The Islamic Studies Program at Indiana University

presents

Mapping the Landscapes of Islamic Studies at IU – A Biennial Conference

Saturday, October 15, 2016

Keynote address by **Chase F. Robinson**
Distinguished Professor of History and President,
The Graduate Center, City University of New York

**Co-sponsors:**
Inner Asian & Uralic National Resource Center
Center for the Study of the Middle East
ANU-IU Pan Asia Institute
Department of History
Department of International Studies
Department of Near Eastern Languages & Cultures
Department of Religious Studies

A detail from the *Tārīkh-i khāndān-i timūriyya* (16th c.), Khuda Bakhsh Library, Patna, India
Conference Schedule

Date: Saturday, October 15, 2016, 9am – 6pm
Venue: Indiana Memorial Union, Dogwood Room

09:00 – 09:30  Doors open, bagels, coffee, etc.
09:30 – 09:45  Welcoming remarks, Ron Sela, Director, Islamic Studies Program
09:45 – 12:15  Doctoral Students Presentations I
    09:45 – 10:35  Ulan Bigozhin (Anthropology) on shrines and sacred lineages in Kazakhstan
                  Discussant: Prof. Seema Golestaneh, Central Eurasian Studies
    10:35 – 11:25  Hoda Nedaeifar (Art History) on the politics of display in Iran’s war museums
                  Discussant: Prof. Paul Losensky, Central Eurasian Studies; Comparative Literature
    11:25 – 12:15  Katie Cierniak (Education) on Islamic religious education in slum communities in Dhaka, Bangladesh
                  Discussant: Prof. John Hanson, History and African Studies
12:15 – 13:45  Lunch
13:45 – 16:15  Doctoral Student Presentations II
    13:45 – 14:35  Michael Bevers (NELC) on the ethical project of Taha Abderrahmane
                  Discussant: Prof. Tim Waters, Maurer School of Law
    14:35 – 15:25  Amanda Lanzillo (History) on Muslim artists and patronage systems in Colonial North India
                  Discussant: Prof. Margaret Sutton, School of Education
    15:25 – 16:15  Khaled Esseissah (History) on the role of the Ulama of Bilad Shinqiti (Mauritania) in spreading Islamic knowledge in the Middle East
                  Discussant: Prof. Ron Sela, Central Eurasian Studies and International Studies
16:15 – 16:30  Coffee/Tea Break
16:30 – 18:00  Keynote address: “Religion” in the Year 865
                Chase F. Robinson, Distinguished Professor of History, and President, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York
                Prof. Robinson is introduced by Lee Feinstein, Dean, SGIS
18:00 – 20:00  Reception at the Indiana Memorial Union University Club, Faculty Room
Presenters

**Michael Bevers** is a doctoral candidate in IU’s Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, engaging in comparative work between Islamic and Western approaches to modernity, governance, dialogue, and global ethics. This interest in comparative work and dialogue emerged from his personal experiences in the Middle East. In the 1991 Gulf War he served as a Marine sergeant in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and from 2008 to 2010, he served as a local governance advisor for the US Agency for International Development in Iraq.


**Katherine (Katie) Cierniak** is a doctoral candidate in Education Policy Studies with a concentration in International and Comparative Education and a minor in Religious Studies. Her research interests include policy implementation, Islamic religious education, and school choice in international urban contexts. Her dissertation research, a case study of one of the largest slum communities in Dhaka, Bangladesh, focuses on the factors that contribute to parents’ decisions to enroll their children in secular, non-government organization schools and/or to pursue religious education for their children.

**Khaled Esseissah** is a doctoral student in IU’s Department of History. He received an M.A in American Culture Studies from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, a D.E.A (Diplôme D'Études Approfondies) in American Studies from the University of Cheikh Anta Diop in Senegal, and a Maîtrise in English & Literature from the University of Nouakchott in Mauritania. His research interests broadly include slavery, colonialism, ethnicity, Islamic authority, and identity formation in 19th-and-20th-century Northwest Africa.

**Amanda Lanzillo** is a doctoral student in IU's Department of History. She holds an MA in Central Eurasian Studies from IU and a Bachelor's degree in International History from Georgetown University. She is interested in technological change and artistic production and consumption in Muslim communities in North India.

**Hoda Nedaeifar** is a doctoral student in IU's Department of Art History. She received a BA in English Language and Literature, and an MA in Art Theory, History, and Criticism, both from the University of Tehran. Her research is focused on modern and contemporary art of Iran, with a particular emphasis on the aesthetics of war and the politics of display in museums.
Faculty Discussants

Seema Golestaneh is an Assistant Professor of Central Eurasian Studies. She works on Iranian Sufism, contemporary Shi’ism, literary cultures, alternative Islamic discourses, and the intersections of anthropological and aesthetic theory.

John Hanson is an Associate Professor of History and Director of the African Studies Program. He focuses on the religious imagination and social initiatives of Muslims in western Africa, with a current emphasis on the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in Ghana.

Paul Losensky is a Professor of Central Eurasian Studies and Comparative Literature. He specializes in Persian poetry of the 16th & 17th Centuries in Iran, India, and Central Asia, translation and translation studies, and Sufism.

Ron Sela is an Associate Professor of Central Eurasian Studies and International Studies, and Director of the Islamic Studies Program. He is a historian of the ‘early modern’ Muslim world, with a particular interest in Central Asian history and historiography and cultural and political representation in Muslim literary traditions.

Margaret Sutton is an Associate Professor in the School of Education where she works on global and multicultural education; gender, education and development; and sociocultural approaches to education policy analysis, with an emphasis on Indonesia and Southeast Asia.

Timothy Waters is a Professor of Law, and Associate Director of the Center for Constitutional Democracy. His interests include the structure of the inter-state system, ethnic conflict, human rights, transitional justice, and comparative law, especially in European and Islamic contexts.

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