

Near Eastern Studies

At Princeton University

Greetings from the Chair!

It is with mixed emotions that I announce the forthcoming retirements at the end of the 2012–13 academic year of three faculty colleagues, **Mark R. Cohen**, **András P. Hámori**, and **Heath W.**



Lowry, who have been members of the department for a combined 106 years. On the one hand, I wish them well as they enter into a new phase of their lives, but on the other, their presence as colleagues, as friends, and as teachers will be sorely missed.

András P. Hámori, Cleveland E. Dodge Professor of Near Eastern Studies, joined the Department of Oriental Studies, the precursor to Near Eastern Studies, on September 1, 1967, but this was not his first affiliation with Near Eastern Studies. András earned his B.A. from Princeton in Oriental Languages and Literature (the precursor to Oriental Studies) in 1961, before earning his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1965. Following two years as an instructor at Brandeis, András returned to Princeton as an assistant professor in Near Eastern Studies. András was promoted to associate professor in 1973 and to professor in 1983. He served as acting chair of the department on several occasions (1977, 1988, and 1991) and as chair from 1997 to 2005. He was also the director of the Program in Near Eastern Studies from July 1, 1999, to September 30, 2002.

While service to the department has been an important aspect of András's professional life, it is his accomplishments as a scholar of classical Arabic literature for

which he is best known. Author of two books and numerous articles, he is widely recognized as one of the leading scholars in his field. His first book, *On the Art of Medieval Arabic Literature* (Princeton University Press, 1974), has been called an “elegantly written” and “pioneering study,” that takes a “serious, consistent, and often exciting critical approach to a body of literature fully deserving of such treatment.” András's second book, *The Composition of Mutanabbī's Panegyrics to Sayf al-Dawla* (Brill, 1992), an “admirable and invaluable contribution,” “provides a detailed and perceptive analysis of [Mutanabbī's] techniques of composition.” His articles cover a variety of topics ranging from classical Arabic and, to a lesser extent, Hebrew poetry and prose, to the *Thousand and One Nights*, and to modern jihadist poetry. He also performed an invaluable service by translating with his wife, Ruth Hamori, Ignaz Goldziher's *Introduction to Islamic Theology and Law* (Princeton University Press, 1981).



Mark R. Cohen, the Khedouri A. Zilkha Professor of Jewish Civilization in the Near East, joined the NES faculty on September 1, 1973, forty years ago. Mark did his undergraduate work at Brandeis University, graduating in 1964, earned masters degrees from Columbia (History 1967) and Jewish Theological Seminary of America (Judaica 1968), was ordained as a rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1970, and received his Ph.D. in Jewish history, also from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, in 1976. After three years as a lecturer in Near Eastern Studies,

Mark was promoted to assistant professor in 1976, associate professor in 1981, and professor in 1987. From 1983 to 1992, he served as the Undergraduate Departmental Representative and from 2003 to 2010 as the Director of Graduate Studies. Outside of NES, Mark served as the Chair of the Committee for Jewish Studies between 1982 and 1995, was the Acting Chair of the Program in Jewish Studies in its first year, 1995–96, and has been a member of the Executive Committee of this Program since 1999. He has also been the director of the Princeton Geniza Project in the Department of Near Eastern Studies, an online database of transcriptions of documents from the Cairo Geniza used by scholars worldwide, since its establishment in 1986.

Author of four books and scores of articles and reviews and editor of another half dozen books, Mark has written on Muslim-Jewish relations, Jewish social and economic history, the structure and functioning of the Jewish community, the Cairo Geniza, and Jewish law and society. His first book, *Jewish Self-Government in Medieval Egypt: The Origins of the Office of Head of the Jews, ca. 1065–1126*, (Princeton University Press, 1980), won the National Jewish Book Award for Jewish history in 1981 and has been described as an “excellent study” that “represents ‘revisionist’ historical writing at its best.” His second book, *Al-Mujtama' al-Yahudi fi Misr al-Islamiyya fi'l-'Usur al-Wusta* (Jewish



Life in Medieval Egypt 641–1382) (Tel Aviv University and The Jewish-Arab Institute at Beit Berl, 1987), written for an Arabic-speaking audience, “provides a concise, clear-cut survey of the subject.” His third

book, *Under Crescent and Cross: The Jews in the Middle Ages* (Princeton University Press, 1994, 2nd revised edition 2008), has been called “a timely and invaluable contribution to the study of medieval Jewish communities” that is “fascinating in detail and provocative in analysis.” His fourth book, *Poverty and Charity in the Jewish Community of Islamic Egypt* (Princeton University Press, 2005), offers “a comparative, theoretically sophisticated discussion of the religious and social aspects of giving and receiving charity in medieval Egypt.” Mention should also be made of two of his edited works, *The Voice of the Poor in the Middle Ages: An Anthology of Documents from the Cairo Geniza* (Princeton University Press, 2005), a companion to *Poverty and Charity*, and *The Autobiography of a Seventeenth-Century Venetian Rabbi: Leon Modena’s Life of Judah* (Princeton University Press, 1988), a volume which is indispensable for anyone dealing with early modern Jewish history.

The quality of Mark’s scholarship led him to be named in 2010 the inaugural winner of Merrimack College’s Goldziher Prize for scholarship that “contributes significantly to understanding, reverence and common moral purpose between Jews and Muslims” and to be elected a member of the American Academy for Jewish Research.

Heath W. Lowry, Atatürk Professor of Ottoman and Modern Turkish Studies and Professor of Near Eastern Studies, arrived at Princeton in the fall of 1993. Introduced to Turkey through two years spent in the Peace Corps (1964–66), Heath graduated from Portland State University in 1968 and earned both his M.A. (1970) and Ph.D. (1977) from UCLA. Prior to his coming to Princeton, Heath was Director of the Istanbul branch of the American Research Institute in Turkey (1972–79), Lecturer in History at Boğaziçi University (1973–80), Research Associate at Dumbarton Oaks (1979–82), Director of the Institute of Turkish Studies (1983–93), Visiting Professor of History at George Washington University (1984–85), Course Chairperson of the Advanced Area Studies Program on Turkey, Greece, and Cyprus, National Foreign Affairs Training center, U.S. Department of State (1989–94), and Adjunct Professor at the School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University (1991–93). While at Princeton, he served as the Chair

of the Department of Near Eastern Studies (1994–97), Director of the Program in Near Eastern Studies (1994–99), and Director of the M. Münir Ertegün Foundation for Turkish Studies (1994–97). He received an honorary doctorate from the Faculty of Sciences and Letters, Boğaziçi University in 1985, was the recipient of the TÜTAV (Foundation for the Promotion and Recognition of Turkey) Prize in 1986, was made a Corresponding Member of the Turkish Historical Society in 1988, and was a Senior Fulbright Research Scholar at Bilkent University, Ankara in 2000–2001. Since 2010 he has been a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul. He is also an editor and co-founder of one of the leading journals in Ottoman studies, *Osmanlı Araştırmaları=The Journal of Ottoman Studies*.

Heath’s scholarly interests are wide-ranging and include urban history, early Ottoman history, social and economic history, the Ottoman Balkans, the Evrenos dynasty, Ottoman architecture, charity and waqfs, travel accounts, Mehmet Ali of Kavala, the Armenian Question, late Ottoman and early Republican Turkish history, the history of the Turkish studies in North America, and contemporary Turkish politics. He has written twenty books, many of which have been translated into Turkish, and edited three others. Space prevents me from listing all of Heath’s works, but a sample of his recent publications include: Clarence K. Streit’s *The Unknown Turks: Mustafa Kemal Paşa, Nationalist Ankara & Daily Life in Anatolia, January–March 1921* (Bahçeşehir University Press, 2011); *Remembering One’s Roots: Mehmed Ali Paşa of Egypt’s Links to the Macedonian Town of Kavala: Architectural Monuments, Inscriptions & Documents* (Bahçeşehir University Press and The Mohamed Ali Institute, 2011); *The Islamization and Turkification of the City of Trabzon (Trebizond), 1461–1583* (Isis Press, 2009); *The Evrenos Dynasty of Yenice Vardar (Giannitsa)* (*Journal of Ottoman Studies*, 2008); *The Shaping of the Ottoman Balkans, 1350–1550: The Conquest, Settlement & Infrastructural Development of Northern Greece* (Bahçeşehir University



Publications, 2008); *The Nature of the Early Ottoman State* (State University of New York Press, 2003), in which Lowry presents the case for “thinking in terms of a new paradigm for early Ottoman history”; *Ottoman Bursa in Travel Accounts* (Indiana University Ottoman and Modern Turkish Studies Publications, 2003); and *Fifteenth Century Ottoman Realities: Christian Peasant Life on the Aegean Island of Limnos* (Eren, 2002).

As is clear from the scholarly accomplishments of Andrés, Mark, and Heath, they will be difficult to replace. However, life in the department must go on, and the process of filling their positions begins this year with a job search for a senior scholar in classical Arabic literature.

Please join me in thanking Andrés, Mark, and Heath for their many years of service to Near Eastern Studies, and in wishing them the best in the years ahead.

M. Şükrü Hanioglu
Chairman of the Department
Director of the Program in NES

New Faces

Liora Halperin

Liora Halperin joined the Department of Near Eastern Studies in September 2012 as an Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Judaic Studies. She completed her dissertation, “Babel in Zion: The Politics of Language Diversity in Jewish Palestine, 1918–1948,” in History at UCLA in 2011 and then spent the 2011–12 academic year as the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Postdoctoral Associate in Judaic Studies at Yale University. Her research interests are the history of Israel/Palestine, modern Jewish History, modern Middle Eastern history, cultural history, language ideology and policy, urban studies, and national memory and the creation of national and state archives. Her published articles include “Other Tongues: The Place of Foreign Language in Hebrew Culture” in Bruno De Nicola, Yonatan Mendel, and Husain Qutbuddin (eds.), *Reflections on*



Knowledge and Language in Middle Eastern Societies (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2010) and "Orienting Language: Reflections on the Study of Arabic in the Yishuv," *Jewish Quarterly Review* 96 (2006). In Fall 2012 she taught "History of Palestine/Israel: Nationalism, Politics, Culture" and "Tel Aviv: Urban History and Culture," and in Spring 2013 she will teach "Introduction to Jewish History: Museums and Memory" and "Imagining Diasporas and Homelands." She is a member of the Executive Committee of the Program in Judaic Studies.

Nizar F. Hermes

Nizar F. Hermes joined Near Eastern Studies as a lecturer in Arabic in September 2012. He had previously taught at the University of Toronto. He completed his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto. A revised version of his dissertation, *The [European] Other in Medieval Arabic Literature and Culture: Ninth-Twelfth Century AD*, appeared in Palgrave's New Middle Ages Series in April 2012, and, among other publications, he has a book chapter, "The Orient's Medieval 'Orient(alism)': The *Rihla* of Sulayman al-Tajir as a Case Study," in *Orientalism Revisited: Art, Land, and Voyage*, ed. Professor Ian R. Netton (Routledge, 2012). Among his research interests are the images of Europeans in medieval, early modern, and modern Arabic writings, cross-literary and cultural influences between the Arab-Islamic world and the West from the Middle Ages to modern times, and the comparative and interdisciplinary exploration of the poetics and politics of utopian and dystopian narratives in pre-modern and modern Arabic literature and culture. His current major creative project is entitled "Al-Ḥajju ila Madāfin al-Nisyān" (Pilgrimage to the Graveyards of Forgetfulness). Hermes taught "Intensive Elementary Arabic I" and "Intermediate Arabic I" in the fall semester and will be teaching "Intensive Elementary Arabic I" and "Intermediate Arabic I" in the spring.



Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies Established

Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani '74 and **Sharmin Mossavar-Rahmani '80** have given Princeton University a \$10 million gift to establish the **Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies** in order "to provide a comprehensive interdisciplinary approach to understanding Iran and the Persian Gulf, with special attention to the region's significance for the contemporary world." Both Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani and Sharmin Mossavar-Rahmani majored in economics at Princeton while also earning certificates in Near Eastern Studies.

The Mossavar-Rahmani Center will serve as a hub of interdisciplinary scholarship, connecting faculty, students, and departments throughout the university and building upon the foundation of the Pahlavi Fund established at Princeton in 1969 to promote understanding of Iranian society and culture. The Center's director will be a tenured professor at the university. The Center will host visiting scholars, support Iranian-American students as well as students from Iran and the Persian Gulf, sponsor conferences, lectures, and concerts, and offer grants for faculty and students to travel and study abroad.



Bijan and Sharmin Mossavar-Rahmani. (Photo by Steve Freeman; courtesy of the Office of Development Communications)

In making the gift, Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani noted that "Princeton and Iran go back more than a century. Howard C. Baskerville, Class of 1907, went to Iran as an English teacher and died fighting alongside his students in a short-lived quest for constitutional democracy. He is still revered by Iranians who remember also the Princeton connection—a connection that drew me to this University more than 40 years ago." Sharmin Mossavar-Rahmani

added, "Baskerville is reported to have said that 'the only difference between me and these people is my place of birth, and this is not a big difference.' We hope that through its mission of scholarship and teaching, this center will build on the legacy of Baskerville and that of so many other Princetonians in bringing people and places closer together."

Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani is an oil and gas executive who serves concurrently as chairman and chief executive officer of RAK Petroleum in the United Arab Emirates and executive chairman of Norway's DNO International, and Sharmin Mossavar-Rahmani is chief investment officer of the Private Wealth Management Group at Goldman Sachs. For more: <http://www.princeton.edu/main/news/archive/S35/30/15O69/index.xml?section=topstories>.

Faculty News

Lecturer **Michael Barry** presented a lecture entitled "Royal Symbols: Crowns, Scepters, and Thrones" at the Ismaili Jamatkhana and Center in Houston on March 25, 2012. The event was cosponsored by the MFAH and the Boniuk Center for Religious Tolerance at Rice University. An article based on the presentation appeared in the July 11, 2012, issue of *The Ismaili United States of America*.

Lecturer in Turkish **Erika Gilson** was awarded the Middle East Studies Association's 2012 **Jere L. Bacharach Service Award**, which "recognizes the contributions of individuals through their outstanding service to MESA or the profession. Service is defined broadly to include work in diverse areas, including but not limited to outreach, librarianship, and film." The award was announced at the 2012 MESA Annual meeting in Denver, CO, held November 17–20.

Gilson's citation read:

"In recognition of her exceptional dedication for over 30 years to the development and promotion of Turkish and Turkic language studies, With admiration for her accomplishments as co-founder of, and 26 years' service as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of, the American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages, and for her work as editor of

the AATT Bulletin;

For all her work building and professionalizing the field, and training teachers and students, all the while developing new materials, tools, standards and resources, and securing funding and opportunities that have benefitted so many.

In acknowledgment of her years as a tireless advocate for language learning and superior teaching via ACTFL, NCOLCTL and NLMERC,

It is an honor to recognize Erika H. Gilson, a creative, dedicated, and generous colleague whose lifelong commitment to integrating language research and education has enriched so many programs of study and inspired so many students and colleagues."

Previous winners with NES connections include **Fred McGraw Donner** (Ph.D. 1975) in 2008, **Howard Alexander Reed** (Ph.D. 1951) in 2006, and **Richard L. Chambers** (Ph.D. 1968) in 1998.

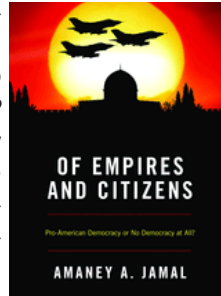
M. Şükrü Hanioglu, the Garrett Professor in Foreign Affairs, Chairman of the Near Eastern Studies Department, and Director of the Program in Near Eastern Studies, was awarded the Republic of Turkey's **2012 President's Grand Prize for Culture and Arts** in the field of history on November 29, 2012. The announcement cited Hanioglu's "bringing Turkish history to a universal dimension by developing an authentic historical voice and molding current events with his rich historical knowledge."

"The Presidential Culture and Arts Grand Awards are granted on behalf of the Turkish State to Turkish citizens, those of foreign descent and agencies that contribute to the Turkish cultural and art life and that raise the standards of the country's culture and arts for the purpose of honoring and encouraging these people according to the 'Statute for the Presidential Culture and Arts Grand Awards' issued on January 20, 1995 in the Official Gazette." To learn more about the 2012 awards click [here](#) (in Turkish) or [here](#) (in English).

Hanioglu and **Heath W. Lowry**, Atatürk Professor of Ottoman and Modern Turkish Studies, are among the contributors to *The Routledge Handbook of Modern Turkey*, edited by Metin Heper and Sabri Sayarı (Routledge, 2012). Lowry supplied the chapter, "Early Ottoman Period," and

Hanioglu contributed the chapter, "Modern Ottoman Period."

Associate Professor of Politics **Amaney A. Jamal**, who is a member of the Interdepartmental Committee of the Program in Near Eastern Studies, and her new book, *Of Empires and Citizens: Pro-American Democracy or No Democracy at All?* (Princeton University Press, 2012) were featured in the December 12, 2012, issue of the *Princeton Alumni Weekly*. To read this article click [here](#).



In the book, Jamal "argues that to understand support for the authoritarian status quo in parts of this region—and the willingness of its citizens to compromise on core democratic principles—one must factor in how a strong U.S. presence and popular anti-Americanism weakens democratic voices. Examining such countries as Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Palestine, and Saudi Arabia, Amaney Jamal explores how Arab citizens decide whether to back existing regimes, regime transitions, and democratization projects, and how the global position of Arab states shapes people's attitudes toward their governments. While the Cold War's end reduced superpower hegemony in much of the developing world, the Arab region witnessed an increased security and economic dependence on the United States. As a result, the preferences of the United States matter greatly to middle-class Arab citizens, not just the elite, and citizens will restrain their pursuit of democratization, rationalizing their backing for the status quo because of U.S. geostrategic priorities. Demonstrating how the preferences of an international patron serve as a constraint or an opportunity to push for democracy, Jamal questions bottom-up approaches to democratization, which assume that states are autonomous units in the world order. Jamal contends that even now, with the overthrow of some autocratic Arab regimes, the future course of Arab democratization will be influenced by the perception of American reactions. Concurrently, the United States must address the troubling sources of the region's rising anti-Americanism." Her book has been described as "original," "an impressive and rich work," "compelling" in its argument,

and "essential reading."

Jamal has also been active on campus in discussing contemporary politics both in the Arab world and in the U.S. She participated on a panel, "Digital Pathways to Peace? Online Dialogues in the Middle East," on October 15, 2012, and in a conversation with Haroon Moghul about "2012 Presidential Elections: The Muslim Vote & the Future of U.S. - Muslim Relations" held on September 25, 2012.

Lecturer in Arabic **Hisham Mahmoud** led a semester-long study of one of the great books on Islamic spirituality, *Purification of the Heart*, written by the pre-eminent nineteenth-century scholar and sage from Mauritania, Imam al-Muwluḍ, and translated with commentary by one of America's most influential scholars and founder of the Zaytuna College, Shaykh Hamza Yusuf. The class, which met every Thursday evening, examined the "causes and practical cures of spiritual ailments, such as envy and anger" thus "offering a penetrating glimpse into Islamic prescriptions for self-development."

Max Weiss, Assistant Professor in Near Eastern Studies and History, spent the 2011–12 academic year "on leave back at the Harvard Society of Fellows. In November 2011, [he] was a professeur invité at the Institut d'études de l'Islam et des sociétés du monde musulman (IISMM), an affiliate of the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), and gave lectures in Paris and Lyon. Two of [his] book-length translations from the Arabic were published: Hassouna Mosbahi, *A Tunisian Tale* (American University in Cairo Press, 2011); and Samar Yazbek, *A Woman in the Crossfire: Diaries of the Syrian Revolution* (Haus Publishing, 2012), a first-hand account of the first four months of the uprising in Syria by an outspoken critic of the regime who comes from a prominent Alawite family, which received the English PEN Writers in Translation Programme



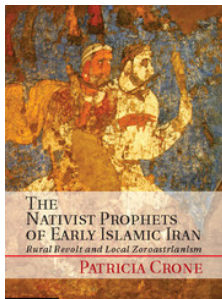
Award.” He also co-edited and published with Michael Laffan, Professor of History, and Philip and Beulah Rollins Bicentennial Preceptor, a collection of essays entitled *Facing Fear: The History of an Emotion in Global Perspective* (Princeton University Press, 2012). Weiss also participated in a panel, “The Middle East: Gender, Art, and Politics,” on October 2, 2012.



Faculty Books

Patricia Crone (Lecturer with the rank of Professor in Near Eastern Studies and Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the School of Historical Studies, Institute of Advanced Studies). *The Nativist Prophets of Early Islamic Iran: Rural Revolt and Local Zoroastrianism* (Cambridge University Press, 2012).

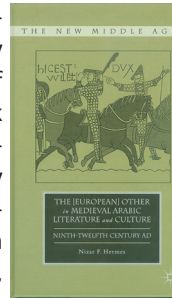
“Patricia Crone’s latest book is about the Iranian response to the Muslim penetration of the Iranian countryside, the revolts subsequently triggered there, and the religious communities that these revolts revealed. The book also describes a complex of religious ideas that, however varied in space and unstable over time, has demonstrated a remarkable persistence in Iran across a period of two millennia. The central thesis is that this complex of ideas has been endemic to the mountain population of Iran and occasionally become epidemic with major consequences for the country, most strikingly in the revolts examined here, and in the rise of the Saffavids who imposed Shi’ism on Iran. This learned and engaging book by one of the most influential scholars of early Islamic history casts entirely new light on the nature of religion in pre-Islamic Iran, and on the persistence of Iranian religious beliefs both outside and inside Islam after the Arab conquest.”



Nizar F. Hermes (Lecturer in Arabic). *The [European] Other in Medieval Arabic Literature and Culture: Ninth-Twelfth Century*

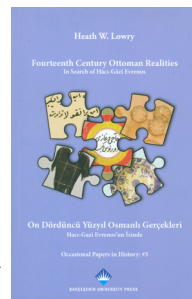
(Palgrave Macmillan, 2012).

“Contrary to the monolithic impression left by postcolonial theories of Orientalism, the book makes the case that Orientals did not exist solely to be gazed at. Exploring a cross-section of 9th through 12th centuries, non-religious Arabic prose and poetic texts such as the geo-cosmographical literature, *récits de voyages*, diplomatic memoirs, captivity narratives, pre-Crusade and Crusade poetry, Nizar F. Hermes shows that there was no shortage of medieval Muslims who cast curious eyes and minds towards the “European Other”; and that more than a handful of them were textually and physically interested in Europe.”



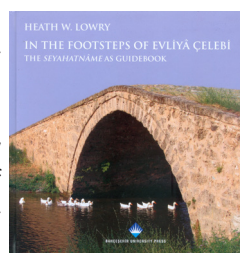
Heath W. Lowry (Atatürk Professor of Ottoman and Modern Turkish Studies and Professor of Near Eastern Studies). *Fourteenth Century Ottoman Realities: In Search of Hâcî-Gâzî Evrenos = On Dördüncü Yüzyıl Osmanlı Gerçekleri: Hacı-Gazi Evrenos’un İzinde* (Bahçeşehir University Press, 2012).

“Throughout the past decade Heath Lowry has focused a significant portion of his oeuvre on retracing the life, conquest and building activity of the great 14th century March Lord, Hâcî Gâzî Evrenos. ... The present study adds additional pieces to this growing body of work by focusing on a number of heretofore unknown personal artifacts linkable to the Ottoman conqueror of the southern flank of the Balkans.”



Heath W. Lowry. *In the footsteps of Evliyâ Çelebi: The Seyahatnâme as Guidebook* (Bahçeşehir University Press, 2012).

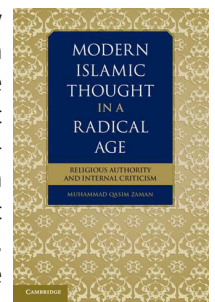
“Since 2005, Heath Lowry has traveled extensively in northern Greece. The present study is the outcome of those visits. Wherever he has gone,



he has been accompanied by Evliyâ Çelebi and his *Seyahatnâme*. As a result of those travels, he has published several books and numerous articles, all of which reflect the debt he owes the 17th century traveler. The present study is intended as his homage to Evliyâ Çelebi and to the rapidly disappearing Ottoman legacy in northern Greece.”

Muhammad Qasim Zaman (Robert H. Niehaus '77 Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Religion). *Modern Islamic Thought in a Radical Age: Religious Authority and Internal Criticism* (Cambridge University Press, 2012)

“Among traditionally educated scholars in the Islamic world there is much disagreement on the crises that afflict modern Muslim societies and how best to deal with them, and the debates have grown more urgent since 9/11. Through an analysis of the work of Muhammad Rashid Rida and Yusuf al-Qaradawi in the Arab Middle East and a number of scholars belonging to the Deobandi orientation in colonial and contemporary South Asia, this book examines some of the most important issues facing the Muslim world since the late nineteenth century. These include the challenges to the binding claims of a long-established scholarly consensus, evolving conceptions of the common good, and discourses on religious education, the legal rights of women, social and economic justice, and violence and terrorism. The debates, marked by extensive engagement with Islam’s foundational texts and legal tradition, afford vital insights into the ongoing contestations on religious authority and on evolving conceptions of Islam in the Muslim public sphere. This wide-ranging study by a leading scholar of Islamic intellectual history provides the depth and the comparative perspective necessary for an understanding of the ferment that characterizes contemporary Islam.”



Undergraduate News

Shehzad Ukani '13 received funding from the Program in Judaic Studies to spend the summer in Jerusalem where he took a six-week course in Elementary Biblical Hebrew at the Hebrew University, Rothberg International School, on the Mount Scopus campus. To read more about Ukani's study abroad experience, click [here](#).

Final Public Oral Examinations

Four FPOs, all for the Ph.D., were held during the fall semester.

Luke B. Yarbrough defended his doctoral dissertation, "Islamizing the Islamic State: The Formulation and Assertion of Religious Criteria for State Employment in the First Millennium AH," on August 31, 2012. Michael A. Cook (advisor), Mark R. Cohen, and Marina Rustow (Johns Hopkins University) were the examiners.



Luke Yarbrough after his FPO with M. Qasim Zaman, Patricia Crone (IAS and NES), and examiners Mark R. Cohen, Michael A. Cook, and Marina Rustow (Johns Hopkins University)

Katharina Anna Ivanyi defended her doctoral dissertation, "Virtue, Piety and the Law: A Study Of Birgivi Meḥmed Efendī's Al-Ṭarīqa Al-Muḥammadiyya," on September 6, 2012. Her advisor was Michael A. Cook and the examiners were M. Qasim Zaman and Bernard A. Haykel.



Katharina Anna Ivanyi following her FPO with Michael A. Cook and examiners M. Qasim Zaman and Bernard A. Haykel

Elisabeth H. Cohen defended her doctoral dissertation, "Formal Structure in the Lyric Poetry of 'Abd Allah Ibn Al-Mu'tazz," on October 26, 2012. András P. Hámori (advisor), Bernard A. Haykel, and Robyn Creswell (Brown University) were the examiners.



Elisabeth H. Cohen following her FPO with examiners Bernard A. Haykel, András P. Hámori (advisor), and Robyn Creswell (Brown University)

Jessica M. Marglin defended her doctoral dissertation, "In the Courts of the Nations: Jews, Muslims, and Legal Pluralism in Nineteenth-Century Morocco," on December 17, 2012. Her advisor was Mark R. Cohen, and the examiners were Michael A. Cook and Molly Greene (History).



Jessica M. Marglin after her FPO with advisor Mark R. Cohen and examiners Molly Greene (History) and Michael A. Cook

Graduate Student News

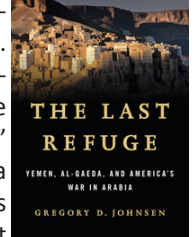
Katharina Ivanyi has been hired as an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and History at St. Michael's College, Vermont.

Zachary Foster won the 2012 MESA Graduate Student Paper Prize for his paper "Can the Locust Speak? Greater Syria During World War I." He was nominated for the award by Assistant Professor Cyrus Schayegh.

Benjamin Buchholz, a foreign area officer for the United States Army and a Masters

student in Near Eastern Studies, presented a talk, "Translation at War," in the Program in Translation and Intercultural Communication Fall 2012 Translation Lunch Series on September 17, 2012.

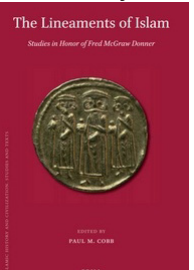
Gregory Johnsen's book, *The Last Refuge: Yemen, Al-Qaeda, and America's War in Arabia*, has been published by W. W. Norton. The work, the "first comprehensive history of the al-Qaeda movement" in Yemen, chronicles "a tribal, desert nation's quasi-government caught squarely in the 21st century crusade against religious extremism."



Jacob Olidort was a guest speaker in the seminar, "The Quran in the Modern World," held July 8–13, 2012, at the Princeton Theological Seminary.

Alumni News

Fred M. Donner (B.A. '68, M.A. '73, and Ph.D. '75) has been presented a Festschrift by his students. The volume, *The Lineaments of Islam: Studies in Honor of Fred McGraw Donner*, edited by Paul M. Cobb (Brill, 2012), recognizes "Fred M. Donner's long and distinguished career as one of the foremost interpreters of early Islam," and "collects more than a dozen



original studies by his students. They range over a wide array of sub-fields in Islamic history and Islamic studies, including early history, historiography, Islamic law, religious studies, Qur'anic studies and Islamic archaeology. The book also includes a bibliography of Donner's works and a biographical sketch of sorts. Taken together, these essays are a clear testament to Donner's wide-ranging and continuing impact on the field."

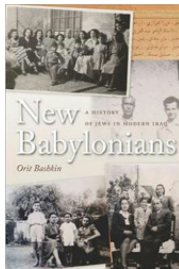
Jessica Tiregol (M.A. '94 and Ph.D. '98) prepared the "Intermediate Turkish" and "Advanced Turkish" courses in the University of Arizona Critical Languages Series Online (CLSONLINE). Originally published on CD/DVD-ROM, these peer-reviewed courses were "designed to cover the material of a

one year college course” and include video dialogs and readings performed by native speakers, thousands of on-demand native speaker audio recordings and translations, extensive cultural and grammatical footnotes and lessons, multiple choice, audio flashcards, listening dictation, fill-in-the-blank exercises, searchable audio glossary, and downloadable MP3s for learning on-the-go. For more information, sample lessons, and reviews, see <http://cls.arizona.edu/tur.htm>.

Christine Philiou (M.A. '98, Ph.D. History '04), an assistant professor of History at Columbia University, is a Senior Fellow at the Central European University's Institute for Advance Study for the 2013 spring semester. Her project, "Authority Displaced: Ottoman Intellect in a Modern World," will "examine the phenomenon of intellectuals that were formed in the final years of the Ottoman Empire and were thus imbued with the culture and manners that went with Ottoman hegemony, but found themselves in a post-Ottoman, often ostensibly national or colonial, cultural and political milieu after 1923."

Adam Sabra (M.A. '94, Ph.D. '98) has accepted a position as Professor and King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud Chair in Islamic Studies at UCSB. During the 2012–13 academic year he is a member of the School for Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study.

Orit Bashkin (Ph.D. 2005), Associate Professor of Modern Middle East History at the University of Chicago, has published *New Babylonians: A History of Jews in Modern Iraq* with Stanford University Press (2012). The book "chronicles the lives of [Iraqi] Jews, their urban Arab culture, and their hopes for a democratic nation-state. It studies their ideas about Judaism, Islam, secularism, modernity, and reform, focusing on Iraqi Jews who internalized narratives of Arab and Iraqi nationalisms and on those who turned to communism in the 1940s." "Orit Bashkin's riveting new book is ... a shining example of solid scholarship and, at the same time, a coherent account of the vicissitudes of the modern history of a dynamic Arab-Jewish community the like



of which is no more in evidence."

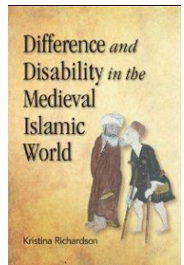
Mustafa Aksakal (Ph.D. '03) was a co-director of "World War I in the Middle East," a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers, held in Washington, D.C., June 11–July 6, 2012. A number of Web projects arising out of the seminar have been published at: <https://blogs.commons.georgetown.edu/world-war-i-in-the-middle-east/2011/10/25/welcome/>, and might be useful for classroom discussion and student assignments.

William F. McCants (Ph.D. '06)'s book, *Founding Gods, Inventing Nations: Conquest and Culture Myths from Antiquity to Islam*, was published by Princeton University Press in 2012. In this work, McCants "traces four thousand years of speculation on the origins of civilization," looking "at the ways the [Greek, Roman, and Arab] conquerors and those they conquered reshaped their myths of civilization's origins in response to the social and political consequences of empire. ... McCants argues that authors in all three periods did not write about civilization's origins solely out of pure antiquarian interest--they also sought to address the social and political tensions of the day. The strategies they employed and the postcolonial dilemmas they confronted provide invaluable context for understanding how authors today use myth and history to locate themselves in the confusing aftermath of empire." McCants is an analyst at CNA's Center for Naval Analyses where he focuses on al-Qaeda, terrorism, and Middle Eastern politics, and he is also adjunct faculty at Johns Hopkins' Krieger School.



Kristina Richardson '03 (B.A. History, Certificate in Near Eastern Studies) is a 2012–14 Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institut für Arabistik und Islam Wissenschaft, Universität Münster. She is working on her second book project on blue and green eyes in classical Arabic literature: (http://www.qc.cuny.edu/communications/news_services/releases/Pages/NewsArchive.aspx?ItemID=1586). Her first book, *Difference and Disability in the Medieval Islamic World: Blighted Bodies*, was

published in 2012 by Edinburgh University Press and is distributed in the U.S. by Columbia University Press. The work "[o]utlines the complex significance of bodies in the late medieval central Arab Islamic lands.



Did you know that blue eyes, baldness, bad breath and boils were all considered bodily 'blights' by Medieval Arabs, as were cross eyes, lameness and deafness? What assumptions about bodies influenced this particular vision of physical difference? How did blighted people view their own bodies? Through close analyses of anecdotes, personal letters, (auto)biographies, erotic poetry, non-binding legal opinions, diaristic chronicles and theological tracts, the cultural views and experiences of disability and difference in the medieval Islamic world are brought to life." Richardson was also given a 2012–13 CUNY Scholar Incentive Award.

Intisar Rabb (Ph.D. '09) was a Visiting Associate Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and a returning Fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard (2012–13).

Seven Ağır (M.A. '05, Ph.D. '09) co-organized a conference entitled "New Perspectives in Ottoman Economic History" held on November 9–10, 2012, at Yale University under the auspices of the Yale Program in Economic History. Ağır also presented a paper, "Asset Ownership and Organizational Change in Ottoman Urban Businesses, 1750–1850," at the conference. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Economics at Middle East Technical University.

Zoe Bedell (Politics '07, Certificate in Near Eastern Studies), who served four years in the Marines and spent two tours of duty in Afghanistan, has joined a lawsuit challenging the sweeping restriction against women serving in combat roles in the US armed forces. The ACLU is representing her, three female members of the Marines, the California Air National Guard and the Army Reserve, and the nonprofit Service Women's Action Network. In connection with the lawsuit, Bedell has recently been interviewed on HuffPostLive and Jon Stewart's The Daily Show.

Since graduation, **Rivka Cohen '12** "has been working and taking classes to prepare or graduate school in clinical psychology. She recently published an op-ed in Haaretz on the importance of ethno-religious integration in the Israeli public education system and is currently collaborating with Egon Cohen on a book chapter about the impact of apocalyptic rhetoric in Genesis 6–9 on modern American cinema."

The October 24, 2012, issue of the *Princeton Alumni Weekly* featured an article, "I can't put my life on pause," about **Suleika Jaouad '10**, her battle with cancer, and her New York Times column, "Life interrupted." To read this article click [here](#).

Brittney Scott '11, a Teach for America member who established and ran a "School-2-School" program between her school, Panorama Middle School in Colorado Springs, and the Queen Noor School in Amman, Jordan, was profiled in the October 24, 2012, issue of *Princeton Alumni Weekly*. To read this article, click [here](#). In 2012–13 Scott is teaching math to 11th-graders in Sierra High School, also in Colorado Springs, and is continuing the "School-2-School" program.

Katharine Costello '12 was awarded **The James W. Redhouse Student Prize for Best Progress in the Turkish Language**. The Redhouse Prize recognizes the student who has made the best progress in Turkish in the academic year in each of four regions of the United States and Canada as determined by area coordinators and a committee composed of members of the American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages. The prize is \$100 and is currently funded by the M. Münir Erteğün Foundation for Turkish Studies of Princeton University.

Kelly Roache '12, a Woodrow Wilson School major with certificates in Near Eastern Studies, Arabic Language and Culture, and Persian Language and Culture, began her MPA studies in the fall of 2012 at WWS as part of the Scholars in the Nation's Service Initiative (SINSI). Roache focuses on crisis diplomacy in the Middle East and South Asia, specifically Iran and Afghanistan. During the summer of 2012, she worked in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs at the Department of State.

Muhsin Usman Hassan '12, a Woodrow Wilson School graduate with a certificate in Near Eastern Studies, entered the MPA program at WWS in the fall of 2012 as part of the Scholars in the Nation's Service Initiative (SINSI).

Emily Yasmin Norris '09, a Woodrow Wilson School graduate with a certificate in Near Eastern Studies and a member of the 2009 cohort of the Scholars in the Nation's Service Initiative, is now a Foreign Service Officer posted to Indonesia.

Jordan Reimer '08 (Politics with certificates from the Woodrow Wilson School and in Near Eastern Studies), a member of the 2008 cohort of the Scholars in the Nation's Service Initiative received his Master in Public Affairs with a concentration in international relations in 2012 from WWS. Following his MPA, he accepted a position as an analyst with the New York City Police Department.

Alumni News Request

The Near Eastern Studies Newsletter is interested in printing news from NES alumni. Items may include, but not be limited to, honors received, announcements of publications, new jobs, etc. Please send such information to the newsletter editor, Bill Blair, at blairw@princeton.edu.

Events

Brown Bag Lunch Series Spring 2013

Bernard Haykel, Professor of NES, kicked off the spring schedule of the Brown Bag Lunch talks in front of a packed 202 Jones Hall with a discussion on "Syria: State of Barbarism." Other presenters were Nelly Lahoud, Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) at the United States Military Academy, West Point, who spoke on "Al-Qa'ida and the Professionalization of Jihadis"; **Samer Traboulsi** (Ph.D. 2005), Visiting Associate Research Scholar at the Transregional Institute and Associate Professor of History of the Middle East and the Muslim World at UNC Asheville, who spoke on "If Rice were a Man: Twelver and Ismaili Reception of an early Shi'i Hadith"; Marc Lynch, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Institute for Middle East Studies at the George Washington University, who

spoke on "The Arab Spring and the New Arab Public Sphere"; **Amaney Jamal**, Associate Professor of Politics, who spoke on "Of Empires and Citizens: Pro American Democracy or No Democracy at All?"; Elin Suleymanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States, who spoke on "Azerbaijan: Crossroads of a Region in Flux"; Daniel C. Kurtzer, S. Daniel Abraham Professor of Middle East Policy Studies, WWS, who spoke on "Rightsizing America's Role in the Middle East"; **Max Weiss**, Assistant Professor of History and NES, who spoke on "The Cultural Politics of the Syrian Revolution"; **Michael A. Reynolds**, Associate Professor of NES, who spoke on "Turkish Foreign Policy: The Promise and Peril of Neo-Ottomanism"; Lucette Valensi, Director of Studies, Emeritus, EHESS, who spoke on "A Familiar Presence: Muslims in Europe (16–18th c.)"; and **Aurélie Daher**, Postdoctoral Research Associate in NES and the Transregional Institute, who spoke on "Hezbollah Facing the Lebanese State: A Special Case of Political Islam (1982–2012)".

Princeton Islamic Studies Colloquium

The Islamic Studies Colloquium at Princeton, a monthly forum for discussion and peer review of graduate students' research projects and guest scholars' works-in-progress in the field of Islamic Studies, was formed in the spring of 2009 with the hope of encouraging an interdepartmental discussion and circulation of ideas among graduate students and professors with an interest in Islamic Studies. The Fall 2012 series consisted of **Sam Helfont** (NES) discussing his paper, "Co-opting, Coercing, and Creating Religion in Saddam's Iraq"; James Casey (History) speaking about "Politics of Pious Property: Reassessing the Colonial Encounter in the French Mandates through Islamic Endowments"; **Jacob Oli-dort** (NES) presenting his paper, "'Pray as You Have Seen Me Pray': Al-Albani, the Prophet's Prayer, and the Efforts to Redefine the Sources of Legal Authority"; **David Selim Sayers** (NES) discussing "A Morphology for Literature on the Wives of Women in Ottoman and Azeri Texts"; and Megan Brankley Abbas (History) speaking on "Modernizing Islam at McGill: Encounters between Academia and Islamic Thought." The 2012–13 colloquium was organized by Megan Brankley Abbas, **Simon Fuchs**, **Aaron Rock**, **Daniel Stolz**, and Faez Syed.

Workshop on Arab Political Development

The Workshop on Arab Political Development, directed by **Amaney Jamal** (Associate Professor of Politics), hosted two talks and a panel discussion during the fall semester. **Bernard Haykel** (NES) asked “Is Yemen a Failed State?” and Joseph Sassoon (Georgetown University) spoke about “Saddam Hussein’s Ba`th Party: Inside an Authoritarian Regime.” The panel discussion, “US Election Outcome and Its Impact on the Palestinian-Israeli Peace Plan,” featured Daniel Kurtzer (Lecturer in Public and International Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School; S. Daniel Abraham Visiting Professor in Middle East Policy Studies; and Former US Ambassador to Israel and Egypt) and Khalil Shikaki (Professor of Political Science and Director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research) and was moderated by Jamal. The Workshop is an affiliate of the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies and is co-sponsored by the Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia and the Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies. To learn more about the Workshop’s activities, please click [here](#).

Transregional Institute Events

In addition to sponsoring the NES Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series and co-sponsoring many other events, such as those of the Workshop on Arab Political Development, TRI hosted a number of lectures, including “A Woman in the Crossfire” by Samar Yazbek, novelist, journalist and author of *A Woman in the Crossfire: Diaries of the Syrian Revolution*, and “The Gulf States’ Response to the Arab Spring Uprisings by Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi, a columnist based in the United Arab Emirates.

Arabic Thought beyond the Liberal Age: New Directions in Middle East Intellectual History

This conference, organized by **Max Weiss** of NES and History and Jens Janssen of the University of Toronto marked “the passage of fifty years since the publication of the transformative intellectual history of the modern Middle East, Albert Hourani, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age, 1798–1939*. . . . During these intervening years, the study of the modern Middle East has grown by leaps and bounds, in many ways thanks to the scholarly interventions and personal efforts of Hourani himself, who

passed away in 1993, but also the estimable cadre of historians who studied under his supervision. *Arabic Thought* has, indeed, stood the test of time and is widely considered among the most important works in Middle East studies. Three generations of scholars have continued to engage with the concepts and impact of the “liberal age” and the “*nahda*” (Arabic renaissance) for understanding the modern and contemporary Middle East and Islamic world, and this conference [assessed] how far the field has come, and [discussed] potential directions for further research.”

Islam and the Modern World

In this installment of the 2012–2013 Seminar Series, Bayram Balci, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, spoke about “Turkish Islamic Influences in Contemporary Central Asia and the Caucasus” on November 29, 2012.

2012 Istanbul Global Seminar

The fifth Istanbul Global Seminar took place in the summer of 2012, again led by NES Chair **M. Şükrü Hanioglu** and Lecturer in Turkish **Erika H. Gilson**. In addition to 15 Princeton undergraduates, four students from the host institution, Kadir Has University, joined the seminar. The seminar started with a week-long stay in Bucharest, Romania. The seminars were held at the University of Bucharest’s Faculty of History, and there were two long daytrips, one to the north, to the royal Peles Palace, and



Peles Palace

the other to the Black Sea Coast, to Constanta and Mangalia, where the Ottoman presence could still be perceived. Bucharest itself also offered some surprises such as the Atatürk bust right in the middle of town.

In Istanbul we were again hosted by Kadir Has University, which is located by the Golden Horn. Right away we had a group photo taken, with the Mavi Marmara, part of the flotilla that wanted to go break



The Golden Horn

Israel’s blockade of Palestine and whose interdiction by the Israelis caused the deterioration in Turkish-Israeli relations, in the background. Meeting up with ancient history or current events was a daily experience. On a walk through the neighborhood in the Old City where our dorm was, we were taken into one of the first Turkish baths, built after the conquest, now abandoned and almost forgotten.

In addition to the morning sessions at Kadir Has, and on the days when no afternoon lectures were scheduled, there were excursions to the exquisite Sabanci Museum along the Bosphorus, to Istanbul in Asia where we watched a Kazakh wedding getting into the boat waiting to take them to Leander tower for the festivities, and to the magnificent sites in the historical district. A highlight for one of the



Sultan Ahmet Mosque

participants, a member of the Princeton crew, was rowing for Kadir Has in the 24th Annual Bosphorus Cross-Continental Race. The seminar was again hosted by the Istanbul Alumni group for a fabulous Sunday brunch at a penthouse restaurant with a full view of the Bosphorus.

For community service the participants worked with art and music projects for students at a school for disabled youth; once the school closed for summer vacation, the students helped out at a youth camp for local children in a poor neighborhood. There, some had a chance to run in the



Community service at a school for disabled youth

“World Harmony Run,” in which runners from across Europe ended at the camp.

The overnight excursion started with a midnight bus ride to Amasra, an historic settlement on the Black Sea Coast famous for, among other things, fish and a special salad. We climbed up to the Bird's Rock Monument, a watering and resting place

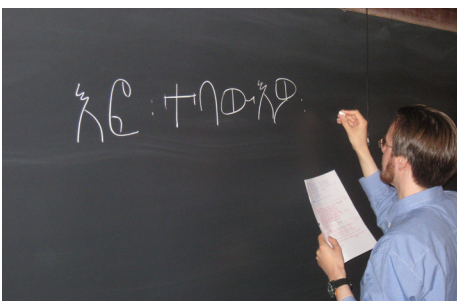


Bird's Rock Monument, Amasra

carved into the mountain by the Romans between 41 and 54 AD along the road of the eastern Roman provinces, and which offers an extensive view of Amasra and the shoreline. A day trip from there took us to Safranbolu, a town built in and along an old canyon and a UNESCO Heritage site which strictly maintains its architectural uniqueness.

At the end of the Global Seminar, three of the participants stayed in Istanbul for internships.

Ge'ez Language Course Offered Through PIIRS



Ge'ez Instructor George Hatke

Last summer **George Hatke** (Ph.D. '11), a Visiting Assistant Professor (2011–13) at NYU's Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, taught Ge'ez to an enthusiastic group of students from disciplines as varied as art and architecture, the history of science, comparative literature, Classics, and Judaic studies. Ge'ez is a Semitic language (and thus related to Arabic and Hebrew). Though no longer a spoken language it remains the liturgical language of the Ethiopian church. Thousands of manuscripts in Ge'ez exist, including chronicles, hagiographies, and translations of Near Eastern texts which no longer survive in the original languages. Even though Princeton has one of the largest collections of Ge'ez manuscripts in the Americas, this is only the second time that the language has been taught at Princeton. Assistant professor of Comparative Literature and African American studies Wendy Laura Belcher, who was instrumental in getting university approval for the course and who attended the classes, wrote that “Dr. Hatke was a very gifted instructor. One of the students ... told me that George is the best instructor the student had seen. I would agree. He's extremely knowledgeable, very patient, and very clear. He also has sophisticated language teaching techniques and manages to keep everyone moving forward, despite vastly different backgrounds and abilities. ... Given his own research, he has a passion for the subject that comes through. I am hoping that we can have Ge'ez at Princeton next summer, and invite George back, but my real dream is to have Ge'ez taught regularly at Princeton.” Hatke, who taught Arabic in Near Eastern Studies for three years, researches South Arabia and Ethiopia in antiquity, late antique Christianity, and early Islam.

Arabic Dialectology Project

Seven of the ten students who attended the three-week summer school on Arabic Dialectology were able to attend a follow-up workshop led by Professors Jastrow and Arnold in Tallinn, Estonia, June 11–15, 2012. All seven students came to the workshop with texts recorded in the field, and presented their findings on their chosen dialect. The dialects studied were those spoken in an isolated Arab village in Israel, in a village in Lebanon, in a vernacular poetry competition in Lebanon, by a tribe in south-western Saudi Arabia, in an Egyptian Bedouin village, in a small town in eastern

Morocco, and by Egyptian Jews living in Israel. In addition to the dialectological interest of the texts, in several instances they also contained material of considerable ethnographic or historical interest. The summer school and workshop would not have been possible without the generous support of the David A. Gardner '69 Magic Fund.

Language Events

Film series

Near Eastern Studies hosted twelve films in its foreign language film series. Arabic films shown were: *Wanderers of the Desert* (1984); *The Dove's Lost Necklace* (1991); and *Bab 'Aziz: The Prince Who Contemplated His Soul* (2005). Hebrew films shown were: *Altalena* (2008), followed by a Q & A session with screenwriter Motti Lerner; *Benzion Netanyahu-His Life and Legacy* (2012), with a discussion led by Dr. Adi Ben-Israel, Rutgers University, following the film; and *The Invisible Men* (2012), with a discussion by filmmaker Yariv Mozer and writer-producer Adam Rosner '07 following the film. Persian films shown were: *Gold and Copper* (2010); *The Song of Sparrows* (2008); and *Son of Maryam* (1998). Turkish films shown were: *Istanbul Tales (Anlat İstanbul)* (2005); *Labyrinth (Labirent)* (2011); and *Bliss (Mutluluk)* (2007). All films were in the original language with English subtitles.

Language talks

During the fall semester, the Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies sponsored lunch talks in both Arabic and Turkish. These talks, presented at a level suitable for language students, included “A Woman in the Crossfire: Diaries of the Syrian Revolution” by Samar Yazbek, a Syrian writer, novelist and journalist; “A Diva with a Message: Umm Kulthum and the Arab Cause” by **Samer Traboulsi** (Ph.D. 2005),



Samer Traboulsi

Visiting Associate Research Scholar at the Transregional Institute and Associate Professor of History of the Middle East and the Muslim World at UNC Asheville; “Tunisian Writing between Yesterday and Today” by Hassouna Mousa

bi, Tunisian novelist; "Türkiye'de Gezgin bir Çıracak Olmak" by Buse Aktas '14; and "İstanbul'da Neler Oluyor: Bir Kentin TOKİ ile İmtihanı" by Firuzan Melike Sümertaş, visiting graduate student in History.

Postdocs and Fellows

Elvire Corboz is in her second year as an NES Postdoctoral Research Fellow. During her first year, she gave a Brown Bag Lunch talk, presented a paper in the Princeton University Middle East



Seminar Series, organized a workshop on "Shi'i Clerics and Politics: Local and Transnational Perspectives" and an NJ Teachers workshop on the same topic held in conjunction with the workshop, and taught NES 327, "Shi'ism and Politics in the 20th Century." She prepared several articles for publication and worked on preparing her dissertation, "Negotiating Loyalty Across the Shi'i World: The Transnational Authority of the al-Hakim and al-Khu'i Families," for publication, a project that she will continue during the 2012–13 academic year. She also began researching her next project on Iran and Muslims in the West.

Aurélie Daher received her Ph.D. and Master's degrees in Political Science from Sciences Po, Paris, in 2011, and a Master's degree in Public Management from École Supérieure de Commerce de Paris (ESCP Europe) in 2002. She previously held a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Oxford's Department of Politics and International Relations (2010–11). Her work focuses on Hezbollah, the Shiites, and Lebanese politics. For her post-doctoral research at Princeton, she intends to finish preparing a book on Lebanese politics dedicated to the period beginning with the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafic Hariri in 2005 and up to the seizure of power by Hezbollah in 2011 and its management of domestic and foreign policies. She will also be working on a research project studying more broadly the way Hezbollah has dealt since its creation with the Lebanese state and power.

Kevan Harris earned a Ph.D. in Sociology at the Johns Hopkins University in 2012. He was awarded the Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship in 2009–10



to conduct fieldwork in Iran, and was a US Institute of Peace Jennings Randolph Peace Scholar in 2011–12. His dissertation, "The Martyrs Welfare State: Politics of Social Policy in the Islamic Republic of Iran," analyzes the post-revolutionary trajectories of Iranian state and society through the lens of welfare policy. The study utilizes archival research, interviews with government officials, fieldwork in three provinces, and ethnographic observation to argue that the Islamic Republic's state-building project intertwined with and depended upon a welfare-building project. By transforming the country's social structure, Iran's welfare system provided durable institutions upon which the political elite aspired to craft a developmental state. Yet these structural changes, Harris argues, also generated new social and political challenges to the post-revolutionary order which continue to the present. At Princeton, Harris will convert his thesis study into a monograph. In addition, he is working on two major articles for publication: a critique of the theory of the "rentier state" as used in Middle Eastern studies, and an analysis of welfare policy as class politics in Middle Eastern states over the past six decades.

Former Postdoctoral Research Associate **Andrew Arsan** (2010–12) was elected a fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge University.

Former Postdoctoral Research Associate **Iren Ozgur** (2010–12)'s book, *Islamic Schools in Modern Turkey: Faith, Politics, and Education*, has been published by Cambridge University Press (2012). "In recent years, the Islamization of Turkish politics and public life has been the subject of much debate in Turkey and the West. This book makes an important contribution to those debates by focusing on a group of religious schools, known as Imam-Hatip schools, founded a

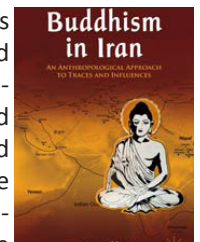


year after the Turkish Republic, in 1924. At the outset, the main purpose of Imam-Hatip schools was to train religious functionaries. However, in the ensuing years, the curriculum, function and social status of the schools have changed dramatically. Through ethnographic and textual analysis, the book explores how Imam-Hatip school education shapes the political socialization of the schools' students, those students' attitudes and behaviours and the political and civic activities of their graduates. By mapping the schools' connections to Islamist politicians and civic leaders, the book sheds light on the significant, yet often overlooked, role that the schools and their communities play in Turkey's Islamization at the high political and grassroots levels." This "first comprehensive study of Imam-Hatip education in Turkey and its impact on Islamization at the high political and grassroots level" has been called "a definitive, magisterial text on Turkey's Imam Hatip schools; one that will intrigue and provoke any scholar concerned with broader questions of Islam, politics and Turkish public life."

Mostafa Vaziri, a visiting fellow in NES, teaches courses on the topics of Sufism, Buddhism, and Islam at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. Vaziri is also a physician who received his M.D. from the University of Innsbruck and as a philanthropist lived and worked as a volunteer doctor in Nepal and Afghanistan and served as a chief physician with Partners In Health (PIH) in Africa. He has authored several academic books, including *Iran as Imagined Nation: The Construction of National Identity* (Paragon House, 1993) and his latest, *Buddhism in Iran: An Anthropological Approach to Traces and Influences* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012). *Buddhism in Iran* explores "the interactions of the Buddhist world with the dominant cultures of Iran in pre- and post-Islamic times" and "demonstrates that the traces and cross-influences of Buddhism have



brought the material and spiritual culture of Iran to its present state. Even after the term 'Buddhism' was eradicated from the



literary and popular languages of the region, it has continued to have a significant impact on the culture as a whole. In the course of its history, Iranian culture adopted and assimilated a system of Buddhist art, iconography, religious symbolism, literature, and asceticism due to the open border of eastern Iran with the Buddhist regions, and the resultant intermingling of the two worlds." The book has been called the "most comprehensive" treatment of Buddhism in Iran and "essential reading."

Daniel Sheffield (Lecturer in the Council of the Humanities and Near Eastern Studies and Link-Cotsen Post-doctoral Fellow in the Society of Fellows) holds a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages



and Civilizations from Harvard University, where he specialized in Iranian and Persian Studies. His dissertation, entitled "In the Path of the Prophet: Medieval and Early Modern Narratives of the Life of Zarathustra in Islamic Iran and Western India," is a historical study of the discursive practices by which Zoroastrians in Iran and India struggled to define their communal identity through constructions of the life of Zarathustra, the central figure of their religion. His dissertation explores themes of cosmopolitanism, orthodoxy, religious syncretism, vernacularization, and colonialism, and examines how Zoroastrian thinkers adopted cosmopolitan religious vocabularies from the Islamicate and Sanskritic literary traditions around them in order to create new discursive spaces for a world in which Zoroastrians were no longer a dominant political force. Sheffield's recent and forthcoming publications appear in *The Bulletin of the Asia Institute*, *The Journal of the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute*, *The Blackwell Companion to the Study of Zoroastrianism* (ed. Stausberg and Vevaina), and *On the Wonders of Land and Sea: Persianate Travel Writing* (ed. Sharma and Micallef). At Harvard, Daniel was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Award in 2008–2009 to investigate Pahlavi, Persian, and Gujarati manuscripts at the First Dastoor Meherjirana Library, Navsari, and the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute, Mumbai. At Princeton, he has been preparing his dissertation for publication and pursuing research on a second book

project tentatively entitled "The Parsis and the Colonial Construction of Zoroastrianism." During the Fall 2012 semester, he taught an introductory course on Zoroastrianism and will be offering a freshman seminar entitled "From the Arabian Nights to the Prince of Persia: Orientalism in Literature and Film" in the spring.

Fulbright Scholars

Dr. Farda Asadov is the Vice-Rector for International Affairs at Khazar University in Baku, Azerbaijan, and directs Arab Studies at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Azerbaijan. During his Fulbright (October 2012–May 2013) at Princeton, Asadov has been researching the relationship between Arabs and Khazar Turks in the maintenance of international trade along the Silk Roads during the VII–X centuries. Dr. Farda Asadov graduated from Baku State University in 1979 with an MA Honors Diploma in Arab Studies. He defended his Ph.D. thesis on the economic dimension of the military system of the Arab caliphate under the Abbasid dynasty at the Institute of Oriental Studies in Saint-Petersburg in 1987. He held a visiting scholar fellowship at the Oxford Center for Islamic Studies in 1998 also a UNESCO Silk Road fellowship in 1999 to work on cultural interaction between the Muslim Arabs and Turks of Central Asia. He has published extensively on the Abbasids and the history of Central Asia.



Dr. Zafar Najmiddinov, an independent researcher, is spending his Fulbright fellowship (November 2012 through August 2013) at Princeton studying the development of Hanafi *fiqh* writing in Central Asia in order to show the role and place of Hanafi 'ulama in the social life of post-Mongol Central Asia and to identify the most important religious texts serving as sources for the legitimation of the Central Asia dynasties of the Timurids and Shaybanids. Najmiddinov graduated from Tashkent State Institute of Oriental



Studies in 1999, after which he returned to Namangan city and taught history and religious studies at the Institute of Engineering and Economy. He defended his Ph.D. (*kandidat nauk*) dissertation, "The Role of Abu Zayd ad-Dabusi in Development of Fiqh in Mawara' al-Nahr" (in Uzbek), in 2008.

Visiting Student Research Collaborators (VSRC)

Every year, hundreds of graduate students from universities around the world apply to come to Princeton to participate in collaborative research projects, receive mentoring from faculty, and pursue their own academic and scholarly development through interaction with Princeton faculty, research staff, and student peers. The Visiting Student Research Collaborator (VSRC) status provides approved visiting graduate students with a recognized status at the University, allowing them to take advantage of a number of regular student benefits, including student health insurance, on-campus health care, e-mail accounts, library borrowing privileges, access to the gym and other campus facilities, and assistance from a number of offices, including the Graduate School, the Davis International Center, and campus and off-campus housing offices. This year, Near Eastern Studies is hosting three VSRCs, **Teije Hidde Donker**, **Evrin Emir Sayers**, and **Mohammadreza Jalaeipour**.

Teije Hidde Donker is a Ph.D. candidate in his final year at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. His research focuses on interactions between Islamist movements and political regimes in Syria and Tunisia from the 1950s until after the Arab spring in order to highlight the position of bureaucracies and public organizations in shaping these interactions.

Evrin Emir Sayers (M.A., M.Phil.) is a 2nd-year, post-graduates, Ph.D. candidate in Philosophy at the University of Amsterdam. Originally trained in Continental Philosophy, especially the French phenomenological tradition, Evrin is currently doing research on the ontology of painting, focusing on Middle Eastern miniatures and Sufism, while also following Persian courses. During her time in NES, her article, "Gauging Proximities: An Inquiry into

a Possible Nexus Between Middle Eastern and Western Painting,” was accepted for publication in the journal *Philosophy and Literature*. She has been offered a position as Research Fellow at the Netherlands Institute in Turkey (NIT), Istanbul, a position she will assume this summer. At NIT, she will also lecture at the institute's summer school, “Constantinople/Istanbul. History and Heritage in a Global City.”

Mohammadreza Jalaeipour is a D.Phil. candidate at the University of Oxford (St Antony's College), where he is completing a dissertation titled “‘Clerical Authority’ in Contemporary Shi’i Islam: A Study of Marja’iyya in Qom.” He received his M.Sc. in Sociology from the LSE and his B.S. in Sociology from the University of Tehran. He was the founder and campaign manager of the Third Wave (the largest presidential campaign in Iran supporting Mir-Hossein Mousavi). He has authored, translated, and edited seven books in Persian on the sociology of Shi’i Islam and convened several international conferences in Tehran on “Religion and Modernity.” He frequently contributes to Iran’s most widely read newspapers and intellectual magazines and has appeared on BBC, CNN, and Al-Jazeera. He is a visiting student in the framework of the Princeton-Oxford research cluster on “Traditional authority and transnational religious networks in contemporary Shi’ism” convened by Mirjam Künkler and Morgan Clarke.

TRI 2011–2013 Research Theme and Fellows

Contestation in the Contemporary Arab World

The recent uprisings in the Arab world, the so-called “Arab Spring,” represent a watershed in the history of this region and its peoples, from Morocco to the Gulf. The stability and endurance of the Arab state has been called into question, as has “Arab exceptionalism” in resisting political change and the democratic wave that swept many regions of the globe in the late twentieth century. The Institute of Transregional Study would like to sponsor research that explores these events in-depth and what they mean for the territorial states, governments, societies, national boundaries as well as the regional system. Is the Arab system of states as rigid as has

been claimed? Has Islamism given way to secular forms of politics? Can demographics, the so-called “youth bulge,” explain what we are witnessing? What has been the role of women? What is the role of social media and the information revolution in bringing this about? Has the rise in commodity prices also played a role? Are different types of regime affected differently by these developments (monarchies vs. republics; rentier states vs. production states)? What about the differences in the social makeup of these states? Are homogeneous populations (e.g., Tunisia, Egypt) more able to effect change peacefully than those in which regional, sectarian or tribal cleavages are prominent (e.g., Syria, Yemen)? Successful fellows will be expected to tackle such questions. In the process, the Institute hopes that their research will contribute to a better understanding of these important events and offer ideas and frameworks for how to think about them as well as consider potential policy implications.

Ellis Goldberg is a professor of political science at the University of Washington where he teaches Middle East politics. Most of his work has been on the political economy of Egypt in the 20th century including two monographs, *Tinker, Tailor and Textile Worker* and *Trade, Reputation and Child Labor*. His articles have appeared in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Comparative Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, and *Political Theory*. He has been a visiting faculty member at Princeton University, the American University in Cairo and a visiting research fellow at Harvard. He lived in Cairo during the first six months of 2011 where he attended most of the major demonstrations and rallies before and after the collapse of the Mubarak government. He is now working on two books. One is a study of political theory by influential Arab intellectuals and its relation to the revolutionary uprising of 2011. The other is a study of the origins of the concept of the rule of law in Egypt and its impact on the structure of the court system. In 2007 Goldberg was a Carnegie Scholar and in 2012 he is a Guggenheim Fellow.



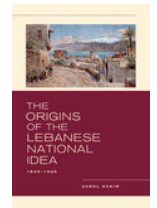
Engseng Ho is Professor of Anthropology and Professor of History at Duke University. He was educated at Stanford University in Economics and Social Sciences, and at the University of Chicago in Anthropology. He was previously Professor of Anthropology at Harvard University and Senior Scholar at the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies. He is interested in the international and transcultural dimensions of Islamic societies, and their relations to western empires. He has conducted research in the Middle East, South Asia and Southeast Asia. He is the author of *The Graves of Tarim: Genealogy and Mobility across the Indian Ocean*, published by the University of California Press in the California World History Library.

Samer Traboulsi is Associate Professor of History of the Middle East and the Muslim World at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. He received his PhD in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton in 2005. He is mainly interested in the formation and development of religious groups in the Muslim World and has published a book and a number of articles on the Isma’ilis in Yemen, the rise of the Wahhabi movement, and the history of Saudi Arabia.



Former TRI fellow **Carol Hakim’s** book, *The Origins of the Lebanese National Idea, 1840–1920*, has been published by University of California Press.

“In this fascinating study, Carol Hakim presents a new and original narrative on the origins of the Lebanese national idea. Hakim’s study reconsiders conventional accounts that locate the origins of Lebanese nationalism in a distant legendary past and then trace its evolution in a linear and gradual manner. She argues that while some of the ideas and historical myths at the core of Lebanese nationalism appeared by the mid-nineteenth century, a coherent popular nationalist ideology and movement emerged only with the establishment of the Lebanese state in 1920. Hakim reconstructs the complex process that led to the appearance of fluid national ideals among members of the clerical and secular Lebanese elite, and follows the



fluctuations and variations of these ideals up until the establishment of a Lebanese state. The book is an essential read for anyone interested in the evolution of nationalism in the Middle East and beyond.” The book has been called “one of the most significant monographs on Lebanon in a decade,” “engaging and original,” and “a model of careful research.”

Former Oil, Energy, and the Middle East fellows **Giacomo Luciani** (Princeton Global Scholar 2010–13) and **Eckart Woertz** have edited with Steffen Hertog and Richard Youngs the 4-volume *The Gulf Region: Economic Development and Diversification* (Gerlach Press, 2012).



“The four volumes in this major research collection address the key economic issues which affect the future development and diversification of the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE and Oman. Specifically, this recent research covers: Economic Diversification, Development of Global Partnerships, Labor Markets and Migration, and Financial Markets as Global Players. The work brings together state-of-the-art analysis by some 40 international scholars who participated in a major joint initiative by the EU and the GCC, the al-Jisr project on EU-GCC Public Diplomacy and Outreach headed by the Gulf Research Center and supported by the European Commission.”

Library News

Yemeni Manuscript Digitization Initiative

Princeton University Library, the Freie Universität, Berlin, and the Imam Zaid bin 'Ali Cultural Foundation (IZBACF), a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization based in Yemen, are collaborating on a project to preserve Zaydi manuscripts held in private libraries and to disseminate them digitally through the Princeton University Digital Library portal (<http://publ.princeton.edu/collections/publ0079>). This project is fund-

ed jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG; English: German Research Foundation). The project is led by Director Dr. David Hollenberg (University of Oregon) and Principal Investigators Dr. Sabine Schmidtke (Freie Universität, Berlin), and Dr. David Magier (Associate University Librarian for Collection Development at Princeton University). NES Professor **Bernard Haykel** is serving as Princeton's Academic Advisor.

With the growing sectarian strife in Yemen, Yemen's cultural heritage has become increasingly at risk. The private manuscript libraries of Yemen, which comprise one of the world's largest and most important collections of Arabic manuscripts, are particularly in danger. Collectively, these 6,000 private libraries possess some 50,000 codices, many of which are unique. These sources record a rich cultural legacy of Arabic and Islamic literature from the eighth century to the present. Because Yemen is relatively remote from the central lands of Islam, it has preserved many extremely rare sources, including some of the earliest extant Qur'an fragments and theological tracts, and works of great importance for the study of classical Islam, Arabic literature, science, law, and history. Ready access to these largely neglected sources would generate a tremendous amount of new knowledge and provide new perspectives on the political, intellectual, and literary history of Islamic civilization. But this irreplaceable trove of manuscripts is threatened. In recent years, Yemen's private libraries have suffered great losses, in part due to Salafi extremists who are ideologically opposed to Zaydi Shi'ism and have targeted Zaydi manuscripts for destruction. In the past ten years, over 10,000 manuscripts, including several entire libraries, have been destroyed. Since 1999, the IZBACF under the directorship of Ahmad Ishaq has begun to address this critical situation by devoting itself to the digital reproduction and preservation of these private collections. However, IZBACF's technical tools and infrastructure for long-term preservation and dissemination were limited. This is why the participation and expertise of Princeton and Freie Universität are essential to the achieving this goal. When the last of work components of the currently funded project are completed, YMDI will have accomplished

three main objectives:

1. Digital preservation of several private libraries in the capital city of Sana'a.
2. Digitization of additional manuscripts in the rare book collections of the Staatsbibliothek and the Princeton University Library.
3. Consolidation of the digitized manuscripts into a single platform, as part of the larger Islamic Manuscripts Online digital-library infrastructure developed at Princeton, to create a freely accessible and broadly discoverable repository of Islamic manuscripts whose scope is unparalleled in the world.



Ibn Miftāh, 'Abd Allāh ibn Abī al-Qāsim, d. 1472. [*al-Muntazā' al-mukhtār min Ghayth al-midrār*], [1650-1682], folios 1b–2a. Islamic Manuscripts, Garrett no. 2436Yq. Manuscripts Division. Department of Rare Books and Special Collection. Princeton University Library.

Despite a number of problems not usually associated with such preservation projects—visa issues for the Yemen-based staff, power outages in Sana'a, difficulties in transferring large electronic files, broken equipment, loss of phone and Internet connections, violent clashes just outside the building, rationing of food, water, and fuel, etc.—considerable progress has been made. At the present time, 259 manuscripts (238 from Yemen) with 93,789 images have been filmed and are available through the above URL. Reception of the project has been very enthusiastic, and it is clear that there is a demand not only for the completion of the currently funded project, but for the extension of the project to preserve and make accessible more of the thousands of other endangered Zaydi manuscripts still in hiding in storage sheds, garages, basements, and attics in Yemen. Some exploratory conversations along these lines have begun, and there is reason to hope that fundable and sustainable follow-on projects will emerge from these efforts.

Scenes from the 2012 Fall Reception



Şükrü Hanioglu and Alex Balistrieri



Wasim Shiliwala and Hisham Mahoud



Edgar Melgar, Farda Asadov, Lev Weitz, and Alex Balistrieri



Rephael Stern, Zachary Foster



Ussama al-Azami and Sam Helfont



Sarah Boyce and Karen Chirik



Zachary Foster, Edgar Melgar, Sarah Islam



Jeannette Rizk and Maria Fuchs



Edgar Melgar and Cole Bunzel



Sam Helfont and Christian Sahner

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Heath Lowry and Şükrü Haniöğlu

Scenes from the 2012 Fall Reception



Lindsey Stephenson, Simon Fuchs, Tally Helfont, Eric Lob, Sarah Getz Lob, and Elvire Corboz