2015 MESAAS Graduate Conference

5-6 March, 2015

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

Keynote by Ann Stoler
5-6 March 2015

MESAAS Graduate Conference 2015

Program

Keynote by Ann Stoler

"Raw Cuts / Other Folds: Palestine, Israel and Colonial Studies"

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Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies

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

Session 1 / Sites of the Political

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

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

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

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

Discussant: Kai Kresse
Moderator: Selim Karlitekin
Session 2 / Historiography and Knowledge Formations

Sara Swetzoff
_Perceptions of Arabia and the Horn of Africa Among Medieval Muslim Scholars_

Abhilash Medhi
_Clio on the Margins: Memory and Identity in Early Twentieth-Century Assam_

Larissa Schmid
_Objects of knowledge: North African prisoners of war in Germany during the First World War_

Discussant: Sudipta Kaviraj
Moderator: Vivek Yadav

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

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

Viktoria Ruth Luisa Metschl
_Archival Figurations of Cinematographic Solidarity_

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

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

Session 4 / Modernity and the Reconfiguration of Islamic Knowledges

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

Hasan Azad
Ebrahim College and the Idea of Virtue in Islam

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

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

Discussant: Wael Hallaq
Moderator: Omar Farahat

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

Keynote Session

Introduction: Allison Busch

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

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

Casey Primel

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

Hollian Wint

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

Henny Ziai

*The political technology of debt in Liberian settler colonialism*

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

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

A Roundtable Conversation:

Andrew Ollett

Omar Farahat

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

Session 3 / Troubling Literary History

[T Knox 207]

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

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

Aviv Becher
*When Memorial Poems Don't Mourn*

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

Discussant: Gil Anidjar
Moderator: Max Shmookler

Session 4 / Gender in the Making

[T Knox 208]

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

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

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

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

Discussant: TBA
Moderator: Henny Ziai
Session 5 / Islamic Authority and the Construction of National Identity

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

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

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

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

Discussant: Muhsin al-Musawi
Chair: Ari Schriber

Session 6 / Moral Economy

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

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

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

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

Discussant: Timothy Mitchell
Moderator: Matthew Ghazarian
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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