



BROWN UNIVERSITY  
CENTER FOR  
MIDDLE EAST  
STUDIES

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

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**Front Cover:** Mara Kessler '23.5

درج الكلحة // Daraj al-Kalha.

In a rare instance of solitude, a street poet stands in the window of a popular artisan space, in the alleyway of one of Amman's oldest and busiest stairs.

**Back Cover:** Dorra Guerhazi '24

**Portal to Serenity: A Glimpse into Kairouan's Sacred Threshold**

Local mosque entrance in Kairouan, Tunisia.

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Dear colleagues, students and friends of the Center for Middle East Studies,**

As the academic year comes to a close and my time as director of CMES comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our community at Brown for their contributions, participation and support. These last months have been particularly challenging for many of us. While tensions and polarizations are evident on our campus, we have also pulled together and made new connections and friendships. I would like to thank all of you who have helped and supported me in my role as director.

Since the devastating attacks on Israeli civilians on October 7, 2023, and Israel's genocidal war on Gaza specifically and Palestinians more broadly, CMES has provided academic leadership on the history of the current violence and hosted ongoing debates, both on the Brown campus and nationally. Community conversations addressed the context of the current war on Gaza, Palestinian and Israeli perspectives on the present situation and discussions about the future of Israel and Palestine. In March, New Directions in Palestinian Studies (NDPS) organized their annual workshop, which focused on the situation in Gaza and possible ways forward. CMES also played an important role in providing a platform to engage in discussions about issues of academic freedom, antisemitism and the political climate on campus more broadly. Special highlights to mention here were an event with **Asli Bali**, president of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) and a professor of law at Yale University, and a conversation with **Peter Beinart**, professor of journalism and political science at CUNY and editor-in-chief of **Jewish Currents**.



Meanwhile, we have continued to pursue our various research initiatives and projects. This spring semester 2024, for example, CMES has hosted Iranian-American artist **Amitis Motevalli**, whose artwork engages Islamic spirituality, gender, body politics and diaspora. Her residency is part of a broader joint project on gender, art and body politics between the Middle East Institute at Columbia University and CMES at Brown. As part of her residency at Brown, Motevalli has taught two master classes and organized an exhibition at the Watson Institute. The list of events hosted by CMES this past academic year can be found on the CMES website.

Finally, I am delighted to share with you that **Elias Muhanna**, associate professor of comparative literature and history, will take over this summer as director of CMES. After four years in my role, it is with mixed feelings that I say goodbye. Although I will be sad to leave the role, I am looking forward to having some time to research and write during my sabbatical. I am delighted to pass on the role to my colleague, who will bring a different expertise and perspective, fresh energy and new ideas to the director's position and CMES.

With my best wishes,

**Nadjé Al-Ali**

*Director, Center for Middle East Studies*

*Robert Family Professor of International Studies*

*Professor of Anthropology and Middle East Studies*

# ABOUT

## MISSION

The Center for Middle East Studies (CMES) at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs 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

ISLAM AND THE HUMANITIES  
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

# RESEARCH INITIATIVES



**ISLAM AND  
THE HUMANITIES**  
BROWN UNIVERSITY  
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

## ISLAM AND THE HUMANITIES

is a research initiative that connects the study of Islam and Muslims to topics engaged by scholars in the humanities in general. During spring 2024, the initiative sponsored a series of discussions under the rubric “Islamic Pasts and Futures” in which current graduate students and recent Ph.D. recipients from Brown showcased their work in a workshop format. Also in spring, the initiative collaborated with Brown’s Center for the Study of the Early Modern World to host a one-day conference on the theme of “Mirrors for Princes.” With continuing support from the Carnegie Corporation, Islam and the Humanities sponsors an Open Access book series titled “Islamic Humanities,” published by the **University of California Press**. Three books have recently been published in the series: Timur Hammond’s “Placing Islam: Geographies of Connection in Twentieth-Century Istanbul” (May 2023), Amanda Lanzillo’s “Pious Labor: Islam, Artisanry, and Technology in Colonial India” (January 2024), and Emily Drumsta’s “Ways of Seeking: The Arabic Novel and the Poetics of Investigation” (February 2024).



### Islamic Pasts & Futures

#### FEATURING

3/7 “Dycatch Images of Chittagong: An Indian Ocean Fish Market”  
Anabelle Sutor, ABD Anthropology, Brown University

3/14 “Beyond the Colonial Archive”  
Dr. Suwaid Yaseen, PhD History, Brown University

“Every body part has an eloquent tongue: translating and examining epigrams in ‘Aisha al-Ra’uniyyah’s work”  
Marian Aboukathir, ABD Religious Studies, Brown University

3/21 “Behind a Strange Image: Islam and the Play of History”  
Dr. Kenneth Molloy, PhD Theatre and Performance Studies, Brown University

“Aspiring for Abstraction: Paralegal Activism and the Promise of Law in Contemporary India”  
Noman Hasan, ABD Anthropology, Brown University

4/4 *Rebuilding Community: Displaced Women and the Making of a Shi’a Ismaili Muslim Sociality*  
based on her new book.  
Dr. Shenita Khoja-Moolji, Associate Professor, Georgetown University

“Prayer, Deconstruction, and Boundless Play: Sa’id al-Din Hamziya’s (d. 1282) *Avantie Garde Sufism*”  
Dr. GJ Uy, Assistant Professor, James Madison University

4/11 “(Extra)ordinary Muslims, (extra)ordinary possibilities: Trauma and Political  
Theology in Contemporary Egyptian Islamism”  
Aseel Azab, ABD Religious Studies, Brown University

“A Storied Landscape: Punjab in the 19th Century”  
Tara Dhallwal, ABD Religious Studies, Brown University

4/25 “Barefoot Governors and Screaming Saints: A Cultural History of Medieval Muslim Rebellion”  
Dr. Tanvir Ahmed, Postdoc, Arizona State University

“The Language of Light: Singing of the Prophet Muhammad in Hispanophone Islam, 1600-1720”  
Carolina Mendoza, ABD Religious Studies, Brown University

Thursdays | 4-6:30pm | Page Robinson Hall 402 | 69 Brown Street

A special seminar series being offered as part of REIS 2400D, a course with the same name.  
These lectures are open and you do not have to be registered in the course to attend.

Cosponsored by the Department of Religious Studies and Islam & the  
Humanities in the Center for Middle East Studies.

## COLLOQUIUM MIRRORS FOR PRINCES:

### POLITICS AND POETICS IN THE EARLY MODERN WORLD

April 19, 2024

Alumnae Hall, Commons Room  
10:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Free, open to the public

#### SPEAKERS

Gareth Williams, Columbia University

Hilde De Weerd, KU Leuven, Belgium

Berenice Alcántara Rojas & Mario Sánchez Aguilera,

IIFL/INAH, Mexico

Derin Terzioğlu, Boğaziçi University, Turkey

Sholeh Quinn, University of California, Merced



Accession of Mehmed II in Edirne 1451, Topkapı Palace Museum, Hazine 1523, Hürrem-nâme.



To request services,  
accommodations, or  
assistance, call  
(401) 863-9322

This colloquium is made possible by the Charles K. Colver Lectureships & Publications grant and the Islam and the Humanities fund. It is hosted by the Center for the Study of the Early Modern World.

# RESEARCH INITIATIVES



**PALESTINIAN STUDIES**  
BROWN UNIVERSITY  
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

## NEW DIRECTIONS IN PALESTINIAN STUDIES (NDPS)

Founded in 2012 by Professor Beshara Doumani, this initiative promotes knowledge production on Palestine and Palestinians. NDPS invests in emerging scholars through an endowed postdoctoral fellowship, an annual thematic workshop, a book series with the University of California Press and outreach programming.

Loubna Qutami, assistant professor of ethnic studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, joined NDPS as its postdoctoral research fellow this year. With Beshara Doumani, Qutami co-organized an international workshop titled "Palestine and the Palestinians After October 7." NDPS also organized two well-attended teach-ins on Gaza, as well as several talks, including "Renewal and Revolt in Palestinian Youth Movements," by Loubna Qutami, "My Time in Gaza," by Dr. Ghassan Abu Sittah, and "Transnational Palestine: Migration and the Right of Return Before 1948," by Nadim Bawalsa. NDPS also supported two public health workshops on Gaza.

Beshara Doumani taught a lecture course, Understanding Palestine and the Palestinians, and Loubna Qutami taught a seminar, Palestine: A Comparative Ethnic Studies Approach. NDPS facilitated the publication of papers presented at the annual workshops in peer-reviewed journals, including a special issue of Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, "Claiming Property, Claiming Palestine." The most recent book published by NDPS is "Novel Palestine: Nation Through the Work of Ibrahim Nasrallah," by Nora Parr. All NDPS books are **free to download**.

**Gaza**  
A Community Conversation

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 4:30pm EST  
TRUE NORTH ROOM, STEPHEN ROBERT HALL,  
200 BROOK ST, PROVIDENCE, RI

MODERATOR:  
**Nadje Al-Ali**  
Professor of International Studies, Professor of Anthropology and Middle East Studies, Director of the Center for Islamic Eye Studies

PANEL:  
**Beshara Doumani**  
Professor of History, Marjorie McDevitt Professor of Palestinian Studies

**Adi Ophir**  
Visiting Professor of Anthropology, Professor of Middle East Studies

**Nitman Chosev**  
Research Fellow, Professor of Sociology and International Studies

**Loubna Qutami**  
Postdoctoral Research Associate for Palestinian Studies

**Community Conversations**  
**The Hamas Attack and Israel's War in Gaza:**  
Historical Context, Significance and Future Scenarios

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023 | 6:00 - 8:00pm EST  
CARMICHAEL AUDITORIUM, 85 WATERMAN ST, ROOM 130

PANEL:  
**Omer Bockor**  
Professor of History, Samuel P. Hays Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies

**Beshara Doumani**  
Professor of History, Marjorie McDevitt Professor of Palestinian Studies

**Galal**  
Visiting in Arabic Studies, Special Lecturer at Center for Middle East

**PALESTINE**  
the struggle for justice is still young ... 1949-1972

**Renewal and Revolt in Palestinian Youth Movements**

**Loubna Qutami**  
Post-Doctoral Research Associate in Palestinian Studies

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023 | 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
MCKINNEY CONFERENCE ROOM, 111 TRAYLOR ST.  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Book Talk:  
**Transnational Palestine**  
Migration and the Flight of Return Before 1948

**Nadim Bawalsa**

TRANSNATIONAL PALESTINE

WARRIOR AND THE BIRD  
OF BERRY  
REVISED EDITION

NADIM BAWALSA

Series of the 2023 translation book awards  
Middle East Book Award, sponsored by the Middle East Studies Association (MESA)

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2024 | 12:00-1:00 p.m. ET

**counting the cost**  
Crisis in Gaza: Scenario-Based Health Impact Projections

a webinar with **Zeina Jamaluddeen**  
Research Fellow at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Lead author of LSHM and John Higgins Report  
"Crisis in Gaza: Scenario-Based Health Impact Projections"

april 17th @ 3 pm EST  
registration required.

**The impacts of war on public health:**  
A look at the health disaster facing Palestinians in Gaza

webinar II monday feb 5th, 2:00 - 3:30 pm est

Please join us for a webinar about the disastrous public health impacts of the current war on the Gaza Strip. We will hear from speakers who will outline the links between conflict & public health, provide context for the public health situation in Gaza and Palestine before October, and hear first-hand testimony about treating patients in the Gaza Strip.

**Speakers:**  
Moderated by Professor Brandon Marshall, Chair of the Dept of Epidemiology

**Dr. David Haan, MD**  
Professor of Neurosurgery, Duke University School of Medicine

**Dr. Yara M. Aal, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, School of Global Health Management, University of Central Florida, Co-Director, Palestine Program for Health and Human Rights, Harvard University and Brown University

**Dr. Adam C. Levine, MD, MPH, FACEP**  
Director, Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies, Professor of Emergency Medicine and Health Services, Policy & Practice, Brown University

Registration required.

**MY TIME IN GAZA**  
WEBINAR  
with Dr. Ghassan Abu Sittah

TUESDAY  
27 FEBRUARY 2024  
HYBRID EVENT  
2:00-10:00PM EST

Live from Joukowsky Forum  
Lunch provided

**SPEAKERS**  
**Dr Ghassan Abu Sittah**  
British-Palestinian Plastic Surgeon

**Dr. Abrar Qureshi**  
Warren Alpert Professor and Chair of Dermatology

**Prof. Loubna Qutami**  
Research Fellow, Postdoctoral Research Assistant

REGISTER HERE

MIDDLE EAST STUDIES



NEW DIRECTIONS IN  
PALESTINIAN STUDIES

Palestine  
and the  
Palestinians  
after  
October 7

**MARCH 8-9 2024**

Joukowsky Forum  
Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs



[middleeastbrown.org](http://middleeastbrown.org)

# RESEARCH PROJECTS

## 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 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.

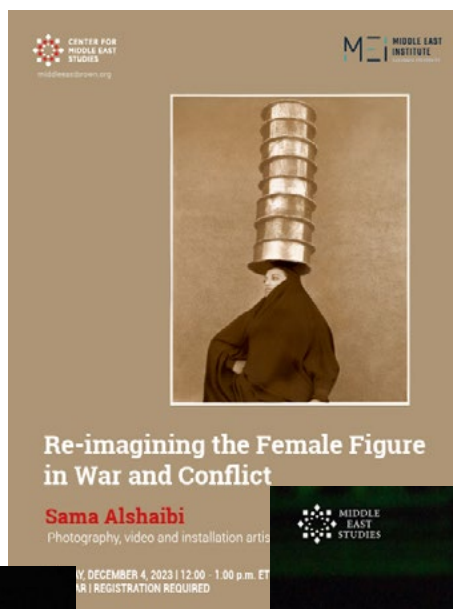


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MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE

### Declarations from the Fleeting Present

**Annabel Daou**  
Visual and performance artist

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 | 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. ET  
WEBINAR | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

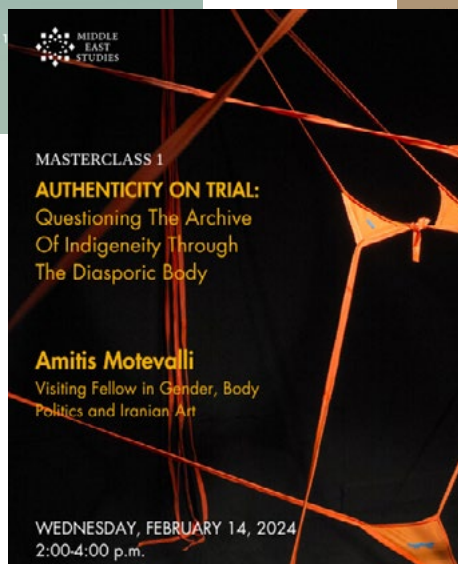


CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST STUDIES  
MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE

### Re-imagining the Female Figure in War and Conflict

**Sama Alshaibi**  
Photography, video and installation artist

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023 | 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. ET  
WEBINAR | REGISTRATION REQUIRED



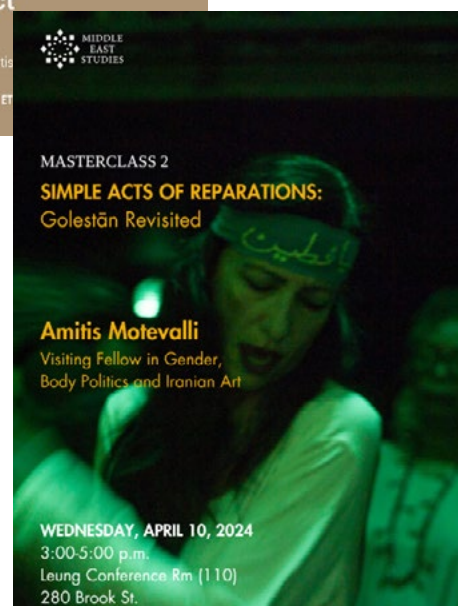
MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

### MASTERCLASS 1

#### AUTHENTICITY ON TRIAL: Questioning The Archive Of Indigeneity Through The Diasporic Body

**Amitis Motevalli**  
Visiting Fellow in Gender, Body  
Politics and Iranian Art

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024  
2:00-4:00 p.m.



MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

### MASTERCLASS 2

#### SIMPLE ACTS OF REPARATIONS: Golestān Revisited

**Amitis Motevalli**  
Visiting Fellow in Gender,  
Body Politics and Iranian Art

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024  
3:00-5:00 p.m.  
Leung Conference Rm [110]  
280 Brook St.





Art at Watson presents

AMITIS MOTEVALLI

# Heretical Dervish:

Photos from Ritual Performances  
and Unauthorized Actions

EXHIBITION  
April 24 – May 8, 2024  
111 Thayer Street, 2nd floor

ARTIST TALK  
April 24, 5-6pm  
Joukowsky Forum, 111 Thayer Street  
Reception, 2nd floor

Amitis Motevalli is a Center for Middle East Studies resident artist in Gender, Body Politics and Iranian Art for Spring 2024.



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

In conversation with artists from the Middle East and North Africa and their 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 and ongoing orientalist depictions and challenges, 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.

As part of this initiative, CMES and MEI hosted Iranian-American artist **Amitis Motevalli**, whose artwork engages Islamic spirituality, gender, body politics and diaspora. As part of her residency at Brown, Motevalli taught two master classes and displayed her work in an exhibition titled **“Heretical Dervish: Photos from Ritual Performances and Unauthorized Actions”** at the Watson Institute.

# OTHER PROGRAMMING

**MEHRDAD BABADI**  
Marriage Postponed: Idealism, Cynicism, and Moral Ambivalence  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023 | 12:00 - 1:00 P.M. ET  
MCKINNEY CONFERENCE ROOM 253, 111 THAYER  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

**IRANIAN CINEMA**  
Fall 2023  
Oct 5 *In the Specified Time (2016)*  
Oct 18 *Life & A Day (2016)*  
Nov 8 *You All Know Me (2014)*  
Nov 29 *Dog Sweat (2011)*

**Heroes to Hostages, America and Iran 1800-1988**  
Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet  
University of Pennsylvania  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023 | 12:00 - 1:00 P.M. ET  
WEBINAR (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

**IRANIAN CINEMA**  
Spring 2024  
Feb 13 *The Cow (1969)* - 6pm at Granoff Center  
March 5 *The Tenants (1987)*  
March 19 *Homoun (1990)*  
April 2 *Leila (1997)*  
April 30 *Mum's Guest (2004)*

**Woman Life Freedom: The Art, Music, and Poetry of Recent Protests in Iran**  
Organizer: **Mehrdad Babadi**  
Omid Khayyem postdoctoral research associate in Iranian Studies  
Panelists: **Nadje Al-Ali**, Brown University  
**Nahid Siamdoust**, University of Texas, Austin  
**Pamela Karimi**, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2023 | 12:00 - 1:30 P.M. ET  
WEBINAR (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

**MARGARET GRAVES**  
Invisible Hands: Forgery and Finance in a Colonial Art Market  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023 | 12:00 - 1:00 P.M. ET  
MCKINNEY CONFERENCE ROOM 253, 111 THAYER  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

**Creative Ethnographic Methods in the Middle East**  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023 | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET  
WEBINAR | REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
ORGANIZER: **Falya Pinat**, Boston University  
PANELISTS: **Lina Askari**, University of Amsterdam  
**Maryoza Abu Hatem**, Concordia University  
**Shaymaa Hamdy**, University of California, Irvine  
**Leah**

**Syrian Gulag: Inside Assad's Prisons, 1970-2020**  
Ugur Ümit Üngör  
Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, University of Amsterdam  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023  
12:00 - 1:15 p.m. ET  
JOUKOWSKY FORUM, 111 THAYER

**The Soil and The Sea**  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024  
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.  
Webinar for panel  
48-hour movie preview  
Registration required  
GUEST SPEAKERS:  
**Danièle Rugo**, Film Director  
**Carmen Hassoun Abou Jaoude**, Film Producer  
BROWN UNIVERSITY HOSTS:  
**Nadje Al-Ali**, Director, Center for Middle East Studies

**The Kurdish Nobility in the Ottoman Empire: Loyalty, Autonomy, and Privilege**  
**Nilsay Özoğ-Gündoğan**  
Florida State University

**Portraits of Unbelonging: Photography, Nationality, Mobility**  
WITH **Zeynep Devrim Gürsel**  
Rutgers University  
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024 | 12:00-1:00 p.m.  
MCKINNEY CONFERENCE ROOM (253),  
WATSON INSTITUTE, 111 THAYER  
Registration Required

**Reading Across Borders: Afghans, Iranians and Literary Nationalism**  
A Book Talk  
AUTHOR: **Arfa Fani**  
Associate Professor, Program and Center Studies, University of Maryland, College Park  
HOSTS AND COMMENTATORS:  
**Faiz Ahmed**  
**Shahzad Bashir**  
**Michelle Quay**  
TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024 | 4:30-6:00 p.m.  
MCKINNEY CONFERENCE ROOM 253, 111 THAYER

**A CREATIVE WORKSHOP: Unveiling the Art of Ebru - The Turkish Art of Marbling**  
WITH **ALEV BÖWEN**  
ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND JOIN US FOR A FUN HANDS-ON PAPER MARBLING EXPERIENCE.  
Ebru, the Turkish art of marbling, is a captivating process that involves sprinkling and brushing colored pigments on a pan of oily water, and then transferring these vibrant patterns onto paper.  
NOVEMBER 10, 2023  
12:00 NOON - 2:00 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 253  
111 ANGELL ST.

**Zionism at the Crossroads: American Jewish Communities, the Destruction of Gaza, and the Future of Israel-Palestine**  
**A Conversation with Peter Beinart**  
Newark Graduate School of Journalism, City University of New York  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024 | 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.  
BROWN FACULTY CLUB  
with Brown Faculty  
**Nadje Al-Ali**, Director, Center for Middle East Studies  
**Katherine Orlin**, Arabic Studies and Middle East Studies  
**Paul S. Shabara**, Religious Studies

**The Inconvertible: Or, How to Think About Race in Middle East Studies**  
**Mohamed Amer Meziane**  
Assistant Professor of French and Middle East Studies  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31st 2024 | 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
MCKINNEY CONFERENCE ROOM 253  
WATSON INSTITUTE, 111 THAYER  
Registration Required

**Campus Climate: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**  
A CONVERSATION BETWEEN:  
**Ash Bâli**, Yale Law School

**Persian Poetry Reading Group**  
Beginning in February 2024, join us on Zoom on select Tuesdays for three sessions of reading Persian poetry in the original. Designed for students with background in reading Persian. Open primarily to Brown and Cambridge affiliates.  
Convened by **Dr. Amirreza Mesri** & **Michelle Quay**  
Select Tuesdays | 12-1:00pm EST  
Feb 6 Feb 20  
Feb 13 Feb 27  
5-6:00pm UK Time  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
BROWN  
Center for Language Media

**Center for Middle East Studies COMMUNITY QAHWA**

**Arabic & Persian Calligraphy Workshop**  
With **Dr. Abbas Mousavi**  
Fri March 15th  
12:00 - 2:00pm  
MacMillan 117  
Join us at the Center for Language Studies for a hands-on tutorial in the calligraphy of the Islamic world! Prior knowledge of the alphabet is not required, and all materials will be provided. Lunch will be served.

# TESTIMONIALS

*Middle East Studies 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 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

*CMES is not only one of the most genuine and responsible centers of learning I've been part of on campus, but it has also been intentional in building a wonderful community.*

—ZOE FEDERMAN '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

# ACADEMICS

## SAMPLING OF COURSES

Brown's CMES 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.

Students travel to the Middle East for language study, internship opportunities and research. Meanwhile, scholars, artists and practitioners visit 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.

### The Modern Middle East: Struggles for Power and Justice

**ALEX WINDER**

This introduction to the modern Middle East spans from the 18th century to the present. It focuses on struggles—individual and collective—for power and justice. At times, these struggles overlap, when groups seek to overthrow the existing authority and install a more just one in its place. Other times, they diverge, when groups or individuals seize power for their own interests, or seek justice by reforming the existing order (rather than toppling it). These struggles illuminate the shifting material and ideological conditions within the Middle East over the past three centuries or so: in other words, over what are people struggling, and why? By focusing on struggles for power and justice, this course emphasizes the Middle East as a dynamic region shaped by numerous stakeholders and challengers, rather than a space with an essential or homogenous character.

### Women and Gender in Ancient Religions

**SUSAN HARVEY**

What was religion like for women in the ancient Mediterranean world? What experiences, emotions and constraints characterized women's religious lives? What was public and what was private? What were the family issues involved? How were religions gendered? Were there major differences between religions that included goddesses and priestesses, and those that did not? Were notions of gender fixed or fluid? Could they enable religious freedoms for women? This course explores these and other questions through a consideration of religions Greek, Roman, Jewish and Christian between roughly 500 BCE and 500 CE, with a focus on the Roman Empire.

## Palestine: A Comparative Ethnic Studies Approach

**LOUBNA QUTAMI**

This course examines Palestine and the Palestinians through interdisciplinary ethnic studies' optics and frameworks. The course begins by examining the Palestinian struggle from a historical and geographically contextual lens. It then engages the question of Palestine from an ethnic studies approach, centering theories and ideas on indigenous sovereignty; transnational social movements; racial carcerality; sexual and gender politics; displacement and refugee-hood; and apartheid and international law. The course also examines Palestinian relationships with communities and causes of the global South in the past and present.

## Beyond Kitsch and Colonialism: Islamic Art in the 19th Century

**MARGARET GRAVES**

In the 19th century, the Islamic world and its artistic production in all media—painting, architecture, photography, ceramics, metalwork, printed media—underwent colossal changes. Power shifts between indigenous rulers, colonial forces and the declining Ottoman Empire changed not just political circumstances but also the cultural, economic and technological landscape of the region, as makers adapted to new markets and new means of making art. This course looks at the remarkable and often overlooked art produced in the Middle East and North Africa during the long 19th century, placing it into the social histories of the Islamic world during a century of tumultuous change.

## Ethics and Politics of Intimacy in the Middle East

**MEHRDAD BABADI**

Intimacy is often a synonym for proximate, close relations, connected with the interior and the personal: sexual and romantic relations. It is associated with private embodied life, the realm of psychology, desires and emotions. Intimacy as an analytical concept in social sciences draws on these micro-level (private) meanings, but also introduces macro-level (public) socio-economic, cultural and political dimensions, including power relations. This course explores the ethics and politics of intimacy in contemporary Middle Eastern societies. It examines these transformations in a comparative manner, including various countries, though Iran will be the main geographical focus. The course discusses marriage, family, kinship, gender and sexuality and evaluates the impact of modernity, globalization, capitalism and individualism on shifting notions of romantic love and companionate marriage in Muslim societies.

## Iranian Cinema

**JOAN COPJEC**

The emergence in the 1990s of Iranian cinema onto the world stage caught many by surprise. This cinema has, however, had a long and illustrious history. While attempting to provide an historical survey of these films, the course focuses primarily on those produced in the last two decades. The course pays close attention to cinematic form but will also examine the ways the films intersect with cultural-political events, including the Revolution and the subsequent Islamization of the culture, the institutionalization of the “modesty system” and the alteration of divorce laws.

## Monumentality and Texts in Ancient Egypt

**CHRISTELLE ALVAREZ**

From monumental inscriptions carved inside pyramids to mummy bandages, and from texts meant to be ingested to those intended to be burnt, this course explores the multifaceted world of ancient Egyptian writing, with a particular focus on the hieroglyphic script. The course addresses key themes related to script and writing, including materiality, agency and spatiality, and covers artifacts and monuments from all periods of ancient Egypt. Students are introduced to innovative tools and methods that engage with texts, such as VR immersion and AI-based language programming, while familiarizing themselves with scholarly research and debate.

## Protest and Dissidence in Iran

**MICHELLE QUAY**

The anti-authoritarian Woman, Life, Freedom movement arose as a reaction to protests, incarceration and death in Iran in the fall of 2022. The course discusses historical events such as the 1979 Iranian Revolution and how they still affect Iran's relationship to the West. Through a broad selection of texts, film and art, the course explores topics that include corruption, authoritarianism, multiculturalism, race, social class, religion and gender relations in today's Iranian culture and society.

## Contestations Within Political Islam

**SUVAID YASEEN**

9/11 catapulted figures such as Osama bin Laden as the face of Political Islam. But there is a longer, complex history behind the relationship between Islam, modern politics, and violence. Examining thinkers such as Sayyid Qutb, Hassan Al-Bana, Zaynab Al-Ghazali, Ayatollah Khomeini, Ali Shariati, Murtaza Mutahhari, and Abul Ala Maududi, this seminar will explore the diversity of intellectual and political positions within Political Islam. The course discusses how such figures employed conceptions of state, nationalism, secularism, democracy, law, gender and minority rights to articulate multiple futures for national and global Muslim communities and influenced a variety of popular struggles as well as armed movements. As such, the course thinks through their intellectual, political and hermeneutical departures from more traditionalist understandings as a critique of the modern condition and examines the strengths as well as limitations of their ideas and receptions.

## Rumi and Friends: The World of Sufi Poetry

**SHAHZAD BASHIR**

As exemplified in the renowned work of Jalaluddin Rumi (d. 1274), Sufi Islam has often found its most profound and vibrant expression in poetry. This course traverses the world of aesthetics and thought in Sufi poetry from various periods by concentration on translations from a range of Middle Eastern and Central, South and Southeast Asian languages. Students “slow read” materials in genres that approximate to lyric, narrative, philosophical and didactic poetry. Occasional readings on Sufism, Islam, and poetics will highlight the subtlety of texts and their sociohistorical contexts. Assignments encourage participants' own efforts at composing or translating poetry to deepen understanding and cultivate poetic expression.

# ACADEMICS STUDENTS

## DEPARTMENTAL UNDERGRADUATE GROUP (DUG)

The DUG is run by students concentrating in Middle East studies 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, Dorra Omrani '26 and Sabine Jimenez-Williams '26. 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): Mica Maltzman '25, Dorra Omrani '26, Sabine Jimenez-Williams '26*

Center for Middle East Studies  
Middle East Studies | Fall 2023  
**Undergraduate Paper Series**  
Zoe Federman '23.5  
"Translating Factors: Tugayt"  
Mara Kessler '23.5  
"Investigative Journalism in the Arabic-Speaking World"  
Rita Slaoui '23.5  
"Samira: Arabicki We All Know Me: a Tool to Educate Iranian Audiences on Trade Issues"  
Friday, December 1, 2023  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
Joukowsky Forum, Watson Institute, 111 Thayer  
Refreshments provided

Middle East Studies  
**DUG Meet & Greet**  
Come meet other members of the community and learn about the concentration! The MES DUG is open to all concentrators or possible concentrators. Food will be provided.  
Follow the Instagram:  
@BROWNMESDUG  
Come to our first event!  
March 5, 6-7:30PM @ The Underground  
RSVP Here

Center for Middle East Studies  
2024 MES Senior Paper Presentation Day  
CAPSTONE: Jacob Ehrenkranz, Rita Feder, Pauline Gregory  
THESIS: Maya Avelino, Charles P. Key  
FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2024 | 9:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | JOUKOWSKY FORUM (155), 111 THAYER

# 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 and organized a seminar highlighting presentations by 2023 recipients of the Sams Family Research Travel Grant.

**Adel Ben Bella**, a filmmaker and curator, is pursuing a Ph.D. in modern culture and media at Brown University. He holds a bachelor of arts in Lettres Modernes Spécialisées from Université Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV) and a master of fine arts in film directing from Columbia University. His work revolves around 20th-century colonial and postcolonial Algeria, with a focus on activist and militant visual culture within the context of the Algerian Revolution and Algerian national identity formation.



*Adel Ben Bella*



## Graduate Student Summer Research Presentations

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023 | 12:00 - 1:30 P.M. ET  
MCKINNEY CONFERENCE ROOM | REGISTRATION REQUIRED

**PRESENTERS:**

**Jana Omar Elkhatib**  
Literary Arts

**Sherena Razek**  
Modern Culture and Media

**Ayşe Şanlı**  
Anthropology

**Mairéad Smith**  
Anthropology

**Noah Tetenbaum**  
Religious Studies

# ACADEMICS CLASS OF 2024



## MAYA AVELINO BENCOSME '24

is a double concentrator in Middle East studies and international and public affairs. She is passionate about disability and immigrant justice, and during her time at Brown she has worked with the Disability Justice Student Initiative and various civil rights organizations, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Juvenile Justice Coalition. Maya's thesis centers shifting narratives of criminality and modernization illustrated by crime fiction printed in the 1920s Palestinian legal journal al-Huquq. After graduating from Brown she plans to attend law school to pursue her goal of practicing international human rights law.

### THESIS

Narratives of Criminality and Modernization: Short Stories in the 1920s Palestinian legal journal al-Huquq

## CHARLIE KEY '24

is a double concentrator in Middle East studies and political science. During his time at Brown, Charlie's studies have revolved primarily around early Christian and Islamic history, culminating in the completion of a thesis titled "A Study of Islamic Crucifixion Beliefs (50 - 250 AH)." Additionally, Charlie spent two summers in Amman, Jordan, studying Arabic on a Watson Institute Language Study Grant and writing for the Jordan Times. After graduating, Charlie is returning to the UK to qualify as a lawyer.

### THESIS

'Who Will Join Me in Paradise Today?' - A Study of Islamic Crucifixion Beliefs (50 - 250 AH)



## JACOB EHRENKRANZ '24

is a double concentrator in Middle East studies and economics. At Brown, Jake has spent much time making use of interdisciplinary studies, taking courses across many areas of his two concentrations. A member of Brown's men's rugby team, he balanced this with studies in Arabic as well as numerous entrepreneurial involvements, such as Brown's Innovation Dojo accelerator. Shifting his Middle East studies concentration to an international arena, Jake furthered his studies during a semester abroad in Denmark, learning simultaneously about international business and the lives of Muslims in a European context. After graduation, Jake will be employing his skills in finance, with hopes of pursuing a dynamic career in the Middle East that incorporates both of his concentrations.

### CAPSTONE

Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: The Mischaracterizations of Muslims as a Dangerous Policy Catalyst

## RITA FEDER '24

is a Middle East studies concentrator on the pre-med track. This past year, Rita co-founded BrownU Jews for Ceasefire and has continued her work in forcing Jewish and Israeli communities to reckon with the Israeli occupation. She is currently researching medical school curricula focused on teaching refugee health care to medical school students, and she volunteers as a medical assistant at the Rhode Island Free Clinic. Rita also volunteers with Save a Child's Heart. She is the captain of Brown's Ultimate Frisbee team. After graduation, Rita hopes to travel and work in Jordan as she continues her study of Arabic while applying to medical school.

### CAPSTONE

Responses to Israel Education in U.S. Jewish Day Schools: A Case Study







## PAULINE GREGORY '24

is a concentrator in Middle East studies. During her time at Brown, she has been involved in the classical music community on campus, playing the violin in the Brown University Orchestra and the Applied Music Program for eight semesters, and participating in various chamber music ensembles. Since high school, she has also volunteered at Community Music Works, a local nonprofit organization that provides free music instruction to Providence public school students. As a junior and senior, she was a member of the Environmental Program House, hoping to integrate environmentally conscious practices into everyday life and form a community around shared values. She has focused much of her time on Arabic, studying in Manah, Oman, at an intensive summer Arabic program. After graduation, she hopes to continue her Arabic studies in Jordan and explore a career path focused on human rights advocacy.

### CAPSTONE

Conceptions of the 'Other' in the Early Palestinian Press

## ZOE FEDERMAN '23.5

is a double concentrator in Middle East studies and comparative literature. She has spent much of her time at Brown as a student organizer working to combat Jewish communal support for the Israeli occupation. Zoe has been studying Arabic since she was a freshman and has spent the past year writing a thesis that explores political theories of translation through a multilingual encounter with Rabi Alameddine's "An Unnecessary Woman." After graduating, Zoe plans to earn an MSW and work at a community resource center, with a mind to becoming a psychotherapist specializing in transgender care.

### CAPSTONE

Translating Fadwa Tuqan's *في المدينة الهرمة*



## MARA KESSLER '23.5

is a Middle East studies concentrator on the pre-medical track. During her time at Brown, she served as the co-editor-in-chief and managing editor of the Brown Undergraduate Journal of Middle East Studies. In addition, she volunteered as an emergency medical technician for Brown EMS, worked for CMES, and actively participated in Palestinian activist circles. Her studies at Brown have revolved predominantly around Arabic, leading her to study abroad in Amman, Jordan, for a semester. Mara later returned to Jordan to intern with Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism and conduct research for her capstone project. Upon graduation in December, Mara aspires to pursue a career that merges her passions for human rights advocacy—particularly in relation to Palestine—and health care.

### CAPSTONE

Investigative Journalism in the Arabic-Speaking World

## RITA SLAOU '23.5

is a double concentrator in Middle East studies and history from Casablanca, Morocco. She is passionate about queer and feminist organizing in the region, an interest she has pursued through her classes, research with professors and her Royce Fellowship project to create a collaborative online archive of queer and feminist resistance. At Brown, she was co-editor-in-chief of the Brown Undergraduate Journal of Middle East Studies, and worked as an immigration advocate with the Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice throughout for four years. After graduating from Brown in December, she hopes to attend law school to empower her to advocate for queer and women's rights in the Global South through the law.

### CAPSTONE

Saman Arastoo's 'You All Know Me': A Tool to Educate Iranian Audiences on Trans Issues



# 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

## ALIZAH HOLSTEIN

EVENTS AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR



## VISITING FACULTY

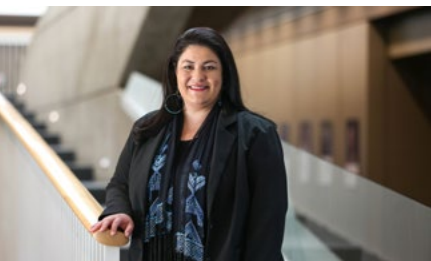
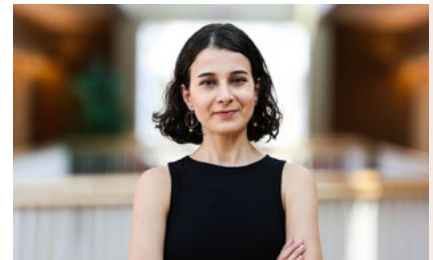
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## MEHRDAD BABADI

OMAR KHAYYAM POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE  
IN IRANIAN STUDIES

## FULYA PINAR

ALOMRAN FAMILY POSTDOCTORAL  
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN MIDDLE EAST STUDIES



## LOUBNA QUTAMI

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN PALESTINIAN STUDIES

# AMITIS MOTEVALLI

VISITING FELLOW IN GENDER, BODY POLITICS AND IRANIAN ART



## STUDENT STAFF

### MARA KESSLER '23.5

STUDENT COORDINATOR



### ERICA HYUNJEE NAM '24

GRAPHIC DESIGNER



### BIANCA ROSEN '25

PALESTINIAN STUDIES STUDENT ASSISTANT



### MUSTAPHA KHARBOUCH '27

STUDENT ASSISTANT



### INARI JADE BARRETT '27

STUDENT ASSISTANT



### SABINE JIMENEZ-WILLIAMS '26

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 among political right movements in the Middle East and Europe.

## 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.

## NITSAN CHOREV

HARMON FAMILY PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY AND INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

International political economy, international trade, global health, foreign aid, technological innovation and development.



## BESHARA DOUMANI

MAHMOUD DARWISH PROFESSOR OF PALESTINIAN STUDIES

Doumani’s research focuses on people, places and time periods marginalized by mainstream scholarship on the Middle East. He also writes on academic freedom, the politics and ethics of knowledge production, and the Palestinian condition. Doumani is editor of the New Directions in Palestinian Studies book series with the University of California Press and co-editor of the Jerusalem Quarterly. He is the founding director of CMES and of the Palestinian Museum.

## NANCY KHALEK

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND HISTORY

In addition to a focus on the formative period of Islamic history, her research interests include the history of emotions, hagiography, biography and historiography in the Byzantine and Islamic worlds, relic and saint veneration, Christian-Muslim dialogue and the relationship of material culture to religious life.



# FACULTY IN 2023-24

**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

**MEHRDAD BABADI**, Omar Khayyam Postdoc. Associate in Iranian Studies

**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**, Classics, Comparative Literature

**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

**MARGARET GRAVES**, History of Art and Architecture

**YANNIS HAMILAKIS**, Archaeology, Modern Greek Studies

**JAE HAN**, Religious Studies, Judaic Studies

**SUSAN 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

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

**ESRA ÖZDEMİR**, Center for Language Studies

**FULYA PINAR**, Alomaran Family Postdoctoral Research Associate, MES

**MICHELLE QUAY**, Center for Language Studies

**LOUBNA QUTAMI**, Middle East Studies

**AMY REMENSNYDER**, History

**RACHEL ROJANSKI**, Judaic Studies

**FELIPE ROJAS SILVA**, Archaeology, Egyptology and Assyriology

**MATTHEW RUTZ**, Egyptology and Assyriology

**KENNETH SACKS**, History

**HOLLY SHAFFER**, History of Art and Architecture

**JOHN STEELE**, Egyptology and Assyriology

**SUZANNE STEWART-STEINBERG**, Comparative Literature, Italian Studies

**SAMEE SULAIMAN**, Anthropology

**NINA TANNENWALD**, Political Science

**ADAM TELLER**, History, Judaic Studies

**PETER VAN DOMMELEN**, Anthropology, Archaeology

**PARKER VANVALKENBURGH**, Anthropology

**ALEX WINDER**, Middle East Studies

**SUVAID YASEEN**, History

**VAZIRA ZAMINDAR**, History

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## INCOMING CMES DIRECTOR 2024-25 ELIAS MUHANNA

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE;  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

Medieval and early modern Islamic history; classical Arabic literature; history of the Arabic language; the problem of the vernacular in various literary and historical contexts; encyclopedic practices in medieval Islamic history.

## SAMS FAMILY RESEARCH TRAVEL AWARD RECIPIENTS | SUMMER 2024

### GRADUATE STUDENTS

**ADEL BEN BELLA** (MODERN CULTURE AND MEDIA)

**ARIF ERBIL** (HISTORY)

**HOSNA SALARI SARDARI** (HISTORY OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE)

**AMELLE ZEROUG** (HISTORY)

**GABRIEL ZUCKERBERG** (MUSIC)

### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT

**ABOUD ASHHAB '25**

## MES CONCENTRATOR INTERNSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

### CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP

**SABINE JIMENEZ-WILLIAMS '26**

**BIANCA ROSEN '25**

**SALMA ELDEEB '26**

# ADVISORY COUNCIL (2023-24)

**AHMAD ABU GHAZALEH P'24, P'26**

**ALI FAROUKI**

**ALIA AL-SENUSSI '03 AM'04**

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

**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**

**HISHAM M. ATTAR '04**

**JAMES K. SAMS '82**

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

**LAYA KHADJAVI '84, P'23**

**LISA SAMS**

**MOSA ALOMRAN P'23 P'26**

**NANCY B. TURCK '68 AM'68**

**NATHALIE F. FARMAN-FARMA '90**

**OMAR MASRI**

**OSSAMA M. EL BATRAN '07**

**RANDY TAKIAN '96**

**RASHA ABU GHAZALEH FAROUKI**

**SAMER M. KHALIDI '90**

**SHIRINE G. AGGAD P'22**

**SIRINE ABU GHAZALEH P'24, P'26**

**TANSA MERMERCİ EKŞİOĞLU '97**

**TAREK O. AGGAD P'22**



## CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

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