

Cambridge Graduate Middle East Conference 2019: Languages of Legitimation in the Middle East

Conference Programme

Co-organised by Cora Kyler, Will Ryle-Hodges, Chris Cooper-Davies & Calum Humphreys

Thursday 6th June 2019 at K C Shasha Conference Suite, Woolf Institute

14:30 Registration

14:50 Opening Remarks

15:00 – 16:45: Panel 1: Literatures and Politics

Chair: Dr Nathaniel Miller (University of Cambridge, FAMES)

Suja Sawafta (University of Oxford): A Novel for the People: The use of “middle language” in the works of Abdulrahman Munif

Gaston Arze (University of Virginia): Myth-making and the Historical Imagination: Investigating Pidal’s Literary and Historiographical Interpretations of Islamic Iberia

Ummugulsum Kurukol (SOAS): *Rihla*: Interpreting the Islamic city through Muslim Travellers by revisiting the meaning of travel from the medieval period to early modern times.

Ilma Bogdan (University of Cambridge, Divinity): Qur’anic ‘Literalism’: Theological Hermeneutics of Legitimation

16:45 – 17:00 Refreshment Break

17:00 Keynote Address

Dr Yossi Rapoport (Queen Mary): Tribalisation, Conversion and Tribal Genealogy as a ‘Language of Legitimation’ in the Egyptian Countryside

19:00 Conference Dinner

Friday 7th June 2019 at K C Shasha Conference Suite, Woolf Institute

9:15 Reconvene

09:30 – 11:15 Panel 2 Establishing Authority and Governance

Chair: Dr Burcu Ozcelik (University of Cambridge, POLIS)

Andreas Nabil Younan (University of Copenhagen): The Battle of the Grand Imam and the President: The Right to Islamic Legitimacy in Contemporary Egypt

Leone Pecorini Goodall (University of Edinburgh): A blueprint for Caliphal succession: the *sā'ifa* of Harūn al-Rashīd and the value of the peripheral arena

Melissa Gatter (University of Cambridge, FAMES): A Humanitarian Bureaucracy: Authority and legitimacy in Azraq refugee camp, Jordan

Tayebe Naderabadi (Universität Heidelberg / Università Ca' Foscari Venezia): Inscribing 'the Revolution' on the Body of Tehran: Historical Fragments from the 1979 Revolution

11:15 – 11:30 Refreshment Break

11:30 – 13:15 Panel 3: Questioning Law

Chair: Dr Rodrigo Garcia-Velasco (University of Cambridge, History)

Yunlong Jia (University of Sussex): Contextualising (il)licitness: trading garments between Iran and Turkey

Dr Amenah Abdulkarim (Kuwait University): Legitimacy of Expert *Muhandis* in the late 9th/15th Century Cairo

Ruhollah Nasrollahi (University of Oxford): The legitimization of the change and transformation of the waqf properties by the Shiite 'ulama in Iran in Qajar period

Arafat A. Razzaque (University of Cambridge, CIS): 'Adālah, or What's Wrong with Weavers? The Social Logic of Trust and Scholarly Propriety in the Medieval Middle East

13:15 – 14:15 Lunch at Westminster College

14:15 – 16:00 Panel 4: Boundaries of Belonging

Chair: Dr Naures Atto (University of Cambridge, FAMES)

Neelam Khoja: Genealogical Affiliations: Afghans in 18th century Iran and Hindustan (Harvard University)

Ula Zeir (University of Edinburgh): The Relation between the Ismailis of Salamiyya and their Neighbouring Tribes in 19th Century Ottoman Syria: Speaking the Neighbour's Language

Ivana Cosmano (University of Leeds): The relation between socio-political identity and gendered features of spoken language emerging from the (re)definition of masculinity and femininity notions among the Jordanian educated youth

May Tamimova (University of Oxford): The Social Life of Islamism: the case of returning Lebanese fighters to their communities in Tripoli

16:00 – 16:15 Refreshment Break

16:15 – 18:00 Panel 5: Language and Power

Chair: Dr Banu Turnaoğlu (University of Cambridge, POLIS)

Kaoutar Ghilani (University of Oxford): Languages Standing for 'Justice': Approaching 'the Legitimate' Through Discourses on Language after 2011 in Morocco

Yousr Elsharaway (University of Guelph): Contentious Narratives & Negotiating a Revolution: The Case of Egypt

Andrew Hammond (University of Oxford): Contesting Legitimacy: Zahid al-Kawthari's semantic war with emerging Salafism

Colinda Linderman (Freie Universität Berlin): Arabic lexicography in a competitive context: Discussing language deviation in the Ottoman empire

18:00 Closing Remarks