

Report of Commission on the Middle East

Participants of Commission on the Middle East, August 7-9th 2016, Krakow, Poland



The Commission on the Middle East convened for a second year in Krakow, Poland, August 7-9th, 2016, holding a full three-day conference. Scholars from fifteen countries presented 28 papers, all participants came to all sessions. There was no hurry and all papers got discussed to the satisfaction of authors and those present, as the setting of the conference allowed for discussion outside the main room. We had one film projection, and one Commission Business Meeting, IUAES style, and a round table meeting at the end of the Conference.



Discussions continued in an informal manner at recesses

The cohesion and interest of the scholars was such that all dinners were held jointly in a nearby restaurant. The host of the Conference, Dr. Hab. Marcin Brocki, University Head of the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Jagierllonski Uniwersytet, and Professor Anna Krasnowolska, from Iranology Department of Jagierllonski Uniwersytet were present at all sessions, so the conference was appreciated at local level also.

The Zubeydeh Ashkanani Prize of our *Anthropology of the Middle East Journal (AME)* was announced to go to Dr. Abdullah M. Alajmi, Assistant Director for Academic Affairs, Arab Open Univeristy, Kuwait, for his paper entitled “Debt, Peonage and Dependency in the *kafalah* System: Hadrami Migratory Experience in Kuwait” (*AME* 2014:1) .

Below you have our program:

The International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (I U A E S)

Conference of Commission on the Middle East

“Migration, Change and Continuity:

Kinship, Religion, Politics, Visual, in Retrospect and Beyond”

Krakow, Poland (7-9 August, 2016)

Organised by Dr. S. Shahshahani, Shahid Beheshti University
Chair of the Commission, soheilairan@gmail.com
& Marzieh Kavianara, University of Bristol
Executive Secretary of the Commission, m.kavianara@gmail.com

Scientific Committee:

Dr Soraya Tremayne, University of Oxford
Professor Mary Hegland, Santa Clara University
Professor Yamagishi, Meiji University
Dr Danila Mayer, University of Applied Sciences
Dr Fakhri Haghani, Rutgers University
Dr Mona Tajali, Agnes Scott College
Dr Sahar Maranlou, University of Oxford

Conference Venue:
Main Building of the University, Golebia 24, Krakow, Poland

Programme

August 7th

9-10	Registration
10:00-10:15	Dr S. Shahshahani: Welcome Note to Participants
10:15-10:20	Dr Hab. Marcin Brocki, Head of the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology: Welcome to Jagierllonski Uniwersytet
10:20-10:40	Professor Anna Krasnowolska: "The Magic of Fruit Trees in Iran and Poland"
10:40-11:00	Coffee/Tea Break
11:00-13:00	Panel I: The Emerging Kinship in Changing Middle East Organiser and Chair: Dr. Soraya Tremayne

- 11:00-11:20 Dr Zuzanna Olszewska, University of Oxford
“The Heart's Secret No More? The Shifting Meanings of Love and Companionate Marriage Among Young Afghans”
- 11:20-11:40 Dr Azim Malikov, Institute of History of Academy of Sciences, Tashkent
“Kinship System Among Khoja Groups in Southern Kazakhstan”
- 11:40-12:00 Krzysztof Lalik, Jagiellonian University of Krakow
“Tribal Mechanisms In Contemporary Social Life Among Kurds in Iraq”
- 12:00-12:20 Dr Mitra Asfari, Universite de Paris (Descartes)
“Kinship Among the Qorbat of Babol in Tehran”
- 12:20-12:40 Sachiko Hosoya, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
“Choosing A Unique Life As A Thalassemia Patient: Biological Citizenship and Marriage Partner Preferences Of People With a Genetic Illness in Turkey and Iran”
- 12:40-13:00 Discussion
- 13:00-14:20 Lunch Break

14:20-15:20 Panel II: Migration, Change and Continuity

Organiser: Dr. Danila Mayer

Chair: Professor Yamagishi

- 14:20-14:40 Dr Danila Mayer, University of Applied Sciences, Austria.
“Puppets Play War: Wael Shawky's Cabaret Crusades”
- 14:40-15:00 Ibrahim Algoraan, Ben-Gurion University of Negev
“Bedouin Society: Immigration, Continuity and Change”
- 15:00-15:20 Discussion
- 15:20-15:40 Coffee/Tea Break

15:40-17:00 Panel III: Anthropologists of the Middle East in Retrospect

Organiser: Dr S. Shahshahani

Chair: Dr Fakhri Haghani

- 15:40-16:00 Dr Matthias Batts, University of Oxford
“A Window in the History of Ethnography in Soviet Tajikistan: The Archive of Antonina Pisarchik (1907-1995) in Cracow’s Institute of Iranian Studies”
- 16:00-16:20 Dr Soheila Shahshahani, Shahid Beheshti University
“Nasser Khosrow Qobadiyani’s Travel Account or Daily Notebook of an Anthropologist in Retrospect”

16:20-17:00 Discussion of both panels

August 8th

9:00-12:00 Panel IV: Popular Religious Practices and Perceptions

Organiser and Chair: Prof. Mary Hegland

9:00-9:20 Amina Tawasil, University of New Mexico
“The Art of the Chador: Practice and Play among Iranian Howzevi (Seminarians)”

9:20-9:40 Professor Edith Szanto, The American University of Iraq
“The Final Tear: Pious Bodies, Affective Economies, and Sacred Space in Contemporary Iraqi Arbaeen Practices”

9:40-10:00 Professor Erika Loeffler Friedl, Western Michigan University
“God and People in Folkloric Texts from Boir Ahmad, Iran”

10:00-10:20 Discussion

10:20-10:40 Coffee/Tea Break

10:40-11:00 Professor Kim Shively, Kutztown University
“Answering Debt: Charity and Eschatological Anxiety in the Age of Turkish Prosperity”

11:00-11:20 Zep Kalb, University of Oxford
“The Neither Dulati nor Khosusi: Civil Society, Creativity and Islam in Qom’s Religious Academia”

11:20-12:00 Discussion of the whole session

12:00-13:30 Lunch Break

13:30- 15:30 Panel V: Negotiating Political Inclusion: Women and Party Politics in the Middle East and North Africa

Organisers: Professor Homa Hoodfar & Mona Tajali

Chair: Professor Kim Shively

13:30-13:50 Sabah Ikhmayes, Vrije Universiteit
“The Implications of Gender Quota in Palestine as a Conflict-torn, Divided Society”

- 13:50-14:10 Mona Tajali, Agnes Scott College
“Women and Party Politics in Turkey and Iran”
- 14:10-14:30 Coffee/Tea Break
- 14:30-14:50 Katarina Skrabakova, Comenius University in Bratislava
“Islamic Women as Candidates in Elections: Comparison of PJD in Morocco and Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt”
- 14:50-15:10 Sarah Fischer, Marymount University
“Women in Islamic Political Parties: Increasing Visibility, Utility and Power?”
- 15:10 -15:30 Sawsan Samara, King Hossein Foundation
“Are Educated Jordanian Women Really Interested in Seeking Leadership Positions in Jordanian Public and Political Sector?”
- 15:30-16:00 Discussion
- 16:00-17:00 **Business Meeting of the Commission on the Middle East**
Agenda: Location of our meeting in 2017
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August 9th

- 9:00-10:20 Panel VI: Beyond Theories; Doing Research in the Middle East**
Organisers: Professor Yamagishi Tomoko & Dr. Sahar Maranlou
Chair: Soheila Shahshahani
- 9:00-9:20 Mary Hegland, Santa Clara University
“Anthropological Field Research in the Iranian Revolution and in the Islamic Republic”
- 9:20-9:40 Yamagishi Tomoko, Meiji University, Tokyo
“Beyond the Dialectic of Globalisation Theories; Far East visual Culture Entering Middle East”
- 9:40-10:00 Sahar Maranlou, University of Oxford
“Understanding Public Perceptions about Law & Society”

10:00-10:20	Discussion
10:20-11:10	Coffee/Tea Break
11:10-12:30	Panel VII: Visual Culture, Law and Gender in the Middle East and North Africa Organiser: Dr Fakhri Haghani Chair: Professor Erika Loeffler
11:10-11:30	Zuzanne Blajet, Jagiellonian University “How Powerful Slogans Are? Language Policy and Social Change On the Example of the Shughni language in the Republic of Tajikistan
11:30-11:50	Farniyaz Zaker, University of Oxford “Urban Space as a White Canvas: The Politics of Space in Twentieth Century Iran”
11:50-12:10	Fakhri Haghani, Rutgers University “What is ‘Visual’ about the Refugee Crisis?”
12:10-12:30	Discussion
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	Panel VIII: Research in Progress Chair: Prof. Mary Hegland, Santa Clara University
14:00-14:20	Marzieh Kaivanara, University of Bristol “Medicalisation of Beauty and Consumption of Health: The Case of Tehran”
14:20-14:40	Sara Lenehan, London School of Economics “Fake luxury fashion brands and their uses in Tehran”
14:40-15:30	Students participating in the Conference would be welcomed to present their research and benefit from the presence of scholars to enhance their work. Discussion follows.
15:30-17:00	Round Table Discussion: Anthropology and the Middle East

Finally let me announce our proposed panel titles for next year, which will be held August 10-12th, 2017, at the same location, in Krakow, Poland:

- **Education: The Formal and Informal Domain**

- **Elite Culture: Culture of the powerful**
- **The cultural expression of the relationship between human/God**
- **Food in the Middle East**
- **Female authority in the Middle East**
- **Gender in various religions and sects in the Middle East**
- **Ethno-history of the Middle East**
- **Visual Anthropology**
- **Body, subjectivity and stage/screen**
- **Children of the Middle East**

Some Panels already have Chairs, we look forward to more panel proposals.

Deadline for Panel Proposal: December 30, 2016.

Deadline for Title of Paper: March 30, 2017.

Deadline for Abstract of Paper: June 15th 2017.

The chair of panel could demand the full paper to be sent to her before the Conference.