

Awards/prizes/scholarships

Research Grant Award from Seven Pillars of Wisdom Trust:

Professor Dionisius Agius has been awarded £2,000 for a project called Songs of the Mariners:Voices of the Red Sea.This funding will contribute towards a project to start to document the sea poems and songs of the African and Arabian Red Sea shores.The findings of this initial work, to be carried out in Jan/Feb 2018, may lead to a larger research project in future.

Many congratulations to **Katie Natanel**. Her book, Sustaining Conflict, has been awarded the 2017 Feminist and Women's Studies Association Book Prize.

New appointments

A very warm welcome to the staff joining IAIS this term.They are:

Abla Oudeh – Lecturer in Arabic Studies

Dr Marc Jones – Lecturer in History of the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula

Dr Wissam Halawi – Postdoctoral Research Fellow.“I recently joined the Institute as a Research Fellow within the LAWALISI project to work on Shi'i legal literature written in Baghdad in the 10th and 11th Centuries. Having achieved a Masters degree in Medieval Islamic History, I got a PhD in History at the Panthéon-Sorbonne University in Paris in December 2016. I wrote a thesis on “Druzism in the premodern period” which undertakes a thoroughgoing analysis of the social and political context of the emergence of the first Druze school of Law and Theology (the Sayyidism), based on narrative and legal unpublished sources.Thus, familiar with the historical critical method and the anthropological approach, I aim to examine the Medieval Baghdadi Shi'i *fiqh* corpus with local knowledge, and its possible links to the functioning of society in that period.”

Dr Claire Beaugrand – Postdoctoral Research Fellow.“I joined the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies in October 2017 as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for Gulf Studies, focusing on social and political dynamics and their links to migration in the Gulf countries. Previously, I worked at the Institut Français du Proche Orient, oPt (2013- 17) after working as a Senior Gulf analyst at the International Crisis Group (ICG). I wrote my PhD at the London School of Economics under the supervision of Fred Halliday with a scholarship from CEFAS (French Centre for Archaeology and Social Sciences). My new book, based on my doctoral thesis but complemented with an analysis of the stateless people's demonstrations in 2011 – *Statelessness in the Gulf: Migration, Nationality and Society in Kuwait* (IB Tauris 2017), investigates the emergence and persistence of statelessness in Kuwait, as illustrating the shift from a sheikhly state to a national territorial one and the process of national identity building in the face of mass migration. My new research project focuses on the relations between the Gulf states and Palestine –imagineries, policies, and circulations.

Congratulations also to **Marc Valeri** who has recently been promoted to Associate Professor.

Publications

Ian Richard Netton: “Theology and Christian-Muslim Relations” in David Thomas (ed.), *Routledge Handbook on Christian-Muslim Relations*, (London & New York: Routledge, 2018 [sic]), pp. 311-319.

Emily Selove: *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 137.2 (2017), co-authored with Peter Pormann. “Two New Texts on Medicine and Natural Philosophy by Abū Bakr al-Rāzī”.

Dionisius Agius: “Red Sea Folk Beliefs: A Maritime Spirit Landscape”, *Journal of Northeast African Studies*, Vol. 17, No. 1, 2017, pp. 131-162.

István T. Kristó-Nagy: “Two World Visions: Emanating Circles or Spiral Evolution?”, in Georgio Rahal (ed.), *Promissa nec aspera curans. Mélanges en l'honneur de Mme le Professeur Marie-Thérèse Urvoy*, Les Presses Universitaires Institut Catholique De Toulouse, 2017, ISBN: 979-1094360408, pp. 503-519.

Agius, Dionisius A., Emad Khalil, Eleanor M.L. Scerri and Alun Williams (eds.), *Human Interaction with the Environment in the Red Sea* (Leiden: Brill, 2017), 442 pages

William Gallois: ‘History Goes Walkabout’, in *History and Theory*, 56-2 (June 2017): <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/hith.12013/full>

William Gallois: ‘Violence lexicale de la culture impériale française’, in *Les Temps Modernes*, 693 (2017): <http://www.gallimard.fr/Catalogue/GALLIMARD/Revue-Les-Temps-Modernes/Les-Temps-Modernes608>

PhD awards

Mohd Khairul Anam bin Che Mentri:

Avicenna on Knowledge. The examiners were Dr. Ayman Shihadeh from SOAS and Professor Robert Gleave. Supervised by Sajjad Rizvi.

Zubir Ahmed:

The Regional Aspects of State-Building in Iraq since 2003. The examiners were Wali Aslam from Bath and Marc Valeri. His second supervisor was Omar Ashour. Supervised by Sajjad Rizvi.

Geoffrey Sage:

The Muwashshah, Zajal and Kharja: What came before and what went afterwards. Examiners were Professor Stefan Sperl (SOAS) and Dr Emily Selove. Supervised by Ian Netton.

Farah Zeb:

"Ethical Conundrums and Lived Practice". Examiners were Professors William Gallois and Sadiyya Shaikh of the University of Cape Town. Supervised by Robert Gleave.

Abdulrahman Alebrahim:

"Beyond Sheikhs and Merchants: The Role of Balancing Powers in Pre-Independence Kuwaiti Politics (1921-1962)". Examiners were Professor Ilan Pappé and Dr. Abdullah Baabood (Qatar University). Supervised by Marc Valeri.

Conferences, seminars, workshops and events

Past events:

13-16 September 2017

Dr Nadia Naser-Najjab recently presented a paper at an International Conference held in Barcelona, Spain. The conference was the **11th Pan-European Conference on International Relations: The Politics of International Studies in an Age of Crises**.

The title of Nadia's paper was *Settler Colonialism, the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and the Limitations of the Two-State Consensus*. Nadia also participated in a roundtable discussion entitled: *Problematising the Settler Colonial Analytic: Theory, Concepts and the Praxis of Research*.

One of the IAIS PGR students, Yara Hawari, also presented a paper at the same event, titled *"Unsettling knowledge production and creating spaces for decolonisation in Palestine"*.



Dr Nadia Naser-Najjab

Forthcoming:

The Centre for the Study of Islam (CSI) will be holding a range of activities during the Autumn term, including visiting speakers, Arabic Texts sessions and workshops. All are welcome to attend any of the activities. Full details of the upcoming activities can be found at: <http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/iais/research/centres/csi>

For further information, please contact Pam Navran p.navran@exeter.ac.uk

19 October – 22 December 2017

Exhibition: The Worlds of Mandaean Priests.

This exciting new exhibition, a collaboration between the Universities of Exeter and Leiden and supported by the Arcadia Fund, will be open in The Street Gallery from 19 October – 22 December 2017.

For more details please contact Melanie Williams on 01392 724039.