



January 2022

Dear colleagues, students and friends of CMES,

As we are about to start the spring semester 2022, I would like to take the opportunity to send my New Year's greetings and wish everyone a healthy, peaceful, and happier year. Once again, we will have to work a bit harder and be more creative to maintain our sense of community given the ongoing, and currently rather acute, challenges linked to Covid.

Just as happened last semester, most of our activities will be on-line although we are planning a number of on-campus activities. We hope to see you there. You will find the list of our upcoming events [here](#). I just would like to highlight a few of them:

I am excited that we will be hosting three internationally acclaimed female Palestinian academics, Professors [Rema Hammami](#), [Ruba Salih](#), and [Noura Erakat](#). They will not only each be giving a public lecture and organizing a workshop but will also visit undergraduate student classes and meet with graduate students.

This coming semester we will be continuing the [Queering the Middle East](#) lecture series and also starting a new joint series with Columbia's Middle East Institute on **Gender & 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 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.

Fingers crossed, CMES will be hosting an end-of-year party with live music on May 9. We will keep you posted.

My best wishes,

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