



**THE 32ND ANNUAL
MIDDLE EAST HISTORY AND
THEORY CONFERENCE**

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, MAY 5-6, 2017

STUART HALL

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

The 32nd Annual



**Middle East History
and Theory Conference**

Friday & Saturday
May 5–6, 2017

Stuart Hall
5835 South Greenwood Avenue
Chicago, IL 60637



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

Welcome to the 32nd Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference!

The 2016 MEHAT Conference was made possible by generous financial support from the following University of Chicago sponsors:

*Center for Middle Eastern Studies
Franke Institute for the Humanities
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Council on Advanced Studies*

Acknowledgements

This annual conference would not be possible without the devotion and passion that inspires scholars from around the world to share their research and ideas. For their participation, we are grateful. The conference also depends on many people who work both behind and in front of the curtain to organize, coordinate, and host this wonderful tradition--a task that falls largely on NELC graduate students and MA students from the Center for Middle East Studies (CMES). Recent conference organizers Theo Beers, Annie Greene, Amir Toft, and Mariam Sheibani bequeathed us their invaluable advice and institutional memories that have guided our work to make this conference possible. We also sincerely thank the many NELC students and affiliated faculty who serve as discussants and otherwise gave support and advice. Of them we would like to thank our devoted MEHAT faculty sponsor, Prof. Orit Bashkin. Special thanks must also go to Dr. Thomas Maguire and Brittany Ciboski. Their unlimited generosity in advice and time was essential to the success of the conference. Tom always had the right advice and always willing to problem solve with us. Grace Brody and the former and current boards of the Middle Eastern Studies Students' Association generously sponsored the delicious lamb roast and also provided invaluable support in raising the crucial corps of volunteers. Finally, we must thank all those who, because of their commitment to scholarship, offered to serve as discussants--to read and comment on papers that are not their own.

Kevin Blankinship | Sami Jiryis Sweis
2017 Conference Organizers

Locations. All panel sessions will be held on the main floor of **STUART HALL** (5835 S. Greenwood Avenue) along with the registration table. Coffee breaks and daytime meals will take place in Cox Lounge, on the lower level of Stuart Hall. Men’s and women’s restrooms are also on the lower level of Stuart. The keynote address, at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, will be in Breasted Hall on the ground floor of the **ORIENTAL INSTITUTE** (1155 E. 58th Street), and the keynote reception immediately following will be in the museum gallery. The film screening of *Tickling Giants* will take place in STUART HALL. The concluding lamb roast will be held in the **McCORMICK LOUNGE - REYNOLDS CLUB** (5706 S. University Avenue). Signs and guides will help direct you from Stuart Hall to the other buildings.

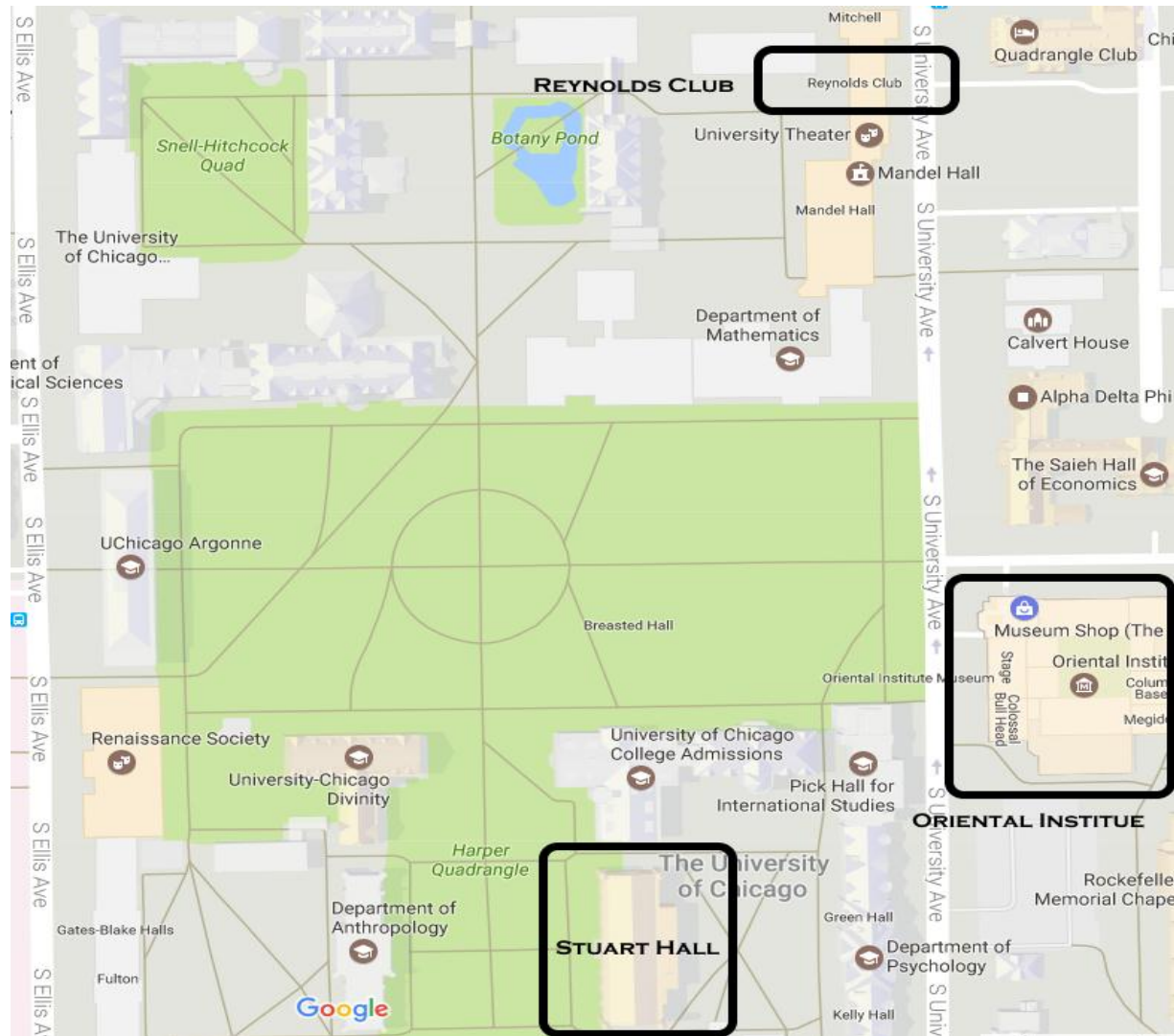
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أَهْلًا وَسَهْلًا

MEHAT Conference Map of Events



Stuart Hall: 5835 South Greenwood Avenue

Friday: Registration, panel sessions

Saturday: Registration, panel sessions, meals, movie-screening

Breasted Hall, Oriental Institute: 1155 E 58th St.

Friday: Keynote address, 5:00 p.m., post-keynote reception

McCormick Lounge, Reynolds Club: 5706 S. University Avenue

Saturday: Lamb Roast

Friday, May 5, 2017

All panel sessions will be held in Stuart Hall

Registration: Begins at 1:00 p.m.

Session I -- 1:30 - 2:50 p.m.

Mysticism and Philosophy in Al-Andalus -- Stuart 101

Mohamad Ballan (University of Chicago), Discussant

Daniel Watling (University of Chicago), "Averroes' Doctrines of Creation"

Jawad Anwar Qureshi (University of Chicago), "Notes on the Mawlid attributed to Muhyi al-Din ibn al-'Arabi (d. 1240)"

Justin Benavidez (University of Chicago), "An Examination of Ibn Juzayy's *Tafsir*"

Women's Roles and Identities in the Middle East and Islam -- Stuart 102

Rachel Schine (University of Chicago), Discussant

Grace Bickers (University of Chicago) "Wailing Women in the Streets of Kūfa: Mourning Ritual and the Origins of Twelver Shī'ī Identity"

Mariel Colbert (University of Chicago), "Making the Modern Turkish Woman: Revisiting the Women's Question from the Perspective of Women Ottoman Intellectuals"

Shehnaz Haqqani (University of Texas Austin), "A Feminist Analysis of the Prohibition on Women's Interfaith Marriage in Islam"

Jordan, Israel, and Palestine: New Perspectives -- Stuart 105

Orit Bashkin (University of Chicago), Discussant

Fredrik Meiton (Northwestern University), "Organic Compound: Zionism & Science"

Hanna Alshaikh (University of Chicago), "The Early US-Palestinian Encounter, Social Mobility and Village Life through the Eyes of a Child: On the Diaries of Khalil Totah"

Michael Peddycoart (University of Chicago), "Abdullah al-Tal: Competing Nationalisms in the Arab Legion during the 1948 War"

Marshall Watson (Yale University), "When the Walls Came Crumblin' Down: Destruction, Humanitarianism, and Propaganda in Mandate Palestine"

Session II -- 3:00 - 4:20 p.m.

Administering Ottoman and Central Eurasian Spheres of Power -- Stuart 101

Hripsime Haroutunian (University of Chicago), Discussant

Armen Akbarian (University of Chicago), "Life in Mongol Armenia"

Amir Toft (University of Chicago), "Registered Silence: The Institutional Logic of the Ottoman Sicils"

Bijaoui Mahjouba (Lycee Lurcat Paris), "The Synergy between the Barbary States and the Ottoman Empire: Asymmetric Relations at the End of 18th and the Middle 19th Century"

Modes of Dramatic Performance: Cinema and Shadow Puppets -- Stuart 102

Kara Peruccio (University of Chicago), Discussant

Esra Cimencioglu (Northwestern University), "'The New Taşra': Representation of Province in New Turkish Cinema"

Daria Kovaleva (Harvard University), "Shadow Theater in the Early Modern Ottoman Imperial Center: Historicizing the Elusive, Allusive, and Illusive"

Azadeh Safaeian (Northwestern University), "The Experience of Deterritorialization in Kurdish Cinema: Drunken Horses Beholding the Porous Borders"

Travel, Learning, and Scholarship in the Middle East -- Stuart 105

Jessica Mutter (University of Chicago), Discussant

Xiaoyue Li (University of Michigan), "Connecting Peripheries to the Center: Imaginations of Railways in the Late Nineteenth-Century Egypt"

Arafat A. Razzaque (Harvard University), "A Nubian Mawlā in Umayyad Egypt: Yazīd ibn Abī Ḥabīb and the Social Context of Early Islamic Scholarship"

Kyle Wynter-Stoner (University of Chicago), "'All Sciences Complement Each Other': The ordering of knowledge in Taşköprüzade's *Miftāḥ al-sa'ādah wa mişbāḥ al-siyādah fī mawḍū'āt al-'ulūm*"

Keynote Address -- 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., May 5th

Oriental Institute, Breasted Hall

The Middle East History and Theory Conference presents

Benjamin Fortna

Director & Professor, History of Modern Middle East and Ottoman Empire,
The University of Arizona

***Inside Out: The Life of an Ottoman
Officer at Empire's End***

*The keynote address will be followed by a reception in the Galleries of the
Oriental Institute*

This lecture is free and open to the public

Saturday, May 6, 2017

All panel sessions will be held in Stuart Hall

Breakfast (Stuart Hall and Cox Lounge) -- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Sponsored by The Committee on Central Eurasian Studies

Session III -- 9:00 - 10:20 a.m.

Sources for the Study of Centers and Peripheries of Safavid Iran -- Stuart 101

Theodore Beers (University of Chicago), Discussant

Craig Breckenridge (University of Chicago), "Stringing Pearls from the Coast to the Court: Bahraini Scholars and their Relationship to the Safavid Center"

Shaahin Pishbin (University of Chicago), "Contesting the Centre: Safavid and Mughal Literary Tazkirah Writing in the 1670s-1680s"

Zachary Schuyler (University of Chicago), "New Julfan Merchants: Taking Stock of a Diaspora Population that Moved from Periphery to the Center and Set Up a Global Trade Network"

Zeynep Tezer (University of Chicago), "Turkish Historiography on the Şafawīds"

One Man's Center is Another Woman's Periphery: A Re-Centering -- Stuart 102

Golriz Farshi (University of Michigan), Discussant

Isabel Lachenauer (University of Chicago), "That Full Moon Took the Javelin into Her Hand: Warrior Women and Gender in Yūsuf-i Meddāh's Varqa ve Gülşāh"

Daniel Jacobius Morgan (University of Chicago), "Magic in an Age of Print: Shah Wali Allah and 'Islamic Reform' in South Asia"

Annie Greene (University of Chicago), "Between Liberty and Justice: Ottoman Frontier Constitutionalism"

August "Auggie" Samie (University of Chicago), "What's in a name?: Perceptions and Realities of Central Eurasian Reformers"

Parties, Factions, and Reformers Across the Modern Middle East -- Stuart 104

Holly Shissler (University of Chicago), Discussant

Mustafa Caner (Sakarya University), "America, JCPOA, and Identity in Iran: Moderate/Reformist Bloc's Struggle for Counter-Hegemony"

Thomas Fugler (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs), "Unifying the Turkish Left: Reimagining the Nation from a Socialist Perspective (1960-1971)"

Jared Szuba (University of Chicago), "Sufism as Religious Individualism in Post-Revolution Cairo"

(Session III Continued on Next Page)

(Session III Continued)

Pious Writing in Ottoman and Indian Contexts -- Stuart 105

Cornell Fleischer (University of Chicago), Discussant

Muhammad U Faruque (University of California, Berkeley), "Between the Center and Periphery: Ashraf 'Alī Thanvī, Modernity and the Problem of the Selfhood"

Carlos Grenier (University of Chicago), "Solomon, His Temple, and Ottoman Imperial Anxieties"

F. Betul Yavuz (Independent), "From the Periphery to the Center: Melamis in the Seventeenth-Century Ottoman Capital"

Session IV -- 10:40 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Sub-Royal in Qajar Iran: Visual, Literary, & Historical Representations -- Stuart 101

Zach Winters (University of Chicago), Discussant

Belle Cheves (Harvard University), "Positions of Servitude, Places of Power: Female Domesticity in Late Nineteenth Century Qajar Iran"

Gwendolyn Collaço (Harvard University), "Sub-Royal Artists and their Portrayals of Modernity: Crafting Time through Dress"

Mira Xenia Schwerda (Harvard University), "Beyond Palace Walls and Other Borders: Non-Royal Photography in Nineteenth-Century Iran"

Islamic Archaeology and Landscapes -- Stuart 102

Donald Whitcomb (University of Chicago), Discussant

Emily Boak (University of Chicago- Oriental Institute), "Militarized Landscapes and Cultural Heritage in Kandahar, Afghanistan, 2001-2014"

Rebecca Seifried (University of Chicago), "Living in the Ottoman 'Periphery': The Impact of Imperial Expansion on Rural Communities in Greece"

Gwendolyn Kristy (University of Chicago), "Rural to Urban Migration in Afghanistan: Herat and Its Cultural Heritage"

Anthony Lauricella (University of Chicago), "The Continuity of the Qusur Landscape in Bilad al-Sham"

(Session IV Continued on Next Page)

(Session IV Continued)

From Africa to the Indian Subcontinent: Towards a Global Islam -- Stuart 104

Daniel Morgan (University of Chicago), Discussant

John Chen (Columbia University), "Islam's Loneliest Cosmopolitan: Badr al-Dīn Hai Weiliang, the Lucknow-Cairo Connection, and the Circumscription of Islamic Transnationalism"

Joshua Donovan (Columbia University), "The Muslim Brothers at the Birth of the UN: Rethinking Islam and International Liberalism"

Darren Wan (University of Chicago), "Muslim Imaginings of an Oceanic World: Mapping and Cataloguing Maritime Southeast Asia, 1250–1350 CE"

Challenges and Opportunities in the Modern Arab Gulf -- Stuart 105

Matthew Barber (University of Chicago), Discussant

Abdullah F. Alrebh (Grand Valley State University), "The Orientalistic Perception of the Emergent Saudi Monarchy 1932-1953"

Scott Thomas Erich (CUNY Graduate Center), "Peripheral Politics in a Peripheral Empire: Opposition Movements in Oman's Overseas Holdings 1957-2017"

Cara Piraino (University of Chicago), "'Omanis being Omanis, there aren't going to be any problems': Youth in Muscat and the Aging Renaissance"

Lunch with Round Table Discussion: 12:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.

Cox Lounge (Basement of Stuart Hall)

Diaspora, Trans-Regionalism, and Multilingualism

-with-

Orit Bashkin (University of Chicago), Ghenwa Hayek (University of Chicago) & Na'ama Rokem (University of Chicago)

Session V -- 2:00 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.

Haunted Readings: Supernatural Beings in Medieval Islamic Culture -- Stuart 101

Kağan Arik (University of Chicago), Discussant

Samantha Pellegrino (University of Chicago), "Gender and the Occult in the Sirat Sayf Ben Dhi Yazan"

Samuel Lasman (University of Chicago), "Contrary Claws: Contending with the Div in Islamic Iranian Mythic History"

Ramzi Nimr (University of Chicago), "An Epidemiology of Madness: Possession and Mental Illness in the Medieval Muslim Imagination"

Devotional Spaces and Journeys -- Stuart 102

Franklin Lewis (University of Chicago), Discussant

Erin Atwell (University of Chicago), "Thinking about Circumambulation in Selections from Ibn 'Arabī's Writings"

Peyman Eshagi (University of Chicago), "One Imam and Many Imamzadehs: Mobility of Center and Periphery at the Sacred Shrines of Khorasan, Iran"

Mavlyda Yusupova (Fine Arts Research Institute), "Memorial-cult Architecture of Central Asia in the Epoch of Amir Temur"

Politics and Society in Middle East Art and Media -- Stuart 104

Thomas Maguire (University of Chicago), Discussant

María Marcos Cobaleda (Instituto de Estudos Medievais, Lisbon), "New Centers and Peripheries in Medieval Islamic Art: The Creations of Western Islamic Societies"

Madeleine Elfenbein (University of Chicago), "A Flood of Ink: The Late Ottoman Press at the Center and Periphery of Global Power"

Arran Robert Walshe (New York University), "'They'll Clap When You're Dead': New Media & Martyrdom in the Iraqi & Syrian Civil Wars"

Identity Formation in the Modern Middle East -- Stuart 105

Carl Shook (University of Chicago), Discussant

Sara Farhan (York University), "Venereal Disease Eradication Campaigns and the Establishment of the Royal Medical College of Baghdad, 1914 - 1927"

Rima Farah (Brandeis University), "Reviving an Aramaic Identity in Israel: Maronites' Continued Rejection of Arabism by Resurrecting a Christian Politics of Identity"

Tarek Shagosh (University of Chicago), "Nationalism at Home and Abroad: The Impact of Expatriate Libyan Opposition on the Development of a National Identity"

Concluding Events

Film Screening of *Tickling Giants* -- 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Stuart 105

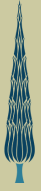
Lamb Roast Dinner -- 7 - 10 p.m.

McCormick Lounge, Reynolds Club





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