



Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference on the Middle East, South Asia and Africa

Columbia University, April 15 – 17, 2010

Hosted by the Department of Middle East, South Asian and African Studies (MESAAS)

The discipline that was once called “Oriental Studies” has been divided up in various ways in today’s university. Post-colonial literature has a foothold in the English department, history departments have by and large stopped confusing “European history” with “world history,” and of course the area studies departments with venerable names like Near Eastern Studies or South Asian Languages and Civilizations have taken up an array of new methodologies from other departments. Several universities have begun expanding their African and South Asian studies offerings under the umbrella of “Global Studies.” This conference is concerned not with “the death of the discipline” as so many others have been, but rather with the diversity of the disciplines when it comes to studying the non-Western World.

Join us for student papers, two faculty discussion panels, and a keynote address by Professor Aamir Mufti of UCLA. Coffee, tea and light refreshments will be served at each event.

EVENTS

Thursday, April 15

- 4:10 pm Opening remarks and faculty panel:
Balancing the Humanities and Social Sciences in Area Studies (208 Knox Hall)
- 6:10 pm Student panel: *Literature Crossing Borders*
(963 Schermerhorn Hall)

Friday, April 16

All events in 501 Schermerhorn Hall.

- 9:00 am Breakfast
- 9:30 am Student panel: *The Politics of Religion I*
- 11:00 am Student panel: *Conceptions of Law and Legality*
- 12:20 pm Break for Lunch
- 1:30 pm Student panel: *Area Studies?*
- 3:00 pm Student panel: *South Asia(s)*
- 4:30 pm Student panel: *Building Identities*
- 6:10 pm Keynote address by Prof. Aamir Mufti of UCLA

Saturday, April 17

All events in 501 Schermerhorn Hall.

- 9:00 am Breakfast
- 9:30 am Student panel: *The Politics of Religion II*
- 11:00 am Faculty panel: *Cosmopolitanism and Identities*
- 12:30 pm End of the conference

Please visit <http://www.columbia.edu/~add2115/gradconf> for more information, including panel abstracts, and to register. Registration is optional but suggested for Columbia University affiliates and required for anyone without a Columbia ID.

You can also email us at CUgradconf@gmail.com.

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