



# 2015 MESAAS Graduate Conference

5-6 March, 2015

Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies  
Columbia University in the City of New York

Keynote by Ann Stoler

5-6 March 2015

# MESAAS Graduate Conference 2015

Program

**Keynote by Ann Stoler**

"Raw Cuts / Other Folds:  
Palestine, Israel and Colonial Studies"

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DEPARTMENT OF MIDDLE EASTERN, SOUTH  
ASIAN, AND AFRICAN STUDIES

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

REGISTRATION IS BETWEEN 10 - 12 ON BOTH DAYS  
KNOX HALL, LOBBY

**Thursday, 5th of March**  
**11:00 - 1:00**

**Session 1 / Sites of the Political**

[Knox 207]

Malay Firoz

*Urbanising Camps and Encamped Urbans: Tracing the Borders of the Political inside the Za'atari Refugee Camp*

Marthe Hesselmanns

*Apart We Pray? The Struggle of South Africa's Reformed Churches to Reconcile a Divided Nation*

Shoaib Ghias

*Defining Shari'a: Stoning and the Politics of Islamic Judicial Review*

Candace Lukasik

*A "Coptic Liberation Theology": Christian-Muslim Relations and the National Unity Paradigm in post-2011 Egypt*

Discussant: Kai Kresse

Moderator: Selim Karlitekin

**Thursday, 5th of March**  
**1:30 - 3:30**

**Session 2 / Historiography and Knowledge Formations**

[Knox 207]

Sara Swetzoff

*Perceptions of Arabia and the Horn of Africa Among Medieval Muslim Scholars*

Abhilash Medhi

*Clio on the Margins: Memory and Identity in Early Twentieth-Century Assam*

Larissa Schmid

*Objects of knowledge: North African prisoners of war in Germany during the First World War*

Discussant: Sudipta Kaviraj

Moderator: Vivek Yadav

**Session 3 / Identities in Circulation: Archeologies of Media and Becoming**

[Knox 208]

Eran Hakim

*When the Christians killed Jesus: Uses of Arabness in a mixed primary school located in a lower-class neighborhood in Jaffa*

Viktoria Ruth Luisa Metschl

*Archival Figurations of Cinematographic Solidarity*

Re'ee Hagai

*On The Riverbank of Exile: Sound as a Medium of Arab-Jewish Experience*

Discussant: Jennifer Wenzel

Moderator: Mohammad Sadegh Ansari

**Thursday, 5th of March**  
**4:00 - 6:00**

**Session 4 / Modernity and the Reconfiguration of Islamic Knowledges**  
[Knox 207]

Caitlyn Bolton

*Colonizing Curriculum: Modernity, Morality and Islamic Education in Colonial Zanzibar*

Hasan Azad

*Ebrahim College and the Idea of Virtue in Islam*

Kenan Tekin

*Out of Many, One: Unity of Science in the Islamic-Ottoman Discursive Tradition*

Sophia Helen Golvach

*Islamic Law of Armed Conflict and Las Siete Partidas -The Lost and Found Heartwood of Modern International Humanitarian Law*

Discussant: Wael Hallaq

Moderator: Omar Farahat

**Thursday, 5th of March**  
**6:00 - 8:00**

**Keynote Session**  
[Knox 509]

*Introduction: Allison Busch*

**Ann Stoler**

Willy Brandt Distinguished University Professor of  
Anthropology and Historical Studies

**"Raw Cuts / Other Folds:  
Palestine, Israel and Colonial Studies"**

**Friday, 6th of March**  
**11:00 - 1:00**

**Session 1 / Debt and Colonial Rule**

[Knox 207]

Casey Primel

*Capital and its others in colonial Egypt, 1894-1912*

Hollian Wint

*From Slaves to Debtors? Emancipated and manumitted Africans in the credit economy of Zanzibar, 1895-1915*

Henny Ziai

*The political technology of debt in Liberian settler colonialism*

Discussant: Debjani Bhattacharyya (Drexel University)

Moderator: Casey Primel

**Session 2 / The Normativity of Language in Uṣūl al-fīqh and Mīmāṃsā**

[Knox 208]

A Roundtable Conversation:

Andrew Ollett

Omar Farahat

Discussant: Akeel Bilgrami

**Friday, 6th of March**  
**1:30 - 3:30**

**Session 3 / Troubling Literary History**

[Knox 207]

Taimoor Shahid

*Textures of Continuity: Time-Space-Language in the Many Lives of a Poem and Lessons in Literary History*

Ilan Benattar

*Towards A Reinvigorated Intellectual Genealogy of Zionism and Middle Eastern Jewry: Bialik's "Revival of the Sephardim"*

Aviv Becher

*When Memorial Poems Don't Mourn*

Elvan Julia Sayarer

*The Politics of the Author: The Case of Orhan Pamuk and Turkey*

Discussant: Gil Anidjar

Moderator: TBA

**Session 4 / Gender in the Making**

[Knox 208]

Robert Joseph Bell

*Luti Masculinity in Iranian Modernity, 1785-1911: Gender, Nationalism, and the Anxieties of Proper Masculine Comportment*

Jeremy Nicholas Randall

*Affective Genders in Maroun Baghdadi's Documentaries*

Rasha Moumneh

*Producing the Nation: Sex Panics and Racialization in Lebanon*

Daniel Behar

*In her Likeness: Salih Diab and the "undue influence" of women poets*

Discussant: TBA

Moderator: Henny Ziai

**Friday, 6th of March**  
**4:00 - 6:00**

**Session 5 / Islamic Authority and the Construction of National Identity**

[Knox 207]

Ari Schriber

*The Iconoclast 'Ālim: 'Allal al-Fasi and the Construction of Salafi Nationalism in Morocco*

Youssef Ben Ismail

*'Good 'ulama'' and 'Bad 'ulama'': Rethinking Post-Colonial Narratives of Religious Authority in Tunisia*

Laura Thompson

*Insulting the Sacred: Punishing Blasphemy in Post-Arab Spring Tunisia*

Mary Elston

*Shaykh al-Tayeb's Threat of I'tikāf: Al-Azhar after the Revolution*

Discussant: Muhsin al-Musawi

Chair: Ari Schriber

**Session 6 / Moral Economy**

[Knox 208]

Zachary Davis Cuyler

*"The Invasion of the Desert": Expertise, Nationalism, and the Development of Egypt's Western Desert, 1954-1961*

Sacha Robehmed

*'Mindset,' 'Mentality' and 'Culture': The Frictional Encounters of ICT Entrepreneurship Development in Jordan*

Cristina Violante

*Valve World: Crane Co. Valves in Saudi Arabia and Yemen*

Marcus Barrow Walton

*Between the Lines: Bread, Moral Economy, and the Discourse of Welfare in Egypt*

Discussant: Timothy Mitchell

Moderator: Matthew Ghazarian



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Organizing Committee

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## Our Supporting Faculty

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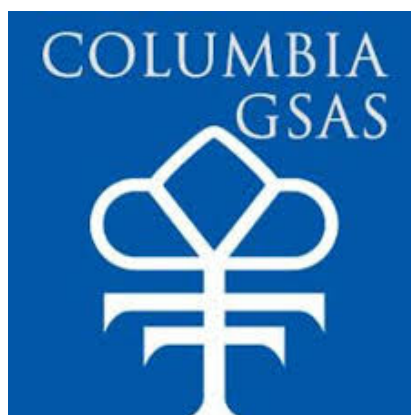
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Institute of African Studies

## And Our Keynote Speaker

Prof. Ann Stoler, New School for  
Social Research

*We also thank the moderators and all other volunteers and supporters.*



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