

BROWN UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR
MIDDLE EAST
STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

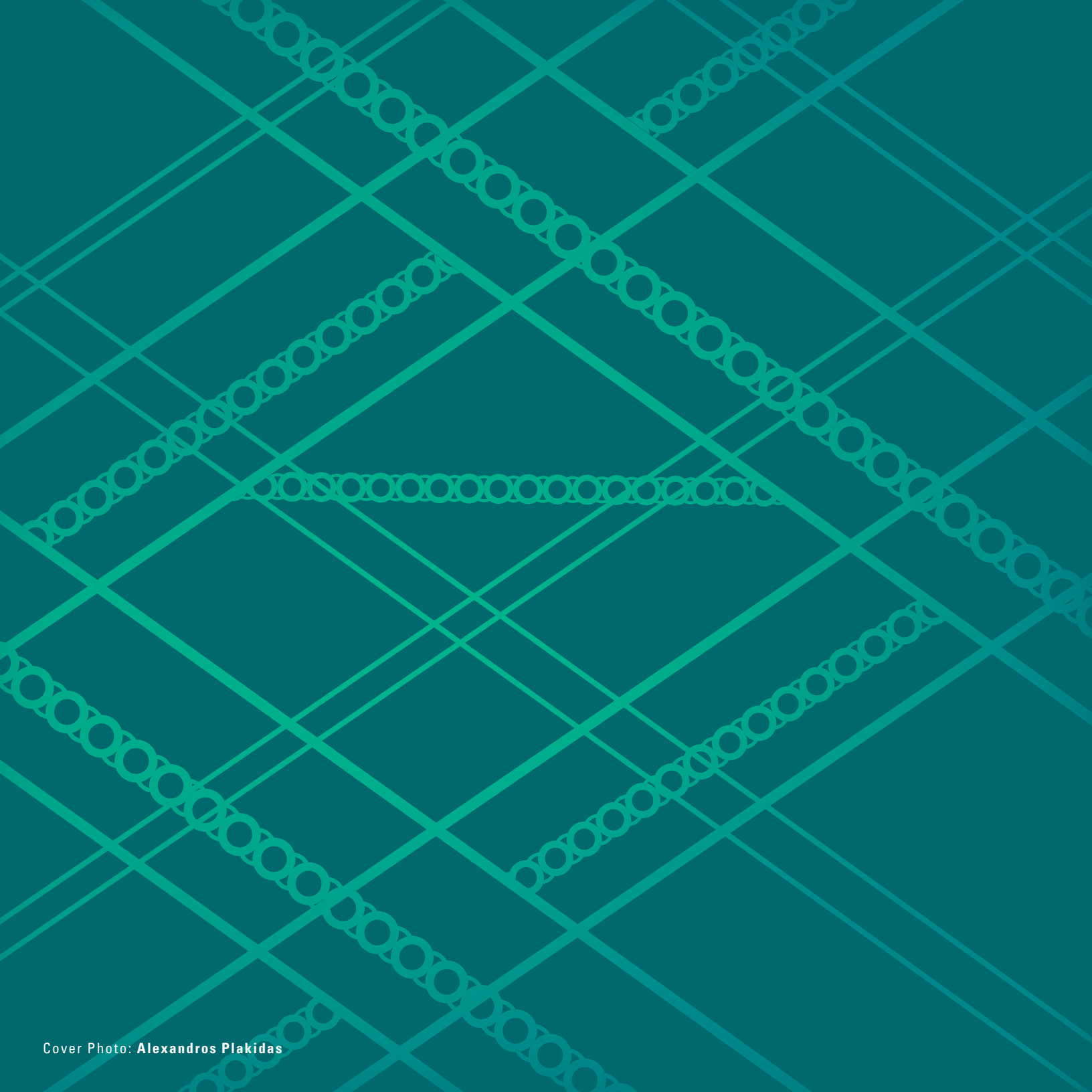


TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR 4

ABOUT 5

RESEARCH INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS 6

PROGRAMMING 11

ACADEMICS 12

PEOPLE 20

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear colleagues, students and friends of CMES,

As the academic year comes to a close, I want to convey my gratitude to all of you with whom we have had the privilege of interacting and who have supported the Center for Middle East Studies (CMES). At times, we felt enlightened, inspired, enraged and saddened by our guest speakers, who covered a wide range of issues. We connected with audiences across the globe, achieving a viewership of over 20,000 people.

CMES partnered with colleagues at other centers, such as the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, featuring a panel on the struggle for reproductive rights in the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean; a panel organized in collaboration with Brown University Masters in Public Affairs Candidate Narjes Jafarian on access to abortion in the Middle East and North Africa; yet another one with the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies on the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria; as well as events on the twentieth anniversary of the 2003 American invasion of Iraq and its consequences, organized with the Costs of War project.

Under the umbrella research project on gender studies in the Middle East and its diasporas, we continued the series “Gender and Body Politics: Arts in the Middle East and its Diasporas,” organized jointly between Brown University CMES and the Columbia University Middle East Institute (MEI), which examines the intersections of inequalities and body politics in both visual and performance art. We held conversations with artists Tania El Khoury and Amitis Motevalli, discussed gendered perspectives with Alia Al-Senussi and gender, body politics and authoritarianism as it related to the protests in Iran with Manijeh Nasrabadi.

CMES hosted a very interesting series of events marking the 60 years since the Algerian revolution, a project initiated by CMES associate Ph.D. student Adel Ben Bella. These included an exhibition of photography, film screenings and a one-day on-campus symposium featuring a conversation with two veteran Algerian female activists.

Another well-attended event was the Maghrebi micro-festival of Moroccan Gnawa music, culture and history, which included a concert and panel discussion featuring Club d’Elf musicians and Hassan Hakmoun.

I was particularly happy to welcome our Mahmoud Darwish Visiting Professor in Palestinian Studies, Abdel Razzaq Takriti, who infused Palestinian Studies programming with thought-provoking events. This year’s activities culminated in the successful New Directions in Palestinian Studies two-day workshop “The Palestinian Revolutionary Tradition and Global Anti-Colonialism.”

Next year, we will be joined by Mehrdad Babadi, our first Omar Khayyam Postdoctoral Research Associate in Iranian Studies, and Loubna Qutami, the new Postdoctoral Research Associate in Palestinian Studies.

As always, we wish you all peace and good health. We look forward to connecting with you in the next academic year.

Best wishes,

Nadje Al-Ali

Director, Center for Middle East Studies

Robert Family Professor of International Studies

Professor of Anthropology and Middle East Studies



MISSION

The Center for Middle East Studies (CMES) is part of the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University. It promotes research, teaching and public engagement on key issues of the Middle East in a historically and culturally grounded manner. Its coverage includes all time periods—from antiquity to contemporary geopolitics—and an expansive geographical imagination in which the Middle East is both a region with changing boundaries and a conceptual entity part of global discourses. As the hub for Middle East studies at Brown, the Center supports research and programming generated by a world-renowned faculty. It houses a thriving undergraduate concentration connected to an extensive interdisciplinary curriculum. The Center also acts as a second intellectual and social home for a large group of graduate students spread across Brown’s departments that grant advanced degrees. Through collaboration with other units on campus, the Center furthers Brown’s work as a global university especially dedicated to seeking a just and prosperous future for all. With an extensive footprint in research, teaching and advocacy, the Center is a major academic node in the international network of institutions dedicated to discussing a region crucial to global affairs.

CURRENT YEAR RESEARCH INITIATIVES

NEW DIRECTIONS IN PALESTINIAN STUDIES

RESEARCH PROJECTS

GENDER STUDIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND BEYOND

GENDER AND BODY POLITICS: ARTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ITS DIASPORAS

ISRAEL-PALESTINE: LANDS AND PEOPLES

KURDISH STUDIES

RESEARCH INITIATIVES



NEW DIRECTIONS IN PALESTINIAN STUDIES (NDPS)

This initiative brings together an international community of researchers and practitioners to promote and shape knowledge production on Palestine and Palestinians. Founded in 2012 by Professor Beshara Doumani, NDPS invests in emerging scholars through programming, an endowed postdoctoral fellowship and a book series with the University of California Press.

In 2020, NDPS succeeded in raising an endowment for the establishment of the Mahmoud Darwish Chair in Palestinian Studies—the first of its kind. Beshara Doumani became the inaugural chair. During the latter’s sabbatical in 2022-23, Abdel Razzaq Takriti assumed the role in a visiting capacity. Professor Takriti oversaw the two-day NDPS workshop titled “The Palestinian Revolutionary Tradition and Global Anti-Colonialism,” at which 21 emerging scholars presented innovative research. In addition, he invited scholars and practitioners to campus to present on currently relevant topics, hosting events such as “Gaza: The Longest Siege in Modern History—2007 to the Present,” “Silencing Journalism: Shireen Abu Akleh, Israeli Extrajudicial Killing, and Colonial Domination in Palestine,” and “Palestine and American Law,” featuring Professor Wadie Said. Professor Takriti also taught two courses, “The Palestinian Revolution, 1948-1982” and “Modern Palestinian History.”

8th annual workshop of
**NEW DIRECTIONS IN
PALESTINIAN STUDIES**

The Palestinian Revolutionary Tradition and Global Anti-Colonialism

FRIDAY, MARCH 10 - SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023
JOUKOWSKY FORUM, WATSON INSTITUTE.



Wadie Said

University of South Carolina School of Law

Palestine and American Law

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023 | 5:30 - 7:15 P.M. ET
JOUKOWSKY FORUM

GAZA

The Longest Siege in Modern History, 2007-Present

Hosted by Darwish Visiting Professor in Palestinian Studies,
Abdel Razzaq Takriti

Funded by the
Mahmoud Darwish Chair in Palestinian Studies

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2022 | 12:00 - 1:30 P.M. ET | WEBINAR | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

SPEAKERS:

Jehad Abusalim | Aya Al-Ghazzawi | Swee Chai Ang | Hadeel Assali | Fady Joudah

Ashjan Ajour

University of Leicester

Reclaiming Humanity in Palestinian Hunger Strikes

Friday, September 9, 2022 | 12:00-1:00 p.m.
Webinar



Silencing Journalism:

Shireen Abu Akleh, Israeli Extrajudicial Killing, and Colonial Domination in Palestine

Hosted by Darwish Visiting Professor in Palestinian Studies, Abdel Razzaq Takriti

Funded by the Mahmoud Darwish Chair in Palestinian Studies

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022 | 5:30 - 7:00 P.M. ET

TRUE NORTH ROOM, STEPHEN ROBERT HALL, WATSON INSTITUTE, 280 BROOK STREET

SPEAKERS:

Omar Shakir
Iraqi and Palestine Director,
Human Rights Watch

Jennifer Zacharia Said
Attorney and Writer

Sherine Tadros
Deputy Director of Advocacy and Representative
to the United Nations for Amnesty International

BOOKS



RESEARCH PROJECTS

Struggling for Reproductive Rights: Perspectives from Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Middle East

Friday, September 30, 2022 | 12:00-1:30 P.M.
Webinar

CMES SPEAKERS
Selma Hajri, MD
Women Have Wings
Leila Hessini
Independent, Transnational Advisor and Activist

CLACS SPEAKERS
Tonni-Ann Brodber
UN Women Multi-Country Office- Caribbean
Mabel Bianco, MD
Foundation for Studies and Research on Women

WATSON INSTITUTE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
BROWN UNIVERSITY

Access to Abortion in the Middle East and North Africa

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023 | 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. ET
WEBINAR | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Samia Al Nagar
Independent Researcher
Zeina Fathallah
American University of Beirut
Angel Foster
University of Ottawa

School of Public Health
WATSON INSTITUTE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
BROWN UNIVERSITY

GENDER STUDIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND BEYOND

This research project is led by CMES Director **Nadje Al-Ali**, Robert Family Professor of International Studies, and a professor of anthropology and Middle East studies. The project is based on the recognition that a gendered intersectional lens is central, not marginal, to a deeper analysis and understanding of political mobilizations, social developments and cultural expressions in the Middle East. A gendered lens also allows for a comparative perspective and collaboration with other regional centers and initiatives at Brown University. The project involves panel discussions, lectures and book talks, as well as relevant research.

Iran Protests:
Gender, Body Politics and
Authoritarianism

IN CONVERSATION WITH:
Manijeh Nasrabadi,
Barnard College, Columbia University

OCTOBER 4, 2022 | 2:00-3:00 P.M.
WEBINAR | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

MODERATORS:
Nadje Al-Ali, Brown University
Kathryn Spellman Poots, Columbia University

Narratives of Exile and
Migration: Kurdish
Women's Political
Struggles in Europe

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023
1:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET
WEBINAR | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Nisa Göksel
Arizona State University

MAYA
MIKDASHI
Rutgers University

Sextarianism:
Sovereignty, Secularism
and the State in Lebanon

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022 12:00-1:00 P.M.
MCKINNEY CONFERENCE ROOM
REGISTRATION REQUIRED


Tania El Khoury
 Bard College
As Far As Isolation Goes
 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2022 | 12:00-1:00 P.M. ET
 WEBINAR | REGISTRATION REQUIRED





Alia Al-Senussi, '03 AM'04, PhD
 Cultural strategist, writer, patron, public speaker, and academic
Gendered Perspectives on Culture?: Creativity, Art, and Culture in the Arab countries of the Gulf
 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023 | 12:00-1:00 P.M. ET
 WEBINAR | REGISTRATION REQUIRED
 middleeastbrown.org | mei.columbia.edu
 Image used with kind permission from the estate of Etal Adnan






GENDER AND BODY POLITICS: ARTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ITS DIASPORAS

In conversation with artists from the Middle East and North Africa as well as its diasporas, the “Gender and Body Politics: Arts in the Middle East and its Diasporas” series examines intersecting inequalities and body politics expressed, represented and transgressed in both visual and performance art. Against the backdrop of war and conflict, the rise of authoritarian regimes, displacement and diaspora mobilization, Islamophobia, ongoing orientalist depictions and challenges linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, this series explores the ways in which artists are informed by and/or contribute to anti-racist, transnational feminist and queer praxis.

The Brown University **Center for Middle East Studies** (CMES) and the Columbia University **Middle East Institute** (MEI) joint series features artists in both online and in-person events. Exhibitions and performances complement the series in locations across New York City and Providence.

**Gender and Body Politics:
Arts in the Middle East and its Diasporas**
**BORROWING
AUTHORITY FROM
DEAD**
 with Amitis Motevalli


RESEARCH PROJECTS

KURDISH STUDIES

have historically been sidelined within Middle East studies or reduced to the study of Kurdish nationalism. While there has been a proliferation of Kurdish studies across the U.S. and Europe in recent years, there has been only limited engagement with Kurdish society in its complexity. The aim of this project, led by **Professor Nadje Al-Ali**, is to support and contribute to critical and original Kurdish studies that combine theoretical, cutting-edge and empirically grounded work, while highlighting creative approaches (films, art and literature) to the study of Kurds and Kurdish societies. In collaboration with Yale's Macmillan Center, a series of closed workshops were held titled "Decolonizing Kurdish Studies." In March, CMES hosted a panel with Nisa Göksel on her recent book, "Narratives of Exile and Migration: Kurdish Women's Political Struggles in Europe."



ISRAEL-PALESTINE: LANDS AND PEOPLES

This multi-year project, led by Samuel P. Hays Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies **Omer Bartov**, seeks to provide a forum for a deeper understanding of the region and its peoples. The century-long conflict over the land of Israel/Palestine has raised a plethora of questions about historical narratives and rights of possession, the morality of return and the injustice of displacement, the correction of past wrongs and the imponderables of reconciliation, the promises and conundrums of coexistence and the centrality of self-determination. Precisely because this is a dispute over attachment and belonging to a place that both sides consider to be their historical and spiritual home, it is exceedingly difficult for each side to recognize the other's longing for, yet ongoing inability, to feel at home.



OTHER PROGRAMMING

COSTS OF WAR

Twenty Years of War in Iraq: The Costs and Consequences

TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023 | 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. ET
WEBINAR | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

PANEL:
Khaled Al Hilli
 CUNY Graduate Center
Zahra Ali
 Rutgers University Newark
Kali Rubaili
 Tulane University
Oula Kadhum
 Loyola University

Beyond the Numbers: Teach-in on Earthquake in Turkey and Syria

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023 | 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. ET
WEBINAR | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Tayyar Akhram
 Istanbul University
Jonah Alonzo
 Rutgers University Newark
Devin Aydin
 Rutgers University Newark
Tony Pinar
 Brown University

Troubling Algeria at 60: Images from a Revolution

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

October 12-26, 2022
 Mohamed Kouari, Victim(s) of Algeria
 Curated by Adil Ben Bella

111 Thayer Street, Providence, RI

Maghrebi Micro-Festival of Moroccan Gnawa Music, Culture, and History

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022
 FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

PANEL 4:00-5:30 p.m.
Gifts of the Gnawa: A Conversation among Musicians and Scholars
 Club d'EH and Hassan Hakmoun

CONCERT 8:00-10:00 p.m.
 Live Performance
 Repair Atelier, 16 Church Street, Providence, RI, 02903

MARIE OSTBY
 Connecticut College

The Global Genres of Modern Iran: Flexible Forms and Cross-Cultural Exchange from Travelogues to Twitter

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022 | 12:00-1:00 P.M.
 MCKINNEY CONFERENCE ROOM

WRITING GLOBAL HISTORIES TODAY

SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2022

PEMBROKE HALL 305
 172 MEETING STREET
 PROVIDENCE, RI 02912

Free and open to the public

In Conversation with the poet Zeina Hashem Beck

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023 | 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. ET
 WEBINAR | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Alan Mikhail
 Yale University

BOOM CAIRO

McKinney Conference Room
 Thursday, September 15, 2022
 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

CO-SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

FULYA PINAR
 Michigan Technological University

The Bus that Transports Undocumented Migrants: Experimental Solidarities across the Refugee vs. Citizen Divide in Istanbul

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2023 | 12:00-1:00 P.M. ET
 MCKINNEY CONFERENCE ROOM | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

MATTHEW TELLER

Nine Quarters of Jerusalem: A New Biography of the Old City

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2022 | 12:00 - 1:15 P.M.
 JOUKOWSKY FORUM | BOOK TALK

The New Antisemitism and the contemporary Middle East

Panelists:
 Noura Erakat
 Amos Goldberg
 Sherene Seikaly
 Raef Zreik

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022
 12-1:30 pm ET | Webinar

Modern Greek Studies

INVISIBLE CITIES: ISTANBUL OF THE 17th CENTURY THROUGH THE LENS OF OTTOMAN CENSUS REGISTERS

CHRISTINE PHILLIOU
 Professor, Department of History
 Director, Ottoman & Turkish Studies Program
 UK Berkeley Center for Middle East Studies
 Director, Modern Greek and Balkan Studies Program

MONDAY
 ADDU 3 2023

DECOLONIAL SCIENCE: MUSLIMS IN INTERWAR GERMANY AND THE MAKING OF MODERN AFGHANISTAN

October 12th | 1:00PM - 2:30PM
 111 Thayer Street, Joukowsky Forum

Iman Mersal
 author of *The Last Days of Pompeii*

Wednesday, 1 March 2023
 12:00 p.m.
 Joukowsky Forum 111
 111 Thayer Street, Providence, RI

Arabic & Persian Calligraphy Workshop

Fri March 3rd
 11:00 - 3:00pm
 MacMillan 115

Jews Out of the Question: How Critical Theory Fights Anti-Semitism by Denying Judaism

Elad Lapidot
 University of Lille

Wednesday, April 12, 2023
 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. EST | Joukowsky Forum

Co-sponsors: Department of German Studies, Department of Religious Studies, French and Francophone Studies

Ninth Conference of the School of Mamluk Studies

JUNE 6-16, 2023
 PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, USA

For more information: www.brown.edu/schools/mamluk-studies/conference
 Email: mamluk-studies@brown.edu

Lena Salaymeh
 University of Oxford and Collège Princesse des Hautes Études, Paris

Performing Legality in Service of Colonialism: 'Anti-Antisemitism' as Censorship

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023
 12:00 - 1:15 P.M. ET
 JOUKOWSKY FORUM

KATRIN JOMAA

Ummah: A New Paradigm for a Global World

NOVEMBER 15, 2022 | 4:00-5:10 P.M.
 JOUKOWSKY FORUM, WATSON INSTITUTE

Ummah

ACADEMICS

SAMPLING OF COURSES

The Center for Middle East Studies at Brown University continues to foster an environment that encourages faculty and students to push the boundaries of Middle East studies, furthering the Center's well-earned reputation as the home of ground-breaking research and classroom innovation. Affiliated faculty have established Brown as a hub for research on gender and sexuality, conflict and displacement, and social and political movements while continuing to innovate in the study and teaching of the Middle East from antiquity to the present day.

Students are drawn to Middle East studies by the opportunities to study the region's languages, cultures and societies, as well as its connections to other parts of the world. Language study often serves as a gateway for students to become interested in other aspects of the Middle East, and Middle Eastern language offerings at Brown continue to expand. Elective courses offered in various departments expose students to different disciplinary perspectives and research methodologies, which they apply in their own research with the support of Brown faculty and librarians and with research and travel funding from CMES.

As the world emerges from the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, students are once again traveling to the Middle East for language study, internship opportunities and research. Meanwhile, scholars, artists and practitioners are visiting campus for CMES events, often as classroom guests, providing an opportunity for students to engage directly with experts in various fields. CMES thus continues to be the gravitational center of a tight-knit community of scholars—students and faculty—who bring their different interests and perspectives to the classroom and beyond it, in the shared endeavor of better understanding the Middle East.

Anti-Semitism, Racism, Anti-Zionism: Debates, Contexts, Stakes

ADI OPHIR

Over the last two decades, negative perceptions, conceptions and treatment of Jews, and the effort to preempt and suppress them, have been marked by fierce debates about "antisemitism." Everything about the term—what it designates, its historical, theological and scientific origins, its current targets, how to trace and fight it, and its relation to racism, colonialism and anti-colonial struggles, anti-Zionism and Islamophobia—is disputed among scholars, educators and political actors, creating odd alliances and dividing old communities.

Interventions and Activism in the Contemporary Middle East

FULYA PINAR

It is not uncommon to hear simplifying perspectives when it comes to analyses of politics and the everyday lives of people in the Middle East. Instead of reducing lived experiences into binary categorizations (success or failure, authoritarian or democratic), this course examines the intricate relations between top-down political decisions, interventions and bottom-up resistance movements. It raises questions about the connections across the economy, crises, democracy and humanitarianism and introduces diverse stories and perspectives. Using comparative historical and social scientific analysis, students consider topics ranging from struggles against colonial containment to the role of urban movements in social change; from the impacts of Global North-induced crises on Islamic mobilization to the use of humanitarianism as a governance tool; from LGBTQ+ movements to artistic and digital unrest; and from Arab Spring to the intersectionality of struggles across identities.

The Palestinian Revolution, 1948-1982

ABDEL RAZZAQ TAKRITI

The phenomenon generally referred to in Arabic as the Palestinian Revolution (al-Thawra al-Filastiniya) was momentous by any standard. Unfolding over several decades between 1948 and 1982, it had profound implications for the history of Palestine, the Middle East and global anti-colonialism. Traditionally, it is studied using top-down state, diplomatic and military themes in history and politics. In contrast, this course focuses on the grassroots level, approaching Palestinian revolutionaries as subjects, rather than objects, of politics and history. While taking account of the role of external historical forces, the focus here is on Palestinian popular structures, movements, cadres, philosophies, feminist initiatives, songs, poetry, art, tactics and strategies. As such, the course explores the development of collective agency, political production and active engagement with history. It also addresses transnational connections that bound the Palestinian revolution with other anti-colonial struggles and solidarity movements worldwide.

The Middle East in Berlin

KATHARINA GALOR

This seminar explores the physical and human landscapes of post-war Berlin and its steadily expanding urban fabric and how it engages with the rapidly changing population makeup. The class focuses on the tension between past and present histories, new German identities, the recent massive migrations, antisemitism and Islamophobia and how these social and geopolitical phenomena interact with the city's urban spaces and monuments. As case studies, students explore the relationship between Germans and three other significant communities: Turks, Israelis and Palestinians.

North African History: 1800 to Present

JENNIFER JOHNSON

This course focuses on the francophone Maghrib (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia) and offers an introduction to major themes in the history of Africa and the Arab world in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Students gain the tools to analyze and historicize the dynamic history of this region. They examine a range of topics, including the transformations of pre-colonial social, economic and cultural patterns, conquest and resistance, comparative histories of colonialism, nationalism, decolonization and revolution, the consolidation of postcolonial states, regional cooperation, the rise of Islamism and civil conflicts and the Arab Spring.

Heresy and Orthodoxy in Islamic Thought

NANCY KHALEK

Orthodoxy is defined as "right belief," while Heresy is just the opposite, but those definitions have always been in tension with society and culture. This course interrogates theory and history to ask "What are Islamic Orthodoxy and Heresy?" From Islamic Law to who is or is not a "heretic," students uncover interpretations of religious law, practice and culture to learn how scholars apply orthodoxy or heresy to disrupt and unsettle notions of what "Islam" was at different moments and how their interpretations force us to think of new ways to envision the formation of communities.

Islam Between Theatre and Performance

KENNETH MOLLOY

This course explores the nuanced relationship among concepts of theater, performance and Islam in diverse texts and contexts. Readings cut across disciplinary divides, weaving together theater history, Islamic intellectual-cultural history, theory of performance and theory of religion to support a dynamic, critical approach to this field of inquiry. Students discuss how attention to theatricality and performance may enrich our understanding of representations of Islam by Muslims, representations of Islam by non-Muslims and the relationships between these representations. Taking as a point of departure the extreme opposition between "Islam" and "theater" that contemporary discourse typically supposes when overlapping these topics, the class evaluates this convention and considers the reasons for its long and continuing prevalence.

Understanding Modern Turkey Through Film and Literature

ESRA ÖZDEMİR

This course introduces students to modern Turkey and offers a wide range of perspectives on its society and culture. Each week, the class focuses on a single theme, such as family and gender; social classes and their interaction with each other; Istanbul and its neighborhoods; Turkey's role within Europe; ethnic identities and their recognition by Turkish society; Turkish media and entertainment; modernism and political Islam; important events in the very recent history of Turkey including the Hrant Dink assassination, terror attacks, and the 2016 coup d'état attempt; education and academic freedom; modern literature; specific cultural practices and rituals; foreigners' perspectives on Turkish society; and modern Turkish sensory experiences including music and cuisine.

The Arab Renaissance

ELIAS MUHANNA

This course explores the 19th-century Arabic cultural renaissance known as the Nahda. Topics include intellectual encounters between Europe and the Middle East, the birth of the Arabic novel and the rise of Islamic modernism. Students read selections from the works of Shidyah, Tahtawi, Zaydan, Shawqi, Bustani and others alongside historiographical and theoretical texts. At least three years of Arabic are required.

Ethiopia Shall Stretch Forth Her Hands:

Black Reception of Ancient Egypt and Nubia

CHRISTOPHER COX

The class explores how Black people have thought about, understood and used the concepts of ancient Egypt and Nubia over the last few hundred years. The class begins with a short introduction to ancient Egypt and Nubia with particular attention to questions of ethnicity. Then, it will cover the dominant (white) discourse of ancient Egypt from before the decipherment of Egyptian Hieroglyphs into early Egyptology. The third and longest section will be a chronological discussion of the literature, art and scholarship produced by Black people in relation to ancient Egypt and Nubia. Students see how these pieces fit together to show the long history of Black thought on the subject. Primary sources range from 18th-century letters to modern music videos.

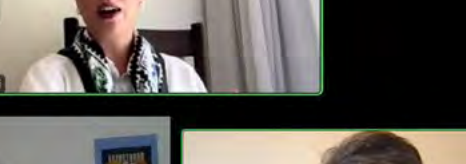
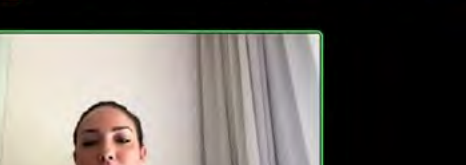
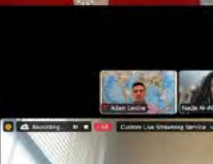
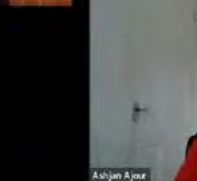
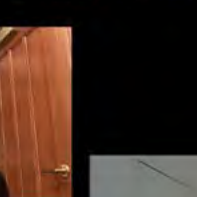
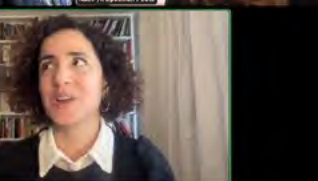
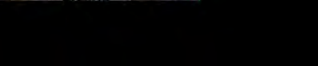
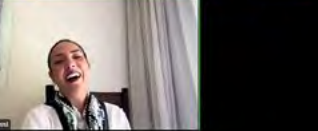




Photo Credit: Mara Kessler '23.5

ACADEMICS STUDENTS

DEPARTMENTAL UNDERGRADUATE GROUP (DUG)

The DUG is run by students concentrating in Middle East Studies (MES) who wish to build a community both inside and outside of the concentration. The MES DUG aims to highlight those aspects of the Center that are related to undergraduate activities. This year's DUG leaders were Mica Maltzman '25 and Jad Hamze '25. In their role, they acted as undergraduate student ambassadors, disseminating pertinent announcements to their peers and organizing a DUG Meet and Greet, a paper presentation event and other outreach efforts.



(from left): Jad Hamze '25, Mica Maltzman '25

MES Undergraduate Paper Series

SPEAKERS:
About Ashhab '25
"Revolutionary Imagery: Aestheticizing Palestine within South-South Solidarity Art"
Isabel Cox '23
"Exploring the Role of Agency in the Movement of Displaced Syrians During the Syrian Civil War"

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023 | 12:00 - 1:45 p.m. ET
**MCKINNEY CONFERENCE ROOM,
WATSON INSTITUTE**

WATSON INSTITUTE
MIDDLE EAST STUDIES
BAGHDAD UNIVERSITY

THE HOUR OF LIBERATION HAS ARRIVED
A FILM BY HEINY SROUR (1974)

الخليج العربي ،
ساعة التحرير دقت
بره يا استعمار

L'HEURE DE LA LIBERATION A SONNE

FILM SCREENING & DINNER

11.10.2022 | 6:30 PM | [RSVP Form](#)

**Robert Center Petteruti Lounge
(Campus Center, 2nd Floor)**

Organized by undergraduate students in MES and History.

WATSON INSTITUTE
MIDDLE EAST STUDIES
BAGHDAD UNIVERSITY

Middle East Studies
**DUG
MEET AND
GREET**

Friday, February 24, 2023
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. ET
Petteruti Lounge,
Stephen Robert '62
Campus Center

WATSON INSTITUTE
MIDDLE EAST STUDIES
BAGHDAD UNIVERSITY

MES UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS (MUF)

Eligible to rising seniors writing an honors thesis and concentrating in MES, Middle East Studies Undergraduate Fellows play an active role in CMES life and assist with outreach efforts to underclassmen interested in becoming concentrators. This year's fellow was Rita Slaoui '23.5.

Rita Slaoui '23.5

MIDDLE EAST STUDIES GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (MESGSA)

Supported by the Center for Middle East Studies, MESGSA is an interdisciplinary group of graduate students united by a shared scholarly interest in the Middle East and North Africa. Combining diverse humanities and social sciences backgrounds with regional expertise, the association aims to foster conversations that are theoretically diverse and regionally focused. This year, MESGSA hosted several themed lunches at the Faculty Club, organized a seminar highlighting presentations by 2022 recipients of the Sams Family Research Travel Grant and a roundtable discussion on emerging practices of research.

MESGSA is led by **Mariz Kelada**, a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Anthropology, M.A. Student in the Department of Modern Culture and Media, and a Cogut Fellow in Collaborative Humanities. Her research examines the political economy of Egypt's visual media industry through the invisible labor of its technical workers.

Mariz Kelada



Practices in Middle East Studies

PANELISTS:

Julia Wartmann

*Negotiating Freedom:
Gender Equality in North and East Syria*

Ramil Zamanov

Queen Masqubkhat in Azerbaijan

Faiq Mari

*Alternative Sources of Revolt:
the Commons of the
Palestinian Liberation Struggle*

Moderated by Mariz Kelada, Department of Anthropology

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023 | 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET
McKinney Conference Room 353, Watson Institute | RSVP Required



Graduate Student Summer Research Presentations

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2022 | 12:00 - 1:30 P.M. ET | BIRKELUND BOARDROOM
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

PRESENTERS:

Lee-Or Ankori-Karlinsky

"Symbols and Violence in Jerusalem/Al-Quds" | Political Science

Aseel Azab-Osman

"Do What You Can to Keep the Good Word Alive": Sufi, Subjectivity and Transformation in Post-2013 Egypt | Religious Studies

Adel Ben Bella

Photographs and the Algerian Revolution: Video interviews, Algerian points of view, and Visual archive. | Modern Culture and Media

Kate Elizabeth Gregory

"The 12 September Coup and Turkey's Place in the Late Cold War" | History

Carolina Mendoza

"From Alqubays to Aljofores: Investigating the Textual-Cultural Landscape of Early Modern Muslim Iberia" | Religious Studies

ACADEMICS CLASS OF 2023



JAYLIM ABONEAJJ ('22.5) is a recent graduate with concentrations in Middle East Studies and Public Policy. Within the department, he served as DUG leader in his senior year and wrote a capstone focusing on Paul Virilio's concept of "acceleration" as it applies to transportation networks within his family's *watan*: Palestine. At Brown, he captained the Brown Men's Club Soccer team, tutored for BRYTE, and edited for the Brown Journal of World Affairs. After completing his last semester abroad in Granada, Spain, he joined Barclays Bank in New York City as a sales and trading analyst, with time in between dedicated to travel, language learning and family.

Capstone Project:

"Accelerating (Im)mobility: Transportation in Palestine across 100 Years"

MICHELLE J. CHEN is a graduating senior from Boston, double concentrating in Middle East Studies and Biology. She tutored for Brown's Refugee Youth Tutoring and Enrichment program and is involved in art spaces at Brown, such as ColorWheel and Create@Brown. Her studies in MES are focused on the Arabic language and culture and religion in the Arab world. After graduation, she will be working as a scientific researcher in the biology field. Her long-term goal is to create spaces for underrepresented and marginalized groups in the STEM field.

Capstone Project:

"Modern Sufism and its Adaptation to Capitalism and Commodification: A Study of 19th and 20th-Century Senegalese Sufi Orders"





ISABEL (IZZY) COX is a double concentrator in Middle East Studies and Human Rights & the Refugee Experience (an independent concentration) from the Chicago area. This semester, she is studying Arabic literature as a culmination of her eight semesters of Arabic learning at Brown. She is an active member of the coed varsity sailing team. Izzy's capstone discusses the factors that contributed to Syrian displaced peoples' ability or inability to exercise agency in their flight from violence. After graduation, she hopes to remain in the Rhode Island area and pursue nonprofit work.

Capstone Project:

"Exploring the Role of Agency in the Movement of Displaced Syrians During the Syrian Civil War"

LILAH GABER is a double concentrator in Middle East Studies and International and Public Affairs on the Development Track. At Brown, she participated in several student activism groups, such as the Brown Divestment campaign, which passed through a University Board in 2019. She also spent her time writing, singing and playing guitar for her indie-rock band, TV Dinner. She does not have plans for after graduation, though she hopes to end up back in her family home in Egypt to study and work in the near future.

Capstone Project:

"Beyond the Nile: Nubian Conceptions of Identity After their Displacement"



JOSEPH SCHLECHTER was born and raised in Portland, Oregon. They began studying Arabic at their local public school in sixth grade and continued throughout their high school and college career culminating in a Bachelor of Arts in Middle East Studies. This love for language learning also inspired them to pursue a second Bachelor of Arts in Multilingual Education. During their time at Brown, they found most of their joy and respite away from campus, exploring libraries and cafes across the greater Providence area, attending local music events and working at any one of their multiple jobs. Joseph is excited to take these lessons and experiences with them when they return home after graduation.

Capstone Project:

"Boys' Love: Translations of Abu Nuwas' Masculine Ghazals"

PEOPLE



NADJE AL-ALI

DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST STUDIES
ROBERT FAMILY PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND MIDDLE EAST STUDIES



ALEX WINDER

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN MIDDLE EAST STUDIES
DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES



BARBARA OBERKOETTER

CENTER MANAGER



EMILY RUEBELMAN

EVENT AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR

VISITING FACULTY



ABDEL RAZZAQ TAKRITI

MAHMOUD DARWISH VISITING PROFESSOR IN PALESTINIAN STUDIES



FULYA PINAR

ALOMRAN FAMILY POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE
IN MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWS

FAIQ MARI

PH.D. CANDIDATE
INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY AND
THEORY OF ARCHITECTURE (GTA)
ETH ZÜRICH

JULIA WARTMANN

PH.D. CANDIDATE
UNIVERSITY OF BASEL

RAMIL ZAMANOV

PH.D. CANDIDATE
CHARLES UNIVERSITY

STUDENT STAFF



ERICA HYUNJEE NAM '24

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

MARA KESSLER '23.5

STUDENT COORDINATOR



BIANCA ROSEN '25

PALESTINIAN STUDIES STUDENT ASSISTANT



CECILIA MARRINAN '24

STUDENT ASSISTANT



STEERING COMMITTEE

NADJE AL-ALI

ROBERT FAMILY PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
AND PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

Feminist activism and gendered mobilizations in the Middle East (Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey and the Kurdish regions); gendered dimensions of war and conflict; transnational migration and diaspora mobilization; anti-gender discourses amongst political right movements in the Middle East and Europe.



MAAN ALSAHOUI

JOUKOWSKY FAMILY MIDDLE EAST STUDIES LIBRARIAN AND ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF FRENCH STUDIES

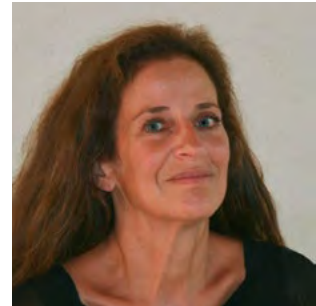
Specializes in French and Francophone literature, dealing particularly with the representation of otherness in contemporary French and Levantine francophone fiction. Two of his books were published in 2020: "JMG Le Clézio et les miroirs de l'autre" and a translation of JMG Le Clézio's "Trois Villes Saintes" into Arabic. He recently published a translation into Arabic of Jean-Christophe Rufin's "Checkpoint."



KATHARINA GALOR

HIRSCHFELD SENIOR LECTURER IN JUDAIC STUDIES AND SENIOR LECTURER IN MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

Mediterranean and Near Eastern art and archaeology with a focus on the visual and material culture of Israel/Palestine. Urban landscapes with a theoretical interest in religious and ritual practice, ethnicity, gender and interactions and differences among Jews, Christians and Muslims.



ELSA BELMONT FLORES

LECTURER IN LANGUAGE STUDIES (ARABIC)
AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR LANGUAGE STUDIES

Youth culture, contemporary film and social media in the Arab World, the integration of social justice and multiculturalism in the Arabic language learning curriculum (beginning through advanced levels, MSA and Levantine Colloquial Arabic) and the use of technology in the teaching of Arabic.



VANGELIS CALOTYCHOS

VISITING ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CLASSICS

Comparative literature, cultural and reception studies. Literature, film and politics in the Eastern Mediterranean and Balkans. Modernity and "self-colonization" in Greece; resistance in Greek film. Ethnic conflict, reconciliation and peace processes in Cyprus.



FACULTY IN 2022-23

RUTH ADLER BEN YEHUDA, Judaic Studies

FAIZ AHMED, History

NADJE AL-ALI, Middle East Studies, Anthropology, Watson Institute

JAMES ALLEN, Egyptology and Assyriology

CHRISTELLE ALVAREZ, Egyptology and Assyriology

ARIELLA AZOULAY, Modern Culture and Media, Comparative Literature

OMER BARTOV, History

SHAHZAD BASHIR, Religious Studies, History

ELSA BELMONT FLORES, Center for Language Studies

LAUREL BESTOCK, Archaeology, Egyptology and Assyriology, HIAA

SHEILA BONDE, History of Art and Architecture (HIAA), Archaeology

VANGELIS CALOTYCHOS, Comparative Literature

MIRENA CHRISTOFF, Center for Language Studies

JONATHAN CONANT, History, Classics

JOAN COPJEC, Modern Culture and Media

LISA DICARLO, Sociology

BESHARA DOUMANI, History

MILED FAIZA, Center for Language Studies

LINA FRUZZETTI, Anthropology

KATHARINA GALOR, Judaic Studies and Middle East Studies

YANNIS HAMILAKIS, Archaeology, Modern Greek Studies

JAE HEE HAN, Religious Studies, Judaic Studies

SUSAN ASHBROOK HARVEY, Religious Studies, Early Cultures

ALLA HASSAN, Center for Language Studies

JENNIFER JOHNSON, History

NANCY KHALEK, Religious Studies

STEPHEN KINZER, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs

VIRGINIA KRAUSE, French Studies

OURIDA MOSTEFAI, Comparative Literature, French Studies

ELIAS MUHANNA, Comparative Literature, History

PAUL NAHME, Judaic Studies, Religious Studies

SAUL OLYAN, Judaic Studies, Religious Studies

ADI OPHIR, Cogut Center for the Humanities, Middle East Studies

ESRA ÖZDEMIR, Center for Language Studies

FULYA PINAR, Alomaran Family Postdoctoral Research Associate, MES

MICHELLE QUAY, Center for Language Studies

AMY REMENSNYDER, History

RACHEL ROJANSKI, Judaic Studies

FELIPE ROJAS SILVA, Archaeology, Egyptology and Assyriology

MATTHEW RUTZ, Egyptology and Assyriology

KENNETH SACKS, History

MICHAEL SATLOW, Judaic Studies, Religious Studies

HOLLY SHAFFER, History of Art and Architecture

JOHN STEELE, Egyptology and Assyriology

SUZANNE STEWART-STEINBERG, Comparative Literature, Italian Studies

ABDEL RAZZAQ TAKRITI, Middle East Studies

NINA TANNENWALD, Political Science

ADAM TELLER, History, Judaic Studies

PETER VAN DOMMELEN, Anthropology, Archaeology

PARKER VAN VALKENBURGH, Anthropology

ALEX WINDER, Middle East Studies

VAZIRA ZAMINDAR, History

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARRIVING IN 2023-24

MEHRDAD BABADI, Omar Khayyam Postdoctoral Research Associate in Iranian Studies

LOUBNA QUTAMI, Postdoctoral Research Associate in Palestinian Studies

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

SAMS FAMILY RESEARCH TRAVEL AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR SUMMER 2023

MAYA AVELINO: MES Undergraduate Student

MARA KESSLER: MES Undergraduate Student

JANA ELKHATIB: Literary Arts

SHERENA RAZEK: Modern Culture and Media

AYSE SANLI: Anthropology

MAIREAD SMITH: Anthropology

NOAH TETENBAUM: Religious Studies

UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

MAYA AVELINO: Al-Haq; BADIL Resource Center

PAULINE GREGORY: SALAM scholarship with the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center

MARA KESSLER : Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism

MICA MALTZMAN: Arab Studies Institute

RITA SLAOU: Human Rights Campaign

ADVISORY COUNCIL (2022-23)

AHMAD ABU GHAZALEH P'24, P'26

ALI FAROUKI

ALIA AL-SENUSSI '03, AM'04

AMMAR A. ALKHUDAIRY P'17

ANDRA B. EHRENKRANZ '87, P'24, P'26

AYSHA SHOMAN '04

BASEM I. SALFITI '93, P'25

D. PATRICK MALEY '67

DANA FAROUKI '03

E. PAUL SORENSEN '71, SCM'75, PHD'77, LHD '19 HON., P'06, P'06

FOUAD DAJANI '95, P'25

GLORIA I. GALLAGHER '91, P'24, P'24

HASSAN ALAGHBAND P'15

HISHAM M. ATTAR '04

JAMES K. SAMS '82

KAMAL G. JABRE '90, P'20, P'22

KAWTHER ALKHUDAIRY '17

KAZIM KÖSEOĞLU '07

LAYA KHADJAVI '84, P'23

LISA SAMS

MOSA ALOMRAN P'23, P'26

NADIM ASHI P'22

NANCY B. TURCK '68, AM'68

NATHALIE F. FARMAN-FARMA '90

OMAR K. SHOMAN '01

OMAR MASRI

OSSAMA M. EL BATRAN '07

RAGHAD F. ALKHUDAIRY P'17

RASHA ABU GHAZALEH FAROUKI

SAMER M. KHALIDI '90

SHIRINE G. AGGAD P'22

SIRINE ABU GHAZALEH P'24, P'26

TANSA MERMERCI EKŞİOĞLU '97

TAREK O. AGGAD P'22

“The MES department is not only one of the most genuine and responsible centers of learning I’ve been part of on campus, but has also been intentional in building a wonderful community.”

ZACHARY FEDERMAN '23.5

“The Middle East Studies Department has been central to making my experience at Brown positive and meaningful. The faculty, staff, students, classes, (numerous!) events and research opportunities have all contributed to shaping my intellectual views and creating a sense of community. I feel grateful that the CMES has been part of my experience at Brown, and I know that I will carry the knowledge that I have gained and the relationships that I have built long after graduation.”

RITA SLAQUI '23.5

“Choosing to study Middle East Studies and work for the Center of Middle East Studies was perhaps the most pivotal and formative decision I made while at Brown, as it pushed me to grow not only as a student but as an individual as well. I will be forever grateful for the intellectual space and community that CMES has cultivated through its thought-provoking courses and events, and accessible and supportive faculty, staff and students—and will miss it all dearly after graduation!”

MARA KESSLER '23.5

The background is a teal color with a complex geometric pattern. It features a central dark teal diamond shape. Overlaid on this are several parallel lines, each composed of a series of small circles, creating a chain-link effect. These lines intersect to form a grid of smaller diamonds. The overall aesthetic is modern and technical.

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO
OUR NUMEROUS PARTNERS AND COSPONSORS

CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

Box 1970
Providence, RI 02912

www.middleeastbrown.org
cmes@brown.edu

