2015 MESAAS Graduate Conference

5-6 March, 2015

Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies
Columbia University in the City of New York

Keynote by Ann Stoler
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"Raw Cuts / Other Folds: Palestine, Israel and Colonial Studies"

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Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies

Columbia University
Registration is between 10 - 12 on both days
Knox Hall, Lobby

Thursday, 5th of March
11:00 - 1:00

Session 1 / Sites of the Political

Malay Firoz
*Urbanising Camps and Encamped Urbans: Tracing the Borders of the Political inside the Za’atari Refugee Camp*

Marthe Hesselmans
*Apart We Pray? The Struggle of South Africa’s Reformed Churches to Reconcile a Divided Nation*

Shoaib Ghias
*Defining Shari’a: Stoning and the Politics of Islamic Judicial Review*

Candace Lukasik
*A “Coptic Liberation Theology”: Christian-Muslim Relations and the National Unity Paradigm in post-2011 Egypt*

Discussant: Kai Kresse
Moderator: Selim Karlitekin
Thursday, 5th of March
1:30 - 3:30

Session 2 / Historiography and Knowledge Formations

Sara Swetzoff
Perceptions of Arabia and the Horn of Africa Among Medieval Muslim Scholars

Abhilash Medhi
Clio on the Margins: Memory and Identity in Early Twentieth-Century Assam

Larissa Schmid
Objects of knowledge: North African prisoners of war in Germany during the First World War

Discussant: Sudipta Kaviraj
Moderator: Vivek Yadav

Session 3 / Identities in Circulation: Archeologies of Media and Becoming

Eran Hakim
When the Christians killed Jesus: Uses of Arabness in a mixed primary school located in a lower-class neighborhood in Jaffa

Viktoria Ruth Luisa Metschl
Archival Figurations of Cinematographic Solidarity

Re'ee Hagai
On The Riverbank of Exile: Sound as a Medium of Arab-Jewish Experience

Discussant: Jennifer Wenzel
Moderator: Mohammad Sadegh Ansari
Thursday, 5th of March
4:00 - 6:00

Session 4 / Modernity and the Reconfiguration of Islamic Knowledges

Caitlyn Bolton
Colonizing Curriculum: Modernity, Morality and Islamic Education in Colonial Zanzibar

Hasan Azad
Ebrahim College and the Idea of Virtue in Islam

Kenan Tekin
Out of Many, One: Unity of Science in the Islamic-Ottoman Discursive Tradition

Sophia Helen Golvach
Islamic Law of Armed Conflict and Las Siete Partidas - The Lost and Found Heartwood of Modern International Humanitarian Law

Discussant: Wael Hallaq
Moderator: Omar Farahat

Thursday, 5th of March
6:00 - 8:00

Keynote Session

[Keynote Session]

Introduction: Allison Busch

Ann Stoler
Willy Brandt Distinguished University Professor of Anthropology and Historical Studies

"Raw Cuts / Other Folds: Palestine, Israel and Colonial Studies"
Session 1 / Debt and Colonial Rule

Casey Primel

*Capital and its others in colonial Egypt, 1894-1912*

Hollian Wint

*From Slaves to Debtors? Emancipated and manumitted Africans in the credit economy of Zanzibar, 1895-1915*

Henny Ziai

*The political technology of debt in Liberian settler colonialism*

Discussant: Debjani Bhattacharyya (Drexel University)
Moderator: Casey Primel

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Session 2 / The Normativity of Language in Uṣūl al-fiqh and Mīmāṃsā

A Roundtable Conversation:

Andrew Ollett

Omar Farahat

Discussant: Akeel Bilgrami
Friday, 6th of March  
1:30 - 3:30

**Session 3 / Troubling Literary History**  
[Knox 207]

Taimoor Shahid  
*Textures of Continuity: Time-Space-Language in the Many Lives of a Poem and Lessons in Literary History*

Ilan Benattar  
*Towards A Reinvigorated Intellectual Genealogy of Zionism and Middle Eastern Jewry: Bialik's "Revival of the Sephardim"*

Aviv Becher  
*When Memorial Poems Don't Mourn*

Elvan Julia Sayarer  
*The Politics of the Author: The Case of Orhan Pamuk and Turkey*

Discussant: Gil Anidjar  
Moderator: TBA

**Session 4 / Gender in the Making**  
[Knox 208]

Robert Joseph Bell  
*Luti Masculinity in Iranian Modernity, 1785-1911: Gender, Nationalism, and the Anxieties of Proper Masculine Comportment*

Jeremy Nicholas Randall  
*Affective Genders in Maroun Baghdadi's Documentaries*

Rasha Mounmneh  
*Producing the Nation: Sex Panics and Racialization in Lebanon*

Daniel Behar  
*In her Likeness: Salih Diab and the "undue influence" of women poets*

Discussant: TBA  
Moderator: Henny Ziai
Friday, 6th of March
4:00 - 6:00

Session 5 / Islamic Authority and the Construction of National Identity

Ari Schriber
*The Iconoclast ‘Ālim: ‘Allal al-Fasi and the Construction of Salafi Nationalism in Morocco*

Youssef Ben Ismail
*‘Good ‘ulama’’ and ‘Bad ‘ulama’’: Rethinking Post-Colonial Narratives of Religious Authority in Tunisia*

Laura Thompson
*Insulting the Sacred: Punishing Blasphemy in Post-Arab Spring Tunisia*

Mary Elston
*Shaykh al-Tayeb’s Threat of I’tikāf: Al-Azhar after the Revolution*

Discussant: Muhsin al-Musawi
Chair: Ari Schriber

Session 6 / Moral Economy

Zachary Davis Cuyler
*“The Invasion of the Desert”: Expertise, Nationalism, and the Development of Egypt’s Western Desert, 1954-1961*

Sacha Robehmed
*‘Mindset,’ ‘Mentality’ and ‘Culture’: The Frictional Encounters of ICT Entrepreneurship Development in Jordan*

Cristina Violante
*Valve World: Crane Co. Valves in Saudi Arabia and Yemen*

Marcus Barrow Walton
*Between the Lines: Bread, Moral Economy, and the Discourse of Welfare in Egypt*

Discussant: Timothy Mitchell
Moderator: Matthew Ghazarian
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Organizing Committee
Selim Karlitekin
Aviv Becher
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Institute of Israel and Jewish Studies

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Prof. Akeel Bilgrami, Philosophy
Prof. Kai Kresse, MESAAS
Prof. Lila Abu-Lughod, Anthropology

And Our Keynote Speaker
Prof. Ann Stoler, New School for Social Research

We also thank the moderators and all other volunteers and supporters.