MESA 2025

November 22-25, 2025
Westin Washington, DC Downtown

PROGRAM PREVIEW

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, November 22

3:30-5:30 PM	Session I
6:00-8:00 PM	Session II

Sunday, November 23

8:30-10:30 AM	Session III
11:00 AM-1:00 PM	Session IV
1:00-6:00 PM	Book exhibit
1:30-3:30 PM	Session V
4:00-6:00 PM	Session VI
6:30-8:30 PM	Presidential Address & Awards Ceremony
8:30-10:00 PM	MESA Reception

Monday, November 24

8:30-10:30 AM	Session VII
9:00 AM-6:00 PM	Book exhibit
11:00 AM-1:00 PM	Session VIII
1:30-3:30 PM	Session IX
4:00-6:00 PM	Session X
6:15-7:45 PM	Members meeting
9:00 PM-1:00 AM	MESA Dance Party

Tuesday, November 25

8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Book exhibit
8:30-10:30 AM	Session XI
11:00 AM-1:00 PM	Session XII
1:30-3:30 PM	Session XIII

REGISTRATION HOURS

11:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Saturday, Nov. 22
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Sunday, Nov. 23
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	Monday, Nov. 24
8:00 AM - 1:30 PM	Tuesday, Nov. 25

The 59th MESA Annual Meeting will be held at the Westin Washington, DC Downtown. This preliminary program includes information on over 300 sessions, a listing of book exhibitors, and a sample listing of films to be shown at the virtual FilmFest. Please see MESA's website for complete details on various aspects to the conference.

Please see the **MESA 2025 searchable program** via your myMESA account for up-to-date listings.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, November 23

Presidential Address, Awards Ceremony, and MESA Reception, 6:30-10:00 PM

Monday, November 24

MESA Dance Party, 9:00 PM-1:00 AM

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Pre-register by October 24

Register by October 24 to receive an additional $50 discount on registration over onsite registration prices. On-site registration opens on Saturday, November 22 at 11:00 AM.

Members are encouraged to **register through their myMESA** accounts or use the form at the end of this document.

Category	By Oct 24	On-site
Full/associate	$185*	$235
Student/retired member	$85	$135
Student non-member	$150	$200
Other non-members	$310	$360

* hardship rate available for members with income <$50k

Be reminded that panelists were required to register to appear on the program. If your name does not appear, please email **meeting@mesana.org**.

MESA 2025

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Westin Washington, DC Downtown

LOCATION & CONFERENCE HOTEL

WESTIN WASHINGTON, DC DOWNTOWN

999 9th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001

Book your stay at the Westin Washington, DC Downtown at the discounted room rate of $209 (before taxes) which is good from November 19-28, 2025. The hotel is conveniently located near Metro and bus stops, and to many DC attractions.

The cut-off deadline for the discounted rate is October 30.

More information on the hotel and a link to make your reseservation, go to **mesana.org/annual-meeting/hotel.**

BOOK HOTEL at $209 RATE



NEEDING A ROOMMATE?
MESA maintains a "roommates wanted" page on its website where those wanting to share rooms can find each other. If you are interested in sharing a room at the conference hotel during the MESA annual meeting, visit MESA's website at **https://mesana.org/annual-meeting/roommate-locator.**

TRAVEL INFORMATION

In planning travel to the conference, we provide a **quick guide** on MESA's website. It includes airport, train, and Metro information.

Worth noting is that there is another Westin located in the downtown area. Be sure you have identified the Westin Washington, DC Downtown located at 999 9th Street NW when driving to the hotel.

The MESA Board and the Task Force on Civil and Human Rights have posted several resources in response to recent Trump administration policies, including some on travel and digital security. You can view these at the **MESA Advocacy Resouce Center.**

MESA 2025

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Westin Washington, DC Downtown

We extend a special thank you to our

Conference Sponsors

GOLD LEVEL

Qalam wa Lawh Center for Arabic Studies in Rabat, Morocco

SILVER LEVEL

Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies

Penn State University Press; Palestine/Israel Review

The New Arab

BRONZE LEVEL

American University in Cairo Press

Edinburgh University Press

FIE: Foundation for International Education

Gorgias Press

Muteferriqa

COFFEE BREAK

The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington

BOOK EXHIBIT

Publishers and vendors of interest to our members have booth space in the Book Exhibit, conveniently located near MESA registration and panels on the ballroom level. Take the opportunity to browse all of the latest publications in the field beginning Sunday, November 23 at 1:00 PM and join your colleagues for complimentary coffee during the scheduled coffee breaks on Sunday and Monday.

EXHIBITORS

American University in Cairo Press
Cambridge University Press
Centre for Comparative Muslim Studies at Simon Fraser University
Columbia University Press
De Gruyter Brill
Duke University Press
e-Marefa Databases
East View Information Services
Edinburgh University Press
FIE: Foundation for International Education
Georgetown University Press
GINGKO
Gorgias Press, LLC
I.B. Tauris
Indiana University Press
Ingram Academic + Professional
ISD LLC
Issam Fares Institute at the American University of Beirut
McGill-Queen's University Press
Memoirs of an Arabian Princess
Muteferriqa
Oneworld Publications
Penn State University Press ; Palestine/Israel Review
Persian Heritage Foundation
Qalam wa Lawh, Rabat, Morocco
Qasid Arabic Institute
Stanford University Press
Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center
Syracuse University Press
Tamazgha Studies Journal
The Arab Gulf States Institute
The Institute for Advanced Study in the Global South at Northwestern University in Qatar (#IAS_NUQ)
University of California Press
University of Maryland Persian Flagship Program and Summer Language Institute
University of Texas Press
University of Utah Press

Enjoy complimentary coffee in the Book Exhibit during these **Coffee Breaks**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23
3:30-4:00 PM

Thank you to the coffee break sponsor

Arab Gulf States Institute

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24
10:30-11:00 AM

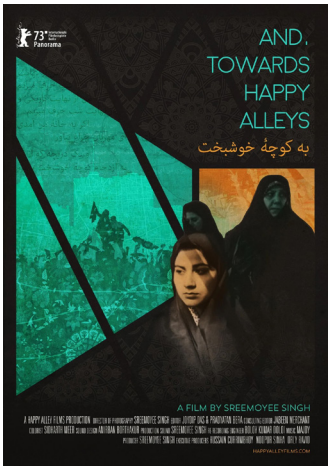
To sponsor this coffee break, contact meeting@mesana.org.

42ND ANNUAL MESA FILMFEST PREVIEW

MESA's Virtal FilmFest has dozens of new and innovative shorts and features, including both documentaries and narrative films. The virtual format allows meeting registrants to stream films on demand during the conference, as well as the week prior and the week after the in-person conference. Only 2025 Annual Meeting registrations will have access to the view the films during this three-week window.

Here are some of the films we expect to screen.

And, Towards Happy Alleys

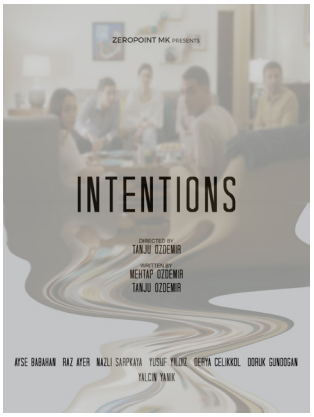


Fascinated by Iran's film culture and the poetic works of the feminist poet Forough Farrokhzad, Indian filmmaker Sreemoyee Singh sets out in search of the protagonists of Iranian cinema. The numerous interviews she conducts over a period of six years with filmmakers Jafar Panahi, Mohammad Shirvani and human rights activist Nasrin Sotudeh, among others, show the precarious situation in which critics of the regime find themselves, including the constant threat of imprisonment and being banned from practising their profession. With a keen eye for unusual situations, she documents the effect of the Islamic Republic's strict and omnipresent censorship on the daily lives of Iranian women whose uncompromising struggle has put them at the forefront of the protests that are currently rocking the country. *And, Towards Happy Alleys* is a passionate declaration of love for the cinema and poetry of Iran which also provides a frank view of daily life, and bears witness to a fearless generation raising its voice and implacably demanding its civil liberties.

East Wind



A glass, a sweater and a fishing trophy are the objects Maia inherited from her father. With fragmented spaces and times, the film crosses Patagonian landscapes with the banks of the Río de la Plata, where the wind brings messages from Palestine.Maia travels to the West Bank and among the ruins of the houses demolished by the Israeli occupation and the waters of the Jordan River, she finds a sign of destiny in the name of her family.



Intentions

Gathering of three Turkish couples (one settled in the U.S.) at a dinner table discussing the notion of «claustrophobic» hospitality and racism within the framework of the current Syrian refugee crisis and Afro-Turks in Turkey.

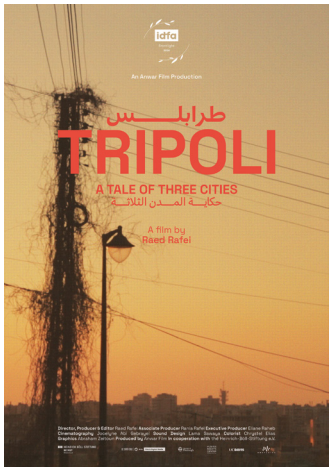
En Route to Europe, We Burn or Die

In the port city of Zarzis in southern Tunisia, the sea has always been a space of mobility. However, Fortress Europe continues to entrench its sea walls and extend proxy borders into North and West Africa, sponsoring local coercive apparatuses. Such measures have turned journeys of hope into deadly crossings, forcing illegalized and irregularized travelers seeking to overcome political, economic and social marginalization in search of better opportunities into increasing violence and risk. *EN ROUTE TO EUROPE, WE BURN OR DIE* weaves together the stories of individuals who are navigating precarity amid deadly border control mechanisms across Africa and the Mediterranean Sea. Through interviews in and around Zarzis, the film explores the journeys, motivations and opinions of African migrants - Tunisian and nationals of other countries - while exposing the neoliberal dispossessive structures that make their travels so dangerous. The film challenges the viewer to meet migrants as peers and to challenge the impacts of European policy on their lives.



Tripoli / A Tale of Three Cities

While living abroad, a filmmaker returns to Tripoli, Lebanon to confront a hometown that once rejected him as a queer child. With a microphone in hand, he walks around coffee shops, public squares and a park to ask the city›s inhabitants about their cultural and social beliefs and their embrace of new ideas.



Gradually, he meets a group of marginalized individuals whose eccentric life choices contradict the general lifestyle in this religiously and socially conservative city. Through intimate conversations with a communist activist, a queer music producer and other unconventional characters, he explores the complicated relations one forms with a hometown in crisis. This contemplative urban symphony paints a picture of a city trapped in a self-spun web, paralyzed by a deep economic crisis, a faltering revolution, and a looming doomsday.

The Water that Asked for a Fish



The Water that Asked for a Fish, examines and contextualises the Gulf region›s historical and contemporary relationships with water bodies, bringing to focus the precarious nature of their continuing role in sustaining human and ecological life. For this piece, Alnoaimi involved a diverse group of participants— including fishermen, biologists, ecologists, writers and community members—who engaged with Bahrain's water bodies. The ensuing conversations yielded moving insights into local rituals, animistic practices and stories, proposing a conception of water bodies as living, breathing entities. The work offers insights into regional customs such as putting eyeliner on fish, the practice of wrapping its body in a white shroud before returning it to the sea and why palm leaves are set aflame by women with pearl-diver ancestry.

PLENARY

NOVEMBER 23, 2025
6:30-10:00 PM

Presidential Address

Aslı Bâli, MESA President
Yale Law School

MESA Awards Ceremony

Please join us in celebrating the best in Middle East studies.
We will be presenting the following awards:

MESA Mentoring Award
Jere L. Bacharach Service Award
Academic Freedom Award
Albert Hourani Book Award
Nikki Keddie Book Award
Fatema Mernissi Book Award
Roger Owen Book Award
Malcolm H. Kerr Dissertation Awards
MESA Student Paper Prize

MESA Reception

Please join us for the MESA Reception following the Awards Ceremony.

SPECIAL SESSIONS & WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

3:30-5:30 PM

I-01: Using Primary Sources to Teach about the Middle East (Workshop)

6:00-8:00 PM

II-01: Precarity, Academic Freedom, and the Profession in a Time of Genocide

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

8:30-10:30 AM

III-01: Social Science Research in the Middle East and North Africa: Guidelines for the Conduct of Responsible, Ethical and Constructive Social Inquiry

III-02: Publishing in a MESA Journal (Workshop)

11:00 AM-1:00 PM

IV-01: Publishing Workshop for Precarious Scholars

1:30-3:30 PM

V-02: How to Fund Your Ideas: Professional Development Workshop for Proposal Writing and Research Design

4:00-6:00 PM

VI-01: A MESA-ACSS Roundtable: The Nakba, Constantine Zurayk and the History of the Present

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

8:30-10:30 AM

VII-01: Academic Freedom: Political Instability and Conflict

11:00 AM-1:00 PM

VIII-01: A Multifaceted Defense of Academic Freedom in Times of Genocide

1:30-3:30 PM

IX-01: Celebrating 40 Years of AMEWS and 20 Years of JMEWS: Reflections on the Past, Present, and Future of Middle East Women's and Gender Studies

IX-02: Israel-US War on Iran and its Consequences

IX-03: Professional Development in Active Learning: Introducing Reacting to the Past (Workshop)

4:00-6:00 PM

X-01: New Directions in MENA Dance

OTHER EVENTS

MESA-ORGANIZED MEETINGS & EVENTS

Saturday, November 22
Task Force on Civil and Human Rights (TFCHR) Meeting, 1:00-3:00 PM
MESA Global Academy Reception, 2:30-3:30 PM

Sunday, November 23
Committee on Academic Freedom Meeting, 8:30-10:30 AM
International Journal of Middle East Studies (IJMES) Editorial Board Meeting, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM
Committee on Undergraduate Middle East Studies (CUMES) Poster Presentation, 1:30-2:00 PM

Monday, November 24
Middle East Center and Program Directors Meeting, 8:30-10:00 AM
Officers of MESA's Affiliated Associations Meeting, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM
MESA Members Meeting, 6:15-7:45 PM

Tuesday, November 25
Editors of Middle East Studies Journals Meeting (by MESA Publications Committee), 8:30-10:00 AM

EVENTS ORGANIZED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS

AATA – American Association of Teachers of Arabic
Saturday, November 22
Executive Board Meeting, 8:00-11:00 AM
Annual Panel 2025, 12:00-2:00 PM
Business Meeting, 2:00-3:00 PM

AATP – American Association of Teachers of Persian
Saturday, November 22
Roundtable: *Increasing Student Engagement and Motivation in Persian Classrooms,* 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Annual Business Meeting, 12:00-1:30 PM
AATP Lifetime Achievement Award Ceremony and AATP Reception, 1:30-3:00 PM

AIS - Association for Iranian Studies
Saturday, November 22
Annual General Meeting, 8:30-10:00 PM

AGAPS – Association for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies
Saturday, November 22
Board Meeting, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Business Meeting, 1:00-3:00 PM
Senior Advisory Council Meeting, TBD (held virtually)

AMECYS- Association of Middle East Children and Youth Studies
Tuesday, November 24
Board Meeting, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM
Member Meeting, 12:30-2:00 PM

AMEWS – Association for Middle East Women's Studies
Saturday, November 22
Board Meeting, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM
General Membership Meeting, 1:30-3:00 PM
Monday, November 24
AMEWS 40th Anniversary Reception co-hosted with AASA, AMEA, and AMECYS, 8:00-10:00 PM

Consortium of Middle East National Resource Centers Directors
Monday, November 24
Meeting, 10:00-11:00 AM

CCAS - Georgetown University, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies
Saturday, November 22
Reception, 8:30-10:00 PM

Harvard University, Center for Middle Eastern Studies
Saturday, November 22
Reception, 8:30-9:30 PM

OTSA – Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association
Saturday, November 22
Board Meeting, 9:00-11:00 AM
Luncheon and Awards Ceremony, Noon-2:00 PM

PARC – Palestinian American Research Center
Saturday, November 22
Gathering for Members and Friends, 2:00-3:00 PM

POMEPS – Project on Middle East Political Science
Monday, November 24
Reception, 8:00-10:00 PM

SHAMS – Society for Humanistic Arab Media Studies
Saturday, November 22
First Annual Meeting, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

SSA – Syrian Studies Association
Monday, November 24
Annual Business Meeting and Reception, 6:00-7:00 PM

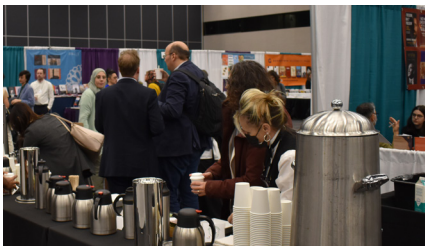
UPenn – University of Pennsylvania, Center for Middle Eastern Studies
Saturday, November 22
Reception, 8:30-10:00 PM

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES











CHAIR A PANEL

Volunteers are still needed to chair non-preorganized panels. The panels needing a volunteer chair are noted with "Chair: *Volunteer needed*". MESA only assigns chairs to panels assembled of individual paper proposals. There are many such panels on the program. For pre-organized sessions, the organizer can still add a chair or discussant. Contact the MESA staff at **meeting@mesana.org** to have them added.

The most up-to-date listing is in the searchable program, available through your **myMESA account**.

Please note that MESA membership and annual meeting pre-registration are required of all meeting participants on the program, including panel chairs.

BE A PART OF THE BOOK EXHIBIT

We invite presses, organizations, vendors, and authors to be a part of MESA 2025. The exhibit area is ideally located in the midst of the conference activity in the Potomac Ballroom. It provides optimal exposure for increased traffic for attendees to visit your booth. We have both premium and budget booths to allow for increased participation.

Consider conference sponsorship or advertising for other ways to highlight your organization. More information is provided on **MESA's book exhibit page**.

MESA'S COOPERATIVE BOOK DISPLAY

MESA's Cooperative Book Display is a low-cost option for authors and/or publishers to display titles at the exhibit hall without the cost of renting booth space. To be a part of the Cooperative Book Display, complete **the form** and submit payment by October 1, 2025. One copy of each title is needed for display and becomes the property of MESA. For more information, contact MESA at **meeting@mesana.org.**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

SESSION I: 3:30-5:30 PM

I-01 (W) Using Primary Sources to Teach about the Middle East
I-02 (R) Poetry after Gaza
I-03 (R) (Re)Centering Lived Knowledges and Relationalities in the Doing of SWANA Feminisms(s)
I-04 (R) History of Medicine in Modern and Contemporary Egypt: New Directions and Research Challenges
I-05 (R) Honoring and Analyzing Joe Stork's Legacy: The Field-shaping Impact of MERIP and Middle East Report
I-06 (P) Tongues of Power: The Turkish Language and the Intricacies of Empire in the Early Modern Ottoman Lands
I-07 (P) Sound Approaches to Urban Morocco
I-08 (P) Literary Representations of Prostitution
I-09 (P) Islam in Southeast Asia: Intellectual Sufism, Colonialism, and Cultural Transformations
I-10 (P) Developing Arabic for Academic Purposes and Building Interdisciplinary Research Networks: Projects from the CASA Program
I-11 (P) New Directions in the Study of Society and History in the Arabian Peninsula
I-12 (P) The Age of World Wars
I-13 (P) Mediated Genocide/Genocidal Media
I-14 (P) Exhibitions, Reflections, and Affect in Arab Art and Music
I-15 (P) Knowledge, Nature, and Stars

SESSION II: 6:00-8:00 PM

II-01 (S) Precarity, Academic Freedom, and the Profession in a Time of Genocide
II-02 (R) Counterrevolution and Reaction Since 2011
II-03 (R) Middle Eastern Literary Studies Journals: A Conversation with Editors
II-04 (R) Palestine Studies at a Crossroads: Producing Knowledge Amid Genocide, Scholasticide, and Censorship
II-05 (P) Society, Culture, and Science in Early Ottoman Syria
II-06 (P) Dealing with Delinquency: Sex, Addiction, and Disorder in the Late Ottoman and Post-Ottoman Mediterranean
II-07 (P) Ideology in Ansar Allah (Houthi) Yemen: Between Aspiration and Possibilities of Implementation
II-08 (P) New Directions in MENA Security Studies
II-09 (P) Archives of the Ephemeral
II-10 (P) Intimacies Visible and Invisible: Muslim-Jewish Friendships Across the Modern Mediterranean
II-11 (P) Education and Pedagogy
II-12 (P) Borderlands and Belonging: Conflict and Mobility in the Modern Middle East
II-13 (P) Ethnic and Religious Minorities: Space, Memory, and Politics
II-14 (P) US Foreign Policy Toward the Middle East and Central Asia
II-15 (P) Mad Sultans, Imams, Pilgrims, Entertainers, and Brokers: Biographical Literature
II-16 (P) Cemeteries Past and Present

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

SESSION III: 8:30-10:30 AM

III-01 (S) Social Science Research in the Middle East and North Africa: Guidelines for the Conduct of Responsible, Ethical and Constructive Social Inquiry
III-02 (W) Publishing in a MESA Journal
III-03 (R) Contending with "Hope" and "Anti-Hope" in Ethnographies of Iranian Society, Law, and Diaspora
III-04 (R) Navigating Fieldwork and Research in Turkey: Challenges, Adaptations, and Insights
III-05 (R) Palestinian Young People and Research Methodologies
III-06 (R) Carceralocracy and Practices of Freedom in the Middle East and North Africa
III-07 (P) Mobilities and Territorialities in the 19th Century: The Jazira as a Case Study
III-08 (P) The Structural Limits of Reforms in Morocco
III-09 (P) Ottoman Borderlands: Critical Perspectives on Historiography and Empire
III-10 (P) Digital Reimaginings of Middle Eastern Studies I: Crafting Virtual Worlds Brick by Brick
III-11 (P) Multimediated Politics
III-12 (P) Religion in Zionist and Palestinian Politics
III-13 (P) Social Movements and the State
III-14 (P) COVID, Crises, and the Losses to Women's Work in the SWANA Region
III-15 (P) The Political Economy of Islamic Taxation: Understanding Medieval States from the Abbasids to the Ghurids and Mamluks
III-16 (P) Outsiders and Intermediaries in Ottoman Tunis and the Sicilian Channel
III-17 (P) Painting, Performance, and Photography: Transformations in Late-Qajar Iran
III-18 (P) Governance in the Arabian Gulf: Beyond the Rentier State
III-19 (P) Faith and Flux: Sectarianism and Religious Revival
III-20 (P) Language Teaching and Learning and Use of Technology in the Classroom
III-21 (P) Rethinking Land, Money, the Company and Property
III-22 (P) Imperial Intersections: Geopolitics, Faith, and the Arts
III-23 (P) Digital Media: Security, Privacy, Access, and Dysfunction
III-24 (P) Madhabs, Civil Law, Constitutions, and Law Enforcement Between State and Religious Authority
III-25 (P) Spatial Analysis of Modern Iraqi History
III-26 (P) North African Narratives: The Works of Berrada, Choukri, Mosteghanemi, and Zafzaf
III-27 (P) The Politics of Social and Economic Development

SESSION IV: 11:00 AM–1:00 PM

IV-01 (W) Publishing Workshop for Precarious Scholars
IV-02 (R) Not Just Fun and Games: Negotiating Power through Popular Culture in Egypt, past to present
IV-03 (R) Reconfiguration, Realignment, and Resilience in the Contemporary Maghreb: Navigating Internal and External Change
IV-04 (R) Ethical Research and Emic Investment: Reinvigorating Marginal Fields
IV-05 (R) Countering "Day After" Narratives: Advancing Palestinian Rights in the Shadow of Israel's War in Gaza and Proposed Annexation of the West Bank
IV-06 (P) Islamist Movements in SWANA

(S) = Special Session ❁ (P) = Panel ❁ (R) = Roundtable ❁ (W) = Workshop

IV-07 (P) Conflict, Terror, Empire: International Law in the Middle East
IV-08 (P) Syria After the Revolution: Democratized Discourses and Uncertain Futures
IV-09 (P) Perspectives on Slavery in the Medieval Middle East
IV-10 (P) From Biopolitics to Necropolitics: Living and Dying
IV-11 (P) Digital Reimaginings of Middle Eastern Studies II: Constructing the Medieval Mediterranean in the Age of the Great Caliphs
IV-12 (P) The Micro-Dynamics of Legislative Politics in the Middle East and North Africa
IV-13 (P) Illicit Circuits: Smuggling, Contraband, and Underground Economies
IV-14 (P) Queer and Feminist Solidarity in Literature, Knowledge Production, and Translation
IV-15 (P) New Approaches to Arab Asian Solidarity
IV-16 (P) Before Citizenship: New Research on Ottoman Subjecthood in the Early Modern Period
IV-17 (P) International Film Education and Governmentalized Practices
IV-18 (P) Navigating Identity and Memory Through Armenian Performance and Art
IV-19 (P) Excavating Erased Histories: Rethinking the Relations Between Iran and Iraq
IV-20 (P) The Imprisoned, the Disappeared, and Arabic Literature
IV-21 (P) Environment, Ecologies, and Toxicities
IV-22 (P) Residents, Migrants, and Guests in the Gulf and Lebanon
IV-23 (P) Sufism and Religious Symbolism in Modern Middle Eastern Literature
IV-24 (P) Revolutionary Change: Gender, Activism, and Marginalization
IV-25 (P) Migrants and Refugees: Rentierism, Political Participation, and Precarity
IV-26 (P) Glitch Insurgencies, Technodystopias, and Futurity
IV-27 (P) Hope in Hopelessness: Love Unrequited in Different Climes

SESSION V: 1:30-3:30 PM

V-01 (S) Current Events Session
V-02 (W) How to Fund Your Ideas: Professional Development Workshop for Proposal Writing and Research Design
V-03 (R) Enduring Afterlives: Sea Salt, Turkeys, Dates, and Ginger in Today's Uncertain World
V-04 (R) Fifty Years of Arab Studies: Identity, Knowledge Production and Resistance from the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies (CCAS), Georgetown University
V-05 (R) Geopolitical Transition, Diplomatic Activity, and Cultural Production in Postwar Beirut
V-06 (R) Voicing the Enslaved: Histories, Narratives, and Translations of Ottoman Slavery
V-07 (R) The Color Black and Beyond
V-08 (P) The Gothic, the Grotesque, and the Freaky in Middle Eastern Literature
V-09 (P) Give or Take: New Approaches to Muslim-Christian Interactions in the Ottoman Empire
V-10 (P) Engaging with Musical Archives: Scholarship, Teaching, and Performance of Music from the Arab World
V-11 (P) Digital Reimaginings of Middle Eastern Studies III: Catalyzing Learning Technologies for Engagement in Islamic Histories
V-12 (P) Discursive Transformations in Syria: Analyzing Linguistic and Ideological Shifts of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham
V-13 (P) Empowering Arabic Language Learning with Generative AI for 21st-Century Skills
V-14 (P) The Politics and Practice of Medicine, Ecology, and Knowledge in the Eastern Mediterranean
V-15 (P) Whose Civility, Whose Tolerance? Reflections on Emerging Grammars of Citizenship in MENA
V-16 (P) Bearing Witness: The Transmission of Memory and Truth in Contemporary Algerian Literature and Music
V-17 (P) Actors of Conflict and Peace in the Middle East: Changing Dynamics and Emerging Identities
V-18 (P) Entangled Power: Clinical and Cultural Readings of Sadomasochistic Dynamics in Iran
V-19 (P) Gender, the Family, and Islam
V-20 (P) Middle Eastern Philology I: Language Study in the Persianate World

(S) = Special Session ❁ (P) = Panel ❁ (R) = Roundtable ❁ (W) = Workshop

V-21 (P) Heritage, Theft, and Preservation
V-22 (P) Post-Ottoman Economy: Networks, Actors, and Trends
V-23 (P) From Ancient Saba to Sufi Saints: Current Research on the History of Yemen
V-24 (P) Diasporic Formations: Religious and Cultural Practice in the West
V-25 (P) Islamic Law: Classification, Semantics, and Positionality
V-26 (P) Crossed Perspectives Between the Iranian and Hispanic Worlds: Narratives and Representations in Contemporary Times
V-27 (P) Populism in Erdoğan's Turkey: Capturing the State, Capturing Culture
V-28 (P) Disciplinary (De)Formations: The Making and Unmaking of Colonial Subjects in the Modern Middle East and North Africa
V-29 (P) The (In)Stability Paradox: Coups, Regional Conflicts, and Foreign Policy Challenges

SESSION VI: 4:00-6:00 PM

VI-01 (S) The Nakba, Constantine Zurayk and the History of the Present
VI-02 (R) Theorizing Mohabbat: Love as an Epistemological Framework in Islamic Studies and the Study of Religion
VI-03 (R) Towards an Ethic of Comparison: The Study of Genocide and Mass Violence in the Middle East
VI-04 (R) A Lexicon for Watching History Unfold
VI-05 (R) Feminist Historiographies of the Middle East Beyond Borders: Origins, Trajectories, and New Developments
VI-06 (R) Reimagining Jews in the Modern Middle East
VI-07 (R) How to Optimize Your Book Publishing Experience
VI-08 (P) Media, Witnessing, and Knowledge Production in a Time of Genocide/War in Palestine
VI-09 (P) Gender and Religious Identity on Screen
VI-10 (P) How Poetry Revolts: Traditions of Poetic Revolution in Arabic, Persian, and Urdu
VI-11 (P) Race and Carcerality Across Borders
VI-12 (P) Above and Below: Sacred Verticalities
VI-13 (P) Leftists, Liberals, and Revolutionaries
VI-14 (P) Urban Protests as Arenas of Spontaneity and Organization in SWANA
VI-15 (P) Religious Institutions and the State in the Arab World
VI-16 (P) Political Economy and State-Society Relations in Contemporary Iran
VI-17 (P) Grieving and Mourning: The Social and Political Work of Death
VI-18 (P) Middle Eastern Philology II: Traditions of Literary Theory and Criticism
VI-19 (P) Navigating Ruptures: Continuity and Change in Fatimid Ifrīqiya and Sicily
VI-20 (P) Chronicles, Libraries, and Archives
VI-21 (P) Transregional Entanglements: European Narratives and Local Agency in Mediterranean Migration Governance
VI-22 (P) Secret Histories (and Possible Futures) of Middle Eastern and Islamic Media
VI-23 (P) Arab Gulf Futurism: Mapping the Terrain
VI-24 (P) Translating Palestinian Thought
VI-25 (P) Maghreb Literature as World Literature

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

SESSION VII: 8:30-10:30 AM

VII-01 (S) Academic Freedom: political instability and conflict
VII-02 (R) Rethinking Militarism and Militarized Policy in and with the Middle East
VII-03 (R) Foreign Aid in the MENA: Past and Future
VII-04 (R) Interdisciplinary Graduate Topics in Amazigh Studies
VII-05 (R) Critical Perspectives on Environmental Justice in the Middle East
VII-06 (R) Using Games and Simulations in the MES Classroom
VII-07 (P) Anticolonial Politics in Egypt
VII-08 (P) Lebanon as a Site of Internationalist Solidarity
VII-09 (P) Empire, Capital, and Rurality: The Commodification of Tribal Property in the Modern Middle East
VII-10 (P) Translating Cultures: Legal, Linguistic, and Literary Intersections in Ottoman-European Exchanges
VII-11 (P) Sufi Shrines to AI: Contemporary Islamic Piety
VII-12 (P) Borders, Bodies, and Becoming in Transnational Kurdish Literatures
VII-13 (P) Purposes of Arabic Eloquence: Building the State and Understanding the World
VII-14 (P) The Politics, Lives and Afterlives of Infrastructure in West Asia - Interdisciplinary Approaches
VII-15 (P) Gender in Iran: Digital and Social Media
VII-16 (P) Rupturing Loss: The Poetics of Ruination, Remembrance, and Resistance in North Africa and the Middle East
VII-17 (P) Shifting Political Landscapes in Iran: Elite Configurations, Institutional Conflicts, and Grassroots Contestations
VII-18 (P) Exploring Empire in “Low” Places
VII-19 (P) Arab-American Hybridity and Shifts Across Borders
VII-20 (P) Narrating the Nation: Media and Memory in Middle Eastern Histories
VII-21 (P) Performance and Resistance
VII-22 (P) Displacement, Disenchantment, and Contemporary Fiction
VII-23 (P) Political Thought in Transnational Perspective
VII-24 (P) Histories of the Margins in the Eastern Mediterranean
VII-25 (P) Matrilineal Legacies, Feminist Solidarities, and Non-Traditional Kinship in New Arab Documentary Practices
VII-26 (P) Political Metaphysics and Anti-Metaphysics in Modern Middle East History
VII-27 (P) From Taḥqiq to Javanmardi: Sufism, Shiʿism, and Religious Entanglements in Mongol and post-Mongol Iran

SESSION VIII: 11:00 AM–1:00 PM

VIII-01 (S) A Multifaceted Defense of Academic Freedom in Times of Genocide
VIII-02 (R) Ecology and Infrastructure: New Approaches to Racial Capitalism
VIII-03 (R) Expanding and Developing the Field of International Relations Within Middle East Studies – A Roundtable Honoring the Work of F. Gregory Gause III
VIII-04 (R) Queer Turkish and Ottoman Literature
VIII-05 (R) Genocide and the Middle East and North Africa
VIII-06 (R) Writing Syrian History in the Time of Upheaval
VIII-07 (P) Cosmic Jazz: Weirding the World Through Textual-Visual Play in a Messianic Age
VIII-08 (P) Learning and Knowledge Transmission in Morocco
VIII-09 (P) Transnational Histories of Early Arab Cinema

(S) = Special Session (P) = Panel (R) = Roundtable (W) = Workshop

VIII-10 (P) Rethinking Financial Control: The Material Life of the Ottoman Public Debt Administration
VIII-11 (P) Contestation and Place-Making in Palestine/Israel
VIII-12 (P) Occidentalism Reconsidered: The West Through the Eyes of Its Other
VIII-13 (P) Fluid Archives: Tracing Memory Through Sludge, Stains, and the Sea
VIII-14 (P) Shifting Racial Categories on the Arabian Peninsula
VIII-15 (P) Ottoman Archaeology in the Long 19th Century: Archives, Networks, Museums, Laws, and Practices
VIII-16 (P) New Directions in Researching Gender in Authoritarian Egypt: Securitizing Reform, Policing Bodies, and Co-opting Sexualities
VIII-17 (P) Women and Gender in Iran/Persia: The Long View
VIII-18 (P) Rethinking Civilizationism, Identitarianism, and Political Governance in New Turkey
VIII-19 (P) Political Parties: Formation, Tactics, Impact
VIII-20 (P) Trajectories and Afterlives of Revolution: Between Hope and Disappointment
VIII-21 (P) Modern Islam, State Power, and Society
VIII-22 (P) Minorities at Home and Abroad
VIII-23 (P) Mechanisms of Repression
VIII-24 (P) Ecocriticism and Middle Eastern Literatures
VIII-25 (P) Law, Leisure, and Politics: Children and Youth as Historical Actors in the MENA Region
VIII-26 (P) Print, Prison, and Homeland: Shaping Identities in the Late Ottoman Empire

SESSION IX: 1:30-3:30 PM

IX-01 (S) Celebrating 40 Years of AMEWS and 20 Years of JMEWS: Reflections on the Past, Present, and Future of Middle East Women's and Gender Studies
IX-02 (S) Israel-US War on Iran and its Consequences
IX-03 (W) Professional Development in Active Learning: Introducing Reacting to the Past
IX-04 (R) New Edited Book Roundtable on Decolonizing Afghanistan
IX-05 (R) Zouj (Two): Dynamic Judeo-Maghribi Interaction
IX-06 (R) Art in Academia: Integrating the Study of Art into Middle East Studies
IX-07 (R) Research and Scholarship in the New Syria: Possibilities and Ethical Responsibilities
IX-08 (P) Insurgent Performances: Solidarity Aesthetics and Bodily Production Within Middle Eastern/SWANA and Diasporic Expressive Cultures
IX-09 (P) Mystical Webs: Sufi Networks and Multilayered Spaces
IX-10 (P) Mothering and Un-mothering in Palestine
IX-11 (P) Nationalism, Public Health, and Medical Institutions in North Africa and the Middle East: Colonial and Postcolonial Encounters (19th-20th Centuries)
IX-12 (P) Elite Politics: Capitalists, Presidents, and Monarchs
IX-13 (P) Moral Epistemes Between Philosophy, Language, and Law
IX-14 (P) Borrowed Sovereignty: Longue Durée Perspectives on Capital and Justice in Egypt (ca. 1800-ca. 2000)
IX-15 (P) Literary Criticism and Affect Across Forms and Concepts
IX-16 (P) Ousting and Inclusion of the In/Visible Arab Americans: The Works of Eman Quotah, Aya Khalil, Hala Alyan, Amal Kassir and Seif-Eldein
IX-17 (P) Modernity Framed: The Politics of Art Through the Lens of Economy and Class Struggle in Iran Between Revolutions
IX-18 (P) Surviving the Late Ottoman Empire
IX-19 (P) Education, Curricular Innovations, and New Classroom Strategies
IX-20 (P) Engaging Zionism: History, Theory, and the Politics of Knowledge Production
IX-21 (P) Love in Translation: Identity and Censorship in Novels
IX-22 (P) Franklin Books and the Cultural Cold War in Comparative Contexts

IX-23 (P) Contemporary Islamic Thought
IX-24 (P) From Intimate Space to the Cosmos in Classical Islamic Thought
IX-25 (P) International Relations and Diplomacy
IX-26 (P) Popular Mobilization, Subaltern Histories, and Revolutionary Politics: Drawing on Gramsci to Renew the Study of Resistance
IX-27 (P) Commodity Histories of Lebanon
IX-28 (P) Matter Out of Place: Dirt, Waste, and Marginality in the Modern Middle East

SESSION X: 4:00-6:00 PM

X-01 (S) Contemporary Middle East Dance: Demonstration and Discussion
X-02 (R) Toward Tamazight-Conscious Approaches in Tamazgha Studies
X-03 (R) After Liberation: Imagining the Future of the Levant
X-04 (R) Wise Women and New Approaches: Honoring Those Who Study Iranian and ME (SWANA) Gender and Women Issues
X-05 (R) The Middle East and its Revolutions
X-06 (R) Middle East Migrations: Minority Perspectives and the Transnational Politics of Pluralism
X-07 (P) Late Ottoman Readers and Writers
X-08 (P) Student Circuits in the Global Middle East
X-09 (P) Paradoxes of Humanitarianism: Anthropological Inquiry in Times of Crisis
X-10 (P) Sense-Making and Making Sense during Environmental Crises: Consumers, Peasants, and Intellectuals in the 19th and 20th Centuries
X-11 (P) Sufism and Sufi Sites in MENA Literature
X-12 (P) The Question of Race in Middle East Studies: Land, Language, and Violence in Cultural Production on Palestine and Afghanistan
X-13 (P) Economic Sovereignty in Thought and Praxis in the Middle East and North Africa, c. 1880–1958
X-14 (P) State, Society, and Art in the Medieval World
X-15 (P) Alternative Futures for Iran
X-16 (P) The Erasure of Palestine and the Unraveling of the Neoliberal University Since October 7, 2023: The Canadian Case
X-17 (P) The Diversity and Resilience of Bektashi Heritage: Historical and Contemporary Ethnographic Perspectives
X-18 (P) Hauntings and Longings in Palestinian Literature
X-19 (P) Technologies of Occupation
X-20 (P) American Orientalisms: Speaking Back Through Islamic Art History
X-21 (P) International Aid and Humanitarian Assistance
X-22 (P) Political Narratives, Discourses, and Myths
X-23 (P) Discursive Constructions of Turkey in Geopolitical Context: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives
X-24 (P) Emotions in the Medieval Islamic Intellectual Tradition
X-25 (P) New Directions in SWANA Queer Studies
X-26 (P) Music and Soundscapes: Gender, Activism, and Communal Expressions

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

SESSION XI: 8:30-10:30 AM

XI-01 (R) Security, Development, and Political Participation in the Middle East and North Africa
XI-02 (R) Methods and Ethics in the Study of Minorities in the Middle East: The Case of Assyrians/Syriacs
XI-03 (R) The Present Day: Peacemaking Alternatives for Israeli Policy
XI-04 (W) Current Debates in the Middle Eastern Studies with Global Academy Fellows
XI-05 (P) Capital and Social History in the Middle East
XI-06 (P) Embodied Politics: Masculinity, Sexuality, and Intimacy
XI-07 (P) Generative Ruptures: Religious Transformation in and beyond the Middle East
XI-08 (P) Innovations in Academic and Professional Reading in Middle Eastern Languages
XI-09 (P) Palestinian Alternative Media in a Time of Genocide
XI-10 (P) Perspectives in Visual Studies of the Maghrib
XI-11 (P) Politics and Poetics of Social Reproduction
XI-12 (P) Pathways of Contagion: The Politics of Disease and Mobility in Nineteenth Century's Middle East
XI-13 (P) Transregional Migrant Labor and Racial Formations in the Gulf
XI-14 (P) Re/Considering and Re/Imagining Community in the Middle East
XI-15 (P) State, Society, and Governance
XI-16 (P) Maghrebi Intellectual History and the Arab East: Continuities and Ruptures
XI-17 (P) State Making in the Ancient and Medieval World
XI-18 (P) New Explorations in Classical Islamic Philosophy
XI-19 (P) Knowledge and the Self in Classical Arabic Literature
XI-20 (P) Women Writing Women
XI-21 (P) Mediascapes, Stardom, and Popular Music Consumption Within, Across, and Beyond National Boundaries in the Contemporary Arab World
XI-22 (P) Imperial Echoes: Continuity and Rupture in the Ottoman Legacy of Modern Turkey
XI-23 (P) On Anti-Palestinian Racism

SESSION XII: 11:00 AM–1:00 PM

XII-01 (R) From Apartheid to Democracy: Mapping Policy Pathways in Israel-Palestine
XII-02 (R) Science and Technology Studies in the Middle East and North Africa
XII-03 (R) Recognizing and Counteracting Intellectual Extractivism in MENA: Decolonizing and Dismantling the Exploitative Structures of Academia
XII-04 (R) Tied Up In Tehran: Women, Social Change, and the Politics of Daily Life in Postrevolutionary Iran
XII-05 (R) Somatization of Disasters: Rethinking Event and Embodied Temporalities in the Middle East
XII-06 (P) The State in Islamic Law and Thought
XII-07 (P) Arabic Speculative Literature Amidst Destruction, Repression, and Trauma
XII-08 (R) The Anthropologist as Reader: Remembering and Thinking with Brinkley Messick
XII-09 (P) Beyond Modern Categories: Rethinking Theory in Medieval Islamic Studies
XII-10 (P) Forms of Ottoman Patronage: New Approaches and Directions of Research
XII-11 (P) Legal Pluralism, Colonial Rule, and State Policies: Governing Religious Diversity in Arab States
XII-12 (P) Voice, Music, and the Production of Belonging

(S) = Special Session ❁ (P) = Panel ❁ (R) = Roundtable ❁ (W) = Workshop

XII-13 (P) Contemporary Political Contestation in Iran
XII-14 (P) Worldbuilding Classical Arabic Literature
XII-15 (P) Women, Gender, and Freedom
XII-16 (P) Armeno-Turkish Culture in the Late Ottoman Empire
XII-17 (P) Piety and Religious Articulations
XII-18 (P) Jewish Living, Writing, and Dissenting from the Middle East to Europe
XII-19 (P) Aesthetics of Power: Spectacles and Performances
XII-20 (P) Psychoanalysis in the Times of War and Death
XII-21 (P) Lebanon: Violence, Multimodality, and Knowledge Production
XII-22 (P) Protest Politics in the Middle East and North Africa
XII-23 (P) Reframing Islamic Historiography and Epistemologies: Chronologies and Intellectual Traditions
XII-24 (P) Voter Mobilization and Electoral Outcomes
XII-25 (P) Climate Change, Renewable Energy, and the Environment: Contested Politics

SESSION XIII: 1:30-3:30 PM

XIII-01 (R) Conducting Fieldwork on Sex, Sexuality, and Sexual and Reproductive Health in the Middle East and North Africa: Part III
XIII-02 (R) Politics and Perils for Researching Middle Eastern Christians
XIII-03 (R) New Ethnographies of Islam: A Roundtable
XIII-04 (P) Gendered Contestations: Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia
XIII-05 (P) Ottoman Empire: Urban Development, Design, and Bureaucracies
XIII-06 (P) Refugees and Displacement
XIII-07 (P) Time, the State, and the End of the World in Arabic Fiction
XIII-08 (P) Social Inequalities: Unrest, Redistribution, Austerity, and the Law
XIII-09 (P) Civilizations and Their Others
XIII-10 (P) Body and Voice in Modern Türkiye
XIII-11 (P) Redefining the Boundaries of Political Islam: Hybridization and Change
XIII-12 (P) Framing Violence in the Late Ottoman World
XIII-13 (P) The Middle East and Korea: Historical and Cultural Intersections
XIII-14 (P) Captivity, Control, and the Shaping of Order in Medieval Islam
XIII-15 (P) Mediterranean Crossings: Borderscapes, Colonialism, and Migrations (19th–21st Centuries)
XIII-16 (P) Gender Roles, Economic Structures, and the Legal System in the Ottoman Context
XIII-17 (P) Religion and Politics in Persianate Literature
XIII-18 (P) Doing, Decoding, and Critiquing Poetry
XIII-19 (P) Insurgency, Militarism, and Urban Violence
XIII-20 (P) Empire and Extraction: Land, Labor, and Environmental Control
XIII-21 (P) Palestinian Citizens of Israel
XIII-22 (P) Women's (Dis)Empowerment in Historical Perspective and Contemporary Activism

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Deadline is October 24, 2025, for non-panelists.

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