The Middle East: Diversity - Variation - Interpretation

The Seventh Nordic Conference on Middle Eastern Studies
21-23 September 2007, Helsinki

PROGRAMME

Friday, 21 September 2007

12.00 - 14.00 Registration/Badges in the University main building
14.00 - 16.00 Opening: Bjørn Olav Utvik
16.00 - 18.00 Key note lecture Professor Yvonne Haddad
18.15 Working group session I
Visualizing Global Moments in the Levant, CR
Ancient Middle Eastern Diversities, Coffee Room 2
Negotiating Democracy in Turkey, Coffee Room 1
Philosophy and Mystical Islam, Meeting Room
18.15 Reception in the University main building hosted by Thomas
Wilhelmsson, Vice Rector of University of Helsinki
Finnish music performed by Cristina Andersson and Ville Matvejeff

Saturday, 22 September 2007

09.00 - 11.00 Working group session II
Ethnographic Perspectives on Rituals and Religious Practices I, CR
Modern Iran: Politics and the Shi'a Challenge, Coffee Room 2
Old and New Interpretations on Texts I, Coffee Room 1
The Social Dynamics of Migration, Meeting Room
11.00 - 11.15 Coffee break
11.15 - 13.00 Working group session III
Ethnographic Perspectives on Rituals and Religious Practices II, CR
Old and New Interpretations on Texts II, Coffee Room 1
Autonomy and Cultural Identity in the Politics of the ME, Meeting Room
13.00 - 14.00 Lunch
14.00 - 17.00 Key note lectures Professor Asef Bayat
Professor Jaakko Hämeen-Anttila
17.00 - 19.00 Working group session IV
Religion and Politics, CR
Towards Ethnography of Poetry and Law I, Coffee Room 2
Islamic Law and the Family in Current Discussions I, Coffee Room 1
Syriac studies in Helsinki & Karaite Studies in Finland, Meeting Room
20.00 Conference dinner in Restaurant Sipuli

Sunday, 23 September 2007
10.00 - 12.00  Working group session V
   New Interpretations on Early Reformists, CR
   Orientalism, Re-Orientalism and Neo-Orientalism, Coffee Room 2
   Islamic Law and the Family in Current Discussions II, Coffee Room 1
   Towards Ethnography of Poetry and Law II, Meeting Room
   Middle Eastern Economies in a Globalising World I, Seminar Room

12.00 - 13.00  Lunch

13.00 - 14.30  General meeting of the Society and coffee in the Collegium Common Room

14.30 - 16.00  Working group session VI
   Socio-economic evolution, cultural interpenetration and political challenges in
   Euro-Mediterranean environment, CR
   Modern History, Coffee Room 2
   Middle Eastern Economies in a Globalising World II, Seminar Room
PANELS AND ROUND TABLES

Ancient Middle Eastern Diversities
Chair: Marianne Boqvist

Sanna Aro: Cultural Dialogue in Ancient Syria: Luwians in Aleppo?
Marianne Boqvist, Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul: An interpretation of Ottoman and Damascene interaction on the property market in Damascus according to late 16th century cadi court registers
Saana Teppo, University of Helsinki: Contested Position of the Royal Women of the Neo-Assyrian Empire

Autonomy and Cultural Identity in the Politics of the Middle East
Organiser and Chair: Brannon Wheeler, Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies, US Naval Academy

Kayleigh Biven: Fundamentalism: The Catalyst of Modernization in the Middle East
Sarah Horn: Shared Security Goals: An Analysis of Cultural Diversity in U.S.-Saudi Relations
Matthew Morse: Taqiyya in the Lebanese Politics of Hizballah
Stefanie Peskosky: Imperialist Propaganda in Ancient and Modern Egypt

Ethnographic Perspectives on Rituals and Religious Practices

I: Chair: Leena Avonius
Brannon Wheeler, US Naval Academy: Tolerance in Islamic Law and Practice
Samuli Schielke, University of Mainz: Faith, love, and despair: Contradictions of morality, religiosity and aspirations among young Egyptians
Marko Juntunen, University of Helsinki: "It is Simply too Difficult to Practice Islam Hundred Percent": Urban poor and the social significance of Islam in Northern Moroccan translocality
Susanne Dahlgren, University of Helsinki: From Private Matter to Public Morality. Making of Good Muslims in the Yemeni Town of Aden

II: Chair: Samuli Schielke
M’hammed Sabour, University of Joensuu: Meaning of Baraka in Contemporary Moroccan Society: Worshiping Shrines and Saints in the Regions of Abda and Doukkala
Päivi Miettunen, University of Helsinki: A Survey of the Holy Sites in Southern Jordan
Fadi Kabatilo, University of Joensuu: Democracy, Liberalism and Islamism: A Theoretical Framework for Studying Perceptions of Democracy among Muslims
Henri Onodera, University of Helsinki: From Black Thursday to Black Monday: An account of constitutional reform in Egypt

Islamic Law and the Family in Current Discussions
Organiser and Chair: Knut S. Vikør

I:
Katja Jansen Fredriksen, University of Bergen: Shari’a and Islamic law: transition and transformation
Knut S. Vikør, University of Bergen: Liberal or conservative? Two Syrian views on 'the woman between Shari’a and society'
Rania Maktabi, Høgskolen i Østfold: Gender, Multireligiousity and Family Law in Syria - Accommodation in an Authoritarian State
Monika Lindbekk, Polygyny as a ground for divorce in Egypt

II:
Liv Tønnesen: Equal before Allah and Unequal before Man? Hassan al-Turabi and the Reconstruction of Women's Rights in Islam
Marianne Bøe, University of Bergen: Notions of women's rights in contemporary Iran
Hilde Granås Kjøstvedt, University of Bergen: Family Matters: Women's Rights Protection on the Palestinian West Bank

Middle Eastern Economies in a Globalising World
Chair: Ane M. Roald

Janne B. Bøe, University of Bergen: Findings from field work in a Palestinian village on the Occupied West Bank.
Stephanie Dorns Schneider, AUC: Giving Arab Societies a Western Face: Civil Society in the Arab Human Development Reports
Marianne Laanatza, University of Stockholm: Empowerment of oppressed identities in Morocco
Katlin Omair, University of Jyväskylä: Research on Women in Management in Middle Eastern context
Ane M. Roald, University of Oslo: Exploring the region: Trade across the Iraqi-Jordanian border
Irfan Sungkar, University of Malaya: Middle-East Diversity: A Reflection on the Difference of Food Consumption Among Various Ethnic Groups in the UAE
Steffen Wippel, Erlangen-Nürnberg University: Torn Between Two Worlds: Past Experiences and Current Absences in Mauritania’s Regional Economic Integration

Modern History: New Interpretations on Old Representations
Chair: Hannu Juusola

Swietlana Czerwonnaja, Nicolaus Copernicus University: Crimean Tatars as “other” Muslims and “other” Citizens. Peninsula Crimea and Crimean Tatars between East and West
Simo Muir, University of Helsinki: Image of Palestine in the Helsinki-based Jewish journal Judisk Krönika (1918–20)
Kostas Papastathis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki: The Jerusalem Orthodox Patriarchal Synod in Exile (1917–1918): a Religious Crisis and its Political Aftermath
Muhammed Hasrul Bin Zakariah, Universiti Sains Malaysia: British and the Occupation of the East Jerusalem, 1967: A Historical Observation

Modern Iran: Politics and the Shi’a Challenge
Chair: Bjørn-Olav Utvik

Hossein Banyfatemeh, University of Tabriz: The study of Ethnicity among Iranian Students and its Impact on Social Consensus
Ali Granmayeh, SOAS: Democracy, Autocracy and Theocracy in the Middle East: The Case of Iran
Yusri Hazran, Hebrew University: The Shiite Community and the Territorial State in Lebanon and Iraq: From Crystallization to Disintegration
Alireza Korangy, Harvard University: Epic Narrative and Mystical Poetics as Proxies of Martyrdom in Modern-Day Iran
Nazila Mahbod, Tabriz University of Tabriz: Women Employment: A case study of Iranian student’s perception upon women occupation

Negotiating Democracy in Turkey: Towards an Inclusive/Participatory Understanding of Democracy in the Public Sphere
Organiser: Anu Leinonen
Chair: Tapani Harviainen

Itir Akdogan, University of Helsinki: Raising Citizen Participation Through New Media in Turkey
Yonca Ermutlu, Research Institute CEREN: The Negotiated Meanings of ‘Minority’ and Ethnic Minority Media in Turkey
Anu Leinonen, University of Helsinki: From the Enemy to and Adversary?
Secularism and Islam in the Turkish press

Lauri Tainio, University of Helsinki: Turkish Press and the Alevi: Who Gets Their Voice Heard?

New Interpretations on Early Reformists
Chair: Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen

Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen, University of Copenhagen: Rashid Rida’s Salafiya and Salafism
Mark Sedgwick, University of Aarhus: Interpreting Muhammad Abduh
Itzhak Weismann, University of Haifa: Genealogies of Fundamentalism: Salafi Discourse in Nineteenth-Century Baghdad
Hafiz B. Zakariya, International Islamic University, Malaysia: The Influences of Muhammad ’Abduh on Islamic Education in Early Twentieth Century Malaysia

Old and New Interpretations on Texts
Chair: Lena Ambjörn

Faruk Abu-Chacra, University of Helsinki: Taha Hussein’s View and Comments on the Arabic translation of Sinuhe, the Egyptian by Mika Waltari.
Lena Ambjörn, Lund University: New source material for the history of medicine: an Arabic medical encyclopaedia from the 10th century
Irmeli Perho, University of Aarhus: Social Mobility in Mamluk society, preliminary findings
Vera Saltanova: Waraqa ibn Naufal: Interpretation of the Image
Samy Soliman Ahmed, University of Cairo: The Arabic Criticism and the Reception of Modern Literary Genres in the Second Half from 19th century

Orientalism, Re-Orientalism and Neo-Orientalism: Case Studies on New Sites of False Dichotomies
Chair: Nefissa Naguib

Gubara Hassan, University of Helsinki: Europe and Islamophobia: Continuity in the Medieval Perceptions of the Islamic-Muslim Other/Alter Ego
Geoffrey Nash, University of Sunderland: Gobineau’s Persia: Diversity and invention in a Nineteenth Century Shi’ih Society
Mehmet Ümit Necef, University of Southern Denmark: Sex and Orientalism - with Gustave Flaubert in Hamam
Bente Nikolaisen, University of Oslo: Case Studies on New Sites of False
Dichotomies

**Annika Rabo**, Stockholm University: Skewed images and broken mirrors: Oriental-Occidental discourses in Sweden

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**Philosophy and Mystical Islam**

Organiser and Chair: Jaakko Hämeen-Anttila

**Heidi Ghomi**, University of Göteborg: The Lights of Connection - Sufis’ Vision of Diversity and Variation

**Janne Mattila**, University of Helsinki: Attainment of Happiness in Medieval Isma’ili Philosophy

**Inka Maukola**, University of Helsinki: The Microcosm as an Epistemological Concept in the Philosophy of the Ikhwán as-Sáfí

**Mikko Viitamäki**, University of Helsinki: Echoes of ’Am I not your Lord?’

Relationship of Music and Text in Chishti Samā`

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**Religion and Politics: Rights and Representations**

Chair: Hannu Juusola


**Minna Saarnivaara**, University of Helsinki: Political opportunities for using suicide operations in the Palestinian struggle

**Mohammad Reza Dolatraftar**, Scientific Board of Shahid Beheshti University: Human Rights in the Constitutions of Middle East Countries: The Case Study of Iran

**Aini Linjakumpu**, University of Lapland: Cultural self-esteem and tolerance in the context of global Islamic resurgence

**Hannu Juusola**, University of Helsinki: Recent discussions on the role of Israeli Palestinians in the Israeli society

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**The Social Dynamics of Migration**

Organisers: Connie Carøe Christianssen and Riina Isotalo

**Connie Carøe Christianssen**, Roskilde University: Migrants and non-migrants in Küçükkale

**Riina Isotalo**, University of Helsinki: Politicized Mobility and Development: Implications for Middle Eastern Migrants and Refugees

**Tuomas Martikainen**, Åbo Akademi University: The Muslim Population in Finland

**Cathrine Furberg Moe**, London School of Economics: The Impact of Residential Planning on the Ethnic Mobilization among Mizrahim Jews in Israel
Towards Ethnography of Poetry and Law
Organiser and Chair: Mikhail Rodionov
Discussant: Heikki Palva

I:
Mikhail Suvorov, St. Petersburg State University: Traditional Art and modern socio-political discourse: A festival of folk dance and poetry in Yafi’ (Yemen)
Mikhail Rodionov, Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography: The Art of Poetical Dispute in South Arabia
Maxim Vasilenko, Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography: Tribal Poetry as an Ethnographic Source: The Camel Industry in the Bedouin Society
Sarali Gintsburg, University of Helsinki: The Poetico-Musical Tradition of the Jbala and its Place in the light of the Arab Bedouin and Andalusian Tradition and the one of Berbers

II:
Maria El Hilali, University of Helsinki: The Westerner in Popular North African Music
Bo Holmberg, University of Lund: Nizar Qabbani and the significance of space
Sonia Yampolskaya, St. Petersburg University: Some distinctive features of Hebrew Poetry, caused by the different world view system illustrated by one well-known poem by Judah ha-Levi

Visualising Global Moments in the Levant
Organisers: Oystein S. LaBianca and Nefissa Naguib
Chair: Oystein S. LaBianca

Anders Bjørkelo, University of Bergen: The attraction of the periphery: 19th Century Ottoman Transjordan and Sudan compared
Bård Kårtveit, University of Bergen: Visual representations of power and protests in the West Bank
Oystein S. LaBianca, Andrews University: Visualizing Great and Little Traditions of Transjordan
Nefissa Naguib, University of Bergen: Photo albums in the Diaspora
Frode Storaas, University of Bergen: Filming everyday life of Palestinians in Israel

Round tables

Socio-economic evolution, cultural interpenetration and political
challenges in Euro-Mediterranean environment
Organiser and Chair: Tuomo Melasuo

Lotfi Boumghar, INESG: Partenariat euroméditerranéen: bilan et perspectives
Tuomo Melasuo, TAPRI: Introduction: Socio-economic and cultural challenges for political evolution
Seyfeddin Muaz, RSS: Jordanian Socio-Economic Evolution in Euro-Med Context
Abdelhak Saaf, CERSS: La migration comme enjeu politique dans l'espace euroméditérranéen
Peter Seeberg, Center for Contemporary Middle east Studies: Hezbollah, Lebanonisation and the Shia Revival. The EU and the Struggle for Political Influence in Lebanon and the Mashreq

Syriac studies in Helsinki
Organiser and Chair: Tapani Harviainen

Sari Kuustola: The Preservation of Syriac/Neo-Aramaic in the Middle East and in the Diaspora.
Marko Marttila: The Syriac Version and the Textual Criticism of the Book of Sirach.
Serafim Seppälä: Patristic Studies and Translations.

Karaite Studies in Finland
Organiser and Chair: Tapani Harviainen

Keijo Hopeavuori: Karaite Journals and Their Intententions.
Diana Mykhaylova: Debate on the Origin of the East European Karaites in the 19th-21st Centuries.
Riikka Tuori: Karaite Hebrew Poetry Written in Poland-Lithuania during the 16th-19th Centuries.