CENTRE FOR THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF MUSLIM SOCIETIES AND CULTURES

2012 NEWSLETTER
Expressions of Diversity: An Introduction to Muslim Cultures” was held at SFU’s Harbour Centre campus this year. The annual International Summer Programme is co-sponsored by our Centre and the Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, Aga Khan University (AKU), in London. Its location alternates between London and Vancouver on an annual basis. It is intended to provide non-specialists with a critical, historical framework for understanding Muslim peoples and cultures, without reducing identity to religion alone. As the portrayal of Muslims in the media is ever more polarised, the importance of this Programme has only increased. It supports key aspects of the Centre’s mandate, which is to promote knowledge and understanding of Muslim civilisations and cultures.

In this fifth year of the Programme, Professors Kathryn Spellman, Jeff Tan, and Farouk Topan, from AKU joined a group of 14 other scholars. This year, the Expressions of Diversity Visiting Professor was Bruce B. Lawrence, the Nancy and Jeffrey Marcus Humanities Professor of Religion at Duke University. Professor miriam cooke, also from Duke, joined our roster of instructors, along with Professor Azyumardi Azra from Syarif Hidayatullah University in Jakarta, Indonesia. The local scholars teaching in the 2012 Programme were Professors Parin Dossa, Thomas Kuehn, Deryl MacLean, Laura Marks, Amyn Sajoo, Paul Sedra, Ozlem Sensoy, and Maya Yazigi from SFU. Additionally, the Programme benefited from the contributions of Professors Niall Christie and Hussein Keshani from the University of British Columbia, and Professor Andrew Rippin from the University of Victoria.

We received 104 applications from diverse countries including the U.S., Kenya, Congo, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Malaysia, Germany, and Slovenia, showing a strong international interest. Despite problems with visas, the Programme accepted participants from a wide range of professions including profes-
sors, clergy, graduate students, lawyers, civil servants, medical practitioners, NGO workers, teachers, and members of the business community.

This year’s Programme focused on the Muslim experience of various forms of modernity in all their complexity. The modules reflected the diverse experiences and readings of modernity among Iranians, Arabs, Turks, Indians, Africans, and Indonesians, as well as the interaction of Muslim modernities on a global level through history, political science, sociology, anthropology, religion, art, architecture, and literature. In addition to lectures, a number of cultural events enriched this year’s Programme. Sohrab Saeb skillfully demonstrated the evolving santur musical tradition, and film maker Brishkay Ahmed hosted a screening and discussion of her recent film, *Beyond the Burqa*. Departing from the usual Arabocentric focus of Muslim study programs, the Programme included an Indonesia Day which culminated in an evening of gamelan performances.

Additionally, two public lectures were held in the evening. Dr. Bruce Lawrence entitled his presentation “Who is Allah: Reflections of an Anglo-Mohammedan”, while Dr. Azyumardi Azra spoke on “Indonesian Cultures and Religions in Comparative Perspective.”

Participants were exposed to a range of perspectives and issues, expanding their appreciation of the diversity of Muslim people and cultures.

The 2013 Summer Programme will be held in London, England, at the Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations.

**ISP 2012 Participant Quotes**

“Thank you so much for a life changing experience. It was unbelievable to see top class scholars all on one platform. I thoroughly enjoyed every second.”

ISP 2012 Participant

“The harmonious atmosphere of the course was exceptional. It was good that it was held at [beautiful] SFU Vancouver.”

ISP 2012 Participant

“The program was really stimulating… I especially like the different points of view that the lecturers expose, and the fact that they come from different backgrounds and areas of interest.”

ISP 2012 Participant

Originally from Sudan, Dr. An-Na‘im is the Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law at Emory University. An internationally recognized scholar on Islam and human rights, he is the author more recently of Muslims and Global Justice (2011) and Islam and the Secular State (2008). An-Na‘im’s lecture challenged the notion that sharia should have any place in the formal legal system. Adherence to sharia, he argued, should be a matter of personal conviction, not public policy, in order to have moral value.

George Saliba, “Embedding Arabic/Islamic Science in the Renaissance,”
October 28, 2011

Dr. George Saliba, Professor of Arabic and Islamic Science at Columbia University, is the author of numerous books including Islamic Science and the Making of the European Renaissance (2007). His lecture explored the ways in which scientific ideas from the Muslim world found their way into the scientific flowering of the European Renaissance. While it is widely recognised that this knowledge transfer occurred in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, Dr. Saliba showed that it continued well into the sixteenth century, although the access to original translations from Arabic was less direct.

Roger Allen, “The Happy Traitor: Tales of a Translator From Arabic,”
February 23, 2012

Dr. Roger Allen, Sascha Jane Patterson Harvie Professor of Social Thought and Comparative Ethics and Professor of Arabic and Comparative Literature at the University of Pennsylvania, centered his talk on problems associated with the translation of Arabic literature into English, drawing on his many decades of experience as one of the world’s foremost translators. He spoke, in particular, about issues surrounding cultural sensitivity, publishers’ requirements for their perceived audiences, as well as general shortcomings in the act of translation. Dr. Allen is the author of numerous books including An Introduction to Arabic Literature (2000) and The Arabic Literary Heritage (1998).

March 24, 2012

Dr. Michael Gilsenan, David B. Kriser Professor in the Humanities and Director of the Center for Near Eastern Studies at New York University, is an internationally renowned anthropologist. The author of Recognizing Islam: Religion and Society in the Modern Middle East (2000), Dr. Gilsenan discussed his current research on the modern diaspora of Arab families across the Indian Ocean Region. The dispute of inheritance rights under British legal frameworks provides a window into understanding these communities.
Photos:
George Saliba, Public Lecture, October 2011, SFU Vancouver
Abdullahi An-Na’im, Public Lecture, September 2011, SFU Vancouver
Michael Gilsenan, Graduate Student Seminar, March 2012, SFU Burnaby
Amyn Sajoo, Abdullahi An-Na’im, Public Lecture, Derryl MacLean, September 2011, SFU Vancouver
Janet Afary, “Gender Reforms and Female Sexuality in the Pahlavi Era,”
October 7, 2011

Dr. Janet Afary is Professor of Religious Studies and Feminist Studies and holds the Mellichamp Chair in Global Religion and Modernity at the University of California, Santa Barbara. In her lecture, Dr. Afary examined the modernization projects of the Pahlavi government in the first half of the twentieth century. Images of women, disseminated through cinema and magazines, became symbols of competing visions. For the state, westernization was seen as modernization, but for many Iranians it was evidence of corruption. The status and representation of women became a factor in the emerging alliance of Islamists and leftists against the Shah.

Janet Afary is a native of Iran and a historian of modern Iran. She holds the Mellichamp Chair in Global Religion and Modernity at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she is a Professor of Religious Studies and Feminist Studies. Her books include: *Sexual Politics in Modern Iran* (Cambridge UP, 2009); *The Iranian Constitutional Revolution: Grassroots Democracy, Social Democracy, and the Origins of Feminism* (Columbia UP, 1996); and (with Kevin B. Anderson) *Foucault and the Iranian Revolution: Gender and the Seductions of Islamism* (University of Chicago Press, 2005).

“The East-West battle over gender is brilliantly described by Janet Afary in her groundbreaking survey *Sexual Politics in Modern Iran*.”

*The New York Review Of Books*

Dr. Daromir Rudnyckyj is Assistant Professor of Pacific and Asian Studies at the University of Victoria. His lecture described and analyzed some of the recent efforts to make Islam compatible with capitalism in Indonesia. In particular, that a contrast between homo economicus and homo Islamicus is useful insofar as it illuminates different approaches to the extension of calculative reason — and their limits.

Maya Yazigi, “A Look at Early Islamic Society through the Lens of Arabic Genealogy,” February 9, 2012

Dr. Maya Yazigi is a Scholar in Residence at the Centre for the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies and Cultures at SFU. Her colloquium examined the circumstances that brought about the literary documentation of Arabic genealogies in the post-conquest early Islamic societies of the Near East, and offered insights as to the functions that the recording of Arabic genealogies may have played for the diasporic Arab populations that settled in the Near East after the Islamic conquests.

Dana Mohammed Olwan, “They Just Wanted to be Normal: Locating the Strange and the Familiar in the Shafia Honor Killing Trial,” March 8, 2012

Dr. Dana Mohammed Olwan is the Ruth Wynn Woodard Junior Chair in Women’s Studies for the year 2011-2012. This colloquium discussed the heated debates about the cultural and religious motivations for acts of gendered violence. In particular, the Canadian media’s responses to these murders have focused on the familiar stories of Muslim violence, multicultural breaches, and failed integration.


Dr. Emilio González-Ferrín, Professor of Arabic and Islamic Thought at the University of Seville, argued in this colloquium that the history of a religious system cannot be confessional. Disregarding the dogmatic sequence of historical Islam—founder, early expansion, the encounter with “others”—and “seeing Islam as others saw it,” there is no explanation for Islam. Islam is the explanation, the result of several historical facts not necessarily connected beforehand.
Screening of Documentary Film “From House No. 37: The Life and Death of Sadeq Hedayat” and Panel Discussion, September 29, 2011

The Canadian premiere of this documentary film began with a reading and commentary by the award-winning novelist Porochista Khakpour. The documentary focused on the ambiguities of being both Iranian and modern in the life of Sadeq Hedayat, Iran’s most revolutionary and surrealist of novelists, who drew inspiration from Persian folklore and international magical realism. The screening was followed by a panel discussion on the contemporary importance of Sadeq Hedayat by Porochista Khakpour, Peyman Vahabzadeh, Amir Mirfakhraie and Derryl MacLean. The panel also took questions from the audience.

Derryl MacLean, “Realizing the Muslim Community of Vancouver,” November 24, 2011

Part of SFU’s Department of History lecture series, “Think You Know Vancouver,” this lecture focused on the history of the Vancouver Muslim community and its attempt to realize an ummah. Dr. MacLean directed special attention to the importance of “double diaspora Muslims” who came to Vancouver not from the region of their Indian ethnicity but from East Africa and Fiji.


Iranian-American author Porochista Khakpour read from her book Sons and Other Flammable Objects (2007) at the West Vancouver Memorial Library in an event that celebrated Persian culture and diaspora writing. In addition to being a novelist, Khakpour regularly contributes articles and essays to the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, and the Paris Review, among others. The event was co-sponsored by the CCSMSC and the West Vancouver Memorial Library, where it was hosted.

Ken Seigneurie, “From Martyrdom to Civic Consciousness in Lebanon and the Middle East Today,” January 26, 2012

Dr. Ken Seigneurie is Associate Professor and Director of the SFU Program in World Literature. His lecture, followed by a book signing, addressed the relationship of culture and politics in the Arab world. In particular he explored how cultural ferment in Lebanon over the past 30 years served as a crucible for an emerging civic consciousness in numerous Arab countries today. The lecture was hosted by the Centre, in association with the World Literature Program and the World Lebanese Cultural Union.
ADAB: Expressions of Indonesian Culture, July 17, 2012

The CCSMSC organised an Indonesian cultural event to celebrate sixty years of Canadian-Indonesian diplomatic relations. The evening featured the remarkable diversity of Indonesian cultures and the adab (mutual respect) which holds these diverse communities together. The event included the Busy Island Gamelan Orchestra, founded and directed by Sutrisno Hartana, a gamelan and wayang master in the Javanese tradition. Also featured were puppetry and Javanese dance, with special guest Djoko Walujo Wimboprasetyo from the California Institute of the Arts. The evening was co-sponsored by the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia, and introduced by the Consul-General, the Honorable Mr. Bambang Hiendrasto. Dr. Azyumardi Azra from Syarif Hidayatullah University in Jakarta spoke about Islam in the multicultural context of Indonesia.


The inaugural Distinguished Visiting Scholar Lecture in Muslim Diversity was given by Bruce B. Lawrence, the Nancy and Jeffrey Marcus Humanities Professor of Religion and the founding Director of the Duke Islamic Studies Centre, Duke University. Reflecting on approaches to Allah, both from within the Muslim tradition and outside it, Dr. Lawrence presented an overview of how various authors, artists, and communities have engaged with the concept. Featuring traditional art and postmodern media, and moving beyond conventional assumptions that identity resides in theology, Professor Lawrence explored the expressive traditions around Allah.
Fourth Annual Student Conference, March 24, 2012. SFU Segal Graduate School of Business.

The MEICON-BC Student Conference highlighted the graduate work of a cross-disciplinary group of academics examining diverse issues related to the Middle East and the Islamic world. There were twenty-six presenters divided into eight diverse panels with students from nine different universities and colleges. Over eighty people attended the all-day event and its concluding address by Dr. Michael Gilsenan.

The Middle East and Islamic Consortium of British Columbia (MEICON-BC) was established in 2008 to provide an organizational basis for communication and cooperation among BC academics. The next MEICON conference will be held at the University of Victoria on March 23, 2013.

For further information, see www.sfu.ca/ccmsc/meicon-bc.

Photos: Fourth Annual Middle East and Islamic Student Conference, SFU Vancouver.
BOOK DONATIONS TO SFU LIBRARY

The SFU Library has four ongoing collections in Middle East and Muslim Studies.

**The William and Gretchen Cleveland Arabic Collection** contains 750 volumes with strengths in Beirut and Cairo imprints of history and literature, including important 19th century travelogues.

**The World Lebanese Cultural Union Arabic Collection** holds 85 volumes of recently published Arabic works, primarily on the history, society, and culture of Lebanon.

**The Lami Nasserpour Persian Collection** has 788 volumes in Farsi on history, politics, memoirs, mysticism, art, and literature, including valuable editions and commentaries on Hafiz, Rumi, Sa’adi, and Firdawsi.

**The Allamah Iqbal Memorial Urdu Collection** contains 125 volumes, primarily in Urdu with some Persian and English texts, on the work of Iqbal and the cultural history of Indo-Pakistan. This year it was enriched by a donation of 30 books from the Pakistan Consul General of Vancouver.

In addition, Shabnam Eskandari donated 135 books containing works of philosophers Mir Damad and Mulla Shirazi and contemporary Persian literature. Documentary film producer Gillian Darling Kovanic and Professor Parviz Dastalmachi donated documentary material related to the 1997 Mykonos Affair. Other donors this year are Gretchen Cleveland, the Institute of Ismaili Studies, Chris Dagg, Professor Derryl MacLean, and Professor Nasrollah S. Fatemi.

EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES

**American University of Sharjah**
Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

**The American University in Cairo**
Cairo, Egypt

**Al Akhawayn University**
Ifrane, Morocco

**Jawaharlal Nehru University**
Delhi, India

**Koç University**
Istanbul, Turkey

**Panjab University**
Chandigarh, India

For more information:
students.sfu.ca/studyabroad
FACULTY AND STUDENT PROFILES

Dr. Paul Sedra

Paul Sedra is Associate Professor of History at Simon Fraser University, and Middle East Editor of the Wiley-Blackwell journal, History Compass. A specialist in modern Egyptian history and Christian-Muslim relations, Sedra has taught at Dalhousie University and the University of Toronto, and received his doctorate from New York University. His most recent book, From Mission to Modernity: Evangelicals, Reformers and Education in Nineteenth-Century Egypt (2011), is published by I.B. Tauris. Sedra is a prolific commentator on contemporary Egypt, Christian-Muslim relations, Canadian policy in the Middle East, and Middle East politics generally. His op-eds appear regularly in Egypt Independent and Jadaliyya, and he has furnished analysis to such media outlets as Al-Jazeera English, CTV, CBC Radio, the Associated Press, and The Globe and Mail.

Nawal Musleh-Motut

Nawal Musleh-Motut is a third year PhD Student in the School of Communication. Her PhD research focuses on the divide that exists between Palestinians and Israelis due to conflicting memories of the Holocaust and the Palestinian Nakba. An article based on this research, “Negotiating Palestine Through the Familial Gaze: A (Post)memory Project,” was published in TOPIA: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies this year. She is the recipient of the 2012 COGECO Graduate Scholarship in Communications and the 2012 Shahrgon Annual Graduate Award in Critical Independent Journalism Studies for the Promotion of Citizenship and Democracy.

Itrath Syed


STUDENT AWARDS

Edward W. Said Memorial Scholarship

The 2012 award was given to Edip Golbasi for a doctoral research project on institutional and inter-communal violence in the Ottoman Eastern Provinces during the period 1876-1909. The scholarship will facilitate his summer research in the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul.

Dossa Muslim Studies Graduate Travel Award

This year the award went to Justin Rawlins, an MA candidate in Sociology and Anthropology, for travel to Turkey. His research examines the effect of neoliberalization policies on agricultural lands in Ankara and their increasing use for non-agricultural purposes.

William Cleveland Prize in Middle Eastern Asian History

This year’s award went to fourth year undergraduate student Jenny Shutek for a paper entitled “Romanticizing the Land: Agriculturally Imagined Communities in Palestine-Israel.” The paper was written for Professor Paul Sedra’s Spring 2012 course History 465: The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict.
AFFILIATIONS AND POSITIONS

Amyn Sajoo, Resident Scholar, second year

Dr. Amyn B. Sajoo, a specialist in human rights and civil society, delivered the 2011 Augustana Lecture on Religion in Public Life at the University of Alberta in October. This was followed by a lecture on “Reason in Muslim Ethics” in the university’s Political Science department, arguing that critical rationality remains a vital aspect of practical moral reasoning in Islamic settings, from politics to biomedicine.

Maya Yazigi, Resident Scholar, second year

Dr. Sajoo also published A Companion to Muslim Cultures (I.B. Tauris / Macmillan), the third volume in the Muslim Heritage Series of which he is the editor. He has taught several courses over the past year on the history and politics of the Muslim world, including the ongoing events of the “Arab Spring,” on which he also contributes to the news media.

Hatice Bayraktar, Post-Doctoral Fellow, first year

in Los Angeles, where she taught prior to moving to the University of British Columbia as Assistant Professor. She specializes in the sociology of the earliest phase of Islamic history, with a focus on issues of historiography, divergent traditions, and gender, on which topics she has published numerous articles. During her stay at the Centre she plans to complete a manuscript tentatively entitled “Issues of Identity: History and Social Order in Early Arabic Genealogies.”

Hossein Houshmand, Post-Doctoral Fellow, first year

Dr. Hossein Houshmand completed his PhD in Comparative Religion and Ethics (“Islam and Human Rights: The Search for an Overlapping Consensus”) at Concordia University. His dissertation explores the implications of John Rawls’ distinctive theory of global normative order in formulating a reasonable conception of human rights in Islamic doctrine. His research interests include Islamic thought, Iranian studies, and contemporary political philosophy. His current research investigates the idea of the priority of democracy to secularism as a proper explanation of the relationship between religion and politics in Muslim societies.

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Maya Yazigi, Resident Scholar, second year

Dr. Maya Yazigi holds a PhD in Islamic Studies from the University of California

she will be researching non-Muslim minorities in the late Ottoman and Turkish Republic, with a focus on the Armenian community.

Hatice Bayraktar, Post-Doctoral Fellow, first year

Dr. Hatice Bayraktar holds a doctoral degree in Turkology and History from the Free University of Berlin, with a thesis titled “The Anti-Semitic Incidents in Thrace, 1934, and Their Underlying Causes.” During her stay at the Centre, while holding a postdoctoral fellowship, she will be researching non-Muslim minorities in the late Ottoman and Turkish Republic, with a focus on the Armenian community.

Hossein Houshmand, Post-Doctoral Fellow, first year

Dr. Hossein Houshmand completed his PhD in Comparative Religion and Ethics (“Islam and Human Rights: The Search for an Overlapping Consensus”) at Concordia University. His dissertation explores the implications of John Rawls’ distinctive theory of global normative order in formulating a reasonable conception of human rights in Islamic doctrine. His research interests include Islamic thought, Iranian studies, and contemporary political philosophy. His current research investigates the idea of the priority of democracy to secularism as a proper explanation of the relationship between religion and politics in Muslim societies.
Eva Sajoo, Research Associate, second year

Eva Sajoo has a Master’s degree in International Development and Education from the University of London and a previous degree in History. Her research has focused on the significance of women and minorities in periods of political transition, particularly in Afghanistan. She recently published a chapter, with Dr. Elena Caprioni, entitled “Gender and Identity,” in *A Companion to Muslim Cultures* (I.B. Tauris, 2012). She has taught at the University of Science and Technology in Beijing and in SFU’s Continuing Studies Program. Her research at the Centre will examine the use of discourses of “culture” and “religion” to limit the public roles of women in transitional Muslim societies.

Maryam Mahvash, Research Associate, first year

Dr. Maryam Mahvash holds a PhD in Architecture from the University of Tehran where she also received her Master’s degree in Urban Design. She also has a Master of Architecture from Tehran Azad University. She has taught at several universities, including the University of Tehran College of Fine Arts and served as scientific adviser for several conferences, festivals, publications and periodicals. Dr. Mahvash’s interests span the broader context of Persian studies as well as the history and theory of architecture. Her research at the Centre will compare the technique of daylighting in the Safavid and Seljuq mosques of historical Persia.

Sedigheh Minachi, Research Associate, first year

Dr. Sedigheh Minachi completed her PhD in Education at UBC on “The Narratives of Peace Educators in the Context of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.” Her previous work focused on the empowerment of women particularly in the immigrant and refugee communities. She is currently the lead researcher for a CUSO-sponsored project in Africa: “Diaspora Volunteer- ing in Nigeria.” Her work at the Centre focuses on Shi’a education among the diaspora Iranian community in Metro Vancouver.
RECENT BOOKS OF MEMBERS

Derryl MacLean and Sikeena Ahmed, eds., *Cosmopolitanisms in Muslim Contexts: Perspectives from the Past* (Edinburgh University Press, 2012)

This book focuses attention on instances in modern world history where cosmopolitan ideas and practices pervaded eight different Muslim societies and cultures.

“Exceeds all previous efforts to address the intersection of Islam and cosmopolitan norms, values and options.” — Bruce B. Lawrence, Marcus Family Professor of Humanities (Duke University).


Focusing on the lives of the increasing population of Asian immigrants in Canada, the book reveals the gaps in basic security that they experience in the workplace. The impact of changes to the Employment Standards Act and immigration policies have created deregulated workplaces where immigrant workers are unprotected by the safeguards in place for other Canadians.


This book explores the empire building of the Ottomans, including how they conquered and ruled large parts of present-day Yemen between 1849 and the end of World War I. Drawing on a wide range of sources and on recent scholarship, *Empire, Islam, and Politics of Difference* shows how the concepts and practices of Ottoman imperial rule were shaped through encounters between Ottoman officials, their European rivals, and local communities.

“Thomas Kuehn’s remarkable book breaks new ground by drawing the late Ottoman Empire into comparative imperial studies… A brilliant book that deserves the widest possible readership among scholars of late nineteenth century empire and the Ottomans’ place in that order.” — Eugene Ragan, Fellow of St. Anthony’s College (Oxford University).

The period between 1975 and 2005 is the focus, but the role of culture in mediating violence transcends Lebanon. The book is also concerned with the hybrid nature of contemporary Arabic novels, films, and popular culture, and their interaction with the challenges of the societies that produce them.

“An excellent study of the cultural production of Lebanese society resulting from the period of civil war.” — Roger Allen, Professor of Arabic Language and Literature (U Penn).


The book frames pedagogical work for social justice around key concepts for understanding race, gender, class, religion, and other social identity-based inequalities in society. The book has received a 2012 Critics Choice award from the American Educational Studies Association (AESA) for outstanding contribution to scholarship in the social foundations of education.


Examining the role of culture in supporting and resisting sectarianism in Lebanon, this book shows how the art of fiction, film, and popular culture conditions social attitudes.
Razieh Babagolzadeh (MA candidate, History) has published an article, “On Becoming Muslim in the City of Swords: Bhoja and Shaykh Changal at Dhar,” in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 22 (January 2012): 115-27.

Parin Dossa (Anthropology) was the keynote speaker at the Re-Presenting Memory Conference in May 2012, held in Istanbul. Her lecture was entitled “Cuisines of Poverty: Body Politic and Memory Work of Women in Afghanistan.” She also delivered a lecture on “Violence in the Weave of Life: Afghan Women’s Memorization at ‘home’ and in the Diaspora” at the Anthropology Colloquium hosted by the University of Victoria in April 2012.

Derryl MacLean (History) presented a lecture at Syarif Hidayatullah University (Jakarta) on “The Problem of Comparison in the History of Religion” on August 9, 2012, and at Gadjah Mada University (Yogyakarta) a lecture on “Diasporas and the Realization of a Muslim Ummah in Canada” on August 14, 2012.


Mariam Klait (History), a former CCSMSC research assistant, successfully defended her MA thesis, focusing on the complexities of Palestinian identity. Her research engages with Palestinians living within and outside of refugee camps in Lebanon, and explores how additional factors like civil society and socio-economic status affect the perception of identity. Mariam has also taken up a position at the National Council on U.S. Arab Relations in Washington D.C. as Publications Coordinator and Special Programs Assistant.

Tamir Moustafa (International Studies) was a visiting fellow for the 2011-2012 academic year in the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School. During the year he also gave lectures at Princeton University and wrote articles and policy papers that were published by the Brookings Institute, the *Globe and Mail*, *Foreign Policy*, the *Huffington Post*, etc.
and the Immanent Frame. He appeared on CBC News Network, The National, al-Jazeera, and National Public Radio. His writings can be found on his blog, A New Egypt Rising: http://anewegyprising.blogspot.ca/

**Ardalan Rezamand**, a previous MA student in History at SFU and CCSMSC Research Assistant, has recently received a scholarship to pursue his PhD studies under the supervision of Janet Afary at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He will be located in the Department of Religious Studies, and his research will focus on the intersection of religion and politics in contemporary Iran.

**Maya Yazigi** (History) recently published an article entitled “A Claim of tajdid for the Sixth/Twelfth Century? Al-Sam’ani, his Kitab al-ansab and a Legacy Contested,” in Oriens, 39, no. 2 (2011). She has also reviewed Tayeb al-Hibri’s *Parable and Politics in Early Islamic History: The Rashidun Caliphs* (2010), for Der Islam.

**Ellen Vaillancourt** (CCSMSC) traveled this summer during the month of Ramadan to Albania, Turkey, England, Switzerland and France where she visited sacred sites and met with both Islamic and Christian scholars of sacred geometry and symbols. Incorporating both Eastern and Western traditions of circling into prayer, this work informs her latest personal project, *The Interfaith Friendship Labyrinth: Circles of Compassion, Pathways to Peace*. The project seeks to establish compassionate communities through the creation and usage of urban sacred spaces.
Annual Lecture Series
2012 -2013


Other Activities


MEICON-BC Faculty Symposium: “Canada’s Contribution to Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies.” March 22, 2013, University of Victoria.

MEICON-BC Student Conference: March 23, 2013, University of Victoria.

ASSOCIATED FACULTY

Robert Anderson
Professor, Communication.
International development and communication; South Asia, Indonesia.

Yildiz Atasoy
Professor, Sociology.
Political economy and sociology; gender relations; Islamic politics; Turkey, Middle East.

Len Berggren
Professor Emeritus, Mathematics.
History of mathematical sciences in ancient Greece and medieval Islam.

Luke Clossey
Associate Professor, History.
Comparative world history of religions; early modern; Mughals; China, Mexico.

Parin Dossa
Professor, Anthropology.
Migration, gender and health; Muslim women; Iranians in the diaspora.

Aude-Claire Fourot
Assistant Professor, Political Science.
Public policies; ethno-religious diversity; Islam in Canada.

Graham Fuller
Adjunct Professor, History.
Islamism and North American foreign policy as it relates to the Muslim World.

Andre Gerolymatos
Chair, Hellenic Studies.
Professor, History.
Hellenism; Greek-Turkish military history; international relations and Muslim politics.

Thomas Kuehn
Associate Professor, History.
Social and cultural history of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey.

Derryl MacLean
Director, CCSMSC
Associate Professor, History.
History of religion; Islamics; early modern South and Central Asia; Islam in the West.

Laura Marks
Dena Wosk Professor of Art and Culture Studies.
School for the Contemporary Arts
Cinema in the Arab world; Islamic genealogy of new media art.

Mark McPherran
Professor, Philosophy.
Ancient Greek philosophy and religion; ethics; Islamic philosophy.

Tamir Moustafa
Stephen Jarislowsky Chair, Associate Professor, School for International Studies.
Comparative law; religion and politics; Middle East; Egypt.

Paul Sedra
Associate Professor, History.
Modern Middle East; education and the rise of the modern state; Egyptian cinema.

Ken Seigneurie
Director, World Literature.
Associate Professor, World Literature.
Modern Arabic, French, and British fiction; literary theory and the history of humanist thought.

Ozlem Sensoy
Associate Professor, Education.
Constructions of Muslims in North America through education and media.

John Spagnolo
Associate Professor (Retired), History.
International history of Arab Middle East; Lebanon.

Azadeh Yamini-Hamedani
Assistant Professor, World Literature.
Interconnections of literature and philosophy; semiotics of translations; Persian literature.

Habiba Zaman
Professor, Gender Sexuality and Women’s Studies.
Women and development; globalization and women’s work; Bangladesh.