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## MSGP thanks to:

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## Message from the Director, Dr. Adnan Husain

The last eighteen months proved a very fruitful and vibrant one for this initiative. MSGP expanded the range of events and activities to include film screenings and discussions, a photography exhibit, and community and campus forums on Islamophobia and racism. These important forums were organized in conjunction with a new and innovative full year course—the only of its kind in Canada—that my colleague Dr. Ariel Salzmänn and I co-taught in 2016-17 called “Islamophobia: From Crusaders to Donald Trump,” which covered the emergence of patterns of Islamophobia in a long history from medieval to modern and its interconnections with anti-semitism and racism generally. The forums were a way of bringing the insights of the classroom to the community and for students to engage and learn from experiences in the community and on campus. This roster of new activity accompanied our continuation of lectures and panel discussions by invited scholars and on contemporary topics in the Middle

East. In addition, MSGP hosted a successful international conference “The Middle East Un-Rebound: Crisis, Response and Recovery over the Longue Durée (1100-2100)” organized by Dr. Salzmänn and supported by a generous grant from SSHRC and the Queen’s History department, for which we are very grateful. MSGP has larger ambitions than just organizing co-curricular events, however. In the coming years we hope to help spur new faculty appointments across the humanities and social sciences related to Muslim cultures and societies through the faculty renewal program and QNS programs—the study of Muslims and the Islamic World globally remain a major priority in light of the PICRDI report goals and objectives for curriculum diversification. We mark Islamic History Month again this October but would like to endow a distinguished annual lectureship. We would like to continue to expand our sponsorship of innovative academic research and host more workshops like our first this

year. Furthermore, we hope to develop degree and certificate programs once our faculty complement grows. Please see our website to learn more about our project vision and philosophy. A generous grant from the Provost and the Dean of Arts and Science has renewed our initiative’s ability to organize important public discussion and redress the current gaps in curriculum and faculty resources on campus at our previous levels and as we have done the past 5 years. But to grow and to be a sustainable educational program for the campus and community, MSGP dearly needs your support. As we look forward to another year of interesting educational and cultural events, please visit our website and consider supporting this important project—the Give Now button will allow you to make a tax deductible contribution to our project. We encourage your feedback and invite you to contact me about ways you might help this initiative or ideas for its support.

## An International Workshop: The Middle East Un-Rebound: Crisis, Response and Recovery over the *Longue Durée* (1100-2100)



### A Recap of our Events in 2016/2017

- \* Responding to Islamophobia & Racism at Queen's: Panel Discussion
- \* Canadian Black Muslims: Histories & Experiences
- \* The Battle of Algiers: Film Screening & Discussion
- \* Rethinking Islamic Modernity in Iran
- \* Turkey: Failed Coup and War Diplomacy
- \* Building Solidarities to Combat Islamophobia
- \* Dispossession in Context: Panel Discussion of Palestine, South Africa, Canada
- \* The Saint and the Sultan: Medieval Muslim-Christian Relations
- \* Palestine: Remembering Edward Said by David Barsamian
- \* BILL C-51 and the Politics of National Security
- \* Turkey: Democracy in Crisis?
- \* Afghanistan: What Went Wrong? — Middle East & Muslim World Update

Prominent historians, philosophers and political scientists who came from different world universities gathered at Queen's University for the international workshop, "the Middle East Un-rebound: Crises, Responses and Recovery over the Long *Durée*" in the last week of April 2017 to exchange their views over the future of the Middle East geography, which has been engulfed in unprecedented outburst of popular protests, demand for democracy and civil wars since the reverberations of the Arab Spring.

Dr. Salzmann as the organizer received a SSHRC Connections grant. The conference also received generous support from the Department of History and the Muslim Societies Global Perspectives Initiative.

The workshop commenced with Associate Dean, Lynda Jessup's welcoming remarks and Professor Ariel Salzmann's opening speech, which exemplified the significance of cartographical imaginations of the Ottoman state tradition in understanding the empire's institutional, physical, and administrative mechanisms and knowledge structures as well as webs of trade routes. Following the opening

and welcome remarks, keynote speaker, Hamit Bozarslan from École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales addressed Ibn Khaldun's— a prominent 14th century Arab historiographer— philosophical visions which are claimed to have laid the foundations of the modern disciplines of sociology and demographics in the Middle East geography. Professor Bozarslan's detailed analyses and the global hermeneutical approach he projected on the region set the tone for the rest of the panels that followed after him.

Howard Adelman from the Department of History chaired the first panel titled "Concerning Pre-Modern patterns." The panel, shed light on state formations in parallel to transformations that had taken place in the systems of justice as well as religious and societal orders during the pre-modern ages of the Islamic world.

The second session titled "The long 19th century" aimed to decipher the administrative and ideological codes of the Ottoman State's modernization policies that arose as response to the empire's dissolution process; a process that drew the boundaries of the

contemporary Middle East geography. The first day of the workshop ended with presentations on the commercial law reforms in the Ottoman Syria and a discussion of the Western liberal economic and democratic principles that proliferated among the ideologues and state officials of the empire before the onset of the WWI.

Presenters for the final session of the workshop in the following day focused on the political and social incidents that took place in the 20th century Middle East. Chaired by professor Emily Hill from the home university, the first panel of the day addressed the ways in which Christian, Jewish and subaltern communities of the region were oppressed by the emerging nationalist ideologies and state traditions through the prisms of feminist and oral history. The two-day marathon ended with round table discussion. Presenters in this final session reflected on the systemic political, social and cultural crises that have crystalized following the Arab Spring of 2011 in the light of the common observations obtained at the end of the workshop.



## Building Solidarities to Combat Islamophobia

As part of the Islamic History Month of 2016, we gathered in a public forum to discuss ways to build and sustain solidarities in our communities at Queen's and in the larger city of Kingston against Islamophobia and racism. Our well-attended event brought many

voices from the city and the university including a group of recently settled refugees from Syria and their sponsors in the city. Dr. Adnan Husain, Dr. Ariel Salzmann, Imam Yasin Dwyer and Imam Sheharyar Shaikh gave historical, political and personal ac-

counts of roots of Islamophobia, strategies for combatting Islamophobia as well as means for stronger solidarities in our communities. During the Q&A, attendees raised multiple points regarding challenges and promises of community care and solidarity.



## Responding to Islamophobia & Racism at Queen's

In conjunction with the course, Islamophobia: from Crusaders to Donald Trump, MSGP held an important panel on how to respond to persistent experiences of racism and Islamophobia on campus. The panel featured the testimony and analysis of two former undergraduate and a current graduate student—Amita Zaman, Safiah Chowdhury, and Sanobar Umar. The

moving account of their experiences set the stage for an account of the academic and curricular dimensions of this phenomenon by Dr. Adnan Husain. Approximately 80 people from all segments of the campus and Kingston community attended, including both the Principal and Provost and several members of the PICRDI com-

mittee, and participated in an honest and productive conversation about how to redress persistent issues. The valuable discussion emphasized the importance of curriculum diversification and education to improve the climate described in many previous reports and in the PICRDI report. We hope that this initiative helped aid and inform these ongoing efforts.



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## Our Scheduled Events for This Year

**Tug of War:  
Film Screening and Discus-  
sion  
(as Part of Islamic History  
Month -Kingston)**

Friday October 20, 6:30  
School of Kinesiology and  
Health Studies, Room 101

**The Holy Fire Miracle: Sov-  
ereignty and Christian-  
Muslim Pieties in Medieval  
Jerusalem: A lecture by  
Adnan Husain  
(as Part of Medieval Semi-  
nar)**

Monday October 23, 2:30  
Watson Hall Room 517

**Memory and Multicultural-  
ism: The limits of remem-  
bering the victims of  
'honour killings' with Lillian  
Robinson Visiting Scholar  
Eve Haque**

Tuesday November 21, 5:30  
Room: TBD

Stay tuned for more events!  
Find our contact information  
on the last page



## New Course Offering—2017-2018

### DEVS 392-002 Dilemmas of Development in the Middle East (1960-present)

This course explores the peculiar development challenges faced by societies and states in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region from 1960 to the present. It overviews major shifts and trends at the local, regional and global levels, such as the 1967 Israeli-Arab War, the 1979 Iranian Revolution, the Gulf War (s) of 1991 and 2003, as well as the impact of the end of the Cold War and more recently 'the Arab Spring' of 2011. Using a number of case studies, including that of the Republic of Turkey, the course situates the question of development in relationship to the promises of authoritarian-modernizing regimes and North-directed development strategies as well as with regard to specificities of a region that has and continues to witness major military conflicts and the wholesale destruction of communities and cities. It also points to mass migratory flows in the form of war refugees and economic migrants, especially to the Gulf. The course combines academic scholarship, grassroots perspectives and artistic expressions to better equip students with the tools to critically analyze and engage with the region and the overall dilemmas of development in this context. **Wednesdays from 6:30 PM until 9:30 PM in Mackintosh-Corry Hall, D122**

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or fill out the form on our  
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### Courses Offered - 2016-17

A new course developed by  
Drs. Adnan Husain and Ariel Salzmänn:  
HIST 240FW :Topics in History: Islamophobia  
from the Crusaders to Donald Trump

ARAB 100: Modern Standard Arabic, Level 1  
(Amira Halabi)

ARAB 200: Modern Standard Arabic, Level 2  
(Amira Halabi)

RELS 226 W: Islam  
(Dr. Forough Jahanbakhsh)

DEVS 292 TOPIC ID 001 F: Islam, Politics &  
Development  
(Milad Dokhanchi)

HIST 337 W: Debates in the Historiography of the  
Ottoman Empire  
(Dr. Ariel Salzmänn)

RELS 396/896 F: Islam in the Modern World  
(Dr. Forough Jahanbakhsh)

GNDS 401 F: Debates on Feminism and Islam  
(Dr. Habibe Burcu Baba)

HIST 430 FW: The Crusades and the Latin King-  
doms:  
(Dr. Adnan Husain)

HIST 449 W: Topics in Medieval Mediterranean  
History: Messiahs, Mystics, and Martyrs in Mus-  
lim and Jewish Religious Culture  
(Drs. Adnan Husain and Howard Adelman)

ENGL 487 F: Muslim Identity in the Diaspora  
(Dr. Margaret Pappano)

HIST 801g: Religious Identity, dissidence and in-  
teraction in the pre-modern Mediterranean  
(Drs. Adnan Husain and Richard Greenfield)

HIST 828c: The Crusades and the Latin Kingdoms  
(Drs. Adnan Husain and Richard Greenfield)

RELS 896: Islam in The Modern World  
(Dr. Forough Jahanbakhsh)

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