

Program in Middle East and North African Studies

Annual Report 2016-17

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Northwestern

WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Program in Middle East
and North African Studies



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MENA's fourth year was one we will not soon forget. In 2016-2017, the program grew more than any year since our launch. We also confronted challenges that reinforced the importance of our core mission as scholars and educators.

A presidential election always impacts the work we do in the humanities and social sciences, especially in Middle East and North African studies. Debates over U.S. policies in the region and the legacy of previous administrations are part and parcel of any presidential campaign. Still, the 2016 election, from the campaign through the first months of the new administration, was different from what any of us remember. Domestic tensions about religion, ethnicity, and immigration reached our campus and into our community in dramatic and often disturbing ways.

The role of MENA as a community of scholars, teachers, and students has never been more important. Many felt vulnerable at home—with reason, unfortunately—and plans were disrupted, research travel restricted, and projects delayed during tumultuous times.

We embraced our role as educators, standing up to speak against hatred and creating public resources for negotiating a newly hostile climate. And we armed our students and the community with expertise: writing for the national press and hosting a rich program of lectures and discussions with which to confront ignorance. MENA is, I dare say, stronger.

There were many moments of joy this year too. After two-and-a-half years in temporary space, we moved into our new suite of offices in the renovated Kresge-Crowe building on south campus. We now reside in more than a dozen rooms and offices on the southeast corner of the fourth floor. Our program continues to grow. In September, we welcomed two new members to the faculty (Emrah Yıldız and Asma Ben Romdhane). We hired a new assistant director (Danny Postel) and program assistant (Iman Nasser), who, with Lexy Gore, increase the MENA staff to three.

We also hired language faculty in Hebrew (Hanna Tzucker-Seltzer) and Persian (Pouye Khoshkhoosani) who both join us for the 2017-2018 year. These hires, along with the promotion of Oya Topçuoğlu to full-time Lecturer in Turkish after a national search, represent a momentous occasion. Persian and Turkish are being taught by full-time lecturers dedicated to those languages for the first time in Northwestern's history, allowing us to expand our offerings. And Hebrew moves into the MENA program in a position shared with Jewish Studies, bringing the MENA language faculty to seven full-time members. In the Arabic program, we are now offering three dialects (Egyptian, Levantine, and Maghrebi) in addition to a full four-year program in modern standard Arabic and courses in media Arabic and Arabic literature. Taken together, these developments represent our sense of the centrality of the languages

in Middle East and North African studies and our commitment to the highest level of instruction.

This report surveys other major highlights of the year, including two major symposia—one on art leading up to the Arab uprisings and the other on contemporary Moroccan politics and society. We also give an account of our exceptional writer-in-residence, the Moroccan novelist, playwright and editor Driss Ksikes, who brought to our program incredible energy and dynamism, and an array of courses, workshops, lectures, and readings. Our trademark MENA Monday series was the place to be each week with a stellar lineup. This year, MENA Mondays finally outgrew its original home; after weeks of standing-room-only sessions in the Hagstrum Room, we moved to a larger space on the first floor of our new building.

Outreach to the community has always been a central component of the MENA project, and our monthly series at Evanston Public Library was never more vital, from discussions of the crisis in Turkey, predictions for Middle East policy under Trump, and the elections in Iran to Islamophobia in Europe and torture and international law. This well-attended series serves an important function by bringing academic expertise to the public in accessible, clear language.

We also expanded our partnership with Chicago Public Schools and Evanston's schools. Thanks to a grant from QFI, MENA now hosts the Chicago Arabic Teachers' Council, made up of all teachers of Arabic on the K-12 level in the greater Chicagoland area. This represents our commitment to improving language learning across all levels of education and service to the community. You can read more about this project elsewhere in the report. As I write this note, we've just been awarded a second year of funding and we look forward to building further links throughout the city and beyond.

Finally, recognizing that not everyone can get to Evanston for our programs, we launched an online channel called *MENA Dialogues*, available on our website and YouTube. The channel is a way to share the kind of high quality, public scholarship that MENA is known for via the global digital commons. Take a look: there are already four episodes!

As you read this report of highlights from the past year, let me extend a warm welcome to join us during the year to come—we have a great lineup planned. Our commitment to education is matched only by our dedication to dialogue. And at the center of dialogue is bringing people together.

Warm wishes,



BRIAN EDWARDS
Director, MENA Program
Crown Professor in Middle East Studies



OUTREACH & ADVOCACY

MENA CONNECTS ARABIC TEACHERS ACROSS CHICAGO

The MENA program has become the convening body for a vital initiative—the **CHICAGO ARABIC TEACHERS COUNCIL (CATC)**—that connects K-12 and private school Arabic teachers with university-level educators in a collaborative community. MENA was awarded a \$50,000 grant by the **QATAR FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL (QFI)**, a global foundation dedicated to Arabic language and culture education, to lead the council. CATC@MENA, as the council is known, fosters Arabic education across Chicago by providing a forum for teachers to network and share innovative approaches through conferences, professional development workshops, and cultural events.

“As a university program committed both to Arabic language education and public outreach to the Chicago area, MENA is thrilled to have been selected to host the Chicago Arabic Teachers Council,” MENA director and CATC chair Brian Edwards told Northwestern’s Media Relations office.

“Teaching a foreign language like Arabic is a challenging task,” Fadia Antabli, Language Coordinator for the MENA program and co-chair of the CATC Executive Committee, added. “The language itself is complex and not as commonly taught as many other languages. Arabic language educators are often left feeling isolated with limited resources to support their teaching.”

MENA hosted three events over the academic year. In December, a day-long symposium on “Classroom Practices and Teaching Strategies” featured a keynote by prominent language educator Blaine Ray, followed by a workshop on teaching language proficiency through reading and storytelling, and presentations by several Arabic teachers from the Chicago area, covering topics from the use of digital media in the high school classroom to approaches to Arabic in the elementary school setting.

In April, CATC teamed up with the Chicago Language Symposium for a Saturday event, bringing K-12 Arabic teachers together with university-level language educators, along with special sessions specific to Arabic methodologies.

In May, a concluding symposium focused on the theme of “Language and Culture,” with a



Participants in the Chicago Arabic Teachers Council workshop “Classroom Practices and Teaching Strategies” held at Northwestern, December 2016

keynote address by language educator Pablo Muirhead, a poster session by CATC members, and two musical performances that spanned a wide range of Arabic skills. First, music educator and *oud* player Ronnie Malley performed songs from across the Arab world, providing ethnomusicological background and commentary. Then, shifting gears, Syrian-American hip-hop artist Omar Offendum rapped in both Arabic and English and shared reflections on the importance of language to culture. Both concerts had the audience fully engaged.

QFI also supports Arabic Teachers Councils in other cities, such as New York, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and the Detroit metropolitan area. “We look forward to Northwestern University continuing the active teacher participation...with member-driven program activities,” QFI Executive Director Maggie Mitchell Salem told Northwestern’s Media Relations office.

The CATC hopes to draw on and extend the accomplishments of Chicago Public Schools (CPS), which currently provide Arabic instruction to more than 3,000 students in seven elementary schools and four high schools, and the Center for Arabic Language and Culture, which serves K-12 Arabic teachers and students and the Chicago community.



Participants in the Chicago Arabic Teachers Council workshop “Classroom Practices and Teaching Strategies” held at Northwestern, December 2016

QFI renewed its grant to MENA for 2017-2018, with some exciting new elements to the proposal for the second year of leadership. “MENA is thrilled to work with the dedicated and talented teachers from CPS and Chicago’s private and weekend schools to help facilitate the best classroom practices and dynamic new approaches to language instruction,” Edwards commented. “Together we hope to think of Arabic education as reaching from kindergarten through elementary and high school and beyond.”

MAKING THE CASE FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING

MENA director Brian Edwards has become a prominent advocate for the study of foreign languages in the United States.

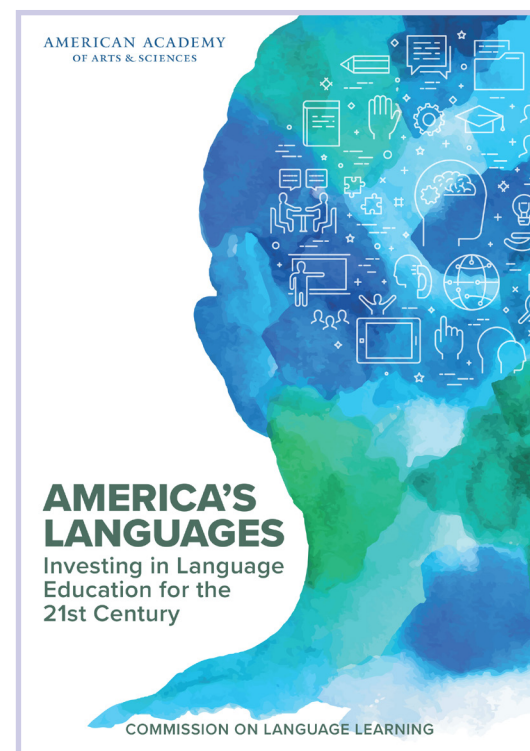
He was one of 18 members of a commission that the American Academy of Arts and Sciences assembled in response to a bipartisan request by Congress to examine the state of foreign language education in the country. In February, the Commission on Language Learning released its report, *America's Languages: Investing in Language Education for the 21st Century*, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. It also held a congressional briefing and meetings with several U.S. senators and members of Congress, which Edwards participated in this winter.

Edwards has since been asked to comment extensively about the report, as its findings circulate. He appeared on the PBS show *Chicago Tonight*, when host Phil Ponce conducted an extended interview with him on Chicago's role in language education. He spoke at the opening session of the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages in April and with Arabic Flagship Students and Faculty at Indiana University's School of Global and International Studies. Edwards was featured in a *Northwestern Now* story which commented, "Professor Brian Edwards is working to improve language learning at all educational levels," and profiled in the *Daily Northwestern* for his work on bringing Arabic language instruction to public schools.

More lectures and events on this theme are planned for the coming year.



Brian Edwards (right) discussing language learning on WTTW's *Chicago Tonight* with host Phil Ponce



ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY AT EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The third year of MENA's popular evening series at Evanston Public Library drew consistently large crowds. **MENA Monday Nights** provides a forum for informed public discussion of the critical issues facing a largely misunderstood part of the world. During 2016-2017, speakers addressed pressing topics.

"Evanston residents are interested in the world, and in exploring and interpreting that world through a wide lens," said Karen Danczak Lyons, director of Evanston Public Library.

"The expertise and quality of Northwestern's MENA faculty and visiting faculty allows us to provide access to renowned academics exploring this region from a great variety of perspectives," she continued.

Here is the lineup we featured during the 2016-2017 academic year:

- **Rami Khouri** of the American University of Beirut (AUB) spoke on ISIS and the future of the Middle East.
- **Amberin Zaman**, a Turkish journalist and fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, spoke on the changing situation in Turkey.
- **Zareena Grewal** of Yale University spoke on the Qur'an and American debates about racial and religious tolerance.
- **Bassam Haddad**, director of the Middle East Studies Program at George Mason University and an editor of *Jadaliyya*, spoke on the Trump administration and US policy in the Middle East.
- **Esra Özyürek** of the London School of Economics and Political Science spoke on Islamophobia and Islamophilia in Europe.
- **Joel Beinin** of Stanford University spoke on labor movements and popular uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt.
- **Lisa Hajjar** of the University of California, Santa Barbara spoke on torture and international law in the age of Trump.
- **Saeid Golkar**, lecturer in MENA, reviewed Iran's May 2017 presidential election.



NEW VIDEO CHANNEL BRINGS PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP INTO FOCUS

In January we launched **MENA Dialogues**, a video series consisting of interviews with leading scholars, artists, and writers. With *MENA Dialogues* we engage our guest speakers and visiting scholars in conversations about their research and explore ideas in a dynamic format. Highlights from the first “season”:

- **MENA director Brian Edwards and Bassam Haddad discuss Middle East studies and public scholarship.**

Haddad is Director of the Middle East and Islamic Studies Program at George Mason University, Executive Director of the Arab Studies Institute, and co-editor of the online magazine *Jadaliyya*.



- **Anthropologist Esra Özyürek on religion, secularism, and nationalism in Turkey and Europe.** Özyürek is Chair of Contemporary Turkish Studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science and the author of *Nostalgia for the Modern: State Secularism and Everyday Politics in Turkey*.



- **Joel Beinin on labor movements in North Africa and the current situation in Egypt.** Beinin is Professor of Middle East History at Stanford University, former president of the Middle East Studies Association, and the author of *Workers and Thieves: Labor Movements and Popular Uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt*.

- **Is Morocco exceptional?** Two of Morocco’s most prominent intellectual figures, the political scientist Abdelhay Moudden and the writer and magazine editor Driss Ksikes, explore recent political history and contemporary society in Morocco in a spirited conversation with MENA director Brian Edwards.

You can find these and future *MENA Dialogues* videos on YouTube at **MENA at Northwestern** and on our website at mena.northwestern.edu/resources.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON MOROCCO

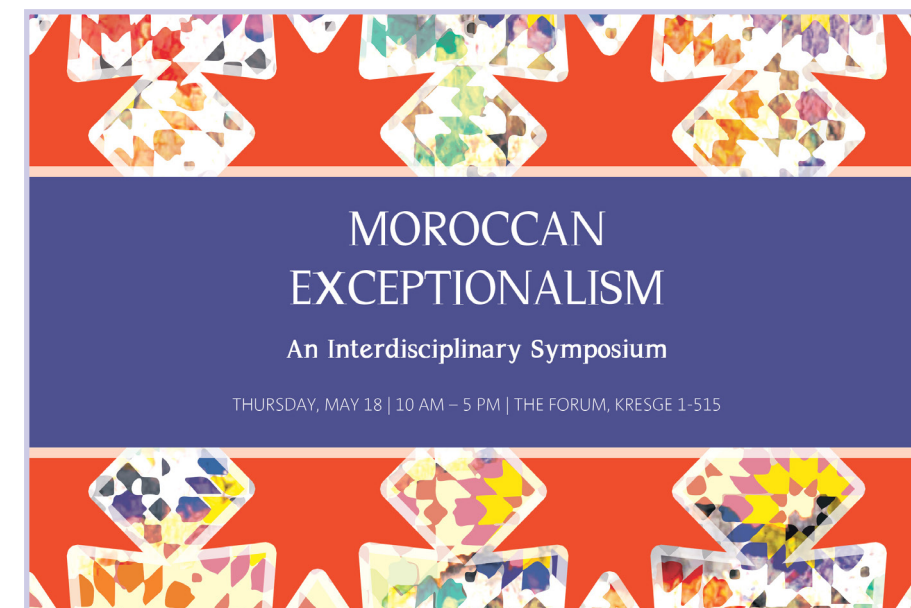
In May, in partnership with the Center for Global Culture and Communication and the Program of African Studies, MENA hosted a daylong symposium exploring the provocative theme of “Moroccan Exceptionalism.”

The event featured some of the leading Morocco scholars in the world: **Abdelhay Moudden** (Professor of Political Science at Mohammed V University in Rabat); **Zakia Salime** (Associate Professor of Sociology and Women’s & Gender Studies at Rutgers University, and the author of *Between Feminism and Islam: Human Rights and Sharia Law in Morocco*); **Katarzyna Pieprzak** (Professor of Francophone Literature at Williams College and the author of *Imagined Museums: Art and Modernity in Morocco*); **Adria Lawrence** (Associate Professor of International Studies and Political Science at Johns Hopkins University); **Omar Berrada** (director of Dar al-Ma’mûn, a library and artists residency in Marrakech); and **Driss Ksikes** (a prominent Moroccan playwright, novelist and journalist who spent the spring as a Visiting Writer-in-Residence at Northwestern).

Lectures addressed topics such as “Is There a Moroccan Exception to the Norm in Politics?” and “Collective Protest and the Institutional Promise of Monarchy,” by the political scientists, to explorations of racial exceptionalism and the disruption that considering gender seriously provides. Discussions of Moroccan media, both traditional

and digital, and the work of contemporary artists rounded out the day, which was attended by Northwestern students and faculty and members of the Evanston and Chicago community.

“The idea,” says MENA director Brian Edwards, “was to bring together leading Morocco scholars, based both in Morocco and outside, from a range of disciplines in the social



sciences and humanities.”

“The guiding question,” Edwards notes, “was whether Morocco can be understood as exceptional vis-à-vis other Arab, African, and Muslim-majority or Mediterranean countries. It was a provocative topic, since the term ‘exceptionalism’ is understood differently in Moroccan versus American contexts—we hoped the provocation would be fruitful.”

The day was full of “fruitful and stimulating conversation,” Edwards observes.

“Some speakers came in expecting to reject the organizing question but found it to be unexpectedly generative.” He continued, “The symposium brought together scholars who don’t normally speak to one another—whether because they work in different disciplines or opposite sides of the ocean. Such encounters inevitably yield insights that a single disciplinary focus wouldn’t.”

The symposium organizers and participants are currently in dialogue about a follow-up event in Morocco, with the expectation that a bi-national publication will result.



Abdelhay Moudden, Professor of Political Science at Mohammed V University in Rabat, poses a question during the symposium



From left to right: George Bajalia, Columbia University graduate student; Matthew Brauer, MENA graduate student; Katarzyna Pieprzak; Abdelhay Moudden; Omar Berrada; Zakia Salime; Brian Edwards; Driss Ksikes

GENERATION 00: RETHINKING THE DECADE LEADING TO THE ARAB UPRISINGS

Were prefigurations of the 2011 uprisings that shook the Arab world visible in the artistic and cultural work produced in the decade before those upheavals?

Over several days in February, MENA explored this intriguing question in a series of dialogues with **Abdellah Karroum**, the director of Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art in Doha, Qatar, and the founder and artistic director of L'appartement 22, an experimental collaborative space for exhibitions and artist residencies in Rabat, Morocco.

Karroum’s research focuses on the years between 1999 and 2011, highlighting a long decade of disruptive artistic initiatives that preceded the political transformations of the Arab Spring. The artists of this “Generation 00” intertwined politics with curatorial and editorial projects, offering new paths for change and citizen-led action.

Karroum got the conversation going with “Generation 00: Artists as Citizens,” a presentation at the Block Museum featuring examples of the work in question. MENA director **Brian Edwards** and **S. Hollis Clayson**, professor of art history and Bergen Evans Professor in the Humanities, then joined Karroum for a conversation about his thesis.

Two days later, MENA faculty members participated in a daylong symposium with Karroum, commenting on his argument with reference to various cities in the MENA region. Film scholar **Hamid Naficy** spoke on Tehran; anthropologist **Jessica Winegar** on Cairo; art historian **Hannah Feldman** on Beirut; communications scholar **Shayna Silverstein** on Damascus, among others. The symposium also



“Generation 00: Artists as Citizens,” a presentation by curator Abdellah Karroum at the Block Museum of Art

featured presentations by MENA doctoral candidate **Emma Chubb** and Edwards. Karroum’s final stop involved a spirited conversation with MENA faculty member Jessica Winegar in our MENA Monday series.

“Abdellah Karroum’s remarkable curatorial work in Morocco and Qatar, at opposite ends of the Arab world, has brought a range of inspiring projects and artists, both from the Middle East and North African regions and beyond, to our attention,” said MENA director Brian Edwards.

Karroum’s visit and the symposium were a project organized by Northwestern’s Block Museum of Art in collaboration with MENA and the Department of Art History. Major financial support was provided by the Buffett Institute for Global Studies and the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities.

“We are enormously excited about this first step in building a collaboration between our institutions,” said Edwards—referring to Mathaf, the Block Museum, and the MENA program—and “the individuals across them who share intellectual and creative interests in 21st-century artistic and cultural production.”



From left to right: Lisa Graziose Corrin, Block Museum Director; Holly Clayson, Art History; Holly Warren, Block Museum; Hamid Naficy, MENA; Emma Chubb, MENA; Abdellah Karroum; Jessica Winegar, MENA; Hannah Feldman, MENA; Brian Edwards; Susy Bielak, Block Museum; after the Generation 00 symposium

MENA HOSTS CELEBRATED MOROCCAN WRITER

MENA partnered with the **Center for the Writing Arts** at Northwestern to host Moroccan playwright, novelist, and magazine editor **Driss Ksikes** as a writer-in-residence for the spring quarter. An internationally recognized playwright, the former editor of the vital Moroccan magazines *TelQuel* and *Nichane*, and the current editor of the Moroccan publication *Economia*, Ksikes has made major contributions to the artistic, political, and intellectual life of Morocco and the Arab world more generally.

During his sojourn at Northwestern, Ksikes engaged in an exciting array of programs, including teaching an undergraduate seminar on North African literature, leading writing workshops, lecturing on Moroccan philosophy, speaking at the symposium on Moroccan exceptionalism, and being interviewed on Chicago Public Radio about his work. MENA also partnered with the Chicago-based theater Silk Road Rising to produce two staged readings of Ksikes’s play *The Match*, one in downtown Chicago and one on the Northwestern campus.

Ksikes is the second writer hosted jointly by MENA and the Center for the Writing Arts. In 2016, **Rabih Alameddine**, the award-winning Lebanese-American novelist, was in residence for the spring quarter. In the fall of 2017, we will host the third writer in this series, the critically acclaimed novelist **Porochista Khakpour**. All writers in the series lead writing workshops for Northwestern students, share their own new work in readings and performances, and lecture in public forums.

“This collaboration between the Center for the Writing Arts and MENA allows us to bring leading writers from the Middle East, North Africa, and writers of the Arab and Iranian diaspora to campus and for our students and community to engage closely with them in a variety of settings and formats,” said MENA director Brian Edwards.

Driss Ksikes

TUESDAY APRIL 18 LECTURE MY JOURNEY TO WRITE A NOVEL ABOUT A/ERROES TODAY 5:30 PM <small>John Evans Center 1800 Sheridan Road</small>	MONDAY MAY 15 MENA MONDAY MOROCCO TODAY: A DISCUSSION WITH ABDELHAY MOULDEN (MOROCCAN POLITICAL SCIENTIST AND WRITER) 12:00 PM <small>Krege Hall 1-515 The Forum</small>	WEDNESDAY MAY 17 READING THE X-XY EQUATION 5:30 PM <small>University Hall 201 Hagstrum Room</small>	THURSDAY MAY 18 PANELIST MOROCCAN EXCEPTIONALISM: AN INTER-DISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM 1000 AM - 600 PM <small>Krege Hall 1-515 The Forum</small>	TUESDAY MAY 30 THEATRE THE MATCH FULL STAGED READING TICKETS REQUIRED <small>SILKROADRISING.ORG</small> 7:30 PM <small>Silk Road Rising, Chicago Temple, 17 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois</small>	WEDNESDAY MAY 31 THEATRE THE MATCH FULL STAGED READING NO TICKETS REQUIRED 7:30 PM <small>Hill and Martha Ryan Walls Theater, MCA Center</small>
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PRESENTED BY THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICAN STUDIES PROGRAM AND THE CENTER FOR THE WRITING ARTS

MAJOR GIFT ENHANCES PROGRAMMING IN IRANIAN CINEMA

In the spring of 2017, MENA was thrilled to accept a major gift from **Tamilla Ghodsi** (WCAS '91) and **Zuleika M. Ghodsi** (WCAS '93) which establishes the **Iranian-American Fund for Cultural Programming**. This \$100,000 gift from the Weinberg alumnae provides funds for MENA to bring Iranian filmmakers, photographers, and other artists to campus for the next five years.

"Iranian cinema is widely acknowledged to be among the greatest in the world," said MENA director Brian Edwards. "It provides a more subtle and nuanced way to understand one of the world's most complex and sophisticated cultures."

Each of the past four years, MENA has hosted film directors and producers from Morocco, Iran, and Turkey, screening their works at Block Cinema and hosting discussions, classroom visits, and post-screening Q&A sessions with the cinematic artists.

"The wonderful generosity of the Ghodsi sisters allows students and members of the Northwestern community to engage directly with major artists from Iran and the Iranian diaspora for years to come," said Edwards.

Plans are underway for the first major program under the new fund, to be held in spring 2018.



In 2015, Iranian director Poursan Derakhshandeh (center) visited from Iran. The new gift allows us to expand this popular series.

PROGRAMMING CALENDAR

FALL 2016

September 26

The Ten Wars in Syria and the Traumas of the Modern Middle East

Rami Khouri, American University of Beirut (AUB)

CO-SPONSORED BY THE MEDILL SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM



October 3

Languages of the Literatures of the Maghreb—A Conversation with Abdelfattah Kilito

CO-SPONSORED BY THE BUFFETT INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL STUDIES, DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN, FRENCH INTERDISCIPLINARY GROUP

October 17

Between June '67 and Global '68: A Shadow History of Civil Rights and Decolonization

Keith Feldman, University of California, Berkeley

CO-SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES & THE PROGRAM IN AMERICAN STUDIES

Zareena Grewal of Yale lecturing on the social life of the Quran as an object in American culture in our MENA Monday series

November 7

A Conversation with Playwright Ayad Akhtar

CO-SPONSORED BY THE ARTS CIRCLE AND THE ALICE KAPLAN INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES

October 7

The Penultimate Voyage: Dante, Sindbad, Ulysses

Abdelfattah Kilito

CO-SPONSORED BY THE BUFFETT INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL STUDIES, DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN, FRENCH INTERDISCIPLINARY GROUP

October 24

Turkish Media and the State

Amberin Zaman, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

CO-SPONSORED BY THE KEYMAN MODERN TURKISH STUDIES PROGRAM

November 17-18

Lucid Figurations: Iranian Movie Poster & Film Art

CO-SPONSORED BY THE BLOCK MUSEUM OF ART & THE BUFFETT INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL STUDIES

October 10

Iranian Cinema, Today and Tomorrow

Mojtaba Mirtahmasb, filmmaker

CO-SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF RADIO/TELEVISION/FILM

October 31

The Re-Creation of Hispano-Eastern Jewish Religious Culture in Israel

Joseph Ringel, Northwestern University

CO-SPONSORED BY THE CROWN FAMILY CENTER FOR JEWISH AND ISRAEL STUDIES

November 21

Translating the Quran to High Art and Pop Art

Zareena Grewal, Yale University

CO-SPONSORED BY THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION

WINTER 2017

January 9

The Middle East and North Africa: 2016 in Review—and What to Look for in 2017

MENA FACULTY MEMBERS WENDY PEARLMAN, JESSICA WINEGAR, AND EMRAH YILDIZ

January 23

Cute Cairo

Adam Talib, American University in Cairo

CO-SPONSORED BY THE GLOBAL HUMANITIES INITIATIVE

January 30

Prospects for US Middle East Policy in the Next Four Years

Bassam Haddad, George Mason University

February 6

Cinematic Activism: Palestine, Queer Politics, and the Case for Film Festivals in Times of Crisis

Umayyah Cable, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Northwestern University

CO-SPONSORED BY THE ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM



Sociologist Lisa Hajjar speaking on the afterlives of torture in our MENA Monday Night series at EPL

February 13

Islamophobia and Islamophilia in Europe: How White Converts to Islam Shape Debates about Race, Immigration, and Religion

Esra Özyürek, London School of Economics (LSE)

CO-SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY, THE GLOBAL POLITICS AND RELIGION RESEARCH GROUP, AND THE KEYMAN MODERN TURKISH STUDIES PROGRAM

February 20

Men of Capital: Scarcity and Economy in Mandate Palestine

Sherene Seikaly, University of California, Santa Barbara

February 27

Generation 00: Cultural Practices before the Middle East Uprisings—A Colloquium with Curator & Museum Director Abdellah Karroum

Speakers: MENA faculty members Hannah Feldman, Hamid Naficy, Jessica Winegar, and Shayna Mei Silverstein

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BLOCK MUSEUM OF ART & THE DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE BUFFETT INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL STUDIES AND THE ALICE KAPLAN INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES

March 6

Debating Da’wa: Theologies of Mediation in the Egyptian Islamic Revival

Yasmin Moll, University of Michigan

SPRING 2017

April 3

Oil and Empire, 1871-1929

Joel Beinin, Stanford University

April 10

Turkish-German Filmmaker Ilker Çatak in Conversation with MENA Faculty Member Emrah Yıldız

CO-SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN, THE KEYMAN MODERN TURKISH STUDIES PROGRAM, THE ALICE KAPLAN INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES, THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMANCE STUDIES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF RADIO/TELEVISION/FILM

April 24

Migration Forms: Contemporary Art in and out of Morocco

Emma Chubb, Northwestern University

May 1

When Abu Salim Went to Africa: Emigrant Anxieties in Lebanese Cinema

Ghenwa Hayek, University of Chicago

May 8

Organic Compound: Zionism & Science in Mandate Palestine

Fredrik Meiton, Northwestern University

May 15

Morocco Today: A Discussion between Driss Ksikes & Abdelhay Moudden

May 18

Moroccan Exceptionalism: An Interdisciplinary Symposium

Speakers: Abdelhay Moudden (Mohammed V University, Rabat), Adria Lawrence (Johns Hopkins University), Katarzyna Pieprzak (Williams College), Omar Berrada (Dar al-Ma’mûn, Marrakech), Zakia Salime (Rutgers University), Driss Ksikes (Writer-in-Residence, Northwestern University)

CO-HOSTED BY THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION & CO-SPONSORED BY THE PROGRAM OF AFRICAN STUDIES

May 22

The Afterlives of Torture: Executive Power versus International Law in the Age of Trump

Lisa Hajjar, University of California, Santa Barbara

June 5

Understanding Iran’s Presidential Election

Saeid Golkar, MENA Program, Northwestern University



Literary scholar Adam Talib of the American University in Cairo taking questions in our MENA Monday series

FACULTY NEWS

BRIAN EDWARDS's book *After the American Century: The Ends of U.S. Culture in the Middle East* came out in paperback in May. The book was reviewed widely by journals in history, political science, Middle East studies, and literature, and in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, and Iran. Arabic and Italian translations are underway. He was interviewed about the book by the *World Policy Journal*, the *New Books in Islamic Studies* podcast, and the online magazine *Jadaliyya*. During 2016-2017, he gave a number of invited lectures, including the James Chace Lecture at Bard's International and Global Affairs Program, the Pittsburgh Humanities Center, Indiana University's School of International and Global Studies, Dartmouth, and a plenary at the "Trump's America" conference at University College Dublin. He also published a book chapter entitled "Arab Spring, American Autumn" in Alex Lubin and Marwan Kraidy (eds.), *American Studies Encounters the Middle East*, and an essay titled "Moving Target: Is 'Homeland' Still Racist?" for the Los Angeles Review of Books. He wrote and narrated a 30-minute podcast called "Baptism of Solitude: Paul Bowles's Morocco Tapes," which was the season premiere of the program *The Organist*, and adopted his *Homeland* piece as an audio essay for KPCC (Southern California Public Radio).

HANNAH FELDMAN was on sabbatical leave in 2016-2017, completing the final year of her Andrew Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowship. As per the fellowship's aim to help newly tenured scholars pursue training in a second field that is necessary to a new research project, she spent the year taking graduate classes in anthropology at the University of Chicago, where she focused on secularity and governmentality in the Middle East and North Africa. She spent the summer 2016 in Beirut, conducting research, cultivating her colloquial Arabic, and developing the groundwork for a future institutional relationship with the Arab Image Foundation. In addition, she traveled to Palestine, Cuba, and London to conduct research related to her new book, which is about temporality, transnational exchange, art, and urban space in contemporary Middle Eastern art and urban design. She also delivered lectures and participated in conferences about Middle Eastern and North African art at Whitechapel Gallery in London, Northwestern University, University of British Columbia, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the College of Art Association Annual Meeting, and the Core Program in Conjunction with Rice University and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. She completed her tenure as a juror for the SSRC Dissertation Fellowship, and continued her work as an advisor to the Museum of Contemporary Art's upcoming exhibition, *In Many Tongues: Art, Revolution, and Language in the Middle East and Southeast Asia*. Invitations to contribute creative work in the form of text based art to two exhibitions, *The New Normal* (Beirut, Istanbul) and *The Dangerous Professors* (Chicago) allowed her to explore her scholarly interests in new contexts.

KATHERINE E. HOFFMAN spent the 2016-2017 academic year on research leave at the Institute for Advanced Study in Lyon.



ELIZABETH SHAKMAN HURD's book *Beyond Religious Freedom: The New Global Politics of Religion* appeared in paperback and was featured in reviews and discussion forums, including the *Times Literary Supplement*, *The Immanent Frame*, *Politics, Religion & Ideology*

and *Syndicate Theology*. She published the article "Narratives of Desecularization in International Relations" in *Intellectual History Review*, the book chapter "Muslims and Others: The Politics of Religion in the Refugee Crisis" in Luca Mavelli and Erin Wilson, eds., *The Refugee Crisis and Religion: Secularism, Security and Hospitality in Question* (Rowman & Littlefield), and "The America-Game" in the "Theologies of American Exceptionalism" series, which she co-edited for *The Immanent Frame*. She wrote articles on the religious politics of the Trump Administration's executive orders on immigration for *Boston Review* and *The Washington Post*. While continuing work on her Luce project "Politics of Religion at Home and Abroad," she received a new grant, with MENA faculty member Brannon Ingram, from the Henry Luce Foundation/American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Program in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs for their project "Talking Religion: Publics, Politics, and the Media."

BRANNON INGRAM had a Faculty Fellowship with the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities to work on a book on the Deoband movement, a major Islamic revivalist movement that originated in colonial South Asia. It is the first study of this movement in a global context. The book manuscript, "Revival From Below: The Deoband Movement and Global Islam," is now under contract with the University of California Press. Along with MENA faculty member Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, he received a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation/American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Program in Religion, Journalism

& International Affairs for their project “Talking Religion: Publics, Politics, and the Media.”

REBECCA JOHNSON published three articles in scholarly publications: “In Translation: Cosmopolitan Reading in the Nahdah,” in *Approaches to Teaching Modern Arabic Literature*, edited by Michelle Hartman (Modern Language Association Press, forthcoming); “Archive of Errors: Aḥmad Fāris al-Shidyāq, Literature, and the World,” *Middle Eastern Literatures* 20, Special Issue: “World Literature” (2017); and “The Already Globalized Eighteenth Century: Lessons from Arab Translators,” *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation*, Volume 58, Number 1, Spring 2017. She also contributed to *The Encyclopedia of Islam*. She gave two invited lectures this year, and continued to teach undergraduate and graduate courses in MENA, English, and the Humanities. Her work on her book manuscript, “Stranger Fictions: Translation and the Novel Origins of Arab Modernity,” continues apace.



MENA faculty member Brannon Ingram with student Zain Mohammad Shaikh at the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities

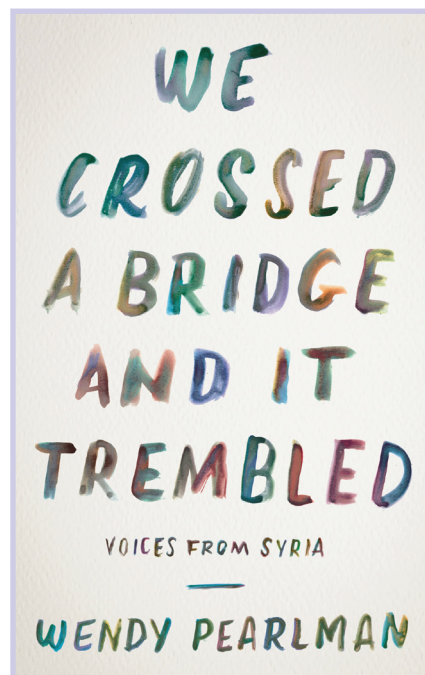
HENRI LAUZIÈRE’s book *The Making of Salafism: Islamic Reform in the Twentieth Century* came out in 2016 with Columbia University Press. Soon after, Henri was awarded tenure. Since then, he has published an article in the German journal *Die Welt des Islams* about the connection between shortwave radio technology and the articulation of “Islamic nationalism” during the 1930s, and a shorter article in French for the Paris-based journal *Moyen-Orient*. He also contributed to the third edition of the *Encyclopedia of Islam* and engaged in a debate about his own work on Salafism, again in the pages of *Die Welt des Islams*. The online magazine *Jadaliyya* published an interview with Henri about his book *The Making of Salafism* for its “New Texts Out Now” section.

HAMID NAFICY published *Iranian Postrevolution Cinema: A Rising Global Cinema*, a booklet based on his keynote talk at the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam,

as well as the book chapters “The Politics and Poetics of Iranian Art-House Cinema,” in Mahmood Monshipouri, ed., *Inside the Islamic Republic Social Change in Post-Khomeini Iran* (Hurst Publishers) and “Lured by the East: Ethnographic and Expedition Films about Nomadic Tribes—The Case of Grass (1924),” in Jonathan Kahana, ed., *The Documentary Film Reader: History, Theory, Criticism* (Oxford University Press). He co-curated (with Michelle Puetz) the poster exhibition “Salaam Cinema! 50 Years of Iranian Movie Posters” at Northwestern’s Block Museum of Art (September 17–December 11) and organized the daylong symposium “Lucid Figurations: Iranian Movie Poster and Film Art,” which featured presentations by international scholars and artists and a tribute to the late Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami. The Persian translation by Mohammad Shahba of Naficy’s book *A Social History of Iranian Cinema: Volume 1: The Artisanal Era, 1897–1941* won the best translation award at the 5th Annual Cinema Book Awards in Tehran.



WENDY PEARLMAN published her third book, *We Crossed a Bridge and It Trembled: Voices from Syria* (HarperCollins, 2017), based on interviews that she conducted with more than 300 displaced Syrians across the Middle East and Europe since 2012. She published three research essays in collections produced by the Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS), including “Vetting Trump’s Vetting of Refugees” (in POMEPS Studies 24: New Challenges to Public and Policy Engagement) and “Culture or Bureaucracy? Challenges in Syrian refugees’ initial incorporation in Germany” (in POMEPS Studies 25: *Refugees and Migration Movements in the Middle East*). She also completed two chapters for edited volumes and had one academic article accepted for publication (with Mert Arslanalp, “Mobilization in Military-Controlled Transitions: Lessons from Turkey, Brazil, and Egypt,” *Comparative Sociology*). She spent the summers of 2016 and 2017 doing field



research on Syrian refugees in Germany as an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation fellow. The Syrian Studies Association awarded its 2016 Prize for Outstanding Article on Syria to Wendy for her article “Narratives of Fear in Syria,” *Perspectives on Politics* 14.1 (March 2016).

CARL PETRY chaired a panel at the annual Mamluk Studies conference convened at the University of Chicago on the theme “Exchange in the Mamluk Sultanate, Economic and Cultural.” At the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) in Boston, he was poignantly reminded of his time in the field when the association contacted him as an “original member” (someone who joined at the outset, 50 years ago). The original members were interviewed individually to share their recollections about the state of the field then and now, and to reminisce as a group during a session, “Reflections of the First Generation at MESA.” He presented a lecture on “Ancient Egypt in the medieval Egyptian imagination: debates over national consciousness in a pre-national age” at the Chicago chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE). He contributed the article “Egypt up to the Ottoman period, 640-1517 C.E.” to the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, third edition (Brill Reference).

JESSICA WINEGAR taught a new class called “Protest and Popular Culture in the Middle East,” which focused on protest chants, poetry, music, television, and social media to provide new understandings of the 2011 uprisings in the region. She also published parts of her next book project on aesthetics and politics in Egypt. A piece called “A Civilized Revolution: Aesthetics and Political Action in Egypt,” which examines acts of what she calls “aesthetic ordering” in civic action during and immediately after the 2011 uprisings, appeared



in *American Ethnologist*. She also published “Islam at the Art School: Religious Young Artists in Egypt” in the new volume *Islam and Popular Culture*, edited by Karin van Nieuwkerk, Mark Levine, and Martin Stokes. Another piece entitled “Middle East Politics in US Academia: The Case of Anthropology,” co-authored with Lara Deeb, appeared in *Comparative Studies in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*. Winegar also continued her work as chair of the editorial committee of *Middle East Report* and served on the committees of six Northwestern graduate students working in MENA.

EMRAH YILDIZ received a Crown Family Middle East Faculty Research Award from the Buffett Institute for Global Studies to continue archival research in Beirut for his book manuscript “The Ways of Zaynab: Genealogical Geographies and Arrested Mobilities between Syria and Iran.” He gave several lectures and participated in several workshops including: “Fugitive Coordinates of Territory: The Turkey/Syria Border as a Palimpsest of Sovereignty” at Yale University; “Golden Shoes, Tobacco Seats: Sanctions and Transactions across the Iran/Turkey Border” at Stanford University; and “Rerouted Displacements: Visitations and Valuations along the Ways of Zaynab” at Brown University. He delivered the paper “Arrested Mobilities: Tracking Circuits, Circulators and Circulations of Contraband as a Method of the Field” at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Minneapolis.



İPEK K. YOSMAOĞLU was on academic leave at the University of Graz in Austria as a Lise Meitner fellow. Over the summer she did research at the Zionist Archives in Jerusalem for her new project on Turkish Jews in the interwar period. She continued her research at the French Consular Archives in Nantes in November and December 2016. She organized and spoke at a roundtable discussion on “minority regimes in Turkey” at the Annual MESA meeting in Boston.

MENA FACULTY IN THE MEDIA

In addition to their scholarly output, MENA faculty members made their presence felt in the wider cultural conversation this year—giving radio and TV interviews, recording podcasts, and publishing essays and commentaries in a variety of media outlets. Given the prominence of the Middle East in the news—from the U.S. presidential election and its implications for Middle East policy, to the debate over immigration bans, to the ongoing crisis in Syria, and the presidential election in Iran—MENA faculty expertise and commentary were vital.

ELIZABETH SHAKMAN HURD published an article titled “The Myth of the Muslim Country” in *Boston Review* and another titled “Trump’s immigration order means bureaucrats have to decide who’s a ‘real’ Christian” online at the *Washington Post*.



HAMID NAFICY was interviewed by *The Atlantic* magazine about the cultural and geopolitical context of Iranian director Asghar Farhadi’s decision to boycott the Oscars (where his film *The Salesman* won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film), for the article “Nominated for an Oscar, Barred From America.”

HENRI LAUZIÈRE was interviewed for the online magazine *Jadaliyya* about his book *The Making of Salafism: Islamic Reform in the Twentieth Century*.

MENA Lecturer **SAEID GOLKAR**, an expert on Iranian politics, was a prominent voice in local, national, and international media this year. He was interviewed on the local PBS program *Chicago Tonight* about US policy in the Middle East. In the spring, during Iran’s presidential campaign, he published an op-ed at Al Jazeera English about what was at stake in Iran’s presidential election and another op-ed on *RealClearWorld.com* about the prospects of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani winning re-election. The Chicago Council on Global



Saeid Golkar (center) and University of Chicago professor John Mearsheimer discuss US policy toward the Middle East on *Chicago Tonight*

Affairs interviewed Golkar twice for its *Deep Dish* podcast—about the death of former Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and about Iran’s presidential election, which he argued was “the most important election in the history of the Islamic Republic.”



Left to right: *Worldview* host Jerome McDonnell, contributor Narimon Safavi, Driss Ksikes, and Brian Edwards at WBEZ studios

MENA director **BRIAN EDWARDS** had a busy year commenting on the intersection of culture and politics in the MENA region. In the winter, he recorded a podcast titled “Baptism of Solitude: Paul Bowles’s Morocco Tapes” for *The Organist*, an arts-and-culture program produced by KCRW radio in Los Angeles and *McSweeney’s*, and wrote an online introduction for the podcast titled “Lose yourself in Paul Bowles’s 1959 Morocco tapes.” (The re-release of Bowles’s field recordings was a finalist for a Grammy this year.) He was interviewed twice on *Worldview*, Chicago Public Radio’s global affairs program—first, for a segment on “The Artist’s Role In The Arab Spring,” which previewed the event

Generation 00: Cultural Practices before the Middle East Uprisings (which MENA co-sponsored with the Block Museum of Art) and later in the spring for a segment on Morocco and the work of playwright Driss Ksikes.

Edwards was interviewed several times—for print, online, and audio podcast—about his 2016 book *After the American Century: The Ends of U.S. Culture in the Middle East*. In the spring, he reviewed the sixth season of Showtime’s controversial series *Homeland* in an essay in the *Los Angeles Review of Books* titled “Moving Target: Is Homeland Still Racist?” He recorded a short version of the essay as a radio commentary for the Southern California public radio show *The Frame*.

WENDY PEARLMAN published an article titled “I interviewed 300 Syrian refugees—they are far from a security threat” online at the *Washington Post* and gave an interview to *Truthout* titled “Donald Trump’s Slander Against Syrian Refugees.” Her book *We Crossed a Bridge and it Trembled: Voices from Syria* has made a huge splash since its publication this June. *Harper’s*, *VICE* and *Words Without Borders* published excerpts from the book. It was featured on the cover of the *New York Times Book Review*, whose reviewer called it “essential reading in the emerging body of literary reportage from Syria in English,” and the *Times* included it in its “9 New Books We Recommend This Week.” It received a glowing review in *The Guardian* and made *ELLE*’s list of “The 24 Best Books to Read This Summer.” Pearlman has been interviewed about the book by the *Chicago Review of Books*, Pacifica radio, and several other media outlets.



STUDENTS

MENA STUDENTS MAKE WAVES

The 2016–2017 academic year was a fruitful one for MENA students! Several—both undergraduate and graduate students—received grants, garnered awards, and published their work. Some highlights:

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

- **Ameer Al-Khudari** received Departmental Honors in Middle East and North African Studies for his thesis, “Dramas of the Diaspora: Satire, Subversion and Syria Online.”
- **Molly Benedict** won the 2017 Betty Jo Teeter Dobbs Prize for outstanding senior thesis written in the Gender & Sexuality Studies Program for her thesis on “The Formation of Gay Identities in Amman.”
- **Alex Lederman** and **Colleen Cassingham** directed a short documentary film, *From Damascus to Chicago*, which was published on the website of *The Atlantic* magazine and aired on the acclaimed PBS program *POV*. It is available online at theatlantic.com.
- **Forrest Palamountain** was awarded a 2017 David L. Boren Scholarship by the Institute of International Education. He was also elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Society.



From the documentary *From Damascus to Chicago*, directed by MENA students Alex Lederman and Colleen Cassingham.

GRADUATES STUDENTS

- **Rana Khoury** was awarded a pre-doctoral fellowship from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, a Bucerius Fieldwork Grant from the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius Foundation, and had two articles published (with the Project on Middle East Political Science and *Lapham's Quarterly*).
- **Aydin Özipek** won a Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant.
- **Rory Sykes** won an International Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council and a Mellon Fellowship for Dissertation Research in Original Sources from the Council on Library and Information Resources.
- **Leila Tayeb** won a CASA Fellowship from the Center for Arabic Study Abroad at Harvard University and a fellowship from the U.S. Department of Education's Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) program.



MENA graduate student Rana Khoury in northwest Jordan (Umm Qais), November 2016. Rana's dissertation is on the Syrian civil war.

MENA STUDENT WINS FULBRIGHT



MENA senior **Irene Jiang** was awarded a prestigious Fulbright student grant to Morocco, which she will use to make a documentary film during 2017–18.

Jiang graduated in the spring of 2017 with a double major in MENA and Radio/Television/Film. Her Fulbright allows her to return to Morocco, where she spent the fall of 2015 on a study abroad program, studying at the acclaimed Center for Cross-Cultural Learning in Rabat. There, Jiang took courses on Moroccan society, pursued training in advanced Arabic, and had the opportunity to do independent field research.

This experience inspired her Fulbright project: a documentary film about Théâtre Nomade, a traveling circus based in Casablanca that incorporates youth from diverse and often marginalized backgrounds into an artistic community.

“My film will explore how these youth form identities and claim creative agency through the circus arts,” Jiang explained.

MENA director Brian Edwards called Jiang's proposed project “compelling and sophisticated.”

Edwards was one of Jiang's recommenders for the Fulbright. He also was her advisor for the major and teacher in a seminar on the film and literature of contemporary North Africa and the Middle East.

“Irene Jiang models the best of the new generation of student-scholars who have come to dedicate themselves to learning about Morocco,” Edwards said. “Not only is she committed to learning about Morocco, but she is committed to learning from Moroccans and finding ways to communicate that understanding,” he continued.

Jiang credits her time in the MENA program.

“I am forever grateful to MENA for the worldview-changing classes I had the opportunity to take and the inspiring and invested mentors that shaped me into the scholar and artist I am today,” she said.

“My decision to major in MENA was one of the best I've ever made,” she reflects. “I could not have gotten here without the incredible atmosphere of intellectual curiosity fostered by the program.”

Edwards looks forward to seeing the results of Jiang's work in Morocco. “Irene's film has the potential to bridge the gap between the stories that are told about Morocco and those that Moroccans might tell about themselves,” he said.



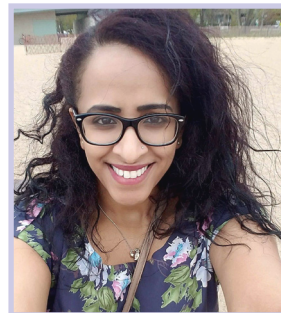
STAFF

MENA TEAM EXPANSION

In the fall, we welcomed two new members to our staff: **Danny Postel** joined us as Assistant Director (a newly created position), and **Iman Nasser** joined as Program Assistant 4. **Lexy Gore** remains with us as a program assistant; her duties now shift to focus on events and communication. Our administrative capacity has grown considerably with these additions to the MENA team.



Danny Postel
Assistant Director



Iman Nasser
Program Assistant



Lexy Gore
Program Assistant

Iman came to us by way of Northwestern's McCormick School of Engineering, where she was a graduate program coordinator for the Chemical and Biological Engineering Department. Fluent in Arabic and a frequent traveler to the MENA region, Iman has worked for nonprofit and corporate organizations in Yemen, Jordan and Qatar. She is currently working on a graduate degree in higher education administration and policy at Northwestern with a particular interest in diversity and multicultural affairs, specifically Arab-American identity.

Danny came to MENA from the University of Denver, where he was Associate Director of the Center for Middle East Studies at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies. Previously he was a staff writer for The Chronicle of Higher Education in Washington and Senior Editor of *openDemocracy* magazine in London. He taught journalism at Columbia College Chicago and Spanish at the elementary level. He also worked in the nonprofit world as Communications Coordinator for the organization Interfaith Worker Justice.

Iman manages MENA's operations and budget and works closely with our Language Coordinator, **Fadia Antabli**, on the Chicago Arabic Teachers Council (see story elsewhere in this report).

Danny works on MENA's public outreach and community engagement efforts. He manages our growing web and social media presence, and oversees new projects and initiatives to develop our national profile, such as the MENA Dialogues video channel, which launched in January and features interviews with leading scholars, writers, and experts in Middle East studies.

2016-17 PROGRAM ROSTER

FACULTY

Core Faculty

BRIAN EDWARDS
Crown Professor in Middle East Studies, Professor of English and Comparative Literary Studies

HANNAH FELDMAN
Associate Professor of Art History

KATHERINE E. HOFFMAN
Associate Professor of Anthropology

ELIZABETH SHAKMAN HURD
Professor of Political Science

BRANNON INGRAM
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

REBECCA JOHNSON
Crown Junior Chair in Middle East Studies, Assistant Professor of English and the Humanities

HENRI LAUZIÈRE
Associate Professor of History

HAMID NAFICY
Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani Professor in Communication, Professor of Radio/Television/Film

WENDY PEARLMAN
Martin and Patricia Koldyke Outstanding Teaching Associate Professor of Political Science

CARL PETRY
Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani Chair in Middle East Studies, Professor of History

JESSICA WINEGAR
Harold H. and Virginia Anderson Chair, Associate Professor of Anthropology

EMRAH YILDIZ
Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Middle East and North African Studies

İPEK YOSMAOĞLU
Associate Professor of History

Visiting Faculty

UMAYYAH CABLE
Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Asian American Studies and Middle East and North African Studies

SAEID GOLKAR
Lecturer

Language Instructors

AMJAD AL-DAJANI
Lecturer, Arabic

FADIA ANTABLI
Assistant Professor of Instruction, Arabic; MENA Language Coordinator

ASMA BEN ROMDHANE
Assistant Professor of Instruction, Arabic

FATIMA KHAN
Assistant Professor of Instruction, Arabic

RAGY MIKHAEEL
Assistant Professor of Instruction, Arabic

AUSTIN O'MALLEY
Lecturer, Persian

OYA TOPÇUOĞLU
Lecturer, Turkish

ERAN TZELGOV
Lecturer, Hebrew; Middle East and North African Studies, Jewish Studies

Affiliated Faculty - Evanston

AYÇA ALEMDAROĞLU
Associate Director of the Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program, Lecturer in Sociology and Middle East and North African Studies

MIRA BALBERG
Associate Professor of Religious Studies

ANN GUNTER
Professor of Art History, Bertha and Max Dressler Professor in the Humanities

RAJEEV KINRA
Associate Professor of History

INNA NARODITSKAYA
Professor of Ethnomusicology

NASRIN QADER
Associate Professor of French

ELIE REKHESS
Crown Visiting Professor in Israel Studies, Associate Director for Israel Studies, Visiting Professor of History

SHAYNA SILVERSTEIN
Assistant Professor of Performance Studies

2016-17 PROGRAM ROSTER

Affiliated Faculty – Qatar
(NU-Q)

- KAVEH ASKARI
Associate Professor in Residence,
Communication Program

SAMI HERMEZ
Assistant Professor in Residence,
Liberal Arts Program

KHALED AL-HROUB
Professor in Residence, Liberal
Arts Program

JOE KHALIL
Associate Professor in Residence,
Communication Program

JOCELYN MITCHELL
Assistant Professor in Residence,
Liberal Arts Program

ZACHARY WRIGHT
Associate Professor in Residence,
Liberal Arts Program

STAFF

- LEXY GORE
Program Assistant, Events and
Communication

IMAN NASSER
Program Assistant

DANNY POSTEL
Assistant Director

GRADUATE STUDENTS

- SAFA AL-SAEEDI
Political Science

SALMA AL-SHAMI
Political Science

LAILA BALLOUT
History

TAREK BENCHOUIA
Performance Studies

MATTHEW BENT
Theatre

KARIMA BORNI
Anthropology

MAGDA BOUTROS
Sociology

MATTHEW BRAUER
French & Francophone Studies

ARIF SAMET CAMOGLU
English

EMMA CHUBB
Art History

ELIZABETH DERDERIAN
Anthropology

GÖZDE ERDENIZ
Political Science

CEDYA ERTEN
Political Science

FOROOGH FARHANG
Anthropology

MAZIYAR FARIDI
Comparative Literary Studies

ALEX HOBSON
History
- RANA KHOURY
Political Science

SEAN LEE
Political Science

NORAN MOHAMED
French and Italian

TAYMAZ POUR MOHAMMAD
Comparative Literary Studies

MARJAN MOHAMMADI
Comparative Literary Studies

MONA ORABY
Political Science

AYDIN ÖZİPEK
Anthropology

NAZLI ÖZKAN
Anthropology

JAMES MICHAEL PROSZEK
Rhetoric and Public Culture

AZADEH SAFAEIAN
Comparative Literary Studies

RORY SYKES
Art History

LEILA TAYEB
Performance Studies

KEEGAN TEREK
Anthropology

COLLABORATIONS

- AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES DEPARTMENT

ALICE KAPLAN INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES

AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

BLOCK MUSEUM OF ART

BUFFETT INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL STUDIES

CENTER FOR GLOBAL CULTURE AND
COMMUNICATION

CROWN FAMILY CENTER FOR JEWISH AND
ISRAEL STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY
- DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN

DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN

DEPARTMENT OF RADIO/TELEVISION/FILM

FRENCH INTERDISCIPLINARY GROUP

GLOBAL HUMANITIES INITIATIVE

GLOBAL POLITICS AND RELIGION RESEARCH
GROUP

KEYMAN MODERN TURKISH STUDIES PROGRAM

MEDILL SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMANCE STUDIES

PROGRAM OF AFRICAN STUDIES

COVER IMAGE



The cover image featured in this year’s annual report is by YORIYAS YASSINE ALAOUI ISMAILI from his series *Casablanca Not the Movie*, “an insider’s look at the vibrant reality of Morocco’s biggest city, focusing on the strange and exciting mix of contrasts that mark the metropolis’ daily life.” Reprinted with permission of the photographer, copyright 2015.



Northwestern

WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

**Program in Middle East
and North African Studies**