



2012 / 2013
YEAR IN REVIEW
&
PREVIEW
2013/2014

Letter From the Director

By any measure, 2012-2013 has been a remarkable takeoff year for Middle East Studies at Brown University. Establishing a new unit on campus, critical faculty hires, and robust programming have generated a wave of enthusiasm in the Brown community and attracted national attention. None of this would have been possible without the support of donors and the administration, the enthusiastic participation by faculty and students, and the dedication of the Middle East office staff: Anthony Watson, Associate Director; and Barbara Oberkoetter, the Academic Program Manager.

A year ago I joined Brown University to help build a new kind of area studies program that is agenda, not legacy, driven. Our aim is to integrate knowledge production on the Middle East into the DNA of Brown through thematically driven collaborative initiatives that tap into Brown's tradition of interdisciplinary, critical, and engaged scholarship. Unburdened by the legacy of Oriental studies departments and the Cold-War-conceived Title VI program, Brown is an ideal home for this new model. Its small size and densely inter-connected faculty as well as its reinvigorated Watson Institute for International Studies, give it the kind of intellectual dynamism and agility that few institutions of its stature can match.

This is an opportune moment. The historic rupture of the popular uprisings in Iran, the Arab world, and Turkey over the past few years opens a space for a much-needed re-evaluation of how we study and teach this region. How can we rethink the past? Imagine new futures? And find creative ways to contribute to social justice, economic development, mutual understanding, and democratic political systems?

With the help of superb core faculty who anchored Middle East Studies over the past few years as well as recent critical hires, these questions were addressed in over seventy well-attended activities. These include the lecture series, the luncheon seminar, the undergraduate paper series and several major conferences and public events. This generated a wave of new concentrators (from 16 to 36 by May, 2013), making Middle East Studies the largest concentration by far in area studies.

Next year will be even bigger as we welcome new Assistant Professor in History, Faiz Ahmed; visiting professors Bashir Abu-Manneh, Adi Ophir, and Mohsen Namjoo; and post-doctoral fellows Mayssun Succarie, and Sa'ed Atshan. We will also be adding a film series and organizing major conferences on Oslo, digital humanities, engaged scholarship, the crises in Syria, U.S. and Iran, and new directions in Palestinian Studies.

It is a privilege to work with such a talented and energetic group of faculty and students and we welcome all of you to join us next year and make your voices heard.

Beshara Doumani
Joukowsky Family Professor of Modern Middle East History
Director, Middle East Studies
Faculty Fellow, Watson Institute



Middle East Studies at Brown University

Director of Middle East Studies Beshara Doumani flanked by Associate Director Anthony Watson and Academic Program Manager, Barbara Oberkoetter.

New Faculty in 2012/13



BESHARA DOUMANI

Beshara Doumani joined Brown University in 2012 as the Joukowsky Family Professor of Modern Middle East History. He works on the social history and political economy of the Eastern Mediterranean in Ottoman times with a focus on family, property and law. He also writes on academic freedom and the modern history of the Palestinians. Doumani is Director of Middle East Studies, and a Faculty Fellow at the Watson Institute.



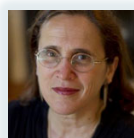
ELIAS MUHANNA

Elias Muhanna, Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, has read, digested, catalogued, and assimilated two million, three hundred thousand words in order to make sense of the 14th-century Arabic text that formed the basis of his doctoral research. It took Muhanna three years to dissect the massive work — a 30-volume encyclopedic compendium entitled *The Ultimate Ambition in the Arts of Erudition* — gaining insight into its author's views on history, geography, zoology, botany, medicine, sex, wine, music, and much more. He was awarded a Ph.D. from Harvard in May 2012 for his dissertation *Encyclopaedism in the Mamluk Period: The Composition of Shihab al-Din al-Nuwayri's "Nihayat al-arab fi funun al-adab"*.

Muhanna describes encyclopedism as "just a fancy name for the obsession with producing these enormous collections of knowledge."

At Brown, Muhanna's principal focus is on classical Arabic literature.

Like those he studies, Muhanna is an avid researcher, writer, and compiler. He is the author of *Qifa Nabki*, a widely read blog on contemporary Lebanese politics, and he writes frequently on political and cultural topics for *The New York Times*, *The Nation*, *The Guardian*, and others.



ARIELLA AZOULAY

Ariella Azoulay joined Brown's affiliated Middle East Studies faculty in January, 2013. A noted expert in visual culture and photography, she is a theorist, film-maker, and curator whose scholarship focuses on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Her work—most recently exploring revolution from the 18th century to the present—has brought her to Brown as an Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Modern Culture and Media.

Azoulay holds a Licence in Cinema and Literature and an M.A. in semiotics from the Université Paris VIII. She earned her D.E.A. from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales and a Ph.D from Tel-Aviv University in the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas.

She has recently published the article "Potential History" in *Critical Inquiry* Vol. 39, No 3, (Spring, 2013), and has another article "Palestine as Symptom, Palestine as Hope: Revising Human Rights Discourse" forthcoming.



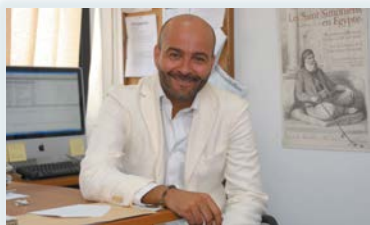
ROBYN CRESWELL

Robyn Creswell, Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, is a critic, translator, and scholar specializing in Arabic literature and comparative modernisms. His dissertation is a historical critique of Arabic modernist poetry, a movement that flourished in Beirut between 1955 and 1975 and which radically redefined the parameters of Arabic poetry.

Among the writers whose work Creswell is particularly drawn to studying is Syrian poet Adonis, a founding member of the modernist magazine *Shi'r* and perennial favorite to win the Nobel Prize in literature. "I find Adonis' poetry very challenging," he said. "I suppose I'm one of those readers who likes difficult texts, who likes trying to figure out puzzles, and Adonis is like that. He's difficult by design. I'm sort of sadomasochistically attracted to that kind of poem, though I have nothing against straightforward poetry — assuming there is such a thing."

Creswell received a B.A. from Brown in 1999 and earned his Ph.D. in comparative literature at New York University in 2011. He published a translation, from French, of Abdelfattah Kilito's novel *The Clash of the Images* (New York: New Directions, 2010), and has written reviews and essays for *Harper's Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *n+1*, and *Modernism/Modernity*. Creswell will continue to serve as the poetry editor for *The Paris Review*, a post he's held since 2010.

2013 Aga Khan Distinguished Visiting Professor of Islamic Humanities



Amr Shalakany is Associate Professor of Law at the American University in Cairo (AUC), where he served as founding director of the LL.M. Degree Program. He holds a joint appointment at the Civil Law Department of Cairo University Faculty of Law, and is a member of the AUC Institute for Gender and Women's Studies. Professor Shalakany teaches in the areas of Comparative Private Law, Islamic Law, and Legal History.

Before joining AUC, Shalakany was the Jeremiah Smith Junior Visiting Assistant Professor at Harvard Law School. Earlier, he served as legal advisor to the PLO Negotiations Support Unit in Ramallah, and taught at Birzeit University where he helped set up the Legal Aid Clinic at the Law Institute.

Professor Shalakany received his Licence en droit and LL.M. degrees from Cairo University Faculty of Law, and LL.M. and S.J.D. degrees from Harvard Law School. He is admitted to the New York Bar.

During a semester of residence at Brown, Shalakany taught an upper level seminar entitled **"Critical Approaches to Islamic Law Reform."** Shalakany also delivered the Aga Khan Lecture as part of the Middle East Studies Lecture Series, titled, **'The First Thing We Do, Let's Kill All the Lawyers: Liberalism and Revolution in Modern Egypt.'**

2013 Aga Khan Distinguished Visiting Professor Workshop

The inaugural workshop on **"Law and the Arts in the Middle East Today,"** the first in a three-year series, took place at Brown University on May 3rd and 4th, 2013. This launched a multiyear, interdisciplinary research project to identify and develop connections between theories and practices within the law and within the arts, and locate sites for informed intervention within these realms.

This research project is supported by Brown University's Middle East Studies Program, Cornell University's Clarke Initiative for Law and Development in the Middle East and North Africa, and Harvard University's Institute for Global Law and Policy.

POST DOCTORAL FELLOWS



LINDA QUIQUIX

Linda is an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Critical Global Humanities at Brown's Cogut Center for the Humanities. Her work critically examines the construction of maps and borders.

Of central interest to her is how people struggling for autonomy from a regime, nation-state, or other powerful social system contest dominant spatial arrangements and create new ones. She took her doctorate in geography

from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2012.



ASSEM ABU HATAB

Assem is a researcher in the Department of Economics at the Swedish University of Agricultural Science in Uppsala. He is also a Lecturer of Economics & Rural Development at Suez Canal University in Egypt. His research interests revolve predominantly around international food and agricultural trade and trade policy, and food consumption and

production and their linkages to food security. Capturing the role of global food price inflation in the political unrest of 2011 in North Africa has recently become a strong dimension in his research agenda.

He completed his PhD in Economics at Northwest A&F University in China in 2011. He worked previously assistant researcher in the Chinese Center for Agricultural Policy, and a visiting scholar at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences UMB, Corvinus University in Budapest, and Brown University. In 2013 Assem was awarded the Distinguished Scholar Award by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social development.

FACULTY UPDATES 2012/13

Visiting Assistant Professor of History **Shiva Balaghi's** article "Covering Iran's Ninjas" appeared in *Mediating the Arab Uprisings*, edited by Adel Iskander and Bassam Haddad. Another article, "Silenced Histories and Sanitized Autobiographies: The 1953 CIA Coup in Iran," was published in the journal *Biography*. She was part of the Focus Group consulting on the new collection for Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, and presented a chapter of her forthcoming manuscript *Power, Culture, and Knowledge in Iran* at a workshop at the University of Hawaii. She also gave a lecture on "Masculinity in Contemporary Iranian Art" at LACMA, and published an essay on "Islam, the West, and the Arts in Iran" for the catalog *Long Live Free Art* published by Art Talks in Cairo.

Palmira Brummett, visiting professor of History, presented a paper entitled "A Typology of Turning," at the "*Lure of the Other: Conversion and Reversion in the Early Modern Mediterranean*" symposium, St. Mary's University College, London, June 2013. She published "A Young Man's Fancy Turns to 'Love'?: The Traveler's Eye and the Narration of Women in Ottoman Space (or The European Male 'Meets' the Ottoman Female, 16th-18th C.)," with Katherine Thompson Newell, *Journal of Ottoman Studies / Osmanlı Araştırmaları Dergisi* 40:193-220, In Honor of Thomas Goodrich., 2012. She also published "Ottoman Expansion in Europe, 1453-1606," in Kate Fleet and Suraiya Faroqhi, eds. *Cambridge History of Turkey*, v. 2 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012)

Associate Professor of Political Science **Melani Cammett** received a Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowship to spend the 2013-2014 academic year at Harvard School of Public Health for a

new project on primary health care in the Arab world. Her new book, *Compassionate Communalism: Welfare and Sectarianism in Lebanon* (Cornell University Press) will be published in spring 2014, and she recently co-authored (with Ishac Diwan) the epilogue to the revised 3rd edition of *A Political Economy of the Middle East*. Cammett and Diwan are currently working on the 4th edition of the book to be released next year. She also recently published "*The Political Economy of Development in the Middle East*." In Ellen Lust, ed., *The Middle East*, 13th ed. (CQ Press, 2013), among other publications.

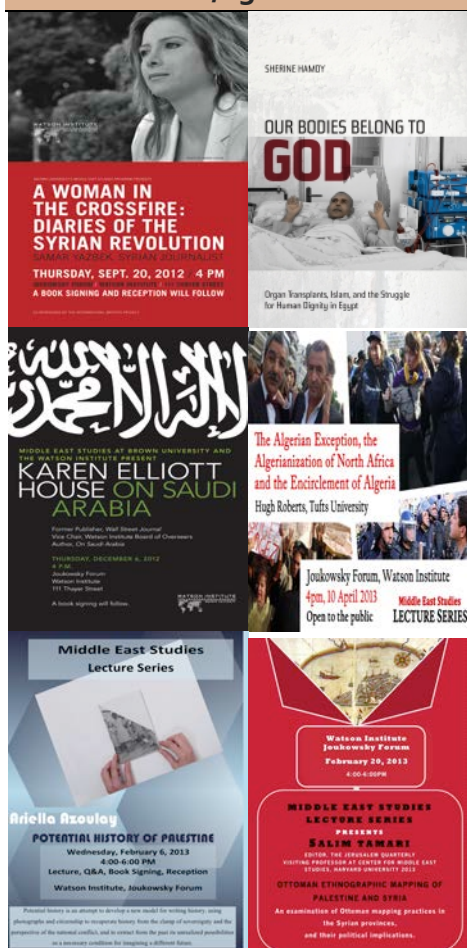
Sherine Hamdy, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, was awarded a prestigious Greenwall Foundation Scholarship for Bioethics and a Pembroke Seed Grant from Brown. She continues to work on a project "Doctors of the Revolution" on the role of medics in Egypt's political uprisings, with co-author Soha Bayoumi of Harvard University (Department of History of Science). She had two article publications this year: "Not Quite Dead: Why Egyptian Doctors Refuse the Diagnosis of Death by Neurological Criteria" in the *Journal of Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*, and "Political Challenges to Biomedical Universalism" in *Medical Anthropology*. She has been giving talks about her research on Islam and Bioethics: this year in Qatar, Abu-Dhabi, New York, Washington, Notre Dame, Paris, Chicago, Baltimore, Tunis, San Francisco. Her book *Our Bodies Belong to God: Organ Transplants, Islam, and the Struggle for Human Dignity in Egypt*, is being translated into Arabic by Professor Muhammad Sharkawi (former Arabic instructor at Brown).

Ömür Harmanşah, Assistant Professor of Archaeology and Egyptology and Ancient Western Asian Studies, has a new book out from Cambridge University Press, titled *Cities and the Shaping of Memory in the Ancient Near East*. This book investigates the founding and building of cities in the ancient Near East. The creation of new cities was imagined as an ideological project or a divine intervention in the political narratives and mythologies of Near Eastern cultures, often masking the complex processes behind the social production of urban space. This volume combs through archaeological, epigraphic, visual, architectural, and environmental evidence to tell the story of a region from the perspective of its spatial practices, landscape history, and architectural technologies. It argues that the cultural processes of the making of urban spaces shape collective memory and identity as well as sites of political performance and state spectacle.

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies **Nancy Khalek's** *Damascus After the Muslim Conquest: Text and Image in Early Islam* (Oxford University Press, 2012), was recognized by the American Academy of Religion as a Top Five finalist for Best First Book in the History of Religion. She was also recognized with a Richard B. Soloman award by Brown University.

The translation by Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature **Robyn Creswell** of Sonallah Ibrahim's *That Smell and Notes from Prison* was published by New Directions this past spring. In March, the New York Public Library hosted a conversation about the novel between Creswell and Adam Shatz, a journalist at the London Review of Books, in March.

EVENTS 2012/13



LECTURE SERIES

20-Sept. 2012: Samar Yazbek, Syrian dissident writer and journalist, discussed her book *Woman in the Crossfire: Diaries of the Syrian Revolution*.

5-Nov. 2012: Sherine Hamdy, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Kutayba Alghanim Professor of Social Science at Brown, discussed her book *Our Bodies Belong to God: Organ Transplants, Islam, and the Struggle for Human Dignity in Egypt*.

6-Dec. 2012: Karen Elliott House, member of the Watson Institute board of overseers, discussed her book *On Saudi Arabia: Its People, Past, Religion, Fault Lines -- and Future*.

6-Feb. 2013: Ariella Azoulay, Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Modern Culture and Media at Brown University. "Potential History of Palestine."

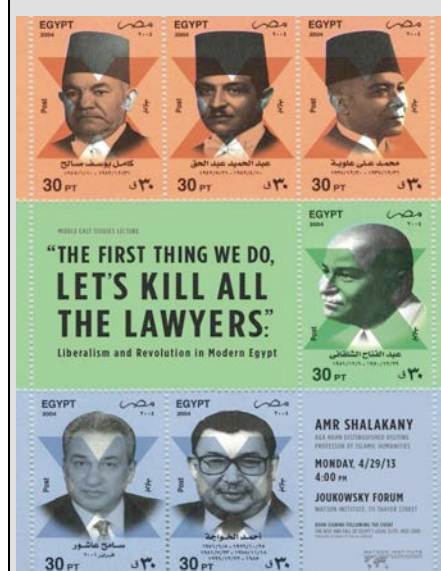
20-Feb. 2013: Salim Tamari, Editor of The Jerusalem Quarterly, 2013 Visiting Professor at the Center for Middle East

Studies, Harvard University. "Ottoman Ethnographic Mapping of Palestine and Syria."

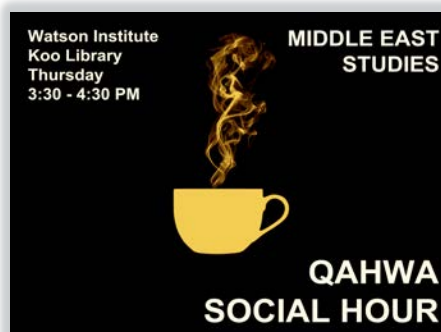
1-Apr. 2013: Dana Yahalomi, Public Movement Leader. "SALONS: Birthright Palestine?"

10-Apr-13: Hugh Roberts, Edward Keller Professor of North African and Middle Eastern History at Tufts University. "The Algerian exception, the Algerianization of North Africa and the Encirclement of Algeria."

AGA KHAN DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR OF ISLAMIC HUMANITIES



Amr Shalakany, 2013 Aga Khan Distinguished Visiting Professor, delivered a lecture entitled, "The First Thing We Do, Let's Kill All the Lawyers: Liberalism and Revolution in Modern Egypt."



LUNCHEON SEMINARS

COMMUNITY-BUILDING EVENTS

Designed to foster an intimate and interdisciplinary community of knowledge, the *Luncheon Seminar* features informal talks by Brown affiliated scholars about their current projects. The focus is on discussion and exchange of ideas between faculty, visiting scholars, post-docs, and graduate students.

LUNCHEON SEMINARS

17-Oct. 2012: Linda Quiquix, Postdoctoral Fellow in Critical Global Humanities, Cogut Center, Brown University. "The Cartographic Conquest of Palestine."

30-Jan. 2013: Nukhet Sandal, Postdoctoral Fellow in International Studies, Watson Institute, Brown University. "Public Theologies of Citizenship in the Middle East: Revisiting the Turkish Model."

27-Feb. 2013: Katharina Galor, Visiting Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies, Brown University. "Jerusalem's Archaeopolitics."

3-Apr. 2013: Parmenion Papamichos Chronakis, Visiting Assistant Professor of History, Brown University. "Revisiting the late Ottoman bourgeoisie. The entrepreneurs of Salonica in the Second Constitutional Period, 1908-1912."

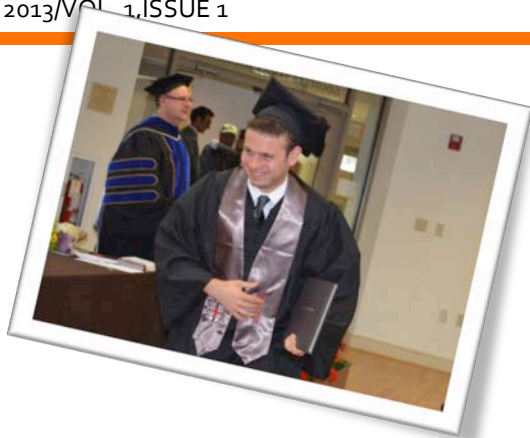
24-Apr. 2013: Palmira Brummett, Visiting Professor of History, Brown University. "The Adriatic as an Ottoman Zone: Sovereignty, Cartography, and Cultural Flows in the Early Modern Era."

16-May 2013: Brown University, Watson Institute Visiting Research Fellow Assem Abu Hatab. "Food Price Inflation & Political Unrest: A Case Study of the Arab Spring in Egypt".

UNDERGRADUATES 2012/13



Rahel Dette '13 and Linda Quiquix, Postdoctoral Fellow in Critical Global Humanities, Cogut Center, at West-Eastern Divan panel event, Jan. 25, 2013



SARAH FORMAN '13, Winner 2013 Undergraduate Student Prize:

"Because more and more students are now concentrating in MES — or even just adding significant MES coursework to their other concentrations — I've had plenty of new chances to hear from my peers about their individual ways of engaging with the region. That "cross-pollination" has let me expand and challenge my understanding of the concentration, and been very eye opening.

Similarly, the bevy of outside lecturers and co-sponsored programs within other departments has exposed me to new ways of studying and working with the Middle East and North Africa."

FACTS

150% increase in Concentrators

36 concentrators make for a 150% increase over the prior year. 13 seniors graduated, two with Honors.

2013 GRADUATING MES SENIORS

Jonathan D. Bateman
Laura E. Curlin
Rahel K. Dette
Sarah L. Forman
Benjamin Zvi Kamm
Sureya M. Koprulu
Meghana R. Koushik
Ezra P. Mauer
Yasmin Or
Samier Saeed
Harry B. Samuels
Andrew J. White
Daniel L. Wilkofsky

3 Brown Students admitted to CASA 2013

UNDERGRADUATE PAPER SERIES 2013



Katherine Long '14:

"Presenting my own paper...affirmed to me that the research I was completing was interesting and relevant...I tell my friends at other schools about this paper series and they are jealous."

March 5 - "Islamism: Threatening or Threatened?" Andrew White '13 & Meghan Koushik '13

March 14 - "Yemen: the Politics of Social Welfare." Ayane Ezaki '13.5

March 21 - "Iran: Gender, Politics and Social Media." Nasim Azizgolshani '14 & Katherine Long '14

April 4 - "Art & Revolution." Spencer Parson '13, Aly Abouzeid '14

April 11 - "Actors in the Transnational Public Sphere: Creating, Riding, or Bypassing the Wave?" Julia Ellis-Kahana '13 & Sarah Forman '13

April 17 - "P.S. Tunisia: Personal Stories from a Revolution and its Aftermath." Rahel Dette '13, Watson Institute 2012 Inaugural Marla Ruzicka International Public Service Fellow

April 18 - "Crusading as an Act of Love" Patrick Meehan '13

April 25 - "Lost in Translation: Arabic in Poetry and Research." Jonathan Bateman '13 & Kyle Winter-Stoner '13

Other Events in 2012/13

25-Oct. 25, 2012

Reception to launch the Middle East Studies initiative

Middle East Studies celebrated the launch of its new initiative and introduced its staff at a reception at the Watson Institute.

The event included live music by Iranian musician, Mohsen Zayenouri.

14-Dec. 2012

Reception to celebrate **Nihad Sirees**, 2013 PEN award recipient

25-Jan. 2013

Maestro Daniel Barenboim and the West Eastern Divan Orchestra.

Panel discussion, reception, and entertainment
*see page 8

22/23-Feb., 2013

Engaged Scholarship Workshop

Knowledge Production, Ethics, Solidarity: Stories from the field. * see page 8

15-Mar. 2013

Adonis - Reception and dinner in honor of famed Syrian poet.

May 3/4, 2013

Aga Khan Distinguished Visiting Professor in Islamic Humanities Workshop.

Amr Shalakany. "Law, Art and Revolution in the Middle East."

7-May, 2013

MES Year-End Celebration Reception

26-May, 2013

MES Undergraduate Diploma Ceremony and Reception

May 17/18, 2013

MES Digital Workshop – PROSOP, a social networking tool of the past.

12/13-Mar., 2013

Urgent Witness Event

Organized by the IWP (International Writers' Project,) a reading by and conversation with the famed Syrian poet, **Adonis**.

Poetics without borders – Communicating sensibility in times of change. **Adonis**, Robyn Creswell, Mehrangiz Kar, Shahriar Mondanipour, Nihad Sirees. Organized by IWP.

5-Apr. 2013

Remi Kanazi, acclaimed poet, writer, and activist invited to speak at Brown University by BSJP (Brown Students for Justice in Palestine.)

5-Apr., 2013

Art and War in Iraq Symposium

Organized by the David Winton Bell Gallery, Brown University, included Wafaa Bilal, Daniel Heyman, Meir Wigoder, Susanne Slavick, Rijin Sahakian, and Nada Shabout.

11-Apr., 2013

An evening of **Poetry and Music** organized by Persian Language Lecturer Iraj Anvar.

18-Apr., 2013

Lital Levy, Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at Princeton University, organized by Chana Morgenstern, graduate student in Comparative Literature.

Lateral exchanges: Comparative approaches to non-western literary modernities.

19-Apr., 2013

Lital Levy, Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at Princeton University, organized by Chana Morgenstern, graduate student in Comparative Literature.

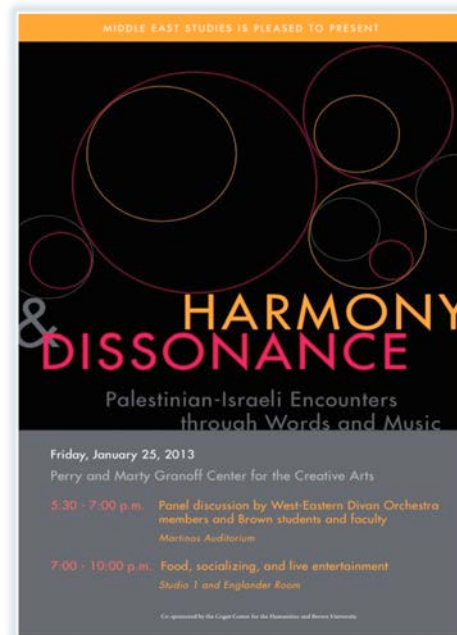
Master Seminar - The Nahda and the Haskala: Comparing "Revival" and "Reform" in Arabic and Hebrew Modernity.

22-Apr., 2013

Guest speaker **Ayşe Ozil**, post-doctoral fellow at the Center for Hellenic Studies, Princeton University, on "Non-Muslim communal property ownership from the late Ottoman empire to republican Turkey." Organized by Modern Greek Studies at Brown.

25-Apr., 2013

Dr. Marwan Muasher, vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment, on "The Arab Awakening: Two years on." Organized by Brown's Arab Society.



Daniel Barenboim and the West Eastern Divan Orchestra
January 25, 2013



PROSOP Workshop – a social networking tool of the past
May 17/18, 2013

CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

2-Nov., 2012,

Rami George Khouri spoke to "Can the Arab Uprisings Foster Arab-Israeli Peace? Unraveling the Hidden Causes and Consequences." Organized by student group, Common Ground: Justice in Palestine: Israel, and Middle East Studies.

Engaged Scholarship Workshop

Knowledge Production, Ethics, Solidarity: Stories from the field.

22/23-Feb., 2013

Hosted by the Middle East Studies Initiative at Brown University, this closed workshop, 'Knowledge Production, Ethics, Solidarity: Stories from the field,' was the first annual workshop hosted by the Middle East Studies Initiative around the general theme of 'The Politics and Ethics of Knowledge Production.' The aim was to generate a critical conversation among scholars from across the disciplines and area studies around the question of what it means to put intellectual work in the service of emancipatory politics, broadly defined.

Attendance was by invitation only, the aim being to keep attendance relatively low in order to promote in-depth, productive discussion. Knowledge production invariably involves a myriad of political and ethical questions. For those scholars committed to emancipatory aims, perhaps the two most important questions are: *What* constitutes emancipatory politics? And *who* gets to define them? This workshop critically examined how academic practices in the field are in tension with emancipatory engagements and how bottom-up moral and ethical issues can be made legible.



"Dissonance & Harmony: The Arab-Israeli conflict through Music and Academic discourse"

Barenboim and the West Eastern Divan Orchestra

25-Jan., 2013

Barenboim and the West Eastern Divan Orchestra's week-long residency at Brown University was hosted by the *Cogut Center for the Humanities*. WEDO was founded in 1999 by maestro Barenboim and the late scholar Edward Said to enable intercultural dialogue and to promote the experience of collaborating as a matter of common interest. WEDO comprises 100 musicians from Israel, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, Jordan and Spain. Brown's Middle East Studies initiative sponsored and organized the second of two **Campus Conversations** entitled **"Dissonance & Harmony: The Arab-Israeli conflict through Music and Academic discourse"** on January 25th at the Granoff Center for the Creative Arts between Brown students and faculty on the one hand and members of the orchestra on the other. This was followed by an unexpected and impromptu performance by members of the West Eastern Divan orchestra led by concert master Michael Barenboim playing the 1st movement of the Mendelssohn octet.

The evening was rounded off by good food and jazz music.

The well-attended event was free and open to the Brown community.



Rahel Dette '13 and Linda Quiquix, Postdoctoral Fellow in Critical Global Humanities, Cogut Center, at West-Eastern Divan panel event, Jan. 25, 2013



Appreciative audience at the Granoff Center for the Creative Arts



Michael Steinberg, Director, Cogut Center for the Humanities; Mariam Said, widow of the late Edward Said; Beshara Doumani, Director, Middle East Studies

NEW in 2013 - 2014**VISITING PROFESSORS**

**BASHIR
ABU-MANNEH**

Bashir Abu-Manneh joins the Brown University Comparative Literature and Middle East Studies faculties in an adjunct capacity in 2013. A scholar of literatures of the Middle East, Marxist and Postcolonial Literary and Cultural Theory, Abu Manneh most recently held a position at Barnard College at Columbia. His current project is on the aesthetics and politics of the modern Palestinian novel, a topic that fits very well with the After Oslo programming theme that will be undertaken by Middle East Studies in the 2013-2014 academic year. The author of *Fiction of the New Statesman*, 1913-1939 (Delaware, 2011) and numerous articles, Dr. Abu Manneh holds a D.Phil. in English Literature from Oxford University, an MA from the University of Warwick, and a BA from the University of Haifa.



FAIZ AHMED

Faiz Ahmed, Assistant Professor in Middle East Studies in the History Department, is a specialist on modern Islamic legal history. His primary research focuses on the "socio-legal" history of the Ottoman Empire, Iran, and Afghanistan, with particular attention to students, scholars, and constitutional movements in the long nineteenth century. In addition to his historical inquiries in law, education and transnational scholarly ('ulamā') networks, Ahmed occasionally publishes on contemporary affairs in

Afghanistan and U.S.-Mideast relations. Earning his Ph.D. in History from the University of California, Berkeley in 2013, he also holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of California's Hastings College of Law.



MOHSEN NAMJOO

Namjoo is an Iranian artist, songwriter, singer, music scholar and setar player who will be in residence at Brown in 2014. His unique music style resembles a patchwork of Persian classical poetry, with western music, namely rock, blues, and jazz.

Hailed as "the Bob Dylan of Iran" by the *New York Times*, Mohsen Namjoo is a visionary artist who speaks for and touches the souls of today's youth. Seamlessly blending the Classical with the Modern, the ancient with the current, Mohsen Namjoo is a true musical maverick.



MAYSSUN SUCCARIE

Mayssun Succarie joins Middle East Studies as the inaugural Cogut Postdoctoral Fellow in International Humanities and Modern Arab Culture and Society. Succarie is an ideal candidate for the post, which

has an emphasis on social movements and youth culture in a global context. She has extensive ethnographic field experience in Lebanon, Jordan, the Gulf States, Iraq, and Egypt. Her work examines the flow of ideas between global centers of power and capital through the Arab region, with a particular critical emphasis on the construction and transformation of neoliberal ideology and power. She has served as a postdoctoral fellow at Columbia University, and is a visiting assistant professor at American University of Cairo, American University of Beirut. She holds a PhD in Anthropology and Education from University of California, Berkeley, and an MA and BA from the American University of Beirut.



SA'ED ATSHAN

Sa'ed Atshan, Watson Institute Post Doctoral Fellow, is a Joint PhD Candidate in Anthropology and Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University where he is a Soros Fellow and National Science Foundation Fellow. He received an MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in 2008. His doctoral research is on the politics of international aid provision in the Palestinian Territories.

Atshan has worked for the American Civil Liberties Union, the UN High Commission on Refugees, Human Rights Watch, Seeds of Peace, the Palestinian Negotiations Affairs Department, and the Government of Dubai. He is a member of Al-Qaws, an organization promoting LGBTQ rights for Palestinians in Israel and the Occupied Territories.

Preview of Middle East Studies Events 2013 - 2014

Our programming reflects the passions of our faculty and students, and addresses key thematic issues of interest to the Brown community and beyond. In planning our lectures, conferences, workshops, and major public events, our aim is not simply to insert expert opinion into public debates, but to question how these debates are framed and to suggest innovative lines of inquiry grounded in intimate knowledge of the region.

In 2012-2013, we introduced the **Lecture Series**, the **Luncheon Seminar**, and the **Undergraduate Paper Series**. Starting the Fall 2013 semester, we are adding a **Film Series**, beginning with the theme "Love in the City: Urban Lives in the Middle East." The poignant stories and rich imagery delve into the intimacy and texture of everyday life in ways that only film can deliver.

2013 is the 20th anniversary of the famous handshake on the White House lawn that inaugurated the Oslo Peace Process. A year-long series of events, "**Oslo is Dead; Long Live Oslo**," asks: How did this process come about? Where is it going? And what actually changed on the ground? Hanan Ashrawi opens with a major speech "**Process vs. Peace**," followed the next day with the first installment in another new series, **Critical Conversations on Palestine/Israel**. In March 2014, a major conference, **New Directions in Palestinian Studies**, will explore

recent trends under the theme "*Political Economy and the Economy of Politics*."

2013 is also the 60th anniversary of the US-British coup that overthrew the government of Iran and transformed the Middle East. A daylong conference in December, **The U.S., Iran, and the Cold War: Global Perspectives on the 1953 Coup**, rethinks this seminal moment in world history context and explores its impact on U.S. involvement in the region.

The crisis in Syria has been headline news for two years, but little is known about the daily lives and perspectives of most Syrians. **Syria: Beyond Geopolitics**, is a day long conference featuring journalists and scholars who regularly go there and who are experts on public health, political economy, and social movements.

The Fall 2013 semester opens with a major international conference in October on Digital Humanities. The **Conference on Digital Humanities and Islamic & Middle East Studies** is a pioneering event bringing together scholars from around the world who are developing and experimenting with digital methodologies in their study of Middle Eastern history, language, art, culture, and society. The conference is the start of a multi-year initiative that will sponsor regular gatherings, workshops, symposia, and other kinds of research projects, all oriented around the digital Islamic humanities.

The year concludes with three other major events. In February will be the first international conference to be held in the United States on the

famous Turkish poet and activist, **Nazim Hikmet**. Two annual workshops take place in April: The **Aga Khan workshop on Islamic Humanities**, and the **Engaged Scholarship Workshop**. The latter addresses various topics under the theme of the politics and ethics of knowledge production. Last year we discussed lessons from field research. This year, the focus will be on the militarization of knowledge production, and the dilemmas faced by Anthropologists, Archaeologists, and other scholar doing research in conflict zones.

Beshara Doumani
Director, Middle East Studies



Hanan Ashrawi will be speaking
at Brown University on
September 25th, 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS

2013 / 2014



LECTURE SERIES

12-Sept., 2013

Kirk Johnson, founder of the *List Project*, and author. *"To Be a Friend is Fatal: Saving The Iraqis America Left Behind."*

19-Sept. 19, 2013

William Gallois, Senior Lecturer in the History of the Modern Middle East, Exeter University
"Terror and Violence in Early Colonial Algeria"

17-Oct., 2013

Lisa Hajjar, Professor of Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara
"Classified Memories: Trying To Try Terror Suspects Who Were Tortured By The CIA."

31-Oct., 2013

Romano Prodi, former Prime Minister of Italy, Professor-at-Large, Brown University, "European Mediterranean and Middle East Policy."

14-Nov., 2013

Rabab el Mahdi, Associate Professor of Political Science, American University Cairo
"Challenges to Democratization in the Arab Uprisings."

13-Feb., 2014

Elias Khoury, Global Distinguished Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, New York University
Lecture title pending

13-Mar., 2014

Fred Donner, Professor of Near Eastern History, University of Chicago
Lecture title pending

17-Apr., 2014

Lecturer Name pending

LUNCHEON SEMINARS

11-Sept., 2013

Omur Harmansah, Assistant Professor of Archaeology and Egyptology and Ancient Western Asian Studies, Brown University
"Cities and the Archaeology of Place."

9-Oct., 2013

Sa'ed Atshan, Watson Institute Post-Doctoral Fellow, Brown University

"The Geography of International Aid in the Palestinian Territories."

6-Nov., 2013

Kevin DeJesus, Adjunct Professor in Social Sciences, Johnson & Wales University

"Signifying Geographies, Mapping Violent Contestations: The Making of Symbolic Landscapes."

4-Dec., 2013

Faiz Ahmed, Assistant Professor of History, Brown University
"The Šultānīs of Kabul: Ottoman Experts in Afghanistan, 1877-1923."

5-Feb., 2014

Mayssun Succarie, Cogut Postdoctoral Fellow in International Humanities and Modern Arab Culture and Society, Brown University
Title pending.

5-Mar., 2014

Adi Ophir, Visiting Associate Professor, Cogut Center for Humanities, Brown University
"The One State Condition."

2-Apr., 2014

Danya Qato, Graduate Student, Public Health, Brown University
"Pharmaceutical Policy and Patient Safety in the Middle East, North Africa, and the United States: Transnational Lessons and Future Directions."

16-Apr., 2014

Nikolaos Panou, Visiting Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, Brown University
"Against Tobacco: An Eighteenth-Century Controversy."

30-Apr., 2014

Anthony Watson, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Brown University
"Between Pope, Caliph and Il-Khan: Minority Churches in Medieval Persia."

MAJOR EVENTS

25-Sep., 2013

Twenty-Year Anniversary of the Oslo Peace Accord
Hanan Ashrawi, "Process versus Peace"
Salomon 001, 4:00-5:30PM

26-Sep., 2013

Critical Conversations #1
After Oslo: On Israel and Palestine
Panel discussion. 4:00-5:30PM

25/25-Oct., 2013

Digital Humanities and Islamic & Middle East Studies

8-Nov., 2013

SYRIA: Beyond Geopolitics
1:00 - 5:30PM

6-Dec., 2013

1953 - Anniversary of the Iran Revolution - 60 years

7-Dec., 2013

Mohsen Namjoo concert
Grant Center for the 11-Feb., 2014
Nazim Hikmet
On the Turkish Poet and Activist

27-Feb., 2014

Critical Conversations #2
After Oslo: On Israel and Palestine
Panel discussion.
4:00-5:30PM

28-Feb./1-Mar., 2014

New Directions in Palestinian Studies

3-Apr., 2014

Aga Khan Visiting Professor Lecture
5:00-7:00PM
Title pending

4/5-Apr., 2014

Aga Khan Visiting Professor 2-day Workshop

25/26-Apr., 2014

Engaged Scholarship Workshop

FILM SERIES

LOVE AND THE CITY: URBAN LIVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

27-Sept., 2013

ABU DHABI "Sea Shadow"

25-Oct., 2013

BEIRUT "Caramel"

15-Nov., 2013

JERUSALEM "Eyes Wide Open"

13-Dec., 2013

TEHRAN "A Separation"

MORE IN THE SPRING SEMESTER

UNDERGRADUATE PAPER SERIES

08-Oct., 2013

22-Oct., 2013

05-Nov., 2013

19-Nov., 2013

MORE IN THE SPRING SEMESTER

For additional events see www.middleeastbrown.edu



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FACULTY UPDATES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Three poems by lecturer of Arabic **Miled Faiza** were published in the French literary magazine *Siècle 21*, issue n°21, Fall-Winter 2012. The poems were "*Au bord de la terre*" ("On the edge of the world"), "*Interprétation du couchant*" ("An interpretation of absence"), and "*Interprétation de la maison durant l'absence*" ("An interpretation of the house during our absence"). These three poems deal with themes of erotic love and the connection between the body and the intimate space. They were translated from the Arabic by acclaimed French poet Vénus Khoury-Ghata, and were included as part of a special feature on modern Tunisian literature. *Siècle 21* is a bi-annual French magazine edited by a committee of writers including the National Book Award-winning American poet Marilyn Hacker.

Maud Mandel, Associate Professor of Judaic Studies, completed final revisions to her book, *Muslims and Jews in France: History of a Conflict*, which will appear in January 2014 with Princeton University Press and hosted an international conference at Brown on Jewish history and imperialism in which she presented a piece entitled, "What's in a Riot? Tunisian Antisemitism, French Police, and International Jewish Politics in Tunis, June 1952." Mandel is currently working with her two co-editors to publish a volume of the papers presented at the conference. In addition, she was invited to give presentations at the University of Chicago and the University of Michigan and she presented a paper on French Jewish politics at the annual Association for Jewish Studies conference. In 2012-13, Mandel also became Director of the Program in Judaic Studies at Brown.

Anthony Watson, Adjunct Assistant Professor of History, Associate Director Middle East Studies, Brown University, was named to the geographic advisory board of the Syriac Reference Portal (Syriaca.org). He also completed the chapter "The Early Franciscan Mission to Asia as Related in William of Rubruck's *Itinerarium*." In Nirit Ben-Aryeh Debby, Sally Cornelison, and Peter Howard, eds. *Word, Deed, & Image: Mendicants to the World* (Brepols, forthcoming 2015).