



Middle Eastern Studies Research Colloquium

Ertegun House, the Middle East Centre at St. Antony's College and Oxford Middle East Studies Graduate Group are pleased to announce the first 'Middle Eastern Studies Research Colloquium'. The colloquium will take place on Wednesday Week 8 Michaelmas Term 2012 (November 28th 2012) between 3.00pm-6.30pm at Ertegun House. Below you will find the colloquium programme and directions to Ertegun House. We invite and encourage all those interested to attend. Refreshments will be served.

<http://www.oxfordmiddleeastgrad.net/index.html>

Colloquium Programme

Panel One: Political and Diplomatic History (3.30-5.00)

Intelligence and the Palestinian Mandate

Steven Wagner

D.Phil Candidate University College

My doctoral research at the University of Oxford examines the role of British intelligence in policy making and counterinsurgency in the Palestine Mandate from 1920 until 1939. It will look at the complex and dynamic relations between Britain and the Jewish and Arab communities of Palestine. Britain's legal commitments, ideological positions and financial limitations indeed restrained policy in Palestine. Intelligence was relied-upon as a substitute for the military force which the Empire could not afford, and the prestige which it needed to maintain.

In this talk, I will examine the role of intelligence in the establishment of the Mandate, and what this meant for the relations between Jews, Arabs

and the British government. Britain entered Palestine with few independent sources, and struggled to muster expertise. It was able to maintain sources of intelligence from both communities, but relied more heavily on its wartime Zionist partners for a picture of the political landscape. Any impact this had on the unfolding of events will be discussed.

Britain, the Arab Legion and Glubb Pasha

Graham Jevon

D.Phil Candidate St. Antony's College

In 1948 the British officered Jordanian army, otherwise known as the Arab Legion, was the strongest of all the Arab armies. Its role in the 1948 War and the partition of Palestine has been subject to intense historiographical debate. Based on new evidence and an alternative focus of attention this paper offers a revised appreciation of British policy, the Arab Legion and its British commander Glubb Pasha in relation to the events of 1948.

The Ideological Foundations of Sino-Algerian Relations, 1958-1963

Kyle Haddad-Fonda

D.Phil Candidate Magdalen College

In autumn 1958, the People's Republic of China became the first non-Arab country to recognize the provisional government set up by the Algerian Front de Libération Nationale (FLN). Beginning that year, the FLN and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) established a close working relationship that would benefit both sides throughout the remainder of the Algerian war for independence. This presentation will explore the development of Sino-Algerian relations from the first contact between the two sides in 1958 through the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Zhou Enlai to Algiers in December 1963. In contrast to conventional wisdom, it asserts that the Chinese government did not provide substantial military aid to the Algerian rebels. Instead, it focuses on how both sides manipulated their relationship to confer ideological legitimacy on their respective regimes. It explains how the Chinese government used its patronage of the FLN to prove the value of the

CCP's model of revolution at the height of the Great Leap Forward and how the top leaders of the FLN used Chinese support to validate on their own revolutionary, socialist ideology.

Panel Two: Literature and Intellectual History (5.00-6.30)

The Concept of Civilization in Arab Renaissance

Peter Hill
D.Phil Candidate St. John' College

The concept of civilization (in Arabic: *tamaddun*, and other associated words such as *'umran*, *hadara* and *madaniyya*) was of central importance to the cultural and social thinking of the 19th-century Arab "Renaissance" (*nahda*). My presentation will explore its role in mainly Syrian literature and journalism of the 1860s and 1870s, with a focus on Fransis Marrash's allegorical fiction *Ghabat al-Haqq* (*The Forest of Justice*).

Reconsidering Turkish literary history

Ezgi Ulusoy Aranyosi D.Phil

Candidate St. Antony's College

The evolution of Turkish literary historiography is taken to be a gradual process starting from the first poetry collections of 15th century, and transforming into today's "critical" works on history of Turkish literature. This presentation aims to ask the following question: is there any essential change at all regarding the fundamental dynamics to which literary critics/historiographers of Turkish literature subscribe to?

By appealing to and exemplifying the nature of (alleged) paradigm shifts in Turkish literary historiography (from 1860 to 1923), I will argue that the concept of anthology, which always comes with determinative powers that are rather questionable, is at the very heart of Turkish literary historiographical practice, and that this itself serves as *at least* one reason to reconsider what we came to know as "history of Turkish literature".

Date: Wednesday Week 8 Michaelmas Term 2012 (November 28th 2012)

Time: 3.00pm-6.30pm

Place: House Ertegun house, St. Giles 37A

