

ANNUAL
REPORT
2017–
2018

THE
MIDDLE
EAST
INSTITUTE

COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY

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The central mission of the [Middle East Institute](#) (MEI) is to foster an interdisciplinary, interdepartmental approach to enhancing Columbia's Middle East program. It strengthens and broadens the curriculum by offering courses to supplement and complement departmental offerings, and providing a vibrant forum for faculty and students to work together across the different disciplines through workshops, lectures, conferences, and social events. The institute offers fellowships to students for study and research in the region and at home, and it advises students on course selection, language programs, and career opportunities. MEI's Outreach works to inform and educate the media, government and the general public about the Middle East and to diversify K-14 curricula to include Middle East content. MEI collaborates with other regional institutes and university units to advance knowledge about issues and processes that transcend regions. MEI has earmarked support for visiting scholars and it currently is seeking endowment support for its mission objectives.

LETTER FROM THE

Founded in 1954, MEI supports Columbia's world-class programs on the Middle East and North Africa. Currently mobilizing some eighty faculty members across academic disciplines and departments, the Institute acts to strengthen the curriculum of university course offerings and to provide forums for faculty and students to convene in workshops, lectures, conferences, and social events, while also advising students on courses, language programs, and career opportunities. As a federally funded National Resource Center (NRC), the MEI endeavors to inform the media, government, and the general public about the region, while also administering Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships to support language study and research by undergraduate and graduate students.

A highlight of academic year 2017-18 was the significant strengthening of the institute's MA Program in Islamic Studies (ISMA). We appointed a new Academic Program Director for the program and launched our first dedicated core course. Taught by the APD, Professor Kathryn Spellman Poots, Foundation to Islamic Studies and Muslim Societies provides

DIRECTOR

students with an introduction to key concepts, theories and debates in Islamic Studies. Interdisciplinary and global in scope, and wide-ranging in substantive content, the course features weekly visits by faculty members from across the university. Required for all ISMA students, the highly successful course attracted graduate students from other programs at the university.

Building on the recent achievements of the ISMA, a group of faculty specialized in Islamic Studies and research on Muslim societies has taken steps to create a working group for faculty and graduate students, the Center for the Study of Muslim Societies (CSMS). This will provide a new forum for the exchange of ideas, the discussion of innovative projects, and the development of joint instructional activities. The aim is to better connect faculty and students so as to better realize the university's extraordinary capacity in this broad field. In addition, MEI has begun to explore international partnerships for the ISMA program that will provide further research and instruction opportunities for our students and global avenues of scholarly collaboration for our faculty.

MEI is planning a more comprehensive calendar of curated in-house events in the coming academic year. In addition to events organized by faculty and students, MEI will collaborate with GSAPP on *In Change: On Regional Environments*, with the School of the Arts on *In Translation: Theory and Practice* and with SIPA on *In Motion: Mobility Studies*. Thinking expansively about these topics, the programming will engage scholars across disciplines and schools and include lectures, screenings and workshops.

This Annual Report includes sections on the institute's programming initiatives, including our unique Sharī'a Workshop, which completed its third year; research on Islam in Africa, featured in the longstanding Ifriqiyya Colloquium; our Visiting Scholars; the programming of the affiliated Center for Palestine Studies; and the major upgrades to the institute's federally mandated efforts in outreach to schools and the public.



Brinkley Messick

PROGRAMMING

The in-house programming of the MEI includes Halaqa Arabiyya, Persian Circle and the Shari'a Workshop. MEI supports the initiatives of faculty, students and visiting scholars and collaborates with its counterparts across Columbia and in New York City.

HALAQA 'ARABIYYA

The Middle East Institute's weekly Arabic Circle provides supplemental language practice for Arabic language students in a conversational setting. Its core group of 5-11 attendees is composed of Columbia University and Barnard College students as well as some non-university affiliated individuals. Ghada Jerfel—a rising senior at Barnard—moderated the 2017-18 sessions and provided feedback. The Arabic Circle is primarily held in Modern Standard Arabic, with some use of the Levantine, Egyptian and Tunisian dialects. During the conversations, Ghada emphasizes vocabulary acquisition and reinforces grammar and conjugation skill sets. This year's activities ranged from discussions on political and social issues to listening to music, screening an Arabic film, poetry readings and translation exercises.

PERSIAN CIRCLE

The weekly Persian conversation hour is attended by undergraduate and graduate students, and members of the community. Drawing about 5-10 attendees, some circle attendees are heritage speakers, while others are new to the language. This language practice entails speaking collaboratively and in an informal environment. Topics range from lighter subjects like travel and leisure to more academic, such as Islamic and Persianate history with an emphasis on common Persian expressions and everyday usage in personal and professional interactions. The conversation hour is directed by Professor Saeed Honarmand. Navid Zarrinnal, a PhD candidate in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, and Dr. Michelle Quay, an instructor of Persian in the same department, moderate the conversation.

IFRIQIYYA COLLOQUIUM

The Ifriqiyya Colloquium is a faculty-organized seminar series focused on the study of Africa before western hegemony. Since 2009, in monthly meetings, Ifriqiyya brings together faculty and graduate students from Columbia and other nearby universities to discuss pre-circulated papers by leading international scholars of Africa.

The collected proceedings of two international Ifriqiyya workshops on “Trans- African Slavery,” the first held at Columbia and the second in Kampala, Uganda, at the Makerere Institute for Social Research (MISR) are forthcoming, with an introduction by Columbia Professor and MISR Director, Mahmood Mamdani, in Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East (Duke).

OCTOBER 3 Judith Scheele, Oxford University, “The Value of Disorder: Autonomy, Prosperity and Plunder in Northern Chad.”

NOVEMBER 27 Wendell Marsh, PhD Candidate, Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, “Shaykh Musa Kamara and the Figuration of an Enlightened Islam.” (Senegal)

MARCH 29 Charles C. Stewart, University of Illinois and Northwestern University, “Scaffolding for Building an Intellectual History of Islamic West Africa.” (archival work)

APRIL 25 Julie Livingston, New York University, “Rainmaking and Other Forgotten Things: A Planetary Parable.” (Botswana)

SHARĪ’A WORKSHOP

The MEI offers regular programming on topics related to Islamic law through its own “[Sharī’a Workshop](#),” launched in 2015. With faculty members in three different departments (MESAAS, Religion, Anthropology) regularly offering courses on “Islamic Law,” the university is uniquely well positioned in this field. The workshop brings together faculty and graduate students from Columbia and other universities in New York, and from Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania, for intensive discussions of pre-circulated papers by leading scholars invited from the US and abroad.

REDISCOVERING WORDS AND WORLDS

The Rare Book and Manuscript Library (RBML) at Columbia succeeded in securing the CLIR Grant for Digitizing Hidden Collections for \$500,000 to digitize and catalogue our collection in partnership with four other libraries.

In February 2016, three Columbia graduate students, each representing a different department at the University (Sadegh Ansari, MESAAS; Zeinab Azarbadegan, History; Mahmood Gharavi, Religion), began the Muslim Worlds Manuscript Project. Cosponsored by MEI, the project also found immediate support across five different departments and five institutions within the University, and it was bolstered by faculty participation (Manan Ahmed, History) and the close involvement of key members of the Libraries (Sean Quimby, RBML Director; Jane Siegel, RBML Librarian; Peter Magierski, Middle East & Islamic Studies Librarian).

The project attracted scholarly attention to the uncovered manuscripts in an effort to springboard the longer-term goal of cataloging the collections. To this end, the project team began coordinating a

conference that would serve as a forum for librarians, scholars and researchers both within-and-beyond the University to assess the collections, and furthermore engage in dialogue over their context at the crossroads of Islamic studies, paleography and codicology, and digital humanities. In addition to showcasing the material, an intended purpose to the conference was to demonstrate the requisite interdisciplinary attention needed to address the cataloging of a collection so large and diverse. In February 2017 the Rediscovering Words and Worlds: Arabic Script Collections at Columbia University, was organized by the graduate students in collaboration with the RBML, MEI, and the Group for Experimental Methods in the Humanities.

The conference was staged over three days.

Day 1, intended for both the academic community and the broader public, included the keynote address by Prof. [Sabine Schmidtke](#), of the Institute for Advanced Study, entitled “Preserving, Democratizing, and Studying the World Heritage of Islamic Manuscripts.” Prior to this presentation, invited scholars were given access to the manuscripts under the supervision of RBML librarians to examine and assess the collection.

Day 2, intended primarily for scholars and researchers, included panels and roundtables that both focused on the source of the material—the “worlds” whence the collections came—and their acquisition by the University. A final panel was held that incorporated the perspectives of librarians, curators, and administrators involved in the processes that lead to the making of an archive.

Day 3, intended for Columbia graduate students, included a series of workshops where invited scholars and researchers held training sessions based on materials

from the collection they examined on the first day. Following two general workshops on Islamic codicology and the practice of cataloging, students participated in specific sessions on scientific and historiographic material represented within the collections. The day concluded with a private conversation between administrators, faculty, librarians and the three organizing graduate students on future plans and funding of cataloging projects.

A new workflow, wherein librarians train and supervise graduate students possessing the requisite linguistic and scholarly expertise, has already yielded results as graduate students create the metadata necessary for expert cataloging and digitization of these manuscripts. The project also created an opportunity for collaboration between Columbia University Libraries and four other libraries on the East Coast (UPenn, Haverford, Bryn Mawr, and Free Library of Philadelphia) which resulted in securing funding for digitization of a section of the collections through the CLIR 2017 Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives Awards.

SITES OF RELIGIOUS MEMORY IN AN AGE OF EXODUS: CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2018 @9AM-5PM

1161 AMSTERDAM AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10027

ITALIAN ACADEMY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Sharia Workshop
with Intisar Rabb

Islamic Legal Canons as Interpretive
Precedent: *The Curious Case of Bughaybiha*, 661-893

4:00pm
thursday
april 5
207 knox

Intisar A. Rabb is a Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and a director of its Islamic Legal Studies Program. She also holds an appointment as a Professor of History at Harvard University and as a Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. The workshop will discuss Intisar Rabb's pre-circulated paper. To receive a copy of the paper, please email amb49@columbia.edu

MEI MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

FOUNDATION TO ISLAMIC STUDIES AND MUSLIM SOCIETIES

This seminar provides students with an introduction to key concepts, theories and debates in Islamic Studies, broadly conceived. Required for students in the MA Program in Islamic Studies, this course is also suitable for graduate students in other departments who study the Middle East, South Asia & Africa or are interested in Islam as a global phenomenon. Qualified undergraduates may register with permission of the instructor.

ISLAMIC CULTURE STUDIES GR5000
KATHRYN SPELLMAN POOTS
T 10:10am-12:00pm / KNOX 207

Interdisciplinary in scope, and wide-ranging in substantive coverage, the seminar features weekly visits by faculty from across the university.

A FILM BY AVI MOGRABI

BETWEEN FENCES

MONDAY

APRIL 2, 6:30PM

Q+A WITH
AVI MOGRABI
DIRECTOR

HAMID DABASHI
HAGOP KEVORKIAN
PROFESSOR OF IRANIAN STUDIES
AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

INTRODUCTION BY
BRINKLEY MESSICK
DIRECTOR OF THE
MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE

Avi Mograbi and Chen Alon meet African asylum-seekers in a detention facility in the middle of the Negev desert where they are confined by the state of Israel. What leads African refugees to leave everything behind and go towards the unknown? Why does Israel refuse to take into consideration the situation of the exiled, thrown onto the road by war, genocide and persecution? Can the Israelis working with the asylum seekers put themselves in the refugees' shoes?

WOOD AUDITORIUM, AVERY HALL
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
1172 AMSTERDAM AVENUE

SELECT FACULTY PARTICIPANTS

Lila Abu-Lughod Anthropology	Katherine Ewing Religion
Manan Ahmed History	Najam Haider Religion
Amale Andraos Graduate School of Architecture	Peter Magierski Butler Library
Hamid Dabashi MESAAS	Brinkley Messick Anthropology
Souleymane Bachir Diagne French & Philosophy	Pier Mattia Tommasino Italian
Marwa Elshakry History	Sarah bin Tyeer MESAAS

The Untold Event
Grasping Arab Children's
Literature



4-6PM
TUES
SEPT 12

Heyman Center
Common Room
74 Morningside Dr
New York NY 10027

طُفُولَةٌ
حُزَيْرَان

An investigative journey into Arab children's literature, exploring the manners through which Arab 'grown ups' exported/translated their own tragic sense of collective 'defeats' into a literary form directed to the Arab children as a reading public.

a book talk

ESMAIL NASHEF
Associate Prof., Dep. of Sociology & Anthropology
Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

in conversation
with
HAMID DABASHI

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR PALESTINE STUDIES PRESENTS

JERUSALEM LIVES

AT THE PALESTINIAN MUSEUM AND BEYOND
PANELISTS: REEM FADDA, EMILY JACIR, AND BESHARA DOUMANI
MODERATED BY LILA ABU-LUGHOD AND BRIAN BOYD, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

FEBRUARY 26, 2018 @6PM
1501 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
BUILDING, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



OUTREACH

The Middle East Institute is committed to supporting K-14 teachers with resources, training, and knowledge to better teach about the Middle East in their classrooms. MEI is particularly focused on supporting high need areas of New York City and its surrounding suburbs.

Learn more about [outreach initiatives](#) on the MEI website.

LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP

MEI has partnered with LaGuardia Community College CUNY in Queens, New York since 2016 to advance Middle East Studies and related programming at the college.

SPEAKERS' BUREAU

MEI created a speakers' bureau of PhD students who are ready and willing to offer a variety of lectures at community colleges, such as LaGuardia, and local high schools. Verena Hanna Meyer (PhD candidate, Dept. of Religion) will present a guest lecture for a second consecutive summer on the spread of Islam in the Java region of Indonesia in June 2018.

FACULTY SEMINAR

Dahlia El Zein, MEI's Outreach Co-ordinator, offered a faculty seminar this spring for LaGuardia faculty as part of its International Studies professional development program on teaching about Israel/Palestine.

NEW YORK FORUM FOR AMAZIGH FILM

MEI cosponsors the annual New York Forum for Amazigh (Berber) Film at LaGuardia. Over 500 faculty and students attended the festival this spring. This year's films featured strong female protagonists and celebrated North African women, Dr. Fazia Aitel (Claremont McKenna College) moderated a conversation with students discussing Amazigh gender identity. We look forward to cosponsoring the festival again next year.

OUTREACH

AREA STUDIES OUTREACH CONFERENCE

Dahlia El Zein attended the annual Area Studies Outreach Conference in November, hosted by the University of California Berkeley. The conference provided an excellent opportunity to connect with other Area Studies programs across the country to co-construct ideas on how to expand and improve our respective and collective outreach programming as National Resource Centers.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE CURRICULUM INTERNATIONALIZATION

MEI contributes to a new initiative led by the University of Arizona to curate digital resources for community college faculty online. The site contains a wealth of material and lesson plans on teaching about the Middle East.

TEACHERS COLLEGE FALL 2018 COURSE

MEI announces a new course offered in the Social Studies Education program at Teachers College: *Introduction to the Middle East*. The course, developed by MEI and TC, is content-based while also addressing pedagogical questions related to teaching about the Middle East.

ACTIVITIES

MUSLIM PROTAGONIST

In 2018 MEI partnered with the Muslim Students Association (MSA) to further develop its Muslim Protagonist project. Muslim Protagonist offers a dedicated space for Muslim art and artists through an annual symposium that brings together writers, spoken word artists and others to discuss themes related to the experience of Muslims. MEI enabled MSA to invite high school students and teachers to attend the symposium this spring. A series of panels and workshops discussed Muslim representation in pop culture and addressed questions, such as: Who gets to shape the Muslim Narrative? What kinds of stories are being told about Muslims? What makes a story “authentic”? And why should we care?

OUTREACH RESOURCES

Explore the outreach section of the MEI website, a dedicated space for teachers, faculty, and school staff with resources focusing on the Middle East. In 2018, our outreach website expanded to include specific units on Refugees and Migrants, Oral History, Women and Gender and regional profiles.

PROFESSIONAL

MEI offers K-16 teachers robust professional development opportunities on teaching about the Middle East during the academic year and summer school break. This aspect of MEI's Title VI Outreach is content-driven. These workshops demonstrate how to utilize material to diversify secondary school curricula. Education specialists also address how to bring up sensitive topics.

TRADING COMPANIES AND THE RISE OF GLOBAL CAPITALISM IN SOUTH ASIA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN

MEI cosponsored a two-day teachers' professional development workshop with Columbia's South Asia Institute. This workshop examined the regions of South Asia and the Indian Ocean and the impact of European trading companies in these regions between 1600-1900. It explored how trade and politics intersected to create forms of global capitalism still seen today, and how these historical developments help us understand current debates about corporations and states, money and politics. Over 30 teachers attended.

AN ERA OF RESTRICTIONS & BANS: COLLECTING ORAL HISTORIES

In this era of Muslim Bans and discrimination against Muslims and immigrants it is more imperative than ever to tell Muslim stories. MEI and the Anthropology & Education Department at Teachers College hosted New York City educators for a pilot workshop on how to collect oral history and develop a hands-on oral history project. Based on the success of the initial workshop in January 2018, MEI and its partner unit at Teachers College will offer a similar oral history program for a larger audience this summer.

DEVELOPMENT

DECENTERING THE STATE: REFUGEES, MIGRATION, AND DISPLACEMENT

As the Syrian Civil War enters its eighth year, images of refugees continue to flood the media. While diaspora, displacement and migration increasingly define the human experience they remain difficult subjects to engage with and teach. The current US regime's initiatives—to cancel DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Migrants), build a wall on the US/Mexico border, limit refugee resettlement programs, and ban travel from Muslim majority countries—make discussions about displacement, migration and forms of belonging in the classroom imperative. In addition to a lack of comprehensive and accessible instructional materials on these subjects, there is also the need to advise educators on how they can create spaces for discussions that might be difficult for students.

ISLAMIC STUDIES MASTER OF ARTS

Learn more about the [Islamic Studies MA](#) on the MEI website.

Columbia is a leading institution in the field of Islamic Studies. Innovation in the field by current faculty builds on the distinguished history of scholarship at the university that dates to the 19th century. Venerable topics such as Islamic law and the study of the Qur'an are today approached from new angles and with cutting-edge methodologies.

The Islamic Studies Master of Arts (ISMA), administered by MEI since 2014, builds on the legacy of scholarship at Columbia as it attends to new developments in the field. MEI began revising the ISMA program in 2017, partially in response to findings of the Institute's February 2017 ARC review.

MEI hired [Dr. Kathryn Spellman Poots](#) as the Academic Program Director (APD) to advise students and oversee their progression through the MA. Kathryn also developed and taught the new ISMA core course, Foundation to Islamic Studies and Muslim Societies this past fall. The course demonstrates the array of methodologies and scholarship of the field and helps students develop their own scholarly interests. It also establishes a cohort among ISMA students.

The revised ISMA degree offers an interdisciplinary focus on the critical academic study of the religious and intellectual traditions of Islam and on the diverse regional histories, cultures, and social formations of Muslim communities around the world. The program offers instruction in the classic areas of law, literature and history, and also introduces the inquiries of the humanities and social sciences, including: gender studies, culture and media studies, (post)colonial and global studies. An Islamic Studies for the 21st century, this program is intended for students pursuing a career in academia or those planning a career in fields such as journalism, public service, cultural organizations, human rights, or political advocacy.

To further build out the ISMA program, the MEI is holding discussions with other schools and programs to create both internal connections, with units such as the Journalism School and Teachers College, and international connections.

To this end, Brinkley Messick, Kathryn Spellman Poots and Simone Rutkowitz met with Leif Stenberg (Director of ISMC at AKU) and three MA program administrators from ISMC to discuss a Dual MA program between ISMC and MEI. The idea for the Dual MA is strongly supported by the directors of both units and by the Provosts of both AKU and Columbia University.



Having an Islamic Studies MA [Academic Program Director] has given much-needed cohesion to our program. The structure Professor Spellman brings helps students make the most of our time here at Columbia because she provides clear guidance regarding resources available in the university at large, and the Middle East Institute in particular.

The course was wonderful and very enjoyable. It is a unique class where we were exposed to the work of different professors at Columbia. I find this extremely useful. I wish there had been more sessions so that more faculty could have attended our seminar.

—Student evaluation

ISMA STUDENT

PAOLA GARCÍA is concluding an MA in Islamic Studies and is a graduate of Columbia Law School. Finding modernity severely troublesome, fragmented and fragmenting, Paola has been a student of Islam for over a decade. Driven by her experience as a former Wall Street attorney, visceral disillusionment with the “law” in general, and with the rampant oppression, corruption, and massacres “legally” sanctioned by the global order and its linear thinking in particular, she sought to understand the Shari’a. This led to an intense interest in Professor Wael Hallaq’s work because of his mastery of the subject, focus on ethics, and ability to critique modernity from outside modernity. By seriously engaging epistemes different from the one he assesses, Professor Hallaq demonstrates that alternative, more ethical ways of life, and different political formations have existed for millennia and can exist again. Paola considers it crucial to look outside the assumptions and systems that created the dire situation the world is in, and the premodern Islamic tradition offers unparalleled, and immensely rich sources of ethical guidance for all aspects of life.

SPOTLIGHT

The study of Islamic...history—if it must be undertaken—has for us no purpose other than instructing us in forms of ethically sustainable living.

Wael Hallaq

On Orientalism, Self-Consciousness and History

Paola’s thesis primarily attempts to answer the question of whether the Shari’a and the modern state are, or can hope to be, compatible in practice or theory. The study reviews three recent works by prominent scholars of Islamic law that address the issue: Professor Wael Hallaq’s *The Impossible State*, Noah Feldman’s *The Fall and Rise of the Islamic State* and Abdullahi An-Na’im’s *Islam and the Secular State*. The paper seeks to characterize and analyze their multiplicity of approaches, theoretical frameworks and conclusions. It also addresses the diverse assumptions and conceptual paradigms from within which they emerge. It examines the theories and findings of the authors in relation to central analytical categories that underlie the issue of the compatibility, or lack

thereof, of the Shari’a with the state. These are: the state itself, and liberalism and colonialism as its byproducts. Finally, it delves into the crucial matter of subject formation under the premodern Islamic and modern paradigms, issue which directly bears upon, and actually determines, the central query of the paper.

CENTER FOR PALESTINE STUDIES

Launched in 2010, the Center for Palestine Studies promotes the academic study of Palestine by supporting research, teaching, and intellectual collaboration among scholars within Columbia and beyond.

Learn more about the [Center for Palestine Studies](#) on the MEI website.

The Center for Palestine Studies (CPS) provides an institutional home for faculty, post-doctoral researchers, and students at Columbia in fields that include history, literary studies, the social sciences, religion, philosophy, law, archaeology, architecture, and the arts. CPS also builds connections with other institutions and scholars to strengthen the academic study of Palestine and Palestinians throughout the United States and the world.

The center's programming is organized around six initiatives, that refer to areas of particular strength and repeated accomplishments over the years. Thus far, the center's programming has been facilitated by collaborations with schools, departments, institutes, and other centers at Columbia, as well as with organizations off campus.

THE ARTS

The Arts programming has comprised Palestinian poetry, literature, photography, and dance, although the main emphases have been on theater and film, with the latter eventually supported by dedicated funding for a series called [Palestine Cuts](#). To commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, this year CPS presented a staged reading of seven short plays in collaboration with Break the Wall—a curated online archive of short plays about Israel-Palestine that can be downloaded and performed for free.

HISTORY OF THE PRESENT & PALESTINE LIBRARY

The Center's History of the Present and Palestine Library programs have attracted prominent public intellectuals and distinguished scholars of Palestine, such as, this academic year, [Sherene Seikaly](#), [Leila Farsakh](#), [Norman Finkelstein](#) and [Beshara Doumani](#), who have appeared together with CPS faculty [Rashid Khalidi](#), [Lila Abu-Lughod](#), [Hamid Dabashi](#), [Brinkley Messick](#) and [Timothy Mitchell](#). The topics covered included human rights, Gaza, Arab children's literature, and Mandate Palestine economy.

PALESTINE & LAW

The Center's highly successful series on Palestine & Law brings together leading lawyers and international legal scholars for focused workshops. Over the last year, the topics have included the legal aspects of the Palestinian state question, human rights analyses, and the legal framework of the occupation. In April of last year, CPS launched the Arabic blog [The Nakba Files](#) as part of the project "The Nakba and Law," developed in partnership with [Adalah](#)—the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel.

THE JERUSALEM PROJECT

The Jerusalem Project, launched in 2016, is the most recent CPS programming area. In addition to an increased web presence and two book talks, this year the project featured a panel discussion on the new Palestinian Museum with curator [Reem Fadda](#), artist [Emily Jacir](#), and historian [Beshara Doumani](#).

IBRAHIM ABU-LUGHOD POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

For the academic year 2018-19, the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Postdoctoral Fellowship will be expanded to a full year, thanks to a new Arts & Sciences match for the original half-year funding by the Qattan Foundation. We received a number of exceptional applications for this coming year's award, and we are happy to announce that our 2018-19 fellow is [Nayrouz Abu Hatoum](#). Nayrouz obtained her PhD in Social Anthropology from York University, Toronto, where she currently is a Visiting Scholar.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR PALESTINE STUDIES

A WORLD NOT OURS

screening + Q&A with director **MAHDI FLEIFEL**

TUESDAY, APRIL 24
6:00-8:00PM

A *World Not Ours* is an intimate, humorous, portrait of three generations of exile in the refugee camp of Ain el-Helweh, in southern Lebanon. Based on a wealth of personal recordings, family archives and historical footage, the film is a sensitive and illuminating study of belonging, friendship, and family.

SCHERMERHORN 612
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

break the wall

SHORT PLAYS ON PALESTINE

featuring works by **noelle ghussaini**
ismail khalidi
david zellnik
naomi wallace
and more!

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18, 6:30PM

katharina otto-bernstein screening room, lenfest center for the arts manhattanville campus

RSVP: palestine.mci.columbia.edu
reception to follow

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR PALESTINE STUDIES breakthewallproject.org

AN INQUEST INTO ITS MARTYRDOM

BOOK TALK AND Q&A WITH **NORMAN G. FINKELSTEIN**

JANUARY 30
6:00-8:00PM

DAVIS AUDITORIUM
SCHAPIRO CEPSPR BUILDING
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

أصط أش باح م رائد ضوني

GHOST HUNTING

A FILM BY **RAED ANDONI**

SCREENING AND Q&A WITH THE DIRECTOR **JAMES SCHAMUS**

MARCH 27 6-8 PM

THE RIGHT TO HAVE RIGHTS

PARTITION, STATEHOOD, AND SELF-DETERMINATION

A TALK WITH **LEILA FARSAKH**
Chair and Associate Professor of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, UMass Boston

INTRODUCED BY **GIL ANIDJAR**
Professor and Chair of Department of Religion

This talk re-examines the extent to which the struggle for a Palestinian state was a viable or futile effort for the Palestinian national movement and as a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Do the notions of partition and the claim to a State constitute the only vehicles for any national group, be it Israeli or Palestinian, to have "the right to have rights," as Hannah Arendt argued? Can the quest for self-determination be protected otherwise, especially in view of present regional and international developments?

APRIL 12 / KNOX HALL 207 / 6:15PM

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR PALESTINE STUDIES | DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

AL-QUDS: COMMUNITY LEADING CHANGE

a talk with **FAYROUZ SHARQAWI**
advocacy coordinator at grassroots jerusalem

introduced by **brian boyd**
director of museum anthropology

friday november 3
10:10am-12:00pm
knox hall 207

This talk will explore the challenges faced by Palestinian Jerusalemites living under the Israeli occupation, and the grassroots mobilization and self-organizing through which Palestinian communities resist their city and raise their collective voice against oppression, leading the change they wish to see. This past summer's movement for al-Aqsa mosque will be used to illustrate the origins and potential of local organizing.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR PALESTINE STUDIES

FLAS SUMMMER

The Middle East Institute is designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a Middle East National Resource Center and is authorized to award graduate and undergraduate Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships. FLAS awards can be for Academic Year study at Columbia, or for intensive summer language study in the U.S. or abroad. The MEI is authorized for Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Hebrew FLAS awards.

NASREEN ABD ELAL will continue her Arabic studies this summer at the Sijal Institute, a language center based in Amman, Jordan. She intends to use her Arabic language skills in her academic studies and future fieldwork, specifically in studying contemporary Palestinian society. She is interested in Arab cinema and visual cultures, broadly conceived, and their intersections with theories of postcolonialism, feminism, and urban and translation studies. In addition to her coursework in the Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies Department, Nas also interns with the Columbia Center for Palestine Studies and works as a freelance designer. Nas is looking forward to visiting Amman for the first time and getting acquainted with the local arts community.

2018 FELLOWS

RYAN ZOHAR is a rising senior in the Dual BA Program Between Columbia University and Sciences Po. During his freshman and sophomore years he studied political science and Middle Eastern studies with a concentration in law at the Mediterranean-Middle East campus of Sciences Po in Menton, France. For his junior and senior years at Columbia, he is majoring in Middle East, South Asian, and African Studies and concentrating in Anthropology. He has studied Arabic in Egypt and Oman. Outside of class, he programs for radio station WKCR FM's Middle East Influences and Coordinated Universal Time shows. In the future, he hopes to pursue graduate studies in Anthropology or Middle Eastern Studies. He hopes to use Arabic (standard and colloquial) to conduct research in the Arab world, specifically on urban space, visual culture, and political anthropology of the Middle East. This summer he will be studying Modern Standard and Egyptian Colloquial Arabic at Arabeya Arabic Language School in Cairo, Egypt.

MARGAUX FITOUSSI is a filmmaker and PhD student in Anthropology at Columbia University. She graduated from UC Berkeley in 2011 and received a Masters in religious studies as a Presidential Scholar from Harvard University in 2017. While living in southern and central Africa from 2011-2014, Margaux researched armed groups and implemented civilian protection projects. In 2016, her multi-media exhibition about the Hara of Tunis was shown at the Dar Ben Achour Library, Harvard's Center for Middle Eastern Studies, and the University of Manouba; her award winning film *El Hara* will be released online this fall. Her research focuses on historical memory, prisons, cultural production, and French colonization in North Africa. This summer, she will be studying Modern Standard Arabic and the Tunisian dialect through Columbia's Amman-Paris program.

FLAS SUMMER 2018 FELLOWS

JAKE STAVIS is a PhD candidate in the department of art history and archaeology. He is especially interested in the reception and reuse of cultural heritage in the Middle East. His dissertation examines issues of stylistic typology, historiography and categorization to answer the question, how can we define Achaemenid art? This subfield has been largely neglected for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to issues of art historical categorization, as well as the political relations with Iran following the Islamic Revolution. The dissertation will be organized as a series of "site biographies," a riff on the notion of "object biographies" which has gained traction in recent studies of ancient art. The general idea is a pushback from the assumption that a given object (or site) is relevant (i.e. "alive") only for the period in which it was created. On the contrary, these objects and sites have lives and agency that extend well beyond the periods in which they were conceived, and considering

later instances of engagement with the material past may help illuminate how we've come to understand the past. Often native Iranian views of their own material culture have been dismissed by western scholarship as mere folk histories or nationalist propaganda, but might better be understood as what Yannis Hamilakis calls indigenous archaeologies, and are worthy of proper research in their own right. Jake will use his FLAS grant to study Farsi at Georgetown, which will ultimately facilitate study of important historiographic sources produced in Iran during the 19th century under the Qajar shahs (e.g. Forsat al-Dawla's *Atar-e Ajam*), when both "scientific" archaeology and photography were in their formative phases. Iranians have always been well aware of their ancient history, and he hopes to examine how later regimes have re-used and/or abused the material past in these understudied visual and textual sources.

MEI SUMMER 2018 FELLOW

RACHEL KIRK is an MA student in International Education Development at Teachers College with interests in educational equity, global citizenship education, and language policy. As a Fulbright recipient, Rachel taught English at a secondary teacher training university in Rabat during 2015-16.

This summer, Rachel will be spending three weeks in Agadir, Morocco in partnership with the NGO Dar Si Hmad leading a trip for high school girls from Atlanta, Louisville and New Orleans. Participating students will learn about the global intersections of issues of race, gender and environmental justice through lectures, excursions, and interactive student panels. Rachel will combine surveying and ethnographic methods to do evaluation research on this program, as well as to track longitudinal student outcomes on confidence, conflict resolution, and global citizenship. She plans to use this research in order to scale up this program for more students and develop other similar global education programs for high school students.

ZINA JARDANEH

OMAR ABDEL-GHAFFAR is an Islamic Studies Master's student. His research focuses on property and representation in the Nile Delta, with a specific focus on the relationship between the city and the areas around it. With roots in the Nile Delta, Omar received his undergraduate education in political science in California before moving to New York.

This summer, Omar will gather information held in the private libraries of several land owning families in the Delta, hoping to trace how the provincial elites of the early twentieth century acquired, maintained, and represented their wealth, in relation both to those in their immediate surroundings, as well as to the government in Cairo. Omar interrogates the dynamics between city and province, as well as between sharecropper and landowner, by comparing the documents held by several families.

A limited number of summer fellowships for students are available at the MEI through the generous gift of Zina Jardaneh, jointly awarded to the Amman Global Center and MEI. These fellowships offer invaluable financial support to students during the summer to pursue research and language study.

2018 FELLOWS

AFAF A. KHOSHMAN is a PhD candidate in the International and Transcultural Studies Department, at Teachers College, Columbia University. Afaf examines familial and community impact on formal and informal schooling in Jordan and the Arab World. Born and raised in Jordan, Afaf lived and worked in several cities including Amman and her hometown, Shobak where she taught English and worked as a translator and researcher. She has two degrees in English Literature and translation from Yarmouk and the University of Jordan respectively. Prior to coming to New York, she lived and worked in Washington D.C. where she also obtained her master's degree in Arab Studies from Georgetown University.

With a Zina Jardaneh Summer 2018 Fellowship from the Middle East Institute, Afaf will travel to Jordan this summer to conduct a pilot study on the role of families and local communities in education in the southern city of Ma'an.

Afaf seeks to understand how families, especially mothers, influence and guide their childrens' education and what contexts families educate within and how they have changed over time. To answer these questions, Afaf will conduct participant observation and interviews in several centers that provide informal education for adults in the city. She will also work in collaboration with Al-Husseini University in Ma'an to conduct archival work and oral histories to examine changes in the educational milieu of the city and the southern region.

ZINA JARDANEH

PETER LAGERQVIST is a Swedish Ph.D Candidate in Anthropology at Columbia. Before joining his department in 2011 he worked as a freelance writer in Palestine and Israel, contributing to publications such as *Le Monde Diplomatique*, *The London Review of Books* and *New Left Review*. His thesis work investigates the politics of Palestinian auto-mobility, attending to a dramatic expansion of private car ownership in self-rule areas of the West Bank, which have since the mid 1990s been proscribed by an elaborate system of Israeli military movement restrictions, comprising checkpoints, walls and segregated roads. Lagerqvist is interested in the emergence, against this backdrop, of new forms of crypto-political auto mobility—four-wheel motorist associations that pledge to “go wherever we want;” the auto-mobilization of street demonstrations; and a spate of lethal run-ins among Palestinian motorists and Israelis, dubbed the “The Accelerator Intifada.” How, he asks, can the historical contingency of Palestinian movement be

accounted for, not merely in its negation, but as a “qualitative transformation,” entailing emergent forms of feeling and action, both personal and collective, and thus also the making of new kinds of political eventfulness, and possibility? Lagerqvist will return from his fieldwork in Israel and Palestine this coming September to take up a GSAS Teaching Scholars Fellowship for the year 2018-2019.

2018 FELLOWS

ANNA REUMERT is a PhD student in the Department of Anthropology. Informed by ongoing ethnographic work with Sudanese migrant workers in Lebanon and in Khartoum, she explores discourses of anti-blackness between Lebanon and Sudan, as part of a larger effort to document black migration in the Arab Mediterranean. Born in Copenhagen, Anna lived, studied and worked in Lebanon, Syria and Palestine for years prior to coming to New York. Refugee and migrant rights are foundational to her work both inside and outside academia. In her spare time, Anna is a volunteer with the International Refugee Assistance Project.

With MEI/Jardaneh support, Anna will conduct preliminary research in Beirut and Khartoum among Sudanese migrant communities, as part of her dissertation project in which she explores how categories and hierarchies of racial difference are negotiated, internalized and resisted as they cross borders. In her research, Anna asks: How does blackness

travel in the Levant? How does migration construct and disrupt categories of identification, difference and affiliation? The movement of Sudanese workers tells a larger story about the shifting frontiers of affiliation, belonging and Othering in the Middle East.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

LILA ABU-LUGHOD is the Joseph L. Buttenwieser Professor of Social Science at Columbia University and teaches in the Department of Anthropology and at the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality. A former MEI Director, she is a leading voice in debates about gender, Islam, and global power. Her most recent books include *Nakba: Palestine, 1948 and the Claims of Memory* (co-edited with Ahmad H. Sa'di), *Do Muslim Women Need Saving?* and a thirtieth anniversary edition of *Veiled Sentiments*.

GIL ANIDJAR is Professor in the Departments of Religion and Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies (MESAAS), and the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society (ICLS). He is the author of *'Our Place in al-Andalus': Kabbalah, Philosophy, Literature in Arab Jewish Letters*; *The Jew, the Arab: A History of the Enemy*; *Semites: Race, Religion, Literature*; and *Blood: a Critique of Christianity*.

MARWA ELSHAKRY is Associate Professor in the Department of History and specializes in the history of science, technology, and medicine in the modern Middle East. She is the author of *Reading Darwin in Arabic, 1860-1950*.

KATHERINE PRATT EWING is Professor of Religion, Director of the Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life and the Coordinator of the MA Program in the South Asia Institute. She is PI on an ACLS-funded project "Sufis, Salafis and the Public Square" with Alexander Stille. Her books include *Arguing Sainthood: Modernity, Psychoanalysis and Islam*; *Stolen Honor: Stigmatizing Muslim Men in Berlin* and the edited volumes *Shariat and Ambiguity in South Asian Islam* and *Being and Belonging: Muslim Communities in the US since 9/11*.

HAMID DABASHI is the Hagop Kevorkian Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. His most recent work includes *Shi'ism: A Religion of Protest*; *The Arab Spring: The End of Postcolonialism*; *Corpus Anarchicum: Political Protest, Suicidal Violence, and the Making of the Post-human Body*; *The World of Persian Literary Humanism*; *Being A Muslim in the World*; and *Can Non-Europeans Think?*

NAJAM HAIDER is Associate Professor in the Department of Religion at Barnard College. His research interests include early Islamic history, the methodology and development of Islamic law, and Shi'ism. He is the author of two books, *The Origins of the Shi'a* and *Shī'ī Islam*. His current project focuses on the link between early Islamic historical writing and Late Antique and Classical Rhetoric.

RASHID KHALIDI is the Edward Said Professor of Arab Studies, a founder of the Center for Palestine Studies (CPS), formerly the chair of the History department and a former MEI Director. He is editor of the *Journal of Palestine Studies*, and was President of the Middle East Studies Association, and an advisor to

the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid and Washington Arab-Israeli peace negotiations from October 1991 until June 1993. He is the author of award winning books including: *Brokers of Deceit: How the U.S. has Undermined Peace in the Middle East*, winner of the Lionel Trilling Book Award and the MEMO Book Award and *Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness*, winner of the Middle East Studies Association's Albert Hourani Prize for best book of 1997.

TIMOTHY MITCHELL is the William B Ransford Professor of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies in the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies, for which he served as chair from 2011 until 2017. He also teaches occasionally in the School of International and Public Affairs. Mitchell's first book, *Colonising Egypt*, has been influential in fields as diverse as anthropology, history, law, philosophy, cultural studies, and art history. He is also the author of *Rule of Experts: Egypt, Techno-Politics, Modernity* and *Carbon Democracy: Political Power in the Age of Oil*.

ADMINISTRATION

BRINKLEY MESSICK is Professor of Anthropology and of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies at Columbia University. He was the Chair of the Department of Anthropology from 2004-2011; was a founding co-Director of the Center for Palestine Studies (2010-15); and currently is the Director of the Middle East Institute. In 2009, he received the Outstanding Senior Scholar Award from the Middle East Section of the American Anthropological Association. He is the author of *The Calligraphic State: Textual Domination and History in a Muslim Society* (1993) which won the Albert Hourani Award from the Middle East Studies Association. His new book *Sharī'a Scripts: A Historical Anthropology* (2018) is a case study in the textual architecture of the venerable legal and ethical tradition at the center of the Islamic experience. *Sharī'a Scripts* is a work of historical anthropology focused on Yemen in the early twentieth century.

ASTRID BENEDEK has been the Associate Director of the Middle East Institute since December 2003. Holder of an M.A. from Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and a B.A. in Middle East and African Studies from Georgetown University, she previously spent 12 years in the not-for-profit sector managing international education programs, including teacher-training programs in the Former Soviet Union for the Open Society Institute.

KATHRYN SPELLMAN POOTS is a Visiting Associate Professor at Columbia University and Academic Program Director for the MA in Islamic Studies. She is also Associate Professor at Aga Khan University's Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilizations in London. Kathryn convenes Columbia's MA core course: Foundation to Islamic Studies and Muslim Societies. Her research interests include Muslims in Europe and North America, the Iranian diaspora, transnational migration and gender studies.

Her publications include the monograph: *Religion and Nation: Iranian Local and Transnational Networks in Britain* (Berghahn, Oxford and New York, 2005); the co-edited volumes: *Gender, Governance & Islam: Women, Islam and the State Revisited* (Edinburgh University Press, 2018); *The Political Aesthetics of Global Protest: The Arab Spring and Beyond* (Edinburgh University Press, 2016) and *Ethnographies of Islam: Ritual Performances and Everyday Practices* (Edinburgh University Press, 2014); and book chapters: "Second-Generation Muslims and the Making of British Shi'ism" in Kasinitz, P. & Bozorgmehr, M. (eds.)

Growing Up Muslim in Europe and North America, Routledge; and Spellman Poots, K. & Gholami, R. (2018) "Iranians in Great Britain: Integration, Cultural Production and Challenges of Identity" in Mobasher, M. (ed.) *Iranians in Diaspora: Comparative Perspective on Iranian Immigrants in the United States, Canada, Australia, and Europe*, University of Texas Press.

Kathryn consults for organizations that focus on the rights and experiences of refugees and minority groupings, including the UNHRC (Geneva), UNESCO (Paris) and London Detainee Support Group.

SIMONE RUTKOWITZ recently earned her MA in Near Eastern Studies from New York University's Hagop Kevorkian Center where her research interests included soft power, visual and printed culture and urbanism. She holds a BA in Photography from Hamilton College. A two time FLAS recipient, Simone is near-fluent in Arabic. She has lived in Cairo, Egypt and studied at the Arabic Language Institute at the American University in Cairo. Outside of the MEI, Simone volunteers at the International Refugee Assistance Project as an Arabic Intake Caseworker.

ADMINISTRATION

DAHLIA EL ZEIN joined the Middle East Institute in 2013 as the Program Director of the Center for Palestine Studies. In December 2016 she became MEI Outreach Coordinator. Dahlia obtained a Masters in Arab Studies from Georgetown University in 2008 and will begin a PhD program in History at the University of Pennsylvania this coming fall. As a Lebanese-Egyptian-American, Dahlia is passionate about teaching the history of the Middle East. She taught high school history at a New York charter school and teaches courses on the Middle East and Immigration at an annual precollege summer program at Princeton University.

HELEN MALKO joined the Middle East Institute as the Program Manager at the Center for Palestine Studies in 2017. She received her PhD in Archaeology and Anthropology from Stony Brook University and an MA in Archaeology of the Ancient Near East from Baghdad University. Helen was a Post-Doctoral Researcher in the Department of Art History and Archaeology and the at the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies at Columbia. She works on archaeology and cultural heritage, with focus on the deliberate destruction of monuments and historical landscapes in Iraq, and its impact on the local communities. Her scholarly interests include cultural representation in Iraqi museums, minorities of the Middle East, historical consciousness and cultural interaction in antiquity. Helen has conducted archaeological fieldwork in Turkey and Iraq and has worked on two Columbia University cultural heritage initiatives "Mapping Mesopotamian Monuments" and "International Observatory for Cultural Heritage."

INTERNS

NASREEN ABD ELAL has interned at the Center for Palestine Studies since Spring 2017. She is currently pursuing her BA in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies at Columbia University, with a special interest in Arab cinema and visual cultures. In between her studies, she works as a freelance designer. Nas received a Summer 2018 FLAS and will be continuing her study of Arabic at the Sijal Institute in Amman, Jordan.

DAHNA R BLACK enrolled in the Urban and Social Policy concentration at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs after working in the Museums Directorate at the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities for nearly three years. She is proficient in colloquial Spanish and Arabic, and is currently studying Modern Standard Arabic.

ISABEL DE KATONA is a junior at Barnard College pursuing her Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology and Economics. She spent her junior year of high school in Turkey through the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Program. Upon entering college, she continued to study Turkish at Columbia. With MEI support, she returned to Turkey last summer to intern at the Foundation for the Support of Women's Work in Istanbul. Outside of school, Isabel volunteers for Bridge to Turkiye, a US based organization that raises money to support access to education and healthcare for rural children in Turkey.

INTERNS

MARIANNA PECORARO is the Web Content Manager for the Middle East Institute. She recently graduated from New York University's Hagop Kevorkian Center with an MA in Near Eastern Studies and a concentration in Museum Studies. She holds a BA in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Venice, and she has lived and studied in Paris and Tunis. In New York, she interned for the Guggenheim Museum and the Studio Museum in Harlem, among other institutions. Besides her native Italian, Marianna speaks English, French, Arabic and Hebrew.

JOHN ROUSE was the Events Coordinator at the Middle East Institute for the 2017-2018 academic year. He is pursuing his MPA in Sustainable Development at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs where he focused on environmental impacts of development and climate change mitigation. He holds a BA in International Affairs from American University where spent a semester in Jordan studying Arabic and interning with the USAID's Water Reuse and Conservation Project.

VISITING SCHOLARS

The MEI has a long tradition of hosting visiting academics, through Fulbright, European grants, and other sources. It also has its own earmarked, but now undercapitalized endowment funding to host each year the Arcapita Visiting Professor in Arab Studies. In addition to the various types of pre-doctoral, post-doctoral and faculty visitors, the MEI together with the MESAAS Department in recent years won a prestigious grant for visiting scholars from the Carnegie Foundation. This provided for a total of four Arab social scientists to join us as Carnegie Centennial Fellows.

MAHDI VISITING RESEARCH FELLOW FALL 2017

ASMA SAYEED is Associate Professor in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and Director of the Islamic Studies program at UCLA. Her primary research interests are in early and classical Muslim social history, the history of Muslim education, the intersections of law and social history, and women and gender studies. Her book, *Women and the Transmission of Religious Knowledge in Islam* (Cambridge University Press, 2013) analyzes Muslim women's religious education, specifically their transmission of hadīth from the rise of Islam to the early Ottoman period.

She received her PhD from the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University (2005). She was previously Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Lafayette College (Easton, PA), where she taught courses in Islam and World Religions. She has published on topics related to Muslim women and their religious participation in

journals such as *Studia Islamica* and *Islamic Law and Society* and has contributed a number of encyclopedia articles on women's history in early and classical Islam. In 2010, she undertook archival research in Syria on Muslim women's education in the Ayyubid and Mamluk periods under the auspices of a Fulbright fellowship.

Her current project relates to texts and textual practices in Islamic higher education in diverse regional and historical contexts. She has thus far developed her pilot study in the context of Moroccan higher education. Last fall, at Columbia's Middle East Institute, she conducted research on the curricula of Iranian Shi'i institutions of higher education.

ARCAPITA VISITING PROFESSOR SPRING 2018

ANAHEED AL-HARDAN is an assistant professor of sociology in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Media Studies at the American University of Beirut.

Her research is concerned with coloniality and resistance in relation to counter-memory, decolonial knowledges and south-south thought in the Arab World, and has appeared in the *Journal of Palestine Studies*, *Qualitative Inquiry*, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, and the *Journal of Holy Land and Palestine Studies*. She is the author of the award-winning *Palestinians in Syria: Nakba Memories of Shattered Communities* (Columbia University Press, 2016), joint winner of the 2016 Academic Book Award at the London Palestine Book Awards.

Her current book project examines Arab decolonial theory within the context of south-south philosophies of liberation and decolonization. At the MEI she taught a graduate seminar "The Decolonial Turn and West Asia."



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