Friday, May 8th
Keynote Address & Reception
Engin Akarli - Joukowski Family Distinguished Professor of Modern Middle East History and Professor of History, Brown University

“Trying to Make Global Sense of the Particularities of Middle East History”

Social Science Lecture Hall - 5:00pm to 7:30pm
Presented by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

Middle East History & Theory Conference
8-9 May, 2009 at the University of Chicago

Breakfast: 8:00 to 8:30
Session 1: 8:30 to 10:15

Love and Desire in Persian Art and Literature, Past and Present
Discussant: Frankan Lewis
Constituting Love in the Iranian Popular Commercial Cinema
Pedram Parsadari, University of Chicago
The Illustrated Dervish: Imitation and Meaning in a Copy at the University of Michigan Special Collections Library
Meghna Shah, University of Chicago
Love, Loss, and the Color Black, from the Medieval Romance to the Modern Short Story
Cameron Cross, University of Chicago

Historicizing War in Iraq, Iran, and Lebanon
Discussant: TBA
History in Translation: English-Language Propaganda from the Iran-Iraq War, 1980 to 1984
Carl Shook, University of Chicago
Passive and Active Iranian Heroes: Transformations of the “Karbala Paradigm” as Portrayed in Iranian Film
Tansu C. Mackett, Boise State University, Boise, Idaho
Trauma and Representation: Recent Middle Eastern Histories
David Markus, University of Chicago

Heresy, Orthodoxy and Historiography in Early Modern States
Discussant: Alistair McNamara
Bâyazid b. Sultân Bâyâmînî in Safavid Historiography
Austín O’Malley, University of Chicago
Muslim Cosmopolitan Culture and Ottoman Religious Scholars
Abdulrahman Azâz, University of Chicago
Heresy and Persecution: Meali-i-Bayramî Ordâ in the Ottoman Empire; between the 16th–18th Centuries
Ahmed Efendi, Boğaziçi University, İstanbul

Session 2: 10:30 – 12:30

Music Narratives of Space and Nation
Discussant: Eunmi Biehn
Transnational Encounters in Music: Eduard Zuckmayer and the Modernization of Music Education in Turkey (1890 – 1950)
Pelin Kadercan, University of Rochester
“Beautiful Voice” Narratives of Istanbul: Localizing Discourse on the Islamic Call to Prayer
Eve McPherson, University of California at Santa Barbara
Teot'ig’s Armean Daretaysî (Almanac For All) and its Yerajshdagan (Music) Pages
MelissaBlair, University of Chicago
The Mizrâm, Oboe, and Syrian Music
Andrea Shaheen, University of Arizona

At Home in the World: Life in Middle Eastern Diasporas
Discussant: On Yehuda
Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, and the Shan’a: the Production of Islamic Legal Knowledge and “The Muslim Woman” in the French-North African Diaspora
Natascha Dar, Stanford University
At Home in the World: Lebanese Migrant Lives in West Africa, 1890–1939
Andrew Arsan, University of Cambridge
Ottoman Emigration to Argentina: 1870–1914
Kazim Baycar, Bogazici University
Mapping the Archives: Interpretations of Gendered Labor in New York City’s Pre-WWI Syrian American Communities
Ksenia Bel, City University of New York

Old Ottomans, Young Turks: Politics, Faith and Geography
Discussant: Yasar Tolga Cora
Was the Meşhat Secular or Religious? The Young Turks, the Ulema and the Decline of the Ottoman Seyhiislâm (1908–1917)
Nurullah Arıç, Istanbul Şehir University
Establishing the Legitimacy in the Early Republican Turkey: The Case of the 150ers
Yohan Ozgul, University of Central Florida
Nationalism: Out of the Ottoman Mind?
Mark Aymes, Cornell University
Setting the Empire: Habib Adem on Imperial/Colonial Order
Zaynep Bılgıç, New York University

Early Islamic Literature and Political Thought
Discussant: Vasileios Synos
Language, Political Action and Communities in Medieval Arabic and Persian Contexts
Jennifer A. London, University of Chicago
Al-Ma‘mutan and the Mu‘tazila: Analysis of the Religious and Political Relationships Based on the Last Recovered Sources
Marco Damiani, University of Geneva
Zahirism between Literalism and Textualism
Ann Osman, Princeton University

Lunch: 12:30 – 1:30
Session 3: 1:30 – 3:15

Wealth and Hierarchy in the Early Modern Middle East
Discussant: Nikolay Antov
The Rich and the Poor: Wealth Polarization in Late Eighteenth Century ‘Aytülçâ Zeynep Pekerli, Sabanci University
Setting the Stage: Istanbul Coffeehouses in the Late Eighteenth Century
Ahmet Yeşil, Boğaziçi University, Visiting Fellow, Harvard

Gender, Nation and Popular Culture in the Modern Middle East
Discussant: Nima Abohneft Forster
Masculinity Under Fire: Palestinian Nationalists in British Officials’ Memoirs
Nadim Y. Bawalsa, Georgetown University
Dabikat Rajiyya: Popular Culture and Nationalism in Contemporary Syria
Shayma Silvestera, University of Chicago
Dressing the Ottoman Lady: Fashion and Women’s Rights in the Ottoman Journal “Mahasîm”
Esa Taidelä, University of Chicago

Trials of Empire in the Late Ottoman Period
Discussant: Flora Roberts
The Failure of Ottomanism: The Albanian Revolts 1910–1912
James N. Talal, University of Chicago
Intelligence activities in the Balkans during the Crimean War (1853–1856)
Ibrahim Köremâ, Bilkent University
All That Glitters is not Gold: Nineteenth Century Reform and Bankruptcy in Egypt and Ottoman Turkey
Joseph Yacckley, University of Chicago

International Politics and Foreign Intervention in the Middle East
Discussant: Rusty Rook
 Buffer or Lightning Rod? The U.S. Commitment to Jordan in the Context of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1967–1968
Avshalom Rubin, University of Chicago
The Development of the Relations between the United States and Tripoli Province in the West 1776–1802
Jamal Hashim Ahmed, al-Dhuwaib, al-Anbar University
Anglo-Ottoman Relations in the Persian Gulf in the Era of Abdulhamid II
İlî Ýrîm, Mâle, Middle East Technical University, Ankara
The Contradiction between Nationalism and Internationalism: the Azerbaijani National Government in Iran (1945–1946)
Mehmet Karmak, University of Arizona

Peace, Politics and Reform: Neoliberalism in the Middle East
Discussant: Haitha Weiss
The Real Profits and False Prophecets of Israeli-Palestinian Peace
Matt Barkman, New York University
The Neoliberal Technocracy: A Comparative Insight from the Turkish Case in the 1980s
Umud Dalgic, Northwestern University
The Social Contract and Egypt’s Politics of Retrenchment in the Neo-liberal Era
Ajwa El-Meati, University of California at Berkeley

Dreams, Eschatology, and History in Pre-Modern Islam
Discussant: Cornell Reischer
Ibn BabawAMY’s Dream: Shi’t History through the Lens of the Ghaibya
Edmund Hayes, University of Chicago
Mystical Love as the Day of Judgment: Eschatology in Jalal al-Din Rumi’s Divan-i Kabir
Farinc Cakiries, University of Chicago
Dreams, Anxiety and Intellectual Pursuits in the Post-Suleymanic Ottoman Empire: Yeysi Efeçió and his Dream Book
Ahmed Tunc Sen, University of Chicago

For more information, please email mehat2009@gmail.com.

Additional assistance provided by the Council on Advanced Studies.

Persons with a disability who believe they may need assistance should contact Kaveh Hemmat.