

Rethinking Nationalism, Sectarianism and Ethno-Religious Mobilisation in the Middle East

Preliminary Conference Schedule

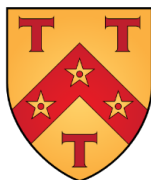
Friday 26th to Sunday 28th January 2017, University of Oxford

Convened by Dr Alex Henley (alex.henley@theology.ox.ac.uk), Dr Ceren Lord (ceren.lord@area.ox.ac.uk) and Dr Hiroko Miyokawa (hiroko.miyokawa@area.ox.ac.uk). General enquiries: mideastconf@pmb.ox.ac.uk.

Generously supported by Pembroke College, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, the Middle East Centre at St Antony's College, and The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH).

Friday 26th January *The Investcorp Lecture Theatre, Middle East Centre, St Antony's College*

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| 9.00-9.30 | Registration; Coffee and pastries |
| 9.30-9.45 | Opening Remarks and Welcome:
Prof Justin Jones, representing the Islamic Studies group at Pembroke College
Prof Philip Robins, representing the Middle East Centre at St Antony's College
Mr Nobuo Tanaka, chairman of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation |
| 9.45-11.15 | Panel 1: Histories of Border-Making and State Formation in the Middle East
Chair: Yaacov Yadgar
Karin Loevy: <i>Non-Sovereign Territoriality in WWI Negotiations Over the Future of the Middle East</i>
Sarah Shields: <i>Discourses of Identity: The League of Nations in Iraq</i>
Oren Barak: <i>State Expansion and Conflict in Israel/Palestine and Lebanon</i> |
| 11.30-13.00 | Panel 2: Challenges to the Nation-State in the Post-2011 Era
Chair: Toby Matthiesen
Raymond Hinnebusch: <i>Westphalian Failure? The Case of Syria Since the Uprising</i>
Michael Marcusa & Jerome Drevon: <i>The Local Global Jihad: Explaining Sub-National Patters in Salafi Jihadi Mobilisation</i>
Michael Clark: <i>A Shi'a Commonwealth: The Iranian Deep State, its Affiliates and the Shi'a Community</i> |
| 13.00-14.30 | Lunch (provided for speakers) |
| 14.30-16.00 | Panel 3: State and Non-State Actors in the Governance of Diversity
Chair: Laurent Mignon
Loubna El Amine & Kevin Mazur: <i>Deprovincialising Multiculturalism, or Why We Should Care About the Politics of Difference in Late Industrialising Societies</i>
Yeşim Bayar: <i>Expanding Minority Rights and Establishing Societal Peace: What Can We Learn from Constitutions and Constitution-Writing Processes?</i>
Karim Khwanda: <i>Socio-Religious Pluralism in Syria: The Fault-Line Beyond Secularism Vs. Islamism</i>
Nazli Ozkan: <i>Sectarian 'Paranoia' or Religious Discrimination: Journalistic Coverage of Anti-Alevi Discrimination in Turkey</i> |



17.00-18.30 **Keynote Lecture:** Max Weiss speaking on *Formations of the Sectarian*

18.30-20.30 Conference Drinks and Formal Dinner (for speakers only)

Saturday 27th January

Harold Lee Room, Pembroke College

9.30-9.45 Coffee and pastries

9.45-11.15 **Panel 4: Building Commonality and Difference Through Time**

Chair: Philip Robins

Henry Clements: *A Very Christian Crisis in the Late Ottoman Empire*

Elvire Corboz: *Shi'i Discourses on Islamic Unity: Reconfiguring Majority-Minority Relations Within Islam*

Vefa Erginbas: *Bridging the Sunni-Shi'ite Divide: A Historical Look at the Appropriation of the Twelve Imams in the Ottoman Empire*

Hussein Abou Saleh: *The Dynamics of Sectarianism Between the Shi'ite and the 'Alawite community of Syria*

11.30-13.00 **Panel 5: Variations of Sectarianisation and Sectarian Mobilisations**

Chair: Eugene Rogan

Toby Dodge: *The Theory and Practice of Sectarian Mobilisation in Iraq*

Fred Lawson: *Why Did the Syrian Uprising Become Sectarian?*

Ceren Lord: *Sectarianised Securitisation and Alevi Mobilisation in Turkey in the Post-2011 Era*

Keiko Sakai: *Competing for Victimhood and Nationhood: Sectarianism in Post-War Iraq as a Legitimation of the Right to Rebel*

13.00-14.00 Lunch (provided for speakers)

14.00-15.30 **Panel 6: Placing Religion in Protest and Social Movements**

Chair: Ceren Lord

Teije Hidde Donker: *Jihadism and Governance in Northern Syria*

Fiona McCallum: *The Changing Nature of Coptic Protest in Egypt*

Yasuyuki Matsunaga: *A Processual Sociological Perspective on Sectarian Insurgency in Iran's Two Border Areas*

15.45-17.15 **Panel 7: Religious Actors in Sectarian Politics**

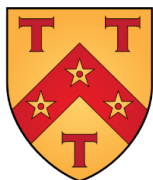
Chair: Justin Jones

Amaan Merali: *Persecution and Partnership: The Ottomans and the Aga Khan Before the Great War*

Alex Henley: *Sectarianisation as the Construction of 'Religion': The Case of 'Religious Leaders' in Lebanon*

Hratch Tchilingirian: *Secularising Effects of Sectarianism: The Case of the Armenian Church in the Middle East During the Cold War Era*

Anthony O'Mahony: *Eastern Christian Perspectives on Religion and Politics in Modern Syria: The Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch after 2000*



Sunday 28th January

Harold Lee Room, Pembroke College

9.30-9.45 Coffee and pastries

9.45-11.15 Panel 8: Religious Actors in Negotiating the Nation

Chair: Alex Henley

Z. Asli Elitsoy: *Civil Friday Prayers: A Kurdish Challenge to the Religious Political Power in Turkey*

Yoko Uno: *'Religion is a Wall' for What? Riza Nur's Thought on Turkish Nationalism and Religious Authority in the Early Republican Period*

David Warren: *Cleansing the Nation of the 'Dogs of Hell': Nationalist Legal Reasoning Among the Azhari 'Ulama in Support of the 2013 Egyptian Coup and its Bloody Aftermath*

Noor Zehra Zaid: *From Shi'as to Iraqis, and Pakistanis to Shi'as: Nationalism, Transnationalism and Sectarianism in Modern Iraq*

11.30-13.00 Panel 9: Everyday Sectarianism in the Reimagination of Boundaries

Chair: Walter Armbrust

Şule Can: *Vahed! Nihna u Suriyah Vahed!: Shifting Ethno-Religious Boundaries and Politicization at the Turkish-Syrian Border*

Maria Kastrinou: *From a Window in Jaramana: Sectarianism, Religion and the Impact of War on a Druze Neighbourhood in Syria*

Fouad Marei: *Theatres of Resistance: Shi'i Ritual Practice as Politics and Performance*

Gaétan du Roy: *Everyday Religious Boundaries: Reassessing Religious Revivals from Shubra, Cairo*

13.00-14.00 Lunch (provided for speakers)

14.00-15.30 Panel 10: Reconciling State and Sub-State Identities in Contested National Spaces

Chair: Ahmed al-Shahi

Marina Calculi: *Hezbollah's Phoenicianism: From Threat to the Guardian of the 'Lebanese Nation'*

Hiroko Miyokawa: *Coptic Historiography in Colonial Egypt: From the History of Patriarchs to the History of Coptic Nation*

Dylan O'Driscoll: *Iraq, Subnationalism and Militias*

Michael Willis: *Enemies, Allies or Competitors? Islamist-Amazigh Movement Relations in Morocco and Algeria*

15.30-16.00 Coffee



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Conference Biographies

Hussein Abou Saleh is a Mechanical engineer by profession, and a PhD candidate at SciencesPo university, working under the supervision of prof. Jean-Pierre Filiu. His themes of interests include Shi'a politics, ethno-sectarian identities, and minority/majority relationships. He works on the following countries: Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Iran.

Oren Barak is Associate Professor of Political Science and International Relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he holds the Maurice B. Hexter Chair in International Relations-Middle East Studies. He was a research fellow at Harvard University and a visiting professor at Cornell University and the University of Texas in Austin. His research interests include the relationship between the state, society, and the military in non-Western regions and ethnic & national relations. He is the author of *The Lebanese Army: A National Institution in a Divided Society* (State University of New York Press, 2009), *Israel's Security Networks* (Cambridge University Press, 2013, with Gabriel Sheffer), and *State Expansion and Conflict* (Cambridge University Press, 2017). He also edited several books including, most recently, *Nonstate Actors in Intrastate Conflicts* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014, with Dan Miodownik). His work has appeared in outlets such as the *Journal of Peace Research*, *Security Dialogue*, *Armed Forces & Society*, *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, *Middle East Journal*, *Representation*, *History & Memory*, and *Israel Studies*.

Yeşim Bayar is an Assistant Professor in Sociology at St. Lawrence University. Following her studies in economics at the Middle East Technical University in Turkey, Dr. Bayar received her Master's in Development Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and her Ph.D. in sociology from McGill University. Her work spans a variety of interrelated issues including nationalism, ethnic and religious minorities, citizenship,

constitution-writing, and language policies. Dr. Bayar's work appeared in a number of journals including *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, *Nationalities Papers*, *Nations and Nationalism*, and *Comparative Studies in South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*. Her book, *The Formation of the Turkish Nation-State, 1920-1938* was published in 2014 by Palgrave/Macmillan.

Marina Calculli (PhD) specializes in political violence and Army-society relations, with a focus on Lebanon and Syria. She is currently a Lecturer in Middle East Politics at Leiden University.

Şule Can is an Instructor of Record, advanced PhD candidate with a Fulbright scholarship in Socio-cultural Anthropology at State University of New York at Binghamton. She received her BA in English Language Teaching and Literature from Istanbul and Cologne University, Germany and her MA in Cultural Studies in 2011 from Istanbul, Turkey. She is one of the founders and the academic chair of the Research Institute for the Middle Eastern Arab Peoples in Turkey. Can's research interests go beyond the academic endeavours, as she works with non-governmental organizations utilizing her research to advocate migrant rights in the global context. She is also a columnist writing on political activism and forced migration in Turkish language.

Michael D. Clark is a Senior Lecturer at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and an Associate Lecturer at the Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Cambridge. He received his PhD from the University of Cambridge. This followed an MRes from the University of Exeter and an MSc from the University of Bristol. He has previously held appointments as an Associate Researcher at the American University of Beirut and as a Research Associate at the University of Cambridge.

Henry Clements is a second-year Ph.D. student in History at Yale University. Having graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in 2014, he spent the following two years in Cairo, initially as a Masters student in the Department of Arab and Islamic Civilizations at the American University in Cairo and latterly studying Arabic with the Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA). His research interests include religion in modernity, conversion, and inter-Christian relations in the Ottoman Empire, particularly with regard to the Syriac Orthodox Christians. Since beginning at Yale, he has conducted research on the patriarchal archive of the Syriac Orthodox Church in Mardin as well as the Başbakanlık Ottoman State Archives.

Elvire Corboz is assistant professor in Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Aarhus in Denmark. She holds a DPhil in Oriental Studies from the University of Oxford and has previously held positions at Princeton University and Rutgers University. Her research concentrates on contemporary Shi'ism. She has been at work with the Shi'i clerical establishment and has published *Guardians of Shi'ism: Sacred Authority and Transnational Family Networks* (Edinburgh University Press, 2015). She is now also working on Shi'i institutions in the UK. In addition, she is an affiliated researcher in the Aarhus-based project Sectarianism in the Wake of the Arab Revolts (SWAR).

Toby Dodge is the Kuwait Professor and Director of the Middle East Centre at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is also a professor in the International Relations Department at LSE and a Senior Consulting Fellow for the Middle East at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. His main areas of research include the comparative politics and historical sociology of the Middle East, the politics of intervention, the evolution of the Iraqi state and state-society dynamics and political identities in Iraq. His publications include *Inventing Iraq: The failure of nation building and a history*

denied (2003) and *Iraq: From War to a New Authoritarianism* (2013) and three edited volumes, *Middle Eastern Security, the US Pivot and the Rise of ISIS, Afghanistan; to 2015 and beyond, Iraq at the crossroads: state and society in the shadow of regime change*, and *Globalisation and the Middle East, Islam, economics, culture and politics*. He has published research papers in *The Review of International Studies*, *International Affairs*, *International Peacekeeping*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Monde Arabe*, *Maghreb-Machrek* and *Contemporary Arab Affairs*.

Teije Hidde Donker holds a three-year lecturer position at the department of sociology at the University of Cambridge. He previously held a postdoc position at the department of comparative politics at the University of Bergen, Norway, and has a Phd from the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. His academic interests fall at the intersection of Middle East area studies, political sociology and comparative politics. In his latest research he applies a (Bourdieu inspired) relational field approach to explore Islamists mobilization strategies in Tunisia, Syria and Turkey. Using a combination of quantitative field analysis (specifically Multiple Correspondence Analysis of original survey data) and an extensive ethnography among Islamist activists, he analyzes how the specific position of activists in socio-religious fields influences the range of possible strategies in their mobilization efforts. Teije H. Donker has authored a number articles on state-society interaction and mobilized Islam in Syria and Tunisia. His publications have appeared in *Mediterranean Politics*, *Middle East Critique* and he has recently published a co-authored book *Social Movements and Civil War* at Routledge.

Jerome Drevon is currently as a research fellow at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford. His main research interests include the study of Islamist non-state armed groups from institutional, organizational and networking perspectives.

After completing his doctoral research on political violence in Egypt, Jerome started a new research on the comparative institutionalisation of salafi jihadi armed groups in civil war settings based on the case study of the Syrian civil war. Jerome has undertaken field research and lived in several Middle Eastern countries, including Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, and Turkey. He obtained his PhD in International Relations from Durham University.

Gaétan du Roy – chargé de recherche FNRS (Belgium), Université catholique de Louvain ; associate researcher at CEDEJ (Cairo). Gaétan du Roy is a historian and postdoctoral researcher at the FNRS in Belgium, and vice-director of the Laboratoire de recherches historiques (LaRHis) at the Université catholique de Louvain. His research deals with the religious minorities in the Middle East, especially the Copts of Egypt. His PhD dissertation was about a community of Garbage Collectors in Cairo and the famous place of worship build inside of this neighbourhood. He is now investigating on Coptic Muslim relations in the urban area of Shubra in the North of Cairo from the 1970's. His last publications are: *Father Samaan and the Charismatic trend within the Coptic Church*, in VAN DOORN N. (dir.), *Copts in Contexts*, South Carolina University Press, 2017 ; « 'Bénie soit l'Égypte'. Prier pour la nation dans l'espace public révolutionnaire », *Archives de sciences Sociales de Religions*, forthcoming, April 2018.

Loubna El Amine is Assistant Professor in the Political Science Department at Northwestern University. She teaches political theory, with a focus on early Chinese political thought. Her book, *Classical Confucian Political Thought: A New Interpretation*, was published in 2015 by Princeton University Press. She is currently working on a second book, on the social foundations of Confucian political thought, for which he has received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship

and a Henry Luce Foundation/American Council for Learned Societies Program in China Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship. Before Northwestern, she was an Assistant Professor of Government at Georgetown University and a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at Yale University. She holds a PhD in Politics from Princeton University and a BA in Political Studies from the American University of Beirut.

Z. Asli Elitsoy is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at Bilkent University of Turkey. She holds an MA in Middle Eastern and North African Studies from Tel Aviv University, an MA in Informatics from Marmara University, as well as a BA in Journalism from Ege University. Prior to her academic studies, she has worked in several media and communication-related positions in Istanbul. Her areas of interest include ethno-politics, nationalism, identity politics, state-minority relations, and Middle East history and politics. She is currently working on her dissertation project that investigates state policies towards the Palestinian and Kurdish ethnic minorities in Israel and Turkey and doing coursework and tasks as a teaching assistant.

Vefa Erginbaş received his doctorate from the Ohio State University. He studies Ottoman intellectual, cultural, and social history in the early modern period. His dissertation entitled “The Appropriation of Islamic History and Ahl-al-Baytism in the Ottoman Empire, 1300-1650” examines select Ottoman historians and litteratuers’ views of early Islamic history and succession struggle. Erginbaş’s study demonstrates that despite the conventional view of the Ottomans as militant Sunnis, in the cultural and intellectual scenes, they showed a wide spectrum of beliefs and convictions, which were often at odds with official Sunnism. His article on this subject recently appeared in *the Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* (60/5, 2017). Erginbaş is currently editing a book entitled *Beyond Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy: New Perspectives on Ottoman*

Sunnism. Besides these works, he has also chapters in collected volumes and book reviews to be published within the next year. Vefa Erginbaş is currently an Assistant Professor of History at Providence College, Rhode Island, USA.

Alex Henley is a Lecturer in Islam and the Study of Religion at Oxford University, based in the Faculty of Theology & Religion and Pembroke College. He is a historian of religion and politics in the modern Middle East, especially Lebanon and the Levant. His research has focused on religious leaders, looking at how communities have (re)created religious leaderships for their contemporary contexts, responding to the demands of modern states and changing discourses of religion and politics. In the course of this research, he has worked with the Sunni, Druze and Maronite communities in Beirut and beyond. Alex came to Oxford from a four-year stint in the United States, where he held fellowships at Georgetown and Harvard Universities, after completing his education in Islamic Studies, Middle Eastern Studies and Religion at the Universities of Manchester, Edinburgh and Durham. His research has been supported by grants from the UK's Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World (CASAW) and the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL), with research affiliations at the American University of Beirut and Notre Dame University, Lebanon, as well as the Brookings Doha Center in Qatar.

Raymond Hinnebusch is Professor of International Relations and Middle East Politics at the University of St. Andrews and Director of the Centre for Syrian Studies. He is the author of *The International Relations of the Middle East*, Manchester, 2015; *Syria: Revolution From Above* (Routledge 2000); *Authoritarian Power and State Formation in Ba`thist Syria*, Westview Press, 1990; *Peasant and Bureaucracy in Ba`thist Syria*, Westview Press, 1989; *Egyptian Politics under Sadat*, Cambridge, 1985.

Maria Kastrinou is a Lecturer in Social Anthropology at Brunel University London, and holds a PhD in Anthropology from Durham University, UK. Her research combines anthropology, politics and history to critically interrogate sectarianism and the state; statelessness and refugees; and energy and conflict. She has conducted extensive ethnographic fieldwork in Syria, Greece, Lebanon, and the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights, and is author of *Power, sect and state in Syria: The politics of marriage and identity among the Druze* (IB Tauris 2016).

Karim Khwanda is a Senior External Consultant to UN ESCWA, The United Nations Economic and Social Commission For Western Asia, a UN body with a mandate to support economic and social development and cooperation in the MENA region. ESCWA's National Agenda For Syria platform aims to bring together Syrians across the political spectrum to work on damage and needs assessments, and to conduct multi-sectoral policy and scenario planning for rebuilding the country. Mr Khwanda is also a Syria-related conflict resolution and reconciliation practitioner, engaged in peace-building and community bridge-building initiatives that aim to mitigate intractable conflict. He completed a Masters in Sustainable Urban Development at the University of Oxford, with a view to participate in the physical, economic, and social fabric post-conflict recovery in Syria

Karin Loevy is the manager of the JSD Program at NYU School of Law, a scholar at the Institute for International Law and Justice (IILJ) and a Kathleen Fitzpatrick Post- Doctoral Fellow with the Laureate Program in International Law (Melbourne Law School, 2018). Her book, *Emergencies in Public Law: The Legal Politics of Containment*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2016. An overview of her new project on history of international law in the Middle East (1915-1922), was recently published in the

Israel Law Review and won the journal's prize for best unsolicited article for 2016.

Ceren Lord is a Post-Doctoral Research Officer in Middle East Studies at the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies at the University of Oxford. She completed her PhD in May 2015 at the London School of Economics, Government Department, focusing on the role of the state and the ulema in the rise of political Islam in Turkey. She holds a master's degree from Oxford University (St Antony's College) in Modern Middle Eastern Studies. Alongside her academic career, Ceren previously worked in finance as an economist focusing on Europe and the Middle East and Africa. She is a regular contributor to the Economist Intelligence Unit, Associate Editor at the British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies and the lead editor for the British Institute at Ankara Contemporary Turkey series published in collaboration with I.B. Tauris. Her research interests include religio-political movements; secularism and state-religion relations; the role of the ulema and changing nature of Islamic authority; comparative democratisation and the dynamics of authoritarian persistence; sectarianism and ethno-religious mobilisation in Turkey and the Middle East. Ceren's current research on Alevis in Turkey is funded by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

Michael Marcusa is a Ph.D candidate in Political Science at Brown University. His research agenda addresses the question of why jihadist movements gain a following in some places but not others. His dissertation research approaches the issue of jihadist radicalization through a comparative study of two economically marginalized towns in Tunisia – the largest contributor of foreign fighters to IS. A proficient reader and speaker of Arabic, Marcusa has lived and traveled extensively in the Middle East and North Africa. Throughout the course of his dissertation research, he has held grants from the US Institute of Peace, National Science Foundation in collaboration with the Watson Institute for

International Studies, and the American Institute for Maghrib Studies.

Fouad Gehad Marei is a visiting Research Fellow at the German Orient-Institut Beirut and a Lecturer in Middle Eastern and North African Politics at Freie Universität Berlin. He holds a PhD from Durham University, UK. Fouad is also the recipient of research grant awards from the Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS), the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL), amongst others. Based on extensive fieldwork in Lebanon, Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East and North Africa, his research focuses on faith-based political activism, the politics of sectarianism, Islamic social movements, and development and governance in contexts of post/conflict situations. His current research investigates forms and iterations of Shi'i political activism in Lebanon and beyond. In addition to his academic research, Fouad served as a Conflict Transformation and Stabilisation Consultant and Project Manager. He authored numerous policy papers on the Syrian war examining civilian and local administration structures, emerging justice and police sectors, faith-based activism, and violent extremism. He also partook in developing and implementing Integrated Community Security Programmes.

Yasuyuki Matsunaga teaches political science and political sociology and is director of the graduate program in peace and conflict studies at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in Japan. After being educated at the University of Tokyo (Islamic studies), University of South Carolina (international studies), and New York University (political science), he did his dissertation research in Iran from 1997 to 2004 and defended his dissertation titled "Struggles for Democratic Consolidation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 1979-2004" in 2006. He has also published several articles on Iran's reformist religious intellectuals and

Shi'ite Islamic political jurisprudence (*fiqh-i siyasi*) in *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, *Orient*, *Comparative Studies on South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, and *Die Welt des Islams*. Besides working on sectarian conflict issues, he is currently working, with Umut Azak, on an edited book tentatively titled *Dynamics of Desecularization and Resecularization: Religious Politics in Turkey and Iran*.

Kevin Mazur is a Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellow at Nuffield College, University of Oxford. His current research examines the role of sectarian, regional, and neighborhood identities in the Syrian uprising. He holds a PhD from the Department of Politics at Princeton University.

Fiona McCallum is a Lecturer in the School of International Relations at the University of St Andrews. Her research expertise is Middle Eastern Christians especially state-church-societal relations, religious leadership and diaspora. She is the author of *Christian Religious Leadership in the Middle East: The Political Role of the Patriarch* (2010) and several articles on the political role of Christians in the Middle East including in *Middle Eastern Studies*, *Journal of Religion and Europe* and *Third World Quarterly*. From 2013-15, she was the Project Leader of the collaborative research project 'Defining and Identifying Middle Eastern Christian Communities in Europe' funded by Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA). She is also the co-founder of the Christians in the Middle East Research Network.

Amaan Merali is the current recipient of the Institute of Ismaili Studies Doctoral Scholarship. His doctoral research at the Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford explores 19th- and 20th-century Ottoman intelligence gathering in Greater Syria and India with reference to the Shi'a Nizari Ismailis.

Hiroko Miyokawa is a Sasakawa Peace Foundation Fellow at Middle East Studies, School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies. She conducted field work in Egypt from 2007 to 2011 and she obtained her Ph. D. in area studies from Sophia University (Tokyo) in 2016. Her current research interests include the construction of ethno-religious identity among the Coptic Christians in early twentieth century Egypt, the relationship between ethnicity and religion, the use of archaeology in the development of nationalism in the Middle East. Her recent publication is Hiroko Miyokawa ed., *The Churches of Eastern Christianity: A Research Guide and Basic Data*. Tokyo: Akashi Shoten, 2017, 608 p. (in Japanese).

Dylan O'Driscoll is a Research Associate at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI), at the University of Manchester. His main research interest is ethnosectarian conflict in the Middle East, particularly Iraq where he has spent two years conducting fieldwork. He has a PhD in Ethnopolitics from the University of Exeter, where his thesis examined the status of Kirkuk within the wider issues of conflict and governance in Iraq. Dylan holds an MA in Kurdish Studies from the University of Exeter and a BA in English and History from Bath Spa University. Dylan's current research examines the factors that have led to the rise of the Islamic State and develops policies to counteract this. Viewing the Islamic State as a result of failed policies, his research aims to understand these failures in order to address them at an institutional level. Correspondingly, he has a strong interest in conflict resolution, the process of democratisation, and in how external conflict management impacts both of these processes. A large part of his work focuses on the process of post-conflict governance and state building, particularly applying, and developing, the theories of liberal consociational power sharing and federalism. Dylan is also currently working on the rise of substate militias in Iraq and the impact that the resulting subnationalisms have on Iraqi state building.

Anthony O'Mahony, Reader in the History of Eastern Christianity, Heythrop College, University of London. He has published widely on the modern history and contemporary situation of Christianity in the Middle East - The Cambridge History of Christianity Eastern Christianity, Vol. V (2006); Journal of Eastern Christian Studies; International Journal for the Study of the Christian Church; (co-ed) Christian Responses to Islam and Muslim-Christian Relations in the Modern World, (Manchester University Press, 2008); (co-ed) Eastern Christianity in the modern Middle East, (London, Routledge, 2010); recent publications include 'Louis Massignon: A Catholic Encounter with Islam and the Middle East', in: God's Mirror: Renewal and Engagement in French Catholic Intellectual Culture in the Mid-Twentieth Century, (New York, Fordham University Press, 2015); 'Eastern Christianity and Jesuit Scholarship on Arabic and Islam: Modern History and Contemporary Theological Reflections. in: Philosophy, Theology and the Jesuit Tradition: 'The Eye of Love' . (London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark. 2017). 'Christianity in the wider Levant Region: modern history and contemporary contexts', in: Secular Nationalism and Citizenship in Muslim Countries: Arab Christians in the Levant (PalgraveMacmillan, 2018); forthcoming 'Eastern Catholicism in the Middle East', and 'Eastern Orthodoxy in the Middle East', in: Erica Hunter, (ed.) Religious Minorities of the Modern Middle East: A Complete Survey of Non-Muslim Communities, (London: I.B. Tauris. Forthcoming 2018); 'Eastern Catholic churches in the Middle East', in: Christianity in North Africa and West Asia. (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, Forthcoming 2018).

Nazlı Özkan is a PhD candidate in Cultural Anthropology at Northwestern University. She holds a BA degree from Boğaziçi University and an MA degree from Koç University in Turkey. She started her academic career in the United States as a Fulbright

Fellow. Her dissertation project “Secularism Contested: Journalistic Exposure of Religious Discrimination in Turkey” received support from several prestigious institutions such as the Wenner-Gren Foundation and Henry R. Luce Initiative on Religious and International Affairs. Her broader research interests include secularism, media and religion, religious minorities, anthropology of the state, political economy, Turkey and the Middle East.

Keiko Sakai joined the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE) in Tokyo in 1982 as a researcher on Iraq, after graduating from University of Tokyo. From 1986 until 1989 she served as a research attaché in the Embassy of Japan in Iraq, and served as the overseas researcher at the American University in Cairo 1995-87. Since mid-2005, Sakai took on the position of Professor at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, teaching modern history and conflict analysis in the Middle East for seven years. She moved to Chiba University in October 2012 where she now serves as Professor, Faculty of Law and Economics and Project Leader, Relational Studies on Global Crisis (Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research on Innovative Areas). She has published various academic works on contemporary Iraq and the Middle East, such as *Iraq and the US* (2002, awarded with Asia Pacific Research Award: Grand Prize), *Structure of Ruling System of the Regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq*, (2003, awarded with Daido Seimei Area Studies Award: Prize for encouragement in 2009), *How to Understand <the Middle East>?* (2010), *Middle East Politics* (2012) (all in Japanese); “Tribalism as a Tool of State Control in Iraq”, in Faleh A. Jabar and Hosham Dawood ed., *Tribes and Power: nationalism and ethnicity in the Middle East*, Saqi (2003), *Social Protests and Nation-Building in the Middle East and Central Asia*, Institute of Development Economies (2003) (in English).

Sarah Shields is Professor of History and Director of Graduate Studies in the History Department at the University of North Carolina. Her book, *Fezzes in the River: Identity Politics and European Diplomacy in the Middle East on the Eve of World War II* (Oxford University Press, 2011) is a social and diplomatic history of the contest between France and Turkey over the Sanjak of Alexandretta (1936–1940). Her previous book, *Mosul before Iraq: Like Bees Making Five-Sided Cells* (State University Press of New York, 2000), analyzes the economy and society of nineteenth-century Mosul and the region surrounding it. Her most recent work is on the Greek-Turkish population exchange and the problems of creating “national” homogeneity. She is currently researching the long-term impact of the League of Nations on the Middle East. She teaches courses on the modern Middle East, the history of Iraq, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the development and consequences of nationalism and borders. She has been named a “Favorite Geek” by the Triangle Independent Weekly.

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