The Middle East History and Theory Conference is organized in collaboration with the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Chicago. It is held annually and provides a forum for students and faculty in the social sciences and humanities to present papers treating Middle Eastern and Central Asian art/architecture, literature, society, history and politics from the 7th century to the present. This year, through the organization of the panels and the keynote address by Professor Marilyn Booth (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), the discussion will focus on the role of literature and literary imagination in the writing of history. The conference will also feature a plenary session with Professor Hugh Kennedy (The University of St. Andrew's, Scotland), author of *The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphate*.

In addition, there are a number of special events taking place in conjunction with the conference. On Saturday afternoon, guest musicians from Turkey Şehvare Beşiroğlu, Songül Ata, and Nermin Kaygusu will give a workshop on Turkish classical music. Later that evening they will perform with the University of Chicago's *Middle East Music Ensemble*, directed by Issa Boulus. Throughout the conference, two artists will be exhibiting photographs of Turkey in Ida Noyes (Library Lounge). Ayşen Nergis' *Travel into GAP* features pictures taken in the Southeast of Turkey in Harran and Şanlıurfa. Aziza Khatoon's *Backstreets of Turkey* provides another view on everyday life in various parts of the country.

The full schedule is on display below. Yellow indicates panels revolving around this year's theme: *the role of literature in the writing of history*

For further inquiries, do not hesitate to contact the conference coordinators:

Toufoul Abou-Hodeib
Maria T. Green Mercado
Alidost Numan

### Friday, May 13th
9:00 a.m. - Breakfast and registration
Ida Noyes Library Lounge

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

| al-Mutanabbi: Discourses in  'Abbasid Poetry  
Moderator: Tahera Oqtuddin  
(Pick Hall 218) | Frontiers and Frontier Societies in the Islamic World  
Moderator: Colin Heywood  
(Ida Noyes Library) | State, Society, and Modernization in Turkey  
Moderator: Martin Stokes  
(Ida Noyes 216/217) |
|---|---|---|
| Kevin Garvey (University of Chicago)  
*Don't Blame the Lover for Longing...*: An Analysis of Two Panegyrics of Sayf al-Da'wah | Alyssa Gabbay (University of Chicago)  
The Influence of the Frontier on Cultural Production in Medieval India: Amir-Khusrow and New Systems of Meaning | Cem Emmente (SUNY Binghamton)  
From Elite Circles to Power Networks: Turkish Soccer Clubs in a Global Age, 1960-2005 |
| Lyall Armstrong (University of Chicago)  
The Wind and the Warrior: al-Mutanabbi's Poem on the Fall of the Tent | Asa Eger (University of Chicago)  
Dar al-Islam, Dar al-Harb: The Discourse of Islamic Frontiers, Real or Imagined | Sener Aktürk (UC Berkeley)  
Turkey's "Imperial Nationhood", Its Historical Evolution, and the European Union |
| Sean W. Anthony (University of Chicago)  
The Eunuch's Body: Mutanabbi's Invectives against Kufur | Mark Luce (University of Chicago)  
The Process of Frontier: Khurasan From the 8th to the 11th Centuries | Yigit Akin (Ohio State University)  
Petitions, Public Opinion, and the Kemalist Regime, 1929-1950 |
| Ted Cohen (University of Chicago)  
The Retreat from Harshana | Chouki Hedjoudi (University of Chicago)  
The Exchange Between Islamic Egypt and West Africa: An Archaeological Perspective | Celile Eren Argi (Yıldız Technical University)  
Turkish Grammar Books of Non-Muslim Ottoman Instructors |
| Mehmetcan Akgınar (University of Chicago)  
al-Mutanabbi's Marthiyah for Muhammad b. Ishaq: Off Loss and Victory |  | Melin Yüksel (University of Chicago)  
Revisiting the Kurdish Issue in Turkey |
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Armenia on the Crossroads from the 7th to the 21st C., Continuity & Change**
Moderator: Hripsime Haroutunian
(Ida Noyes Library)

- Hipkins Haroutunian (University of Chicago)
- Daniel Larison (University of Chicago)
- Ali Mirzoyan (Florida International University)

**Politics and Religious Idealism**
Moderator: Meir Hatina
(Ida Noyes 216/217)

- Sarah Hirschhorn (University of Chicago)
- Alexander van der Haven (University of Chicago)
- Kim Searcy (Oberlin College)

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**“Traveling Literature”: Cultural and Literary Transmission**
Moderator: Cornell Fleischer
(Ida Noyes 216/217)

- Elias Muhanna (University of Pennsylvania)
- Aliin Qian (University of Pennsylvania)

**Labor and Economic History in the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey**
Moderator: Hakan Özoğlu
(Ida Noyes Library)

- Mustafa Erdem Kabadjou (University of Munich/Trier)
- Joseph Yackley (University of Chicago)
- Emek Yilmaz (Middle East Technical University)

4:00 p.m. - PLENARY SESSION
Ida Noyes Library

Professor **HUGH KENNEDY** (University of St. Andrews, Scotland)

Medieval History and the Origins of Military Dictatorship in the Middle East

*To be followed by a reception.*
## Saturday, May 14th

9:00 a.m. - Breakfast  
Ida Noyes Library Lounge

### 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intellectuals Between Ambivalence and Ideology</th>
<th>Ottoman Imperial Ideology in Discourse and in Practice</th>
<th>Sources and Study of Islamic Thought</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Maha Nassar (University of Chicago)  
"Know Your Heritage": Communism, Nationalism, and the Appropriation of Islamic History Among Palestinian Israeli Intellectuals, c.1892-1960 | Betül Başaran (University of Chicago)  
Policing Istanbul at the End of the Eighteenth Century: Selim III (r. 1789-1807) and His Urban Policies | Mohammad Hasan Khalil (University of Michigan)  
Source-Criticism and Considerations of History, Exegesis, and Law in Early Islamic Scholarly Discourse |
| Eylem Akdeniz (Bilkent University)  
"Representations" of the Early Republican Turkish Intellectual in Two Major Canonicalized Literary Works: "Yaban" (The Stranger) and "Aslan Gölme" (Shirt of Flame) | Nüheyt Varık Akarsu (University of Chicago)  
The Issue of Contagion in the Ottoman Plague Treatises of the Sixteenth Century | Jonathan Brown (University of Chicago)  
Why the Sahhâh? The Formation of the Hadith Canon |
| Seth Abelison (Princeton University)  
"This Could be an Instructive Conversation...": Zionism, Orientalism, and Violence in Short Stories by Yizhar, Orgaz, and Kanafani | Ebru Turan (University of Chicago)  
The Belgaden Campaign (1521) in Ottoman Histories | Ahmed Hashim (University of Chicago)  
Abrogation in Hadith |
| Ida Noyes Library Lounge | Hiroyuki Ogasawara (University of Tokyo)  
The Formation of Official Historians under the Ottoman Empire | James Gustafson (University of Chicago)  
Political and Doctrinal Elements of the Usûl/ Ashbâni Debate in 17th-18th C. Iran |

### 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historians or Litterateurs?</th>
<th>Politics of Natural Resources in the Middle East</th>
<th>Women's Voices in the Middle East</th>
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</table>
| Ghada Jayyusi-Lehn (York University)  
Writing and Political History Under the 'Abbasids: al-Jahiz on "The Merits of the Turks" | Frank Walls  
Coptic Women, Muslim Women, and the Makings of a Social Movement in Egypt |
| Adrian Deggilis (University of Chicago)  
Using al-Jahiz's "Risâla fi Ḥikâyât wa-Tawâsid Amir al-Mu'minin 'Abîn Abî Taibî fi l'Othnînîn" as a Source for Early Islamic History | Josh Ellis (University of Chicago)  
Filling in the GAP: Realties of Water-Resource Development in Turkey | Esra Birinci (University of Chicago)  
Turkish and Egyptian Feminisms Compared: The Cases of Arineda Ağaçu and Nawal al-Saadawi |
| Michael Ciosephson (UC Los Angeles)  
al-Jahiz, the Misers, and the Hadith-men | Michael Ciosephson (UC Los Angeles)  
al-Jahiz, the Misers, and the Hadith-men | Fatemeh Masjedi (Illinois State University)  
Feminist Historiography of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution in 1905-1911 |

### 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>The Woman in Arab Literature</th>
<th>Segregation, Contested Space, and Identity Formation</th>
<th>Music Workshop on Turkish Classical Music</th>
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</table>
| Karina Elieasas (Carleton College)  
Disrupting the Gaze: Sexuality, Countermemory in Assia Djebar's L'amour, la fantasía | Yuval Ben-Bassat (University of Chicago)  
Local Feuds or Premonitions of a Bi-National Conflict? A Reexamination of Early Jewish-Arab Encounter in Palestine, 1882-1903 | With guest musicians: |
| Georges Moutlet (University of Notre Dame)  
The Voice and Silence of the Female Body in Modern Arabic Literature | Petra Kupingher (Monmouth College)  
De-territorializing Spaces: The Case of Cairo | Şehvar Beşiroğlu  
Songül Ate  
Nermin Kavgusu |
| Ida Noyes Library  
9:00 a.m. - Breakfast | Ida Noyes Library  
5:30 p.m. - Recognition of Professor  
Literature as History, Histories of Literature: Egypt 'Before the Arabic Novel' | Ida Noyes Library  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Moderator: Daniel Gofman (Ida Noyes West Lounge) |
| 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Moderator: Fred Donner (Ida Noyes West Lounge) | 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Moderator: Orin Bashkin (Ida Noyes East Lounge) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Moderator: Daniel Monterescu (Ida Noyes 216/217) |
| 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Moderator: Farouk Mustafa (Ida Noyes West Lounge) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Moderator: Daniel Monterescu (Ida Noyes 216/217) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Moderator: Daniel Monterescu (Ida Noyes 216/217) |
4:00 p.m. - KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Ida Noyes Library

Professor MARILYN BOOTH (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)
Literature as History, Histories of Literature: Egypt 'Before the Arabic Novel'

5:30 p.m. - Recognition of Professor John Woods
Ida Noyes Library

To be followed by a reception.

6:00 p.m. - CONCERT
International House (1414 East 59th Street) - Assembly Hall

THE MIDDLE EAST MUSIC ENSEMBLE
Director: Issa Boulus

8:00 p.m. - THE ANNUAL LAMB ROAST
Ida Noyes Library Lounge