

London Middle East Institute, SOAS

Annual Report 2011/2012
and Financial Report 2010/2011



LONDON
MIDDLE EAST
INSTITUTE
SOAS



SOAS

University of London

Staff of the London Middle East Institute

Director: Dr Hassan Hakimian
Deputy Director and Company Secretary: Dr Sarah Stewart
Executive Officer: Ms Louise Hosking
Events and Magazine Coordinator: Mr Vincenzo Paci-Delton
Administrative Assistants: Ms Alice Piller-Ronner and Ms Valentina Zanardi
Coordinating Editor (MEL): Ms Rhiannon Edwards
Designer (MEL): Ms Shahia Geramipour

LMEI Advisory Council

Lady Barbara Judge (Chair)
Shaikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber, MBI Al Jaber Foundation
(Founding Sponsor, LMEI)
Prof. Muhammad Abdel-Haleem, SOAS
HE Mr Khaled al-Duwaisan GCVO, Ambassador, Embassy of the State of Kuwait
Mrs Haifa Al Kaylani, Arab International Women's Forum
Dr Khalid Bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, University College of Bahrain
Prof. Tony Allan, SOAS, KCL
Dr Alanoud Alsharekh, Senior Fellow for Regional Politics, IISS
Mr Farad Azima, Iran Heritage Foundation
Prof. Doris Behrens-Abouseif, SOAS
Dr Noel Brehony, MENAS Associates Ltd
Mr Charles Buder, Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP
Dr Elham Danish, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, London
Mr Kasim Kutay, MOELIS & Co
Mr Zaki Nusseibeh
Mr Rod Sampson, Barclay's Wealth

SOAS Academic Members

Prof. Muhammad Abdel-Haleem OBE	Prof. Geoffrey King
Prof. Gilbert Achcar	Dr Karima Laachir
Dr Fiona Adamson	Dr Mark Laffey
Dr Arshin Adib-Moghaddam	Dr George Lane
Dominique Akhoun-Schwarz	Dr Martin Lau
Prof. Nadjie Al-Ali	Dr Christopher Lucas
Prof. Abdul Hakim Ibrahim Al-Matroudi	Dr Makeen Makeen
Dr Randa Alami	Prof. Trevor Marchand
Prof. Tony Allan	Dr Thomas Marois
Mr Ahmad Alkhashem	Dr Dina Matar
Dr Atef Alshaer	Dr Nima Mina
Luca Andriani	Ms Shabnam Mirafzali
Prof. Peter Austin	Dr Simon Morley
Dr Arezou Azad	Mr Krikor Moskofian
Prof. Mashood Baderin	Dr Corinna Mullin
Mr Hannes Baumann	Dr Matthew Nelson
Prof. Doris Behrens-Abouseif	Dr Scott Newton
Dr Teresa Bernheimer	Dr Caroline Osella
Dr Helen Blatherwick	Dr Wen-chin Ouyang
Dr Elisa Cavatorta	Dr Tudor Parfitt
Prof. William Gervase Clarence-Smith	Dr Dan Plesch
Dr Anna Contadini	Dr Marina Pyrovolaki
Dr Bhavna Dave	Dr Elaheh Rostami-Povey
Dr Francois de Blois	Mr Mohammad Said
Dr George Dedes	Mr Muaadh Salih
Dr Tamar Drukker	Dr Ruba Salih
Ms Sorour Dundon	Dr Daniel Schwemer
Dr Graham Dyer	Prof. Iain Scobbie
Mr Ian Edge	Dr Mustafa Shah
Dr Ayman El-Desouky	Dr Ayman Shihadeh
Dr Heather Elgood	Prof. Colin Shindler
Dr Nada Elzeer	Dr Amrita Shodhan
Ms Narguess Farzad	Prof. Nicholas Sims-Williams
Dr Bassam Fattouh	Dr Graham Smith
Prof. Ben Fortna	Dr Renate Sönnen-Thieme
Mr Nick Foster	Ms Savitri Sperl
Dr Nelida Fuccaro	Dr Stefan Sperl
Prof. Andrew George	Prof. Annabelle Sreberny
Dr Hassan Hakimian	Dr Sarah Stewart
Dr Marlé Hammond	Mr Stefano Taglia
Dr Adam Hanieh	Dr Hanan Toukan
Dr Jane Harrigan	Prof. Charles Tripp
Dr Jan-Peter Hartung	Mr Frans van Koppen
Prof. Brian George Hewitt	Dr Leslie Vinjamuri
Prof. Catherine Hezser	Dr Gabriele vom Bruck
Prof. Almut Hintze	Mr Burzine Waghmar
Dr Konrad Hirschler	Dr Heidi Walcher
Dr Steve Hoggood	Dr Yair Wallach
Dr Erica Hunter	Dr Lynn Welchman
Prof. Bruce Ingham	Dr Mark Weeden
Dr Salwa Ismail	Dr Abigail Wood
Prof. Massoud Karshenas	Prof. Owen Wright
Prof. Hugh Kennedy	Dr Katharine Zebiri
Dr Laleh Khalili	Dr Cosimo Zene
	Dr Saeed Zeydabadi-Nejad
	Ms Rafeef Ziadah

LMEI Board of Trustees

Prof. Paul Webley (Chair), Director, SOAS
Dr John Curtis, British Museum
HE Sir Vincent Fean KCVO, HM Consul-General Palestine
Prof. Ben Fortna, SOAS
Prof. Graham Furniss, SOAS
Mr Alan Jenkins
Dr Karima Laachir, SOAS
Prof. Annabelle Sreberny, SOAS
Dr Barbara Zollner, Birkbeck, University of London

LMEI Research Associates

Dr Ali Granmayeh
Dr Vivian Ibrahim
Dr Leonard Lewisohn
Dr Bahman Moradian
Dr Mohammad Nafissi
Dr Kathryn Spellman Poots
Prof. Sami Zubaida

DONATIONS, SPONSORSHIP and AFFILIATIONS

Founding Donor

Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber, MBI Al Jaber Foundation

Institutional Affiliates

ABC International Bank Plc
Aga Khan University (International) Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations
The Arab-British Centre
Bonyad Jaleh Esfahani
British Foundation for the Study of Arabia (BFSA)
Council for Arab-British Understanding (Caabu)
The Egyptian Europe Association
Forum Iran
Inter Cultural Centre
Iranian Poetry, Art and Music Chamber
Jews for Justice for Palestinians (JFJFP)
The London MENA Film Festival
LSE Middle East Centre
PalFest
Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, UCL
Petroleum Institute
Senses Magazine

Corporate Sponsorship is £1,500 per year. Benefits include those enjoyed by Institutional Affiliates, please see below, together with up to two tailored private briefings per year, free copies of LMEI occasional papers, and special advertising rates with the LMEI.

Institutional Affiliation is £250 per year. Institutional Affiliates are entitled to the same benefits as Individual Affiliates, please see below, along with the free use of a room at SOAS for an event lasting up to two hours, and up to four copies of each edition of the magazine. They will also be acknowledged in LMEI publicity material, including the website: www.lmei.soas.ac.uk.

Individual Affiliates pay £30 per year, £20 for students, for which they receive an annual subscription to 'The Middle East in London' magazine, inclusion on e-mail and mailing lists for notification of upcoming events, and special rates for LMEI conferences and publications.

The aim of the LMEI, through education and research, is to promote knowledge of all aspects of the Middle East including its complexities, problems, achievements and assets, both among the general public and with those who have special interest in the region.

In this task it will build on two essential assets. First, it is based in London, a city which has unrivalled contemporary and historical connections and communications with the Middle East - political, social, cultural, commercial, scientific and educational. Secondly, the LMEI is at SOAS, the only tertiary educational institution in the world whose explicit purpose is to provide training and scholarship on the whole Middle East from prehistory until today.



**LONDON
MIDDLE EAST
INSTITUTE
SOAS**

Contents

■ Director's Letter	3
■ Publications	4
■ Events	6
■ News & Other Events	9
■ PhD Theses on the Middle East	12
■ Acknowledgements	13
■ Financial Statement	14

“

2011 was another busy and productive year for us at the London Middle East Institute. As strong interest in the region fuelled by the 'Arab Spring' events of 2010/11 continued, our role and mission proved ever more important: 'to advance knowledge and understanding of the Middle East among both the general public and for those with a specialist interest in the region'.

The initiatives in this report – a mixture of old and new – are a testament to the range and diversity of LMEI's interests as well as the high quality of regional expertise, from inside and outside SOAS, on which we draw. As always, we continued with our well-established and ongoing programmes and at same time introduced an excellent range of pioneering initiatives.

Perhaps the jewel in the crown was the introduction of another 'sub-centre' at the LMEI – the Centre for Palestine Studies – which was introduced in March 2012. This follows the success, and emulates the model of, our Centre for Iranian Studies which was introduced a year earlier and continues to thrive. As with the study of Iran, academic expertise and scholarship of Palestine occupies a special place in SOAS and runs deep and wide across our three faculties.

In December 2012, LMEI was host to the first major European conference on Iran's economy which saw the inauguration of the International Iranian Economic Association (IIEA) – an international and independent network of economists from around the globe specialising on Iran's economy.

Our flagship magazine *The Middle East in London* continued its second year in a new look and format after its major face-lift and re-launch the year before. A cornerstone of our outreach activities, the magazine continues to attract a lot of positive feedback and interest.

Exciting and new programmes have not prevented us from attending to our longer-term and continuing interests and commitments. You will get a sense of our other busy schedules throughout the year by glancing through this report: from our regular lecture series on the contemporary Middle East to various occasional lectures, debating panels, cultural events, book launches and, of course, publications.

As the rest of the world watches our region with a mixture of awe and anxiety, we remain convinced of the wider value of what we strive to achieve for the Middle East in both academic and wider communities.

”

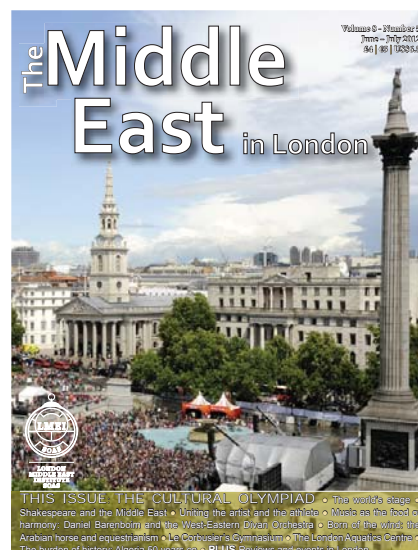


The Middle East in London (MEL)

The Middle East in London, the 36-page glossy magazine produced on a bi-monthly basis by the LMEI has gone from strength to strength in the past year. The magazine continues to cover a wide range of topics including art, economics, politics, community projects and groups, theatre, books, food, poetry and an extensive reviews and events section. Following the Editorial Board decision to take geographic themes for each issue, there were successful publications on Yemen and Oman, Iran, Palestine and Iraq, featuring exciting and informative pieces from members of the academic community and the wider Middle Eastern community in London.

The Board decided to depart from the geographic theme for two important issues: the Cultural Olympiad (published in June) and Protest (to be published in October). The Cultural Olympiad theme prompted a different approach and rendered some exciting contributions. They included an interview with Ruth Mackenzie, Director of the Cultural Olympiad, and a piece from Moira Sinclair, Executive Director of the Arts Council. Plans for the Protest issue include a piece that gives insight into the way the region is changing from the perspective of young people in the UK and the Middle East. It is set to be another thought-provoking project.

In May 2012, the Editorial Board were delighted to welcome two new Board members: Mr Roger Hardy and Professor Sami Zubaida. Both have extensive experience of the region and are sure to be assets for forthcoming issues, which will include an issue on Kurdistan.



Editorial Board of *The Middle East in London*

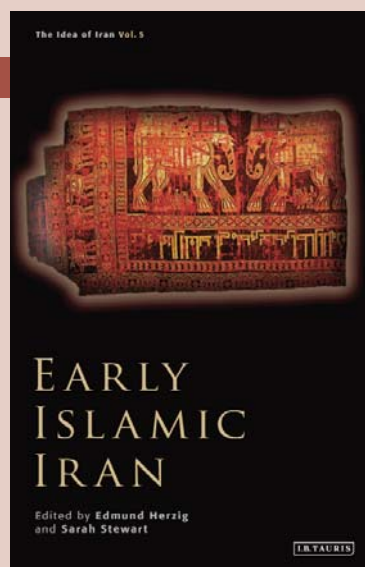
- Prof. Nadge Al-Ali, SOAS
- Ms Narguess Farzad, SOAS
- Mr Roger Hardy
- Ms Nevsal Hughes, Association of European Journalists
- Mr Najm Jarrah
- Dr George Joffé, Cambridge University
- Prof. Hugh Kennedy, SOAS
- Mr Max Scott, Gilgamesh Publishing
- Ms Sarah Searight, British Foundation for the Study of Arabia (BFSA)
- Dr Kathryn Spellman Poots, Aga Khan University (International) Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations and LMEI
- Dr Sarah Stewart, LMEI
- Ms Ionis Thompson, British Foundation for the Study of Arabia (BFSA), Saudi-British Society
- Dr Shelagh Weir, SOAS
- Prof. Sami Zubaida, Birkbeck College



Early Islamic Iran

*Edited by Professor Edmund Herzig and Dr Sarah Stewart
Published by I.B. Tauris*

How did Iran remain distinctively Iranian in the centuries which followed the Arab Conquest? How did it retain its cultural distinctiveness after the displacement of Zoroastrianism - state religion of the Persian empire - by Islam? This latest volume in 'The Idea of Iran' series traces that critical moment in Iranian history which followed the transformation of ancient traditions during the country's conversion and initial Islamic period. Distinguished contributors discuss the years around the end of the first millennium CE, when the political strength of the 'Abbasid Caliphate was on the wane, and when the eastern lands of the Islamic empire began to be taken on a fresh 'Persianate' or 'Perso-Islamic' character. Please visit www.ibtauris.com for the full list of titles in the series.



The Routledge Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa Series

Series Editor: Dr Hassan Hakimian, SOAS

Published by Routledge

Launched in 2003, the Routledge Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa series is devoted to widening in-depth analysis and understanding of the economic and political dynamics of the region. It has been established as a respected source of academic research and publication for MENA students and scholars who are keen to disseminate their latest research on this area.

The aim of the series is to publish both specialist and more general titles pertaining to the political economy of the Middle East and North Africa region – broadly defined to cover countries from Morocco to Iran. The series is overseen by an international Editorial Board (see list below) covering a broad range of expertise and areas of specialism.

Submissions from prospective authors are welcomed, and should be sent in the first instance to the series editor (H.Hakimian@soas.ac.uk). The series is open to single-authored books as well as edited volumes and textbooks. All manuscripts are subject to international standards of peer review.

Editorial Board of The Routledge Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa

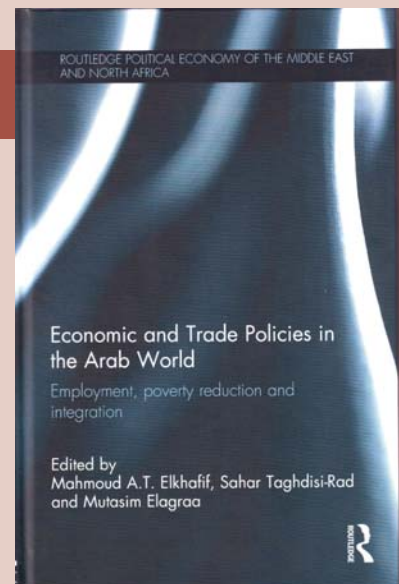
Prof. David Cobham, Heriot Watt University
Prof. Nu'man Kanafani, University of Copenhagen
Prof. Massoud Karshenas, SOAS
Prof. Jeffrey B. Nugent, University of Southern California
Prof. Jennifer Olmsted, Drew University, New Jersey
Prof. Karen Pfeifer, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts
Prof. Wassim Shahin, Lebanese American University (LAU)
Prof. Sübidey Togan, Centre for International Economics at Bilkent University
Dr Jackline Wahba, University of Southampton

Recent Titles:

Economic and Trade Policies in the Arab World: Employment, Poverty Reduction and Integration

Edited by Mahmoud Elkhafif, Sahar Taghdisi-Rad, Mutasim Elagraa

The Arab Spring and the popular uprisings that have taken place in many Arab countries since the end of 2010 highlight the urgent need for economic policy reorientation in these countries. *Economic and Trade Policies in the Arab World* addresses key issues relevant to the contemporary economic realities of the Arab economies including policy space, more productive and decent employment, social justice and poverty alleviation, regional integration, and the failure of the structural adjustment programmes recommended by the Bretton Woods institutions.



For the full list of titles in the series please visit www.routledge.com/books/series/routledge_political_economy_of_the_middle_east_and_north_africa_SE0387/

For a full list of publications contact the Executive Officer at lmei@soas.ac.uk

The following is a list of the broad range of events organised by the LMEI, either solely or in partnership with other institutions, in the 2011-12 academic year.

North Africa

- 11 Oct ***Egypt: how far is it a revolution?***
Maha Azzam, Chatham House
Chair: Iain Scobbie, SOAS
- 1 Nov ***Tunisia: revolutionary realities?***
George Joffé, University of Cambridge
Chair: Kathryn Spellman-Poots, LMEI
- 29 Nov ***Algeria in the Shadow of Revolution***
James McDougall, University of Oxford
Chair: Charles Tripp, SOAS
- 31 Jan ***Libyan Revolution: Experiences and Future Challenges***
Aref Ali Nayed, Ambassador of Libya to the United Arab Emirates
Chair: Stephen Chan, SOAS
- 7 Feb ***The 'Arab Awakening' in North Africa - one year after***
George Joffé, University of Cambridge

Arabian Peninsula

- 4 Oct ***The Gulf Arab States and the Political Economy of the Middle East: a moment of change?***
Adam Hanieh, SOAS
Chair: Gilbert Achcar, SOAS
- 26 Oct ***Women in Resistance: female participation in the Nationalist movement in South Arabia, 1937-67***
Thanos Petouris, SOAS
Organised by the British Foundation for the Study of Arabia (incorporating the Society for Arabian Studies) in association with the British-Yemeni Society and the LMEI.
- 28 Mar ***Arabia: the untold story of the first modern human pioneers***
Eleanor Scerri, Centre for the Archaeology of Human Origins, Southampton University
Organised by the British Foundation for the Study of Arabia (incorporating the Society for Arabian Studies) in association with the LMEI.
- 26 Apr ***Talk by Abdul Galil Shaif al-Shaibi of the Aden Free Zone Authority***
Organised by The British-Yemeni Society in association with the LMEI.
- 30 Apr ***Ain Zubaida: The Symbol of a Magnificent Legacy***
Omar Abu-Rizaiza, King Abdul-Aziz University, Jeddah
Organised by the LMEI.

- 23 May ***New Fieldwork at Kadhima (Kuwait) and the Archaeology of the Early Islamic Period in Eastern Arabia***
Derek Kennet, Durham University
British Foundation for the Study of Arabia Annual General Meeting followed by a lecture.
Organised by the British Foundation for the Study of Arabia (incorporating the Society for Arabian Studies) and the LSE Kuwait Programme in association with the LMEI.

Iraq & Syria

- 15 Nov ***Western Interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq in Relation to Recent Developments in the Middle East***
Jack Fairweather, former Baghdad correspondent, *Telegraph*
Chair: Corinna Mullin, SOAS
- 28 Nov ***Syrian Cinema: out of time?***
The first annual CBRL-LMEI Lecture
Kay Dickinson, Goldsmiths, University of London
Organised by the Council for British Research in the Levant and the LMEI.
- 17 Jan ***Can Assad Survive?***
Patrick Seale, journalist and author
- 14 Jan 11 ***Perfuming the Air: a rose water sprinkler from Herat***
- 28 Feb ***Between Art and Alienation, the Painted T-Walls in Segmented 2012 Baghdad***
Caecilia Pieri, Institut français du Proche-Orient
Chair: Nelida Fuccaro, SOAS
- 13 Mar ***The Middle East in Transition: Syria and the 'Arab Spring'***
Samir Aita, *Le Monde diplomatique* and Gilbert Achcar, SOAS
Chair: Wendy Kristianasen, *Le Monde diplomatique*
- 25 Apr ***Iraqi Refugees – No Exit?***
Philip Marfleet and Tahir Zaman, University of East London
Organised by the Council for British Research in the Levant and the LMEI.

Turkey

- 27 Oct ***Panel Discussion on Turkey's Experience with Neoliberal Economic Policies since 1980***
Asaf Savas Akat, Istanbul Bilgi University; Fikret Senses, Middle East Technical University and Sevet Pamuk, LSE
Special Joint Session in conjunction with the LSE's Contemporary Turkish Studies

	Programme. Part of the 'Seminars on Turkey' series organised by the LMEI Modern Turkish Studies Programme. Sponsored by Nuro Bank. Convened by Benjamin Fortna, SOAS.	18 Oct	<i>Covering Islam, Covering the Middle East: confessions of a practising journalist</i> Roger Hardy, former Middle East analyst, BBC World Service Chair: Dina Matar, SOAS
28 Oct	<i>Text and Inspiration: twenty years of research amongst the Alevis</i> David Shankland, The Royal Anthropological Institute, London Part of the 'Seminars on Turkey' series, see above for further details.	25 Oct	<i>Effects of Political Changes on Economic Policy and Business</i> David Butter, Economist Intelligence Unit Chair: Hassan Hakimian, SOAS
4 Nov	<i>Turkey between Kemalism and Post-Kemalism</i> Ihsan Dagi, Middle East Technical University, Ankara Part of the 'Seminars on Turkey' series, see above for further details.	25 Oct	<i>Jewish Identity and Palestinian Rights: diaspora Jewish opposition to Israel</i> David Landy, author, in conversation with Richard Kuper, former Chair of JfJfP Launch of David Landy's <i>Jewish Identity and Palestinian Rights</i> . Organised by Jews for Justice for Palestinians and the SOAS Palestine Society in association with the LMEI.
9 Dec	<i>Debating Emerging Finance Capitalism in Turkey</i> Thomas Marois, SOAS Part of the 'Seminars on Turkey' series, see above for further details.	22 Nov	<i>Afghanistan/Iran : a contemporary cultural and media perspective</i> Baqer Moin, former head of the BBC Persian and Pashto Service 1990-2004. Chair: Narguess Farzad, SOAS
3 Feb	<i>AKP: Its Tenth Year in Power</i> Gamon McLellan, SOAS Part of the 'Seminars on Turkey' series, see above for further details.	26 Nov	<i>Jaleh Esfahani Tribute to Lobat Vala</i> With Hadi Khorsandi, Iranian stand-up comedian, and music by Naghmeh Ensemble, performing traditional Iranian music composed on Jaleh Esfahani and Lobat Vala poems. Organised by Jaleh Esfahani Foundation in association with the LMEI.
2 Mar	<i>Exiled Activists or Cosmopolitan Intellectuals? The Young Turk Opposition in Paris</i> Stefano Taglia, SOAS Part of the 'Seminars on Turkey' series, see above for further details.	6 Dec	<i>The Arab Spring: a year on</i> Panel discussion on developments in the Middle East and North Africa a year after tumultuous events rocked the region. With SOAS experts: Charles Tripp; Salwa Ismail; Corinna Mullin; Makeen Makeen; Hassan Hakimian Chair: Stephen Chan, SOAS Organised by the LMEI.
21 Mar	<i>Anthropology, History and Linguistics: Atatürk and the New Turkish Nationalism, 1922-1938</i> M Şükrü Hanoğlu, Princeton University Special Joint Session in conjunction with the LSE's Contemporary Turkish Studies Programme. Part of the 'Seminars on Turkey' series, see above for further details.	7-8 Dec	<i>Inaugural Conference on Iran's Economy, 2011</i> The newly formed International Iranian Economic Association's (IIEA) first international conference on Iran's economy. Organised by the International Iranian Economic Association. Hosted by the LMEI
11 May	<i>Divided Spaces, Contested Pasts: the formation of the Gallipoli Peninsula Historical National Park</i> Lucienne Thys-Şenocak, Koç University Part of the 'Seminars on Turkey' series, see above for further details.	17 Dec	<i>Yalda Celebration/Commemoration of Mowlana Rumi</i> Talk by Shahrokh Vafadari and Namdar Baghaei-Yazdi. With poetry by Manouchehr Javaher Kalam and an orchestral performance of Persian classical songs with Maziar Sadri. Organised by the Iranian Poetry, Art and Music Chamber in association with the LMEI.
Other			
14 Oct	<i>Launch Event/Party - 'Screen a Smile' Launch of The London MENA (Middle East & North Africa) Film Festival</i> Organised by the MENA Film Festival in association with the LMEI.		

- 24 Jan ***Prelude to Revolution: how Arab republics tried, and failed, to turn themselves into monarchies***
Steffen Hertog, LSE
Chair: Nelida Fuccaro, SOAS
- 13-17 Feb ***One Week Political Islam Programme***
Organised by the London Middle East Institute, SOAS and SOAS Research and Enterprise Office.
- 21 Feb ***Assessing Change and Continuity in US Discourses and Policies towards West Asia and North Africa in Light of the 'Arab Spring'***
Corinna Mullin, SOAS
Chair: Charles Tripp, SOAS
- 6 Mar ***Between Ideology and Pragmatism: Zionism in National Socialist Jewish policy***
Frank Nicosia, University of Vermont
Chair: Gilbert Achcar, SOAS

- 21 Apr ***Daniel Barenboim and Jon Snow: in conversation at SOAS***
Organised by the LMEI and sponsored by Universal Music.
- 23 Apr ***In Your Eyes a Sandstorm: ways of being a Palestinian***
Arthur Neslen Who are the Palestinians?
Event to mark the publication of Arthur Neslen's book *In Your Eyes a Sandstorm: ways of being a Palestinian*.
Organised by Jews for Justice for Palestinians in association with the LMEI. Sponsored by the Centre for Palestine Studies, SOAS.
- 12 Jun ***Salafi***
Film screening followed by Q&A with Naglaa El Emary, Editor, BBC Arabic, and Karim El Shenawy director of the film.
Chair: Corinna Mullin, SOAS.
Organised by the LMEI.



Professor Stephen Chan and Dr Makeen Makeen, *The Arab Spring: A Year On*, December 2011

Centre for Iranian Studies

The Centre for Iranian Studies, which was established in 2010, continued its activities under Dr Sarah Stewart as Acting Chair while Professor Annabelle Sreberny, the Centre's Chair, was on sabbatical during the 2011-12 academic year. The Centre's extensive and diverse programme of activities has gained a strong following and can always be relied upon to attract large audience numbers. Its monthly film screenings are particularly popular amongst students and members of the Iranian diaspora along with those who have a general interest in film.

A number of new initiatives have also come to fruition. An Institutional Partnership Programme (IPP) with the Iran Heritage Foundation (IHF) was signed in 2011 to extend over a three-year period to 2014. Matched by SOAS funding, the IPP enables the Centre to establish and fund two regular Visiting Fellowships in Iranian Studies for the next three years. The call for fellowships attracted some 60 applicants from around the world and the first Visiting Fellow, Dr Saqib Baburi, whose research project entitled *Dear Son, Brother, Uncle: Shah 'Abbas I Through the Eyes of Three Mughal Emperors, 1556-1666* focuses on Safavid-Mughal relations, was appointed in April 2012 for a period of six months.

The Kamran Djam Annual Lecture at SOAS is another highlight worth mentioning. In 2011 SOAS was awarded a gift of £2 million by the Fereydoun Djam Charitable Trust to promote Iranian studies. The annual lectures are hosted by the Centre for Iranian Studies and in 2012 the series was inaugurated with two lectures by Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, Professor of Persian Language, Literature, and Cultures at the University of Maryland and Founding Director of the University's Roshan Center for Persian Studies. In his first talk Professor Karimi-Hakkak explored the exilic mode in classical Persian literature from its beginning in tenth-century Central Asia to the dawning of the modern period around the turn of the twentieth century while his second talk addressed the exilic mode in modern and contemporary poetry and prose of Iran, primarily in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.



Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak at SOAS, June 2012

- 24 Oct ***Seday-e dovom "Back Vocals"***
Part of the Centre for Iranian Studies Monthly Film Evenings.
Followed by a panel discussion with Saeed Zeydabadi-Nejad, SOAS; Maziar Bahari, filmmaker and journalist; Drewery Dyke, Amnesty International; and Hassan Solhjoo, Senior Producer, BBC Persian.
Organised by the Centre for Iranian Studies, SOAS.
- 4 Nov ***Persian Culture as a World Culture***
Event to mark the tenth anniversary of the Soudavar Memorial Foundation. Panel

discussion chaired by Abolala Soudavar with Philip Kreyenbroek, Institute of Iranian Studies, Georg-August University Goettingen, Germany; Farhang Jahanpour, University of Oxford; Elaheh Kheirandish, Harvard University; Gül Russell, Texas A&M Health Science Center and Robert Hillenbrand, University of Edinburgh.
Followed by a concert of Persian music and a reception.
Organised by the Centre for Iranian Studies, SOAS and the Soudavar Memorial Foundation.

- 12 Nov **Short Course: Marvels of Iranian Art**
Narguess Farzad, SOAS; Firuza Melville, University of Cambridge; Ladan Akbarnia, British Museum; Barbara Brend, independent scholar. Convened by Anna Contadini, SOAS.
Organised by the Centre for Iranian Studies, SOAS.
- 14 Nov **A Very Close Encounter**
Part of the Centre for Iranian Studies Monthly Film Evenings. Dir Esmaeel Mihandoust, Iran, (2009), Iran, 100 mins. Part of the Centre for Iranian Studies Monthly Film Evenings.
Organised by the Centre for Iranian Studies, SOAS.
- 3 Dec **Short Course: Contemporary Political and Economic Issues in Iran**
Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, SOAS; Ali Ansari, University of St Andrews; Hassan Hakimian, SOAS; Massoud Karshenas, SOAS
Organised by the Centre for Iranian Studies, SOAS.
- 7-8 Dec **Inaugural Conference on Iran's Economy, 2011**
The International Iranian Economic Association's (IIEA) first international conference on Iran's Economy.
Organised by the International Iranian Economic Association. Hosted by the LMEI.
- 12 Dec **The Night Bus**
Part of the Centre for Iranian Studies Monthly Film Evenings. Dir Kiumarsh Pourahmad (2007), Iran. With an overview of Iran's treatment of POWs from the Iran-Iraq War by Shirin Shafaie, SOAS.
Chair: Elaheh Rostami-Povey, SOAS.
Organised by the Centre for Iranian Studies, SOAS.
- 4 Feb **The Idea of Iran: the age of the great Saljuqs**
Vanessa Van Renterghem, Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (Inalco, Paris) & Institut Français du Proche-Orient (Ifpo, Beirut); David Durand-Guédy, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg; Farhad Daftary, The Institute of Ismaili Studies & Encyclopaedia Islamica; Ali-Asghar Seyed-Ghorab, Leiden Institute for Area Studies (Leiden University); Alexey A Khismatulin, The Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, St Petersburg; Carole Hillenbrand FBA OBE, University of Edinburgh; Robert Hillenbrand, University of Edinburgh; Oliver Watson, Khalili Research Centre, University of Oxford.
Organised by the Centre for Iranian Studies, SOAS and the Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford with the support of the Soudavar Memorial Foundation.
- 18 Feb **Intoxication of Hafez, Persian Poetry & Music**
An illuminating performance from Light of Music in cooperation with the Centre for Iranian Studies, SOAS.
- 24 Mar **Persian New Year Norouz Celebrations at SOAS**
A celebration of Norouz with music, poetry and food.
Organised by the Centre for Iranian Studies, SOAS and the British Institute of Persian Studies.
- 31 Mar **Short Course: The Beauty of Classical and Contemporary Persian Music**
Parmis Mozafari, independent scholar; Maziar Sadri, vocalist & independent scholar; Raja Mohammadi, violin; Ali Torshizi, goblet drum; Hossein Elahe-Ghomshei, orator and author; Veria Amiri, musicologist and tar; Adib Rostami, kamanche and goblet drum; Samin Haydari, vocals; Jane Lewisohn, SOAS. Convened by Jane Lewisohn, SOAS
Organised by the Centre for Iranian Studies, SOAS.
- 23 Apr **Bonjour Monsieur Ghaffari**
Dir Parviz Jahed (2011), 62 mins. Portrait of the life and experiences of Farrokh Ghaffari, the veteran Iranian film.
Organised by the Centre for Iranian Studies, SOAS.
- 24 Apr **Areta - The Lost Civilization of Southern Persia**
Talk in Farsi by Mahmoud Kavir
Organised by the Centre for Iranian Studies, SOAS.
- 14 May **FRENEMIES + Jigsaw**
Stand-up comedy evening.
Organised by the Centre for Iranian Studies, SOAS.
- 25 Jun **Kamran Djam 2012 Annual Lecture at SOAS: The Exilic Mode in Persian Literature: the classical background**
Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, University of Maryland
Organised by the Centre for Iranian Studies, SOAS.
- 26 Jun **Kamran Djam 2012 Annual Lecture at SOAS: The Exilic Mode in Persian Literature: the modern and contemporary scenes**
Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, University of Maryland
Organised by the Centre for Iranian Studies, SOAS.

Centre for Palestine Studies

The launch of a new centre for the study of Palestine was among the LMEI's various accomplishments in 2012, if not the highlight of the academic year. The Centre for Palestine Studies (CPS) was officially launched on 1 March with introductory speeches by some of the centre's academic members, including Professor Gilbert Achcar and Dr Hassan Hakimian, along with Dr Karma Nabulsi (Oxford) and Professor Ilan Pappé (Exeter University). Professor Gilbert Achcar was recently selected as the first Centre Chair after consultation with members through a consultation process led and overseen by the LMEI.

Traditionally, SOAS has been a major site for research and teaching related to Palestine as is reflected in the Centre's membership which draws from over 30 SOAS academics whose work embraces a wide range of fields and indicating a unique and possibly unrivalled concentration of expertise in this area by any academic institution.

Modelled on the Centre for Iranian Studies, the CPS will promote research and teaching on Palestine, Palestinians, and the Israel-Palestine conflict across a range of disciplines. It will also bring together and publicise the range of work on Palestine underway at SOAS, fostering links between SOAS and other institutions in the UK and overseas.



Professor Gilbert Achcar at the launch of the Centre for Palestine Studies, March 2012

- 1 Mar **Centre for Palestine Studies Launch Event**
Event to mark the launch of the Centre for Palestine Studies, SOAS.
- 15 Mar **The Palestine Festival of Literature presents Selma Dabbagh in conversation with Karma Nabulsi**
Organised by PalFest in association with the Centre for Palestine Studies, SOAS.
- 17 March **Palestine and the Uprisings**
SOAS Palestine Society 8th Annual Conference
Organised by the SOAS Palestine Society and hosted by the Centre for Palestine Studies, SOAS.

- 16 Apr **Redefining the Jewish State and the Hollowing Out of Palestinian Citizenship**
Amal Jamal, Tel Aviv University
Organised by the SOAS Palestine Society and sponsored by the Centre for Palestine Studies, SOAS.
- 19 Jun **The Forced Displacement of Palestine Refugees in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem: a current view from UNRWA**
Ardi Imseis, UNRWA West Bank Field Office
Organised by the Centre for Palestine Studies, SOAS.

Art of Heritage Research Programme at the LMEI

The Art of Heritage Research Programme is the LMEI's first research project in collaboration with a Middle Eastern partner, the Art of Heritage of Saudi Arabia. It began in September 2011 and has been progressing well under Aisa Martinez, who holds the post of Research Fellow at the LMEI which is funded by the Art of Heritage. Ms Martinez spent two months in Saudi Arabia with a visit to Riyadh followed by two weeks of fieldwork in the south of the country and will continue her work on the project with visits to conduct fieldwork in other regions of the Kingdom.

Daniel Barenboim and Jon Snow: In conversation at SOAS

In April 2012 the LMEI hosted a very special 'surprise' event featuring Maestro Daniel Barenboim in Conversation with Jon Snow of Channel 4. In this fascinating session, the Maestro focused on the role of culture and the arts in a political and international context with reference to recent developments in the Middle East. Acclaimed as one of the world's greatest pianists and conductors, Barenboim is recognised for his work as a musical 'bridge builder', especially for his work in the Middle East and through the Barenboim-Said Foundation. His West-Eastern Divan Orchestra is active in promoting mutual understanding and communication by bringing together young musicians from Israel, Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia, Iran and many other countries. Among his many international awards Barenboim holds an Honorary Doctorate from SOAS (2008).



Daniel Barenboim and Jon Snow at SOAS, April 2012

Acknowledgements

In 2011/12, as in previous years, LMEI entertained ambitious plans for a wide variety of events, academic and cultural. It would have been impossible for the Institute's small staff to have succeeded in staging all of these without the assistance of many helpers. Thanks must go to all the SOAS staff who have supported the LMEI over the year: the Conference Office, the Caterers, the AV and IT departments, SOAS photographer Glenn Ratcliffe, the Print Room, Post Room and Estates department. Particular thanks are due to Jane Wood for her assistance with the Institutes' finances.

We are also grateful to all the individuals who have volunteered their time, resources and energies to help. Valentina Zanardi joined us in the autumn, the latest in a long line of Erasmus interns from the University of Bologna. Valentina worked on the inaugural International Iranian Economic Association's and Persian Gender conferences, which were held in December, before stepping into Alice Piller Roner's shoes, taking over as part-time Administrative Assistant in January. Alice and Mohammed Mirbashiri have both remained stalwart supporters, assisting at conferences and concerts.

PhD Theses on the Middle East Completed at SOAS in 2011-2012

NAME	THESIS	RESEARCH AREA
Toukan Hanan Alauddin Bahauddin	<i>Art, Aid, Affect: Locating the Political in Post-Civil War Lebanon's Contemporary Cultural Practices</i>	Politics
Samah El-Shahat	<i>Power, Learning and Credit in the Furniture Cluster of Domiat</i>	Economics
Jacob Eriksson	<i>Swedish mediation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: a study of the utility of small-state mediation and Track II diplomacy</i>	Near and Middle East
Leon Laurence Goldman	<i>Rasn Yast. The Avestan hymn to 'Justice'. Text, Translation and Commentary</i>	Religious Studies
Lama Khsearroof	<i>Big Brothers, Small Worlds- a comparative study of the political vision in the novels of George Orwell and Haydar Haydar</i>	Near and Middle East
Ahmed Ijaz Malik	<i>Liberal Cosmopolitan and Realist Approaches to Gulf Wars 1991 and 2003: The Role of Discourse in Decision Making</i>	Development Studies
Hamza Malik	<i>The Metaphysics of a Hanbali Sufi: A Descriptive Analysis of the Works of Shaykh 'Abd al-Qadir al-Jilani</i>	Near and Middle East
Anna McSweeney	<i>The Green and the Brown: A Study of Paterna Ceramics in Mudejar Spain</i>	Art and Archaeology
Lale Ozdemir	<i>A Study of the History of the Ottoman Dynasty by the fifteenth-century writer, Asikpasazade</i>	Near and Middle East
Carter William Page	<i>The Influence of Semiperipheral Powers on the Balance between Capitalism and Socialism in Central Asia: An Analysis of Russia's Impact on Governance and the Regional Energy Sector, 1987-2007</i>	Near and Middle East
Hania Sobhy Ramadan	<i>Education and the Production of Citizenship in the Late Mubarak Era: Privatization, Discipline and the Construction of the Nation in Egyptian Secondary Schools</i>	Politics Research
Bulbul Shah	<i>A Fatimid Approach to the Interpretation of the Qur'an: Al-Mu'ayyad fi'l-Din al-Shirazi</i>	Near and Middle East
Alyson Victoria Gladys Wharton	<i>Building the Tanzimat. The Power of the Balyan Family in the Age of 'Re-Organisation'</i>	Art and Archaeology
Lisa Wilhelmi	<i>The Akkadian of Bogazköy</i>	Near and Middle East

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31 July 2011

	2011 £	2010 £
Incoming Resources		
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds		
Donations, sponsorship and similar income	172,077	155,043
Interest receivable	234	1,062
<u>Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities</u>		
Training programmes and professional services	9,635	14,388
Conferences, events and publications	86,035	61,489
Affiliations	9,254	9,068
<u>Other Incoming Resources</u>		
Advertising	1,264	1,750
Total Incoming Resources	<u>278,499</u>	<u>242,800</u>
Resources Expended		
<u>Costs of Charitable Activities</u>		
Training programmes and professional services	35,380	37,784
Conferences, events and publications	232,655	201,421
Affiliations	10,924	9,197
Governance Costs	34,062	31,586
Total Resources Expended	<u>313,021</u>	<u>279,988</u>
Net Resources Expended	<u>(34,522)</u>	<u>(37,188)</u>
Total Funds Brought Forward	94,450	131,638
Total Funds Carried Forward at 31 July	<u>59,928</u>	<u>94,450</u>

The Statement of Financial Activity includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2011

	2011 £	2010 £
Current Assets		
Debtors	5,016	5,372
Short term deposits	10,788	60,554
Cash at bank and in hand	72,212	63,636
	<u>88,016</u>	<u>129,562</u>
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due within One Year	28,088	35,112
Net Current Assets	<u>59,928</u>	<u>94,450</u>
Unrestricted Funds	59,928	94,450
Total Funds	<u>59,928</u>	<u>94,450</u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions available to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Professor Paul Webley
Chairman

Date: 15 February 2012



For details of the Institute's activities, including lecture programmes, conferences and publications, and information on how to become an affiliate of the LMEI please contact:

The London Middle East Institute, School of Oriental and African Studies,
Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG

Tel: 020 7898 4330; Fax: 020 7898 4329

Email: lmei@soas.ac.uk Website: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/lmei/>