in Tenth-Century Iran*, published by Edinburgh University Press, appeared in 2016.



Professor Hajj writes, "After two years of leave, it has been wonderful to be back on campus. The biggest excitement was the publication of my book, *Protection Amid Chaos- The Creation of Property Rights in Palestinian Refugee Camps* (Columbia University Press, 2016). I participated in several talks, including the Albright Panel on refugees titled "From Exodus to Resettlement." In the classroom, I enjoyed teaching Comparative Politics, Politics of the Middle East and North Africa, and a seminar called the Arab-Israeli Conflict. This year I also began a new speaker series called, "Humanizing Refugees," that featured the stories of a Palestinian refugee, an Armenian refugee, and a doctor that worked on asylum issues with refugees.

Professor Malino contributed to the collection of essays titled "Oriental, Feminist, Orientalist: The New Jewish Woman," *Colonialism and the Jews*, edited by Ethan B. Katz, Lisa Moses Leff, Maud S. Mandel, Indiana University Press, 2017.





Casablanca

NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNAE

Anisa Mehdi is currently in Amman, where she is reporting for Stratfor. Her most recent article, “Holding Out Hope for Peace in the Middle East,” was published on March 15, 2017, and can be found here:

<https://www.stratfor.com/weekly/holding-out-hope-peace-middle-east>

Priscilla Yoon is currently working as Programme Manager for War Child UK in the Jordan office, a humanitarian organization that focuses on education, child protection, and child rights.

Julia Craig Romano '12 is the Program Assistant for the Middle East Program at the Wilson Center in Washington, DC. Her research currently focuses on nuclear issues, Egypt, the GCC states, and women in politics and economics. She would be happy to speak with current students and alums about the MES job market in DC and can be reached at

julia.romano@wilsoncenter.org.

Julia is also co-VP of Programs for the Washington Wellesley Club and looks forward to welcoming new alums (MES or otherwise) to the District.

Parnian Nazary '10 has lived in Germany since 2015. She has been learning German and works part-time at refugee camps to help with the integration of Syrian and Afghani refugees. Parnian's knowledge of Arabic and Farsi have been a great asset in her work. She's applying for MA in Public Policy, International Relations and related fields in Germany. She is happy to be a resource to students or alums that plan to travel to Germany while she is there. Her email is pnazary@gmail.com.

Nina McKee '16 will be working as a Program Leader for Operation Groundswell in Israel-Palestine this summer. The programs she will lead focus on using solidarity approach to expand the narrative of the

Israel-Palestine conflict for international participants between the ages of 18-35. Afterwards she plans to travel with a focus on forced migration, both within the Middle East and beyond. She would love to connect with any alums in the area!

Alma Heckman has been an Assistant Professor of History and Jewish Studies at UC Santa Cruz since Fall 2015. She is working on a book manuscript tentatively called “Radical Nationalists: Moroccan Jewish Communists 1925-1975.” Recently awarded a Hellmann Fellowship from UCSC to conduct final archival research for the book in Spain and France after having done significant archival work in Morocco, Israel, France, the UK and the US.

In 2016, Alma published an article in *Hesperis-Tamuda* titled: “Multivariable Casablanca: Vichy Law, Jewish Diversity and the Moroccan Communist Party”.

NEWS FROM OUR CURRENT STUDENTS

Current Students:

Caroline Bechtel
Hannah Benson
Andrew Budway
Casey Butler
Aathira Chennat
Naomi Day
Margaret Flynn Sapia
Katherine Glouchevitch
Sophie Hill
Julide Iye
Tessa Kellner
Melissa Najjar
Tala Nashwati
Netanya Perluss
Catherin Puga
Jenna Sjogren

Annika Tate
Jasmine Vargas
Adele Watkins
Hailey Webster
Laurel Wills

Julide Iye '18 interned at the Tangier American Legation Institute of Moroccan Studies this past summer. Julide and her fellow intern Amina Ziad '17 completed the digitization of a collection of glass negatives of photographs of Morocco dating back to early 20th century. The collection is hosted on MIT's ArchNet database devoted to Islamic Architecture.

<https://archnet.org/authorities/2852>



DONORS

The Program of Middle Eastern Studies gratefully acknowledges the generous support it has received from Suzette Dauch '58 and Jay R. Schochet of Newport, Rhode Island.