

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
 Key note lecture [Professor Yvonne Haddad](#)
16.00 - 18.00 **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

Jaana Toivari-Viitala, University of Helsinki: Traces of Ethnic Diversity in the Personal Names of the Inhabitants of the Deir el-Medina Workmen's Village.

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, Multireligiosity 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 Kjølsvedt, 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 Dornschneider, 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 Alevis. 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

Imants Ļaviņš, Riga University: Eastern Coast of the Baltic Sea in al-Khwārasmī's "Kitāb sūrat al-'ard". Beginning of a New Geographical Tradition.

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

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-Safá'

Mikko Viitamäki, University of Helsinki: Echoes of 'Am I not your Lord?' Relationship of Music and Text in Chishti Samā`

Religion and Politics: Rights and Representations

Chair: Hannu Juusola

Are Knudsen, CMI Bergen and **Nasser Yassin** UCL, London: Warlords and Violence: Analysing Political Violence in Post-Taif Lebanon, 1990-2006

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

The Social Dynamics of Migration

Organisers: Connie Carøe Christianssen and Riina Isotalo

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

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 euro-méditerranéen

Peter Seeberg, Center for Contemporary Middle east Studies: Hezbollah, Lebanisation 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.

Marketta Liljeström: The Employment of the Syriac Bible Translations in the Study of the Textual History of the Old Testament.

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 Intentions.

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.