

Research grant awards

British Academy

Dr Christina Phillips has been awarded £14,418 from the British Academy under its Rising Star Engagement Award to set up an Early Career Middle Eastern Studies Research Network.

The Network is an initiative aimed at creating connections between PhD candidates and postdoctoral fellows in the field of Middle Eastern Studies, and providing them with career-enhancing opportunities. It will involve a workshop, mentoring scheme and a website/online hub where members can share practice, expertise and resources as well as communicate their projects to wider audiences.

Wellcome Trust Small Grant

Dr Emily Selove has been awarded a grant valued £3,189 for her project 'A Pseudo-Aristotelian Medical/Magical Arabic Manuscript'. The John Ryland's Library at the University of Manchester is in possession of a mysterious manuscript titled *The Book of Venus*, which contains a collection of medieval Islamic magical texts, most notably the *Kitāb al-miyālātīs*, a "Talismanic Pseudo-Aristotelian" work of Hermetica, which was influential in the history of medieval magic in both the Middle East and Europe. This text has not been previously edited, existing only in manuscript form. In collaboration with Dr Taro Mimura, Emily will produce a preliminary transcription and an article describing the contents of the manuscript.

ESRC IAA (Impact Acceleration Account)

An IAA Knowledge Exchange Fellowship of £19,974 has been awarded to Professor Jonathan Githens-Mazer to work with the Headquarters of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, a NATO Joint Task Force Headquarters. The project will focus on areas of radicalisation and extremism, with a special focus on North Africa. The work will investigate how understanding processes and rationales of radicalisation can contribute to effective decision making for a Corps Level Headquarters with responsibilities to respond to emerging crises on behalf of NATO and its allies.

Postgraduate events

IAIS PRG conference 8 – 9 June 2015

The conference titled "Researching the Middle East: Fieldwork, Archives, Issues and Ethics" explores the common challenges, from the abstract to the concrete, from the theoretical to the practical, encountered by many researchers working on the Middle East. Please contact Lorraine Charles or Monica Ronchi if you would like to attend.

New directions in Palestine Studies, 2nd annual Palestine Symposium at Brown University, Providence 6 – 7 March 2015

Brown University held its annual International Symposium on Palestine titled: *Palestine; political cultures and the cultures of politics*. The symposium focused on pushing the conventional boundaries of 'the political' and critically analysing political culture – the aim being to identify the gaps in this area of study on Palestine and to crystallize new and emerging lines of enquiry. Panel topics included: cultures of resistance, images of Palestine, protest and activism, and cultures of nationalism.

The Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, with funding from the Exeter University Annual Fund, sent seven postgraduate students to attend the Symposium. Two students presented papers: Polly Withers presented a paper on 'Negotiating Nationalism in Youth Popular Music in Palestine', and Gabriel Varghese presented a paper on 'International Solidarity and Theatre Making in the West Bank'. Both papers sparked a lot of discussion and were well received.

All seven students took part in critical and analytical discussions for each panel. The event provided an excellent opportunity for Exeter students to meet fellow scholars, discuss their research and listen to established Palestine scholars. Report: Yara Hawari

In Memorium

Sarah Cook

Our administrator for the Centre for Kurdish Studies, Sarah Cook, died on 12 March 2015. We will miss her delightful sunny disposition as well as her professional integrity and efficiency.

Professor Edmund Bosworth

Visiting Professor of the Institute, died on 28 March 2015. Professor Bosworth was a major figure in the development of Middle Eastern Studies in Britain, and was known around the world for his prolific writings and learned contribution to the field. After retirement he moved down to Somerset and became an active honorary fellow in the IAIS soon thereafter. Edmund contributed to conferences and workshops held in the Institute, and led a number of methodology and training seminars for MA and PhD students. Some of our PhD students were fortunate enough to have him as a co-supervisor, a task to which he brought his famed attention to detail and critical attention. One of his last published works is a contribution to the festschrift for our own librarian Paul Auchterlonie.

Exhibitions

Faith and Fortune

21 May – 30 September 2015

An exhibition focusing on the use of Late Antique coinage as a platform for the promotion of the respective political and religious ideals of the Byzantine, Umayyad and Sasanian Empires.



Conferences, seminars, workshops

Forthcoming events

Events convened by the Islamic Reformulations Project of IAIS

New Directions in Islamic Thought: Lecture Series and Workshop. In May and June, a series of lectures and seminars will be held on the theme of "New Directions in Islamic Thought" by leading academics and thinkers. The series will end with a workshop on 'Reformulating Islamic Thought in the West', examining how Muslim intellectuals based in Europe and North America have engaged in the reformulation of Islamic thought in the modern period.

6 May: Professor Meir Hatina (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) will give a lecture on 'Between the Pulpit and the Battlefield: Contested Notions of religious Authority in Modern Islam'.

20 May: Muslim Futures: New Directions in Islamic Thought. A Round Table with speakers from different perspectives examining the major intellectual challenges for Muslims in the contemporary period.

3 June: Dr Shuruq Naguib (Lancaster University) will give a lecture on 'The Construction of Exegetical Authority in 20th Century Tafsir: The Case of Bint al-Shāṭi'.

16 June: Dr Ziba Mir-Hosseini (SOAS): 'Muslim Legal Tradition and the Challenge of Gender Equality'.

17 June: Reformulating Islamic Thought in the West. A workshop with opening address by Dr Carool Kersten (KCL): 'Pragmatism and Anti-foundationalism in Contemporary Muslim Thought'.

Centre for Gulf Studies

Ecologies of Violence and Genealogies of Terror: Assembling the Biosocial and its Histories in the GCC (18 May 2015)

With the increased visibility and mapping of the global financial positionality of the GCC and its distinct patterns of capitalist accumulation, this symposium asks how we might go beyond fixed notions of power, history and the body in order to probe violence in the context of re-generation and hyper-capitalism? This event, to be held at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, follows on from the Centre for Gulf Studies' 'symposium on Transgressing the Gulf' held in September 2013.

12 June: Shii Political Theology and Mobilisation in Contemporary Iraq – one-day workshop.

PhD Awards

Hannes Cerny, *Ethnic Conflict and Sovereignty Discourses of Mainstream International Relations Deconstructed: The Case of Iraqi Kurdistan and the PKK* – supervised by Gareth Stansfield

Denis Ekici, *Imagination: The Making of Kurdish National Identity in the Kurdish Journalistic Discourse (1898-1914)* – supervised by Christine Allison

Shayesteh Ghofrani, *Comparative Analysis of Wilaya in the Formative Period of Shi'ism and Sufism* – supervised by Robert Gleave

Reem Al-Rudainy, *The Role of Women in the Buyid and Saljuq Era* – supervised by Ian Netton

Mabroka El Sahli, *Under Two Flags: the Development of NGOs in Libya* – supervised by Tim Niblock

Lucy Semaan, *The Use of Wood in Boatbuilding in the Red Sea from Classic Antiquity Until Present Times* – supervised by Dionisius Agius and John Cooper

Linda Sijbrand, *The Social Role of Spiritual Communication: Authority as a Relationship between Shaykh and Follower in the Contemporary Tariqa Shadhiliyya-Yashrutiyya in Amman, Acre and Jaffa* – supervised by Ian Netton

New Staff

Emily Selove: joined us as Lecturer in Medieval Arabic Language and Literature in January 2015. She received her PhD in 2012 from UCLA. Emily was a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Manchester from 2012-2014. She has articles published on medieval Arabic medical topics, in addition to the subject of comic banquet literature and the uninvited guest.

Julia Rice: joins us as the Research Administrator for the Centre for Kurdish Studies and grant-sponsored projects within IAIS. She has previously held research administrative posts in the Medical and Law Schools.

Publications

Omar Ashour (2015) Collusion to Crackdown: Islamist-Military Relations in Egypt SERIES: Brookings Doha Center Publications, No. 39 March.

Mustafa Baig (2015) 'Operating Islamic Jurisprudence in Non-Muslim Jurisdictions: Traditional Islamic Precepts and Contemporary Controversies in the United States', in Chicago-Kent Law Review (Volume 90, Issue 1, 2015, special edition: Shari'a and Halakha in North America) <http://scholarship.kentlaw.iit.edu/cklawreview/vol90/iss1/5>

Robert Gleave (2015) 'Early Shī'ite hermeneutics and the dating of Kitāb Sulaym ibn Qays' in SOAS Bulletin, 78(1) February 2015, pp83-103.

Robert Gleave and István Kristó-Nagy (eds) (2015) Violence in Islamic Thought from the Qur'ān to the Mongols, vol. 1 in Legitimate and Illegitimate Violence in Islamic Thought series (Edinburgh: EUP).

Clémence Scalbert-Yücel (2015) 'Rèperes culture: Politiques culturelles et diversité de la scène artistique kurdes en Turquie' in Moyen-Orient, No. 26, April-June 2015.

Marc Valeri (2015), 'Simmering Unrest and Succession Challenges in Oman', Carnegie Paper – Middle East Series, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 30pp. (Available at: <http://ceip.org/1D1NI2G>.)

Marc Valeri (2015), 'The Suhar Paradox: Social and Political Mobilisations in the Sultanate of Oman since 2011', Arabian Humanities, No.4 (available at: <http://cy.revues.org/2828>).