

HAGOP KEVORKIAN CENTER
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
2007–08

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Every year the Center faces the external pressures of the political context of Middle Eastern Studies in this country. It is our urgent task to contribute to wider understanding of an enormous range of topics over an equally wide range of disciplines concerning the study of the Middle East and Muslim societies. We also have a special charge to reach out to teachers and educators in schools and to a more general public in search of information or interested in films, exhibitions and literary events.

We have the additional challenge each year to provide our students with an intellectually stimulating program and environment of study, an environment that will equally benefit faculty and the many participants in our events who come from other departments, universities or outside the university system altogether. Each year there are the practical problems of the demands on MEIS faculty from the College as well as the Graduate School, of leaves, sabbaticals or retirements and of finding top rate adjuncts to provide much needed courses. Our focus in the MA program is largely on the modern period, an additional constraint and one we try to ease by our adjunct hiring.



The workshops, Distinguished Lecture series and the Thursday lunch-time lectures offer opportunities to invite the most innovative scholars and writers across our different fields, to complement teaching and to suggest new directions in research. All disciplines and all academic institutions are vulnerable to intellectual inflexibility, parochialism, self-satisfaction or sheer unvaried routine and unquestioned habits of mind: 'It's not my period, my region, my culture, my topic' can become an easy way to avoid the discomfort of critical and different thinking. So we hope to counter these natural tendencies partly by never being unaware of them and partly by the quality of those we invite. The range of co-sponsors for our events from across the university and outside testify to our attempts to keep all avenues open. I hope this year, whose events are listed elsewhere, has been largely successful in that aim. Many of our students now go on to research degrees or JD's and other such higher qualifications. We try to give them the very best preparation and that means doing everything possible to feed the scholarly imagination as well as the critical faculties.

Let me particularly mention our efforts in the fields of language study and literature. I sometimes think that we should have the Clintonesque

admonition: 'It's the language, stupid!' engraved over the entrance to the Kevorkian. The Department of Education is very concerned that Title VI Centers develop language pedagogy and work in fields such as assessment and evaluation. They look closely at the University's support for language teaching and training. We depend on the outstanding qualities of our language teachers, a team that really is without rival, that always presents the Center with new proposals for improvement, project development and outreach and we owe them an enormous debt. Elias Khoury has made his own unique contribution to our intellectual and imaginative life, not least in the conferences that he suggests and hosts and Hala Halim's arrival has restored energy to our modern Arabic offerings as a whole. To them all, our deepest gratitude.

I have the particular pleasure of welcoming Sofian Merabet in these pages. He has made a great contribution to the MA program in his first year with us teaching invaluable social science courses, a field in which we are rather under-staffed. I know that students have benefited greatly from his oversight and concern for the work and the problems all MA students face.

There have been major changes in the Kevorkian administration this summer. Shiva Balaghi left us after ten years of contributing an enormous amount to Center programs as Associate Director, the first holder of that position. She was in charge of the key activity of grant writing, not least for the Title VI grant which is now on a four-year but was on a three-year cycle. Not only did Shiva teach courses and give papers, she curated and created with colleagues festivals of films and artworks, organized teacher outreach workshop activities, also most important for Title VI, budgeted and organized workshops, book talks and conferences and worked with four directors to make the Kevorkian a leading institution in the country. We owe her a great deal and all wish her well for the future.

The new Associate Director will be Greta Scharnweber (who takes up the post on October 1st of this year, after our going to press). Greta is at the time of writing the Director of Outreach and Public Programming in the Council on Middle East Studies at Yale University, a new Title VI institution, where she has been tremendously successful in organizing a large program of events. She has seen grants and grant writing from both sides, in earlier work at the Ford Foundation and at Yale in her very successful fund-raising for initiatives. She took her BA at Georgetown in Contemporary Arab Studies, an MA in Arab Studies and Anthropology at the same university and an MA in Religious Studies at Colorado. I am sure that she will develop our activities and events here at the highest levels.

The other change in administration is the move of Bill Carrick to Columbia. Bill was at the Kevorkian for nearly two decades in which time

he shepherded five directors, staff and countless students through all the problems, social, technical and bureaucratic, forms, budgets and sometimes almost incomprehensible demands that we have at different times had to face. He became our institutional memory as well as the key to our operations. His tact was as legendary as his efficiency and his eye for detail was acute. He was a virtuoso of budget juggling and seeing the various possible combinations of scholarships and GAships. We will sorely miss him but know that Columbia could not possibly have a better administrator.

Amal Hageb, who replaces Bill, as Program Coordinator, is no stranger to NYU. She took her BS in Marketing and International Business and her MA in International Education and Cross Cultural Psychology here. She has served as the International Exchange Coordinator in the Vice Provost's Office of Global Programs as well as Advisor for Career and International Programs. Amal has thus worked extensively on a range of student affairs issues from documentation and housing to career planning, fellowships, counseling and student selection, as well as having budget oversight, grants management and event planning expertise. She has lived and traveled in the Gulf States as well as Morocco, Yemen and other countries. Amal is publishing a book on women and education in the Gulf. She is also very active in local NGOs. We are delighted to welcome her to the Kevorkian to a post for which she has an ideal background.

During the year we welcomed Sarah Coffey to the Kevorkian as Administrative Assistant. Sarah made an immediate mark in the office and this summer has performed far above the call of duty in handling so much work that would normally have been undertaken by others. As Director, I owe her a personal debt for her willingness to take on so many additional tasks.

This is also the place to thank our colleague in Human Resources, Robert White, who was extremely helpful throughout the searches for the administrative positions.

I must end on a sad note. Falak Sufi, one of our students died suddenly during Spring Break. We all mourn a warm, luminous and intellectually generous person in whose name we are establishing an essay prize. Her family visited us shortly after a very moving meeting to celebrate Falak's contribution to all of us. She made us even more conscious of what we share in our studies and why we share it.

— Michael Gilsean

KEVORKIAN RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

The following scholars presented their research at the workshops this year:

John Chalcraft (Government, London School of Economics): “Syrian Workers in Lebanon and the Question of Subaltern History”

Julie Peteet (Anthropology, University Of Louisville): “Spaces of Containment: Contemporary Displacements in the Middle East”

Maha Azzam (Associate Fellow, Royal Institute of International Affairs, UK): “Islamism Revisited”

Paul Silverstein (Anthropology, Reed College): “Local Dimensions of Berber Activism”

Khalid Medani, (Political Science and Islamic Studies, McGill University): “Joining Jihad: Globalization, Informal Markets and Islamic Militancy in Cairo”

Amira Mittermaier (Religion and Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto): “Dreaming in Un-Dreamy Times: On Ethics and the Imagination in Contemporary Egypt”

KEVORKIAN CENTER SEMINARS

- Israel Gershoni (Middle Eastern and African History, Tel Aviv University): “Egyptian Representations of Nazism and Fascism, 1937–1940”
- Peter Chelkowski (Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, NYU): “From Karbala To New York: Transformations Of Shi’a Rituals”
- Saad Ed-din Ibrahim (Sociology, American University in Cairo; Director, Ibn Khaldun Center for Development): “Post-Mubarak Scenarios in Egypt”
- Koray Çalişkan (Politics, Boğaziçi University): “Turkish Politics & the Middle East”
- Rhoda Kanaaneh (Visiting Scholar, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, NYU): “A Good Arab in a Bad House: Palestinian Soldiers in the Israeli Military”
- Michael Laffan (History, Princeton University): “Sufism in Singapore”
- Ellis Goldberg (Politics, University of Washington): “Pragmatism, Sovereignty and Community in Modern Arab Political Thought”

DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS SERIES

- Robert Malley (Director, Middle East and North Africa Program, International Crisis Group): “Whose New Middle East?”
- Hugh Roberts, (Former Director, North Africa Project, International Crisis Group): “Confronting Opacity: The Enigma of Algerian Politics & the Challenge to the Social Sciences”
- Professor Salim Tamari (Sociology, Birzeit University; Visiting Professor, University of California at Berkeley; Director, Institute of Jerusalem Studies): “Autobiography and the Great War: Rethinking Arabo-Turkish Identity after Gallipoli”

NEW BOOK SERIES

Arang Keshavarzian, *Bazaar and State in Iran*

Arang Keshavarzian discussed his book, *Bazaar and State in Iran: The Politics of the Tehran Marketplace* (Cambridge, 2007). Keshavarzian formerly taught in the Department of Government at Connecticut College but is joining MEIS as Assistant Professor in September 2008. Combining ethnography with historical, political and economic analysis, the book examines the socioeconomic structure of the Tehran Bazaar under the Pahlavi monarchy and the Islamic Republic. Keshavarzian argues that the Bazaar remained economically self-regulating and politically potent under the modernist monarchy, while it has been radically re-structured and its collective political power has been undermined by policies of the allegedly pro-bazaar and traditional Islamic Republic.

On Suicide Bombing: A Roundtable Discussion

In a recent book titled *On Suicide Bombing* (Columbia University Press, 2007), Talal Asad questions Western assumptions about death and killing, scrutinizes the idea of “clash of civilizations,” and engages a range of explanations for suicide terrorism. Asad (CUNY Graduate Center, Anthropology) participated in a roundtable discussion with Gil Anidjar (Columbia, MEALAC) and Harry Harootunian (NYU, History). The session was moderated by Michael Gilsenan (NYU, MEIS & Anthropology)

KEVORKIAN VISUAL CULTURE SERIES

The Visual Culture Series, now in its fourth year, was co-organized with the Center for Religion and Media and the Center for Media, Culture and History. This year the series included the following events:

- W. J. T. Mitchell (English and Art History, University of Chicago) gave a talk entitled “Visual Culture and the War on Terror”
- Michael Rakowitz (Art, Theory and Practice Program, Northwestern University) “Iraq & Return”
- Film Screening and Discussion: *Postcards from Tora Bora* (2007, 85 min) directed by Wazhmah Osman (PhD candidate, Culture and Communications, NYU) and Kelly Dolak
- “Impossible Archives:” based on their collaborative project *Index of the Disappeared*, artists Mariam Ghani and Chitra Ganesh led a roundtable discussion on legal, historical, and artistic strategies for archiving secret, undocumented, and censored materials. Panelists included Ramzi Kassem (Yale Law School), Martha Wilson (performance artist, director of Franklin Furnace Archive), Althea Wasow (independent writer and filmmaker), and Orit and Tal Halpern (new media artists)
- “Silence is Silver,” an artist’s talk by Huda Lutfi (Islamic Culture and History, American University of Cairo)

MIDDLE EAST FILM AND MEDIA PROGRAMS

Transitions: A film series curated by

Mohamed El Shahed

Cairo is transforming. The city's spatial, social, political and cultural landscapes are shifting and reforming. The struggle for identity through shifting geographical, cultural, political, intellectual and emotional landscapes in Cairo has persisted throughout the city's modern history particularly in the later half of the twentieth century. This film series showcases three films that portray issues of shifting identities through various contexts within the city's recent history. The transition from colonial to post-colonial with the rupture of revolution is portrayed in two films, *Adrift on the Nile* and *Al Karnak*. The two films present differing perspectives on the changes brought upon segments of Cairene society in light of the end of colonialism. In *Adrift on the Nile* issues of identity, social and cultural dislocation and national association are presented through the lens of a naïve journalist who follows a group of alienated citizens. The very same events are portrayed with an aggressively critical view of the shift of power from colonial hands to the nationalists who misuse this power against the very subjects they claimed to liberate. *Al Karnak* narrates graphically the tensions in post-revolutionary Cairo as a group of students fall victim to punishments by an anxious nationalist officer who is blinded by his political power. These two vignettes are of Cairo during the beginning of a transitioning period that continues to our present. *Yacobian Building* eerily presents the continuity of these themes of social dislocation, abuse of power and corruption into today. *Transitions* is a film series about the multiplicities of shifting identities living in a city as it struggles to define itself.

CinemaEast Film Festival 2007

Screenings of 14 feature films, 18 documentaries, and 18 short films from Algeria, Egypt, France, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, and Turkey. The Kevorkian Center was a co-presenter of the festival and hosted two related events.

“Political Activism, Bloggers and New Uses of Digital Video and Mobile Phone Films”

Screening of the short film, “Democracy 76: State of Emergency,” by Wael Omar (2006, 10 minutes) followed by a Panel discussion with Khaled Fahmy (MEIS, NYU), Egyptian filmmaker Wael Omar, blogger Hossam el-Hamalawy, and MEIS doctoral candidate Karim Tartoussieh. Co-sponsored with the 2nd Annual CinemaEast Filmfestival.

“Energizing Film Culture and Production: Emerging Initiatives For Film Schools in the Arab World”

A conversation with Maysoon Pachachi and Omar Amiralay, founding members of The Independent Film and Television College (IFTC) in Baghdad and the Arab Institute for Film (AIF, based in Amman) Co-sponsored by the American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII) and the Tisch School of Art as part of the 2nd Annual CinemaEast Film festival.

“Salata Baladi” by Nadia Kamel

Screening and discussion with Ms. Kamel and Khaled Fahmy (MEIS)

“The Birthday” (Negin Kianfar and Daisy Mohr, Iran/ Netherlands, 2006)

Screening and discussion with Shiva Balaghi, Associate Director, Kevorkian Center and Karim Tartoussieh (MEIS). Co-presented with the Margaret Mead Film & Video Festival, American Museum of Natural History and ArteEast.

“Persepolis”

Preview Screening for NYU students & Faculty; co-sponsored by the Center for Religion & Media and the Center for Media, Culture & History

“Charged in the Name of Terror: Portraits by Contemporary Artists”

(Official Selection: 2007 Sundance Film Festival.) Acclaimed artist Paul Chan curated a series of short video documentaries exploring the home front of “the war on terror.” An eloquent pairing of filmmakers and subjects, the project stands at the critical nexus of politics and art, of activism and humanity. “All the shorts are experimental in their pairing of sound and image yet plainspoken in their address, and their portraiture is partly concerned with the glory of particular ways of being alive,” wrote the film critic Jonathan Rosenbaum. “It’s a simple device,” wrote the NYT art critic Holland Carter of Paul Chan’s own short film that opens the compilation, “and like any effective political action, right or wrong, brilliant because it works.” Following a screening of the shorts, there was a roundtable discussion of the films in general and the case of Mohammad Yousry in particular featuring Professor Zachary Lockman, artist Paul Chan, and filmmakers Mary Bilyou and Annelisse Fifi.

The shorts screened include:

Untitled Video on Lynne Stewart and Her Conviction, The Law and Poetry (2006) By Paul Chan | Running time 17:30

Steve Kurtz Waiting (2006) By Jim Fetterley and Angie Waller | Running Time 15:32

For the Least (2007) By Susan Youssef | Running Time 6:55

Mohamed Yousry: A Life Stands Still (2006) By Mary Billyou and Annelisse Fifi | Running Time 20:00. Mohamed Yousry is a graduate of the NES program and a PhD student in MEIS at NYU.

“A Jihad for Love” by Parvez Sharma (2007) at the Independent Film Center.

Followed by a discussion with Parvez Sharma, film director, Shiva Balaghi, Associate director of the Kevorkian Center, Scott Long, founder and director, LGBT Rights Program, Human Rights Watch and Mazen, Egyptian activist. The discussion was moderated by Zahir Janmohamed, Advocacy Director for the Middle East and North Africa, Amnesty International.

PROGRAM IN OTTOMAN STUDIES

The program in Ottoman Studies was inaugurated in Fall 2006. Organized by Leslie Peirce, the focal point of the program is a lecture series dedicated to exploring new directions in Ottoman studies. This year the series included the following lectures”

- Larry Wolff (History, NYU) “Ottoman Turks in European Opera”
- Heath Lowry (Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University) “Shared, Reinvented and Appropriated Islamic Sacred Space in Northern Greece”
- Gail Holst-Warhaft (Einaudi Center for European Studies, Cornell University) “Ladies of the Café Aman”
- Zeynep Celik (New Jersey Institute of Technology) “Public Space, Modernity, and Empire Building: A Comparative Analysis”
- Sibel Erol (Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, NYU) “Contextualizing Sheyh Galip’s *Beauty and Love*”

In addition to the lecture series, the Program in Ottoman Studies organized a Workshop on “Enslavement in Islamic Societies: Ottoman and Sudanese Perspectives.” The workshop included lectures by Ehud Toledano (History, Tel Aviv University) on “Revisiting Enslavement in Late Ottoman History: Bondage and Attachment,” and Eve Troutt-Powell (History, University of Pennsylvania) on “What Slaves Teach Us: Narratives of Enslavement from Egypt and Sudan.” Michael Gomez (History, NYU) was the discussant.

PROGRAMS FOR M.A. STUDENTS

Apart from regular and ongoing advising sessions, Sofian Merabet, the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) meets every Fall semester with all Master's Students in Near Eastern Studies (NES) at the Kevorkian Center to discuss the various programs NES has to offer in order to help its students with a smooth transition into the post-graduate world. The main programs NES has are in career counseling and internships.

Career Counseling

While about half of our students apply for a second graduate degree program (generally a Ph.D. or an advanced degree in Law), the other 50% enter directly the professional world upon graduating from the Master's Program in NES. For that reason, the Kevorkian Center organizes every Fall semester a career counseling session specifically catered to those students with an interest in working in NGOs, the larger business world, or other organizations that fit the students' particular professional objectives. In the Fall 2007, the DGS arranged for an informal career seminar that took place at NYU's Wasserman Center for Career Development. Thanks to the time and dedication of the Center's Associate Directors, Christopher Thunberg and Robert Caparaz, the students were introduced to the general facilities at Wasserman and were encouraged to meet one-on-one with career specialists who would help them with developing contacts with individuals working in their particular fields of interest. Even though the two-year M.A. Program may lead its students in all kinds of new directions, the Kevorkian Center encourages everybody to think from the very beginning about "life after NYU." Therefore, it is imperative for all students to cultivate a close and sustained relationship with both the Kevorkian and Wasserman Centers.

Internships

An invaluable part of our efforts in career counseling is the Kevorkian Center Internship Program. Every Spring semester, many M.A. students in NES take advantage of this very popular program. While internships are not mandatory in order to graduate in NES, interested students can register for up to 4 credits (only in the Spring!). In exchange, they are asked to intern for an average of 12 hours at an organization of their choice and submit short weekly reports, as well as a longer final one, to the DGS. An internship workshop and information session is organized every Fall semester, and the students can consult an extensive database of eligible organizations that is kept up-to-date by the DGS. The DGS also manages the

application process, including the submission of the students' CVs and cover letters to the organizations in which they hope to be interns. Historically, the internship program has attracted students interested in a professional career as well as those students intent on embarking upon a Ph.D.

OUTREACH FOR TEACHERS

The Saturday Seminar for Teachers brings leading experts on the Middle East to our center to provide background knowledge and pedagogical instruction to tri-state area secondary educators.

This academic year's Saturday Seminars for teachers included:

- Teaching Arab Nationalism, featuring a lecture by Zachary Lockman (History and MEIS, NYU) on "Arab Nationalism: A Historical Perspective," and a lecture by Israel Gershoni (Middle Eastern and African History, Tel Aviv University) on "Egyptian Nationalism in the 20th century"
- From Arab NY to Tehrangeles: Middle Eastern Communities in the US, with a lecture by Moustafa Bayoumi (English, Brooklyn College) on "Arab New York," and a lecture by Jonathan Friedlander (Assistant Director/Outreach Coordinator, Center for Near Eastern Studies, UCLA) on "Middle Eastern Americana and Tehrangeles."
- Teaching Turkey: from the Ottoman Empire to current events, featuring a lecture by Leslie Peirce (History and MEIS, NYU) on "Women in the Heyday of Ottoman Power," and a lecture by Koray Çalişkan (Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University) on "Turkish politics & the Middle East today."
- Ways of Seeing: Contemporary Art in the Middle East, a workshop featuring presentations by Shiva Balaghi (Associate Director/Outreach Coordinator, Kevorkian Center, NYU) on "Teaching the Middle East through the Visual Arts," a presentation by Amr Shalakany (Director, LL.M. Program, American University in Cairo) on "Legal Perspectives on the Arts in the Arab World," Nada Shabout (Art History, University of North Texas; Visiting Professor, MIT) on "Contemporary Arab Art," and Huda Lutfi (Islamic Culture and History, American University of Cairo) on "Ways of Seeing the Middle East as an Artist."

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Peter Chelkowski

On October 18, 2007, the Kevorkian Center hosted a reception in honor of Professor Peter Chelkowski, to mark his 40 years of teaching at New York University, and to celebrate the publication of *Maraqqa'e Sharqi: Studies in Honor of Peter Chelkowski*, edited by Soussie Rastegar and MEIS alumna, Anna Vanzan.

FACULTY NEWS

Peter Chelkowski

In 2005, I guest-edited a special volume of *The Drama Review (TDR)* devoted to Shi'i rituals and performances entitled, *From Karbala to New York: Ta'ziyeh on the Move*. It was enthusiastically received by the readers of *TDR* and was considered to be a very relevant, timely and eye-opening publication. Now I have been asked to turn the special issue of *TDR* into a book and to add new material. I have been working on this book throughout the last academic year and am happy to report that it will examine many Shi'i communities around the globe. I hope that the volume will be published in early 2009.

Shi'i folklore was the subject of my presentation at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association in Montreal in November 2007. Also, in November, I gave series of lectures at Barnard College on "Theater in the Middle East." At the end of November and the beginning of December, I was a guest of the Institute of Advanced Study in Berlin, Germany, where I gave a paper on "Shi'i Popular Beliefs and Politics." In Berlin, I also conducted a seminar on the subject of "Shi'ism in the Iran-Iraq War." On December 16–17, 2007, I participated in the "Symposium of Rumi Scholars on the 800th Anniversary of Rumi's Birth" at the Shrine of Mowlana in Konya. It was a moving experience—in addition to very high-caliber papers delivered by Rumi scholars from around the world, we had a chance to witness *Sama'* rituals. I delivered a paper on "The Shepherd—Dervish Paradigm in the *Masnavi*." In Spring 2008, I gave a lecture on "The Stories of Nezami," as part of the conference, "The Compass of the Story," at the British Academy in London. At the end of April, I participated in the conference "Iran Today," at Rutgers University in New Jersey, at which I gave a slide-illustrated lecture on "Internal and External Politics as Shown in the Giant Murals of Tehran."

On the teaching side, I taught two large classes: one in the Fall semester on *Islamic Societies* with 125 students, and one in the Spring semester on *The Sufis: Mystics of Islam* with 60 students. I also taught graduate courses on *Modern Iran* and *Islam in the Contemporary World*.

Tamer el-Leithy

This past academic year (07–08) was my first teaching full-time at NYU. I especially enjoyed teaching an undergraduate historical survey, *The Making of the Muslim Middle East, 600–1200 A.D.*, a course I will offer again next year (Fall 08)—this time as a MAP class for incoming Freshmen students. In my Spring graduate seminar, *The World of the Geniza*, I was fortunate to read medieval Judeo-Arabic documents with a remarkable group of students who enriched the weekly discussions with their diverse disciplinary backgrounds and different areas of expertise. Over breaks and holidays, I also stole off to participate in several conferences, e.g. organizing a panel, and delivering a paper, at the annual Middle East Studies Association conference; commenting on a paper at Medieval and Renaissance Center’s conference, *Hierarchy, Order, and Mobility in the Middle Ages* (NYU); and—on my first trip to the Arabian Gulf—delivering a lecture on Ottoman costume at the Islamic Arts Museum, in Kuwait City.

While teaching occupied much of my time and energy over the academic year, the summer has been a welcome respite not only in terms of changing pace, but also as a chance to turn to other projects—especially back home, in Egypt. In July, I led a workshop at Cairo University for graduate students of History, where we discussed methodological/theoretical questions related to reading historical sources. I am also very excited to be part of a multidisciplinary working group (including architectural conservationists, a sociologist and urban planner, story-teller, etc.) in Cairo. This year, we were awarded a generous Getty Research Grant for a two-year project to study the multiple uses of, and conflicting claims to, the City of the Dead. The group—which also includes Prof. Khaled Fahmy from MEIS—will meet for several workshops and site visits in Cairo over the next year; we plan to produce a database/website of our data, as well as an edited volume of our findings.

My dissertation research focused on a crucial wave of mass conversion of Coptic Christians to Islam in Egypt in the 14th century A.D. (possibly the period when Egypt became a majority-Muslim region). This summer I returned to working on my book manuscript, but I am also especially committed to presenting my research and findings to a wider (non-academic) audience—a critical desideratum given recent tragic developments in sectarian politics in Egypt. While in Cairo this summer, I received an invitation from a new, democratic-left organization, *Egyptians Against Religious Discrimination*, to do just that: deliver a public lecture on the history of conversion in Egypt. I look forward to this challenging encounter—especially now. A few years ago, I (often) complained about how teaching distracted me from research; but classroom teaching has forced me not only

to be more articulate, but also to constantly justify, and reflect on, the relevance of studying the Middle Ages.

Sibel Erol

Turkish classes were enriched this year with the addition of a Fulbright language assistant Ezgi Umur, who met in a weekly conversation session with the Elementary class and worked on an individual basis with the Intermediate and Advanced classes. In the Spring semester, in addition to mastering their food, clothing vocabulary, the Elementary class watched *Head-On*, a movie by Fatih Akin. The Intermediate class read stories and newspaper articles, and the Advanced read, discussed and wrote on Peyami Safa's novel *Fatih Harbiye*. Final presentations for this class discussed the novel as a political novel, as a novel on women's issues, a novel of love, a novel of Istanbul and a psychological novel. In the Spring, I also worked individually with Turkish students in reading a variety of writers ranging from Tanpınar, Ağaoğlu to Perihan Mağden and Aslı Erdoğan.

At MESA in November, I presented my paper on Sheyh Galip's 18th century allegory "Recontextualizing Sheyh Galip's *Beauty and Love*", which I represented in a longer format at the department's Ottoman series in March. *The Greedy Heart of Halide*, a documentary on the life of the influential feminist Halide Edib that I was part of, had its debut at MESA. The interest in this film led to the upcoming workshop presentation on Halide Edib at next year's MESA in Washington, D.C. where I will also have a paper on a different topic: the representation of masculinity in the films of the director Nuri Bilge Ceylan.

My article "Reading Orhan Pamuk's *Snow* as Parody: Difference as Sameness" appeared in *Comparative Critical Studies* in December, followed by an article in Turkish on *Snow* in an edited volume entitled Orhan Pamuk'un *Edebi Dünyası* (The Literary World of Orhan Pamuk), and an introduction for *Summer's End*, the English translation of Adalet Ağaoğlu's novel *Yazsonu*. My examination of Pamuk turns to his memoir *Istanbul* for a conference on Istanbul in Berkeley in September, entitled *Orienting Istanbul*.

I also was the mediator for two book discussions for The Turkish American Society. I lead their book club discussion on Yaşar Kemal's *Memed, My Hawk* in December and had a book discussion with the translator-novelist, Maureen Freely on her novel *Enlightenment* in May.

Khaled Fahmy

During the AY 2007–08 I got elected to the Board of Directors of MESA, and then joined MESA's Committee on Academic Freedom, Middle East and North Africa (CAF MENA). After working for two years on a short biography of Mehmed Ali Pasha, the ruler of Egypt from 1805 to 1848,

I finally submitted a manuscript to Oneworld Publications. It is due to be published in October 2008. Following the widespread disturbances that Egypt witnessed in Spring 2008 I started writing a weekly column in Arabic for the Egyptian daily, *al-Badeel*. Finally, I worked with staff in the Egyptian National Archives to write a proposal for the Ford Foundation to fund year-long workshops for Egyptian university students to be exposed to and have direct experience working with historical archives. The proposal was approved in December 2007 and the program was launched the following month. During a visit to Cairo in January and another one in March, I participated in these workshops. Finally, I delivered lectures on modern Egyptian history at Harvard University, Cairo University and the Council on Foreign Relations (New York office).

Barry Flood

During the academic year 2007–2008, I was on leave in the Fall working on a book project supported by the Carnegie Foundation. While on leave, I also completed the revisions to a book manuscript entitled *Objects of Translation: Material Culture and Medieval 'Hindu-Muslim' Encounter*, which will be published by Princeton University Press in the Spring of 2009. I also completed and revised the proofs for an edited volume to be published in the Fall of 2008 in the *Debates in Indian History* series of OUP India. In the course of the year, I had three articles published: “From the Prophet to Postmodernism? New World Orders and the End of Islamic Art,” in Elizabeth C. Mansfield, ed., *Making Art History: A Changing Discipline and its Institutions* (Routledge, New York); “Lost in Translation: Architecture, Taxonomy and the Eastern ‘Turks,’” *Muqarnas*, 24; “Islam, Iconoclasm, and the Early Indian Mosque,” in Sunil Kumar ed., *Demolishing Myths or Mosques and Temples? Readings on History and Temple Desecration in Medieval India* (Three Essays Collective, New Delhi).

In the Spring of 2008, I taught an undergraduate senior seminar on aniconism, iconoclasm, and transhistorical responses to the image, and a graduate colloquium on the material culture of Islam in its first century. During the year, I also gave lectures on Arab Sind and premodern cosmopolitanism at the New School for Social Research, Delhi University, Yale University, and the University of Chicago. I presented lectures on aniconism, figuration, and Islam at Duke University and as part of a 3-day event, *Islam, Religion, and Visual Culture* held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In July, I presented a paper on “Monkey Business in Medieval Afghanistan: Narrative in Ghaznavid Art and the Problem of Early Persian Book-painting,” in a symposium on *Siculo-Arabic Ivories and Islamic Painting 1100–1300*, Museum für Islamische Kunst, Berlin. In January, I spoke on “Masons and Mobility: Indic Elements in Twelfth-

century Afghan Stone-carving,” at a symposium celebrating fifty years of the activities of the Istituto Italiano per l’Africa e l’Oriente in Rome. In April, I delivered a paper entitled “The Conservator as Artist and Iconoclast: Materiality and Mutability in Islamic Art,” to the 34th Annual Conference of the Association of North American Graduate Programs in Conservation of Cultural Property (ANAGPIC), in New York City. In the same month, I was the respondent for a panel entitled *Colonial Frames/Nationalist Histories* at the Society of Architectural Historians annual meeting in Cincinnati. I ended the academic year very pleasantly, at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, presenting a paper entitled “Imaging Without Boundaries: Alterities, Ontologies, and the Contexts of ‘Cartoon Wars,’” to an Advanced Seminar on *Images Without Borders* convened by Patsy Spyer, Leiden University, and Mary Steedly, Harvard University.

Michael Gilsean

This year I gave several seminar papers and lectures in order to clarify the main outlines of a book on inheritance and the transmission of properties (material and incorporeal) among families of Arab origin in the Indian Ocean diaspora, circa 1860 to the present. Colleagues at the Department of Anthropology at the University of Kent, where I gave the annual Paul Stirling Lecture in December, David Ludden’s newly instituted ‘Global Café’ meetings here at NYU and the Department of Anthropology at Columbia were very helpful with criticism and questions. As very much the junior partner to Anthony Reid, the distinguished historian of Southeast Asia who has been personally so generous to a newcomer in the field, I was an editor of *Islamic Legitimacy in a Plural Asia*, Routledge, 2007. Developing a range of new interests, from law and society to the transmission of goods, property, cultural reproduction and kinship has certainly guaranteed that I do not get bored. I hope to finish the book during my research leave during the academic year, 2008–09. A second study focusing more on issues of ethnicity, personhood and history is at the back of my mind. The primary research has been done and I am not planning to travel to Singapore and Java for other materials, at least for the moment. The Kevorkian Workshops were stimulating, as always, and made me think outside my anthropological pathways.

Ogden Goelet, JR.

During the past year I have continued teaching on both the graduate and undergraduate level. In the Fall, I taught a course in Egyptian history; during the current Spring term, I gave my Egyptian religion course. On the graduate level, I taught introductory and advanced graduate courses on various aspects of the Egyptian language during both terms.

I finished and sent for publication a fourth article in a series on aspects of ancient Egyptian economy for the Institute for the Study of Long-term Economic Trends (ISLET). The subjects in this instance are the meaning of *corvée* labor in ancient Egypt and the nature of labor compulsion in Egyptian society.

Over the past few years, I have become increasingly interested in how the Egyptian students learnt first how to write the cursive hieratic script and then the more formal hieroglyphs, and how these skills were employed, particularly in connection with workshop produced documents such as the famous *Book of the Dead* papyrus of the scribe Ani in the British Museum. In addition, scribal training plays a central role in our knowledge of Egyptian literature; it is through the rather imperfect student copies on papyri and ostraca that much Egyptian literature has been preserved. The orthographical mistakes in these didactic texts indicate that students learning hieratic may have learned chiefly by mechanically copying the work of their experienced masters and doing so with only a tenuous knowledge of the signs composing the words in the texts they were reproducing. My study on this subject, “Writing Ramesside Hieratic: What the *Late-Egyptian Miscellanies* Tell us about Scribal Education,” has recently appeared in the festschrift for my colleague Richard Fazzini, the recently retired curator of the Egyptian Department at the Brooklyn Museum. For another festschrift, I have submitted a related study on the training of scribes in the hieroglyphic script and the use of that form of writing in the funerary industry of the Ramesside period. Finally, a monograph-length book on literature in the age of Ramesses III is now in the last stages of editing for its publication, hopefully next year.

A recent graduate of MEIS, Dr. Sameh Iskander, and I have started an epigraphic project to copy the inscriptions and scenes in the “Temple of Millions of Years” of Ramesses II at Abydos. Over the winter break, our team re-measured the temple and produced a more accurate plan than what has previously appeared in publications. We conducted some experiments in digital epigraphy that will enable us to make a complete record of the temple in a much more efficient manner. We have developed some methods that also have the advantage of not damaging the delicate painted and unpainted reliefs in the temple. We hope eventually to make this a joint project with the Supreme Council of Antiquities, the supervisory authority over all ancient monuments in Egypt.

I continue to serve on the boards of a number of three scholarly societies: the Archaeological Institute of America; the Society for Textual Scholarship; the Egyptological Seminar of New York (ESNY). In addition, I have become the chief editor of ESNY’s associated journal, *The Bulletin of the Egyptological Seminar*.

Bruce Grant

My research and teaching concerns Muslim populations of the Caucasus and how they have interpellated socialist codes of the Soviet period into multiple semiotic frameworks. I have a forthcoming book from Cornell, to be released Fall 2009, entitled *Captive to the Gift: Cultural Histories of Sovereignty in Russia and the Caucasus*, which looks at how Russians and a wide variety of their Caucasian constituents reflect back on two centuries of imperial rule in the region. This year I was also pleased to see the release of an edited volume, *Caucasus Paradigms: Anthropologies, Histories, and the Making of a World Area*, through Lit Verlag in Berlin. Despite such long records of cohabitation, diaspora, and migration, the Caucasus has been renowned for its images of fearsome mountain outposts, hence our goal was to ethnographically probe these languages of closure and openness. At NYU, these projects have taken on life in the context of a three-year series of events, “Eurasian Connections,” that I organized with Zvi Ben-Dor Benite and Jane Burbank, in conjunction with Leslie Pierce and the Program in Ottoman Studies. Gathering colleagues from across Middle East, Eastern European, Russian, and East Asian Studies, we looked to cultivate awareness about shared historical and cultural traditions less attended in recent years by conventional area studies. We are online at: <http://www.nyu.edu/projects/eurasia/>.

While on leave in 2008–2009, I will be spending the Fall semester in Azerbaijan, studying the history of Soviet atheist campaigns and their impact on religious life in the Caucasus.

Gabriela Nik. Ilieva

Gabriela Nik. Ilieva is currently the president of the South Asian Language Teachers’ Association. She is involved in the development, reviewing and pilot testing of the Hindi and Urdu web-based assessment project STAMP (Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency), collaboration between the Kevorkian Center, the South Asia Language Resource Center and the Language Center at the University of Oregon. She is the Academic Director of a Hindi and Urdu Teacher Training Summer Program, established with the STARTALK grant awarded to NYU by the National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland, a component program of the National Security Language Initiative (NSLI), jointly funded by the Director of National Intelligence and the Department of Defense. She developed the project in collaboration between the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS) and the School of Education. In cooperation between NYU and the University of Texas and Columbia University, Gabriela is running a material development project “Language for Health: The Practice of Medicine in Hindi

and Urdu” supported by a three-year grant awarded by the Flagship Initiative of the National Security Education Program in the summer of 2008. Gabriela published in January 2008 “Project-Based Learning of Hindi: Managing the Mixed-Abilities Classroom” in SALPAT (South Asia Language Technology and Pedagogy), vol.1.

Deborah Kapchan

In October 2007, my second book, *Traveling Spirit Masters: Moroccan Music and Trance in the Global Marketplace*, was published by Wesleyan University Press. The book, a narrative ethnography of the Moroccan Gnawa, explores the global circulation of trance and its relation to music, race, gender and the sacred. I also have several new articles: “The Promise of Sonic Translation: Performing the Festive Sacred in Morocco.” forthcoming in *American Anthropologist*, December 2008; “Performing the Sacred at the Essaouira Gnawa Festival of World Music,” *Gradhiva*, April 2008; “A Colonial Relation not my Own: Coming Home to Morocco and France,” *Ethnologia Europaea*, special issue of Second Homes, edited by Orvar Lofgren and Regina Bendix, 2007; and “Nostalgia in Contemporary Moroccan Poetry.” *Arte East*. Special Issue on Ambivalent Nostalgias, edited by Christa Salamandra. <http://www.arteeast.dreamhosters.com/pages/artenews/nostalgias/>.

In May 2008 I gave a keynote address at the “Performing Tangier” conference in Morocco (<http://icpsrese.arch.blogspot.com/2007/12/welcome.html>). In 2008–2009, I will be on leave and conducting research on auditory practices and religious performance among Qadiri Sufi groups both in Morocco and in southern France with North African immigrants and French converts to Islam. I have received a New York University Global Fellowship to facilitate this research. I will also be completing a long-standing project—the translation of an anthology of Moroccan poetry into English.

Marion Katz

In 2007–8 I had a fellowship from the Carnegie Foundation for research on the history of women’s mosque access. I spent time in manuscript collections in Morocco and Egypt, and was able to locate previously unstudied materials about the nature of women’s activities in pre-modern mosques and the ways in which these activities were evaluated and contested by scholars. I recently began to write up my findings, and hope to produce a book proposal soon. I also participated in an inter-disciplinary conference on ritual purity in Heidelberg, Germany.

Farhad Kazemi

This has been a busy year for me. I returned after one-semester sabbatical to the Department of Politics. In addition to undergraduate and graduate teaching, I was able to publish four articles and proceedings on a number of topics dealing with modern politics in the Middle East. I also participated in several conferences in the US and abroad. I spent about ten days in Egypt in February attending The Board of Trustees meetings of the American University in Cairo (AUC). At the meetings, I also participated in a panel discussion on “American Presidential Politics and the Middle East.” I was also asked by NYU to help organize the social science curriculum of our campus in Abu Dhabi. A group of faculty members involved in curricular affairs made a week-long trip to Abu Dhabi to assess the possibilities and options. The NYUAD campus progress is on target. The first group of students will enter in 2010.

Philip Kennedy

As I write these lines I am in the midst of correcting typeset proofs of a volume entitled *Recognition: The Poetics of Narrative. Interdisciplinary Studies on Anagnorisis*, which will appear—finally!—this Fall in Peter Lang’s series *Studies in Themes and Motifs in Literature*. It is a good fit as Peter Lang has published two other monograph studies on this subject. This year I wrote three articles for the *Encyclopedia of Islam* and a further piece entitled “Sons and Lovers and the Mirage: The Epistemology of Naguib Mahfouz’s Oedipal Novel” which will appear in the *Journal of Arabic Literature*. I corrected the proofs of an article entitled “Love in the Time of Pilgrimage: A proto-Maqama by Ibn Durayd?” to appear presently in *The Weaver of Words: Studies in Early Arabic Prose* ed. by Lale Behzade and Wahid Behmardi. High points of year included: reading the exhilarating (if notoriously difficult) Abd al-Qahir al-Jurjani on Qur’anic inimitability (*I’jaaz*) and his general theory of syntax with Lara Harb and Jeannie Miller; playing host to Professor James Montgomery of Cambridge University who gave a presentation to the Arabic Book Club on Jahiz’s essay on the advantage of speech over silence; lecturing on the Arabian Nights at a sumptuous conference organized by Marina Warner at the British Academy in March; delivering a keynote lecture on anagnorisis at the graduate conference in comparative literature at the University of Toronto in April; and participating in a conference at Rutgers University on Arabic translation later in the Spring. Throughout the year I also chaired the humanities working group for the academic cabinet of NYU Abu Dhabi, developing curriculum for the new campus with an inspiring group of colleagues. I have been invited to be Director of the NYU Abu Dhabi Institute as of this September and will relocate there at the end of August 2008.

Mehdi Khorrami

After more than two years of planning, last year we finally began working on the development of Persian test items for Elementary and Intermediate levels. This is a project that our Center for Near Eastern Studies initiated two years ago and we collaborated with the Center for Applied Second Language Studies at the University of Oregon, Eugene. In April 2008 we completed the review process and we are hoping that many Persian programs across the US will be able to use these tests in Fall 2008. I believe this is a crucial step for the standardization of the assessment process as well as the instruction of Persian language.

In the academic year of 2007–2008, I have also been involved in a number of teacher training workshops. I attended many workshops and I organized a major teacher training workshop for instructors of Persian in Tajikistan. This workshop was held in June 2008 in Dushanbe. The next teacher training workshop I am co-organizing will be held during the next annual conference of Middle East Studies Association (MESA) in November 2008.

On the literature front, I have continued my research on a book project, which focuses on analyzing literary counter-discourses and counter-narratives in contemporary Persian fiction. As part of this work I organized a panel for MESA 2007, which examined Personal Historiography and Mythic Narratives in the context of contemporary Persian fiction. In addition to this book project and four articles that I published (two in Persian and two in English), I co-edited with Dr. M. R. Ghanoonparvar, *Critical Encounters: Essays on Persian Literature and Culture in Honor of Peter J. Chelkowski* (Mazda publishers, 2007). I also worked with Dr. Pari Shirazi on *Sohrab's Wars*, a collection of short stories translated from Persian to English. This collection will be published in August 2008.

Zachary Lockman

The Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, which I have had the honor of chairing for four years (but not forever, or so I must hope), continues to thrive. We have had some comings and goings among the faculty. Tamer el-Leithy, a very accomplished and promising historian of Islam specializing in the Mamluk period, joined us in the Fall of 2007, and this past year we hired an outstanding younger social scientist, Arang Keshavarzian, who will start teaching with us in the Fall of 2009. He will greatly strengthen our coverage of Middle East politics, Iran and the Gulf, and we are very excited by the prospect of having him on board. Meanwhile, Frank Peters has retired after a very long career at NYU.

We are especially saddened by the departure from NYU of our colleague and friend Tim Mitchell, who has defected to Columbia. Tim has

been an extraordinary scholar, teacher, mentor and colleague, and his contribution to the success of the Middle Eastern and Islamic studies enterprise at NYU over the quarter-century he taught here cannot be exaggerated. Among other things, he played a central role in initiating the revival of both the Kevorkian Center (which he led through some crucial transformations) and the department, and under his leadership NYU's International Center for Advanced Studies (now sadly defunct) was a center for cutting-edge intellectual endeavor. Tim will be sorely missed, but we take some comfort from the fact that because he will not be far away we may still sometimes be able to exploit his many talents.

I must also note the departure of Shiva Balaghi, who served the Kevorkian Center so ably as its associate director. During her decade-long tenure she contributed a great deal to the center's development, among other things by playing a key role in the success of its Title VI grant application and by orchestrating its cultural and academic programming, and its outreach and teacher-training work. I enjoyed working with her when I was at the helm of the center, as well as before and since, and like so many others in MEIS and the Kevorkian Center I wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

Our graduate students continue to excel, winning numerous prestigious fellowships, grants and awards for research and training. We also have a growing number of majors and minors, and of other students interested in the Middle East and its languages, compelling us to scramble to offer enough undergraduate courses. My thanks to all our students for making us look good.

I delivered the presidential address at the 2007 annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, held in Montreal, and after that meeting became the organization's past president—a significantly less time-consuming post. But I have also been serving as acting chair of MESA's Committee on Academic Freedom—North America, and unfortunately there has over the past year been no shortage of assaults on and threats to academic freedom—so the committee has managed to keep busy in a very important and worthwhile cause.

In terms of my own scholarly work, I am happy to report that an Arabic translation of my book *Contending Visions of the Middle East: the History and Politics of Orientalism* appeared in Egypt last year, published by Dar El Shorouk with an excellent introduction by the enormously capable translator Sherif Younes; a Turkish edition is on its way, along with a second English-language edition. I also presented research, delivered lectures and participated in conferences, workshops and symposia in a variety of venues over the past academic year, among them MESA, the Association for Israel Studies, the American University in Cairo, the American University of

Paris, Harvard University, Simon Fraser University, Syracuse University and UCLA.

Sofian Merabet

It is difficult to believe that my first year as Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) at the Kevorkian Center is already over. While I look back on a highly stimulating twelve months, I look forward to the challenges lying ahead in 2008–09. In my capacity as general advisor and teacher, it has been a great pleasure to work with excellent graduate students such as those in the Near Eastern Studies Program. In both my seminars on Anthropology for Middle Eastern Studies and The Politics and Gender and Masculinities in the Middle East, I learned a lot from thought-provoking discussions that turned a three-hour session into an intellectual breeze of reinvigorating intensity.

Apart from writing and reviewing a book manuscript, I have been attending scholarly conferences, which included this past academic year the 2008 meeting of the Society for Cultural Anthropology, a conference on “Building Bridges in the City and Beyond: Languages, Communities & Cultures” presented by The Language, Literacy, and Culture Ph.D. Program at The University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and one on “University Spaces, Academic Bodies: New Approaches to the Corporate University” held at the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis at NYU.

I am sincerely looking forward to my second year at the Kevorkian Center and to the new entering students that, like their previous peers, will undoubtedly contribute to the unique intellectual and collegial atmosphere of NYU’s Kevorkian Center of Near Eastern Studies.

Mona Mikhail

I am currently spending a research leave in Cairo at AUC after receiving my promotion to Full Professor. I am continuing my research project on Comedy in Egyptian Cinema, with an emphasis on the contributions of the great comedians Ismail Yassin and Abd el Moneim Ibrahim (and their successful cross dressing forays in comparison with the cheap vaudeville attempts of current day cinema). I plan to publish the findings in form of a documentary. I am also pursuing my research on Khaliji women writers. I have also taught courses at AUC in the Department of Arab and Islamic Civilizations, and participated in several Seminars organized by the Supreme Council of the Arts on the Novel (February 2008) and Literary Criticism (June 2008). I published an article in *the Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures* Volume 5, 2007 Leiden, Brill NL, "Practices, Interpretations and Representations of women in Arab Theater." I also published six articles in *the Biographical Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle*

East on the lives and contributions of the following leading authors: Tawfik al-Hakim, Nizar Qabbani, Adonis, Mahmoud Darwish, Hanan Ashrawi, Emile Habiby. I have also contributed two articles in 2007 to Scholastic Groelier Publications for Young Adults, on Egypt.

Timothy Mitchell

This year I continued to work on two research projects, one on the history of economic ideas and the role of economists in shaping the world they write about, the other on the history of oil. I also managed to bring the two projects together, by looking at the way changing conceptions of energy shaped mid-twentieth-century thinking about the economy.

I presented this work at a number of public lectures. In October I spoke on “The Possible Politics of Energy Networks,” at the program on Global Transformation at Rutgers University, and in November I gave a lecture on “The Fabrication of Modernity: Economy, Energy, Empire,” at the Institute for Comparative Modernities at Cornell University. In April I gave the keynote address, on “Materialities of Democracy,” to the annual transnational sociology meeting at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

I traveled to London and Paris in the winter, to serve as an external Ph.D. examiner but also to meet up with colleagues in science and technology studies and in Middle Eastern Studies with whom I am collaborating on current research. In March I spent two weeks in Egypt, where I spoke at Cairo University and the American University in Cairo and visited the village in the south where I have conducted research over the last decade.

My paper on “The Properties of Markets,” based in part on research in the village, was published in *Do Economists Make Markets? On the Performativity of Economics*, edited by Donald MacKenzie and others. A short essay on the term “Economy” appeared in *Keywords for American Cultural Studies*, edited by Bruce Burgett and Glenn Hendler and published by NYU Press. I published a longer essay, “Culture and Economy,” in *The Sage Handbook of Cultural Analysis*.

In May I received an award from NYU for reaching the milestone of twenty-five years of service to the university. The twenty-fifth year, it turns out, will be my last, as I have made the difficult decision to move on next year to another institution. The center of my intellectual life over most of that quarter century has been the Kevorkian Center. I am enormously grateful to the friends, colleagues, and students with whom I have shared those years and proud of what we have achieved together. Since I am not moving far, I will continue to be involved with the Center and look forward to many more years of friendship and collaboration.

Leslie Peirce

I was on leave this academic year (2007–2008), during which I spent two months in Istanbul researching a new project. I participated in conferences at the University of Athens and Cambridge University (summer 2007), a plenary panel at the Sixteenth-Century Society Conference in October and a panel on renegades at the MESA Annual Meeting in November. In March, I was Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the Centre for Renaissance & Reformation Studies, University of Toronto, where I gave two lectures, and in May I gave talks at the University of Crete and the Institute for Mediterranean Studies in Reythmno, Crete. Publications included a chapter on material culture in *The Early Modern Ottomans: Remapping the Empire*, and the opening chapter, “An Imperial Caste: Inverted Racialization in the Architecture of Ottoman Sovereignty”, in a volume of essays entitled *Rereading the Black Legend: The Discourses of Racism in the Renaissance Empires*; in February I was one of four panelists invited to a celebration of the book at Duke University’s John Franklin Institute. I continued to direct the Ottoman Studies Program lecture series; we also completed a search for our new Ottoman Language Lecturer, who joins us in September.

Everett Rowson

I was pleased this year to be able to complete a number of small scholarly projects that had been languishing for some time, while launching out in some new directions in my teaching. My articles on male slaves as objects of homoerotic attention in ‘Abbasid Baghdad, on the rhetorical prose of the tenth-century ruler and litterateur Qabus b. Vushmgir, and on public humiliation and banishment as punishments in the first Islamic century should all be appearing in the next few months, as well as two others, completed earlier, on homoerotic liaisons among the Mamluk elite in late medieval Egypt and Syria and on the career of the fourteenth-century polymath al-Safadi. Progress on my monograph on homoeroticism in medieval Islamic societies also continues.

In the Fall I offered two new courses, Religion and Government in Classical Islam for undergraduates and a graduate Arabic text seminar entitled Readings in the Thought of al-Ghazali. I was particularly pleased with the latter and am looking forward to the panel that the students have undertaken to put together, presenting the research they pursued for the course, at the Middle East Studies Association meeting this coming November.

I was given the opportunity to talk about different aspects of my work on early Arabic erotica twice this year, first in October for a Faculty Seminar at Indiana University and then in March at the University of Pennsylvania. I was also at Penn in February, where I was invited to ad-

dress the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt and spoke on Medieval Egyptian Views of the Pharaonic Past.

Meanwhile, I have continued to enjoy my work as one of the four executive editors of the new third edition of the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, which has finally begun to appear, with three fascicules issued in 2007 and a fourth published this May.

Ella Shohat

During the academic year 2007–2008, my book with Robert Stam *Flagging Patriotism: Crises of Narcissism and Anti-Americanism* was published by Routledge. The “Authors Meet Critics” session of The Association of American Geographers was dedicated to the book. I also contributed the following book chapters: “Cosmopolitan, Provincial and Crossing Borders,” an introduction to Zubin Shroff’s *Cosmopolitans: Photographs*; “Cultural Debates in Translation” (coauthored with R. Stam), in *The Postcolonial and the Global*, Revathi Krishnaswamy & John Hawley, eds. The University of Minnesota Press; “The Politics of Memory: Notes on Eyal Sivan’s work,” (published first in Italian as “La politica della memoria: Note sull’opera di Eyal Sivan”) in Eyal Sivan: *Il cinema di un’altra Israele*, Luca Mosso & Cristina Piccino, eds., *Agenzia X*. The essay “Imperialism and the Fantasies of Democracy” (with R. Stam), originally presented in the plenary of the “Rethinking Marxism” conference, was published in the journal *Rethinking Marxism*. A few of my essays have also been translated: “Narrativizing Visual Culture,” first published in 1998, was translated into Spanish as “Relatos de la Cultura Visual: Hacia una Estética Policéntrica,” in the journal *Miradas Revista del Audiovisual*. My essay “Disorienting Cleopatra” published in 2003 was translated into Portuguese as a 2-part essay, the first is “Herança Racista” and the second “Um Tropo Moderno,” in the journal *Leituras da História*, special issue “A Inigualável Cleópatra” (São Paulo, Brazil). Finally, my essay “Columbus, Palestine, and Arab-Jews: Toward A Relational Approach to Community Identity,” first published in 1997, is republished in *Genealogies of Orientalism: History, Theory, Politics*, Edmund Burke III & David Prochaska, Eds, The University of Nebraska Press.

I was invited to give lectures and present papers in the following: symposium participant “Screen Representations of East & West,” at the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, Barenboim-Said Foundation in Seville, Spain; a keynote lecture “Eurocentrism and the Denial of Indigenous Agency,” and a book launch for Saree Makdisi’s *Palestine Inside Out* in “New Worlds, New Sovereignties” conference, The University of Melbourne, Australia; a keynote address “The Culture Wars in Translation: A Postcolonial Perspective,” at the “Europe in Black & White” conference, Centro de Estudos Comparatistas,” The University of Lisbon, Portugal. (I was also

part of the Advisory Board of the “Dislocating Europe” project, Science Foundation (Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia) at the University of Lisbon.) I participated in the panel presentation, “Traveling Debates: Islamo/Arabophobia between the U.S., Europe and the Middle East,” at the “Deconstructing Islamophobia” conference; and public keynote “The Fable of Megastan,” at the Center for Race & Gender, U.C. Berkeley; participant at the “Authors Meet Critics” session dedicated to Deborah Cowen’s *Military Workfare*, The Association of American Geographers, Boston; lecture, “Performing the Transnational Imaginary,” The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; lecture “Between Postcolonial Studies and Area Studies,” followed by a seminar dedicated to *Taboo Memories, Diasporic Voices*, The Postcolonial Research Cluster, University of British Columbia; paper “The ‘Postcolonial’ in Translation” in “Edward Said: Critical Accounts of (Post) Modernity” Conference, Birzeit University (read in absentia); panelist “Thinking The Iraq War—Civic Trajectories,” Panelist, Day of Community, TSOA, New York University; keynote speaker “The Idea of Eurocentrism,” “Racism and National Consciousness” Conference, University of Toronto; public lecture “Taboo Memories, Diasporic Voices: Between Al Andalus, the Middle East, and the Americas,” in conjunction with the “Legacies of Al Andalus: Islam, Judaism, & the West” conference, Center for the Humanities, The University of Madison, Wisconsin; Panelist “Area Studies, Postcolonial Studies, and the Cartographies of Knowledge: The Case of the Middle East and the Americas,” Critical Thought/Transformative Practice: Peripheral Conditions and the (Dis)location of Latin America, Instituto Universitário de Pesquisas do Rio Janeiro, Brazil; opening seminar presenter “Diasporic Cultures and Empire,” “Beyond Empire: America’s Shifting Relations with the Middle East,” Faculty Working Research Group, Humanities Council, NYU; panelist “Between Enemy Homelands: Writing the Arab-Jew,” “Sami Michael and Jewish Iraqi Literature” Conference, Stanford University; panelist, paper presenter and roundtable discussant “Islam through Jewish Eyes—Judaism through Muslim Eyes,” Schloß Elmau, Germany. I also participated in a Roundtable discussion on “Contemporary Iraqis: Cultural Voices of Resistance,” at the Middle East Studies Association, Montreal.

At NYU, I was invited to join as affiliated faculty the new program in Visual Culture at Steinhart. And at MEIS, this past Spring I taught for the first time the seminar “Arab-Jews and the Writing of Memory,” which was a rewarding experience.

Ending on a sad note, unfortunately one of the students in the seminar, Falak Sufi, passed away during Spring break. Falak contributed to the discussion of memoirs and the politics of memory with tremendous subtlety and insight. Throughout this brief period, I was consistently impressed

with her sharp critical thinking and high overall intellectual acuity. Her empty chair in class was an ongoing reminder of Falak—a brilliant student and a delightful person.

Shouleh Vitanabdi

I started this academic year with teaching a course “Literature and Politics”, during the summer term at the Bogazici University which primarily dealt with the intersections of politics and literary, cultural studies of the global South.

At the Middle East Studies Association Conference, 2007 in Montreal I presented my paper, “Stories beyond History: Translations beyond Nation” which was a study of literature and film on Iran/Iraq war. At that conference I also participated in the thematic conversation session, “The Translation Market: Opportunities, Challenges and Trends” with a discussion of my experience in translating and publishing literary texts in the U.S. In the Spring, I was invited to take part in the conference, *Iran Today*, hosted by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Rutgers University where I presented a talk entitled, “In-Between Iran and U.S: Iranian Diasporas and Cultural Texts”.

As far as publications, I published an article in Persian “Translation and Global Cultures: Middle Eastern Women’s Literature in the Global North” in *Translation Studies* (a publication of Allameh Univ. Tehran, Iran). I also contributed with my paper, “Paradoxical Interplays: Censorial and Counter-Censorial Discourses” to Mehdi Khorrami and M.R. Ghanoonparvar’s edited book, *Critical Encounters: Essays on Persian Literature and Culture in Honor of Peter J. Chelkowski*, published by Mazda publishers.

For the next academic year I will be working at NYU in Paris to teach and help establish an undergraduate program for Liberal Studies, aka General Studies.

Rita Wright

My research continues to be focused on the archaeology of the Near East and South Asia in the third millennium B.C. Although we have not been able to conduct field research in recent years, my project in Pakistan, on a now dry river bed, the Beas, continues to yield new evidence for the conditions of settlement on the Indus plain 5,000 years ago based on laboratory analyses. This year we (R. Wright, R. Bryson and J. Schuldenrein) published the paper, “Water Supply and History: Harappa and the Beas Settlement Survey” in the journal *Antiquity*, Vol. 82, No. 315. Using methods of archaeoclimatology, a high-resolution, site-specific climate model and geomorphic data from the Beas, combined with evidence for a multi-

cropping system at the nearby ancient city of Harappa, we discussed cycles of climate change and human responses during the urban phase of settlement (2600–1900 BC) and the abandonment of the region at least by 1300 BC. The cover story in *Science*, June 6, 2008, by Andrew Lawler on the Indus civilization (*Unmasking the Indus*) provides an important new overview and the most recent evidence from the Indus. A second project involved declassified Corona Images taken in the 1960s and 70s and other satellite imagery. This research was conducted in collaboration with Dr. Carrie Hritz of Pennsylvania State University's Anthropology Department. Its results included the identification of numerous relict channels of the Beas and archaeological sites that were previously unknown. This new evidence will have to be ground-toothed at some time in the future. Results of the research were presented at the South Asia Archaeology, European Association meetings in Ravenna, Italy, in July 2007 and are in press in M. Tosi, ed. *South Asia Archaeology* 2007, IsAIO, Rome. Two papers on gender in Mesopotamia based on textual sources and steppe archaeology: "Gendered Relations in Ur III Mesopotamia: Kinship, Property and Labor" and "Exploring Unknown Lands: Bringing New Worlds into Gender studies" were published in D. Bolger, ed., *Gender through Time in the Ancient Near East* and K. Linduff and K. Rubinson, ed., *Are All Warriors Male: Gender and the Steppe*, respectively, both by Altamira Press.

The highlight of my year was a return to Iran after 30 years. In September of 1978, I left the dig at Tal-I Malyan near Shiraz, as the country was becoming increasingly destabilized, soon after shifting my area of research to the Indus civilization in Pakistan. I had my first opportunity to return to Iran in May at the invitation of Dr. Y. Majidzadeh, Director of the Halil Basin Project in order to participate in a conference under the sponsorship of Academy of the Arts of Iran in co-operation with the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization. The international conference took place in Tehran (I was one among three U.S. participants) and then continued on to south-central Iran near Kerman in the area of Jiroft, where one of the world's earliest civilizations has been discovered. Its discovery was the result of flash floods in 2000 when hundreds of tombs containing elaborately carved stone vessels were uncovered. Vessels of this type have been discovered in southern Iraq in ancient Mesopotamia in the mid-third millennium B.C. (possibly earlier) and their source was largely unknown. It is almost certain that they were produced by artisans from the Jiroft and that the leaders and merchants of the two civilizations were in close touch. My interest in this region began in the 1980s when I conducted museum research on ceramics from Konar Sandal (the name of a major center in the Jiroft) but had never been to the site. At that time, it was thought that the two large mounds at Konar

Sandal were from a later period and that the third millennium component was from a small, minor settlement. And therein is one of the most fascinating aspects of archaeology. Who would have imagined the discovery of a totally unknown civilization at this late date? The Iranians are justifiably proud to now claim one of the world's first civilizations to complement its already rich history; for me it was a pleasure to meet with old friends and make new ones among younger scholars now active in the archaeology of the region.

The eighth book in my Cambridge University Press series, *Case Studies in Early Societies*, was published in 2008 by John Janusek, *Ancient Tiwanaku*, a major pre-Colombian civilization that began in AD 500 and continued to flourish for five centuries.

STUDENT NEWS

Rania Jawad presented a paper titled “A Palestinian Forum Theater” at the American Society for Theater Research conference in Arizona in November. She received the NYU Torch Fellowship and the Fulbright Fellowship to conduct research on Palestinian theater in Palestine/Israel in 2008–09. In August 2008, she conducted a workshop at the Popular Palestine Conference in Chicago.

Munir Kamal Fakher Eldin, who defended his dissertation this Spring, has accepted a one-year lecturer position (2008–2009) for the Department of History at Skidmore College.

Shane Minkin presented two papers this past year, one at the MESA conference in Montréal in November 2007 and the other at the New School for Social Research Memory conference in February 2008. Both papers explored the interplay between colonialism, nationalism and foreign community cemeteries in 20th century Alexandria, Egypt. In summer 2008, she will present a chapter of her dissertation at the NYU/University of Amsterdam Global Dissertation Writing Workshop in Amsterdam and will return to Egypt on a departmental summer research grant. Next year Shane joins the NYU Humanities Initiative as a graduate fellow.

Anna Swank, after spending the summer as an assistant and tutor at the Columbia Arabic Summer 2008 Program, will be founding an Arabic Language and Culture program at Friends Seminary, the K-12 Quaker school in Manhattan, in Fall 2008.

Silvia Marsans-Sakly was awarded a short-term grant from the American Institute of Maghreb Studies to go to Tunis and finalize her dissertation research.

For Summer 2008, Susynne McElrone received MEIS departmental funds for dissertation research in Israel and the West Bank, and an Institute of Turkish Studies research fellowship (declined). For the 2008–09, Susynne was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research Abroad fellowship, for research in Jordan, Israel and Turkey; and a Palestinian American Research Center fellowship, for dissertation research. She was awarded an American Center of Oriental Research (Amman)—Council of American Overseas Research Centers fellowship, for dissertation research in Jordan (deferred to 2009–2010).

Firat Bozcali presented a paper at the 3rd Conference of the International Association of Contemporary Iraqi Studies (IACIS) at SOAS in London in July 2008. The title of the paper was “Managing Oil in Kurdistan-Iraq: 1991–2003.” The Turkish journal *Birikim* published his article, “Türkiye’nin Kürt Sorunu: 1999–2007 [Turkey’s Kurdish Question:

1999–2007]”. His review of Aliza Marcus’s book, “Blood and Belief: The PKK and the Kurdish Fight for Independence” appeared in *Arab Studies Journal*.

Lale Can presented a workshop paper at the inaugural SSRC Inter-Asian Connections Workshop, in Dubai, February 2008. The title of the paper was “The *Özbek Tekkes* of Istanbul: Alternative spaces of cultural, social, and political exchange in late 19th century Asia.” She presented a paper at the 2007 MESA Annual Meeting, and at Columbia University’s Harriman Institute as part of the Graduate Student Workshop: “Russia and the Ottoman Empire: Transregional and Comparative Approaches.” Lale was awarded a SSRC Eurasia Dissertation Write-up Fellowship for 2008–2009, as well as an Institute of Turkish Studies Write-up Fellowship, and she will be a Fellow at the Remarque Institute in 2008–2009.

Basak Tug (MEIS/History) was awarded the Dean’s Dissertation Writing Fellowship by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at NYU for 2008–2009 academic year. She presented a paper titled “Governing Sexual Violence in Mid-Eighteenth-Century Ottoman Anatolia” at the MESA 2007 Annual Meeting in Montreal. The panel titled “The Multiple Registers of Violence in the Ottoman Empire” that she organized with a colleague has been accepted for the American Historical Association 2009 annual meeting.

On Barak was awarded the Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship for 2008–09 by the Graduate School of Arts & Science.

STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

American Association of University Women

Lerna Ekmekcioglu (Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies)

American Research Center in Egypt Fellowship

Jennifer Kaplan (Comparative Literature)

Antonina S. Ranieri International Scholars Fund, Preliminary Dissertation Research Award

Mostafa Minawi (History/Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies)

College of Arts & Science Outstanding Teaching Award

Haytham Bahooora (Comparative Literature)

Center for Arabic Study Aboard, Summer 2007 and Academic Year 2007–08

Ursula Lindsey (Near Eastern Studies)

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Academic Year 2007–08

Ryvka Bar-Zohar (Near Eastern Studies)

Elizabeth Behrend (Near Eastern Studies)

Allison Brown (Near Eastern Studies)

Alan Campbell (Near Eastern Studies)

Toufic Haddad (Journalism and Near Eastern Studies)

Reema Hijazi (Near Eastern Studies)

Jennifer Kaplan (Comparative Literature, to Egypt)

Ursula Lindsey (Near Eastern Studies, to Egypt)

Chris Mishek (Near Eastern Studies)

Summar Shoiab (Near Eastern Studies)

Falak Sufi (Near Eastern Studies)

Peter Valenti (History/Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies,
to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey)

Rebecca Wiggins (Near Eastern Studies)

**Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship,
Academic Year, Summer 2007**

Matthew Berkmann (Near Eastern Studies)

Allison Brown (Near Eastern Studies, to Egypt)

Omar Cheta ((History/Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, to Turkey)

Lara Harb (Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies)

Winnie Lee (Music)

Susynne McElrone (Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies)

Jeanne Miller (Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies)

Chris Mishek (Near Eastern Studies, to Egypt)

Yasmin Moll (Anthropology, to Morocco)

Fulbright Fellowship

Charles Anderson (History/Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, to Israel)

Ryma Marrouch (Near Eastern Studies, from Poland)

GSAS Dean's Dissertation Fellowship

Hanan Kholoussy (History/Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies)

GSAS Summer Predoctoral Fellowship

Amali Ibrahim (Anthropology)

Lyuba Grinberg (Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies)

Leverhulme Award

James Baldwin (History/Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies)

NYU Department of History Research Award

Shane Minkin (History/Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies)

NYU Humanities Initiative Fellowship

Lerna Ekmekcioglu (History/Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies)

Hanan Kholoussy (History/Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies)

Penfield Fellowship

Haytham Bahooora (Comparative Literature)

Remarque Fellowship

Emily Burnham (History/Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies)

**Social Science Research Council International
Dissertation Research Fellowship**

On Barak (History/Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies)

Social Science Research Council Eurasia Pre-Dissertation Fellowship

Lyuba Grinberg (Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, Fall 2007)

Wenner Graduate Fellowship in Cultural Anthropology

Amali Ibrahim (Anthropology)

Abbreviations

MEIS: Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies

NES: Near Eastern Studies

GRADUATING STUDENTS

The following students with research interests in the Middle East and in Islamic Studies received graduate degrees from NYU in September 2007, January 2008, and May 2008.

Gabrielle Clark (MA, Near Eastern Studies)

Christine Cuk (MA, Near Eastern Studies)

Munir Fakher Eldin (Joint PhD, History and Middle Eastern
and Islamic Studies)

Annette Georgia (MA, Near Eastern Studies)

Nur Amali Ibrahim (MA, Anthropology)

Hanan Kholoussy (Joint PhD, History and Middle Eastern
and Islamic Studies)

Leili Kashani (MA, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies)

Jolynn Khamky (MA, Near Eastern Studies)

Stacy Liechti (PhD, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies)

Sarah Malaika (MA, Near Eastern Studies with a concentration
in Museum Studies)

Majid Mozzafari (Joint MA, Journalism and Near Eastern Studies)

Gregory Parrish (MA, Near Eastern Studies)

Asli Peker (PhD, Politics)

Sherene Seikaly (Joint PhD, History and Middle Eastern
and Islamic Studies)

Ahmad Shokr (MA, Near Eastern Studies)

Dominique Soguel (Joint MA, Journalism and Near Eastern Studies)

Anna Swank (MA, Near Eastern Studies)

Madiha Tahir (MA, Near Eastern Studies)

Alis Wang (MA, Politics)

G. Carole Woodall (Joint PhD, History and Middle Eastern
and Islamic Studies)