

## New Director of Research:

From 1 August 2013 Dr Lise Storm became the Institute's 'DoR'.

## Research grant awards

**Sophie Richter-Devroe** has been awarded the AHRC Early Career Fellowship for her project on "Gender and Settler Colonialism: Women's Oral Histories in the Naqab".

Total amount of funding: £247,535 (24 months).

The project contributes to re-writing the history of the Naqab Bedouins in Israel by proposing a gendered 'history from below' based on (video and audio-recorded) oral testimonies of women from this community. Although Naqab Bedouin women play a crucial role in their community's struggle against Israeli settler-colonial policies, their historical accounts have so far received little attention. Mainstream (predominantly archival, elite-, and male-dominated) historiography tends to neglect women's accounts, finding them to be irrelevant, apolitical, or even factually incorrect. Documenting Naqab women's oral testimonies, however, is crucial at this moment in time: survivors of the Nakba, i.e. those who have witnessed the expulsion in 1948, are becoming few. Given that Naqab Bedouin culture is largely based on orality (where historical events are rarely documented in written form), the life stories, historical narratives and cultural knowledge of elderly Bedouin women are likely to be lost if not recorded now.

Based at the European Centre for Palestine Studies under the mentorship of Prof. Pappé, the project also relies on international cooperation in the Naqab (R.H.A. Center of Bedouin Studies and Development), and the US (Center for Palestine Studies, Columbia University). As part of the project a documentary film on Naqab Bedouin women's politics will be produced.

**Christine Allison**, in collaboration with Prof Albert de Jong of the University of Leiden, has been awarded a grant of £215,000 by the Arcadia Fund [www.arcadiafund.org.uk](http://www.arcadiafund.org.uk), for the project 'The Worlds of Mandaean Priests'.

The Mandaeans are one of the world's most endangered religious minorities. The aim of this project is to preserve as much of their religious knowledge as possible by making recordings: of interviews with many of the priests, and of the rituals themselves. The investigator will visit individuals in both homeland and diaspora and will aim to capture the full range of religious rituals and the variant traditions within the priesthood.

An ethnographic film about the religious life of the Community will also be made, which we hope will be shown widely. The interviews will be kept in perpetuity in Exeter's online Digital Repository and will be freely available on the Internet, in accordance with Exeter's Open Access policy.

### Songs of the Sea Project: The Saudi Red Sea Coast

Sponsored by the Seven Pillars of Wisdom Trust and the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities.

The traditional songs of the sea are no longer being sung as part of the working day and therefore, even though efforts are made to remember them, the old wording is slowly being forgotten and new improvised versions are appearing. Professor Dionisius A. Agius, Al Qasimi Professor of Arabic and Islamic Material Culture and Mr Muhammad Alhazmi, doctoral student at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, have conducted a pilot study on the Red Sea Saudi coast in four sea towns from 22 March to 2 April 2013 : a) to document the cultural history of the songs of the sea, the singers and their lives, on shore and at sea; b) to record and study the terminology, their origin and provenance; c) to understand the distribution and orientation of maritime songs on the Red Sea coast in order to provide new insights into their meaning and significance. Our concern as ethnographers and linguists is to raise awareness of a dying language and culture. The last practitioners are themselves dying out and it is important to capture the last true remnants of the songs of the sea before they become mere pastiches. Further fieldwork is planned in the next few years.

### Kerala, India

Co-investigators: Professor Dionisius Agius, Dr John P Cooper. University of Exeter Outward Mobility Award.

In April 2013, the investigators made a pilot visit to Kerala to make an assessment of archival records at locations including Calicut, Kannur and Ponnani. The visit was conducted in co-operation with Farook College, Calicut. The research included Arabic and English documents held in state archives, at mosques, at port authority offices and in private collections, with a view to assessing them for content related to maritime relations with Arabia.

**Talal Alazemi**, *Kuwaiti Foreign Policy in light of the Iraqi invasion, with particular reference to Kuwait's policy towards Iraq 1990-2010* – supervised by Gerd Nonneman

**Abdulaziz Al Khalifa**, *Relentless Warrior and Shrewd Tactician: Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmad of Bahrain 1795-1849. A Case Study of Shaikhly Statecraft in the Nineteenth Century Gulf* – supervised by James Onley

**Kawthar Guediri**, *A History of Anti-Partitionist Perspective in Palestine 1915-1988* – supervised by Ilan Pappé

**Maha Habib**, *Mapping Sacred Spaces in Egyptian Literature: Muslim Identities and the Predicament of (Post)Modernity* – supervised by Ilan Pappé

**Rene Rieger**, *The Foreign Policy of the Arab Gulf Monarchies from 1971 to 1990* – supervised by Tim Niblock and Gerd Nonneman

**Reza Tabandeh**, *The Rise of Nimatullahi Shi'ite Sufism in Nineteenth-Century Qajar Persia: Husayn 'Ali Shah, Majdhub 'Ali Shah, and Mast 'Ali Shah and their Battle with Islamic Fundamentalism* – supervised by Leonard Lewisohn

## Publications

**Christine Allison (2013)** 'Addressivity and the Monument: Memorials, Publics and the Yezidis of Armenia', in *History and Memory: studies in representation of the past*, Vol. 25, No. 1 (Spring/Summer 2013), pp. 145-181.

**Christine Allison (2013)** 'Memory and the Kurmanji Novel' in *Remembering the Past in Iranian Societies* (ed. with P.G. Kreyenbroek), Harrassowitz, Wiesbaden, pp. 189-218.

**Christine Allison (2013)** *Remembering the Past in Iranian Societies* (ed. with P.G. Kreyenbroek), Harrassowitz, Wiesbaden

**William Gallois (2013)**, *A History of Violence in the Early Algerian Colony* (London: Palgrave Macmillan)

**William Gallois (2013)**, 'Genocide in Nineteenth-Century Algeria', *Journal of Genocide Research*, 15-1, 69-88.

**William Gallois (2013)**, 'The War for Time in Early Colonial Algeria' in Chris Lorenz and Berber Bevernage (eds) *Breaking Up Time: Negotiating the Borders between Present, Past and Future* (Gottingen: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht), 252-73

**Sophie Richter-Devroe (2013)** "Like Something Sacred": Palestinian Refugees' Narratives on the Right of Return, *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, Vol. 32, No. 2, pp. 92-115

**Marc Valeri (2013)**, 'Autoritarisme et stratégies de légitimation dans le golfe Persique à l'heure du Printemps arabe' (Authoritarianism and Legitimization Strategies in the Gulf in the Era of the Arab Spring) (in French), *Revue internationale de politique comparée* 19:4, 111-133

## Conferences, seminars and workshops

### Past events

#### LIVIT Conference

2-3 September 2013

The fourth and final conference of the LIVIT project, entitled *Legitimate and Illegitimate Violence in Modern Islamic Thought*, was held at IAIS. The project will continue in a modified form under Robert Gleave's new, three-year Global Uncertainties Leadership fellowship, "Islamic Reformulations: Belief, Violence, Governance", which commenced on 1st September 2012. "Islamic Reformulations" will examine the past and future trajectories of Muslim thinking on the relationships between belief, violence and governance.

#### Transgressing the Gulf: Dissidence, Resistance and Potentiality in the GCC States

9-10 September 2013

A two-day symposium sponsored by the Centre for Gulf Studies at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies.

#### International workshop on state-business relations in the Gulf

12-13 September 2013

This is part of the three year ESRC funded research project called *Re-negotiating the Social Contract in the GCC: State-Business Relations and Reforms in the Oil-Rentier Gulf Monarchies* which started in October 2012. *The workshop will bring together a select group of experts on the topic from Europe, the US and the Gulf region.*

## Visiting speakers

### Term 1 – Wednesdays 5.00 – 7.00 pm in IAIS

**9 October Dr Carol Kersten** (King's College, London): *Indonesia in the 21st century: Muslim Debates on Society, Ideas and Values.*

**16 October Dr Roland Marchal** (Sciences Po, Paris): *Mali. Another War on Terror?*

**23 October Prof. Mehmet Kalpakli** (Bilkent University, Ankara): *Social Networking During the 'Age of Beloveds': Parties, Poetry, and Patronage.*

**30 October Prof. François Déroche** (EPHE, Paris): *Quranic Manuscripts at the Umayyad Period (exact title tbc).*

**6 November** (with the Centre for Gulf Studies):  
**Dr Toby Matthiesen** (LSE): *The Gulf States and the Arab Uprisings: Counter-Revolution and Sectarianism.*

**13 November Dr Ghada Karmi:** *Muslims in Britain. Not "People Like Us"?*

**20 November** (with the Centre for Gulf Studies):  
**Dr Allen Fromherz** (Georgia State University, Atlanta): *Qatar and Modernity in the Gulf: Between Internal Dynamics and International Image.*

**27 November** (with the UoE Arabic Society):  
**Dr Thomas Hegghammer** (Norwegian Defence Research Establishment, Oslo): *Jihad Culture: Artistic Products and Social Practices in the Militant Underground.*

**4 December Dr Frank Foley** (King's College, London): *Countering Terrorism in Britain and France: Institutions, Norms and the Shadow of the Past.*

**11 December Dr Omar Sheikhmous** (Stockholm University): *Dynamics of the Conflict in Syria: Domestic, Regional and International Factors.*

## Prizes

**Ella Gao** was awarded the American Political Science Association's Best Dissertation in Urban Politics (for 2013) for her dissertation, "Diverse but not divisive: Tribal politics and public goods provision in Jordan".

## Past Exhibitions

**Resonate & Reformulate** – three days of events, exploring Islam, Muslim belief and the creative arts. **11-13 June 2013**

Organised by the ESRC Islamic Reformulations Project: see [www.islamicreformulations.net](http://www.islamicreformulations.net) for full details.

**Tuesday 11 June Aerosol Arabic** created a *Spinning Cube* outside the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies.

**Wednesday 12 June Aerosol Arabic** created *The Reformulate Cube* in the Grand Hall Piazza, University of Exeter, with sounds from *Celt Islam*.

Round Table Discussion - A panel of experts and artists discussed how Islam and Muslim belief can be portrayed through various creative media, with:

**Muhammad Ali** (aka Aerosol Arabic - Graffiti artist), **Celt Islam** (Sufi Dub creator and DJ), **Abdul-Azim Ahmed** (Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK, Cardiff University), **Elaine M Goodwin** (Mosaic Artist), **Massimiliano Fusari** (Photographer)

**Thursday 13 June Aerosol Arabic** completed *The Reformulate Cube* in the Grand Hall Piazza with sounds from *Celt Islam* - Commentary on the Cube by *Aerosol Arabic* and music production demonstration with *Celt Islam*.

**Exeter Cathedral** – from **15 June to 10 September**, the 'Future' Cube was exhibited on the forecourt of the Cathedral.