

## Awards/prizes/scholarships

### International Excellence Scholarship

**Nathan Anderson** is an incoming doctoral student to IAIS in September 2017 who has secured an International Excellence Scholarship awarded by the University of Exeter. These awards are extremely competitive as they are granted to the strongest international PGR applicants in any subject area available at the University. Nathan's research topic is *The Materiality of Early Islamic Sects as Observed in Archaeological Remains in East Africa: Quirimbas Islands*. His first supervisor is Professor Timothy Insoll.

## Welcome to Dr Paul Gledhill

Welcome to Paul Gledhill, Research Fellow, who will be working with Professor Rob Gleave. Paul explains:

"I recently joined the Institute as a Research Fellow on the ERC-funded project entitled *Law and Learning in Shi'i Islam (LAWALISI)*. In the context of the project, I hope to explore the emergence of Shi'i law and its relation to the development of Islamic law more generally from the 8th to the 11th centuries. In 2014 I completed a DPhil at the University of Oxford where I wrote a thesis entitled 'The Development of Systematic Thought in Early Maliki Jurisprudence'. Subsequently I held a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Tokyo where I worked on the causes of the transition from al-Shafi'i's Iraqi to his mature Egyptian doctrine. By drawing on my background in the development of law in the Sunni schools, I hope to bring fresh perspectives to the study of law in the Shi'i traditions."

## Publications

Cooper, J.P., Caira, G., Opdebeeck, J., Papadopoulou, C., and Tsiairis, V. (2017) "A Saxon Fish Weir and Undated Fish Trap Frames Near Ashlett Creek, Hampshire, UK: Static Structures on a Dynamic Foreshore." *Journal of Maritime Archaeology*: DOI: 10.1007/s11457-017-9170-2.

Insoll, T. 2017. *The Archaeology of Islamisation in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Comparative Study*. (In), Peacock, A. (ed.), *Islamisation: Comparative Perspectives from History*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, pp. 244-273.

Insoll, T. (ed.). (2017). *The Oxford Handbook of Prehistoric Figurines*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 931 pp.

In the *International Affairs* journal, Professor Gareth Stansfield is included in the top ten cited papers since 2014, for his paper "*The Islamic State, the Kurdistan Region and the future of Iraq: assessing UK policy options*". A link to the top ten is here: <http://cht.hm/2oh9vOy>

Insoll, T. 2017. *Mieux Comprendre l'Architecture Religieuse Musulmane en Afrique Subsaharienne Grâce à l'Archéologie*. (In), Cimorelli, D. (ed.), *Trésors de l'Islam en Afrique. De Tombouctou à Zanzibar*. Paris/Milan: Institut du Monde Arabe/Silvano Editoriale, pp. 82-87.

## PhD awards

### Luay al-Khatteeb

**PhD Middle East Politics:** *Towards a Policy Framework for Iraq's Petroleum Industry and an Integrated Federal Energy Strategy?*  
Examiners: Professor Tim Niblock (internal) and Professor Paul Stevens (Professor Emeritus at University of Dundee and a visiting Professor at University College London).

### Kawa Morad

**PhD Kurdish Studies:** *Stranbeji in Contemporary Iraqi Kurdistan: Discourses of History, Heritage and Tradition*. Supervised by Christine Allison.

### Tareq Alfraidi

*Conditional Sentences in Modern Written Arabic*. Supervised by Professor Dionisius Agius. Examiners: Professor James Dickins (Leeds) and Dr John P Cooper (IAIS, University of Exeter).

## Conferences, seminars, workshops and events

### Past events:

#### March 6, 2017

Professor Ilan Pappé and Dr Nadia Naser-Najjab were recently speakers at an event organized by Exeter Branch Historical Association, University of Exeter Student History Society and one selected University of Exeter Research Centre (European Centre for Palestine Studies).

**Title:** *History and Politics in Israel and Palestine*. The talk covered the impact of politics on history and historiography in Israel and Palestine, from the emergence of the 'new historians' to the Palestinian textbooks controversy.

#### 11-12 May 2017

Dr Nadia Naser-Najjab recently presented a paper at an International Conference held at the University of Sussex. The conference was called *The Occupation at 50: Pasts, Presents, Futures*. The conference was sponsored by the Sussex Centre for Human Rights Research, the Middle East and North Africa Centre at Sussex, the Sussex Centre for Conflict and Security Research and the Sussex Rights and Justice Research Centre.

The title of Nadia's paper was *The Palestinian Leadership and the Persistence of the Political Status Quo*.

**Abstract:** This paper asks why the Palestinian political leadership continue to remain so strongly attached to the established framework of political engagement, in spite of its continued and clearly evidenced failure. It suggests that this faithful adherence cannot be attributed, as we might assume, to the lack of an alternative. In further developing this point, this paper draws attention to a clear alternative, taking the United National Leadership of the Uprising (UNLU) as its key reference point. After interrogating Fanon's, Veracini and Coulthard's theoretical analyses of settler colonialism, it then proceeds to suggest that the persistence of a stagnant political status quo can be attributed, in large part, to the self-interest of the Palestinian political elite. In concluding, it asks a series of questions that are addressed to the ongoing Palestinian political predicament.



Dr Nadia Naser-Najjab

### Forthcoming:

The Centre for the Study of Islam (CSI) will be holding activities during the Summer term, as follows:

#### Weds 14 June, 2017

14:00-17:00 Research Workshop with Dr Simon Fuchs, (University of Cambridge) on religious connections between the Middle East and South Asia. Dr Fuchs will give the opening lecture on "Stemming the Salafi Tide: Sunni Traditionalist Connections between the Middle East and South Asia" (Seminar 2).

The full programme can be found on the CSI website:

<http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/iaais/research/centres/csi/events>

#### Thurs 22 June, 2017

Sexuality and Islamic Law Workshop led by Omar Anchassi (Lecture Theatre 2).

This one-day workshop, involving European researchers, takes place under the auspices of the HERA-funded project USPPIP (Understanding Sharī'a: Past Perfect, Imperfect Present), led by Professor Rob Gleave and colleagues at the universities of Bergen, Göttingen and Leiden. The project focuses on how contemporary actors imagine and construct the past, and how they put this to work in modern arguments about Islamic law. The workshop, one of several organised by the project team, explores representations of the past by modern Muslims in a range of societies on topics relating to sex and sexuality in Islamic law.

For further details, please visit the project website at: [www.usppip.eu](http://www.usppip.eu)