

## Fellowship appointment – Academy of Social Sciences

Professor Gareth Stansfield has been appointed Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. He has been a regular commentator and adviser on Middle East politics over the last decade, focusing in particular on the politics and political economy of Iraq, the Kurdish regions of the Middle East, dynamics of Gulf/Arabian peninsula security, and questions of post-conflict stabilization and nation/state building. He is one of a handful of academics to have lived and worked in pre-regime change Iraq for an extensive period of time, between 1996 and 2001, and has considerable fieldwork experience in a range of countries in the Middle East and Islamic World.

## King Abdul Aziz Book Award

The Institute congratulates **Salih Aljedani**, a PhD student in IAIS, who has recently won the coveted King Abdul Aziz Book Award in its second session 1436/2015 for his book entitled "al-Madīnah al-munawwarah wa- shamāl al-Hijāz fi kutub al-riḥalāt khilāl al-qarnayn al-tāsi' wa- al-āshir al-Hijriyayn : dirāsah tarīkhīyah". The book award is organised annually by King Abdul Aziz Foundation for Research and Archives in Riyadh.

## Past Events

**The Role of Religion in Security Challenges:** Policy Workshop 21 September 2015. Rob Gleave, along with other PACCS Leadership Fellows, spoke at this Policy Workshop, participating in discussions with a mixed audience of policy makers, journalists, practitioners and academics at the Work Foundation, London. The workshop was convened under the auspices of the RCUK Partnership for Conflict, Crime and Security Research programme.

**Islam, Law and the State: Research Seminar and Public Lecture by Professor Mohammad Fadel (Islamic Reformulations project)** This research seminar, held 7 January 2016 at the University of Exeter, examined the relationship between Islam, Muslims and Law, covering subjects from conception of Law in the Muslim tradition, and how Muslims are framed by current UK legislation. Following the seminar, Professor Mohammad Fadel gave a lecture titled, "Islamic Constitutionalism as an Alternative Approach to Islamic Legal Reform".

**Recent Presentations:** Robert Gleave talks at the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (Riyadh) and the Shia Studies Institute (London). Rob Gleave gave a lecture entitled "Apocalyptic Islam in Southern Iraq: Shia Jurisprudence and Messianic Movements" as part of a two conferences on consecutive days at the **King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies**, Riyadh, 2-3 September. The international programme comprised day one focusing on Shi'ite Identity, Party Politics and Militants; day two looking at Jihadist Discourses, Ideologies and Networks. He also gave a talk as part of an international programme at the Annual Conference of the **Shia Studies Institute**, London, entitled "Twelver Uṣūlī Debates in the Philosophy of Language after Ākhund al-Khurasānī". Robert Gleave was a panel member at the launch of the new journal *Re-Orient: The Journal of Critical Muslim Studies*, held at SOAS on 2 December 2015, alongside Salman Sayyid, Ruth Mas, Brian Klug and chaired by Samia Bano. Details for the journal can be found [here](#). Robert Gleave also gave a presentation entitled "Muck and Brass: Some further thoughts on early Imami legal hadith" at the Islam@250 conference in memory of the great G.H.A. Juynboll (a former member of the Exeter University staff), held in Leiden, 3-5 December 2015.

## PhD awards

**Abdallah Aloraini:** *A Pragmatic Literary Study of the Diwan Group's Poetic Discourse* – supervised by Ian Netton

**Hassan Beloushi:** *The Theory of Maqāṣid al-Sharī'a in Shi'ī Jurisprudence: Muḥammad Taqī al-Mudarris as a Model* - supervised by Rob Gleave

**Billie Jeanne Brownlee:** *w Media and Revolution: Syria's Silent Movement towards the 2011 Uprising* - supervised by Lise Storm

**Morgane Colleau:** *Iran's status seeking foreign policy through the prism of the nuclear issue: The Ahmadinejad Presidency 2005 -2013* – supervised by Gareth Stansfield

**Kaveh Ghobadi:** *Subjectivity in Contemporary Kurdish Novels: Recasting Nationalism, Space, and Gender* – supervised by Clemence Scalbert-Yucel and Gerald Maclean (Department of English)

**Dan Freeman-Maloy:** *Canada and the Palestine Question: On Zionism, Empire, and the Colour Line* - supervised by Ilan Pappé

**Amina Inloes:** *Negotiating Shi'ī Identity and Orthodoxy through Canonizing Ideologies about Women in Twelver Shi'ī Ahādīth on Pre-Islamic Sacred History in the Qur'ān* – supervised by Ian Netton

**Henry Jarrett:** *Consociational Conflict Transformation: Ethno-national identity in post-Good Friday Agreement Northern Ireland* – supervised by Jonathan Githens-Mazer

**Mahroo Rashidrostami:** *Theatre and Cultural Nationalism: Kurdish Theatre under the Baath, 1975-1991* – supervised by Christine Allison and Kara Reilly (Drama Department)

**Tayfun Ustun:** *Reproduction of Armenianness in Diasporic Spaces: A Comparative Analysis of Armenianness in Turkish, Lebanese and British Cases* – supervised by Jonathan Githens-Mazer

**Jeremy Wildeman:** "Either You're With Us or Against Us": *Illiberal Canadian Foreign Aid in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, 2001-2012* – supervised by Jonathan Githens-Mazer

## Visiting Speakers – Term 2

**3 February:** Prof Eugene Rogan (Oxford): *"The Fall of the Ottomans: The Great War in the Middle East, 1914-20"* (tbc)

**10 February** (with the Centre for the Study of Islam): Dr Mateo Farzaneh (Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, USA): *"Shi'ism and Popular Leadership in the Iranian Constitutional Revolution, 1906-1911"* (tbc)

**10 February** (3.15 pm)(with Centre for Palestine Studies) Dr Ghassan Khatib (Vice President for Development, Birzeit University, Palestine) *"The Deadlock in Palestine: Is there a Way Out?"* (tbc)

**17 February** (with the Centre for the Study of Islam): Dr Vasileios Syros (Academy of Finland): *"The Myth of Islamic Absolutism: Representations of Soft and Hard Power in Medieval Islam"*

**24 February:** Speaker to be advised

**1 March** (with the Centre for the Study of Islam): Prof Gudrun Kramer (Free University, Berlin): *Title to be confirmed*

**2 March** (with the Centre for the Study of Islam): Prof David Thomas (Birmingham): *"History of Christian-Muslim Relations"* (tbc)

**9 March** (with the Centre for the Study of Islam): Prof Nicolai Sinai (Oxford): *Title to be confirmed*

**16 March** (with the Centre for Gulf Studies): Prof Lisa Wedeen (Chicago): *Title to be confirmed*

**23 March** (with the Centre for the Study of Islam): Prof Geert Jan van Gelder (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences): *"Ibn Usaybi ah's 'Literary History of Medicine'"* (tbc)

- Omar Ashour** (2015) 'Sinai's Stubborn Insurgency,' *Foreign Affairs*. 94. 6 (November/ December)
- Paul Auchterlonie** (2015) 'Surviving as a Slave: the Economic Reality of Life as a European Slave in Ottoman North Africa, 1600-1820,' *The Maghreb Review*, 40.4, pp. 445-472
- Robert Gleave** (2015), 'Abandoning Prayer and the Declaration of Unbelief in Imānī Jurisprudence', in Camilla Adang, Hassan Ansari, Maribel Fierro and Sabine Schmidtke (eds), *Accusations of Unbelief in Islam: A diachronic perspective on takfir*, Series: *Islamic History and Civilizations*, Brill: Leiden-Boston, 2015, pp. 413-433
- István T. Kristó-Nagy** (2015), 'Denouncing the damned Zindīq! Struggle and interaction between monotheism and dualism', in Camilla Adang, Hassan Ansari, Maribel Fierro and Sabine Schmidtke (eds), *Accusations of Unbelief in Islam: A diachronic perspective on takfir*, Series: *Islamic History and Civilizations*, Brill: Leiden-Boston, 2015, pp. 56-81
- István T. Kristó-Nagy**, "La violence dans l'héritage biologique, culturel, religieux et notamment islamique", in Marie-Thérèse Urvoy (ed.), *L'ordre social et les religions*, Collection : "Studia Arabica", vol. XXV, Éditions de Paris, Versailles, 2015, ISBN 978-2-85162-294-5, pp. 375-404.
- István T. Kristó-Nagy** (2015), 'La violence dans l'héritage biologique, culturel, religieux et notamment islamique', in Marie-Thérèse Urvoy (ed.), *L'ordre social et les religions*, Collection : "Studia Arabica", vol. XXV, Éditions de Paris, Versailles
- Andrea Mura** (2015) *The Symbolic Scenarios of Islamism: a study in Islamic political thought*, Ashgate, Burlington VT
- Tanya Newbury-Smith** (PhD student) (2015): 'The Anthropological Elements of Failed Saudisation - Historicism, Image, Islam and Tribe' in Annika Kropf & Mohamed Ramady (eds), *Employment and Career Motivation in the Arab Gulf States: The Rentier Mentality Revisited*, Gerlach: Berlin-London, Steven Hook and Tim Niblock (eds) (1915), *The United States and the Gulf: Shifting Pressures, Strategies and Alignments*, Berlin: Gerlach, 195pp.
- Tim Niblock** (2015), 'Strategic Economic Relationships and Strategic Openings in the Gulf', pp 5-20, *ibid*.
- Sajjad Rizvi** (2015) 'The takfir of the Philosophers (and Sufis) in Safavid Iran', in Camilla Adang, Hassan Ansari, Maribel Fierro and Sabine Schmidtke (eds), *Accusations of Unbelief in Islam: A diachronic perspective on takfir*, Series: *Islamic History and Civilizations*, Brill: Leiden-Boston, pp 244-272
- Sajjad Rizvi** (2016) 'Authority, Governance, Legitimacy, Representation: Some Thoughts from the Muslim Margins' *Studies in Christian Ethics*, 1-12
- Alam Saleh and Hendrik Kraetzschmar** (2015) 'Politicized Identities, Securitized Politics: Sunni-Shi'a Politics in Egypt', *The Middle East Journal*, 69:4:pp 545-562
- Rasmus Christian Elling and Alam Saleh (2015) 'Ethnic Minorities and the Politics of Identity in Iran', *Iranian Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/00210862.2016.1118949
- Emily Selove** (2015) 'Medicine, Mujān, and Microcosm in Hikāyat Abī al-Qāsim al-Baghdādī' *Journal of Abbasid Studies*, 2:2, Brill
- Mohammed Shareef** (2016) 'China's Dual Diplomacy: Arab Iraq and the Kurdistan Region' in Niv Horesh (ed.), *Toward Well-Oiled Relations: China's Presence in the Middle East Following the Arab Spring*, Palgrave Macmillan, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, pp 69-93
- Suha Taji-Farouki** (ed) (2016) *The Qur'an and its Readers Worldwide: Contemporary Commentaries and Translations*, Oxford, OUP/Institute of Islamic Studies (Qur'anic Studies Series)
- Marc Valeri** (2015), 'The Gulf Monarchies and Iran: Between Confrontation and Geostategic Realities', in L. Narbone & M. Lestra (eds), *The Gulf Monarchies Beyond the Arab Spring* (Florence: European University Institute), pp 38-45

## Visiting Researchers

Visiting researchers, January-February 2016: We are pleased to announce 5 visiting scholars to Exeter under the auspices of the Islamic Reformulations project. Each of the researchers will participate in the project's activities, present their research and participate in a series of sandpit workshops. They are Drs **David Warren** (US), **Ryan Rittenberg** (US), **Bianka Speidl** (Hungary), **Mohammed Eissa** (Germany) and **Samer El-Karanshawy** (Egypt).

**13 January - 8 February:** Dr Bianka Speidl (Senior Researcher at the Migration Research Institute in Budapest). Research Topic: Islamic legal thought for minorities.

**5 - 20 February:** Dr Samer El-Karanshawy (Independent Researcher, Cairo). Research Topic: Marginality and perceptions of history among the Lebanese Shī'ā.

**7 - 27 February:** Dr Mohammed Eissa (Independent Researcher, Berlin): Theology and Legal Theory in the Fifth/Eleventh Century: A Case Study from the Shāfi'ī School of Law.

## Conferences, Seminars and Workshops

**Conference: Reformulation and Hermeneutics: Researching the History of Islamic Legal Theory, Istanbul, 21-24 February 2016.** This is advanced notice of a collaborative conference between the Islamic Reformulations project and the Faculty of Theology, Istanbul University. The conference will examine how, through history, Shāfi'ī rules have been justified by Muslim thinkers, with a focus on the debates and discussions in works of legal theory. The conference will bring together leading researchers from the Middle East, Europe and North America in the discipline.

### Centre for the Study of Islam

The Centre has a full term of activities for the Spring term 2016. All are welcome to attend any of the events. If you have any questions contact the Centre's director: Robert Gleave (rgleave@exeter.ac.uk). More information about the Centre for the Study of Islam can be found at: <http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/iaais/research/centres/csi/>

**14 January:** 1130-1230: Lunchtime Seminar (followed by CSI lunch): Dr David Warren: "Mistaking the Trees for a Wood: The Ulama of Egypt and Syria in the Wake of the Arab Spring"

**19 January:** 1130-1230: Lunchtime Seminar (followed by CSI lunch): Dr Ryan Rittenberg: "Representation in Islamic Commercial Law"

**20 January:** 1230-1330: CSI Arabic Texts Reading group: Details TBC

**28 January:** 1300-1900: GW4 project "Religion and Law" Workshop and public lecture, Cardiff University (travel expenses for GW4 staff and students is available). Professor Ebrahim Moosa (Notre Dame University): "Prohibiting Slavery in Islam: Religion, Law and the Challenge of Islamic State". (NOTE: This event takes place at Cardiff University. E-mail CSI Director Robert Gleave for details on attendance: [r.gleave@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:r.gleave@exeter.ac.uk))

**1 February – 2 February:** Mural Artwork. Mohammed Ali (aka Aerosol Arabic), the British Muslim Mural Artist will be visiting Exeter, decorating a mural at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies and giving a seminar on modern Muslim street art

**3 February:** 1130-1230: Lunchtime Seminar (followed by CSI lunch): Dr Bianka Speidl: "A comparison of Shi'i and Sunni legal opinion regarding West as dīn al-kufr."

**10 February:** 1130-1230: Lunchtime Seminar: Dr Samer El-Karanshawy: "Drama, Sequence and Textuality: Commemorating Karbala in Beirut"

**2 March:** 1730: Lecture: Dr. Mateo Farzaneh (Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, US): "Shi'ism and Popular Leadership in the Iranian Constitutional Revolution, 1906-1911"

**16 February:** 1130-1230: Lunchtime Seminar (followed by CSI lunch): Dr Mohammed Eissa: "Theology and Legal Theory in the Fifth/Eleventh Century: A Case Study from the Shāfi'ī School of Law"

**17 February:** 1230-1330: CSI Arabic Texts Reading group: Dr Suha Taji-Farouki: Text TBC

**17 February:** 1730: Lecture: Dr. Vasileios Syros (Academy of Finland): "The Myth of Islamic Absolutism: Representations of Soft and Hard Power in Medieval Islam"

**21 February - 25 February:** Reformulation and Hermeneutics: Studies in Islamic Legal Theory conference. (Convened with the Faculty of Theology, Istanbul University – for details see [www.islamicreformulations.net](http://www.islamicreformulations.net) - this event will take place in Istanbul. E-mail CSI Director Robert Gleave for details on attendance: [r.gleave@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:r.gleave@exeter.ac.uk))

**1 March:** 1730: Lecture: Prof. Gudrun Kramer (Free University, Berlin): Title TBC

**2 March:** 1230-1330: CSI Arabic Texts Reading group with Professor David Thomas (visiting speaker): Text TBC

**2 March:** 1730: Lecture: Professor David Thomas (University of Birmingham): Title TBC

**9 March:** 1230-1330: CSI Arabic Texts Reading group with Professor Nicolai Sinai (visiting speaker): Text TBC

**9 March:** 1730: Lecture: Professor Nicolai Sinai: (University of Oxford): Title TBC

**23 March:** 1230-1330: CSI Arabic Texts Reading group with Professor Gerard van Gelder (Visiting Speaker): Text TBC. In the evening, at 1730 Professor van Gelder will give a visiting speaker lecture entitled "Ibn Usaybi'ah's 'Literary History of Medicine'".