Research grant awards

- Sophie Richter-Devroe has been awarded a Gerda Henkel Foundation Special Programmes grant on ‘Security, Society and the State’, together with Dr Ruba Salih (SOAS), for the project: ‘Palestinian Refugees’ Strategies of Conflict Resolution: Reconciling Citizenship Rights and Return’. Value: £84,085.

This project investigates how Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, Jordan and Lebanon, reconcile citizenship strategies with their right to return. By counteracting their classic image as marginal subjects, Palestinian refugees are important conflict resolution actors: they are protagonists of new forms of political mobilisation, and catalysts of innovative non-territorial conceptualisations of citizenship and the nation-state.

New appointments

The Institute has made three new lectureship appointments, two research fellows and a post-award administrator:

Dr Eleanor Gao, PhD Michigan, has been appointed Lecturer in Middle East Politics and International Relations from 1 October 2012. Her research focuses on tribes in Jordan and how tribal diversity affects the quality of municipal service provision. Specifically she examines how the presence (or absence) of social diversity impacts overall local services, electoral competition, patronage and local socioeconomic outcomes. She hopes that such research will contribute to further understanding of governance in authoritarian countries as well as refine views regarding the relationship between diversity and public goods provision. In addition to her dissertation topic, she is broadly interested in the fields of identity politics, politics of the Arab world, and the politics of authoritarian/semi-democratic countries.

Dr William Gallois, PhD Bristol, has been appointed Senior Lecturer in Modern Middle East History from 1 January 2013. He will join us from Roehampton and his research interests focus on the history of Algeria and in relations between the Arab-Islamic and European worlds.

Dr István Kristó-Nagy, PhD Toulouse 2, Le Mirail and ELTE (Budapest), has been appointed Lecturer in Arabic and Islamic Studies to commence on 1 January 2013. His first book, La pensée d’Ibn al-Muqaffa, Un “agent double” dans le monde persan et arabe, Collection Studia Arabica, Éditions de Paris, will be published in 2013. His research interests include the cultural and social history of the formative and classical period of Islam: political and ethical thought, wisdom literature, the adab, the interaction between dualism and monotheism, the intellectual’s and artist’s role in Islamic civilization along with a comparison with its Western counterpart, and patterns in art reflecting patterns in thought and patterns in society.

Dr Sarah Elbiry, PhD SOAS, has been appointed Research Fellow on Professor Robert Gleave’s ESRC-GUF Fellowship – Islamic Reformulations: Belief, Violence, Governance.

Dr Nadia Najjab, PhD Exeter, has been appointed Research Fellow in the European Centre for Palestine Studies.

Mrs Nikki Clews has been appointed Senior Research Administrator (Post-Award).

Publications


Honorary appointments

Robert Gleave has been selected to be Mellon Visiting Professor of Islamic Studies, University of Chicago, between January and March 2013.

Honorary Research Fellows
Dr Syahruh Hidayat; Dr Basoeki Koesasi; Dr Arskal Salim.

Conferences, seminars and workshops

**Doctoral workshop on Middle Eastern Literatures.**
organised by the Centre for Kurdish Studies in collaboration with Dr Laurent Mignon (Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford), 8 - 9 March 2013. This is a closed workshop.

**Red Sea Conference in Saudi Arabia 2013, 17 - 20 March**
The Red Sea: Past and Present and Future challenges. The focus is on topics that stimulate new thought and discourse about different human adaptations to and interactions with the environment of the Red Sea, both past and present. Organised by the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities, Riyadh; the King Abdullah University Science and Technology, Jeddah; and MARES 2 at the IAIS. For further information visit www.projects.exeter.ac.uk/mares/conferences

**Kurdish collections at the Library and Omar Sheikhmous Archives**
The Centre for Kurdish Studies is building a collection of Kurdish and Kurdish-related titles in Western and Middle-Eastern languages (English, Arabic, French and German are particularly well covered). It has recently acquired almost all Kurdish titles published in Turkey over the past decades and a substantial collection of books recently published in Iraqi and Iranian Kurdistan. In addition there are over 700 titles from the former Soviet Union including works of the major Soviet Kurdish novelists, as well as scholarly books in Kurdish, Armenian and Russian. Catalogues, books and periodicals are on the online library catalogue (https://lib.exeter.ac.uk/search~S6). For further information contact Afzal Hasan, the subject librarian, at a.hasan@exeter.ac.uk

Omar Sheikhmous has generously donated his personal archives to the University including books, his PhD thesis, pamphlets, journals and magazines. Thanks to his generous gift the University’s library has a collection of more than 150 rare Kurdish newspapers and journals available for use by academic researchers, under condition of approval by Heritage collection. For access to listed archive material, contact Heritage Collections (libspc@exeter.ac.uk) quoting EUL MS 403. For general information visit: www.exeter.ac.uk/as/library/about/middleeastcollections/collections/kurdishcollections

**PhD awards**


Xenia Gleissner. Local for Locals or Go Global. Negotiating How to Represent UAE Identity in Television and Film – supervised by Gerd Nonneman.


Caroline Neumueller. The 21st Century New Muslim Generation – Converts in Britain and Germany – supervised by Robert Gleave.


**Prizes**

Sophie Richter-Devroe was awarded the runner-up in the 2012 BRIMES Leigh Memorial Prize for her PhD thesis ‘Gender and Conflict Transformation in Palestine: Women’s Activism Between Local and International Agendas’.