Notes from the Chair

It has been a little over 19 years since I took over as Chair of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES). As I prepare to step down from the chairmanship, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on my time in this position, particularly because most of you—our constituency of students, faculty, and members of the general public—were not around when I came on board. Over two decades, the country, the federal government (which has long provided much of our funding), the state (which has provided very little of it), and the university have undergone significant changes in relation to the study of the Middle East.

In 1994, the Center was in reasonable condition, although it occupied only one room in Stephens Hall and had a part-time Vice Chair and one staff member, whose salary was funded by the State of California. But two years into the Clinton presidency, things were looking good for International Studies and particularly for Middle Eastern studies, after a considerable reduction in military expenditure following the conclusion of the first Gulf War. Earlier that year, the Center received a three-year grant from the Department of Education under Title VI totaling a little more than a quarter of a million dollars. This was the largest grant that the Center had received since it was established as an organized research unit at Berkeley and since it became designated as a National Resource Center by the federal government in 1979. The euphoria did not last long; by November of the same year, the American people elected one of their most conservative Houses of Representatives ever. The Newt Gingrich-led Congress announced “The Contract with America,” a document that charted a new, somewhat libertarian course for the country that called for gutting the federal budget and eliminating many departments, including the Department of Education. Ultimately the Department of Education survived, but Title VI was cut by 50% or more in the following years. Further cuts would have resulted in the gradual elimination of the Center.

The prospect of the discontinuation of the federal program that provided our bread and butter was alarming. External fundraising at that time was a necessity, not a choice. Ironically, what saved us during this time and until the
end of the century were two initiatives which provided funding from our alumni and many donors, and funding from the State of California. First, under the leadership of then-Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien, the campus began its first major capital campaign; I was asked to contribute to it by coming up with a strategy for CMES. The strategy paid off, and by the turn of the millennium, we had managed to raise four endowments totaling a little less than US$10 million. These four endowments allowed us to establish programs in Arab, Islamic, and Israel Studies, and travel and research funds for students and faculty who work on Middle East topics. They also allowed us to occupy a prime, 4,000-square-foot space in Stephens Hall next to the Academic Senate. As an architect, I had the privilege of designing these new headquarters for the Center as a pro-bono job.

Second, by the end of the century, the campus implemented a global assessment of all research units as mandated by the State of California in a process that was called the “Sunset Review.” The intention was to determine whether these units had outlived their purpose, and if they were performing their functions in accord with their mission. The Center came out of this process a big winner. Indeed, the campus recognized that the Center and its faculty and staff had done so well that they allotted for the first time a regular and permanent line item in the annual UC Berkeley budget to fund its operation.

The job, of course, has had its hazards. In the wake of the 9/11 attacks, the Center, like units concerned with the study of the Middle East at other universities, was targeted with hate mail. During the anthrax scare that spread throughout the country, we received a letter containing a suspicious white powder. Fortunately, it was not a life-threatening incident, but we did not know that until the CMES underwent a full lockdown, after which police and federal authorities investigated and concluded that the powder was a hoax.

Ironically, the events of 9/11 caused an unexpected surge of interest in Middle Eastern Studies, as the Federal Government—again under a Republican administration motivated primarily by national security concerns—was reminded of the importance of area studies teaching and research. However, it was not long before the State of California hit its worst budget crisis. Between the years of 2007 and 2012, we witnessed a substantial reduction in state support for the university as a whole, and much of the funding that the Center received from the state started gradually to evaporate. Indeed, the diminution of Area Studies on the campus reached its peak when the deanship in International and Area Studies was eliminated under the guise of budget cuts. While many of us fought a valiant but ultimately losing battle to preserve the deanship, we succeeded in maintaining the independence of both the teaching program and the area studies centers.

Today, the future looks much brighter, and I hope it will continue on this course. The attitude on campus towards area studies seems to have improved substantially. This may be due in part to the arrival of a new Chancellor who is himself an area studies scholar, but it is also the result of a decision by the citizens of the State of California who, after years of diminishing funding, approved an initiative to restore funding for public education in the state.

Running an area studies center, particularly one that deals with a region like the Middle East, is not easy. Regardless of constant attempts to balance coverage of all topics or positions, one is bound to please some and upset others. We have, however, successfully traveled this course while maintaining an ethical stance and academic integrity. When we took positions, we did so only when we believed that they could be defended intellectually, regardless of how popular or unpopular they were.

I am very proud of the Center’s achievements in the last two decades. If there is one major accomplishment of which I am most proud, it is the establishment of major programs whose funding will never disappear, regardless of changes in the administration. I have likewise been extremely gratified by the collaboration with other centers on significant conferences and events, and the introduction of a collective governance structure that allows the faculty to guide almost all funding decisions, as well as the intellectual direction, of CMES programs. Our community of Middle East Studies scholars, almost all of whom were hired after I became Chair of the CMES, is the future of Middle East Studies at Berkeley.

During my time as Chair, I have had only one year of sabbatical leave, in the middle of my tenure; I am indeed very eager to start another sabbatical year this coming summer. I am glad that I am leaving the Center in such good shape. My true reward has been seeing the CMES become the envy of other Middle East centers and some campus administrators and its conference room become a sought-after space for conferences and meetings, and watching our graduate students present their work in conferences all over the world with Center support. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your participation in the Center’s activities during my tenure, and for the support that many of you offered me during the past two decades.

—Nezar AlSayyad
Spaces of Liberation CONFERENCE

On September 12, 2013, scholars from throughout the world gathered at the CMES for the inaugural Spaces of Liberation Conference. Headquartered at Queen’s University Belfast, the Spaces of Liberation project is a collaborative research initiative with participating institutions in Europe, North America, and the Middle East. The project aims to investigate the changing socio-spatial practices and dynamics of urban space in the contemporary city, particularly in light of the protests that have sprung up across the globe from Cairo to Buenos Aires in recent years.

While project participants had previously presented papers at the Royal College of Art in London and the University of Lisbon, the conference at the CMES was the first formal conference of the initiative, and brought together scholars from five international institutions for two days of symposia devoted to the discussion of public space during moments of upheaval and change. In his opening remarks, CMES Chair Nezar AlSayyad outlined the challenges inherent to studying the events of the so-called Arab Spring, a multivalent phenomenon which took place in multiple physical and virtual spaces. In particular, Prof. AlSayyad argued against a simplistic view of the role of social media in the Arab Spring, and posited that social movements of the last few years have occupied a middle ground between the real and virtual worlds. Next, Prof. Frank Gaffikin, the Director of the Institute of Spatial Environmental Planning at Queen’s University Belfast, presented a paper, “The Paradoxes of Planning and Conflict in the Divided City,” a study of the planning process in sites of urban conflict, particularly those rooted in ethno-nationalist or religious disputes. Prof. Gaffikin used examples from Belfast, Jerusalem, and Nicosia,
among other cities, to demonstrate the ways in which planning choices in divisive environments can exacerbate tensions and inequality. Prof. **Mohamed Gamal Abdelmonem**, also from Queen’s University Belfast, presented a paper titled “Spaces that Revolt,” in which he described the quick pace by which public spaces were reshaped and reproduced to assist in projects of liberation during the Arab Spring. Abdelmonem focused his paper on Cairo’s Tahrir and Rabi’a Squares, providing an elegant visual aid that mapped the path of protesters and their confluence and interaction with local residents. Dr. **Tamirace Fakhoury** of Lebanese American University, at the time a visiting lecturer in International and Area Studies at UC Berkeley, delivered a paper on “Transnational ‘Spaces of Liberation’: The Case of Arab Immigrant Networks in the Occupy Movement.” As part of a larger project exploring resistance movements around the globe, Dr. Fakhoury turned the lens to the Bay Area and the Arab immigrant networks that participated in the Occupy Oakland actions. Dr. Fakhoury’s paper explored the ways in which these groups simultaneously promulgated the goals of the greater Occupy Movement and channeled the objectives of the Arab Spring uprisings. Ms. **Randa Kaldas** of the Economic and Business History Research Center (EBHRC) at the American University in Cairo presented a paper on an extensive ongoing oral history project at the EBHRC, “University on the Square: Documenting Egypt’s 21st Century Revolution.” Her paper, “The Perception of Tahrir Square during the First Eighteen Days of the Egyptian Revolution, an Oral History Approach,” highlighted selections from 70 hours of oral narratives from more than 40 Egyptian interviewees who described the events in Tahrir Square in their own words, providing valuable local perspectives on the Egyptian political landscape. Finally, in his paper, “From Reality to Virtuality to New Reality,” Mr. **Ahmed Rashed**, Director of the Centre of Future Studies and former head of the Department of Architecture at the British University in Egypt, argued that the real revolution in Egypt is yet to come, and looked to crowdsourcing and joint public-private initiatives to address future challenges of political disaffection and dissatisfaction, as well as issues of land use and resource scarcity in Egypt.

More details about the project can be found at the website maintained by participants from Queen’s University Belfast: [http://spacesofliberation.org.uk/](http://spacesofliberation.org.uk/).

### Moumen Smihi: Poet of Tangier

In October, the CMES was pleased to support the Berkeley Museum/Pacific Film Archive project “Afterimage: Filmmakers and Critics in Conversation.” This installment of the ongoing series featured the work of **Moumen Smihi**, a key figure of Moroccan and North African cinema known for atmospheric works like “El Chergui” (The Eastwind) (1976), “Tales of the Night” (1982), and “Girls and Swallows” (2008). These and other films were showcased in the series “Moumen Smihi: Poet of Tangier,” curated by Prof. **Peter Limbrick**, Department of Film and Digital Media at UC Santa Cruz. The film screenings were presented in conjunction with the San Francisco Arab Film Festival and a concurrent symposium and exhibition at UC Santa Cruz, “Unfixed Itineraries: Film and Visual Culture from Arab Worlds.” There, Mr. Smihi participated in a panel chaired by Prof. Limbrick with Prof. **Stefania Pandolfo**, Anthropology Department, UC Berkeley; and Prof. **Nouri Gana**, Department of Comparative Literature, UCLA. The CMES was delighted to co-host Mr. Smihi for an Afterimage conversation and reception at UC Berkeley following a screening at the Pacific Film Archive.
CMES Welcomes Sultan Postdoctoral Scholar Dr. Daniel Zoughbie

The CMES is pleased to welcome Dr. Daniel Zoughbie as our Sultan Postdoctoral Scholar for the spring of 2014. Dr. Zoughbie comes to the CMES from the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University, where he spent the past year as a postdoctoral research fellow in the International Security Program. A former UC Berkeley student, Dr. Zoughbie completed undergraduate degrees in Urban Studies and Middle Eastern Studies before traveling to Oxford University as a Marshall Scholar. Dr. Zoughbie completed his Ph.D. in International Relations at Oxford as a Weidenfeld Scholar; since receiving his doctorate, he has carried out postdoctoral research and taught at Stanford, Georgetown, and UC Berkeley. In addition to his academic credentials, Dr. Zoughbie has pursued a number of projects in global public health and development. In 2005, he founded Microclinic International, a nonprofit organization that creates clinics within communities, training individuals to be vectors of health information for their families and friends. He has published extensively on the related spheres of international affairs and public health.

While at the CMES, Dr. Zoughbie will undertake revisions for his book project on President George W. Bush’s engagement with the Arab World. The book, Indecision Points: George W. Bush and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (MIT Press), expands upon his doctoral thesis, which drew upon in-person interviews with Condoleezza Rice, Fayaz Tarawney, Amr Moussa, Tom DeLay, Colin Powell, Kofi Annan, and other key figures in international policy, and explores George Bush’s role in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and other events in the Middle East. He will also teach MES 150: American Foreign Policy in the Middle East.

Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens Memorial Fund for Middle Eastern Studies Signing

On October 17, 2013, the family of the late Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens gathered at the CMES for a signing ceremony to inaugurate the Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens Memorial Fund for Middle Eastern Studies. Named for the fallen US Ambassador to Libya, the new fund is dedicated to deepening and extending knowledge of the Middle East and North Africa in the areas of culture, language, politics, and history. The fund will support research and travel by graduate and undergraduate students who demonstrate high levels of distinction in Middle Eastern Studies. In particular, the fund makes a significant contribution to the existing Undergraduate Research Grant in Middle Eastern Studies, which funds travel and research for undergraduates.

The CMES has been entrusted with the administration of this fund, and welcomes donations to increase the level of support available to students. Tax-deductible gifts may be made online at cmes.berkeley.edu/stevens-fund, or via check payable to The University of California, Berkeley Foundation, Ambassador Christopher Stevens Memorial Fund and mailed to:
Gift Planning, University Relations
2080 Addison St., #4200
Berkeley, CA 94720-4200

Mrs. Mary Commanday and Mr. Jan Stevens, parents of Ambassador Stevens, with CMES Chair Nezar AlSayyad
News of Faculty and Associates

Prof. Wali Ahmadi, Department of Near Eastern Studies, is on sabbatical leave this year, and is currently completing the monograph of his third book in the field of Persian literary and cultural studies. In December 2013, he presented a lecture entitled “Between the Residual and the Emergent” at the University of California, Los Angeles, as a tribute to the late Amin Banani, an emeritus professor of Persian and History.

In October 2013, Prof. Asad Ahmed, Department of Near Eastern Studies, delivered a lecture at UT Austin on “Fadl-i Haqq Khayrabadi and the Finality of Muhammad.” In December, he participated in a conference in Istanbul on the legacy of Maragha, presenting a paper titled “Alternatives to the Tusi Couple and ‘Urdi’s Lemma.” He coedited, with Prof. Margaret Larkin, a thematic edition of Oriens on “The Hashiya and Islamic Intellectual History,” contributing his own articles on “Post-Classical Philosophical Commentaries/Glosses” and “The Hashiya.” He published an article, “The Shifa’ in India: Reflections on the Evidence of the Manuscripts,” in the preceding issue of Oriens, and contributed an entry on Mulla Mahmud Jawnpuri to the Encyclopedia of Islam III. He additionally contributed articles to the Oxford Handbook of Islamic History, “The Last Text in Traditional Physics: The Hadiyya Sa’idyya of Fadl-i Haqq Khayrabadi”; The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Philosophy, “Productive Paradoxes: The Sullam al-‘ulum of Muhibballah al-Bihari”; The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Theology, “Muslim Theology in India” (with Reza Pourjavady); and Law and Tradition in Classical Islamic Thought, “Logic in the Khayrabadi School of India.” Finally, Prof. Ahmed contributed articles on “Islam’s Invented Golden Age” and “Lunch with Asma Jahangir” to Open Democracy and the Express Tribune, respectively. This spring he will teach a graduate course on Islamic Philosophy.

Prof. Nezar AlSayyad, Departments of Architecture and City and Regional Planning and Chair of the CMES, participated in a September colloquium, “Summer of Urban Protests,” hosted by the Department of City and Regional Planning, and chaired the Spaces of Liberation Conference at the CMES. In October he traveled to Los Angeles, where he delivered the keynote address, “The Struggle for Egypt and the Remaking of the Middle East,” at the Middle East Futures Conference at UCLA. He also traveled to New Orleans, where he chaired a panel titled “Mediums of Protest” at the annual conference of the Middle East Studies Association. In November, Prof. AlSayyad appeared in a panel at the Global University Symposium convened on the occasion of UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas B. Dirks’s inauguration.

Prof. Mia Fuller, Department of Italian Studies, presented a paper titled “Historical Research on Modern and Contemporary Libya: Questions, Archives, Solutions, and Questions” at the Conference on the Future of Social Science Research in Libya in Tripoli in September. The conference was organized by the American Institute of Maghrib Studies (AIMS), in collaboration with the Libyan Ministry of Higher Education and with support from the United States Embassy in Libya.

In September, Prof. Emily Gottreich, International and Area Studies and Department of History and Vice Chair of the CMES, traveled to Sweden, where she presented the paper “Jewishness and Moroccanness in the Modern Maghrib” at the Ninth Nordic Conference on Middle Eastern Studies at Lund University. She also spent time in Stockholm,
where she is collaborating on an exhibition and lecture series devoted to Muslim-Jewish relations with the Museum of Mediterranean and Near Eastern Antiquities. In October, she attended the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association in New Orleans, where she participated in the panel “North African Modernities,” presenting a paper “The Question of Early Modernity in Moroccan (Jewish) History.” She published an article on a related theme in Modern Jewish Studies, entitled “Of Messiahs and Sultans: Shabbatai Zevi and Early Modernity in Morocco.” The article will also appear as a book chapter in a volume of selected articles from the same journal, titled Sites of Jewish Memory: Jews in and from Islamic Lands in Modern Times (Routledge). This spring Prof. Gottreich is teaching a new course, a freshman seminar on contemporary issues in the Middle East and North Africa.

In April, Prof. Maria Mavroudi, Department of History, contributed to a two-volume festschrift dedicated to Patricia Crone with an essay on Greek language and education in the lands of Islam during the early Islamic period. The essay compares the afterlife of Greek with that of Coptic and Syriac, surveys Greek works known to have been composed in Muslim lands towards the end of the eighth and the beginning of the ninth century, and argues that the choice of what to translate during the Greek-into-Arabic translation movement appears to have been influenced also by what was being studied in Byzantium at around the same time. The essay will soon appear in Islamic Cultures, Islamic Contexts: Essays in Honor of Professor Patricia Crone (Brill).

Prof. Minoo Moallem, Department of Gender and Women’s Studies, presented a paper entitled “Vision, Value and The Burden of Humanism” as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series at the Institute for Research on Women at Rutgers University in September. She gave a lecture on “War, Memory, and Nation-Building in the Middle East” at Wellesley College in October. Prof. Moallem was a discussant for a panel at the Association of American Geographers in April and a panelist at the First Middle East Women Conference in Diyarbakir, Turkey in June. She will be teaching a new course on “Objects and Commodities” in the spring of 2014.

The CMES is pleased to announce the recipients of the annual Undergraduate Research Grant to support research in the Middle East and North Africa. This year, three students were awarded grants:

Faizah Barlas, fourth-year undergraduate, History, was awarded a grant to support travel to Beirut, Lebanon to conduct research for her senior thesis on refugee policy.

Kelley O’Dell, third-year undergraduate, Middle Eastern Studies and Near Eastern Studies, was awarded a grant to support travel to Amman, Jordan to conduct research for her senior thesis on LGBTQ issues in the Middle East and North Africa.

Sanaz Rizlenjani, fourth-year undergraduate, Development Studies, was awarded a grant to support travel to Cairo, Egypt to conduct research for her senior thesis on political participation in Egypt.

Congratulations on your achievement!
The 47th annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) took place in New Orleans, Louisiana in October 2013. Approximately 278 sessions convened over the four-day conference. UC Berkeley and the CMES were well-represented at the meetings, with the following faculty and students participating:

**Saima Akhtar**, Department of Architecture, chaired a session titled “Urban Planning and Social Space.”

**Saleem Al-Bahloly**, Department of Anthropology, presented a paper titled “Modern Art and the Arab Awakening: Eros as a Figure of Vitality in the Painting of Jawad Salim.”

**Prof. Nezar AlSayyad**, Chair, CMES, and Departments of Architecture and City and Regional Planning, chaired a session titled “Mediums of Protest.”

**Nora Barakat**, Department of History, presented a paper titled “Sources of Legitimacy in Ottoman Property Administration: Contested Legal Pluralism in Late Ottoman Syria.”

**Dariush Bozorgmehri**, Department of Sociology, presented a paper titled “The Developmental State and the Rise of the Iranian Automobile Industry.”

**Kristin Dickinson**, Department of Comparative Literature, presented a paper titled “Recontextualizing Late Ottoman Translations: A Turkish-German Comparative Analysis.”

**Momen El-Husseiny**, Department of Architecture, presented a paper titled “The De/Re-Walling of Tahrir: Space, Agency, and Regimes of Power.”

**Prof. Samera Esmeir**, Department of Rhetoric, organized the session “The International and its Sites: Sovereignty, Gender and Struggle,” and presented a paper titled “In the Land of the International: Revolutions and Their Possibilities.”

**Hilary Falb**, Department of History, presented a paper titled “Teachers into Ministers: Palestinian and Jordanian Educators 1917–1958.”

**Prof. Emily Gottreich**, Vice Chair, CMES, and Department of History and International and Area Studies, presented a paper titled “The Question of Early Modernity in Moroccan (Jewish) History.”

**Dr. Gretchen Head**, Townsend Center for the Humanities, presented a paper titled “From Fiction to Forgery: the Evolution of the Historical Novel in Morocco.”

**Patricia Kubala**, Department of Anthropology, presented a paper titled “The Muslim Brotherhood’s Theater Troupe in pre-1952 Egypt: Drama as Da’wa and Ethical-Aesthetic Practice.”

**Candace Lukasik**, Department of Anthropology, presented a paper titled “Coptic Revolution, Egyptian Revolution: Rethinking Coptic Political Activism beyond Citizenship.”

**Dr. Laurence Michalak**, Vice Chair Emeritus, CMES, presented a paper titled “The Return of Tribalism in Contemporary Tunisia.”

**Santoukht Mikaelian**, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, presented a paper titled “New Strategies and Methodologies for Teaching of Modern Armenian Language.”

**Elizabeth Saylor**, Department of Near Eastern Studies, presented a paper titled “And the greatest of these is Love: ‘Afifa Karam’s Re-Imagining of Islam in Fatima al-Badawiyya.”
2014–15 Afaf Kanafani Prize for Best Paper on the Topic of Women in the Arab World

The Afaf Kanafani Scholarship Fund is made possible through a generous donation by Fay Afaf Kanafani, author of the autobiography *Nadia, Captive of Hope: Memoir of an Arab Woman*. The prize is awarded annually to eligible UC Berkeley students whose academic work focuses on women’s rights in the Arab World, in the hope that such scholarship will contribute to a better understanding of gender issues in the Middle East and beyond.

**ELIGIBILITY:** UC Berkeley undergraduate and graduate students registered for the 2013–14 academic year.

**FUNDING:** One prize of $500 will be awarded to the best paper dealing with any topic related to the subject of women in the Arab world. The paper must have been produced in a UC Berkeley class in any discipline.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** May 16, 2014 at 5:00 PM

No late applications will be accepted. Results will be announced in early summer.

**HOW TO APPLY:** Complete applications must include a cover letter introducing the applicant and three copies of the paper submitted. Be certain to include name, student identification number, e-mail address, phone number, year in school, major, and the class for which the paper was produced. A name should appear on every page of the application.

Please send the application as a single PDF via email to cmes@berkeley.edu, with the subject line: Afaf Kanafani Application. Hard-copy applications may be mailed to:

Lydia Kiesling, Manager
Center for Middle Eastern Studies
340 Stephens Hall, MC #2314
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720-2314

For questions regarding this program, contact the CMES at 510-642-8208 or via e-mail at cmes@berkeley.edu.
SEPTEMBER 5
“Sectarianism, Democracy, and the Arab Spring in Lebanon”
Prof. Hannu Juusola, Department of World Cultures, University of Helsinki, Finland
Prof. Juusola discussed the ongoing impact of the so-called Arab Spring on Lebanese politics in terms of secularism, sectarianism, and democracy. While sectarianism, the salient feature of the Lebanese political system, has been embraced in some quarters as the model of “consensus democracy” or “consociationalism,” and advanced as a model of governance for other similarly ethno-nationally divided states, others deny the Lebanese model as a true form of democratic governance. Prof. Juusola identified two periods when there was a chance for more inclusive or majoritarian form of democracy—the years following the Lebanese Civil War, and the Cedar Revolution of 2005—and explored the barriers to reform during these crucial moments.

SEPTEMBER 26
Dr. Sarah Eltantawi, Sultan Postdoctoral Fellow, CMES
Dr. Eltantawi discussed her research on the “political theology” of the Muslim Brotherhood by giving a genealogy of the Muslim Brotherhood’s conception of Islam and Islamic law from the creation of the group in 1928, through the period they were forced underground (latter half of 20th century) to their current political manifestation as the Freedom and Justice Party (Al-Huriyya w'al 'Adaaal). As rapidly unfolding events in Egypt forced Dr. Eltantawi to constantly revaluate her ideas about the Brotherhood, she argued that the group intentionally blurs and obscures the lines between its “political” and “theological” agendas, recalibrating as required to meet the changing circumstances. Dr. Eltantawi identified different moments of recalibration of the Muslim Brotherhood’s projects, and noted the questions raised by the organization in the context of democratic transitions and broader political Islam.

OCTOBER 3
“Building a Frontier: Islamic Architecture, Mongol Rule and Local Patronage in Medieval Anatolia”
Dr. Patricia Blessing, Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University
In the first half of the thirteenth century, the Mongol conquest of the eastern Islamic world shook up established patterns of rule and patronage. In Anatolia, patronage of Islamic architecture moved from the Seljuk court into the hands of various actors, including local notables, Sufi leaders, and Mongol governors. Dr. Blessing’s talk presented her research on the shifts in architectural patronage and building practices during the construction of this western frontier of the Mongol Empire. Notably, extant hybrid decorative and architectural forms from the period point to the multiculturalism that shaped creative forces during the time of Mongol expansion, with the blending of Seljuk, Greek, Turkish, Armenian, and Iranian styles and the adaptation of new methods to local materials.

OCTOBER 17
“Everyday Empire in Dubai: Urban and Spatial Effects of the Long Imperial Encounter”
Prof. Ahmed Kanna, School of International Studies, University of the Pacific
While the Arab Gulf’s imperial geography has been recognized at the level of geopolitics, little if any scholarly work has connected empire to the daily, human geographies of the region. Scholarship on the intersection between urbanism and empire has tended to emphasize issues of surveillance and governance, assuming, whether intentionally or not, an imperial, “birds-eye” point of view. Such an approach leaves much interesting material out of the analytical frame and privileges so-called central or major imperial cities. In his talk, Prof. Kanna proposed another frame for imperial urbanism, taking as his case study the city of Dubai, and specifically its spaces of “bourgeois gratification”—“British pubs,” gated communities, shopping malls, and

Videos of these and previous lectures are available online at our website at http://cmes.berkeley.edu/video
2001. Prof. Shakhsari’s work with diasporic bloggers who wrote about politics of homeland from abroad, namely Toronto and Washington DC, showed how these bloggers in many cases tapped into financial and other opportunities provided by the so-called “War on Terror.” In “Weblogistan,” women in particular became the focus of projects that equated liberation with blogging, in cyber-enthusiastic accounts that reproduced binaries of oppression versus freedom in cyberspace.

NOVEMBER 7
“Sanctioned Freedom: Weblogistan, Gender, and Liberation in Times of War”

Prof. Sima Shakhsari
Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, Wellesley College

Less than a decade before the Iranian Green Movement became known as the “Twitter revolution,” and before Twitter and Facebook revolutions gained currency in the lexicon of the recent uprisings in the Middle East, “blogging revolution” described the role of the Iranian blogosphere in the liberation and democratization language, reminiscent of the post-Soviet color revolutions. Prof. Shakhsari shared work based on two years of online and offline ethnography in the mid-2000s, at a moment when there were over 100,000 Persian blogs that had flourished in the months and years following September 2001. Prof. Shakhsari’s work with diasporic bloggers who wrote about politics of homeland from abroad, namely Toronto and Washington DC, showed how these bloggers in many cases tapped into financial and other opportunities provided by the so-called “War on Terror.” In “Weblogistan,” women in particular became the focus of projects that equated liberation with blogging, in cyber-enthusiastic accounts that reproduced binaries of oppression versus freedom in cyberspace.

NOVEMBER 14
“Recreating Solomon’s Temple”

Prof. Alan Balfour
College of Architecture, The Georgia Institute of Technology

In a visually engaging lecture, Prof. Balfour shared the history of religious and social engagement with Solomon’s Temple—a structure that has been the source of much fascination and debate throughout history—and documented the rising interest in recreating the structure, beginning in the imagination of priests and ending in the careful scholarship of the nineteenth century. Prof. Balfour showed examples of the myriad visual interpretations of the Temple, highlighting the disparate ways that these interpretations engaged with source material, religious texts, and the Dome of the Rock, an equally significant structure in the Islamic tradition.

NOVEMBER 21
“Jewish Thinking about Islam during the Middle Ages”

Prof. Jonathan Decter
Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Brandeis University

Medieval Islamic civilization produced some of the most extensive and systematic treatments of the religions of the world prior to the modern period. This type of “proto-comparative religion,” which created detailed categories of religious practice, had profound repercussions for how Jewish minorities living in Islamic empires thought about Islam, other religions more generally, and even Judaism itself. This lecture explored Jewish thinking about Islam during the medieval period, encompassing not only Jewish “attitudes” toward its sister religion but also the very grounds on which the two religions were seen as comparable—origins, revelatory claims, ritual, and the reasonability of various doctrines.
New Course based on the Olive Tree Initiative

The Olive Tree Initiative (OTI) is a university program that promotes the study and pursuit of conflict analysis and resolution through experiential education and coursework.

First launched by students at UC Irvine in 2007, the OTI consists of two components: a pre-departure course taught mostly online and an annual trip to Washington, D.C., Jordan, Israel, and Palestine, during which students meet with leading politicians, chief negotiators, community and religious leaders, and citizens affected by the Israel-Palestine conflict. Through a rigorous course of study and on-the-ground experience of political and social life in a disputed area, OTI trains future leaders by providing students with the tools to better understand, negotiate, and resolve conflicts.

In 2014, through the initiative of the undergraduate majors in Peace and Conflict Studies and Middle Eastern Studies, students may now count a course in the undergraduate curriculum in International and Area Studies as the prerequisite class for the overseas component of OTI. The course, PACS 119/MES 130 Intractable Conflicts: Approaches to Peace Building in Israel/Palestine, taught by Dr. Peter Bartu, explores the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with an emphasis on contemporary challenges, and focuses on the four key obstacles to the peace process: borders, the status of Jerusalem, refugees, and security. Students additionally learn some of the fundamental principles of conflict analysis and resolution. Dr. Bartu brings to the course considerable experience as a former political advisor to the UN Envoy to the Middle East Peace Process and mediator for the UN in Iraq, Libya, and elsewhere. He previously served as a national security advisor within the Australian Prime Minister and Cabinet’s International Division. Dr. Bartu has additionally secured the involvement of several high-profile diplomats, politicians, and activists to meet with the class. Special thanks go to fourth-year MES Major Shannon Thomas, who founded the OTI branch at UC Berkeley, and whose own trip to the region as an OTI group leader in summer 2013 was supported by the CMES. Her story was featured in the Fall 2013 CMES newsletter.

Future iterations of the Intractable Conflicts course may focus on other sites of protracted diplomatic tensions, e.g., Turkey and Armenia or India and Pakistan.

Collections News:

UC Berkeley catalogued well over a thousand original and enhanced records of Arabic language materials through the efforts of our Arabic cataloger, Imad Abuelgassem. Our current backlog of Arabic materials is about 2,500 volumes, down from 12,000 in 2005 when Mr. Abuelgassem joined the Library.

The MENA Collection began a trial subscription to the al-Manhal database, which contains several thousand full-text Arabic books and journals. al-Manhal runs on Ebrary’s platform and is keyword-searchable in both Arabic and in English. In support of this database, the MENA collection has received $5,000 in additional funding to purchase several modules of the database, including the heritage collection, which features an impressive selection of classical Arabic texts.

The Middle East Librarians Associations (MELA) held its 2013 annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, in conjunction with MESA, and was attended by Ms. Shayee Khanaka, who participated in the ongoing discussions about collections and Middle Eastern librarianship. Ms. Khanaka chaired the Nominating Committee in her role as Member at Large. The Middle East Microform Project (MEMP) held its meeting in conjunction with MELA; UC Berkeley submitted two newspapers for continual filming: Agos, an Armenian newspaper published in Turkey, and al-‘Adalah, an Arabic newspaper from Iraq considered to be the official newspaper of the Hizb al-Da’wah Party.

Contributed by Shayee Khanaka, Librarian for the Middle East and North Africa Collection
Outreach

The CMES works to share university expertise on the Middle East with pre-collegiate and community college educators as part of a program coordinated with other world area National Resource Centers through the Office of Resources for International and Area Studies (ORIAS). Funding is provided by Title VI grants from the United States Department of Education.

The Middle East is a focal point for the ORIAS World History Study Group this year. High school and community college educators meet monthly with Dr. Alan Karras of International and Area Studies to discuss books and thematic topics in World History. The current theme is Religion and the State. The series began with a discussion of the wide historical approach to religion and the state in Asia presented in From the Ruins of Empire by Pankaj Mishra. This recent study of nineteenth- and twentieth-century intellectual currents across Asia explores how nationalism and religion were negotiated from Japan to the Middle East in imperial contexts. For the January meeting the group turned to the pressing problem of sectarian violence in the modern Middle East with Vali R. Nasr’s The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam Will Shape the Future. Also in January, Michele Delattre, outreach coordinator for ORIAS, visited Oman for a week-long meeting with Middle East outreach coordinators from universities across the United States. The lively and informative trip was hosted by the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center.

At the end of January, the CMES collaborated with the National Middle East Language Resource Center (NMELRC) at Brigham Young University to host a free introductory Arabic language workshop for high-school students. Students from over 15 high schools around the Bay Area registered for the day-long introduction to written and spoken Arabic, which included presentations on career and travel opportunities for Arabic speakers. Dr. Kirk Belnap and Dr. Maggie Nassif of the NMESRC conducted the workshop and introduced interested students to the hybrid online course “Arabic without Walls,” which was co-developed by faculty from NMESRC and UC Berkeley.

The 2nd Joint Conference of the California and Northwest Affiliates of the World History Association met at UC Berkeley from February 28 through March 2, 2014. The conference was dedicated to the work and memory of Jerry Bentley, the beloved historian who co-moderated the first ORIAS summer institute for community college faculty in 2011. Dr. Karras organized a community college panel for the event. Prof. Emily Gottreich, Vice Chair of the CMES, chaired a panel on “Empire on Knowledge.”

Also coming up this spring, the CMES will bring educators to Humanities West to participate in two programs at the Marines Memorial Theatre in San Francisco. Of special interest is the April 25–26 program, “Baghdad in Its Golden Age (762–1300),” which will feature lectures by Prof. Fred Donner, University of Chicago; Prof. Paul M. Cobb, University of Pennsylvania; Prof. Fred Astern, San Francisco State University; Dr. Patricia Blessing, Stanford University; Prof. Margaret Larkin, UC Berkeley; and Prof. Ali Yaycioglu, Stanford University; and a musical performance by Bay Area medieval ensemble Cançonièr.

Plans are underway for a summer institute on Teaching World History at Community College on June 6–7, and an institute on Foodways in World History for pre-collegiate educators on July 21–23. Details of these and other events and teaching resources can be found on the ORIAS website at http://orias.berkeley.edu.

Contributed by Michele Delattre
INTERDISCIPLINARY LECTURE SERIES
ALL LECTURES TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAYS AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE SULTAN CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES, 340 STEPHENS HALL

January 30
“Three Seasons of Arab Modernity”
Prof. Nasser Rabbat
Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

March 6
“Neredesin Aşkm?: Sexual Politics and the Queering of Public Space in Times of Erdoğan”
Prof. Evren Savcı
Women and Gender Studies Department, San Francisco State University

March 13
“Beyond Feminism and Islamism: A Third Way for Gender Justice in Morocco”
Prof. Doris Gray
School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco

March 20
“Friendship as Viewed by Two Muslim Philosophers”
Prof. Roy Mottahedeh
History Department, Harvard University

April 3
Prof. Michael Gasper
History Department, Occidental College

April 10
“Wrapped in the Flag of Israel: Mizrahi Single Mothers and Bureaucratic Torture.”
Prof. Smadar Lavie
Visiting Scholar, CMES, University of California, Berkeley

April 17
“Marji al-Zuhour and the Poetics of Palestinian Displacement”
Prof. Keith Feldman and Ms. Emily Drumsta
Departments of Ethnic Studies and Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley

Activities in the Sultan Room are wheelchair accessible during operating hours. For all other times please call 510-642-8208 Mon–Fri to request disability related accommodations.

CONFERENCE
February 21
THE SULTAN CONFERENCE ROOM, 340 STEPHENS HALL

A Berkeley School of Middle Eastern Studies?
This symposium brings together recent Berkeley Ph.D. graduates and looks for commonality in their scholarship. While it is difficult to conceive of any school of Middle Eastern Studies, real or imagined, that does not deal in some way with contestation—of land, of borders, of language, of history, of scholarship itself—the work of the scholars invited has in every instance dealt with issues of contested space and narrative through the application of critical theory. Without dealing in clichés about the storied history of Berkeley, to what extent can we identify a common strain in our panelists’ work? Is there a “Berkeley School” of Middle Eastern Studies? This symposium will consider these and other questions as we welcome back a new generation of Berkeley scholars.

Panel 1
9:15 AM: Introductory Remarks
Prof. Emily Gottreich
Vice Chair, CMES, UC Berkeley

9:30 AM: “Palestinians in the Diaspora: Imagining Liberation and Return beyond the Nation-State”
Prof. Nell Gabiam
Departments of Anthropology and Political Science, Iowa State University

10:00 AM: “Architectures of Oil: Interdisciplinary Methodological Excavations”
Dr. Reem Alissa
School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, University of British Columbia

10:30 AM: “The Making and Unmaking of the Female Body in Modern Morocco”
Prof. Satyel Larson
Social Sciences Collegiate Division, The University of Chicago

11:00 AM–12:00 PM: Discussion

Panel 2
2:00 PM: “Exploring Tunisia’s Place in the Middle East and Post-Colonial World”
Prof. Amy Kallander
Department of History, Maxwell School of International Studies, Syracuse University

2:30 PM: “The Sisyphus of Decline: Bridging Social and Discursive Analyses in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire”
Prof. Heather Ferguson
History Department, Claremont McKenna College

3:00 PM: “America’s Sheet Anchors: U.S. Foreign Policy and American Universities in the Middle East from World to Cold War, 1940–1950”
Prof. Osamah Khalili
Department of History, Maxwell School of International Studies, Syracuse University

3:30-4:30 PM: Discussion
CO-SPONSORED CONFERENCE

March 11
BERKELEY INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH LAW AND ISRAEL STUDIES
UC BERKELEY SCHOOL OF LAW

Israeli and Palestinian Waterways: History, Politics, and Technology of Water and Environment in the Middle East

This landmark conference seeks to further water and environmental scholarship by creating a space for scholars, practitioners, and the public to engage with key Israeli and Palestinian water issues. Scholars from a variety of disciplines—including political science, law, history, geography, peace and conflict studies, anthropology, ecology, and hydrology—will explore the power of water to shape Israeli and Palestinian sociopolitical landscapes. This conference is co-sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, the Friends of the Arava Institute, and the Center for Law, Energy and the Environment.

8:30 AM
PAPER SESSION 1
Historical Formations: Water, Technology, and Environment since the British Mandate
Discussant: Prof. Diana Davis, Department of History, UC Davis
Prof. Samer Alatout, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Prof. David Schorr, Tel Aviv University
Ms. Donna Herzog, New York University

PAPER SESSION 2
Water Scarcity, Access, and Health
Discussant: Prof. Isha Ray, Energy and Resources Group, Berkeley Water Center, UC Berkeley
Prof. Tal Golan, UC San Diego
Prof. Nadej Davidovitch, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Doctors without Borders
Prof. Emily McKee, Northern Illinois University

1:45 PM
PAPER SESSION 3
Channeling Peace, Struggle, and Collaboration: Water and Wastewater across Borders
Discussant: Prof. Erika Weinthal, School of the Environment, Duke University
Prof. Alon Tal, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Prof. Itay Fischhendler, Hebrew University
Mr. Monther Hind, Palestinian Wastewater Engineering, El Bireh and Dr. Clive Lipchin, Arava Institute

3:30 PM
PANEL: The Power and Geography of Water Technologies: Desalinization, Wastewater, Irrigation, and Desertification Discourses
Moderator: Prof. Alon Tal, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Participating: Prof. David Zilberman, UC Berkeley; Prof. Sharon Migdal, University of Arizona; Prof. Avner Vengosh, Duke University; Prof. Amer Marei, Al-Quds University; Mr. Monther Hind, Palestinian Wastewater Engineering, El Bireh

5:00 PM
RECEPTION AND KEYNOTE
A Green Bridge over Troubled Water: The Kidron/Wadi El Nar Basin Project: Limits and Possibilities of Cross-Border Wastewater Treatment and Community Development
Prof. Glenn Yago, Milken Institute, and colleagues

SPECIAL EVENT

April 7, 7:30 PM
160 KROEBER HALL
“Art under the Gun”
Prof. Wafaa Bilal
Tisch School of the Arts, New York University
Iraqi-born artist Wafaa Bilal fled Iraq in 1991 during the first Gulf War. After spending two years in refugee camps in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, he came to the U.S., where he graduated from the University of New Mexico and obtained an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. In this lecture, Bilal will discuss his performance art projects and his experience as an inhabitant of both the “comfort zone” of the U.S. and the “conflict zone” of Iraq.
Reception to follow.
This event is co-sponsored by the Department of Art Practice Wiesenfeld Visiting Artist Lecture Series.

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER
The Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) is an Organized Research Unit of International and Area Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. It was founded in 1963 with a mandate to promote excellence in Middle Eastern Studies at the University and beyond. With an affiliated faculty and academic staff of 75 (supplemented by an annual contingent of 12 visiting faculty and 21 graduate student instructors), the CMES coordinates Middle East-related language and area studies courses in 26 different departments and seven professional schools, while also providing academic advising for an undergraduate major and minor. Our newsletter is published twice yearly, during the fall and spring semesters.

To be added to our weekly e-mail announcement list of Middle East-related lectures and activities in the Bay Area and beyond, please send your name, e-mail address, and affiliation to cmes@berkeley.edu.

Center Chair: Prof. Nezar AlSayyad
Vice Chair: Prof. Emily Gottreich
Center Manager: Ms. Lydia Kiesling
Administrative Coordinator: Ms. Tom Clark

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**ARCE LECTURE SERIES**

The CMES co-sponsors the Spring Lecture Series of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), Northern California Chapter. All lectures take place on Sundays at 2:30 P.M. in 110 Barrows Hall.

**January 19**
“The Art of the Private Theban Tomb of Menna”
Prof. Melinda Hartwig
Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design, Georgia State University

**February 23**
“Excavations at Edfu”
Prof. Nadine Moeller
The Oriental Institute, The University of Chicago

**March 23**
Topic to be announced
Dr. Matt Adams
Abydos Institute of Fine Arts, New York University

**April 4–6**
ARCE Annual Meeting
PORTLAND, OREGON