

Research grant awards

William Gallois has been awarded €78,080.65 by the Gerda Henkel Foundation for a two-year research project as part of their Special Programme on Islam, The Modern Nation State and Transnational Movements. Gallois' research project – 'Forging 'Algeria': Constructions of national space and nationhood in Algeria, 1830-50' – will study the formation of what was arguably the first modern nation in the Islamic world, looking at the ways in which this forging of an Algerian national space also occurred at a critical moment in European thinking about nationalism and the nation.

Relatively little attention has been paid to the ways in which this novel nation was constructed in Algeria or to the interplay between Muslims and Europeans with regard to the significance of this new form of national space. While, for instance, we do know a certain amount about debates over the so-called 'Algerian Question' of the 1830s, in which rival French forces argued the merits of forging the nation on military, civil or commercial grounds, we know far less about the ways in which the so-called 'Indigènes' of the country (Arab and Berber Muslims, as well as Jews) reacted to the new world being built around and through them.

While the project is emphatically historical, it also contains clear ramifications for historical and political debates in the present. The much-posed question as to whether Algeria has an inherently violent polity can be better answered through a more careful consideration of its origins. Similarly, the question as to the whether the militarization of Algerian politics was grounded in the structures of the colonial nation state depends upon our developing a clearer picture of the formation of those structures. The same is also true with regard to the question whether modern forms of Islamist resistance to the contemporary Algerian state truly bear family resemblances to early Muslim struggles against colonialism, or whether forms of Islamist politics in Algeria could instead draw upon other, quite distinct, yet effaced forms of Islamic identities from the nineteenth century.

*The research project "Re-negotiating the Social Contract in the Gulf Cooperation Council. State-Business Relations and Reforms in the Oil Rentier Gulf monarchies" (funded by the ESRC) has a new website: www.gulfstatebusiness.net

Blogs

Lise Storm is a principal contributor to a new academic blog charting presidents and presidential politics around the globe. She will be the editor for the Middle East and North Africa. Blog: <http://presidential-power.com>
Facebook page with daily updates: www.facebook.com/prespow

Staff

Ian Netton, Sharjah Professor of Islamic Studies, retired on 31 December 2013. Ian started his academic career at the University of Exeter before moving on to the University of Leeds. In 2008 he returned to Exeter to take up the Sharjah chair and subsequently became head of department in the Institute. He will continue his association with IAIS by becoming Professor Emeritus.

While at Exeter, Professor Netton made an immense contribution to the IAIS, not only as part of the administrative leadership and by his numerous and excellent publications, but also at a personal level. Professor Netton, or the lovely Ian, was always in his office, available to see anyone who needed his ears regardless of whether he was busy writing, preparing to teach or on his way to yet another meeting. Ian would also get any event going in his loud voice and always good spirits (plus colourful socks). Ian will be sorely missed, and we do hope he will continue to make regular use of the building - in his new emeritus office, as well as by stopping by for a coffee and a chat in the common room.

Dr Mustafa Baig will continue his post as Research Fellow on the ESRC Islamic Reformulations project for the year 2013-4. He has been working on the Project's public engagement activities since March 2013.

Sarah Cook has joined IAIS as the new part-time Administrator for Post Award (3 days per week), replacing Nikki Clews.

Prizes

PhD student **Walaed Mossad**, supervised by Ian Netton, has been awarded a competitive Abdullah al-Mubarak al Sabah/Brismes research scholarship.

Dr Soudabeh Marin (PhD 2006) has been honoured by the French Academy with the Bordin Prize for her two volumes:

Ostad Elahi et la tradition: Droit, philosophie et mystique en Iran (Saffron, Paris, 2012)

Ostad Elahi et la modernité: Droit, philosophie et magistrature en Iran (Saffron, Paris, 2012)

The Bordin Prize in Law is an exceptional honour awarded only once every 10 years.

Awards

September 2013 ASE/IEE International Conference on Social Computing, Washington DC, awarded best paper to **MultiScale Modeling of Islamic Organizations in UK** by Nyunsu Kim, Sukru Tikves, Zheng Wang, **Jonathan Githens-Mazer**, and Hasan Davulcu.
John Cooper's 'Imagining the past: 3D modelling heritage shows for the Qatar National Museum' project was shortlisted for an Exeter Impact Award.

Visiting speakers

Term 2 – Wednesdays 5.00 – 7.00 pm in IAIS

15 January: Dr. Ghada Karmi: *Muslims in Britain. Not "People Like Us"?*

22 January (with the Centre for Gulf Studies): **Dr. Laurent Bonnefoy** (National Centre for Scientific Research, Paris): *The Yemeni Revolution and the Salafis*

29 January: Prof. Guy Standing (SOAS) - *The Global Precariat - Why it is the new dangerous class.*

5 February: Dominic Casciani (Home Affairs Correspondent, BBC News) - *Terrorism, security and the news.*

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

19 February: Dr. Uri Davis (Al-Quds University, Jerusalem): *The Next Steps for Palestine at the UN: Not Get Palestine Classified as a Full-Member State – Rather, Get Israel Classified as an Apartheid State.*

26 February: Dr. Maha Yamani (independent researcher) - *Stereotyping Muslims in Britain, and the Diversity of Muslim Law- Does One Form Fit All?*

5 March: James M. Dorsey (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore) - *Soccer: A Middle Eastern and North African Battlefield.*

11 March: Mark Fitzpatrick (IISS): *Can Diplomacy Really Solve the Iranian Nuclear Issue?*

19 March: Prof. Hans Daiber (Frankfurt University): *Humanism in Islam or Islamic Humanism? An historical perspective and modern discussions.*

26 March: Prof. Leyla Neyzi (Sabanci University, Istanbul): *Reflecting on an Oral History Project with Kurdish and Turkish Youth after the Gezi Events.*

Conferences, seminars and workshops

Forthcoming events

Shari'a Project

4-7 February 2014

Shari'a Project (AHRC-NWO funded UK-Netherlands Islamic Legal Studies Network): 4 -7 February 2014. Keynote speaker Professor Wael Hallaq will address a Round Table event at SOAS, London on Tuesday 4 February. This will be followed by the final Shari'a Project Workshop at IAIS, Exeter on Thursday 6 and Friday 7 February.

Persian Course

Monday 31 March – Saturday 5 April

The Centre for Iranian and Persian Studies in IAIS will be organising a 6 day, residential Persian course for postdoctoral researchers, postgraduate and advanced undergraduate students. The course is sponsored by the British Institute of Persian Studies: For details and application form contact Owen Cook: o.a.cook@exeter.ac.uk.

Past events

Christianity and Islam in the Public Sphere: British and Iranian Experiences.

Conference held on 16 - 17 December 2013, the final event of this British Academy International Partnerships project held by Professors Robert Gleave and Esther Reed (Theology).

Shari'a Project Workshop: 16 -17 November 2013 A workshop was held in Leiden, with the keynote address given by Dr Kecia Ali.

Islam and Christianity in the Public Space, 7 September 2013. A collaborative round-table event with Exeter Cathedral, speakers included the Dean of the Cathedral Jonathan Draper, Mohammad Ali (the FutureCube artist), Professor Emma Loosely, Dr Mustafa Baig, Ms Alyaa Ebbiary and the Imam of the Exeter Mosque Mohammed Abrar.

Publications

Dionisius A Agius (2013), *Georgio Scala and the Moorish Slaves: The Inquisition Malta 1598* (ed.) (Medway, Malta), 536 pp.

Robert Gleave (2013) 'Early Shi'i Hermeneutics: Some Exegetical Techniques Attributed to the Shi'i Imams' in *Aims, Methods, and Contexts of Qur'anic Exegesis, 2nd/8th – 9th/15th Centuries*. Edited and introduced by Karen Bauer. Oxford: Oxford University Press in Association with the Institute of Ismaili Studies.

Robert Gleave(2013) 'Muhammad Baqir al-Bihbihani (d.)' in D. Powers, S. Spektosky and Oussami Arabi (eds), *Islamic Legal Thought: A Compendium of Muslim Jurists* (Leiden: Brill), pp.415-435.

Robert Gleave(2013) 'The Legal Efficacy of *taqiyya* Acts in Imami Jurisprudence: Ali al-Karaki's al-Risala fil-*taqiyya*' in AL-QANTARA: XXXIV.2, julio-diciembre 2013, pp. 415-438

István T. Kristó-Nagy (2013), "A Violent, Irrational and Unjust God. Antique and medieval criticism of Jehovah and Allah", in Marie-Thérèse Urvoy (ed.), *La morale au crible des religions. Collection "Studia Arabica"*, vol. XXI. Éditions de Paris, Versailles, pp.143-164.

Tim Niblock (2013), *Asia-Gulf Economic Relations in the 21st Century: the Local to Global Transformation* (ed.), (Gerlach, Berlin), 370pp.

Tim Niblock (2013), 'Gulf-Asia Economic Relations: Pan-Gulf and Pan-Asia Perspectives', in Niblock, T (ed), *Asia-Gulf Economic Relations in the 21st Century: the Local to Global Transformation*, (Gerlach, Berlin), pp.5-34.

Marc Valeri (2013), 'Domesticating Local Elites. Sheikhs, Walis and State-Building Under Sultan Qaboos', in Steffen Wippel (ed.), *Regionalizing Oman. Political, Economic and Social Dynamics* (London, Springer), pp. 267-277.

Lise Storm (2013) *Party Politics and the Prospects for Democracy in North Africa* (Boulder, Co., Lynne Rienner).

Exhibitions

What If

22nd January – 31st March 2014 *The Street Gallery*, IAIS, presents an exhibition of current paintings and a retrospective selection of works by Mousa Al-Kordi. Opening Thursday 22 January.

eL Seed "Multiple Identities", 3 October 2013. The French-Tunisian graffiti artist, eL Seed, visited the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies as part of the Islamic Reformulations project. During the day he led a workshop and created his *Multiple Identities* mural which is on permanent display by the entrance to the building.

PhD awards

Salima Tasdemir, *The Feminization of pro-Kurdish Party Politics in Turkey: The Role of Women Activists* – supervised by Clémence Scalbert-Yücel

Noura al-Mazrouei, *The UAE-Saudi Arabia Border Dispute: The Case of the 1974 Treaty of Jeddah* – supervised by James Onley