Fellowship appointment – Academy of Social Sciences

Professor Gareth Stansfield has been appointed Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. He has been a regular commentator and adviser on Middle East politics over the last decade, focusing in particular on the politics and political economy of Iraq, the Kurdish regions of the Middle East, dynamics of Gulf Arabian peninsula security, and questions of post-conflict stabilization and nation-state building. He is one of a handful of academics to have lived and worked in pre-regime-change Iraq for an extensive period of time, between 1996 and 2001, and considers fieldwork experience in a range of countries in the Middle East and Islamic World.

King Abdul Aziz Book Award


Past Events


Visiting Speakers – Term 2

3 February: Prof Eugene Rogan (Oxford): “The Fall of the Ottomans: The Great War in the Middle East, 1914-20” (tbc)

10 February (with the Centre for the Study of Islam): Dr Mateo Farzaneh (Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, USA): “Shi’ism and Popular Leadership in the Iranian Constitutional Revolution, 1906–1911” (tbc)

10 February (3.15 pm) (with Centre for Palestine Studies) Dr Ghassan Khatib (Vice President for Development, Birzeit University, Palestine): “Either You’re With Us or Against Us”: Illiberal Canadian Foreign Aid in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, 2001–2012 – supervised by Jonathan Githens-Mazer

17 February (with the Centre of the Study for Islam): Dr Vasileios Syros (Academy of Finland): “The Myth of Islamic Absolutism: Representations of Soft and Hard Power in Medieval Islam”

24 February: Speaker to be advised

1 March (with the Centre for the Study of Islam): Prof Gudrun Kramer (Free University, Berlin): Title to be confirmed

2 March (with the Centre for the Study of Islam): Prof David Thomas (Birmingham): “History of Christian-Muslim Relations” (tbc)

9 March (with the Centre for the Study of Islam): Prof Nicolai Sinai (Oxford): Title to be confirmed

16 March (with the Centre for Gulf Studies): Prof Lisa Wedeen (Chicago): Title to be confirmed

23 March (with the Centre for the Study of Islam): Prof Geert Jan van Gelder (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences): “Ibn Usayyid ah’s ‘Literary History of Medicine’” (tbc)
Conferences, Seminars and Workshops

Conference: Reformulation and Hermeneutics: Researching the History of Islamic Legal Theory, Istanbul, 21-24 February 2016. This is an advanced notice of a collaborative conference between the Islamic Reformulations project and the Faculty of Theology, Istanbul University. The conference will examine how, through history, Sharia’s rules have been justified by Muslim thinkers, with a focus on the debates and discussions in works of legal theory. The conference will bring together leading researchers from the Middle East, Europe and North America in the discipline.

Centre for the Study of Islam

The Centre has a full term of activities for the Spring term 2016. All are welcome to attend any of the events. If you have any questions contact the Centre’s director: Robert Gleave (r.gleave@exeter.ac.uk). More information about the Centre for the Study of Islam can be found at: http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/iais/research/centres/csi

14 January: 1130-1230: Lunchtime Seminar (followed by CSI lunch): Dr David Warren: “Mistaking the Trees for a Wood: The Ulama of Egypt and Syria in the Wake of the Arab Spring”

19 January: 1130-1230: Lunchtime Seminar (followed by CSI lunch): Dr Ryan Ritterberg: “Representation in Islamic Commercial Law”

20 January: 1230-1330: CSI Arabic Texts Reading group: Details TBC

28 January: 1300-1900: GW4 project “Religion and Law” Workshop and public lecture, Cardiff University (travel expenses for GW4 staff and students is available). Professor Ebrahim Moosa (Notre Dame University): “Prohibiting Slavery in Islam: Religion, Law and the Challenge of Islamic State”. (NOTE: This event takes place at Cardiff University. E-mail CSI Director Robert Gleave for details on attendance: r.gleave@exeter.ac.uk)

1 February – 2 February: Mural Artwork: Mohammed Ali (aka Aerosol Arabic), the British Muslim Mural Artist will be visiting Exeter to decorate a mural at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies and giving a seminar on modern Muslim street art.

3 February: 1130-1230: Lunchtime Seminar (followed by CSI lunch): Dr Bianka Speidl: “A comparison of Shi‘ and Sunni legal opinion regarding West as dīr al-kuft.“

10 February: 1130-1230: Lunchtime Seminar: Dr Samer El-Karanshawi: “Drama, Sequence and Textuality: Commemorating Karbala in Beirut”


16 February: 1130-1230: Lunchtime Seminar (followed by CSI lunch): Dr Mohammed Eissa: “Theology and Legal Theory in the Fifth/Eleventh Century: A Case Study from the Shafi‘i School of Law”

17 February: 1230-1330: CSI Arabic Texts Reading group: Dr Suha Taji-Farouki: Text TBC


21 February - 25 February: Reformulation and Hermeneutics: Studies in Islamic Legal Theory conference. (Convened with the Faculty of Theology, Istanbul University – for details see www.islamicreformulations.net - this event will take place in Istanbul. E-mail CSI Director Robert Gleave for details on attendance: r.gleave@exeter.ac.uk)

1 March: (1730): Lecture: Prof Gudrun Kramer (Free University, Berlin): Title TBC

2 March: (1230-1330): CSI Arabic Texts Reading group with Professor David Thomas (visiting speaker): Text TBC

2 March: (1730): Lecture: Professor David Thomas (University of Birmingham): Title TBC

9 March: (1230-1330): CSI Arabic Texts Reading group with Professor Nicolai Sinai (visiting speaker): Text TBC

13 March: (1730): Lecture: Professor Nicolai Sinai (University of Oxford): Title TBC

23 March: (1230-1330): CSI Arabic Texts Reading group with Professor Gerard van Gelder (Visiting Speaker): Text TBC. In the evening, at 1730 Professor van Gelder will give a visiting speaker lecture entitled “ Ibn Usayyib’s ‘Lithary History of Medicine’.”

Visiting Researchers


Adele Mura (2015) The Symbolic Scenarios of Islamism: a study in Islamic political thought, Ashgate, Burlington VT


Emily Selove (2015) Medicine, Muqarn, and Micromos in Hādīyat Allī al-Qāsim al-Baghdadi Journal of Abbasid Studies, 2, Brill


Sajjad Rizvi (2015) ‘The takfīr of the Philosophers (and Sufis) in Safavid Iran’, in Camilla Adang, Hassan Ansari, Maribel Ferro and Sabine Schmidtke (eds), Accusations of Unbelief in Islam: A diachronic perspective on takfīr; Series: Islamic History and Civilizations, Brill Leiden-Boston, pp 244-272

Sajjad Rizvi (2016) Authority, Governance, Legitimacy, Representation: Some Thoughts from the Muslim, Margins’ Studies in Christian Ethics, 1-12


Emily Selove (2015) Medicine, Muqarn, and Micromos in Hādīyat Allī al-Qāsim al-Baghdadi Journal of Abbasid Studies, 2, Brill


Marc Valeri (2015), The Gulf Monarchies and Iran: Between Confrontation and Geostategic Realities, in L. Narbone & M. Lestra (eds), The Gulf Monarchies Beyond the Arab Spring (Florence:European University Institute), pp 38-45

13 January - 8 February: Dr Bianka Speidl (Senior Researcher at the Migration Research Institute in Budapest). Research Topic: Islamic legal thought for minorities.

5 - 20 February: Dr Samer El-Karanshawi (Independent Researcher, Cairo). Research Topic: Marginality and perceptions of history among the Lebanese Shi’a

7 - 27 February: Dr Mohammed Eissa (Independent Researcher, Berlin): Theology and Legal Theory in the Fifth/Eleventh Century: A Case Study from the Shafi‘i School of Law.