The Middle Eastern and North African Graduate Student Organization of the University of Arizona presents:

The 14th Annual Southwest Graduate Conference
Transformations: Challenging Limits, Crossing Borders

Thursday, April 10 - Saturday, April 12
9am - 5pm

Marshall Building Room 490
About MENA
The Middle East and North Africa Graduate Student Organization at the University of Arizona (MENA) began more than a decade ago with the help of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) and the School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies (MENAS).

We have a long history of activity both on and off campus and are devoted to furthering scholarship of the Middle East and North Africa. The organization provides a platform for graduate students to participate in the planning of cultural events and academic exchanges related to the region. Furthermore, MENA aims to serve the University of Arizona and larger Tucson community in pursuit of a deeper sense of the culture, diversity, and history of this region.

MENA began hosting the Annual Southwest Graduate Conference in Middle Eastern and North African Studies in April 2001. Dedicated to providing an opportunity for graduate students to receive valuable feedback on their academic papers in context and delivery, the conference has expanded to include graduate students from numerous universities within and outside the United States.

Unless otherwise noted, all panels and events are in the following location:
Marshall Building, Room 490
845 N. Park Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85719

Thursday, April 10
9:00am-11:00am
Identity, Gender, and Representation in Persian Cultural Production
Chair: Dr. Kamran Talattof, University of Arizona

Convergence of History and Literature: Fin de Siecle Iran in Mohammad Ali Jamalzadeh's *Once Upon a Time* (1921)
Mojtaba Ebrahimian, University of Arizona

Depression Literature and Fictional Uncertainty in Post-Revolutionary Iran
Mehrak Kamali Sarvestani, University of Arizona

Redefining Identity and Womanhood at the Intersection of Revolution and War in Iran: An Analytical Study of Iranian TV Serial “The Red Soil”
Parvaneh Hosseini, University of Arizona

Load Poems like Guns: Young Women Poets of Herat, Afghanistan
Felisa Farzana Hervey, University of Arizona
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| 12:45pm-2:45pm | **Exploring the Possibilities of Language in Persian and Arabic Poetry**  
Chair: Dr. Adel Gamal, University of Arizona |
|              | **Sicily as an Arab Homeland in Ibn Hamdi’s Qasidah 157**  
Julie Yelle, University of Texas-Austin |
|              | **Mahsati and Masculine Vulgar Language**  
Seyede Pouye Khoshkhoosani, University of Arizona |
|              | **Rumi’s Jokes**  
Jason Watson, University of Arizona |
| 3:00pm-5:00pm | **Art in the Islamic World: From the Medieval Era to the Present**  
Chair: Dr. Yaseen Noorani, University of Arizona |
|              | **Tile and Stone: A Review of Early to Medieval Indo-Islamic Revetment**  
Jennifer Peruski, American University in Cairo |
|              | **Exploring the Mughal Album**  
Narges Marjan Safarzadeh, Jawaharlal Nehru University |
|              | **Regionalism and Nationalism in Modern Turkish and Iraqi Architecture: A Comparative Analysis of the Works of Sedad Hakkı Eldem and Rifat Chadirji**  
Lydia Harrington, University of Washington |
| 5:30pm-7:30pm | **Happy Hour/Dinner Gathering**  
*Pasco Kitchen & Lounge, 820 E. University Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85719* |
Friday, April 11

9:00am-11:00am
**Syria: Evolving Conflict, Evolving Solutions**  
Chair: Dr. Leila Hudson, University of Arizona

Lesser Syria: Sectarianism, Violence, Geography  
Ali Hamdan, UCLA

The Muslim Brothers in Syria: From Islamism to Secularism  
Muhammad Al-Khudair, University of Arizona

From the Numbers Game to the End Game in Syria  
Musa Al-Gharbi, University of Arizona

11:15pm-12:30pm
Brown Bag Lunch and Panel Discussion  
**Transformations in the Field of Middle East Studies**  
Panelists: Dr. Lisa Hajjar, Dr. Can Açıksöz, Dr. Leila Hudson, Dr. Scott Lucas, and Dr. Yaseen Noorani

12:45pm-2:45pm
**Challenging Paradigms in the Field of Sociolinguistics**  
Chair: Dr. Samira Farwaneh, University of Arizona

Arabic Culture and the Challenge of Modernity: Reconfiguring the Immutable and the Shifting in Adonis’s Poetic Experience  
Mohamed Wajdi Ben Hammel, University of Notre Dame

Linguistic Variation in the Political Speeches of Bashar al-Assad, Amin al-Gemayel, and Hassan Nasrallah  
Charles Joukhadar, University of Arizona

Applying ACTFL Standards in Assessing the Oral Proficiency of Native Arabic Language Learners  
Amany Elsaied, American University in Cairo

Vowel Length as an Active Phonological Feature in Modern Farsi  
Mohsen Mahdavi, University of Arizona
3:00pm-5:00pm
Travel and Transformation Within and Beyond the Middle East
Chair: Dr. Linda Darling, University of Arizona

The Rise of Ni’matullahi Shi’ite Sufism
Reza Tabandeh, University of Exeter

Beyond the Palace, Beyond the Capital: The Imperial Journeys of Mahmud II as a Sign of a New Ruling Understanding in the Ottoman Empire
Ali Atabey, University of Arizona

Between Istanbul and Saint Petersburg: Pavel Levashov’s Diplomatic Reports about the Ottoman Empire
Tatiana Rabinovich, University of Arizona

Sowing Seeds in Darkness: The Limits of Evangelical Modernity and Occidental Imagination in the Proselytizing of Pre-Colonial Morocco, 1886-1912
Rex de Roulhac, University of Arizona

Coffee Made the Turks England’s Cultural Neighbor: The Arrival of an Oriental Drink in 17th-Century English Society
Mary Pierce, University of Arizona
Abstract: This talk focuses on the military commission trial for Khaled Sheikh Muhammad and four other men accused of responsibility for the 9/11 terrorist attacks, a case often referred to as "the trial of the century." Lisa Hajjar will offer a first-hand perspective on what it is like to go to Guantanamo, and will discuss the critical and contentious issues that this case raises. The government is striving to pursue accountability for 9/11, but justice is complicated by the fact that all five defendants were held for years in secret prisons and tortured by the CIA, and everything surrounding this case is shrouded in secrecy, which severely impedes the legal process. Hajjar will discuss how the military commission system is struggling to contend with these complicated issues in a multi-defendant death penalty case.

Bio: Lisa Hajjar is a professor of sociology at the University of California -- Santa Barbara. Her research and writing focus on law and legality, war and conflict, human rights, and torture. She is the author of Courting Conflict: The Israeli Military Court System in the West Bank and Gaza (University of California Press, 2005) and Torture: A Sociology of Violence and Human Rights (Routledge, 2012). She serves on the editorial committees of Middle East Report, Jadaliyya, and Journal of Palestine Studies. She is currently working on a book about US torture and the role of lawyers. She will be the Edward Said Chair of American Studies at the American University of Beirut in 2014-2015.

Lisa Hajjar went to Guantanamo three times in 2010 to report on the trial of Omar Khadr, the Canadian "child soldier," who was transferred to Guantanamo when he was 16.
### Saturday, April 12

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| 9:00am-11:00am | **Gendered Bodies in Discourses, Policies, and Spaces**  
Chair: Dr. Can Açıksöz, University of Arizona                                                   |
|               | **Reproductive Politics in Turkey: Women’s Bodies are Tools of the Turkish State**  
Rebekah Coşkun, University of Arizona                                                        |
|               | **Documenting a City in Flux: An Urban Reading of Gender in Downtown Cairo**  
Cally Walker, American University in Cairo                                                    |
|               | **Transformed Bodies: Challenges of Iranian Female Dancers around the Globe**  
Elaheh Hatami, Free University of Berlin                                                       |
| 12:45pm-2:45pm | **Creating Identity Through Music and Media in Turkey and Morocco**  
Chair: Dr. Zeynep Korkman, University of Arizona                                                |
|               | **Wiener Klassik—Ankara Klassik? The Musical Invention of the Early Turkish and Austrian Nations**  
Erol Koymen, University of Texas–Austin                                                        |
|               | **Singing Turkish, Performing Turkishness: Message and Audience in the Song Competition of the International Turkish Olympiad**  
Joanna Wulfsberg, University of Arizona                                                        |
|               | **Moroccan Shi’ites, Social Media, and Virtual Asylum**  
Hafsa Oubou, University of Arizona                                                            |
Presenter Biographies

Ali Atabey, University of Arizona

Mohamed Wajdi Ben Hammed, a student at the University of Notre Dame, graduated from the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Tunis with a bachelor's in 2010 and a master's in 2012 in English Literature. While his primary focus in the past has been on political activism through literature as manifested in modern American fiction, especially the recurring theme of war in American novels, he is now focusing on a comparative project between Arabic and American literature that draws particularly on literary and political theory. He is interested in the study of modernity across cultures, culture wars, the relationship between East and West, and how literature relates to political change, namely wars and revolutions.

Rebekah Coşkun is a doctoral candidate in Maternal and Child Health minoring in the Genetics Graduate Interdisciplinary Program. She is pursuing a Medical Anthropology Post Graduate Certificate. Bekah is an evaluator and researcher for the Mountain West Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center working on a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention focusing on developing a national evidence-based model for community resilience for disaster preparedness, public health emergencies, and mass casualty events. Her dissertation seeks to validate root cause analysis for the purpose of hypothesis generation in research in the context of reproductive genetics decision-making.

Mojtaba Ebrahimian, University of Arizona

Amany Elsaied is currently working at the American University in Cairo in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication as an instructor of Arabic grammar for media purposes. She has also worked at AUC as an instructor of Arabic as a foreign language since 2005. She has earned two MAs, one in Arabic linguistics from Cairo University and the other in teaching Arabic as a foreign language from AUC. Currently, she is applying (almost finished) for the PhD from Ain Shams University in Arabic linguistics as well. Amany has worked in many reputable institutions and programs such as Cairo University, the CLS program, and AUC. In addition to her job as an instructor, she worked at Al-Azhar Arabic Language Center, first as an assistant coordinator, then as a director of training and education.

Musa al-Gharbi is a researcher with the Southwest Initiative for the Study of Middle East Conflicts (SISMEC) and a prolific geopolitical analyst with myriad works published in Middle East Policy, Al-Jazeera America, Counterpunch, Truthout, Press TV and other venues. His work has been featured by Foreign Policy, Jadaliyya, the US State Department, the US Council on Foreign Relations, and Germany’s Federal Agency.
for Civic Education – translated into Arabic, Farsi, German, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and other languages. Musa has an MA in philosophy from the University of Arizona.

Ali Hamdan, a student at UCLA, studies identity politics and violence in the Levant. Specifically, he is interested in “sectarianism” from a political geographical perspective. As a field of research, Political Geography takes an interest in relations of power, not abstractly construed but constituted by constantly changing relations between very real places. What does it mean, then, to bring a spatial lens to sectarian violence in Syria and Lebanon? How might we better theorize the relationship between identity and conflict diffusion? It is these questions that his research seeks to address.

Lydia Harrington, University of Washington

Elaheh Hatami has studied German Studies and Teaching at the University of Tehran and continued her studies at Free University of Berlin as a master student in Dance Studies. She has been enrolled as a PhD candidate at the same university since 2013. Her thesis is about dance as a medium of performing cultural identity with a focus on female dancers in Islamic countries. The restrictions of performing dance in those countries and its direct impact on the quality of movement within and outside their homeland is the core of her dissertation.

Felisa Farzana Hervey (Farzana Marie) is a poet and PhD student, studying Persian literature and creative writing at the University of Arizona. She served six years on active duty as an Air Force officer, and has spent three years in Afghanistan in both military and civilian roles, including two years deployed. She is the author of the nonfiction book, Hearts for Sale! A Buyer’s Guide to Winning in Afghanistan and president of Civil Vision International, a nonprofit organization focused on positively influencing international relationships through connecting, informing, and inspiring citizens. Find her on Twitter @farzanamarie or at www.farzanamarie.com.

Parvaneh Hosseini is a graduate student at the University of Arizona earning a dual degree in Anthropology and Middle Eastern and North African studies. Her interest is linguistic anthropology and women’s studies. She has done research on Persian linguistics, literature, and movies. She also studies literary works of Iranians in diaspora.

Charles Joukhadar, University of Arizona

Emrah Karakuş is a graduate student and a teaching assistant at İstanbul Şehir University, doing his MA in Political Science and International Relations. He is mainly interested in the contemporary European political thought, critical and poststructuralist theories, civil society debates, securitization, gender, Kurdish and LGBT movements in
Turkey. Prior to his studies at İstanbul Şehir University, he received his MSc degree from University College London where he studied Security Studies as a Jean Monnet Scholar. He majored in International Relations at İstanbul Kültür University and Malmö University. Currently, he is writing his thesis on the Islamic non-governmental organizations in Turkey and their relations with the Turkish state.

Seyede Pouye Khoshkhoosani, University of Arizona

Muhammad Al-Khudair, University of Arizona

Erol Koymen is a first-year master’s student in musicology at the University of Texas, where he is currently co-president of the musicology graduate student association. He graduated from Vanderbilt University in 2011 with majors in voice and philosophy. After graduation, he worked for two years in Austria on a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he sang in opera productions at the Theater an der Wien with the Arnold Schoenberg Choir, and studied and conducted research at the University of Vienna. His research interests are in the Europeanization of music culture in the Republic of Turkey.

Mohsen Mahdavi, University of Arizona

Hafsa Oubou is currently a Ph.D. student at the School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies and also Arabic Tutor/Instructional Support in Arizona Arabic Flagship Program at the University of Arizona (Tucson, Arizona). In 2006 she earned a B.A. degree in English Linguistics from Ibn Zohr University in Agadir and in 2009 an M.A. degree in Communication Studies from Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakech, Morocco. Hafsa started her career in journalism and rural development in Morocco. She is interested in the region of North Africa and issues of minorities and intra-religious conversion.

Jennifer Peruski, American University in Cairo

Mary Pierce is a PhD Candidate in the History Department at the University of Arizona. She is an Early Modern Europeanist, with World History as her minor. Her dissertation project focuses on the controversy surrounding the emergence of coffee and coffeehouses in 17th-century England.

Tatiana Rabinovich, University of Arizona

Rex de Roulhac is a second-year MA student in the History Department at the University of Arizona, working under the direction of Prof. Julia Clancy-Smith. He specializes in modern Mediterranean history from the late nineteenth century to the present with particular emphasis on migration and the cultural and intellectual history
of colonialism. His current research looks at how European travelers’ conceptions of modernity and civilization influenced their creation of knowledge and memories about Morocco through the fin-de-siècle and interwar periods.

Narges Marjan Safarzadeh, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Mehrkamal Sarvestani is a PhD candidate at the University of Arizona and scholar of Middle Eastern Studies with a specialty in Persian literature with a minor in history and a masters degree in sociology. His research centers on how post-revolutionary social changes impact Persian literary modernism through interaction between Iranians’ life styles and their sociocultural values.

Reza Tabandeh received his PhD in Islamic Studies at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies in the University of Exeter, with a thesis on the revival of Ni’matullahi Sufis and their confrontation with Shi’ite Fundamentalists. His research interest lies in Islamic mystical philosophies in contemporary Iran. His doctoral work focused on the second generation of Ni’matullahi masters, during the period following the return of the order to Iran from India. He was invited as a guest lecturer to a number of universities such as The University of Bradford, University of Toronto, York University, Brock University and University of Waterloo. He also participated in conferences and symposia such as 'Approaches to the Qur’an in Contemporary Iran' at The Institute of Ismaili Studies and presented a paper on “Defending the Qur’an in Qajar Iran: Husayn ‘Ali Shah and his Refutation of Henry Martyn”.

Cally Walker is an International Graduate Fellowship recipient at the American University in Cairo studying towards an MA in Middle East Studies. A British student, Cally holds a BA in Arabic and Politics from the University of Leeds. She has worked and traveled in numerous countries in the Middle East including Egypt, Libya and Saudi Arabia. Her MA thesis research is an ethnographic study of gender and class in the urban space of Downtown Cairo.

Jason Watson, University of Arizona

Joanna Wulfsberg is an MA candidate at the University of Arizona specializing in Turkish music from the Ottoman era to the present. In addition, she studies Ottoman architecture and poetry. For the last three summers she has served as Resident Director of the Critical Language Scholarship Program in Bursa, Turkey. Before entering the University of Arizona, Joanna taught Turkish and German at the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute and English as a Second Language at Vanderbilt University. She has an MA in musicology from the Eastman School of Music and a BA in music and architecture from Wellesley College.

Julie Yelle is a second-year graduate student in the Department of Middle Eastern
Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, where she focuses primarily on Arabic linguistics. She received her BSFS in Regional Studies of the Middle East from Georgetown University in 2008 and was a Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) Fellow in Cairo, Egypt from 2011 to 2012. She expects to complete her MA in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures this May.
MENA would like to thank the following individuals for their support:

Dr. Adel Gamal
Faculty Panel Chairs:
  Dr. Can Açıksöz
  Dr. Linda Darling
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  Dr. Yaseen Noorani
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