Application for Alliance to Advance Liberal Arts Colleges (AALAC)/Mellon 23 Collaborative Workshop

Connected Histories of the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia Workshop

Project Description

This workshop seeks to explore and ultimately integrate the interconnected histories of the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia. In particular it aims to shed light on major but previously obscured histories of peoples, goods, ideas, and global environmental changes that circulated across the Afroeurasian world over the longue durée.

The workshop begins with an underlying view that the societies of the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia were part of a broad intercommunicating zone. From Joseph Fletcher’s “Integrative History” to Sanjay Subrahmanyam’s “Connected Histories,” scholars have sought to understand the forging of links and continuities across the Afroeurasian world. In this workshop world history will be reexamined through an investigative lens by focusing on the ways historical life was continuous across the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia.

The workshop also accentuates a decisive break from previous Europe-centered approaches to world history by moving beyond the standard binary East-West paradigm. A majority of historians working on the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia have considered the historical experience of their region in comparison with Western imperialism and economic ascendency. In that light the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia appear as merely dependent and reactive. Consider however, what would be the implications if the focus is reoriented? This workshop critically examines encounters that took place outside of a Western colonial framework and within a wider Afroeurasian setting. Thus this approach to history is an interregional and hemispheric one, focused on cross-cultural connections, transnational networks, and global currents.

This three-day workshop will take place on the campus of Pomona College during the Spring 2012 Semester; beginning on a Thursday evening with a keynote lecture and dinner. On Friday and Saturday four sessions are planned. In the first three sessions, previously circulated papers will be studied, debated and discussed in light of this reoriented global context. In the final session, the outcomes of the workshop will be delineated and future collaborations will be considered.

A keynote lecture by a distinguished speaker from outside the Mellon 23 network will promote and energize a robust scholarly discussion and exchange of thought provoking ideas. To facilitate discussion during the three days, each workshop session will be
organized around thematic panels. Each panel will be enhanced by participant-discussion of previously-submitted papers; participants not submitting papers will serve as discussants. Possible paper and session themes will include: Writing Connected Histories; Indian Ocean in World History; Indo-Persian Encounters; Mediterranean World; and Global Environmental History. During the concluding session, participants will review the content of the workshop and address how this substantive body of history may be incorporated from a new and/or wider perspective into our ongoing research and teaching.

Bringing together a diverse group of teaching scholars to discuss the connected histories of the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia will provide a unique perspective and opportunity for thoughtful discussion and consideration of how to reconsider and view this significant period of history in the twenty-first century. Workshop leader Monica Ringer, co-editor of the journal, Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East, would like to publish the discussion notes and papers presented, in a special edition of the journal. Making this information available to readers from around the world would provide a venue for this world history discussion to connect the research conducted on our liberal arts campuses to an international community of scholars and thus garner widespread interest in this exciting and innovative approach to world history.

**Key Faculty Workshop Leaders and Faculty Liaison**

- **Magnus Bernhardsson** (Williams College - History) **Workshop Leader**
- **Arash Khazeni** (Pomona College - History) **Workshop Leader and Liaison**
  Email: arash.khazeni@pomona.edu
- **Monica Ringer** (Amherst College - History) **Workshop Leader**
- **Samuel (Sam) White** (Oberlin College - History) **Workshop Leader**

**Faculty Participants**

- Ian Barrow (Middlebury College - History)
- Margaret Hunt (Amherst College - History)
- Zayn Kassam (Pomona College - Religious Studies)
- Sidney Lemelle (Pomona College - History)
- Jamie Monson (Macalester College - History)
- Kenda Mutungi (Williams College - History)
- Victor Silverman (Pomona College - History)
- Ken Wolf (Pomona College - History)
- Bob Woods (Pomona College - History)
- Ned Alpers (UCLA - History)
- Nile Green (UCLA - History)
- Carina Johnson (Pitzer College - History)
- Harmony O'Rourke (Pitzer College - History)
- Sanjay Subrahmanyan (UCLA - History)
Budget

Primary Organizer's Stipend $ 1,000
Travel and Accommodation $ 15,000
Outside Speakers Expenses $ 1,500
Administrative Support $ 500
Meals $ 1,000
Publication and Follow-Up $ 1,000
Total Workshop Budget $ 20,000

Condensed Curriculum Vitae of Workshop Leaders and Liaison

Follow on pages 4-11
CURRICULUM VITAE

Magnus T. Bernhardsson
Associate Professor of Middle Eastern History
Williams College

EDUCATION

December 1999  Ph.D. in History, Yale University, Graduate School, History Department, New Haven, CT
May 1992  M.A.R., (Master of Arts in Religion), Yale University, Divinity School, New Haven, CT
May 1990  B.A., Major: Political Science; Minor: Theology, University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Sept 2007- Present  Associate Professor, Department of History, Williams College
July 2003-2007  Assistant Professor, Department of History, Williams College
August 1999 – 2003  Assistant Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History, Hofstra University

PUBLICATIONS - MONOGRAPHS

*History of Iran and Iraq in the 20th Century* (Under contract with the University of Florida Press. Anticipated date of publication, 2012)


PUBLICATIONS - EDITED VOLUMES:


Co-editor, with Hanna Ragnarsdóttir and Elsa Jónsdóttir, *Íslensk Fjölmenning* (Icelandic Multiculturalism) (University of Iceland Press, 2008)


Co-Editor, with Abbas Amanat, *The United States and the Middle East: Cultural Encounters. Conference proceedings.* (Yale Center for International and Area Studies, 2002). Also wrote Introduction.


PUBLICATIONS - ARTICLES


“Archaeology in Iraq” in Jordi Teriel and Hamid Borazalan (eds.) *Writing the History of Iraq: Historiographical and Political Challenges* (London: Taylor Francis, 2011)

“1001 Fantasies: Modernizing the Past in 1950s Baghdad” in Modernism in the Middle East, edited by Kishwar Rizvi and Sandy Isenstadt (University of Washington Press, 2008).


SELECT PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Associate Editor, Middle East Studies Association Bulletin, 2007-2010.

Member, Committee for Academic Freedom in the Middle East and North Africa, Middle East Studies Association, 2008-2010.

Board Member, The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII), October 2005- present. Vice-President, 2008-present.

Steering Committee, Historians Against the War, April 2006-2008.
CURRICULUM VITAE

Arash Khazeni
Assistant Professor of History
Pomona College

EDUCATION

2005 Ph.D., History, Early Modern-Modern Middle East, Yale University
2001 M.A., History, Early Modern-Modern Middle East, Yale University
1992 B.A., History, World History, University of Wisconsin, Madison

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2010-present Assistant Professor, Department of History, Pomona College
2006-2010 Assistant Professor, Department of History, Claremont McKenna College

PUBLICATIONS - BOOKS

Tribes and Empire on the Margins of Nineteenth-Century Iran (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2010)
Winner of the Middle East Studies Association Houshang Pourshariati Book Award, 2010

PUBLICATIONS - EDITED COLLECTIONS


PUBLICATIONS - JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS


UNDER PREPARATION
Sky Blue Stone: A World Environmental History of the Turquoise Trade (monographic book project under preparation)

SELECTED PAPERS PRESENTED
“'The Steppe and the Sown,” Environmental Histories of Modern Iran, Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, November 20, 2010.


“The City of Balkh and the Caravan Trade of Nineteenth-Century Central Eurasia,” On the Frontiers and Borderlands of Islamic Empires (co-organized panel), Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, November 24, 2009.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS
2010 Balzan Fellowship, Department of History, University of California, Los Angeles
2009-2010 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Research Fellowship, The Huntington Library
2003-2004 Yale University Dissertation Writing Fellowship
2002-2003 Howard Lamar Center for the Study of Frontiers Research Fellowship
2002-2003 Yale Council on Middle East Studies Research Grant
2000 Yale Center for International and Area Studies Research Grant

LANGUAGES
Persian (native), Arabic (intermediate), French (reading knowledge)

COURSES
“The Middle East and North Africa Since 1500”
“The Worlds of Islam”
“Empire in the Middle East and North Africa”
“Environmental History of the Middle East and North Africa”
“Gunpowder Empires: Ottomans, Safavids, and Mughals”
“Travels and Discoveries”

OTHER ACTIVITIES
Committee for Academic Freedom Middle East and North Africa (CAF MENA), Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA), 2009-present
Member, Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA)
CURRICULUM VITAE

Monica M. Ringer
Associate Professor of Middle Eastern History
Amherst College

EDUCATION
1998  Ph.D., Middle East History, University of California, Los Angeles. Dissertation title: “Education and Reform in Qajar Iran, 1800-1906.” Fields of specialization: Middle East history to 1500; Middle East history 1500-present; modern Middle East intellectual history; modern European intellectual history.
1991  Middlebury College Arabic language summer school.

PUBLICATIONS – BOOKS
‘True Religion’: Zoroastrian Reform and the Creation of the Modern Citizen, (Syracuse University Press).
Forthcoming fall 2011.
Education, Religion and the Discourse of Cultural Reform in Qajar Iran, (Mazda, 2001).

RESEARCH PROJECT IN PROGRESS
Debating Progress and Civilization: Middle Eastern and European Intellectuals on the Merits of Islam and Protestantism. This project seeks to explore a series of debates, both explicit and implicit, between Middle Eastern Muslim reformers, and various European intellectuals in the nineteenth century. Of particular interest are the debates surrounding Rationalism, Freedom and Secularism, as they were believed to by symptomatic of “progress and civilization.” The debates centered on the ability of Islam and Protestantism, respectively, to generate social progress.

PUBLICATIONS – ARTICLES

“The Discourse on Modernization and the Problem of Cultural Integrity in Nineteenth-Century Iran,” in Iran and Beyond: Essays in Middle Eastern History in Honor of Nikki R. Keddie (eds). Rudi Matthee and Beth Baron (Mazda, 2000).

SELECT CONFERENCE PAPERS


Modernizing Religion and the Creation of Citizens: Kay Khosrow Shahrokh’s Religious Reform Program,” Yale University, 2008.


Between Ethnicity and Religion: The Zoroastrian Dilemma in Modern Iran.” Five-College Middle Eastern Studies Seminar, 2005.

“Zoroastrian Community Organizations: Rethinking Traditions from the Grassroots” Middle East Studies Association, 2005.

“Zoroastrian Women Between Community and State: Negotiating Identity and Activism” University of Chicago, 2005.


“Intellectuals and Educational Reform in 19th-Century Iran” Harvard University, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2000.


CURRICULUM VITAE
Samuel (Sam) A. White
Assistant Professor of History
Oberlin College

EDUCATION
2008 Ph.D. History, Columbia University
Dissertation: “Ecology, Climate, and Crisis in the Ottoman Near East”
2002 M.A. Middle East Studies and Modern History, University of St. Andrews
M.A. Thesis: “Inventing Iraq: The British in Mesopotamia and the Making of the Iraqi Mandate 1914-1923” (First Class Honours)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS
2008-present Assistant Professor, Oberlin College
2003-2006 Teaching Assistant, Columbia University
2003 Instructor, Parkland Community College

SELECT PUBLICATIONS
Monograph

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Chapters
“From Globalized Pig Breeds to Capitalist Pigs: A Study in Animal Cultures and Evolutionary History.” Environmental History (forthcoming, January 2011).
“The Little Ice Age Crisis in the Ottoman Empire: A Conjuncture in Middle East Environmental History,” in Water on Sand: The Environmental History of the Middle East, edited by Alan Mikhail. New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

Other Publications

Invited and Forthcoming Works in Progress
“Middle East Environmental History: Ideas from an Emerging Field” (invited article for World History Connected, expected publication February 2011).

SELECT PAPERS AND INVITED LECTURES
“Natural Disaster in European and Ottoman Perceptions” American Society for Environmental History, Portland, March 10-14, 2010 (also panel organizer)
“Prospects for Ottoman Environmental History” Great Lakes Ottoman Workshop, Ohio State University, April 18-19, 2009
“The Ottoman Empire in the Little Ice Age and the General Crisis” invited lecture, Ohio State University, March 3, 2009

“Timber Supply and Forest Management in the Ottoman Middle East” American Society for Environmental History Conference, Tallahassee, February 25-March 1, 2009 (also panel organizer)

“The Little Ice and the Making of the Celali Rebellion” Middle East Studies Association, Montreal, November 17-20, 2007

“Küçük Buzulçağının Biyolojik Sonuçları” (“Biological Consequences of the Little Ice Age”—presented in Turkish), Workshop on Climate Change in Ecosystems and Society, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, June 29-30, 2007

“Chinese Pigs in Early Modern Europe” European Society for Environmental History, Amsterdam, June 3-7, 2007

“Epidemics and Crisis in the Ottoman Empire” Workshop on Disease in Global Environmental History, York University, Toronto, March 9-10, 2007

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

- 2007-2008 American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) research fellowship
- 2007-2008 Delmas Foundation grant for research in Venice
- Shawn Scholar for New Directions in Historical Research, Columbia University
- 2006 FLAS Summer Fellowship in Turkish for study at the Harvard-Koç University Intensive Ottoman Summer School
- 2005 ARIT Summer Language Fellowship for study at Bosphorus University, Istanbul
- 2003-2007 Hofstadter Fellowship, Columbia University
- 2002 Alan Robertson Memorial Prize, best M.A. thesis in the School of History, University of St. Andrews

**LANGUAGES OF RESEARCH**

Turkish (modern and Ottoman); Italian; French; German; Spanish; Latin; basic Dutch

**SELECT PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Oberlin College
Environmental Studies Program Committee (2009-to present)

Columbia University
President of the Columbia University Graduate History Association, the department’s association of graduate students for social and academic issues (2005-2006)

Professional Membership
American Historical Association, American Society for Environmental History, World History Association, Middle East Studies Association, American Assoc. for the Advancement of Science