

Near Eastern Studies

At Princeton University

Greetings from the Chair!



The 2011–2012 academic year promises to be yet another successful year for Near Eastern Studies. Interest among students, both undergraduate and graduate, in studying the

Middle East remains high, and NES faculty have been well represented among the ranks of scholars providing commentary on the recent events in the region.

These are busy times for the field of Near Eastern Studies. The ramifications of a single act of immolation in Tunisia still reverberate throughout the Middle East and North Africa, and the political revolutions this act caused, the “Arab Spring,” are continuing, some peaceably, some violently, throughout the Arab world. NES, with its recent efforts to enhance the coverage of the modern Middle East, has been well situated to provide expert analysis on the events occurring throughout the region.

As perusal of this newsletter shows, members of NES have been addressing the events of the past year in public talks and in various media. Current, former, and emeritus faculty members Bernard Heykal, Michael Barry, Michael Reynolds (Ph.D. 2003), Michael Doran (Ph.D. 1997), Bernard Lewis, Hasan Bulent Kahraman, and Akin Ünver; alumni Nathan Brown (Politics Ph.D. 1987), Frederic Wehry (M.A. 2002), and William McCants (Ph.D. 2006); and current graduate student Gregory Johnsen have all spoken or written on the subject. The Institute for the Transregional Study

of the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia (TRI), in addition to making its current research theme “Contestation in the Contemporary Arab World,” has sponsored workshops and individual lectures on various aspects of the Arab Spring.

With the Middle East being featured daily in the news media, interest in the region among students remains high. To meet this interest in the modern Middle East, NES and NES-affiliated faculty have put together an intellectually attractive array of courses. Among them are NES 269/POL353, “The Politics of Modern Islam,” taught by Bernard Haykel; NES 283/HIS 266, “People and Societies in the Modern Middle East,” taught by Cyrus Schayegh; NES 315, “War and Politics in the Modern Middle East,” taught by Michael Reynolds; NES 334/REL 334, “Modern Islamic Political Thought,” taught by M. Qasim Zaman; COM380/NES 380, “Social and Political Themes in the Arabic Novel,” taught by Lital Levy; and NES 418/REL 418/POL 418, “Religion and State Relations in Comparative Perspective,” taught by Mirjam Künkler.

This fall, 435 students are enrolled in these and other NES and NES cross-listed courses. Another 206 students are taking language courses—Arabic leading the way with 132 students. To put these figures in perspective, between 1997 and 2001 NES enrollment fluctuated between 74 and 100 students per semester. Another measure of student interest in NES is the number of concentrators. NES is not an easy major. Among other requirements, NES students must take at least four semesters of a Middle Eastern language, a requirement which can deter potential concentrators. Historically, the number of concentrators has been quite low, usually between three and five students per year. This year, twenty-two students (ten seniors and twelve juniors) are majoring in NES. More than twenty additional students are Program Certificate in Near Eastern Studies candidates.

Finally, I would like to bring the new NES Web site to your attention. Launched in September 2011, the redesigned Web site (<http://www.princeton.edu/nes/>) was featured in February on the Princeton University home page under “Website Highlights.” Taking advantage of the new Roxen platform and the redesign process, the department did a complete review of existing content and thought creatively about how to enhance the usefulness of this public face of the department. New features include a “News” module that highlights the accomplishments of members of the NES family, the “Ph.D. Students Seeking Academic Positions” page that brings greater visibility to job-seeking graduate students, and “Faculty Books,” “Current Student Publications,” and “Alumni Books” pages that document the scholarly productivity of NES faculty, students, and alumni. The undergraduate and graduate student sections have been expanded to better assist students in their studies. In addition, the flexibility of the Roxen platform allows for continued development of the Web site and the addition of new material. As time permits new pages will be published that will contain job placement information for graduate students, sample Ph.D. general examination questions, and NES honors and prizes. Other pages will be expanded or revised as needed or as time permits. Please check it out!

M. Şükrü Hanioglu
Chairman of the Department
Director of the Program in NES

New faces

Judy Laffan

Lecturer in Arabic



Judy Laffan joined the Near Eastern Studies faculty in September 2011 as an Arabic language instructor. She earned her Ph.D. from the School of History, Religion, Philosophy, and Classics, University of Queensland, in 2011. Her dissertation, "Negotiating Empires: 'British' Dragomans and Changing Identity in the 19th Century Levant," examines Ottoman-born mediators working for the British and the role their identity played in the formation of the idea of protectorates, dependencies, and nations, the definitions of which were very much in flux at that time.

Karen Chirik

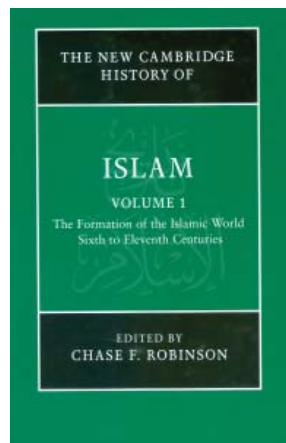
Department Manager



Karen Chirik joined Near Eastern Studies as the Department Manager in June 2011 after relocating to Princeton with her husband, Paul, the Edwards S. Sanford Professor of Chemistry. Prior to NES, Karen was the manager in the History and History of Art Departments at Cornell University. Karen has enjoyed working with a host of new people during this first year and enjoys the academic atmosphere in NES and at Princeton.

Faculty News

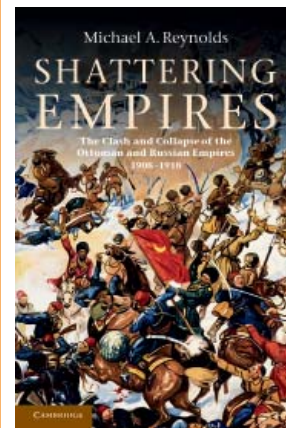
Michael A. Cook, Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies, was elected a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy this past summer. Cook's research has focused on the history of the Islamic world, the formation and development of traditional Islamic thought and its implications in the modern world, and Islamic history in comparative perspective. Corresponding Fellows "are scholars outside the UK who have 'attained high international standing in any of the branches of study which it is the object of the Academy to promote'."



2010 by Cambridge University Press. The Waldo G. Leland Prize, "established by the AHA Council in 1981, is ... named after Waldo G. Leland, a distinguished contributor to bibliographical guides, who served as secretary to the Association from 1909 to 1920. 'Reference tool' encompasses bibliographies, indexes, encyclopedias, and other scholarly apparatus."

The New Cambridge History of Islam won the 2011 Waldo G. Leland Prize for the "most outstanding reference tool in the field of history" published between May 1, 2006, and April 30, 2011.

Michael A. Cook, Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies, was the general editor of the six-volume set, which was published in



Michael A. Reynolds, Associate Professor of Near Eastern Studies, was the co-winner of the George Louis Beer Prize for his book, *Shattering Empires: The Clash and Col-*

lapse of the Ottoman and Russian Empires 1908-1918, published by Cambridge University Press in 2011. The George Louis Beer Prize is given "in recognition of outstanding historical writing in European international history since 1895. This prize was established in accordance with the terms of a bequest by George Louis Beer (d. 1920), historian of the British colonial system before 1765, to be awarded annually for the best work on any phase of European international history since the year 1895 that is submitted by a scholar who is a United States citizen or permanent resident. The phrase 'European international history since the year 1895' may be understood to mean any study of international history since the year 1895 with a significant European dimension. Only books of a high scholarly historical nature should be submitted. Research accuracy, originality, and literary merit are important factors."

An interview with **Bernard Haykel**, Professor of Near Eastern Studies, on the "The Arab Spring, A Season Later" appeared in the October 5, 2011, issue of the *Princeton Alumni Weekly*. The interview may be found at: <http://paw.princeton.edu/issues/2011/10/05/pages/9345/index.xml>.

M. Şükrü Hanioglu, Garrett Professor in Foreign Affairs and Professor of Near Eastern Studies, will serve as the interim editor of *The Turkish Studies Association Journal* while a search for a new editor is being conducted.

Associate Professor of Politics **Amaney Jamal**, who is a member of the Interdepartmental Committee of the Program in Near Eastern Studies, was interviewed this year by Politics Professor Robert George as part of a *Daily Princetonian* series, "Keeping Faith." The interview may be read at: <http://www.dailyprincetonian.com/2011/11/10/29278/>. She also appeared on a panel about the Palestinian Question, "Where do we go from here?" held December 13, 2011. The panel addressed some of the central issues of the debate, including the one- and two-state solutions, Palestinian statehood in the UN, and the context of the Arab Spring. Co-sponsors of the panel included the Program in Near Eastern Studies and The Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia.

On November 15, 2011, Lecturer in Near Eastern Studies **Michael Barry** spoke on "Lengthening Shadows: Implications of US Military Withdrawal from Afghanistan," sponsored by The Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia.

Lecturer in Turkish **Erika Gilson** was a co-author of a report presented at MESA 2011 and issued under the auspices of the National Middle East Language Resource Center analyzing the state of Middle Eastern language instruction in higher education. To read about the data collected and conclusions of the authors, please see this article which appeared on the Inside Higher Ed Web site: <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2011/12/05/middle-eastern-language-programs-face-challenges#ixzz21ILzCBhv>.

Foreign Affairs and the Council on Foreign Relations have published a book, *The New Arab Revolt: What Happened, What It Means, and What Comes Next*, that features a number of articles by authors with Princeton connections: **Bernard Lewis**, Cleveland E. Dodge Professor of Near Eastern Studies, Emeritus, "Freedom

and Justice in the Middle East"; **Nathan Brown** (Politics Ph.D. 1987), "Egypt's Constitutional Ghosts: Deciding the Terms of Cairo's Democratic Transition"; **Frederic Wehrey** (M.A. 2002), "Libya's Terra Incognita: Who and What Will Follow Qadafi?"; and **Michael Scott Doran** (Ph.D. 1997), "The Heirs of Nasser: Who Will Benefit from the Second Arab Revolution?"

Undergraduate News

Stephen Stolzenberg and **Thomas Ledford** won Turkish Study Association awards, it was announced at the TSA Business Meeting held during the 2011 MESA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Stolzenberg,



Stephen Stolzenberg receiving the Adivar Scholarship Prize from TSA president and NES Chair Şükrü Haniöğlu



Thomas Ledford receiving a Redhouse Student Prize from Lecturer in Turkish Erika Gilson and TSA president and NES Chair Şükrü Haniöğlu

a German major who is now taking Turkish 107, was awarded the Halide Edip Adivar Scholarship for travel to Turkey. The aim of the Adivar Scholarship is to introduce to Turkey students who have not had extensive prior experience in Turkey or Turkish studies. This \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a qualified undergraduate in any discipline in support of travel to Turkey for the purpose of study or research. Ledford, a Near Eastern Studies major, was awarded one of the three The James W. Redhouse Student Prizes for Best Progress in the Turkish Language given this year. The Redhouse Prize recognizes the student who has made the best progress in Turkish in the academic year in each of four regions of the United States and Canada as determined by area coordinators and a committee composed of members of the American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages. The prize is \$100 and is currently funded by the M. Münir Ertegün Foundation for Turkish Studies of Princeton University.

NES concentrator **Kerry Brodie '12** has been a frequent contributor to the *Daily Princetonian* editorial page, contributing columns on a variety of topics (e.g., "Turn the Internet Off," "Dialogue over Advocacy," and "Looking for 'The One'"). To read her columns visit the Daily Princetonian Web site at <http://www.dailyprincetonian.com/>.

Department Welcomes New Concentrators



Students and faculty at the New Concentrator's lunch

On Wednesday, September 28, 2011, Near Eastern Studies hosted a new concentrators' lunch. Departmental Representative **Michael Reynolds** explained the degree requirements and answered questions. The new members of the department are: **Saud Al-Thani, Gavi Barnhard, David Faris, Aaron Glasserman, Eric Hagstrom, Areej Hassan, Robert Joyce, Thomas Ledford, Brianna Martin, Kendra Nealon, Melanie Pereira, and Alexander Smith.**

Freshman Open House



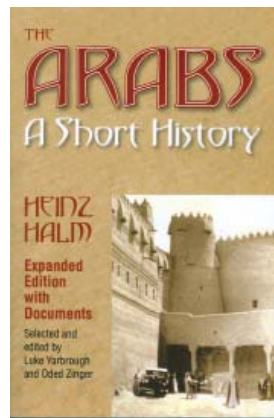
Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies Michael Cook speaking at the Freshman Open House

On Tuesday, September 13, 2011, the Department & Program in Near Eastern Studies held a Freshman Open House. This event offered freshmen an opportunity to learn about both the Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies, as well as hear a presentation by Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies Michael Cook on "Getting the Middle East in Perspective."

Graduate Student News

New Publication for NES Grad Students
Luke Yarbrough and Oded Zinger

The new edition of Heinz Halm's *The Arabs: A Short History* (Princeton, NJ: Markus Wiener, 2012) includes an appendix of 150 pages of primary sources selected, edited, and in some cases translated by NES graduate students Luke Yarbrough and Oded Zinger. This new appendix enhances the text's value for instructors as well as for general readers. Some 40 primary source readings—ranging from Spain to Iraq, from classical Antiquity to the 2011 Arab Spring,



and from poetry and scripture to medieval economics and travelogue—provide a classroom-ready component for courses in history, area studies, and religious studies. Several of the readings appear here for the first time in translation; all have been chosen to give vivid and representative accounts of the Arabs' history as told by those who experienced it. Taken together, they offer readers a glimpse of the vast, richly textured mosaic of texts that have been generated by and about the Arabs, and they encourage greater exploration. The volume is a part of the department's new series, Princeton Series of Middle Eastern Sources in Translation.

Program M.A. student **Kevin Bell** had an article, "How Our Training Fails Us When It Counts," published in the November issue of *Army Magazine*. Bell, who served as a platoon leader during a tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2008–2009, argues that the Army's "classroom and field training on detainee operations do almost nothing to help soldiers untangle the twisted moral landscape of anger, intelligence gathering and justice in wartime." To access this article, please click on: http://www.USA.org/publications/armymagazine/archive/2011/11/Documents/Bell_1111.pdf.

On November 8, 2011, Ph.D. student **David Sayers** made a work-in-progress presentation on "The Guiles of Women: *Mekr-i Zenan* Literature in the Ottoman Empire" to the Gender, Sexuality, and Religion Working Group. Sayers is writing his dissertation on the *Mekr-i Zenan* (literally: the guiles of women), a short story genre of Ottoman prose literature devoted to what was perceived to be the inherently guileful nature of women.

Over the past year and a half, Ph.D.

student **Gregory Johnsen** has been interviewed a number of times on Democracy Now!, a daily independent global news hour with Amy Goodman & Juan González. Johnsen, a Yemen specialist, was interviewed in the following reports: "Yemen Expands Crackdown on Pro-Democracy Movement, Deports Journalists" (http://www.democracynow.org/2011/3/15/yemen_expands_crackdown_on_pro_democracy) on March 15, 2011; "CIA Building Secret Mideast Base to Launch Drone Attacks in Yemen" (http://www.democracynow.org/2011/6/15/cia_building_secret_mideast_base_to), on June 15, 2011; and "U.S. Grants Entry to Yemen President 'In Principle' As Arab Spring Protesters Demand Accountability, Regime Change" (http://www.democracynow.org/2011/12/27/us_grants_entry_to_yemen_president) on December 27, 2011. Johnsen's blog on Yemen may be read at <http://bigthink.com/blogs/waq-al-waq>.

Daniel Stolz received a Bernadotte E. Schmitt Grant from the AHA towards research for his dissertation on Astronomy and Islam in modern Egypt. Specifically, the grant was for archival work that he had to do in the UK. He spent time in the Royal Greenwich Observatory archives (Cambridge), the British Library, the Royal Astronomical Society, and a few other places.

On October 4, 2011, Ph.D. student **Nadav Samin** made a presentation on "Genealogy, Tribalism, and Politics in Saudi Arabia" in the Faculty/Student Colloquia series of the Workshop on Arab Political Development.

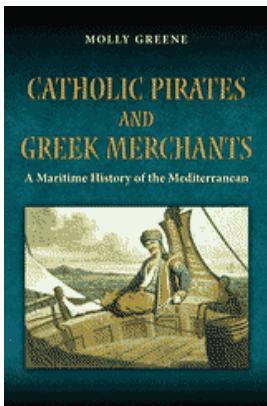
Eric Lob presented a paper, "The Iranian Jihad-e Sazandegi: From Inception to Institutionalization (1979–2001), in the Faculty/Student Colloquia series of The Workshop on Arab Political Development on December 13, 2011.

Alumni News

Seven Ağır (Ph.D. 2009) will be an assistant professor in the

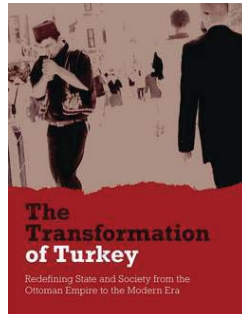
Economics Department at Middle East Technical University in Ankara. She is currently a Postdoctoral Associate at the Economic Growth Center, Yale University.

Zoe Bedell (Politics '07, Certificate in Near Eastern Studies) served four years in the Marines and spent two tours of duty in Afghanistan. During her second tour, she headed the Marine Corps' Female Engagement Teams, a program "created to enable the US military to reach out to Afghan women" and "to perform basic security functions, such as questioning and searching women." To learn more about Bedell's experiences, please check out the article by E. B. Boyd '89, "Women to Women: In Afghanistan, Zoe Bedell '07 Led Female Marines in a New Role," which appeared in the June 1, 2011, issue of the *Princeton Alumni Weekly* (<http://paw.princeton.edu/issues/2011/06/01/pages/5436/index.xml>), as well as a slide show and video interview on PAW's Web site (<http://paw.princeton.edu/issues/2011/06/01/pages/9771/index.xml#num=0&id=060111a>).

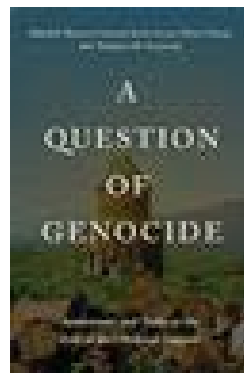


Molly Greene (Ph.D. 1993), Professor of History and Hellenic Studies at Princeton University, was awarded the Runciman Award by The Anglo-Hellenic League and an Edmund

Keeley Book Prize Honorable Mention by the Modern Greek Studies Association for her book *Catholic Pirates and Greek Merchants: A Maritime History of the Early Modern Mediterranean* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010). The Runciman Award is given for a book devoted to an aspect of Hellenic Studies, and The Edmund Keeley Book Prize is awarded to an academic book dealing with modern Greece or a Hellenic theme published originally in the English language.



Fatma Müge Göçek (Sociology Ph.D. 1988), Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies, University of Michigan, has two new books out: *Transformation of Turkey: Reinterpreting State and Society from the Empire to the Republic* (London; New York: I.B. Tauris, 2011) and (edited with R. Suny and N. Naimark) *A Question of Genocide: Armenians at the End of the Ottoman Empire* (Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, c. 2011).



Empire (Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, c. 2011).

George Hatke (Ph.D. 2011) has received a two-year post-doc at NYU's Institute for the Study of the Ancient World.

William McCants (Ph.D. 2006) returned to Jones Hall on November 7, 2011, to give a Brown Bag lunch talk on "Al-Qaeda and the Arab Spring." McCants is a Middle East analyst at CNA's Center for Strategic Studies and adjunct faculty at Johns Hopkins University. He previously managed the Minerva Initiative for the Department of Defense and served as a State Department senior adviser for countering violent extremism. His article "Al-Qaeda's Challenge" headlined *Foreign Affairs*'s 9/11 tenth anniversary edition, and Princeton University Press will publish his book *Founding Gods, Inventing Nations*. This year *Foreign Policy* named McCants one of its "Twitterati 100" and Technorati designated his blog *Jihadica* one of the top 100 websites on global affairs in 2009.

Yossi Rappaport (Ph.D. 2002) received a promotion from lecturer to senior lecturer at Queen Mary College, University of London.

Kristina Richardson (History '03, Certificate in Near Eastern Studies) visited Jones Hall to give the November 21, 2011, Brown Bag Lunch talk on "A History of Blue Eyes in the Islamic Middle Ages." Richardson, who completed her Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies at the University of Michigan in 2008, is an Assistant Professor of History at Queens College of The City University of New York. Her first book, *Blighted Bodies: Difference and Disability in the Medieval Islamic World* (Edinburgh University Press), will appear later this year and examines physical disability in the lives and writings of a generational chain of six Sunni scholars in Cairo, Damascus, and Mecca from 1400 to 1550 CE. Dr. Richardson's academic website is <http://qcpages.qc.edu/~krichardson>.

Alan Verskin (Ph.D. 2010) was named an ACLS New Faculty Fellow in the Middle East, South Asian and African Studies Department of Columbia University.

Alumni News Request

The Near Eastern Studies Newsletter is interested in printing news from NES alumni. Items may include, but not be limited to, honors received, announcements of publications, new jobs, etc. Please send such information to the newsletter editor, Bill Blair, at blairw@princeton.edu.

Events

A Century After Da'an: A Workshop on Yemeni History and Society

On October 15, 2011, eight scholars, including NES professors **M. Şükrü Hanioglu** ("A Contract or Treaty: The Da'an Agreement of 1911") and **Bernard Haykel** ("The Bicycle and the Imam"), presented papers on various aspects of Yemeni social and political history at this workshop, held one hundred years after the 1911 Da'an Agreement between the Ottoman Empire and the Zaydi Imam ended conflict between the Ottomans and the Zaydis.

Workshop on Arab Political Development

Committed to inclusive analysis of the political obstacles and opportunities facing the contemporary Arab world, the Workshop on Arab Political Development seeks to become a premiere intellectual hub with an impact on scholarly debates and policy. The workshop brings together academics, policy experts, and students of Arab politics to critically and openly engage one another on a variety of topics. While questions of democratization are of special salience, the workshop will stage conversations on topics as diverse as voice and accountability, economic opportunities, representation, empowerment, gender equality, human rights, social progress, oil, and war. It is an affiliate of the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies and is co-sponsored by the Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia and the Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies. To learn more about the Workshop's activities, please click on: <http://www.princeton.edu/~piirs/programs/APW/>.

Transregional Institute Events

On December 4, 2011, TRI held a workshop on "Weak Dollar, Expensive Oil." Participants included Muhammad Al Jasser, Governor of Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority, **Giacomo Luciani**, Princeton Global Scholar, Ed Morse, Citi, Harold James, and others.

On January 11–13, 2012, TRI held a seminar on "Whither the Arab State?" in Al-Ghat, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Participating were Paul Salem, Gregory Gause, **Nathan Brown** (Politics Ph.D. 1987), Asli Bali, Samer Shehata, Lisa Anderson, Abdulkhaleq Abdallah, **Joshua Landis** (Ph.D. 1997), Saud al-Sarhan, Marina Ottaway, Abdulwahid Humaid, Stephen Walt, Lama Al Sulaiman, Ziad Al-Sudairy, and TRI director and NES professor **Bernard Haykel**. The Abdulrahman Al-Sudairy Foundation co-sponsored the seminar.

The Transregional Institute also sponsored

a number of lectures and lunch talks. Turki Faisal Al Rasheed spoke on "Running Out of Food in the Middle East? Food Security and the Challenges of the Arab Spring"; Asif Gangat on "Do Global Shale Liquids Spell a Threat for Middle East Oil Dominance?"; **David Spiro (NES '80, Certificate in NES; Politics M.A. '83, Ph.D. '89)** on "The Hidden Hand of US Hegemony: From Petrodollars to Sinodollars"; Abdelhamid Larguèche on "La transition démocratique en Tunisie, ses enjeux au miroir de la société civile"; Lecturer in NES **Michael Barry** on "Lengthening Shadows: Implications of US Military Withdrawal from Afghanistan"; and Malika Zeghal on "From Popular Uprisings to Political Transition: Reflections on the Tunisian Revolution."

Workshop on The Arab Spring Uprisings

Olivier Roy, associate professor of Politics **Amaney Jamal**, and TRI director **Bernard Haykel** organized a workshop on "The Arab Spring Uprisings," which was held November 18–19, 2011. Four panels discussed "Islamists, individuals and new subjectivities," "Tunisia, Libya and Egypt," "Syria, Lebanon and Palestine," and "Iran, Turkey and Arabia." In addition to the organizers, panelists included Sari Hanafi, Rabab El Mahdi, Teije Hidde Donker, Virginie Collombier, Marwa Daoudy, TRI Fellow **Carol Hakim**, Farhad Khosrokhavar, and NES associate professor **Michael Reynolds**. The workshop was sponsored by The Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia, The Workshop on Arab Political Development, and The Moulay Hicham Foundation.

Princeton University Middle Eastern Studies Seminar

Launched in Fall 2009, the Princeton University Middle Eastern Studies Seminar provides scholars of the Middle East from across various university departments with a platform for exchanging ideas across disciplinary boundaries. Participants come from the departments of anthropology, art history, comparative literature, history, Near Eastern Studies, politics, sociology, religion, and the Woodrow Wilson School; to make this seminar as inclusive as possi-

ble, areas covered include the Middle East and North Africa as well as other Islamic communities and countries. The seminar meets four times a semester. PU professors and post-doctoral researchers present a paper; discussion is open to PU graduate and undergraduate students who specialize in the Middle East as well as to the PU community in general and the public. This fall there have been presentations by Oil, Energy, and the Middle East fellow **Eckart Woertz**, "Arab Food, Water and the Big Gulf Landgrab that Wasn't"; History lecturer **On Barak**, "Out-dating: Telegraphy and the eclipse of the Hijri calendar"; and NES assistant professor and seminar organizer **Cyrus Schayegh**, "Connecting the dots: A regional history of the Levant (Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Transjordan), 1918–1948."

Princeton University Symposium on Sufism and Islam in Central Asia

The Princeton University Symposium on Sufism and Islam in Central Asia was held October 21–22, 2011. The three sessions covered "Sources and Interpretative Strategies"; "Sufi Communities and Sources: Realignments from the Russian to the Post-Soviet Period"; and "Sufi Communities: Social, Political, and Economic Perspectives." The sixteen participants included NES professors **M. Qasim Zaman** and **Michael A. Cook** and NES alumni **Robert McChesney** (BA '67, Ph.D. 1973) and **Dina LeGall** (Ph.D. 1992). Sponsored by the Department & Program in Near Eastern Studies, the symposium was supported by a generous grant from the family of **Leon B. Poullada** (Politics Ph.D. 1970).

Princeton Islamic Studies Colloquium

The Islamic Studies Colloquium at Princeton is a monthly forum for discussion and peer review of graduate students' research projects and guest scholars' works-in-progress in the field of Islamic Studies. The Islamic Studies Colloquium formed in the spring of 2009 with the hope of encouraging an interdepartmental discussion and circulation of ideas among graduate students and professors with an interest in Islamic Studies,

as well as familiarizing graduate students with leading Islamic Studies researchers from outside Princeton. Christian Sahner (History), "From Augustine to Islam: Translation and History in the Arabic Orosius," **Aaron Rock** (NES), "From Seminary to Public Sphere *Da'wa*: Yusuf al-Qaradawi's Claim to Islamic Authority," Joel Blecher (Religion), "'Open to Our Era': The Making of New Meanings in a Ḥadīth Commentarial Tradition," Thomas Carlson (History), "Christians in Islamic Society—The Case of Fifteenth-Century Jazira and Iraq," and **Nebil Husayn** (NES), "Contempt for the Canonization of al-Bukhārī and Muslim," presented their work during the fall semester.

Haykel Opens 2011–2012 Brown Bag Lunch Series

On Monday, September 19, 2011, NES professor and director of the Transregional Institute **Bernard Haykel** inaugurated the 2011–2012 Brown Bag Lunch Series of talks. Over eighty people packed 202 Jones Hall to hear Haykel speak on "Making Sense of the Arab Spring." A lively discussion followed the presentation. Other speakers and their topics during the fall semester were **Hasan Bulent Kahraman** (Kadir Has University, Istanbul, and 2005–2006 Ertegun Visiting Professor in NES), "What's Happening in Turkey?"; current Ertegun Visiting Lecturer in NES **H. Akin Ünver**, "Turkish neo-Nasserism? Turkey and the Arab Spring"; Katherine E. Fleming (New York University), "Herzl at the Acropolis: Big Histories, Small States"; David Kushner (University of Haifa), "Aspects of Ottoman Reform and Change in the Nineteenth Century"; Günsel Renda (Koç University), "Europe and the Ottomans: Art and Diplomacy"; **William McCants** (Ph.D. 2006; CNA's Center for Strategic Studies and Johns Hopkins University), "Al-Qaeda and the Arab Spring"; Achilleas Antoniadis (Ambassador, Republic of Cyprus), "Oil and Gas Explorations in the Southeastern Mediterranean—Tensions and Potential Crisis"; **Kristina Richardson** (History '03, Certificate in Near Eastern Studies; Queens College, CUNY); "A History of Blue Eyes in the Islamic Middle Ages"; **Jonah Schulhofer-Wohl** (Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, WWS, Princeton University), "Mechanisms of

Continuing Conflict: The Lebanese Civil War, 1975–1990"; Mehmet-Ali Ataç (Bryn Mawr College), "The 'Royal Tombs' of Ur and Sumerian 'Song Culture'"; and **Hoda A. Youssef** (Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, WWS, Princeton University), "Fiscal Policy Manipulation in Non-Democratic Regimes—The Case of Egypt."

Islam and the Islamic World Seminar Series

Thomas Barfield (Boston University) made the first presentation in the 2011–2012 Islam and the Islamic World Seminar series, speaking on "Islam as a Way of Life: How Religion Undermines Ideological Politics in Afghanistan."

2011 Global Seminar

By Erika Gilson

NES Chair **M. Şükrü Hanioglu** and Lecturer in Turkish **Erika Gilson** again taught the Princeton Global Seminar in Istanbul, starting in Budapest, Hungary, June 11, for one



In Budapest, with the Danube and the parliament building in the background.

week before moving on to Istanbul, ending July 23. Applications for the 15 participants for the seminar were up again this year, and only one third of all applicants could be accommodated. One student from Kadir Has University also participated.

Kadir Has University on the Golden Horn was the host institution, and students stayed close-by in the Old City in a quaint—that is, allowances had to be made for poor internet connections, odd shower system, intermittent air conditioning, etc.—hotel, converted from four antique row-houses.



Once back in Istanbul, the first order of the day was to get to know this historic neighborhood within Old Istanbul which includes Fener, Çarşıba, and Balat by taking a walking lecture tour with Professor Ricci.

Our host institution's main campus on the Golden Horn is in an historic building which was originally a tobacco factory. It has been beautifully restored. As with many buildings of the old Istanbul peninsula, it sits on top of an old Byzantine cistern



accessible through the special museum on the lower levels of the building. This is where the daily seminar took place, in airy, bright classrooms surrounded by ancient and more recent history.

In addition to scheduled excursions to museums, mosques, churches, and cemeteries, students were navigating the city, its bazaars, and Beyoğlu on their own, making 'cultural' discoveries such as fortune-telling from coffee grounds.



We were again hosted by the local alumni group, meeting with old professors and students. Another memorable invitation came from the Şenyuva family, who invited all to a scrumptious dinner in their home by the Bosphorus.

The students initiated an interesting meeting: a visit to the Patriarchy, which is located in the neighborhood. Their request was granted and they had an audience with the Patriarch, who addressed the students in perfect English.

The overnight excursion in the Summer of 2011 was to the Black Sea region. We flew to Trabzon and for three days had several day trips into the surrounding area, visiting Atatürk's villa on a hill overlooking Trabzon, given to him by the city of Trabzon, caves, also a tea factory. But the most memorable site we visited was undoubtedly Sumela, the ancient monasteries carved high into the mountain. Seen here in the distance, it was a treacherous climb, together with many pilgrims—judging by their attire, from all religions, from near and far, old and young.



Students also caught a performance of Mozart's little known opera *Zaide*, performed outside at night in front of Topkapı Palace. Although one can perhaps see why this unfinished opera is not often performed, it was still fascinating to see the action taking place in a setting that surely represents what Mozart had in mind.

Probably the most memorable day was the day of the excursion with Professor Ricci in



Another sample of cultures meeting with the Blue Mosque in the background

Thrace. We started out early, stopping first at the newly established European Capital of Culture Population Exchange Museum,

founded by the Foundation of Lausanne Treaty Emigrants in 2010. Displayed are artifacts from family archives, photographs, and written documents pertaining to the times of the "population-exchange" between the Greeks and Turks. After a swim and picnic on the Black Sea, we went on to visit less known early churches carved



into soft hills. Then, on a hike deep into the woods, we ended up unexpectedly facing remnants of an immense aqueduct.

There was the long, arduous trek back through the woods. But a surprise was awaiting us: on our way to the aqueduct, we had passed a group of locals who were picnicking along a small creek. They had prepared a feast and on our return insisted we shared the meal with them—Turkish hospitality par excellence.



Foreign-Language Film Series

Near Eastern Studies hosted an impressive number of Middle Eastern films during the twelve weeks of the fall semester. Nineteen films in Arabic (5), Hebrew (7), Persian (4), and Turkish (3) were shown, all of them with English subtitles. The Arabic Film Series, "Recent Films from the Arab World," featured *Yacoubian Building* (2006), *Garbage Dreams: Raised in the Trash Trade* (2009), *Making Of* (2006), *Ajami* (2010), and *Ah-laam* (2006). The Hebrew Film Series had

as its theme, "Israeli Cultural Heroes," and screened *A History of Israeli Cinema*, parts one and two; *Zubin Mehta and the Israeli Philharmonic*, *Chava Alberstein—What I Am Now*, *Home Sweet Israel*, *Strangers No More*, and *Gitai in Search of his Carmel*. The Persian Film Series consisted of *My Tehran for Sale* (2009), the documentary *Afghan Star* (2009), the documentary *The Queen and I* (2009), and *Tambourine* (2008). The Turkish Film Series showed *A Man's Fear of God* (2006), *Wrong Rosary* (2009), and *In the Name of God* (2010).

Department Manager O'Neill Retires



Photo Credit: Denise Applewhite, Office of Communications

After eighteen years of working in Near Eastern Studies, the last fourteen years as department manager, Kathleen O'Neill retired in May 2011. Kathleen also served on the Academic Manager's Human Resources Sub-Committee.

In retirement, Kathy looks forward to visiting her two adult sons, Matthew and Mark and their families, spending time abroad, and volunteering for the Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue organization and Homefront.

Visiting Fellows and Scholars



Erteğün Lecturer **H. Akin Ünver** has been a frequent commentator in the media on Turkish politics, foreign policy, and the

Kurdish question, the subject of his 2010 Malcolm H. Kerr Award-winning dissertation. Interviews on the Kurdish question may be found in the August-September

issue of *Atlas-Tarih* (<http://bit.ly/qplEli>) and on IMC-TV's "Gündem Araştırma" show (http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xkp9w2_gundem-araytyrma-kurt-meselesinin-tanymlanmasy_tv), this latter interview being forty-five minutes in length. His opinion piece on the Turkish-Cypriot oil exploration tensions in the eastern Mediterranean appeared on September 25, 2011, in *Athens News* (<http://www.athensnews.gr/issue/13462/47984>), and he was interviewed about Turkish foreign policy in the Middle East and Caucasus by News.Az, an Azerbaijani news Web site, on November 15, 2011 (<http://news.az/articles/politics/48743>). On December 12, 2011, he appeared on a panel of experts discussing Turkey's foreign policy in the Middle East and the Arab Spring for "The Agenda with Steve Paikin," a Canadian political affairs program. This program may be accessed via Youtube at

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDQdQ0xaD2w&feature=channel_video_title. On January 6, 2012, Ünver was interviewed by an Azerbaijani news agency about theramifications of the passage by the French National Assemy of a law penalizing denial of the Armenian Genocide (<http://en.apa.az/news.php?id=163076>). He was also quoted in *Southeast Europe Times* on August 22, 2011, about the Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi's efforts to transform itself into a credible opposition party (http://www.setimes.com/coocon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2011/08/22/feature-01).



Visiting Fellow
Uğur Güngör
g r a d u a t e d
from Kuleli
Military High
School in 1987
and the Turkish
Military Academy
in 1991 as an
infantry officer.
Since completing
Infantry Branch
School (Distinguished
Honor Graduate)
in 1992, he has
served in mechanized
infantry units, unit

commands, staff assignments, and educational institutions in the Turkish Army. Güngör earned an M.A. in Political Science and International Relations from Boğaziçi University in 1996 and a Ph.D. in International Relations in 2006 from Bilkent University. His doctoral dissertation was entitled "The Analysis of Turkey's Approach to Peace Operations." He later graduated from the Turkish Army Staff College in 2007. From 1997 through 2004, Güngör taught at the Turkish Military Academy as an Instructor of International Relations. Between 2002 and 2004, he also served as aide-de-camp and executive officer to the Superintendent of the Turkish Military Academy. He spent the year 2000 teaching international relations in the Azerbaijan Military Academy. In 2010 he served in the International Security and Assistance Force in Afghanistan as Chief of Liaison Officers and Deputy Chief of Staff of Regional Command Capital. Güngör has several Turkish Army military decorations and badges and the NATO Service Medal. He has published several articles and book chapters on peacekeeping and foreign policy and has lectured at the Turkish Military Academy, the Partnership for Peace Training Center, the Center of Excellence-Defence Against Terrorism, and the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany. Since 2008, he has been serving as Military Advisor of the Chief of the Turkish General Staff on International Relations. In 2011 he was promoted to the rank of full colonel. His book, *Why States Contribute to Peace Operations: Motivations Behind Turkey's Involvement*, has just been published by Lambert Academic Publisher (2011). He and his wife Didem, who has a Ph.D. in Biology from Hacettepe University, are the proud parents of Berke.



Visiting fellow
Mostafa Vaziri
teaches courses
on the topics
of Sufism, Buddhism,
and Islam at the
University of Innsbruck,
Austria. He has authored
several academic books,
including his latest, *Buddhism in Iran: An Anthropological Approach to*

Traces and Influences, and *Iran as Imagined Nation: The Construction of National Identity*. Vaziri is also a physician who received his M.D. from the University of Innsbruck, and as a philanthropist lived and worked as a volunteer doctor in Nepal and Afghanistan and served as a chief physician with Partners In Health (PIH) in Africa.

Postdoctoral Research Associates

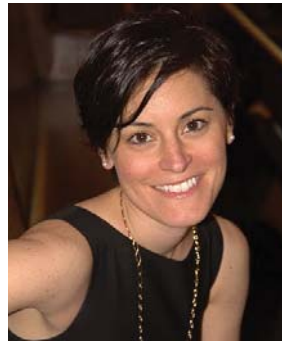


Elvire Corboz
joined NES as a Postdoctoral Research Associate in September 2011. She earned a D.Phil in Oriental Studies at the University of Oxford

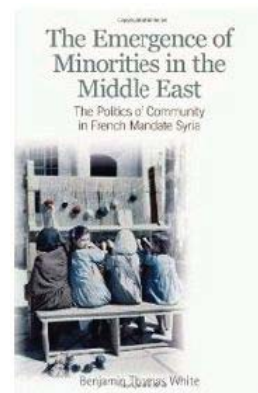
in 2010, after obtaining degrees (B.A. & M.A.) in Musicology and Arabic from the University of Geneva, Switzerland, and an M.Phil in Modern Middle Eastern Studies from Oxford. She was one of the joint winners of the 2011 BRISMES Leigh Douglas Memorial Prize for the best dissertation on a Middle Eastern topic in the Social Sciences or Humanities. The dissertation, "Negotiating Loyalty Across the Shi'i World: The Transnational Authority of the al-Hakim and al-Khu'i Families," documented the transnational political sociology of Shi'i religious families to examine how cross-border interactions affect the construction and maintenance of clerical authority. The analysis located the relationships of authority between clerical actors and believers in situated states, confirming that transnational religious networks can affect specific localities and, equally, that situated places shape larger forms of solidarity across borders. At Princeton, Corboz will prepare her thesis for publication, write an article on Najaf and the coming of the Iranian revolution, and begin work on a new project which will focus on Iran-sponsored religious and political transnationalism among Muslim communities in the West.



Andrew Arsan, a second-year postdoctoral research associate, had a very productive first year. In addition to revising his dissertation, “Lebanese Migrants in French West Africa, 1898–1939,” for publication, he had three articles published—“The Ties that Bind: The Political Sentiments of Shi’a Migrants in Senegal, 1919–1960 ” in *Politics, Culture and the Lebanese Diaspora*, edited by Paul Tabar and Jennifer Skulte-Ouais (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars, 2010); “Roots and Routes: The Paths of Lebanese Migration to French West Africa,” *Chronos* 22 (2010); and “Failing to Stem the Tide: Lebanese Migration to French West Africa and the Competing Prerogatives of the Imperial State,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 53, no. 3 (2011)—and has four others in various stages of preparation. He also presented papers at a number of institutions in the US and England, as well as at the University of Nicosia (via Skype). Arsan still found time to continue research on two interlinked projects: a broad, “global,” history of the Lebanese diaspora in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and a more tightly focused examination of intellectual activity and political culture in six poles of Eastern Mediterranean life—Beirut, Alexandria, Cairo, Paris, New York, and São Paulo—in the decades between 1880 and 1920. This research included trips to the National Archives in the UK and to Marseille, where he investigated the holdings of the *Chambre de Commerce* and the *Archives Départementales des Bouches-du-Rhône*. In addition to his research and writing, Arsan developed and taught an upper-level undergraduate course on “Arabs in the Americas: Middle Eastern Migrants in the United States and Latin America” and organized a workshop for high school teachers on “Middle Eastern migrants in the Americas.”



Iren Ozgur is in her second year as a postdoctoral research associate. During her first year, Ozgur revised her dissertation, “Imam-Hatip Schools and the Islamic Movement in Turkey,” for publication and had one article, “Social and Political Reform through Religious Education in Turkey: The Ongoing Cause of Hayrettin Karaman,” appear in *Middle Eastern Studies* 47 (2011). She also had two articles accepted for publication. “*Cafcaf*: An Islamic Humor Magazine—No Joke!” discusses transformations in Turkey’s Islamic movement through an analysis of the Islamist *Cafcaf* humor magazine and will appear in *Contemporary Islam*. “*Dabbe* and *Dabbe 2*: A Look at Turkish-Islamic Horror” discusses two horror movies directed by the “Islamist” Hasan Karacadağ to explore the hybridization of “Islamic popular culture,” which now employs styles and genres previously affiliated with secularists in Turkey. It will appear in *Performing Islam*. She also had two movie reviews, “*Falafel*: Michael Kamoun, 2006” and “*Coffee Futures*: Zeynep Gürsel, 2009” accepted for publication in *Review of Middle Eastern Studies*. Ozgur served as the discussant on a 2010 MESA panel, “Youth in the Middle East,” and for fellow postdoc Benjamin White’s paper, “‘Separatist Rebels’ and ‘Sons of the Country’: The Question of Separatism in French Mandate Syria” as part of the PU Middle Eastern Studies Seminar. She presented a paper, “Islamic Humor: A Cultural Space for Negotiating Identities,” at the Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, NYU. In addition to her research and writing during the 2010–2011 academic year, Ozgur co-taught an upper-level course with associate professor Michael A. Reynolds on “Secularism in Muslim Central Asia and the Middle East” that explored how Central Asian and Middle Eastern Muslims embraced and rejected, assimilated and resisted, constructed and negotiated secularism in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. She also organized a Teacher Training Workshop for high school teachers on “Trends in Middle Eastern Popular Culture.”



Former NES postdoctoral research associate **Benjamin Thomas White**’s book, *The Emergence of Minorities in the Middle East: The Politics of Community in French Mandate Syria*, has been published by Edinburgh University Press (2011).

TRI 2011–2013 Research Theme and Fellows

Contestation in the Contemporary Arab World

The recent uprisings in the Arab world, the so-called “Arab Spring,” represent a watershed in the history of this region and its peoples, from Morocco to the Gulf. The stability and endurance of the Arab state has been called into question, as has “Arab exceptionalism” in resisting political change and the democratic wave that swept many regions of the globe in the late twentieth century. The Institute of Transregional Study would like to sponsor research that explores these events in-depth and what they mean for the territorial states, governments, societies, national boundaries as well as the regional system. Is the Arab system of states as rigid as has been claimed? Has Islamism given way to secular forms of politics? Can demographics, the so-called “youth bulge,” explain what we are witnessing? What has been the role of women? What is the role of social media and the information revolution in bringing this about? Has the rise in commodity prices also played a role? Are different types of regime affected differently by these developments (monarchies vs. republics; rentier states vs. production states)? What about the differences in the social makeup of these states? Are homogenous populations (e.g., Tunisia, Egypt) more able to effect change peacefully than those in which regional, sectarian or tribal cleavages are prominent (e.g., Syria, Yemen)? Successful fellows will be expected to tackle such questions. In the process, the Institute

hopes that their research will contribute to a better understanding of these important events and offer ideas and frameworks for how to think about them as well as consider potential policy implications.



Visiting Associate Research Scholar **Carol Hakim** is an assistant professor in History at the University of Minnesota where she has taught since 2005. Her research and teaching activities focus on nationalism, state-formation and state-society relations, and authoritarianism in the Arab world. Her forthcoming book, *The Origins of the Lebanese National Idea 1840–1920*, will be published by University of California Press. At Princeton, she will be working on secularism, Islam, and democracy in Egypt.

Visiting Associate Research Scholar **Samer Traboulsi** is Associate Professor of History of the Middle East and the Muslim



World at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. He received his Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton in 2005. He is mainly interested in the formation and development of religious groups in the Muslim World and has published a book and a number of articles on the Isma'ilis in Yemen, the rise of the Wahhabi movement, and the history of Saudi Arabia.

Oil, Energy, and the Middle East 2011–2012 Research Theme and Fellows

In 2011–2012, OEME's focus will be on the question of the future of the US dollar as a currency for the pricing of oil and against which local Gulf currencies are pegged. OEME will also pay close attention to the Arab Spring uprisings and their effects on oil production, fiscal spending, and regional security.

Postdoctoral Research Associate **Eckart Woertz**, who is entering his third year with OEME, is based at the Gulf Research Center (GRC) in Dubai—the leading think tank of the Gulf region—where he heads the Economics Department. His research interests include the political economy of the Middle East, financial markets, and energy



issues. Dr. Woertz's many publications deal with petrodollar recycling, strategic foreign investments, and the impact of the global financial crisis on the GCC countries. Since 2008, food inflation in the Gulf and GCC agro-investments abroad have been special interests of his, and it is on these topics that he has been engaged in research and writing at Princeton. Among his recent publications are: "Arab Food, Water and the Big Gulf Landgrab that Wasn't," *The Brown Journal of World Affairs* (Fall/ Winter 2011); "Oil, the Dollar and the Stability of the International Financial System," in Robert Looney (ed.), *Handbook of Oil Politics* (London, New York: Routledge, 2012); and, as editor, *GCC Financial Markets* (Dubai: Gulf Research Center, 2011). He also participated in the **Princeton University Middle Eastern Studies Seminar** with a presentation on "Arab Food, Water and the Big Gulf Landgrab that Wasn't." In the spring semester 2011, Woertz taught two courses, "Oil, Energy and The Middle East" and "Food Security in the Middle East."

Giacomo Luciani is a Princeton Global Scholar (2010–2013) attached to the



Woodrow Wilson School and the Department of Near Eastern Studies. The Scientific Director of the Master in International Energy of

the Paris School of International Affairs at Sciences-Po, he is also a visiting professor at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva and co-director of the Executive Master in Oil and Gas Leadership. He is Senior Advisor to the Gulf Research Center and in this context serves as the Team Leader in the EU-GCC Clean Energy Network Project. In 2007–2010 he was Director, The Gulf Research Center Foundation, Geneva, and in 1997–2010 he was Adjunct Professor of International Relations at the SAIS Johns Hopkins University Bologna Centre. From 2000–2006, he was Professor of Political Economy and co-director of the Mediterranean Programme of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute. A leading specialist in the political economy of the Middle East and North Africa, as well as the economics of energy in the Persian Gulf, Luciani focuses on understanding the political and economic context in the Middle East and how it affects the rest of the world. His recent publications include: *Strategic Oil Stocks and Security of Supply* (with F-L Henry), CEPS Working Document no. 353, June 2011; *Armed Conflicts and Security of Oil and Gas Supplies*, CEPS Working Document, no. 352, June 2011; *The Functioning of the International Oil Markets and its Security Implications*, CEPS Working Document, no. 351, May 2011; and *Global Oil Supplies: The Impact of Resource Nationalism and Political Instability*, CEPS Working Document, no. 350, May 2011. Luciani also taught "Topics in Policy Analysis (Half-Term) - The Political Economy of Global Energy" in the Spring 2011 semester.

The Niehaus Center for Globalization & Governance (WWS) Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in Regional Political Economy

The two postdoctoral fellows selected for 2011–2012 both focus on the Middle East and have contributed to activities in Near Eastern Studies during the fall semester. This fellowship program was “created with the goal of developing a new generation of scholars able to analyze and make policy recommendations about the regional political economy in the Middle East, East, South, or South-east Asia, Africa and Latin America.”

Jonah Schulhofer-Wohl will receive his Ph.D. in Political Science from Yale University in 2011. His dissertation research examines how support that external states provide to domestic armed actors can increase the length of civil wars. His dissertation tests this theory of external support as a subsidy using interviews with former commanders who participated in the civil war in Lebanon from 1975–1990, cross-country statistical evidence, and focused comparisons of other civil wars. While at the Niehaus Center, Schulhofer-Wohl will expand his research on the implications of this theory for alliance behavior and the operational aims of violence during civil wars and pursue its implications for security and development in the Middle East. His research interests, in addition to the conduct of civil wars, include economic growth and development in the Middle East.

Hoda Youssef received her Ph.D. in Economics from Sciences Po Paris in February 2010. Her research work focuses on monetary and fiscal policy, more specifically on the economic, political, and institutional preconditions that are necessary for a successful adoption of an inflation targeting framework. Her broader research interests are in macroeconomics and political economy of the MENA region. Before joining the NCGG, Hoda had worked as an Economic Research Analyst at the World Bank Cairo office. She also acquired experience through her work and internships in many other international and multicultural institutions, including the European Commission, the Global Development Network, l’Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD),

the Free University of Brussels ULB, as well as local organizations in Egypt. She is also a lecturer at Cairo University. Youssef has published on growth and economic policies in both English and French.

Library News

Shokri Swydan Papers Donated to Princeton University Library

Mrs. Dorothy Carlson has donated a collection of papers, books, pictures, and artifacts belonging to her father Shokri Swydan. Swydan was born in the Mount



The Russian Imperial Orthodox Society in Palestine school in Rāshiyā al-Wadī, Shokri K. Swydan papers. Manuscripts Division. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Princeton University Library. Image courtesy of Princeton University Library

Hermon region, attended the Russian Imperial Orthodox Society in Palestine school in Nazareth and its Teachers Seminary, and later taught in the Nazareth school. Becoming politically active, Swydan worked for home rule in Syria. This activity and his being employed by the Russian Imperial Orthodox Society in Palestine as a teacher and superintendent led to his decision in 1909 to visit his brother in the United States until it was politically safe for him to return. In 1913, he settled in Worcester, MA, married, and lived there until his death in 1943, never returning to Palestine. He started an export-import business for trade with Russia, and when that folded after the Soviet takeover, he worked as a journalist and published numerous books, among them histories of the Russian Imperial Orthodox Society, Christianity in Palestine, and the Antiochan church from 1572 until 1850. He also published an



The Worcester Draft Board 1940. Sokri Swydan is seated on the far right, Shokri K. Swydan papers. Manuscripts Division. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Princeton University Library. Image courtesy of Princeton University Library

Arab/English newspaper, *Al-Hurriat/The Liberty*, in Worcester. During the early years of World War II, he served on the Worcester Draft Board. Among the highlights of



The Syrian Antiochean St. George Orthodox Church of Worcester, 1928, Shokri K. Swydan papers. Manuscripts Division. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Princeton University Library. Image courtesy of Princeton University Library

the collection are photographs of the Russian schools in Palestine and of the Arab American community in Worcester, his business records, books and journals published throughout the Arab diaspora, and copies of his writings. This collection documents the life of an Arab American from his youth in Palestine in the late nineteenth century to his becoming a civic leader in Worcester.

**Near Eastern Studies Fall Reception
September 20, 2011
Maclean House**



Nadav Samin, David Sayers, and Şükrü Haniöğlü



Alexander Smith, Katherine Costello, Chloe Bordewich, Aaron Glasserman, Raphael Balsam, Melanie Pereira, and Robert Joyce



Sarah Islam, Lev Weitz, Katie Manbachi, and Alexandra Buckey



Mirjam Künkler, Michael Laffan, and Judy Laffan



Michael Reynolds and Kevin Bell



Eric Lob and Elvire Corboz

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