

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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 membership includes a diverse community of scholars in the United States, Canada, and abroad. MESA serves as an umbrella organization for nearly fifty 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.

*As we gather, both online and in person for this year's special events, we must work together to create a culture of care. That means that each attendee does their part to keep our community and the spaces where we convene safe and healthy.*

**Badge Required:** Meeting badges will be required to access the MESA meeting space. Please wear your badge at all times. This means that only attendees who are registered for the meeting will be allowed in the MESA Annual Meeting space.

## (BEYOND) LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Middle East Studies Association of North America acknowledges the unjust history of settler colonialism in our continent, specifically the expropriation and theft of native land, on which we all live and work.

Generic words are not sufficient to convey our moral and financial debts to the indigenous peoples who belong to the historical territories where we will meet.

As a gesture of solidarity, the MESA Secretariat would like to ensure that the Annual Meeting is open to all American Indian, First Nation, and indigenous peoples of North America. We are reaching out to regional representatives of the tribes near Washington DC to offer waived registration to any interested in attending this meeting, and to ask what else we can do for their thriving communities.

## WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

(Personal Code of Conduct)

MESA is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for all members and participants in MESA events. Intolerance, discrimination, and harassment undermine the values of MESA's mission and purpose, which is to facilitate professional opportunities for all participants and members. We strive to maintain dialogue, create a culture of care, and provide space for the academic exchange of ideas. MESA supports the identities of all participants, regardless of gender, gender identity or expression, race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion or religious belief, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, veteran status, or immigration status.

All attendees of MESA events are expected to adhere to these values, including conference participants, students, guests, staff, contractors and exhibitors, and participants in professional and social events.

Any attendee who creates an unwelcoming environment for others through inappropriate behavior, or who creates a disturbance or safety hazard, will be subject to having their registration revoked, and potentially be barred from attending future meetings.

If you are being harassed or notice an act of harassment, please see the MESA Help Desk located in the registration area, submit a request to the virtual Help Desk, and/or email [meeting@mesana.org](mailto:meeting@mesana.org).

## SAFETY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By attending the MESA Annual Meeting, you expressly agree to comply with any and all rules and safety guidelines put in place by MESA and by local authorities and voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19, waiving all claims and potential claims against MESA and their affiliated companies relating to such risks.

To help mitigate health risks relating to endemic respiratory diseases:

**Masks Optional:** Masks may be worn, and the choice to wear a mask should be considered and respected by all. MESA attendees should understand that the city does not currently have a mask mandate. Free masks are available at the MESA Help Desk located in the registration area.

DO NOT attend the MESA conference if either of the following is true:

- You test positive for COVID-19;
- You are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., a fever of 100.4F or higher, cough, shortness of breath, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, extreme fatigue, or other symptoms associated with COVID-19 as identified by relevant health authorities).

The safety protocols are subject to change.

## RECORDING SESSIONS

The default option for virtual MESA meetings is to not record each session. If you would like to record your own session, you must obtain permission from all participants. In that case, we will post the session recording in the hub for other registered participants to view. The presumption otherwise is that sessions will not be recorded.

Therefore, MESA does not otherwise allow audio or video recording of sessions or events without advance written permission from each participant in a session or event.

To report unauthorized recording, visit the Information and Help Desk, email [secretariat@mesana.org](mailto:secretariat@mesana.org), or text 520-275-2639 with the Room location and Session title, along with any relevant information.

MESA reserves the right to revoke registration of anyone who records a session without appropriate permission. In short, you may not record any person by audio or video without express written permission.

## PHOTOGRAPHY DISCLOSURE

MESA takes photographs during its meeting and events for use in association advertising, newsletters, and other promotional materials, whether in print, electronic or other media, including the MESA website. By participating in this conference you grant MESA the right to use your name and photograph for such purposes.

## DISCLAIMER

The opinions, statements, presentations, data, images, videos, documents, and other information expressed or otherwise shared by presenters or other participants at the meeting are for informational purposes only. The views and opinions expressed by presenters are not those of MESA, unless expressly indicated otherwise. MESA is not responsible for the accuracy, quality, or reliability of any of the materials presented, or liable for any damages arising therefrom. MESA shall not be responsible for any defamatory, offensive, or illegal conduct of any meeting attendee.

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES

As a courtesy to meeting attendees, electronic devices must be operated in silent/vibrate mode during all sessions; devices that beep, ring, etc. are prohibited. We ask that you please do not conduct phone conversations while in attendance at sessions. Your cooperation is appreciated.

## LIVE TWEETING

To facilitate virtual conversations and to share with those unable to attend the conference, MESA encourages attendees to live tweet using #MESA2024. Speakers presenting materials that they do not wish to be tweeted live should make a request to the audience at the beginning of their presentations.

## BADGE

With the exception of the book exhibit, which is open to the public, registration is required to attend all MESA functions. Please wear your badge at all times.

## POLICY ON ADVERTISING

Appropriate advertisements are accepted for MESA publications on a space available basis. MESA reserves the right to refuse ads it deems inappropriate or in conflict with MESA's objectives. MESA publications will not accept advertising from defense and intelligence related agencies from any government. The appearance of an ad in a MESA publication does not imply endorsement by MESA.

## NO-SHOW POLICY

We understand that things come up at the last minute that prevent a participant from attending the meeting. As a courtesy to your co-panelists, please notify them and MESA if you cannot attend the meeting. If you are scheduled to participate in the annual meeting in any capacity and you do not show up and you have not informed the MESA Secretariat, you will be considered a "no-show" and you will not be eligible to participate in next year's meeting. A no-show is someone who is not present at their panel at the conference and has not notified the MESA Secretariat beforehand.