This past September, in the attack on the US consulate in Benghazi, the Maghrib lost one of its staunchest—not to mention best-informed—allies. Ambassador Stevens had an illustrious career that spanned the globe, but North Africa was clearly of great importance to him. He volunteered for the Peace Corps in Morocco, spoke Maghribi Arabic, and of course worked tirelessly on behalf of the political transition in Libya.

As many of you are aware, AIMS has been pursuing the possibility of establishing an institutional presence in Libya for some time. The US embassy in Tripoli, particularly under Ambassador Stevens, has been extremely supportive of our efforts, and most recently cooperated with us to organize a conference on “The Future of Academic Research in Libya.” Our plans have been put on hold temporarily, but we hope it is only a matter of time before we can begin to work closely with our Libyan colleagues, from whom too much distance has separated us for too long.

On the brighter side: CEMA and CEMAT have both received sizeable grants to organize MEPI alumni chapters in Algeria and Tunisia respectively. This funding, which will last through 2016, will strengthen our networks of affiliates in these two countries and, in Algeria, will allow us to broaden our base in Oran to include more programming in Algiers. This good news must be tempered, however, by the recent announcement that allocations for the current cycle of American Overseas Research Centers (AORC) grants did not include funding for a single center in the Middle East or North Africa for the next three years, despite the fact that 40% of the applicants represented the region. For AIMS, this is a substantial blow, as the AORC grant was used to fund our intra-Maghribi grants as well as our annual dissertation workshop, two programs that are intrinsic to the AIMS mission.

Our AIMS centers on the ground have been working hard to fill the gap. In addition to the MEPI, they have been awarded several small program grants
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Letter from the President cont. from page 1.

through various agencies and donors. These include grants to support an American Studies program (currently in its sixth year) that sends up to six Tunisian scholars to study in the US for four to six weeks to conduct research on an American topic; a US Scholars series that brought five prominent American scholars to Tunisia and partnered them with local experts in a week-long series of events (this series will be expanded next year to include Algeria); a writing workshop on "Understanding Social Science Texts" for Algerian scholars; and the Getty Archaeology Seminar that brought scholars from around the Mediterranean basin to Oran to share current research.

In Morocco, meanwhile, mention should be made of the annual AIMS conference on "Berber Societies: New Approaches to Space, Time and Social Processes," hosted by TALIM in June. Organized by Katherine Hoffman of Northwestern University and Jane Goodman of Indiana University, Bloomington, it brought together scholars from throughout the region, including Mauritania, to discuss this crucial issue. Along similar lines, TALIM and AIMS recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement which should help insure continued cooperation between our two organizations for many years to come.

Since it is November, please note that AIMS will once again be active at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, to be held in Denver November 17-20. AIMS members will be presenting their work on dozens of panels, some focused on the Maghrib and others with a more transregional agenda. AIMS is sponsoring two panels: "Tunisian ‘Exceptionalism’? Situating the 2011 Revolution and its Aftermath in the Context of North African Regional Reform," chaired by Daniel Ziserwine, and "Colonial, Revolutionary, and Contemporary Libya: Emerging Research," chaired by Mia Fuller.

AIMS will also be sponsoring a film this year, The Manuscripts of Timbuktu, in conjunction with our ongoing collaborations with the West African Research Association (WARA), which also includes our jointly sponsored conference planned for 2013 on the topic of "Saharan Crossroads: Views from the Desert Edge" to be held in Ghardaia, Algeria (see the call for proposals on page six). We hope to see you in Denver, or, better yet, in the Maghrib!

-Emily Benichou Gottreich

Robert Parks, Emily Benichou Gottreich, Tom DeGeorges and Riadh Saadaoui at CEMAT
Jeanne Jeffers M’rad Graduate Student Travel Awards to MESA

In honor of her many years of service to AIMS and her sustained encouragement of American graduate students through her work at CEMAT, the AIMS Graduate Student Travel Awards are known as the Jeanne Jeffers M’rad Graduate Student Travel Awards. AIMS invites graduate students to apply for a travel grant to attend the annual MESA meeting. Students must have been successfully accepted to give a paper at the MESA. Paper themes must concern North African studies and all disciplines are welcome. Awards vary year to year, and range between $200-500.

Congratulations to this year’s awardees

Monica Marks, St. Antony’s College, Oxford University
Between Imprisonment and Empowerment: Understanding Islamist Women’s Participation in Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt

Simply put, Islamist women have taken center stage in Tunisian politics. Of the 49 women who won seats in last year’s constituent assembly elections, a remarkable 42 of them belong to the center-right Islamist party Hizb An-Nahda. How did they become involved in the party? Where do they stand on women’s rights, and why are so many young, highly educated women joining the Islamists? Sadly, few researchers and journalists have bothered to ask.

In a polarized ideological narrative pitting secular feminist activists against regressive, bearded Islamists, Islamist women are rarely seen as actors. This paper analyzes the history and implications of Islamist women’s involvement in Tunisian politics through an ethnographic lens. Interviews conducted with fifty-one An-Nahda women—rural and urban, married and unmarried, students and working professionals—form the bulk of this paper.

Special emphasis is placed on ethnographic work conducted with young women in university contexts, who—despite nearly four decades of activism in the Tunisian Islamist movement—have been written off as irrelevant anomalies by the vast majority of observers. This paper sheds important light on their participation and recruitment strategies, arguing that the ongoing presence of educated and vocal young Islamist women has posed a central challenge to ‘secularist’ notions of state-imposed modernity in Tunisia.

After tracing the nature of women’s involvement in An-Nahda, I turn my focus towards Tunisian Islamism and women’s rights developments in a comparative context. Why haven’t Tunisia’s egalitarian “lessons” (such as quotas for women on party lists) diffused to Libya and Egypt? How have state-imposed secularism and the top-down instrumentalization of women’s rights shaped Islamist women’s participation across the three countries? This section of my paper pulls from first-hand field interviews conducted with rank and file women and Islamist party leaders in Libya and Egypt. I focus mainly on three centrist Islamist groups: Tunisia’s An-Nahda Party, Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood, and the Libyan Muslim Brotherhood. Interviews with Salafi women in Tunisia and Egypt will be discussed for comparative purposes as well.

By engaging Islamist women as actors, this paper challenges the assertion that Islamist women somehow lack political agency. It argues that Tunisia, while seemingly an irrelevant outlier, is actually a critical case study for developments concerning Islamist mobilization and women’s political participation throughout the MENA region.

Khaled AlMasaed, University of Arizona
Insights from Speaking Sessions in the Critical Language Scholarship Program in Fes, Morocco

This paper investigates the nature of the conversational interaction that took place between two students of Arabic and their native-speaker peer interlocutors during conversational exchanges in structured interview settings throughout the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program in Arabic, held in Fes, Morocco in the summer of 2011. Specifically, the paper analyzes 15 audio-recorded interviews using conversational critical discourse analysis techniques to explore issues such as talk-in-interaction, treatment of learners’ errors, adjacency pairs, and the prevailing types and frequencies of questions. The results reveal some significant linguistic and cultural practices that took place through the course of the interviews by both native-speaker peers and CLS students, leading to some valuable insights for improving speaking as well as cultural proficiency.

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AIMS Institutional Members

AIMS institutional members play a particularly important role in the progress and prosperity of AIMS. Institutional members make up two thirds of the AIMS board. Institutional members provide a variety of in-kind services to AIMS administration and help promote AIMS’ activities and grants. As institutional members, universities receive three AIMS memberships to distribute to interested faculty and students.

American University in Cairo
Brown University
Brigham Young University
Brooklyn College
Dartmouth College
Harvard University
Marquette University
New York University
Portland State University
University of Arizona
University of California-Berkeley
University of California-Davis
University of California-Los Angeles
University of Pennsylvania
University of Texas at Austin

AIMS at MESA

Business Meeting
Saturday, 11/17, 2:00pm-4:00pm
Sheraton Denver, Directors Row J (Plaza-L)
The Business meeting is open to all AIMS members and potential members.

The MESA 2012 Book Bazaar is open to everyone. AIMS is at Booth #551.

AIMS Sponsored Panels at MESA

Tunisian ‘Exceptionalism’? Situating the 2011 Revolution and its Aftermath in the Context of North African Regional Reform
Monday, 11/19/12 12:30pm

Colonial, Revolutionary, and Contemporary Libya: Emerging Research
Sunday, 11/18/12 4:30pm

The Jeanne Jeffers M’rad Awardees

Mark Tessler Student Paper Prize

Students who have presented a paper at any conference throughout the calendar year should apply for the Mark Tessler Student Paper Prize of $750.

Past Awardees have been published in the Journal of North African Studies

Deadline is Dec 31st.
The American Institute for Maghrib Studies announces its annual Fellowship Program for research conducted between May 2013 and April 2014. The program offers grants to US scholars interested in conducting research on North Africa in any Maghrib country, specifically Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, or Tunisia. AIMS sponsors three Overseas Research Centers in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia and has other institutional affiliations that support AIMS scholars. AIMS only funds research conducted in the Maghrib.

Short-Term Research Grants: AIMS awards short-term grants for one to three months for up to $6,000. These awards may also be used in combination with grants from other sources for projects of longer duration. Priority for these grants will be given to senior scholars who have a finite project and can demonstrate plans to have the results published or disseminated quickly. Students are also eligible to apply and pre-dissertation projects will be considered.

Long-Term Research Grants: AIMS offers awards with a maximum of $15,000 for projects longer than three months. In accordance with an agreement with major funding agencies, applicants may not accept multiple grants concurrently for the same project. In the event a grantee declines an AIMS award to accept another grant, AIMS may provide a small allowance for supplementary research expenses. Some privately funded grants are exempt from this rule.

Eligibility: Graduate students currently enrolled in an M.A. or Ph.D. program, independent scholars, and faculty in all disciplines are eligible to apply. All applicants must be U.S. citizens at the time of application. Recipients of AIMS awards in either of the two previous funding cycles are ineligible to apply. Funds must be expended by May 2014. Applicants must be members of AIMS at the time of application. For membership and grant information contact the AIMS Assistant Director at Ryan@aimsnorthafrica.org or go to AIMSNorthAfrica.org.

Requirements: All AIMS grantees are required to present their research at one of the AIMS Overseas Research Centers or affiliated centers, currently CEMA in Oran and Algiers, Algeria; CEMAT in Tunis, Tunisia; Dar Si-Hmad in Sidi Ifni and Agadir Morocco; TALIM in Tangier, Morocco. AIMS Grantees must also submit a written report within one month of completing their fieldwork.

Applications must include the following:
- A completed grant application cover sheet: Go to: http://www.aimsnorthafrica.org/
- Proposal or research design of no more than 1,500 words
- A proposed itinerary with approximate dates
- Budget (from all sources)
- Vita, including indication of language proficiency and institutional affiliation
- One page summary of the proposed research in either French or Arabic.
- Letters of recommendation from two referees, including the candidate’s dissertation advisor, or in the case of applicants holding a Ph.D., the names of two persons who may be contacted for references.

Applications should be arranged in the order above and emailed to AIMSFellowship@gmail.com.

The deadline for applications is JANUARY 31, 2013. Applications submitted after this date will not be considered for funding.

*These awards are made possible through grants from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

This conference is partially funded by a grant through the US Dept of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.
AIMS Dissertation Workshop turns 15!

-Jocelyn Hendrickson, Graduate Student Association Committee Chair

AIMS’ next annual AIMS Graduate Student Dissertation Workshop, to be hosted by Yale University’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies, will be the fifteenth since the event was inaugurated in 1997.

Each year, between six and thirteen advanced graduate students have been selected to present a dissertation prospectus, chapter, or article related to North African Studies at the workshop. Participants are usually organized by discipline or theme into panels with faculty commentators as well as peer discussants, so that each graduate student receives focused and constructive feedback on his or her research and writing. Many of the workshops have also included a keynote address by an invited scholar, meals and optional excursions, and faculty roundtables devoted to aspects of the profession such as grant writing, academic publishing, the job market, and work/life balance. Organizing the workshop has been the primary responsibility of the President of the AIMS Graduate Student Association.

I have had the honor of attending three of these workshops, as a participant (2008) and then faculty advisor (2010, 2012). All three have left me deeply impressed by AIMS’ support for graduate students and intensely grateful for these opportunities to present my own work, meet new colleagues, and hear about the latest research in North African Studies. This fall, I was asked to conduct a survey of past organizers and participants in order to gauge the effectiveness of these workshops and to learn how AIMS might improve the experience. Alongside some very helpful suggestions, I was happy to hear that most respondents also described the workshop as an overwhelmingly positive, formative experience. A brief summary of notable findings follows, based on the twenty-five responses I received from organizers and participants in the seven workshops held since 2005.

Dissertation Feedback

The interdisciplinary nature of the dissertation workshop was the aspect of the event most often cited as helpful in furthering respondents’ research and writing. By engaging the work of peers in other fields, and hearing their feedback, participants were able to situate their research within the broader context of North African Studies, frame their work more effectively for multiple audiences, and view their research questions from new perspectives. Many respondents also cited the workshop as an invaluable first opportunity to share their work with a critical but supportive audience after completing their field research. As one respondent stated, “The workshop was a crucial step in the long process of my being able to articulate [my] project as a defensible intellectual endeavor.” Other participants found the workshop helpful for identifying and resolving gaps and thorny issues in their writing or conceptual framework.

The range of disciplines represented at the workshop is truly remarkable. In the past decade, participants’ doctoral fields have included African Studies, Anthropology, Arabic and Islamic Studies, Architecture, Art History, Comparative Human Development, History of Medicine, Ethnomusicology, French and Francophone Studies, Geography, Hispanic Studies, History, Linguistic Anthropology, Near Eastern Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Political Science, Public Health, Religion, and Sociology.

Networking

In looking back, many participants found the networking opportunities provided by the workshop to be “the true gift of the workshop,” even more valuable than receiving feedback on their projects. For several participants, contacts forged at the workshop led directly to conference presentations, introductions to contacts in the field, access to resources, and eventually to publications. A surprising number of respondents – at least five – noted that the AIMS workshop was their first opportunity to solicit help from a group of scholars focused on North Africa. Graduate students whose home institutions or committees included no other North Africanists described Maghribi Studies as an “obscure niche” or a “small, scattered” field in which opportunities to come together are all too rare. One participant wrote “it was just fantastic to interact with other North Africanists,” while another stated “I always feel at home at AIMS gatherings.” At least four respondents also appreciated meeting a particular senior scholar whose work they had long found valuable, in a context conducive to fostering a long-lasting professional relationship.

Professionalization

Although some participants felt well prepared by their home institutions’ professionalization programs, many were grateful for the “extremely helpful” sessions devoted to the job search, grant writing, or publishing offered by the faculty advisors at their workshops. Respondents left the workshop with a better sense for how to market a focus on North African studies in their own disciplines, and often with a packet of materials offering concrete advice for constructing grant proposals or job application materials. One respondent felt that a session on teaching philosophies led directly to his later success on the job market. Participants also appreciated sessions on publishing where offered, and suggested these be enhanced.

Awards, Publications, and Employment

Nearly all of the respondents who have finished their dissertations are now employed in tenure-track positions in their fields, while a few have left academia but are still employed in careers related to North Africa. Participants, many of whom had already held Fulbright, Fulbright-Hays, and Social Science Research Council fellowships prior to the event, have also gone on to win an impressive array of nationally competitive awards, including dissertation completion grants (Whiting, American Association of University Women, Charlotte Newcombe, Mellon Mays) and early career fellowships (Mellon Distinguished Teaching Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies New Faculty Fellow, Smith Richardson Foundation). Equally impressive are the quality and variety of publications that respondents reported completing subsequent to their workshops, including dozens of peer-reviewed monographs, journal articles, and book chapters in interdisciplinary forums such as the Journal of North African studies as well as discipline-specific series and journals.

Suggestions for AIMS

I would like to thank all of the respondents who took the time to share some great ideas for future workshops, as well as AIMS’ activities as a whole, ranging from greater engagement with African Studies organizations to establishment of a mentoring program. I look forward to continued on page 12
This past year has been an exciting one at CEMA. Between November 2011 and October 2012, more than ninety researchers spoke at CEMA events that included fifteen lectures, two thematic round-table activities, two symposia, one six-week fellowship, and one three-day conference. The vast majority of these were co-organized with Algerian research institutes. CEMA assisted the research of 47 American and international scholars, and we know that our assistance has made an impact on the scholarly community. According to our first annual survey, past and current CEMA-affiliated scholars published 36 articles, chapters, or books on Algeria during this past year. For more details on our programmatic activities, please see the CEMA newsletter posted on AIMS’ website (www.aimsnorthafrica.org).

During the 2011-2012 academic year, CEMA also placed much energy in reinforcing the strong links we have with our Algerian partners. In an effort to bring our Algerian colleagues closer to AIMS scholarship, which is largely Anglophone, this year CEMA launched a pilot program to promote the reading of social science texts in the English language. Thirty-six Algerian scholars participated in the program, and made marked improvement in their reading skills – many now regularly borrow books from the CEMA library.

2011-2012 marked the 50th anniversary of Algerian independence. To mark the occasion, commemorative events were organized in Algeria, the United States and beyond. Teaming with the National Research Center for Social and Cultural Anthropology (CRASC), the Johns Hopkins University, the IHTP-CNRS, and a number of other research units, CEMA co-organized a three-day conference in Oran, 1962, A World. Unlike other colloquium commemorating Algerian independence, the conference focused on how Algerian independence marked cultural, political, and social movements at the time. The conference, which brought together 60 scholars from the five continents, was a success.

Activity is booming and as CEMA grows, so does its audience. We hope to be able to expand our activities to Algiers and the Universities and research institutes in central Algeria. In addition to this exciting development, we are also organizing the 2013 AIMS Annual Conference Saharan Crossroads: Views from the Desert’s Edge, which will be co-organized by AIMS,WARA, and CRASC. The conference will be held in the pre-Sahara, at the University of Ghardaia. These major projects will occur in tandem with our regularly scheduled lecture series, our special lecture series, as well as continued round tables and symposia. None of this could be done without the continued support of AIMS, CAORC, American scholars in the field, and our Algerian colleagues. If you are interested in doing research in Algeria, or are planning to come, please let us know. We’re more than happy to assist you in your research, and would love you to come and give a talk at the center.

-Laryssa Chomiak

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forward to sharing and discussing all of these ideas with other AIMS members!

Quite a few respondents simply thanked AIMS and the faculty advisors and organizers of the workshops for their support, expressed their hopes that AIMS would be able to continue this valuable work, and pledged to be more involved with the organization in the future. One participant stated “some of my best support as a graduate student came from AIMS,” while another wrote that “I am grateful to AIMS for the workshop as well as for their grants – I could not have completed my fieldwork and dissertation without these.”

AIMS would also not be the organization it is without the incredible scholars who choose to pursue Maghribi studies and who are willing to share their work, insights, and expertise with fellow graduate students and colleagues. Thank you all for being part of AIMS!

**TESTIMONIALS**

I think the discussion we had about shaping a teaching philosophy directly contributed to my being offered the position I currently hold . . . I think that AIMS is an outstanding organization for graduate students, and was a tremendous resource for me during all stages of my graduate program. I would only hope that AIMS can continue to offer all of these opportunities in the future.

-Brock Cutler, Assistant Professor of History, Radford University Participant, 2008 Workshop

My first proper professional academic conference presentation came about as a direct result of a contact I made at the workshop...”Several of my publications (at least three) have been produced as an indirect result of the workshops, where I met people who would later invite me to publish or pass my name on . . . The dissertation workshop is a very valuable service to graduate students. I find these opportunities to meet with scholars from other institutions, disciplines, and nationalities to be few and far between, but very enriching. I strongly recommend AIMS doing its best to continue funding these workshop because, while subtle, they go a long way toward creating core networks that become part of AIMS and foment Maghribi studies.

-Camilo Gómez-Rivas, Assistant Professor of Middle Eastern History, The American University in Cairo Participant, 2005 Workshop; GSA President and Organizer, 2008 Workshop

We have endeavored to spread the word about TALIM and AIMS programs, and are always encouraged to see how this pays off. There have been writers and researchers who have come across TALIMblog posts on topics – Moroccans in the Spanish Civil War, 19th century American cultural consultants in Tangier, etc. – who have been connected with scholars in related fields. The Legation has been the venue for numerous media reports – from the BBC and several German cultural radio programs to Moroccan print, radio, and TV.

The Legation as a cultural venue has been a highlight of the year. We still get rave reviews for “Miss Wolfe’s Tangier Stories,” a one-woman play based on the wartime stories of the actress’ mother. Likewise, book presentations by noted Casablanca-based travel writer Tahir Shah and American designer Marian McEvoy drew big audiences. Such events were part of larger academic and cultural events such as “Performing Tangier” and “Correspondences de Tanger.” Our women’s Arabic literacy students contributed to “True Stories of the Mediterranean,” part of Marseille’s “European City of Culture” effort.

This fiscal year also saw considerable activity on the crucial front of maintaining and restoring the Legation’s historic structure. While we are still awaiting comprehensive funding and implementation of the State Department’s Historic Structure Report, the US Embassy in Rabat has activated a number of smaller scale projects, repairing sections of this sprawling structure. We have welcomed the noise and dust, even when we had to temporarily close off access to some of the museum’s most popular exhibits. It’s all for the long term good.

Creating a continuum of effort – research library feeds museum exhibits which tell story of Moroccan-American relations – means that TALIM concentrates its scarce resources on a focused end. Making the most of our historic institution, and telling that story, is one of the best ways we can think of to anchor this American research center in its regional neighborhood.

-Jerry Loftus

AIMS opportunities for graduate students include:

AIMS annual dissertation workshop. The next workshop will be held at Yale University in the Fall 2013. Although all federal funding has been cut for this program, we are confident that we will find new funding for 2013. The workshop will be announced in the spring. We hope to see you in New Haven!

Jeanne Jeffers M’rad travel awards. Graduate students who have been selected to present a paper related to North Africa at MESA are encouraged to apply for these stipends that range from $200-500.

Donna Lee Bowen travel award. Graduate students selected to present a paper related to North Africa at MESA are encouraged to apply for these stipends that range from $200-500.

Tangier American Legation Institute for Moroccan Studies

**Letter from the TALIM Director**

Gerald Loftus

TALIM hosted the 2012 AIMS annual conference on Berber Societies, which all accounts was a success. Credit for ace academic organizing goes to Katherine Hoffman and Jane Goodman, who we found a pleasure to work with. We especially enjoyed putting on two cultural events for the participants: a film presentation by young Moroccan Berbers, and a serendipitous Berber evening at the annual Tarab Tanger world music festival. The camaraderie among the participants added to the vigor of the academic exchanges.

On a less happy note, we bade farewell to the Maghribi Scholar program, a victim of budget cuts. This was at a particularly unfortunate juncture, coming as it did in the wake of the Arab Spring. What kind of message did that convey to scholars from the Maghrib? Doubly unfortunate in that applications from Moroccan scholars had jumped in the final year of the program. As the venue for the lion’s share of the scholars from Algeria and Tunisia over the years, TALIM loses this infusion of researchers from the region. We hope that efforts to reinstate the program are successful.

We have endeavored to spread the word about TALIM and AIMS programs, and are always encouraged to see how this pays off. There have been writers and researchers who have come across TALIMblog posts on topics – Moroccans in the Spanish Civil War, 19th century American cultural consultants in Tangier, etc. – who have been connected with scholars in related fields. The Legation has been the venue for numerous media reports – from the BBC and several German cultural radio programs to Moroccan print, radio, and TV.

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-Tangier American Legation Institute for Moroccan Studies

Jerry Loftus

TALIM

Letter from the TALIM Director

Gerald Loftus

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Tangier American Legation Institute for Moroccan Studies

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Abidine, Karima

Talk From the Body: Contemporary Dance and the Negotiation of Social Change in Urban Morocco

This proposal opens a new avenue of anthropological research on youth and the performing arts in North Africa. As a nine-month ethnographic study, the research will explore the complex process of engagement for young people in contemporary dance in Casablanca and Marrakech, Morocco. Through participant-observation at dance events and in-depth interviews, the project will investigate dancers’ re-imaging of gender relations and religious identity, and their construction and navigation of new forms of social participation in local and international networks. The research will illuminate the sphere of Moroccan contemporary dance as a particularly contested arena in public debates on the moral and religious questions of art, and the effects of international sponsorship on local economies and culture.

Adil, Sabahat

Writing al-Andalus: Identity, Place, and Belonging in al-Maghari’s “Naft al-Tib”

The North African Muslim scholar al-Maghari (1577–1632 CE) never visited al-Andalus (Muslim Spain) but was living in the sixteenth-and seventeenth-century Islamic world. His analysis will break new ground in the study of Islamic history, which boasts few critical analyses of North African historical texts, and enable a dialogue between historians of Islam and others.

Admiral, Rosemary

Approaching Islamic Law: Women, Gender and Law in Morocco, 1310–1465

This project examines how women engaged with Islamic law in the Maghrib in the Marinid period, shaping the rich tradition that is Moroccan Maliki Islam. It investigates three aspects of women’s interaction with the law: the participation of women in Islamic legal courts; the ways in which women and gender were described in juris- tice discourse; and the lives of women in studios of Islamic law at the advanced level. Through engagement with the Moroccan historical, intellectual, and cultural heritage of Islam, this research explores how women exercised agency within the Moroccan Islamic legal system and used their knowledge of the law to negotiate a space for themselves within the system.

Ahmed, Sumayya

Digital Preservation of Moroccan Manuscript Collections

In Morocco, extant Arabic and Islamic manuscript collections are the material vestiges of a thriving literary culture that flourished from the ninth century until the age of printing. Recently, there has been an increase in international efforts to physically preserve such manuscripts. This research looks specifi- cally at large scale digitization of manuscripts being carried out at the Moroccan National Library in Rabat. By observing the library’s current digitization projects, as well as curation and workflow proto- cols, it hopes to understand how the library organizes, curates, and eventually digitizes manuscripts in its vast collection. Furthermore, by comparing digitization at the Na- tional Libraries with other projects at other libraries in Morocco, this research will produce a working appraisal of digitization projects in the coun- try, highlighting the best practices and current challenges facing the protection of Moroccan cultural heritage materials.

Asghian, Cristina

Kandinsky and Münster in Tunisia

This project will identify the sites and subjects of the photographs taken by the artist couple Wassily Kandinsky and Gabriele Münster during their four-month stay in Tunisia in 1904/1905. Not only do these photographs constitute a valuable historic document of the city of Tunis and its environs (as well as Sousse and Kairouan), but they were also used to prepare the set of ‘orientalist pictures’ exhibited by Kandinsky in the 1905 Paris Sa- lon d’Automne. While Kandinsky’s detailed sketches demonstrate his close attention to architecture, costume, and daily activities witnessed in Tunisia, his finished tempera pictures evoke the familiar catego- ries known as ‘scènes et types’ pro- moted by popular photography and travel literature of the colonial era. Now that the artists’ photographs are available to scholars, a more comprehensive examination of the artist’s couple’s itineraries, work- ing practice, and subject matter is possible. Accurate identification of these photographs is crucial to a museum exhibition and publication in planning for 2014/2015, which will be the first to focus on the works produced by Kandinsky and Münster while in Tunisia, highlight- ing the significance of this experi- ence to their practice. The project will combine research and fieldwork activities with consultation and collaboration with academic and professional contacts in Tunis.

Buckner, Elizabeth

The Policies and Politics of Privatization: Higher Education Reform in Tunisia

My research investigates which factors make certain nations better receptors of global pressure to privatize higher education than others, and will be a comparative case study of higher education poli- cymaking in Jordan and Tunisia. Specifically, my dissertation asks: why have higher education reforms advocating privatization been inscribed into these nations’ policies traditionally relied on free, public higher education, and, how does the design of such policies affect the success of privatization efforts? My fieldwork in Tunisia will examine how the shift from an exclusively public higher education system to a mixed system with both public and private higher education providers engenders new power dynamics in speci- fic state policies and rhetoric. In particular, I am interested in understanding how policymakers balance global models advocating PHE with the need to uphold Tunisia’s legacy of free public schooling, and which factors shape policy design and implementation. I will carry out approximately 35 interviews with a wide range of academics, policymakers and international organization officials involved in higher education reform, over the course of five months of fieldwork in Tunisia.

Canmatt, Melani

Is there an Islamist Governance Advantage? The Politics of Public Goods Provision by Islamist Organizations in the Middle East

Islamist organizations in the Middle East have a reputation for “good governance,” particularly given state failure to offer social protection. Through the provision of public goods and social services, Islamists allegedly buoy their governance credentials and win the “hearts and minds” of citizens. This project explores the foundations of the apparent Islamist advantage: When and why do Islamists actually govern effectively? How, if at all, does Islamist social provision affect the political behavior and attitudes of individuals and their families? Based on subnational and cross-national comparisons of Islamist organizations in a range of Middle Eastern countries, including Tunisi- a, this research aims to address these questions through multiple research methods. The project contributes to scholarly research on nonstate provision of welfare, public goods provision, and the social foundations of Islamism, and, in general, the effectiveness of policies for the advancement of people in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. These issues are all the more critical in the aftermath of the Arab uprisings, when Islamists have gained power in national politics across the region.

Dodson, Leslie Lynn

Amazigh Women’s Cooperatives and Argan Oil: A Role for Technology in Market Expansion and Environmental Conservation

In turn, these new market linkages have increased women’s participation in local and international markets. In turn, these new market linkages have increased women’s participation in local and international markets.
Decolonizing Christianity: Religion and the End of Empire in France and Algeria, 1940-1965

My book manuscript “Decolonizing Christianity: Religion and the End of Empire in France and Algeria, 1940-1965,” is the first major study of how French Protestant and Catholic engagement in the Algerian War of Liberation (1954-1962) reshaped Christianity in the modern world and influenced the Ecumenical Movement, Vatican II, and Liberation theology. The moral landscape that surfaced during the Algerian War, including the French military’s use of torture, the repression of civilian populations, and debates about the legitimacy of war, forced Christians across the world to rethink the role of Christianity in imperialism and its future in a post-colonial world. My book examines the shifting dynamics of Christianity’s role in the French empire, from the role that Christianity played in supporting the moral foundations for French colonialism in Algeria, to the ways in which Social Christianity, which emerged in France in the 1930s and 40s, undermined these same moral arguments, including the belief that French colonialism was both benevolent and the only means through which Christian interests could be protected in Algeria.

Bilingual at the Boundary: The Politics of Language and Translation in the Early Modern Mediterranean

The research that I will undertake in Rabat in Winter/Spring 2013 is part of my dissertation project about Arabic-Castilian bilingualism in the Western Mediterranean in the 16th and 17th centuries. My doctoral thesis focuses in particular on Spanish translators and an important point of focus for my project is the diplomatic and commercial correspondence that took place across the Mediterranean. Arabic functioned as a language of information and diplomacy as well as commerce in North Africa and the Western Mediterranean. The Wattassid and Saadien rulers were in frequent contact with the kings of Spain (as well as other European powers). On top of that, a major part of my dissertation focuses on the translators and other intermediaries who performed and facilitated this contact in and across the Middle Sea. I seek to reconstruct the social experiences of these individuals: their education, family networks, professional lives, etc. In addition to the social and cultural consequences of those interactions, I will examine closely the texts produced by these translators, in Castilian, Arabic, and Latin. Where the translation contains or omits words written by the translator, I analyze the rhetorical strategies used to establish fidelity and skill. These passages often demonstrate linguistic ideologies about Arabic or Castilian as superior or inferior to another. In addition to published documents and archival sources housed in European countries that I have already worked with, while in Rabat I hope to draw on archival evidence of diplomatic correspondence between Moroccan and European courts in order to reconstruct a fuller panorama of Arabic-Castilian bilingualism in the early modern Mediterranean.

Decolonizing Christianity: Religion and the End of Empire

The collapse of authoritarian regimes in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya produced a diverse range of both internal and external repercussions. Will the former ruling elites accountable for past human rights abuses and acts of corruption. While a wealth of scholarly literature has emerged that examines transitional justice in the West, there is comparatively little scholarship that explores transitional justice within an Islamic legal context. This research project will serve to address this lacuna in scholarship through an exploration of local transitional justice discourses and initiatives in post-Revolutionary Tunisia. I will be spending two months in the wake of the Islamic Revival, and will become the basis of a new book chapter and of an article that I am working on to appear in a book entitled "The Islamic World in the Western Mediterranean. The Wattassid and Saadien rulers were in frequent contact with the kings of Spain (as well as other European powers). On top of that, a major part of my dissertation focuses on the translators and other intermediaries who performed and facilitated this contact in and across the Middle Sea. I seek to reconstruct the social experiences of these individuals: their education, family networks, professional lives, etc. In addition to the social and cultural consequences of those interactions, I will examine closely the texts produced by these translators, in Castilian, Arabic, and Latin. Where the translation contains or omits words written by the translator, I analyze the rhetorical strategies used to establish fidelity and skill. These passages often demonstrate linguistic ideologies about Arabic or Castilian as superior or inferior to another. In addition to published documents and archival sources housed in European countries that I have already worked with, while in Rabat I hope to draw on archival evidence of diplomatic correspondence between Moroccan and European courts in order to reconstruct a fuller panorama of Arabic-Castilian bilingualism in the early modern Mediterranean.

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been rare in the Arab world until recently. My research will involve interviewing activists in Libya and Tunisia who have collected the memories of an authoritarian regime at great personal risk.

Maghraoui, Abdelslam

Identity Norms and Ethical Judgments

The proposed research examines the effect of identity norms on individual ethical judgment among Moroccans. It examines the effect of competing coalitions associated with multiple, real-world identities on decision making that involves ethical evaluation and introspection. I ask whether individuals are more likely to make certain ethical decisions when prompted to think about important norms tied to a specific key identity. The study of changing norms and values in Morocco, a country that is nearly 100 per cent Muslim, sheds light on the overall political and ideological dynamics in the Middle East during the Arab Spring. In some parts of the region; people can now vote in freely contested elections that Islamist parties seem to win invariably (Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco). Yet, beside de-contextualized opinions, we have no clue what exactly drives the people’s political stances or how these preferences affect the political landscape. This project, which builds on two previous years of residence and research in Morocco and is part of ongoing dissertation research, will explore how Moorish women’s care-seeking practices in cases of unwanted pregnancies. I aim to collect and understand narratives and rumors of women seeking consultations and medical care from herbalists and clinics, respectively, to end unwanted pregnancies. I will focus primarily on several well-known herbalists in the Fes mediina. These herbalists are important nodes in women’s processes of seeking abortions and other gynecological care. Herbalists combine expertise in herbal care and botany with familiarity with Sufi spiritualism, religious rites and sometimes witchcraft (although their practice is considered distinct from these knowledge systems, see specifically Amster, 2003). Women come to herbalists to purchase herbs for any number of gynecological needs, including contraception, abortion and family planning. Many herbalists will also purchase herbs for women seeking to end unwanted pregnancies. I am chiefly interested in how they frame their negotiation of different gendered and moral roles, and gender inequities as well as their own bodily processes and decisions to end pregnancies. By emphasizing the role of narratives and idioms of expression, I hope to illuminate women’s reasoning and decision making are flexible, reflexive, and rational processes that synthesize various nodes of knowledge and experience. Research conducted this summer will provide invaluable ethnographic data for further publications and contribute to the larger body of my Ph.D dissertation for the Department of Anthropology at Yale University.

Rignall, Karen

Land, Livelihoods and the Politics of Making a Living in Pre-Saharan Morocco

During the summer of 2012, I will conduct follow-up research on land conflicts in the Mogoun valley of southern Morocco (Tinghir province) that occurred during my Ph.D fieldwork in 2010. I will determine to what extent these land conflicts have linked with broader political movements for reform that began in 2011 and are ongoing. This grant will allow me to fill gaps in my dissertation research resulting from unforeseen events in the Mogoun Valley. I am interested in the political mobilization in the region in the virtual world of social media, how the changing use and meaning of land have shaped social hierarchies. As I was leaving in December 2010, the revolu- tion occurred in Tunisia, and the political mobilization spread elsewhere in the Middle East and North Africa, and the Arab Spring. As I was leaving in December 2010, the revolution occurred in Tunisia, and the political mobilization spread elsewhere in the Middle East and North Africa, and the Arab Spring.

in 2003, a Moroccan government committee was appointed to make a choice between Latin, Arabic, or Tifinagh script to mod- ify Berber/Amazigh. My project explores how orthographies are decided based on social, cultural, and ideological factors rather than linguistic or scientific grounds. Although, I have undertaken extensive research on the script issue in Morocco, I believe that my dissertation would benefit from a part that addresses the ques- tion of the current implications of selecting Tifinagh for writing Berber. These implications can be assessed through more interviews with Amazigh specialists and onsite visits to schools and institutes where Berber is taught or developed.
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Manuscripts for submission should be sent to either:
- John P. Entelis, Middle East Studies Program, LL 915A
  Fordham University
  113 West 60th Street, New York, NY 10023
- George Joffe, Centre of North African Studies, Fitzwilliam House,
  32 Trumpington Street, Cambridge University, CB2 1QY, UK

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Established in 1984, the American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS) is a private, non-profit educational organization that works to facilitate research in North Africa and encourage the free exchange of information between American and North African scholars. In the United States, AIMS serves as the professional association of scholars interested in the region. AIMS sponsors the Journal of North African Studies (JNAS), provides grants for American and North African scholars interested in conducting research in the Maghrib, hosts an annual conference and dissertation workshop, and two CAORC sponsored Critical Language Programs, the Tunisia Arabic Program (TAP) and the Tangier Language Program. Abroad, AIMS organizes programs in collaboration with scholars and institutions throughout North Africa. As a member of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), AIMS is the only American Overseas Research Center which administers three centers: the Tangier American Legation Institute for Moroccan Studies (TALIM) in Morocco, the Centre d’Études Maghrébines à Tunis (CEMAT) in Tunisia, and Centre d’Études Maghrébines en Algérie (CEMA) in Oran, Algeria.

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