



THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ISLAMIC STUDIES  
GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

MAY 20-22, 2016

McCUNE CONFERENCE ROOM

6<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR HSSB

# IDENTITY, MEMORY, & DIASPORA

With the generous support of: the Center for Middle East Studies; College of Letters and Science; Graduate Division; Office of Diversity, Equity and Academic Policy; King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud Chair; Associated Students; Departments of History; Political Science; Religious Studies; Global Studies; Women, Gender and Sexual Equity; Sociology; Mellichamp Chair in Global Religion and Modernity

❖ **Friday, May 20th**

**Opening Reception 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM**

**Opening Statements 3:00 PM - 3:15 PM, Adam Sabra (UCSB, History)**

❖ **Panel 1 3:15 PM - 4:45 PM**

**Cultural Practices in the Preservation of Islamic Identities (Moderator: Laila Shereen Sakr, Film & Media Studies)**

Esra Tunc, Religious Studies, New York University

"Representation of Islam in Religious Education Textbooks in England"

Saqib Usman, Anthropology, University of Michigan

"American Qur'an Memory: Formations of Community, Identity, and Authority"

Najwa Mayer, American Studies, Yale University

"Taqwacore: The Racial and Gendered Excesses/Limits of Muslim Punk"

**Coffee Break 4:45 PM – 5:00 PM**

❖ **Keynote Presentation: Dr. Sherman A. Jackson (University of Southern California) 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

**Barbeque Dinner for all participants at Goleta Beach 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM**

❖ **Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Breakfast and Coffee 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM**

❖ **Panel 2 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM**

**Diaspora Identities in the Public and Private Spheres (Moderator: Kathleen Moore, Religious Studies)**

Hassanah El-Yacoubi, Religious Studies, UC Riverside

"Muslim Women and the Plurality of Identity Constructs"

Ahmad Eric Ferguson, Educational Policy Studies, Georgia State University

"Islamic African and African Diasporic Connections: The Development of the African-American Islamic Institute"

Collin Veeranandal-Sibley, Religious Studies, UC Santa Barbara

"Identity and Protest: Situating the Meenakshipuram Mass Conversions"

Amina Qotba, The University of Edinburgh (Scotland)

"Caught between Two Worlds: Reflections on Identity in Iran"

**Coffee Break 10:30 AM - 10:45 AM**



❖ **Panel 3 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM**

**Diaspora Groups in Colonial Contexts (Moderator: Sherene Seikaly, History)**

Ashish Koul, History, Vanderbilt University

"Reviving Arab-ness in British India: Arain Identity in Colonial Punjab, 1890s-1910s"

Alexandra Magearu, Comparative Literature, UC Santa Barbara

"Islam, Cultural Translation and Embodied Reorientation in Leila Aboulela's *The Translator*"

Patrick J. Adamiak, History of the Modern Middle East, UC San Diego

"Ottoman Refugee Settlement in Southern Syria, 1878-1914"

❖ **Lunch 12:15 PM - 1:15 PM**

❖ **Panel 4 1:15 PM - 2:45 PM**

**Identity, Memory, and Diaspora Theorized (Moderator: Adam Sabra, History)**

Muhammad Ashraf, Islamic Studies, Markaz University (India)

"Islamic Philosophy and Ethics in Central Asia and the Making of Eastern Identity in the Modern World: Precepts and Practices"

Shyam Sriram, Political Science, UC Santa Barbara

"A Foucauldian Theory of American Islamophobia"

Gulin Cetin, Comparative Literature, UC Riverside

"From the Mountains of the Black Sea to Salonika: Overlapping Memories in the *Waiting for the Clouds*"

❖ **Museum Visit 2:45 PM – 3:45 PM**

This exhibit includes a selection of portable objects and works on paper in the Islamic Art Collection at the AD&A Museum at UCSB. Most of the objects are from Iran and date from the Seljuq period to the 19th century. **Organizers:** Alex Schultz, Susan Lucke, and the *Art, Design and Architecture Museum* at UCSB.

**Coffee Break 3:45 PM -4:00 PM**

❖ **Panel 5 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM**

**Memory and Erasure in Nation-state Formation (Moderator: Salim Yaqub, History)**

Shaherzad Rashin Ahmadi, History, University of Texas

"Migration and Expulsion: The Story of Iraq's Persians"

Edward Falk, History, UC San Diego

"Contesting Bilad ash-Sham: Druze, Muslims, and Christians in the Mahjar during the First World War"

Harun Buljina, History, Columbia University

"'Their Fate is Tied to Sorrow and Eternally Unforgettable': Muslim Migration, Nation-Building, and the Resilience of the Local in the Post-Ottoman Balkans"

❖ **UCSB Middle East Ensemble 7:30 PM**

Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall, UCSB. Non-UCSB Students: \$10; UCSB students: \$5

❖ **Sunday, May 22**

**Breakfast and Coffee 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM**

❖ **Panel 6 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM**

**Diasporic Identities in the West (Moderator: Munther Al-Sabbagh, History PhD Candidate, UCSB)**

Najah Pena, Comparative Literature, UC Riverside

"Diaspora Politics in Al-Tahtawi's *Takhliss* and the Discourse of Modernity"

Shahab Malik, Anthropology, UC Riverside

"American Imams: Renegotiating Shari'a in Southern California"

Mohamad Jarada, Philosophy of Religion, Harvard University

"Muslims *and* America: Redemption against Images of a Past"

**Coffee Break 10:30 AM – 10:45 AM**

❖ **Panel 7 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM**

**Visions of Tradition (Moderator: Eric Massie, History PhD Candidate, UCSB)**

Mehmet Davut Costu, Sociology, University of Houston Clear Lake

"The Nation of Islam Today: Reunification and Expansion Attempts in Houston and San Antonio"

Shehnaz Haqqani, Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin

"Constructions of an 'Islamic Tradition' and Islamic Feminism in the Western Muslim Diaspora"

Ameer Muhammad, Religious Studies, Georgia State University

"The After Malcolm Project"

❖ **Closing Remarks 12:15 PM – 12:30 PM, Dr. Kathie Moore (UCSB, Religious Studies)**

**Maps and Directions**

