

Issues in Middle East Studies

IMES

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Biannual Newsletter of the Middle East Studies Association

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MIDDLE EAST STUDIES ASSOCIATION
56TH ANNUAL MEETING



The 56th Annual MESA Meeting will take place in less than a month! We have some exciting updates and a few reminders for those attending.

MESA 2022 Program

The program consists of over 250 sessions including a presidential panel, seven special sessions, five workshops, 28 roundtables, and a poster session of undergraduate students' research. There are also 37 meetings from 21 affiliated associations and other organizations.

Presidential Panel

What Can Middle East Studies Teach Us About Race?

Building on the four roundtables of the Lexicons of Race Project that were held in September, this panel will explore the topics that emerged from those discussions as well as the intellectual contributions that Middle East studies offers the study of race.



LEXICONS OF
RACE PROJECT



**Important
Deadlines**

**Pre-register
by November 8**

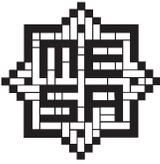
**Book at the Hotel
by November 8**

Book Exhibit

The Book Exhibit is sold out! We will have 51 presses, publishers, organizations and other vendors.

Virtual FilmFest

For MESA 2022 registrants, you can view the 49 documentaries, feature, and short films from November 21-December 11. Details on accessing the films will be provided to MESA 2022 registrants by email on November 21.



The Middle East Studies Association (MESA) is a private, non-profit, learned society that brings together scholars, educators and those interested in the study of the region from all over the world. From its inception in 1966 with 51 founding members, MESA has increased its membership to nearly

2,500 and now serves as an umbrella organization for approximately forty institutional members and forty affiliated organizations. The association is a constituent society of the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Council of Area Studies Associations, and a member of the National Humanities Alliance.

As part of its goal to advance learning, facilitate communication and promote cooperation, MESA sponsors an annual meeting that is a leading international forum for scholarship, intellectual exchange and pedagogical innovation. It is responsible for the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, the premiere journal on the region, the *MESA Review of Middle East Studies* and *Issues in Middle East Studies*, a biannual newsletter. An awards program recognizes scholarly achievement, service to the profession, undergraduate education, and exemplary student mentoring. MESA is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors elected by the membership.

Officers:

President Eve Troutt Powell, University of Pennsylvania
Past-President Dina Rizk Khoury, George Washington University
Executive Director Jeffrey D. Reger

Members of the Board:

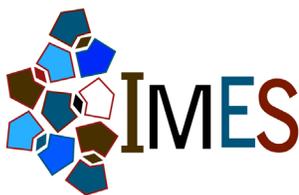
Ziad M. Abu-Rish, Bard College
 Sinan Antoon, New York University
 Senem Aslan, Bates College
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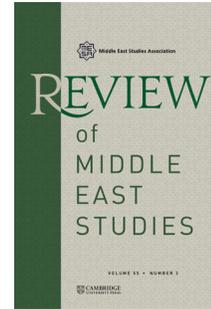
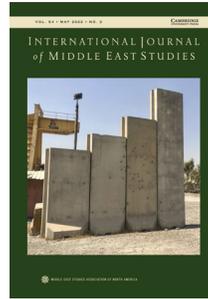


Issues in Middle East Studies is the biannual newsletter (April, October) of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, Inc. and is a benefit of membership. Hard copies are available to members upon request; postage will be collected for those residing outside the United States.

All MESA Publications available digitally

Login to your myMESA account, select the MESA Publications button to access pdf versions of *IMES* and links to searchable issues of *IJMES* and *RoMES*.

To receive email alerts when a new issue is published, register a **Cambridge Core account** and then “My Alerts”



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MESA membership is available to individuals and institutions who are interested in the study of the Middle East. To learn more about membership, visit mesana.org or contact Sara Palmer (sara@mesana.org).

Advertising in IMES

Please visit <https://mesana.org/publications/advertising> for the advertising insertion order form and for any updates or changes in prices.

Current Prices and Specifications

Full page (7.5" x 10")	\$625
Half-page horizontal (7.5" x 5")	\$375
Half-page vertical (3.625" x 10")	\$375
Quarter-page (3.625" x 5")	\$225

Upcoming Deadlines:

March 15, 2023 for April 2023 issue
 November 1, 2023 for November 2023 issue

From the President

Eve Troutt Powell | University of Pennsylvania



I am very pleased to announce that there is going to be a Presidential Panel in Denver to discuss the roundtables, and to continue our conversations about the vocabularies of race in the Middle East.



LEXICONS OF
RACE PROJECT

Hello MESA Members!

Hopefully the semester is proceeding without too much stress for you all, as we near our first in-person meeting in three years in Denver in just a few weeks. It has been a very eventful fall for MESA.

As many of you know, the Lexicons of Race Project ran a week-long series of virtual roundtables in September over Zoom. Four sessions were held respectively in Turkish, Persian, Hebrew, and Arabic. They were all well attended and each quite fascinating in their own right. Many thanks to Marie Grace Brown for coordinating all four, and to the moderators, discussants, contributors, and attendees for making this experiment a success. Because of the sensitivity of the topic, at the request of some of the participants, these initial roundtables were not recorded. However, I am very pleased to announce that there is going to be a Presidential Panel in Denver to discuss the roundtables, and to continue our conversations about the vocabularies of race in the Middle East. A representative from each session will report on some of the key takeaways on vocabularies of race in each language, and we hope to highlight both the common themes and the differences in how race is discussed linguistically and culturally across the region. We plan to record this session so that participants from around the globe who were able to join the virtual roundtables will also be able to see it after the Annual Meeting. The Presidential Panel is now listed in the preliminary program, and I look forward to seeing as many of you there live in person as possible.

In the meantime, the continued protests in Iran have galvanized many academic communities in North America to write, share, and protest when possible. MESA has worked closely with the Association for Iranian Studies to express our horror at the Iranian government's violent treatment of scholars and students in universities across Iran. I hope you all will continue to watch this heart-shattering situation closely, and seek opportunities to express our solidarity with the academic community in Iran as they demonstrate for their freedom.

Looking very forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Denver!

Yours,

Secretariat News

From the Executive Director

Jeffrey D. Reger | Executive Director



I can't believe it's already the end of October as I write this, and MESA 2022 in Denver is just around the corner. The MESA Meeting is a defining annual event for our field, and the principal work of our organization.

While virtual meetings expanded participation, they also do not offer the same intangible social and professional benefits of formal networking and informal socializing. So understandably, many of our members yearn for a return to a traditional in-person meeting.

Others dread it for a variety of reasons, from health concerns to ecological and travel costs. I have heard from some members who are uncomfortable with meeting in person, or for whom it would be a health risk. Speaking personally, I share this discomfort, and I have close family members and friends who are immunocompromised, so I will be taking special precautions to ensure that my travel does not pose a danger to my loved ones.

For anyone who wishes they could be in Denver with us but cannot — please know that we see you, and I personally feel for you.

Within the context of a country and a world that has moved beyond fatigue with the pandemic to obliviousness, we will do our best to ensure that MESA 2022 is as safe as possible. We will have free masks available to whomever needs one. We will encourage and recommend masking at a minimum.

As funding for conference travel for our members continues to decline, MESA is doing what we can to adapt to and offset these challenges. We have increased our graduate and undergraduate student travel awards, doubling the amount to \$500. In conjunction with our Committee on Precarity and Adjunctification, this year we are also offering, for the first time, parallel travel grants to contingent

faculty members as well. We hope that offsetting some travel costs will help those early-career lecturers and others with doctorates stay connected. We acknowledge that it is not enough to fully fund everyone, particularly from outside North America, but we are doing what we can, within our means.

We are also expanding opportunities for social interaction with free coffee, the fuel of the conference, at our completely sold-out Book Exhibit. And we will hold a catered reception following the Awards Ceremony this year.

Looking to the future: we want to continue to build on the experiences of the emergency shifts to fully virtual in 2020-2021. There are crucial inequalities that could be solved by a permanent switch to virtual. With MESA being virtual in 2020 and

2021, we found new members internationally and domestically who are not often in attendance at in-person meetings, due to the many obstacles we have identified (such as disabilities or vulnerabilities, and unequal access to resources, like visas and travel funding).

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As human beings, we are all facing the existential issue of anthropogenic climate change, particularly the detrimental impact of air travel. Academic conferences like MESA's should strive to be at the forefront of reducing our carbon usage.

We are sometimes asked about the possibility of holding "hybrid" meetings as an interim option, which sounds good in theory. Unfortunately, hybrid is very expensive in practice. Due to our preexisting contracts for the next two years, hybrid meetings are not financially feasible for us as a mid-sized academic membership organization. For MESA, it truly is an either/or question. We have fully evaluated our options, and we cannot staff and equip our in-person meeting technologically to enable full remote participation for what we charge for registration rates this year and next. It would mean hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual losses, which as directors and officers would be a breach of our duties as fiduciaries of the organization. Or to put it in less legalese terms, we cannot risk the financial health and endanger the stability of MESA.

In one way, MESA is relatively lucky. Many of our peers have contracts extending through the 2020s, and in some cases, past 2030. Our signed contracts end next year, in 2023. Interestingly, with just a few exceptions, our peer academic associations have eagerly switched back to the traditional model of solely in person. Some of us only want to meet in person. Some of us never do. For this year and next, we do not have a choice.

But, while our current meeting model must for the next two years be based on being in person, beginning in 2024 we have the flexibility to explore alternative meeting models, particularly in light of the issues of unequal access that result from travel and its associated costs, both financial and environmental. The virtual meetings of the past two years offered greater equality of access, which is something we remain very keen to preserve moving forward. We will continue to evaluate and discuss these issues at the upcoming meeting, and we hope to have good news to share with you regarding future meetings in the new year.

While our current meeting model must for the next two years be based on being in person, beginning in 2024 we have the flexibility to explore alternative meeting models.

2023 MESA Membership Renewal

Reminders will be sent in mid-December

We will be sending our renewal email after the annual meeting asking you to renew your membership for 2023. In the meantime, make it easy on yourself! Sign-up for automatic renewal or contribution by completing the form available at https://mesana.org/pdf/Automatic_payment_form_fillable.pdf. Send your questions about membership to Sara Palmer (sara@mesana.org).

MESA updated its membership database this summer. To understand and best serve our membership, MESA's Board and relevant board-constituted committees would like to have the most up-to-date demographic data. Please take the time to review your profile when you renew.

Membership Updates

MESA's Institutional Members

We recognize the following organizations as institutional members of MESA. Our institutional members share with MESA a commitment to recognizing excellence in the field, encouraging the growth and vibrancy of all the different disciplines within Middle Eastern studies, and defending the rights of scholars and academics around the world.

Aga Khan University, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations

American University in Cairo

American University of Kuwait

Arab Center Washington DC

Arab Council for the Social Sciences

Bridgewater State University, Center for Middle East Studies

Brown University, Center for Middle East Studies

California State University, San Bernardino

Columbia University, Middle East Institute

Cornell University, Department of Near Eastern Studies

CUNY Graduate Center, Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center

Dartmouth College

Foundation for Iranian Studies (FIS)

Georgetown University, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies

Georgetown University, Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies

Harvard University, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

ILEX Foundation

McGill University, Institute of Islamic Studies

New York University, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies

North Carolina Consortium for Middle East Studies

Northwestern University

Ocean County College

Pennsylvania State University

Portland State University, Middle East Studies Center

Princeton University, Department of Near Eastern Studies

Simon Fraser University

Stanford University, Sohaib and Sara Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies

Syracuse University, Middle Eastern Studies Program

University of Arizona, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

University of California, Berkeley, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

University of California, Los Angeles, Center for Near Eastern Studies

University of California, Santa Barbara, Center for Middle East Studies

University of Exeter, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies

University of Maryland, Roshan Institute for Persian Studies

University of Massachusetts at Amherst

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Center for Middle Eastern & North African Studies

University of Pennsylvania, Middle East Center

University of Southern California, Department of Middle East Studies

University of Texas at Austin, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

University of Toronto, Department of Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations

University of Washington, Middle East Center

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Middle East Studies Program

Vanderbilt University

Yale University, Council on Middle East Studies

To apply for institutional membership, an institution should submit to the Secretariat a letter of interest, a list of directors, and descriptive information about the institution and its programs (e.g. brochures, sample publications). Submit materials to secretariat@mesana.org. Institutional membership annual dues are \$1100.

Contributions

For the period May 1, 2022-October 18, 2022, a total of **\$8,650** in individual contributions was received for MESA funds. We acknowledge with great thanks the following:



Contributions to MESA are US tax-exempt (TIN 13-6220175). If you have made a contribution this year and need a receipt, you can print one from your myMESA account. Simply click the "Payment" option, then "My payments". A list of payments will appear; select the appropriate payment to obtain the pdf file to print.

MESA General

Najwa Al-Qattan ►
McGuire Gibson*

Fatema Mernissi Book Award

Nancy E. Gallagher #

Mentoring Award

Nancy E. Gallagher ►

Global Academy

Nancy E. Gallagher ►

Student Travel Contribution

Martin Bunton
Ann M. Lesch ▷
McGuire Gibson*
Elias G. Saba
Adam A. Sabra*
Levi Thompson*

Child Care Contribution

Elias G. Saba

* at least \$100
at least \$250
▷ at least \$500
► at least \$1000

Newly-elected Board Members

President-Elect Aslı Ü. Bâli, Yale University

Board Member Fida Adely, Georgetown University

Board Member Jens Hanssen, University of Toronto / Max Weber Institute in Beirut

MESA Elections

MESA election participation is on par with or better than comparable scholarly societies, yet our level of turnout means that an individual's vote has substantial importance. Your vote in our elections very much matters! Thank you for helping set the direction of your association by casting your vote.

Board of Directors Election Statistics, 2013-2022*

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Membership at Election	2861	2667	2802	2634	2230	2675	2621	2611	2324
Eligible Members (F & S)	2770	2570	2735	2584	2172	2604	2550	2538	2256
Valid ballots	769	469	795	427	565	504	550	513	698
% of voting membership	27.76	18.25	29.07	16.52	26.00	19.35	21.57	20.21	30.94

* President-elect is elected in even-numbered years. Students are elected for two-year terms in odd-numbered years.

Board Updates

Recent Statements and Letters from MESA's Board of Directors

Board Endorsement

IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE IRANIAN ACADEMICS' PETITION IN RESPONSE TO THE UNFOLDING EVENTS IN IRAN

September 20, 2022—MESA has endorsed a statement by the Association for Iranian Studies and its Committee on Academic Freedom expressing solidarity with the Iranian academics who have signed a petition in response to the unfolding events in Iran. The petition stresses the right of Iranian women to freely choose their own dress code; calls for abolishing the morality police; and supports the protection of citizenship rights for all Iranians.

JOINT STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF PROTESTS AT SHARIF UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY IN TEHRAN

October 3, 2022—We write on behalf of the Association of Iranian Studies (AIS), its Committee for Academic Freedom (CAF), and the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) to condemn in strongest terms the assaults against a peaceful protest by students at Sharif University of Technology in Tehran on October 2nd, 2022. This violent crackdown on one of the top universities of the country was orchestrated and executed by the state security and plainclothes forces. We express our outrage and deep concern over the fate of injured and arrested students and professors who were shot by rubber bullets, detained, and taken to unknown locations.

AIS is a private, non-profit academic society founded in 1967 to support and promote scholarship and research on Iran and the Persianate world at the international level. An independent, non-partisan, non-political, and multi-disciplinary international community, the association publishes *Iranian Studies*, the principal journal in the field. AIS membership includes over 500 scholars, students, and academic and professional researchers. We are committed to encouraging the free exchange of ideas and freedom of speech, both within and

beyond the geographical boundaries of Iran. AIS's CAF has been closely following the tragic news of the government's violent crackdown on the protesters, including university students across the country. MESA was founded in 1966 to support scholarship and teaching on the Middle East and North Africa. The preeminent organization in the field, the Association publishes the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* and has thousands of members worldwide. MESA is committed to ensuring academic freedom and freedom of expression, both within the region and in connection with the study of the region in North America and elsewhere.

The peaceful demonstration at Sharif University of Technology was organized in response to the state murder of Mahsa (Zhin) Amini on September 16, 2022, and in solidarity with the nationwide protests including demonstrations in over one hundred universities in the country. The state response to such basic civil rights was brutal: students became subject to hostile physical and verbal attacks by the security and plainclothes forces, some were shot by rubber bullets, and some have been arrested. In their statement, Sharif University students have called October 2nd, 2022 a "Ruz-e Khunin," – "A Bloody Day" – and announced that they will not attend classes until all students are released and security forces are expelled from the university campuses. As we write this statement, over thirty universities are protesting, many students are arrested, more than six thousand university professors have issued a statement, and some university professors have canceled their classes in solidarity with the students.

The horrific videos on social media showing these attacks are testimonies to the volume of crimes committed against innocent students whose basic civil rights are violated by the state. The number of injuries and arrests remain unknown. However, these attacks may well resemble those against the Student

Movement at the University of Tehran in July 1999, in which the university campus was violently raided resulting in death, injuries, and arrests of the students.

The violent crackdown on Sharif University of Technology on October 2nd, 2022, is just the latest example of targeted assaults on the institution of the university in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Since its inception, the state has constantly and systematically assaulted, physically and discursively, the institution of the university – its students and professors, independent knowledge and freedom of expression. This reaches from the so-called 1980s "cultural revolution" to the several waves of purging university professors, the unjust vetting admissions process for students, the failed agenda of so-called "Islamization of Humanities and Social Sciences," the July 1999 violent attacks at the University of Tehran, and several other incidents over the past four decades.

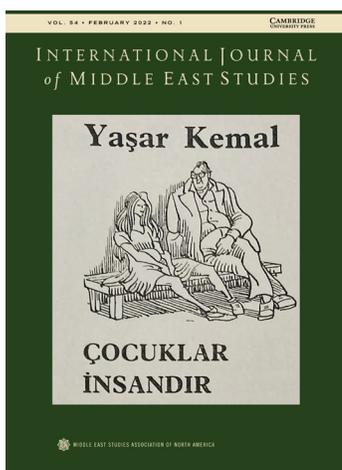
The Association of Iranian Studies and the Middle East Studies Association express our grave concern over the violation of academic rights of university students and professors who are entitled to teach and learn with dignity in a free and safe academic environment. We condemn in strongest terms the attacks on university campuses, and register our outrage and dismay over systematic assaults on the institution of the university and the individuals who shape its community. More importantly, we are extremely worried about the safety of the injured and arrested university students and professors and demand their immediate release. We also call for a full and transparent investigation of these crimes.

Publication News

From the Desk of the *IJMES* Editor

Joel Gordon | *IJMES* Editor | University of Arkansas

I don't know if we are living in a post-Covid world, but from a journal editor's vantage things seem to be fast approaching a type of normalcy. We seem to be heading back into the field. Hopefully with requisite caution—and not just regarding public health. Whether it is “new” or follow-up research, it is happening, and it will be for all of us to figure out what (blending literary and film references)—is new or not in the increasingly blazing sun.



Sarwar and I have not yet done our annual numbers crunch prior to the annual meeting. I sense we will find that the number of article submissions has been about the same, on average about one a day over the course of 12 months. We do sense an uptick as summer has ended, perhaps further proof that many more of us are back to writing, reunited with our “archives” having mastered

(at least managed) alternate modes of instruction and managed (if not mastered) personal and familial health issues. We have been a bit slower in getting issues to print, which may be the publishing version of long Covid, but it is happening. Still, I've been telling our entering cohort of grad students this Fall that they are (so far) lucky to be starting now... Well, until we come upon the next dead rat in the alley.

But, by blood and spirit we'll gather in Denver this December, try to make up for some lost time and re-channel energies. Heather Ferguson, intrepid editor of our sibling *RoMES* and I will lead our by-now annual publication workshop (Friday, 2 December at 4:00pm). We will be joined by Brahim El Guabli, one of the founders of the new *Tamazgha Studies Journal* to help us discuss complementarity and how we can all push each other to think more broadly about something we still call Middle East studies.

Keep sending us your good stuff—especially those of you from under-represented disciplines—when you are ready for a good critical read.

MESA Publications Workshop
December 2, 4-6pm

Joel Gordon, *IJMES* Editor
University of Arkansas

Heather Ferguson, *RoMES* Editor
Claremont McKenna College

Brahim El Guabli, Williams College



Committee News

MESA's Global Academy

The MESA Global Academy supports displaced scholars from MENA currently located in North America. It harnesses the strengths of MESA's institutional and individual members to bolster the careers of researchers whose academic trajectory has been adversely affected by developments in their home countries.

MESA Global Academy: Moving Beyond the Pilot

The MESA Global Academy supports displaced scholars from MENA currently located in North America. It harnesses the strengths of MESA's institutional and individual members to bolster the careers of researchers whose academic trajectory has been adversely affected by developments in their home countries.

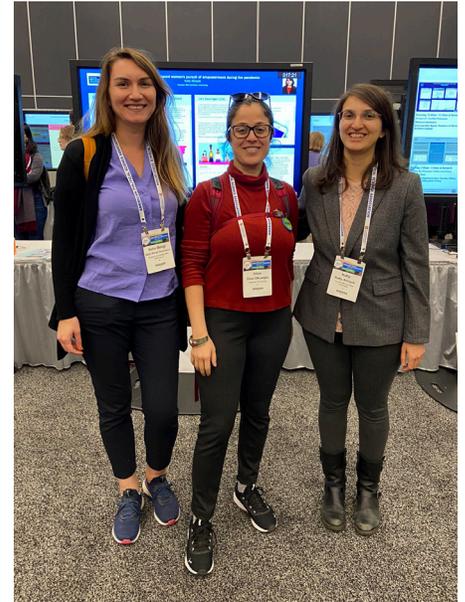
The Global Academy began a new grant cycle this fall, moving on from its initial three-year pilot. We are delighted to have secured this round of funding from our principal donor, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, as well as matching funds from individual MESA members, a number of our university partners, the Ellis L. Phillips Foundation, and the Persian Heritage Foundation. Sincere thanks go to these donors, who are making the continuation of the Global Academy possible.

The program's annual scholarship remains highly competitive, and we have seen a larger pool of applicants each successive year. This points to the success of the project but also the substantial need for support to displaced scholars from the MENA region. The new needs produced by displacement of academics from Afghanistan are also clear, and we are pleased to be supporting six scholars displaced from Afghanistan this academic year. Scholars originally from Egypt, Iran, Syria, and Turkey, including Kurdish scholars, are also supported in AY 2022-2023.

These scholars will be speaking at a range of events at our partner universities this fall – some online and some in person – including on the study of the Armenian genocide at the University of Southern California; on law, political regimes, and order in the Middle East at the University of Chicago; and on Afghan issues at Harvard University. In addition, George Washington University is hosting several Global Academy scholars to workshop research and writing in progress. Please also be on the lookout for our rich array of programming in the spring.

We are excited to host two workshops at the MESA annual meeting in Denver in December. In the first, Global Academy scholars will present their research on the effects of authoritarianism on politics and education in Iran and Turkey, respectively, and on the effects of war on higher education in Yemen. In the second workshop, four Global Academy scholars from Afghanistan will speak on current and recent Afghan topics, including higher education, nation building, liberalism, and state-society relations under the Taliban.

Global Academy scholars' recent publications include a two-part roundtable on "Rethinking Cultural Heritage" for *Jadaliyya* and an article on the shifting politics of debt in Turkey for *Middle East Report*. This fall, several Global Academy



MESA Global Academy scholars meet at the American Political Science Association meeting in Montréal.

fellows will be featured in *Jadaliyya's* "Scholars in Context" series – Q&As in which scholars of the Middle East describe their research and the paths they took to arrive at it, providing a platform for readers to gain an in-depth look at the latest research in a given field.

Finally, we are pleased to continue offering Global Academy scholars professional development workshops throughout the year on a range of topics from navigating the peer review process to pedagogy in North America to non-traditional academic career paths. This year we are offering two new workshops, one on the academic job application process and one on visa issues. We are also

pleased to continue our mentoring program, which matches Global Academy scholars with senior faculty members in Middle East Studies at North American universities. Mentors meet with their mentees over Zoom and are available for help and guidance with such elements of academic life as journal articles, book proposals, and job talks.

Global Academy scholars often express their appreciation for the support they receive through the program. In our latest anonymous survey, comments such as “I feel simply lucky to be a part of this initiative” and “I am extremely grateful for each and every activity this year” were voiced.

Our thanks to all who are involved in the MESA Global Academy; your support is integral to the success of this group of exceptional scholars as they transition to careers in North America.

To join our email list to be kept informed of events, publications, and other news, contact Program Manager Mimi Kirk at mimi@mesana.org.



**MESA
Global Academy**

Global Academy Committee

Aslı Bali (Chair)
Yale University

Beth Baron
CUNY

Aslı Iğsız
New York University

Greta Scharnweber
Institute of International Education

Judith Tucker
Georgetown University

Eve Troutt Powell (ex-officio)
University of Pennsylvania

Jeffrey Reger (ex-officio)
MESA Executive Director

Mimi Kirk
Program Manager
mimi@mesana.org

2023 MESA Awards Program

Albert Hourani Book Award April 1, 2023

This award is to honor work that exemplifies scholarly excellence as well as clarity of presentation, in the tradition of Albert Hourani. The winner receives \$1,000.

Nikki Keddie Book Award April 1, 2023

This award honors outstanding scholarly work in the area of religion, revolution, and/or society. The winner receives \$1,000.

Fatema Mernissi Book Award April 1, 2023

This award recognizes outstanding scholarship in studies of gender, sexuality, and women's lived experience. The winner receives \$1,000.

Roger Owen Book Award April 1, 2023

This award recognizes the very best in economics, economic history, or the political economy of the Middle East and North Africa scholarship. The winner receives \$2,000.

MESA Mentoring Award June 1, 2023

This award honors contributions of a retired individual as mentor/teacher.

Jere L. Bacharach Service Award June 1, 2023

This award honors extraordinary service to MESA or the field. The winner receives \$1,000.

Malcolm H. Kerr Dissertation Awards July 15, 2023

For students completing their dissertations between June 16, 2021 and June 15, 2022, nominations should be from the author's sponsor or advisor. Winners in each category—Humanities and Social Sciences—receive \$1,000.

Undergraduate Education Award August 1, 2023

This award recognizes outstanding scholarship on teaching or other material contributions to undergraduate education in Middle East studies. The award comes with a \$250 prize.

Graduate Student Paper Prize August 15, 2023

For graduate students whose research papers on any aspect of post 600 CE Middle East studies. The author of the winning paper receives \$250 and the paper will be submitted for publication in the *Review of Middle East Studies*.

See our full list of awards and procedures on our website:
<https://mesana.org/awards>



Committee News

Committee on Academic Freedom

CAF comprises two sub-committees: MENA (Middle East and North Africa) and NA (North America). The mission of CAF is to address violations by protesting them at the highest government and diplomatic levels of the country where the violation occurs. If you learn of human rights or academic freedom violations please email the committee at caf@mesana.org.

Below are summaries of letters sent to heads of state, other high-ranking officials, or educational officials in response to an issue of academic freedom. The country listed represents the country receiving the letter. To view the full content of the letter, please see MESA's website (mesana.org).

12 May 2022 (Iran)—Ninth letter to the government of Iran regarding the worrisome circumstances of Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali, incarcerated since April 2016 on false charges and sentenced to death. This time, we urge the rescinding of the judiciary's order of execution expected to occur by 21 May 2022.

26 May 2022 (Israel)—We write to protest the recent spate of aggressions of Palestinian students at Israeli universities, that have included incitement, intimidation and detention. We condemn, as well, the apparent collusion between Israeli security forces and right-wing nationalists in the harassment of Palestinian students.

13 June 2022 (US)—Letter to the president of John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY) protesting the cancellation of the Palestine Lives Conference.

27 June 2022 (US)—Letter to the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights urging it not to use the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism and its examples to formulate antidiscrimination regulations.

19 July 2022 (Egypt)—Letter to Egyptian authorities regarding the cases of several academics waiting in detention, facing trial, or who have restricted movement.

17 August 2022 (Egypt)—Letter to the Egyptian authorities protesting the protracted detention without trial of Professor Seif Fateen and the inhumane conditions to which he has been subjected.

2 September 2022 (US)—Letter urging the University of Denver to reconsider its recent public statement concerning Professor Nader Hashemi.

2 September 2022 (Egypt)—Letter to Saudi authorities calling for the immediate release of Salma al-Shehab

after an appeals court increased her prison sentence from six years to 34 years for her peaceful use of social media.

7 September 2022 (Saudi Arabia)—Letter to Saudi officials regarding the sentencing of University of Leeds PhD student Salma al-Shehab to 34 years in prison.

14 September 2022 (Egypt)—Letter to Egyptian officials calling for the immediate release of Salah Soltan from his inhumane detention in Egypt.

6 October 2022 (Iran)—Letter to Iranian authorities condemning recent attacks on academic institutions, students and teachers protesting government violence & repression.

20 October 2022 (Israel)—Letter protesting Israeli Government revised directive regarding selection of international scholars and students to teach and study in Palestinian Universities.

Committee on Academic Freedom

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MESA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL & 2023 REGISTRATION

fax 520-207-3166

email secretariat@mesana.org

post MESA, 3542 N. Geronimo Ave., Tucson AZ 85705 (USA)

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Email (req) _____

Membership Dues

Individuals should complete a profile in their myMESA account

Student member
Retired member
Fellow or Associate member

Amounts shown are in US\$

- \$ 65
- \$ 85
- \$ 75 (income less than \$30,000)
- \$100 (income \$30,001 - \$40,000)
- \$125 (income \$40,001 - \$50,000)
- \$150 (income \$50,001 - \$60,000)
- \$175 (income \$60,001 - \$70,000)
- \$200 (income \$70,001 - \$80,000)
- \$225 (income \$80,001 - \$90,000)
- \$250 (income \$90,001 - \$100,000)
- \$275 (income \$100,001 - \$125,000)
- \$300 (income \$125,001 - \$150,000)
- \$350 (income greater than \$150,001)

2023 Registration

Student/retired MESA member \$ 85
Full/associate MESA member \$175
Student, non-MESA member \$150
All other non-MESA members \$300

Payment Information

- Visa /MasterCard /Discover/AMEX
- Check (payable to MESA, in US\$ and drawn on US bank)
Send to MESA, 3542 N. Geronimo Ave, Tucson AZ 85705

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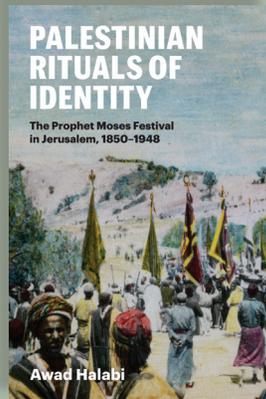
Refund Policy

Membership dues are non-refundable. Registration: Requests for refunds must be received by August 1, 2023 for session participants and by October 2, 2023 for all others.

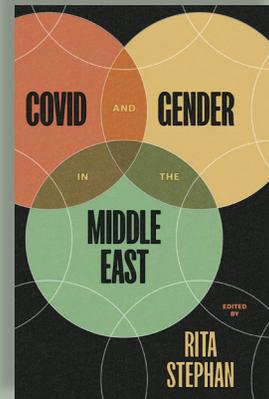
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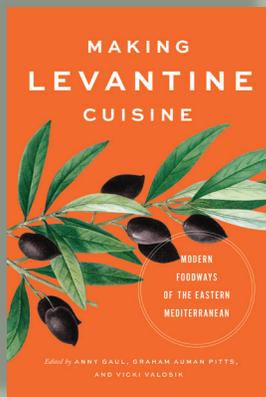
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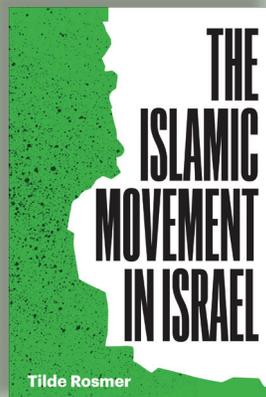
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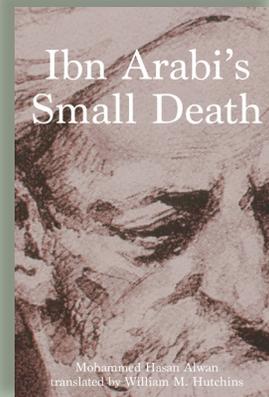
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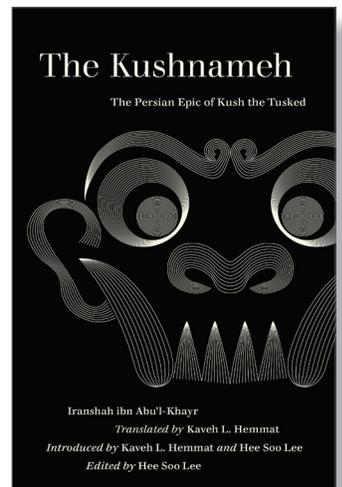
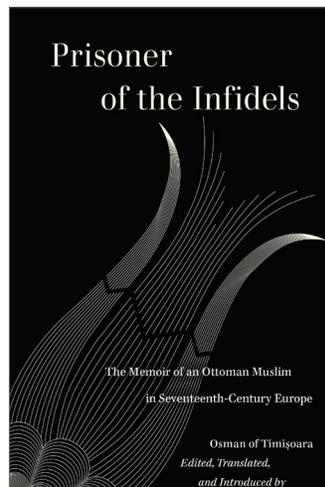
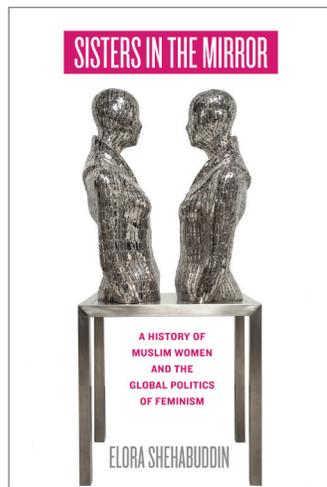
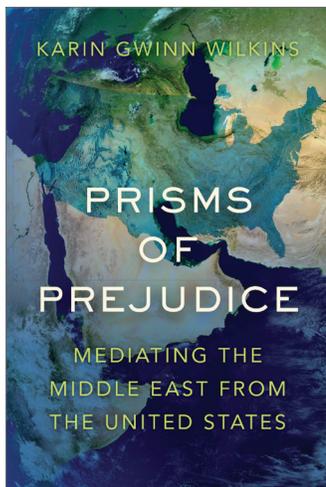
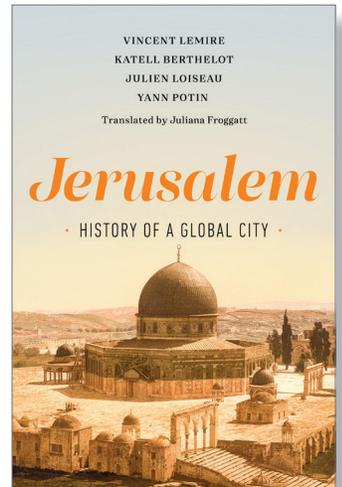
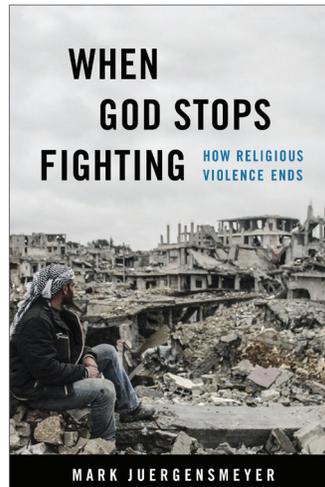
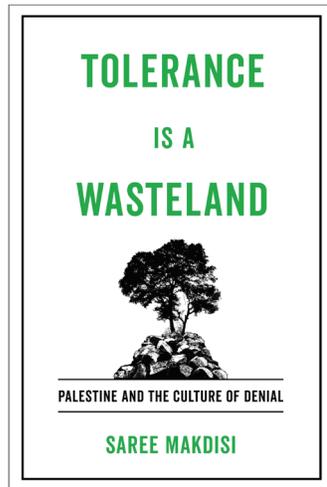
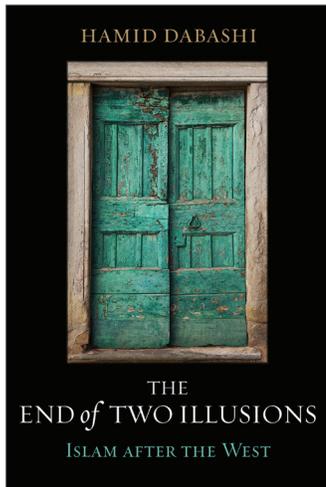
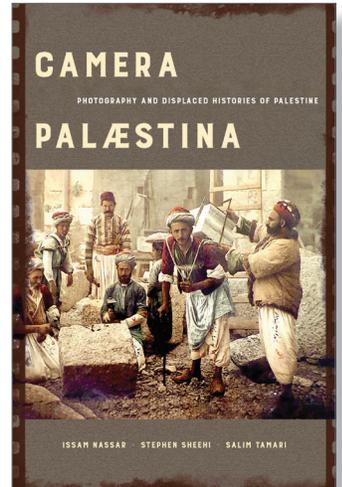
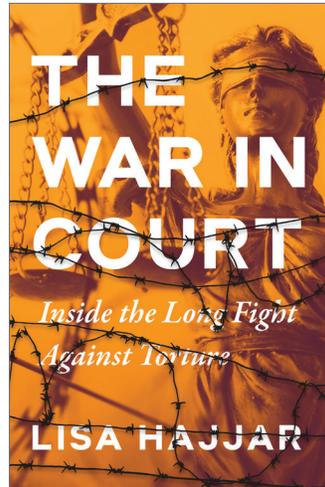
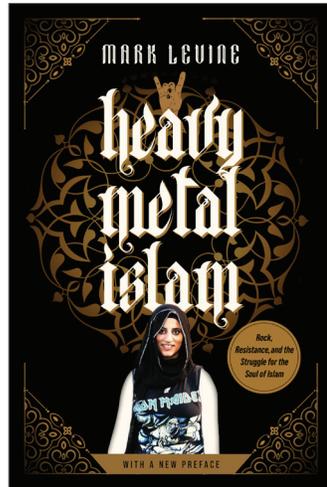
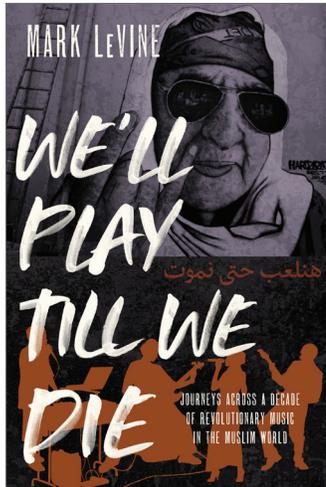
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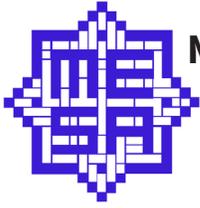
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MESA 2023 CALL FOR PAPERS

November 2-5, 2023

Palais des congrès de Montréal
Montréal, Québec, Canada

Detailed Call for Papers instructions, including the review criteria used by the program committee, will be posted on MESA's website. All prospective participants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with what is expected of submissions. Proposals must conform to the guidelines listed in the Call for Papers instructions.

Deadline is February 16, 2023

You may submit proposals beginning in January 2023 and must be complete by **midnight on Thursday, February 16, 2023 (Eastern Standard Time)**, at which time the electronic submission system will be deactivated. Late submissions will not be considered.

Requirements to Participate

- **Only current MESA members for 2023 may submit.** Renew your membership today and save time later!
- All submissions must be made through **myMESA**, MESA's electronic submission system:
- Meeting registration is required by May 15, *after* the program committee decisions are released.