MESP Fall 2013 Events part 2

Middle East Studies Program | GMU

Sex, Secularism and Sectarianism: The Legal Architecture of Citizenship in Lebanon

Maya Mikdashi

Thursday, November 14, 12:00 PM
Mason Hall, Edwin Meese Room

co-sponsored with Center for Global Islamic Studies (CGIS), and the Arab Studies Institute (ASI)

This lecture will critically examine the legal architecture of Lebanese citizenship through the practice of strategic conversion, or religious conversion undertaken in order to make use of different aspects of the legal system. Mikdashi illustrates the process of strategic conversion by comparing it to that of correcting one's sex in the census registry, an act that also changes the network of laws that applies to a citizen.

Syria Crisis (Part 2): Causes and Dynamics

Bassam Haddad

Thursday, November 14,
4:30 PM, JC, ROOM A

co-sponsored with Department of Public and International Affairs, and Graduate Political Science Society

All the other Arab uprisings are complex, but the Syrian case is endowed with added complexity because it is at the heart of various historical struggles in the region and beyond. As such, the Syrian uprising becomes a local, regional, and an international affair. The speaker will address the causes and dynamics of the Syrian uprising by examining state and society, the domestic and external opposition, the Islamicization of major parts of the opposition, the humanitarian/refugee crisis, and the international context.

"The Battle of Algiers"

Film Screening

Tuesday, November 19
7:15 pm, JC Room A

co-sponsored with Middle East Etc. Film Club

Driven by powerful performances, ***The Battle of Algiers*** is a complex, award-winning landmark in film history that was initially banned by the French government for its exploration of the Algerian struggle to gain independence from French Colonialism.

"What Then?" Palestinian Hip Hop, the Youth Movement, and the Decolonial Present

Sunaina Maira

Tuesday, November 19, 3:00 PM
Johnson Center, ROOM A

co-sponsored with Center for Global Islamic Studies (CGIS), and the Arab Studies Institute (ASI)

This talk draws on the research for a new book, "Jil Oslo: Palestinian Hip Hop, Youth Culture, and the Youth Movement," by Sunaina Maira. Based on ethnographic research in Palestine, primarily during the Arab revolutions, the book explores the intersections between new youth cultures and protest politics among Palestinian youth in the West Bank and Israel. It focuses on Palestinian hip hop and the youth movement that emerged in 2011 as two overlapping sites where new cultural and political imaginaries are being produced in the Oslo generation. Challenging the boundaries of the Oslo framework of national politics and cultural expression, these young artists and activists are rethinking and reviving the possibility of a decolonial present.

Classified Memories: Trying To Try Terror Suspects Who Were Tortured by the CIA

Lisa Hajjar

Wednesday, November 20, 3:00 PM
Johnson Center, ROOM A

co-sponsored with Center for Global Islamic Studies (CGIS), Global Interdisciplinary Programs, and the Arab Studies Institute

Two high-profile cases being prosecuted in the military commissions at Guantanamo raise exceptionally challenging problems for the US government and the civilian and military lawyers defending the suspects. One case involves five people, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who are accused of responsibility for the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The second case is against Abdul Rahim al-Nashiri, who is accused of participating in the bombing of the USS Cole off the coast of Yemen in 2000. All six men were held for years in CIA black sites and subjected to the harshest interrogation tactics authorized by the Bush administration. One of the most confounding issues in these trials is whether the government can classify the defendants' own memories of their treatment at the hands of the CIA. Probing into this issue as it is playing out in the commissions is a means of analyzing the relationship and contradictions among three larger issues--torture, secrecy, and governmental unaccountability --and the looming question of what "justice" can mean under these circumstances.

Area Studies & Political Science: Tension, Integration, & Prospects

Jo-Marie Burt, Eric McGlinchey, Ming Wan, Bassam Haddad, David Wilsford

Thursday, November 21, 2:45 PM
Johnson Center (JC), ROOM C

co-sponsored with Center for Global Studies, CGIS, and ASI

For too long there has been some tension between area studies and the discipline of political science. This panel includes five scholars of comparative politics and political science, addressing areas studies in Latin America, Central Asia, Middle East, and East Asia. The panelists will address issues including "the ghettoization of area studies, the tension between methods used/favored in both realms, the question of publications (peer-reviewed journals) and bias, the history and development of area studies, and future prospects for the troubled relationship. The reasons for the troubled relationship are many but not always compelling. Join us!

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