

MESA Events featuring Columbia University Faculty and Students

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 11:00

III-02: Politics and Anti-Politics of Care in Turkey

Organized by **Hayal Akarsu** and **Cagri Yoltar**

Chair: **Hayal Akarsu**

Discussant: **Hiba Bou Akar**, Columbia University

Alize Arican, University of Illinois at Chicago

Figuring It Out in Tarlabasi, Istanbul

Seda Saluk, University of Michigan Ann Arbor “We

Act Like Police Detectives”: Changing Regimes of Care in Public Health Clinics

Ferda Nur Demirci, University of Toronto

Rescaling ‘Brotherly Care’: Indebtedness and

Familial Dilemmas in Soma, Turkey

Cagri Yoltar, Koç University *Contentious Politics of*

Care: The State, Family and Kurdish Women’s

Mobilization in Turkey

Hayal Akarsu, Brandeis University *Suffocating*

Care: Police as Social Workers in Turkey

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 11:00

III-08: Ottoman Political Economies of Debt: Imperial and Global Credit Networks Across the “Early Modern” and the “Modern”

Organized by **Ellen Nye** Chair/Discussant: **Omar**

Cheta, Bard College

Ellen Nye, Yale University *The Politics of*

Money in Anglo-Ottoman Credit Relations

Zoe Griffith, Baruch College, CUNY *Mapping the*

Egypt Merchants: Ottoman Credit Networks Between

Egypt, Istanbul, and the Red Sea, 1720-1810

Henny Ziai, Columbia University *When ‘Turks’*

Became Infidels: Debt, Mahdism and the

Refashioning of Ethical Subjects in Ottoman Sudan

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 1:30

IV-01: Arabic Radio Broadcasting in the Early Mid-20th Century

Organized by **Andrea L. Stanton** Discussant:

Marwan M. Kraidy, University of Pennsylvania

Hazem Jamjourn, New York University *The*

Imperial Discovery of Mass Culture: Britain, Egypt

and the BBC World Service

Ziad Fahmy, Cornell University *Egyptian Radio*

before State Broadcasting: Transitioning from

Media-Capitalism to Media-Etatism, 1926-1934.

Gabriel Lavin, University of California Los Angeles

Indian Territory under Middle Eastern Airwaves:

The Position of the Gulf in Early BBC Arabic

Broadcasting c. 1933- 1939

Andrea L. Stanton, University of Denver *Beyond*

News and Propaganda: Cultural and Entertainment

Programming on the BBC’s Arabic Service

Sahar Bostock, Columbia University *Speaking*

Back: Arab Palestinian Listeners’ Discourse on

Radio in Mandate Palestine

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 1:30

Roundtable IV-03: Crisis and Change: An Interdisciplinary Roundtable on Climate

Organized by **Owain Lawson** **Owain Lawson**,

Columbia University **Elizabeth Holt**, Bard College

Sophia Stamatopoulou-Robbins, Bard College

Arbella Bet-Shlimon, University of Washington

Zozan Pehlivan, University of Minnesota Twin

Cities

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 1:30

Roundtable IV-08: Promoting Public Scholarship in Middle East History

Organized by **Stephennie Mulder** Chair:

Christopher S. Rose, St. Edward’s University

Christiane Gruber, University of Michigan **Najam**

Haider, Barnard College/Columbia University

Stephennie Mulder, University of Texas at Austin

Khodadad Rezakhani, Princeton University

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 11:00

V-19: Qajar Iran: From Cops to Princes

Chair: **Vahid Vahdat**, Washington State University

Aghil Daghagheleh, Rutgers University *The*

Colonial Refusal: On the Genesis of Ethnic

Resistance Among Arab Communities of Iran

Navid Zarrinnal, Columbia University *Demoting*

“Those Who Know”: The Transformation of Anti-

Ulema Imagination in Iran

Kamran S. Aghaie, University of Texas at Austin

Cops and Criminals in Iran: The Modernization of

Crime and Law Enforcement in the late 19th and

early 20th Centuries

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 1:30

VI-10: Against Middle East Studies

Organized by **Esmat Elhalaby** and **Hana Sleiman Hana Sleiman**, University of Cambridge *Alternative Lineages of Arab Studies* **Huma Gupta**, Brandeis University *Seizing the Means of Calculation: Khair el-Din Haseeb and the Economic Value of Rural Architecture*

Nader Atassi, Columbia University *The Arab Transition Debate: The Fall of Feudalism and the Rise of the Asiatic Mode of Production in Arabic Historiography*

Esmat Elhalaby, University of California Davis *Area by Area: Non-Alignment and West Asian Studies after 1947*

Thursday, October 8, 2020 1:30

**VIII-12: Imagining the “Easterner”:
Translation, Race, and trans-Asian
Circulations from Nationalism to
Decolonization**

Organized by **Peiyu Yang** and **Matthew Brauer**
Chair: **Michelle Hartman**, McGill University
Discussant: **Rebecca Johnson**, Northwestern University

Peiyu Yang, William and Mary *Nahdat al- Sin: Translating the Chinese Constitutional Revolution in Arabic Literary Journals*

John Chen, Columbia University *Debating Xinjiang in Cairo: Uyghur and Chinese Nationalisms’ Competition for Arab Public Opinion, 1927-49*

Michael Hill, William and Mary *Arabic and China’s Literary Revolutions*

Matthew Brauer, University of Tennessee *Imagining Whiteness: Racialized Tropes of Japan in North African Anticolonial and Decolonial Discourses*

Thursday, October 8, 2020 1:30

**VIII-14: Rethinking Mobility in Egypt:
Railways, Migration, Football**

Organized by **Rana Baker**
Discussant: **Nada El-Kouny**, Rutgers University
Ibrahim Elhoudaiby, Columbia University *Moving Nation: Football clubs and the contestation of Egyptian nationalism*

Rana Baker, Columbia University *Mobility as a Work Discipline in Egyptian Railway Workshops: 1851-1920*

Mai Alkhamissi, Princeton University *“I care about the region”: Regional Belonging in North Africa*

Thursday, October 8, 2020 1:30

VIII-17: History in Contemporary Fiction

Chair: **Drew Paul**, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Radwa El Barouni, Williams College *Converging/Diverging Notions of History*
Mustafa Oguzhan Colak, Leiden University *Creating “New Turkey” by Television Series: The Political Economy of Turkish State Sponsored Historical Fictions*

Hazal Halavut, University of Toronto *Repression, Its Return, and the Textual Unconscious: Turkish Fiction on the Armenian Genocide*

Mohamed Wajdi Ben Hammed, Columbia University *Between the Utopia of the State and its Violent Realities: Ibn Khaldun in the Mirrors of his Autobiography and Modern Tunisian Fiction*

Clarissa C. Burt, US Naval Academy *Functions of Tragedy in Dramatizations of Harb al-Basus: Legitimacy, Dissimulation and Critique in Modern Recastings of the Jahiliyya Tale*

Saturday, October 10 12:00 pm

**Special Session Global Academy Event
and Fellows Panel**

Asli Bali, UCLA; **Beth Baron**, CUNY; **Mimi Kirk**, MESA;

Greta N. Scharnweber, Institute of International Education; **Judith Tucker**, Georgetown University *Approaches to Governance Through an Islamist Lens*

Chair: **Brinkley Messick**, Columbia University
Discussant: **Issam Eido**, Vanderbilt University
Utku Balaban, Amherst College *Industrial Islamism in Turkey*

Nihat Celik, San Diego State University *Islamic Humanitarian NGOs in Turkey*

Seyed Masoud Noori, New York University *Islam and Human Rights: What Could/Should be Understood from the Qur’an? Ottoman Legacies in the Post-Ottoman Era*

Chair: **A. Holly Shissler**, University of Chicago
Discussant: **Sumercan Bozkurt-Gungen**, Simon Fraser University

Evren Altinkas, University of Guelph *Continuity Between the Committee of Union and Progress and the Kemalist Regime: The Role of Karakol*

Melissa Bilal, UCLA *The “Other” Ottoman Feminists: Repatriating Armenian Women’s Intellectual Legacy*

Dilsa Deniz *Turkish Islamic Synthesis: A Frame for Post-Ottoman Identity Politics of the Turkish Republic*

Saturday, October 10 12:00 pm

Special Session The Political Economy and Ethics of Social Science Research in the Arab World

Chair: **Lisa Anderson**, Columbia University
Rabab el-Mahdi, American University in Cairo
Sari Hanafi, American University of Beirut
Seteney Shami, Arab Council for the Social Sciences
Saloua Zerhouni, Mohammed V University
Discussants: **Sarah Parkinson**, Johns Hopkins University and **Maria Eriksson Baaz**, Uppsala University

Tuesday, October 13 12:00 pm

Special Session: Responding to COVID-19 in the MENA Region: Insights on Education and Communication Challenges

Bassem Elbendry Ph.D. in Social Studies education at Teachers College, Columbia University,
Hiba Ibrahim is a PhD student of applied linguistics at York University in Canada.
Islam Karkour, Ph.D., is a Lecturer of Arabic in the College of Liberal Arts, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, University of New Hampshire.
Sara O. Ahmed is a current PhD student in the Anthropology and Education program at Teachers College, Columbia University

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 1:30

X-04: Black and Arab Across the Red Sea

Organized by **Gehad Abaza**, **Anna Reumert**, and **Gokh Amin Alsharif**

Chair/Discussant: **Sherene Seikaly**, University of California Santa Barbara

Anna Reumert, Columbia University *Migrant or Worker? Sudanese Livelihoods and Memory in Beirut*

Zachary Mondesire, University of California Los Angeles *Race After Revolution: Imagining Blackness and Africanity in the "New Sudan"*

Gokh Amin Alsharif, University of California Santa Barbara *From al- Akhdam to al-Muhamashin: Genealogical Imagination, Power, and Resistance in Yemen's Black Minority*

Gehad Abaza, University of California Santa Barbara *"The Fire is Here too": Mobility, Livelihood and Labor among Sudanese Women in Cairo*

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 1:30

X-08: Challenging the Mainstream: Contested Histories, Archives, and Alternative Mizrahi Voices

Organized by **Noa Hazan** Chair: **Shirly Bahar**

Noa Hazan, CUNY *Cleaning up the Archive: Highlighting the Zionist American Organization of Hadassah from A New Mizrahi Perspective*
Shoshana Madmoni-Gerber, Suffolk University *From Mainstream to Social Media: The Narrative of the Kidnapped Babies Affair and the Fight for Memory and Justice*

Natalie Haziza, CUNY Graduate Center *Traces of Absence: How the trauma of the Yemenite, Mizrahi and Balkan Kidnapped Children Affair is present in home movies and photographs*

Shirly Bahar, Columbia University *A Mother Tongue, A Daughter's Voice: Mizrahi Women Poets' Homecoming to the Arabic Language*

Thursday, October 15, 2020

11:00am

XI-04: Global and Local Popular Entertainments of the Nahdah: An Interdisciplinary Approach

Organized by **Alaaeldin Mahmoud Alaaeldin Mahmoud**, American University

of the Middle East Egyptomaniac Egyptians? Ancient Egypt in the Popular Literary Imaginary in Twentieth Century Egypt

Thana Al-Shakhs, American University of the Middle East *Early Egyptian Film Industry and the Formation of Nationality*

Hala Auji, American University of Beirut *Visual Amusements: Printed Imagery in Nineteenth-century Arabic Publications*

Raphael Cormack, Columbia University *Oum Kalthoum vs Mounira al-Mahdiyya: What is an Egyptian Celebrity?*

Thursday, October 15, 2020

11:00am

XI-08: Circularity and the Making of Time, Memory, and Everyday Life in the Middle East

Organized by **Aamer Ibraheem**

Ahmad Sukkar, Massachusetts Institute of Technology *Universal Circular Diagrams: Da Vinci's Vitruvian Man and Ibn 'Arabi's Universal Human Being*

Remzi Cagatay Cakirlar, Leiden University *Three Types of Caliphate at the Wilsonian Moment*

Erin Gould, Chapman University *Historical Memory of the Halqa: The Circle in Moroccan Storytelling and Meaning Making*

Aamer Ibraheem, Columbia University *Points and Circles: Text, Reincarnation, and Druze in the Political Present*

Yasemin Akçagüner, Columbia University *Star-Crossed Love and Cross-Eyed Children: Temporal Governance of Intimate Life in the Late Ottoman Empire*

Thursday, October 15, 2020

11:00am

XI-11: Redefining Gender Relations and Rights in Transnational Contested Spaces

Organized by **Armaghan Ziaee** and **Eliana Abu-Hamdi**

Chairs: **Armaghan Ziaee** and **Eliana Abu-Hamdi**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Armaghan Ziaee, University of Cincinnati

Rethinking Gendered Spatial Practices in Iran

Sopanit Angsusingha, Georgetown University

Defiant Manhood: The Application and Adaptation of Masculinity in the Boy Scout Movements in Iraq and Kenya (1930s–1950s)

Hiba Bou Akar, Columbia University *The Women's Making of a Lebanese Revolution*

Jillian Schwedler, Hunter College CUNY and Graduate Center *The Genders of Political Protests—and Protesters—in Jordan*

Ruken Isik, University of Maryland, Baltimore

County Re-Thinking Transnational Feminist

Solidarity: The Case of Kurdish Women's Movement in Rojava

Thursday, October 15, 2020

11:00am

XI-14: New Approaches to the Sciences of the Stars

in Islamic Societies

Organized by **Scott Trigg** and **Margaret Gaida**, California Institute of

Technology *Situating Arabic Astrology:*

Historiographic Tensions between Europe and the Islamic World

Pouyan Shahidi, Indiana University Bloomington

Moonlight, quintessence, and Gabriel: The

explanation and use of the lunar spots across fields of intellectual inquiry in Islam

Scott Trigg, University of Hong Kong *Visualizing the Configuration (hay'a): On the Role of Manuscript Images in two 15th c. Astronomical Commentaries*

Tunç Sen, Columbia University *The World-Fair Model of Global History of Science and Writing the Local History of Ottoman Astral Sciences*

Thursday, October 15, 2020 1:30pm

XII-07: Petroleum and Socio- Ecologies in the Middle East

Organized by **Ciruce Movahedi-Lankarani**

Discussant: **Jennifer Derr**, University of California Santa Cruz

Shima Houshyar, CUNY Graduate Center *Energy Infrastructures and Petro-modernity in Southern Iran during the Cold War*

Natasha Pesaran, Columbia University *Tracing a Political Ecology of Iraqi Oil Flows in the Interwar Levant*

Guillemette Crouzet, Warwick University *Imperial oil infrastructures and unruly imperial subjects: the Bakhtiari tribe and the British in early twentieth-century Persia*

Ciruce Movahedi-Lankarani, University of Southern California *Natural Gas and the Management of Biological Life in Iran*

Thursday, October 15, 2020 1:30pm

XII-13: Decolonization and French Colonial Rule

Chair: **Katherine E. Hoffman**, Northwestern University

Badreddine Ben Othman, Binghamton University *"Hard-to-Handle Anger": Hawad and the Tuareg Decolonial Imagination*

Ethan Mefford, University of California Los Angeles *"We'll hold them by the throat": The French grain blockade and resistance in the Moroccan Jbala*

Fatima-Ezzahrae Touilila, Columbia University *France, this "great Muslim Power": la politique musulmane française and the fantasy of the Oriental Despot in the Maghreb*

Kaoutar Ghilani, University of Oxford *Language, Nation-Building, and Legitimacy: Morocco's Discourse on the Failure of Arabization*

Erin Twohig, Georgetown University *"Nos ancêtres les Arabes/Our ancestors the Arabs": Arabic-language teachers in postcolonial Algeria*

Lyes Benarbane, University of Minnesota *Religious Rationality: The Humanist Islamism of Malek Bennabi*

Friday, October 16, 2020 11:00am

XIII-06: Rural Imaginaries and the Making of Modern Lebanon

Organized by **Nova Robinson** and **Jeremy Randall**

Discussant: **Michelle Hartman**, McGill University
Jeremy Randall, CUNY Graduate Center *The Rural Imaginary in Lebanese Cultural Productions*

Owain Lawson, Columbia University *A National Vocation: Engineering Nature and State in Lebanon's Merchant Republic*

Nova Robinson, Seattle University *Imagining and Otherizing Rural Lebanese Women in the Early Post-Independence Period*

Friday, October 16, 2020 11:00am **XIII-18: Medieval Persianate Literacy Traditions**

Chair: **Jason Rodriguez Vivrette**, University of California Berkeley

Catherine Ambler, Columbia University *Without Bindings, Bound: The Ambiguity of Poets in Maliha Samarqandi's Muzakkir al-Ashab*

Ferenc Csirkés, Sabanci University *The Politics of Turkic Literature at the Court of Shah Ismail I*

Amanda Caterina Leong, University of California Merced *The Princess Remembers: The*

Humayunnama as a Mirror for Princesses

Pranav Prakash, University of Iowa *Interweaving Indian Tales and Persian Genres: Akhsitan Dihlavi's Basatin al-Uns (c. 1325-26)*

Friday, October 16, 2020 1:30pm **XIV-03: Towards a History and Interpretations of the "Circle" in the Scientific and Visual Cultures of the Middle East**

Organized by **Adrien Zakar**

Chair: **Aamer Ibraheem**, Columbia University

Discussant: **Heather Ferguson**, Claremont McKenna College

Maryam Patton, Harvard University *Mirror of the Celestial Spheres: Towards Understanding Circles in Islamic Astronomy*

Side Emre, Texas A&M University *A Perfect Vessel to Ignite the Imagination: The Use, Function, and Metaphors of Circular Diagrams in 16th century Ottoman Mystical Cosmologies*

Isin Taylan, Yale University *The Circles of Lands, Atlas, and Ottoman Geographical Knowledge*

Adrien Zakar, Stanford University *Geographical Knowledge, Cosmography and Reform in the Late Ottoman Empire*

Nur Sobers-Khan, British Library *The Mass Production of the Cosmos: Concentric Diagrammes from Manuscript to Lithograph*

Friday, October 16, 2020 1:30pm **XIV-19: Philosophy and Ethics in Teaching: Discourse and Theory**

Sami Al Daghistani, Norwegian School of Theology, Religion, & Society/ Columbia University *Economy of Happiness – Abu Hamid al-Ghazali's Ethical Teachings*

Erol Firtin, Independent Scholar *Ottoman Virtue Politics: Discourse and Theory* **Feryal Salem**, American Islamic College

Taskopruzade's Commentary on the Ethical Philosophy of Adud al-Din al-Ijī

Friday, October 16, 2020 1:30pm **XIV-05: Queer Sights: Gender Expression in Visual Culture**

Organized by **Duygu Ula** and **Anne Marie Butler**

Chair: **Anne Marie Butler**, Kalamazoo College

Discussant: **Duygu Ula**, Barnard College

Conor Moynihan, Rhode Island School of Design Museum *The Ring of the Dove: Mehdi-Georges Lahlou's Queer Invocation of Al-Andalus*

Sahin Acikgoz, University of Michigan Ann Arbor *Yesilcam's Other Daughters: Armenian Women and Ungendered Ethnoreligious Alterity*

Lara Fresko Madra, Cornell University *Iz Öztat's Queer Pedagogies for Zisan's Impossible Archives*

Tugce Kayaal, University of Michigan *Erotics of Death: Literary and Visual Representations of Martyrdom in World War I*

Saturday, October 17, 2020: 11:00

XV-02: Theories and Histories of Language in the Nahda: A Multidisciplinary Conversation across History and Literature

Organized by **Olga Verlato** and **Nada Khalifa**
Discussant: **Rana Issa**, American University of Beirut

Ziad Dallal, Bard College *Language as Craft: Al-Shidyaq and the Politics of Language in the Nahda*

Olga Verlato, New York University *"Long Live this Language." History, Language, and Education in the Writings of 'Abdallah Nadim*

Hannah Scott Deuchar, New York University *Equivalence, Debt and the Law of Economy in the Arabic Translation Debates*

Nada Khalifa, Columbia University *Language, Authenticity and Autonomy in Arabist Political Thought*

Saturday, October 17, 2020 11:00

XV-05: Early Islamic Taxation in Theory and Practice: Abbasid and Fatimid Case Studies

Organized by **Aseel Najib** Chair: **Marina Rustow**, Princeton University
Ali Asgar Alibhai, University of Texas
Dallas God's Water: Analyzing Land and Irrigation Taxation Systems Under the Early Fatimids
Khalil Andani, Augustana College *A Fatimid Ismaili Exegesis of Zakat According to Nasir-i Khusraw*
Aseel Najib, Columbia University *The Kharaj in the Early Abbasid Period: A Conceptual History*
Lorenzo Bondioli, University of Cambridge *The Fiscal-Commercial Complex: Taxation and Capital in Fatimid Egypt*

Saturday, October 17, 2020 11:00

Roundtable

XV-12: Imperial Decline? The Shifting Contours of U.S. Power in the Middle East

Organized by **Danya Al-Saleh** and **Lisa Bhungalia**
Chair: **Danya Al-Saleh**, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Omar Dahi, Hampshire College
Abdullah Al-Arian, Georgetown University Qatar
Madiha Tahir, Columbia University
Katty Alhayek, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Saturday, October 17, 2020 11:00 am

XV-19: Merchants, Economic Nationalism, and Economic Governmentality

Chair: **Huma Gupta**, Brandeis University
Kareem Abdelbary, Independent
Researcher *The unfoldings of economic nationalism: class, nation and 'national bourgeoisie' in early 20th Century Egypt*
Atar David, University of Texas at Austin *The Great Depression in Egypt Through Governmental Food Supply*
Orcun Okan, Columbia University *Capitalist Modernities and 'Xenophobia': Politics of Employment in post-Ottoman Turkey, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq in the 1920s*
Robert J. Bell, New York University *Competing Logics of Economic Development in the American Occupation of Iran, 1942- 1945*
Umit Eser, Independent Scholar *The 'Fig King' of Smyrna: Aram Hamparzum Sheltering in Fata Morgana, 1914-1922*

Saturday, October 17, 2020 1:30

XVI-04: From Misr to Egypt and al-Sham to Syria: Sovereignty, Community and Rule 1600-1913

Organized by **Karim Malak**
Chair: **Alan Mikhail**, Yale University
Charles L. Wilkins, Wake Forest University
Mustafa b. Taha (d. 1681) and the Rise of the Urban Notables of Aleppo
Karim Malak, Columbia University *Gunpowder Sovereignty in Egypt and the Levant: The Levant Crisis of 1839-41 revisited*
Joshua Donovan, Columbia University *Communal Reform at the Twilight of Empire: Orthodox Christians in the Levant and Egypt, 1880-1913*