



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 ascendancy. 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

<i>Magnus Bernhardsson (Williams College - History)</i>	Workshop Leader
<i>Arash Khazeni (Pomona College - History)</i>	Workshop Leader and Liaison
<i>Email: arash.khazeni@pomona.edu</i>	
<i>Monica Ringer (Amherst College - History)</i>	Workshop Leader
<i>Samuel (Sam) White (Oberlin College - History)</i>	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 Mutongi (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 Subrahmanyam (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	<u>\$ 1,000</u>
Total Workshop Budget	\$ 20,000

Condensed Curriculum Vitas 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. with distinction, 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)
Reclaiming a Plundered Past: Archaeology and Nation in Modern Iraq 1921-1941 (University of Texas Press, 2005).
Píslarvottar Nútímans. Samspil trúar og stjórnmála í Íran og Írak [in Icelandic] (Martyrs of Modernity. Religion and Politics in Iran and Iraq) (Reykjavik: Mál og Menning, 2005).

PUBLICATIONS - EDITED VOLUMES:

Co-editor, with Abbas Amanat, *U.S-Middle Eastern Historical Encounters. A Critical Survey* (University of Florida Press, 2008). Also wrote introduction.
Co-editor, with Hanna Ragnarsdóttir and Elsa Jónsdóttir, *Íslensk Fjölmennning* (Icelandic Multiculturalism) (University of Iceland Press, 2008)
Guest Editor, *Radical History Review*, v.86 Special issue devoted to “National Myths in the Middle East: Representations, Critiques, and Revisions.” (Duke University Press, Spring, 2003.) Also co-wrote Introduction.
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.
Co-Editor, with Abbas Amanat, *Imagining the End: Apocalyptic Visions from the Ancient Middle East to Modern America* (I.B. Tauris, London, 2001)
Co-Editor, with Jeff Albert and Roger Kenna, *Transformations of Middle Eastern Natural Environments: Legacies and Lessons*. (New Haven, 1998).

PUBLICATIONS - ARTICLES

“Faith in the Future. Nostalgic Nationalism and the Cosmopolitanism of 1950s Baghdad”, commissioned by and submitted to *History Compass*, an online journal from Blackwell Publishing and the Institute of Historical Research, (London, 2011)
“Archaeology in Iraq” in Jordi Terjel and Hamit Borazalan (eds.) *Writing the History of Iraq: Historiographical and Political Challenges* (London: Taylor Francis, 2011)

“Archaeology and Nationalism in Iraq, 1921-2003” in *Controlling the Past, Owning the Future: Archaeology, Tradition and Politics in the Middle East*, edited by Ran Boytner (Arizona State University Press, forthcoming, 2010).

“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).

“The Sense of Belonging. The Politics of Archaeology in modern Iraq” in Philip Kohl (ed.) *Peddling the Past* (University of Chicago Press, 2007).

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

Trade and Traffic in the Persianate World. Co-edited with Pardis Mahdavi. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*, special issue, forthcoming, 30, 3, 2011 (Duke University Press)

PUBLICATIONS - JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- “Across the Black Sands and the Red: Travel Writing, Nature, and the Reclamation of the Eurasian Steppe, c. 1850,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming, 42, 4, 2010)
- “The Steppe and the Sown: The Horses of the Turkmen and the Nature of Eurasian Empire” *Water on Sand: Environmental Histories of the Middle East and North Africa*, ed. Alan Mikhail (under contract, Oxford University Press)
- “To the River’s Edge: The Steppes of the Oxus and the Boundaries of the Near East and Central Asia, 1500s-1800s,” *Where Is Middle East?: The Evolution of a Political Construct*. Edited by Abbas Amanat and Michael Bonine (under contract, Stanford University Press)
- “The City of Balkh and the Central Eurasian Caravan Trade, c. 1800-1850,” *Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East: Trade and Traffic in the Persianate World* (forthcoming, 30, 3, 2011, Duke University Press)
- “Tribes of the Homeland: The Bakhtiyari in the Revolutionary Press,” *Proceedings of Oxford Conference on the Iranian Constitutional Revolution*. Edited by Vanessa Martin and Houchang Chehabi (London: I. B. Tauris, 2010)
- “On the Eastern Borderlands of Iran: The Baluch in Nineteenth-Century Persian Travel Books,” *History Compass*, 5, 4, 2007 (Oxford: Blackwell), pp. 1399-1411.
- “The Bakhtiyari Tribes in the Iranian Constitutional Revolution,” *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*, 25, 2, 2005 (Duke University Press), pp. 377-398.

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.
- “Land of the Rising Sun’: Printed Natural History and the Blue Stones of Nishapur in the Nineteenth Century,” The Ambit of Printing in Qajar Iran: Continent, Nation, and Province, International Society for Iranian Studies Meeting, Los Angeles, California, May 27, 2010.
- “The Steppes of the Oxus River in Nineteenth-Century Persian Natural Histories,” Perceptions of Environments in Muslim Cultures, c. 1500-1900, American Society for Environmental History Meeting, Portland, Oregon, March 10-14, 2010.
- “Across the Black Sands and the Red: Travel, Nature, and the Reclamation of Nineteenth-Century Central Eurasia,” Department of History, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, February 24, 2010.
- “The City of Balkh and the Caravan Trade of Nineteenth-Century Central Eurasia,” Crossing the Roof of the World: Geopolitics and People in Trans-Himalayan Trade, Asia Institute, UCLA, February 19, 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.
- 1992 M.A., Islamic Studies, University of California, Los Angeles. Fields of specialization: Islamic philosophy, Islamic theology; Persian language and literature.
- 1991 Middlebury College Arabic language summer school.
- 1988 B.A., European History, Oberlin College.

PUBLICATIONS – BOOKS

- "True Religion": Zoroastrian Reform and the Creation of the Modern Citizen, (Syracuse University Press). Forthcoming fall 2011.
- Amuzesh va goftoman-e eslah-e farhangi dar dowran-e Qajar. (Persian translation of 2001 book). (Tehran: Qoqnus Publishers, 2002).
- 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 be symptomatic of "progress and civilization." The debates centered on the ability of Islam and Protestantism, respectively, to generate social progress.

PUBLICATIONS – ARTICLES

- "Iranian Nationalism and Zoroastrian Identity: Between Cyrus and Zoroaster" (eds.) Abbas Amanat and Farzin Vejdani, *Iran Facing Others: Iranian Identity Boundaries and Modern Political Culture*, (Palgrave, forthcoming 2010).
- "Reform Transplanted: Parsi Agents of Change amongst Zoroastrians in Nineteenth-Century Iran," *Iranian Studies* 42 (4 September 2009).
- "Rethinking Religion: Progress and Morality in the Early 20th century Women's Press," *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*. 24, no. 1 (Spring 2004): 49-57.
- "Negotiating Modernity: Ulama and the Discourse of Modernity in Nineteenth-Century Iran," in (ed.) Ramin Jahanbegloo, *Iran Between Tradition, Modernity and Postmodernity*, (Lexington Books, 2004).
- Entries on Islam, in *The Oxford Dictionary of Islam*, in (ed.) John Esposito, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003).
- "The Quest for the Secret of Strength in Iranian Nineteenth-Century Travel Literature: Rethinking Tradition in the *Safarnameh*," in *Iran and the Surrounding World 1501-2001: Interactions in Culture and Cultural Politics*, (eds.) Nikki Keddie and Rudi Matthee, (University of Washington Press, 2002).

“*Madares-e Novin dar Iran-e Qarn-e Nuzdahom (New Schools in 19th-Century Iran: The Indigenous Approach)*,” in *Irannameh* vol. XVIII, (2 Spring 2000).

“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 Mathee and Beth Baron (Mazda, 2000).

SELECT CONFERENCE PAPERS

“Secularism and Nationalism as Products of Religious Reform: Theological Premises of a Reconstructed Past,” in “Rethinking Iranian Nationalism” conference, University of Texas, Austin, April 2010.

Rational Religion, Evolution and the Generation of Secularism and Citizenship in the Middle East and India,” “Darwin and Evolution in the Muslim World Conference,” sponsored by Carnegie Foundation of New York, Hampshire College, Oct 2-3, 2009.

“Religion and the Citizen: Theorizing Modernity in the Middle East,” Amherst College, Sept. 2009.

“Iranian Nationalism and the Claiming of the Zoroastrian Past,” Five College History Symposium, 2009.

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

“Creating the Modern Citizen: Zoroastrian Religious Reform and the Secular Project,” Middle East Studies Association, 2008.

“Religion and the Modern Citizen,” Religious Modernity and Secularist Resistance in Turkey, Amherst College Conference, 2008.

“Defining Modernity: Zoroastrian Religious Reform in Nineteenth-Century Iran and India,” University of Chicago, 2008.

“Theoretical Perspectives on Modernizing Religion in 20th Century Iran,” University of Toronto, 2007.

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.

“Rethinking Religion: Progress and Morality in the Early 20th century Women’s Press,” American Historical Association, 2003.

“Religion, ‘Civilization’ and the Nation-State in the Early 20th-Century Women’s Press” Middle East Studies Association, 2002.

“Islam and Democracy: Prospects for the Future of the Middle East” St. Mary’s College, MD, 2002.

“The Ulama and the Specter of Reform in 19th-Century Iran” University of Chicago, Center for Near Eastern Studies, 2001.

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

“The ‘New’ Schools and the Re-Formation of Identity in Late 19th-Century Iran” Society for Iranian Studies Conference, 2000.

“The Quest for the Secret of Strength in Iranian Nineteenth-Century Travel Literature: Rethinking Tradition in the *Safarnameh*” UCLA International invitational conference, “Iran and the Surrounding World Since 1500: Cultural Influences and Interactions,” 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

The Climate of Rebellion in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire. New York: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Chapters

"Rethinking Disease in Ottoman History." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 42 (2010): 549-67.

"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

"Climate Change and Crisis in Ottoman Turkey and the Balkans, 1590-1710" in *Proceedings: International Conference on Climate Change in the Middle East – Past Present and Future, 20-23 November 2006*. Istanbul: Istanbul Technical University, 2006.

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).

"Climate Change" (invited chapter for J. McNeill and E. Stewart, ed. *Blackwell Companion to World Environmental History*, expected publication 2011/12).

"Review Article: Early Modern Ottomans in Global History" (invited article for *The Journal of Global History*, expected publication 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)

Roundtable member: "The Climate Crisis and Energy Transition: Lessons from History?" American Society for Environmental History, March 10-14, 2010

"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)

Senior Thesis Supervisor: Emily Arons, “Coalfield Resistance: The Role of Environmentalism in the Movement to Abolish Surface Mining in Appalachia, 1960-2010” (2009-10)

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