Spring 2015 Events Archive

Monday, February 2, 2015
12:00 noon
202 Jones Hall
Brown Bag Lunch Series 2014–2015
Nader Sohrabi
Institute for Advanced Study
“Reluctant Nationalists: Albanians and Ottomans on the Brink”

Monday, February 9, 2015
12:00 noon
202 Jones Hall
Brown Bag Lunch Series 2014–15
Amy Singer
IAS and Tel Aviv University
“Enter, Riding on an Elephant”

Tuesday, February 10, 2015
202 Jones Hall
4:30 PM
Hugh Kennedy
SOAS, University of London
“Archaeological evidence and the study of the economy of the early Islamic Middle East”
Sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Studies, Committee for the Study of Late Antiquity, and The Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies

Thursday, February 12, 2015
4:30 p.m.
202 Jones Hall
The Near East and the World Seminar Series
Christianity in the Near East: Past, Present…Future?
Mary Mikhael
Near East School of Theology
“The Christians of Syria and Lebanon and Their Arab Spring”

Monday, February 16, 2015
12:00 noon
202 Jones Hall
Brown Bag Lunch Series 2014–15
Ervand Abrahamian
Baruch College and the Graduate Center, CUNY
“Reading Diplomatic Documents (on Iran in 1951-54)”
Monday, February 16, 2015
7:00 pm
010 East Pyne
The Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia
presents
The Abounaddara Collective
A screening of
*Syria: Snapshots of History in the Making*
(Syria, 2014, 53”)
A discussion and Q&A with the co-founder of the Abounaddara Collective, Charif Kiwan, will follow the screening.

Monday, February 23, 2015
12:00 noon
202 Jones Hall
Brown Bag Lunch Series 2014–15
David S. Katz
*Director, Lessing Institute of European History & Civilization, Tel Aviv University, and Visiting Fellow, Princeton University Department of History*
“Saving Lives, Collapsing Civilizations: Arnold Toynbee in the Turkish War of Independence”

Wednesday, February 25, 2015
7:30 p.m.
Frist Multi-Purpose Room C
The Near Eastern Studies Film Series
*The Other Town*
A Documentary by NEFİN DİNÇ (2011)
(45 min.)
“The Other Town is a documentary about the natives of a Greek and Turkish town. The two nations have been enemies many decades ago, but why do they insist in keeping myths built on enmity still alive?”
A Short Talk – Q&A will follow the screening.

Thursday, February 26, 2015
12:00 noon
202 Jones Hall
The Near East and the World Seminar Series:
Christianity in the Near East: Past, Present…Future?
Geoffrey Khan
Regius Professor of Hebrew, Cambridge University
“The Modern Aramaic Dialects of the Christians and Jews of Iraq and Iran”
Thursday, February 26, 2015
4:30 p.m.
202 Jones Hall
Etty Terem
Rhodes College
“Old Texts, New Practices: Islamic Reform in Modern Morocco”

Tuesday, March 3, 2015
12:00 noon
102 Jones Hall
The Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia
Sadik J. Al-Azm
Visiting Fellow, TRI
“ISIS – Daesh Now: Notes from the Underground”

Tuesday, March 3, 2015
12:00 noon
012 Bendheim Hall
Kavus Abushov
Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy
"The Right for Self-Determination and the Recent Events in Eastern Europe: Is There a Norm Erosion?"
Co-sponsored by Program in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination, and the Department of Near Eastern Studies

Tuesday, March 3, 2015
4:30 p.m.
211 Dickinson Hall
History Department Public Lecture
Cyrus Schayegh
Near Eastern Studies
“The Making of the Modern World: A Middle Eastern Perspective”

Thursday, March 5, 2015
4:30 p.m.
202 Jones Hall
The Near East and the World Seminar Series:
Christianity in the Near East: Past, Present...Future?
Columba Stewart, OSB
St. John’s University, School of Theology and Seminary
“Outracing Ignorance: Rescuing the Christian Manuscripts and Cultures of Syria and Iraq”
Monday, March 9, 2015
12:00 noon
202 Jones Hall
Brown Bag Lunch Series 2014–15
Angelos Dalachanis
Princeton University
“Who is Greek? Rethinking Citizenship and Identity in Mid-20th Century Egypt”

Monday, March 9, 2015
12:00 noon
Aaron Burr Hall Room 216
Program in Translation and Intercultural Communication
Erika Gilson
Near Eastern Studies
"The Quest for a Common Alphabet and Common Language for Turkie"

Monday, March 9, 2015
4:30 p.m.
202 Jones Hall
Nahyan Fancy
DePauw University and Rutgers University
“Did Renaissance Physicians Know the Work of Ibn al-Nafis? Re-examining an Old Debate in Light of New Work on the Arabic Medical Commentaries”
Co-sponsored with the Program in the History of Science and the Program in Medieval Studies

Tuesday, March 10, 2015
4:30 p.m.
202 Jones Hall
Shaul Shaked
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
“The Jews of Bamiyan: A community of traders and scholars in eleventh-century Khorasan”
Co-sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Studies, The Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, and the Program in Judaic Studies

Wednesday, March 11, 2015
5:00 p.m.
010 Esat Pyne
A documentary film screening of the award-winning Tinghir-Jerusalem (2013) followed by a Q&A with director Kamal Hachkar
Sponsored by The Department of Comparative Literature with support from the Program in Judaic Studies, the Ronald O. Perelman Institute for Judaic Studies, the University Center for Human Values, the Program and the Department of Near Eastern Studies, and Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
Thursday, March 12, 2015  
12:00 noon – 1:20 p.m.  
102 Jones Hall  
Princeton Islamic Studies Colloquium  
Presenter: Matthew Schumann (NES)  
Paper Title: “The Transmission of Knowledge in Early Modern Morocco”  
Discussant: Michael Cook (NES)  

Thursday, March 12, 2015  
4:30 p.m.  
Robertson Hall, Bowl 001  
Workshop on Arab Political Development  
Sadik al-Azm  
Visiting Fellow, Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia  
“The Syria Revolt from the Inside”  
Co-sponsored by the Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice; 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.  

Monday, March 23, 2015  
12:00 noon  
202 Jones Hall  
Brown Bag Lunch Series 2014–15  
Nate Hodson  
Princeton University  
“A Pillar of the Saudi Treasury: The Hajj in Interwar Arabia”  

Tuesday, March 24, 2015  
12:00 noon  
102 Jones Hall  
The Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia  
Emmanuel J. Szurek  
TRI Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
“Politics of Identity or Language Policies? From Erdogan to Atatürk”  

Thursday, March 26, 2015  
12:00 noon – 1:20 pm  
102 Jones Hall  
Princeton Islamic Studies Colloquium  
Presenter: Peter Kitlas (NES)  
Paper Title: “Early Modern Infra-Islamic Diplomacy”  
Discussant: William Smiley (NES)
Thursday, March 26, 2015
4:30 p.m.
102 Jones Hall
The Near East and the World Seminar Series:
Christianity in the Near East: Past, Present…Future?
Peter Starr
Ph.D. University of Cambridge
“The Mediators: Christians in the Service of Islamic Culture”

Monday, March 30, 2015
12:00 noon
202 Jones Hall
Brown Bag Lunch Series 2014–15
Michael Cohen
Bar-Ilan University
“The British Mandate in Palestine, 1917–48: Imperial Asset or Burden?”

Tuesday, March 31, 2015
12:00 noon
102 Jones Hall
The Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia
Max Rodenbeck
Middle East Bureau Chief, The Economist, Cairo, Egypt
“The Arab Exception?”

Tuesday, March 31, 2015
4:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.
102 Jones Hall
Roy P. Mottahedeh
Gurney Professor of History, Harvard University
“Ghaznavid Panegyrics as Historical Source”
Co-sponsored by Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies and the Department of Near Eastern Studies

Friday, April 3, 2015
9:00 a.m.–6:15 p.m.
Bowl 01, Robertson Hall
Workshop on
Iranian Electoral Politics: 1905–Present
Continuity Despite Revolutions
Co-sponsored by the Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, and the Workshop on Arab Political Development
Friday, April 3, 2015
1:30 p.m.
Scheide Caldwell House, Room 103
Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies Workshop
William Smiley
Near Eastern Studies
“The Islamic Law of Rebellion and the Greek War of Independence”

Monday, April 6, 2015
12:00 noon
202 Jones Hall
Brown Bag Lunch Series 2014–15
Kevan Harris
Princeton University
“Retheorizing Iranian Civil Society from Top to Bottom”

SOPHOMORE OPEN HOUSE
The Department & Program in Near Eastern Studies
Will hold its Sophomore Open House for Prospective Concentrators on
Wednesday, April 8, 2015
12:00 noon–1:00 p.m.
102 Jones Hall

Wednesday, April 8, 2015
12:00 noon
Aaron Burr Hall, Room 216
Project on Democracy and Development
Yeşim Arat
Professor, Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University
“The Decline of Democracy in Turkey: Popular Support, Institutional Decay”
Co-sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Studies

Monday, April 13, 2015
12:00 noon
202 Jones Hall
Brown Bag Lunch Series 2014–15
Sara Pursley
Princeton University
“Our Lines Drawn on an Empty Map’: Iraq's Borders, the Magical Europeans, and the Making of a Myth”

Thursday, April 16, 2015
12: noon–1:20 p.m.
102 Jones Hall
Princeton Islamic Studies Colloquium
Presenter: Maria Magdalena-Fuchs (REL)
Paper Title: “Between mosque, school, and printing house: Muslim associations in colonial Punjab”

Discussant: Daniel Sheffield (Society of Fellows)

Tuesday–Thursday, April 14–16, 2015
4:30 p.m.
Lewis Library 120
*The Leon B. Poullada Memorial Lecture Series, 2014–15*

Marc David Baer
London School of Economics
“Ottomans and Jews in the Literary Imagination of the Other, from the Fifteenth through the Twentieth Century”

Monday, April 20, 2015
12:00 noon
202 Jones Hall
Brown Bag Lunch Series 2014–15
Elektra Kostopoulou
Rutgers University
"The Island that Never Was: Ottoman Crete and Experiments of Federalization"

Wednesday, April 22, 2015
4:30 p.m.
102 Jones Hall
Nicolas Sims-Williams
SOAS, London
“The Rediscovery of Sogdian”

Friday, April 24, 2015
1:30 p.m.
Scheide Caldwell House, Room 103
Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies Workshop
Enis Dinç
Near Eastern Studies
“From the Ottoman Empire to the Greek-Turkish War: A Brief History of Cinema from Mustafa Kemal’s Perspective”

Monday, April 27, 2015
12:00 noon
202 Jones Hall
Brown Bag Lunch Series 2014-15
Marion H. Katz
New York University
“The Law and Ethics of Cooking and Cleaning: Domestic Labor in Medieval Islamic *Fiqh*”
Tuesday, April 28, 2015
4:30 p.m.
McCormick Hall, Room 101
The 37th Annual Carolyn L. Drucker Memorial Lecture
Shimon Shamir
Professor Emeritus of Modern Middle Eastern History, Tel Aviv University, and Former Israeli Ambassador to Egypt and Jordan
“Should Israel Regard Itself As Middle Eastern: The Internal Debate”
Sponsored by the Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies and the Program in Judaic Studies

Wednesday, April 29, 2015
12:00 noon
102 Jones Hall
The Near East and the World Seminar Series
Christianity in the Near East: Past, Present…Future?
Samir Khalil Samir, S.J.
Saint-Joseph University (Beirut), the Pontifical Oriental Institute (Rome) and the Centre Sèvres (Paris)
“The Role of Christians—in the Past—within the Arab-Islamic Society of the Middle East”

Thursday, April 30, 2015
12:00 noon–1:20 p.m.
102 Jones Hall
Princeton Islamic Studies Colloquium
Presenter: Joel Rozen (ANT)
Paper Title: "Notes from Sfax: Entrepreneurs and the Suspension of Alterity"
Discussant: M’hamed Oualdi (NES)

Thursday, April 30, 2015
4:30 p.m.
McCormick Hall, Room 101
Michael Barry
Near Eastern Studies
“Carver of Light: Matisse and the Art of Persia and Islam”

Friday, May 1, 2015
12:00 noon
102 Jones Hall
The Near East and the World Seminar Series
Christianity in the Near East: Past, Present…Future?
Samir Khalil Samir, S.J.
Saint-Joseph University (Beirut), the Pontifical Oriental Institute (Rome) and the Centre Sèvres (Paris)
“The Role of Christians—Today and Tomorrow—within the Arab-Islamic Society of the Middle East”
Tuesday, May 12, 2015
3:00 p.m.
102 Jones Hall
Ph.D. Final Public Oral Examination
Jacob Olidort
Dissertation Title
“In Defense of Tradition: Muḥammad Nāṣir Al-Ḍīn Al-Albānī and the Salafī Method”

Wednesday, May 13, 2015
8:00 p.m.
Rocky/Mathey Theater
Screening of movie
“Life is Waiting”
Question and answer following the screening with
Mason Herson-Hord ’15 (NES)

Thursday, May 14, 2015
11:00 a.m.
205 Frist Campus Center
M.A. Final Public Oral
Chad M. Mowbray
Thesis Title
“Four Approaches to Aḥlām an-Naṣr, Poetess of the Islamic State”

Friday, May 15, 2015
9:30 a.m.
102 Jones Hall
M.A. Final Public Oral
Autumn Kelly Patterson
Thesis Title
“Rethinking Laiklik in Turkey: The Bureaucratization of Islamic Education”

Monday, May 18, 2015
1:00 p.m.
102 Jones Hall
Ph.D. Final Public Oral Examination
Samuel R. Helfont
Dissertation Title
“Compulsion in Religion: The Authoritarian Roots of Saddam Hussein’s Islam”

Wednesday, May 20, 2015
12:00 noon–1:20 p.m.
102 Jones Hall
Princeton Islamic Studies Colloquium
Presenter: Wasim Shiliwala (NES)
Paper Title: Salafi Commentaries on *al-`Aqida al-Tahawiyya*

Discussant: Jacob Olidort (NES)

**Class Day Reception 2015**  
Department and Program of Near Eastern Studies  
**Monday, June 1, 2015**  
3:00–4:00 p.m.  
**1915 Hall**  
Butler College

**Friday, June 12, 2015**  
10:00 a.m.  
**102 Jones Hall**  
Ph.D. Final Public Oral Examination of  
**Mona Abdel Hamid Zaki**  
Dissertation title:  
“Jahannam in Medieval Islamic Thought”