



Australian
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Three Languages - Three Cultures: Narratives from the Middle East Conference

22 & 23 NOVEMBER 2018

Centre for Arab &
Islamic Studies
(The Middle East &
Central Asia)
ANU College of
Arts & Social Sciences

Three Languages - Three Cultures: Narratives from the Middle East Conference

The Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies
(The Middle East & Central Asia)

The Australian National University

Thursday 22 & Friday 23 November 2018

The Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (CAIS) at the Australian National University (ANU) is proud to host the 2018 Conference, 'Three Languages - Three Cultures: Narratives from the Middle East'. The conference has been convened by the CAIS language academic staff: Dr Huda Al-Tamimi, Dr Negar Davari Ardakani, Leila Kouatly, France Meyer, Dr Zahra Taheri and Dr M. Murat Yurtbilir. Administrative assistance by CAIS research scholar, Jon Norling.

The conference was sponsored and organised by the CAIS with financial support from ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences.

This interdisciplinary conference welcomes academics of all related subject areas and is open to all scholars, students, professionals and members of the public with an interest in the three Middle Eastern languages: Arabic, Persian and Turkish as well as their respective cultures.

Language is a vessel of communication through which humans have defined their worlds and shaped their cultural identities. In fact, every language via the extension of its discourse is engaged in the evolutionary process of the modern world. This conference seeks to provide an insight into the shifting identities of the Middle East, through the lenses of these three widely spoken languages and influential cultures.

The conference will delve into the complexity and the diversity of the region and will investigate both the synchronic and diachronic characteristics of the three languages selected. This will reveal new insights into the various aspects of Art, Culture, Gender, Identity, Language, Literature, Media and Communication, Comparative Studies as well as Language Teaching and Planning.

This conference, the first in Australia to simultaneously cover these three languages, will ignite your imagination and enrich your understanding of the region. It will include renowned keynote speakers who will examine the rich languages and cultural content of the Middle East: the poetry, calligraphy, art and literature.

THREE LANGUAGES - THREE CULTURES: NARRATIVES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST PROGRAM

Day 1 – Thursday, 22 November

8:30 – 8:55 **Registration**

9:00 – 9:15 Opening Address & Welcome - CAIS Director Prof. Amin Saikal

9:15 – 10:15 **Keynote speech**

Dr Stefano Carboni - *Venice and its Artistic Relationship with the Islamic World: A tale of many languages and cultures*

10:15 – 10:30 **Morning tea**

10:30 – 11:15 **Persian keynote speech**

Dr Ali Mozaffari - *Cultural heritage in Iran: the dialectics of continuity and sudden change*

11:15 – 12:15 **Persian Panel**

Dr Michael King - *The Hidden Wisdom of Ibn-e-Sina*

Dr Bahar Davary - *Sohrab Sepehri: A Muslim-Zen eco-critic*

Chair: Dr Zahra Taheri

12:15 – 1:00 pm **Lunch**

1:00 – 1:45 **Arabic keynote speech**

Associate Professor Hakeem Kasem - *Global Language Engagement Through Virtual Worlds: Enriching Arabic learners' proficiency and cultural understanding*

1:45 – 2:25 **Arabic Panel**

Luluh Alfurayh and Melanie Burns - *Redefining 'me': Identity change among female Saudi study abroad students in Australia*

Chair: Dr Huda Al-Tamimi

2:30 – 3:15 **Turkish keynote speech**

Dr Banu Senay - *Musical Islam: Explorations in Sufi music*

3:15 – 3:30 pm Afternoon tea

3:30 – 5:30 Turkish Panel

Dr Aydogan Kars - *Commentary Tradition on the Divine Names: Sufi theology from Andalusia to Ottoman Anatolia*

Associate Professor Adrian Jones - *Eyes of beholders: When was a gift a bribe, a tribute, and/or a facilitation: whose, when for whom*

Scott Patton - *The intersection of identity: Kurdish, Turkish, Arabic, Persian, and their attempted synergy*

Tamas Dudlak - *House of Kurds in Turkey: the use of security narrative in contemporary politics*

Chair: Murat M. Yurtbilir

7.00 – 10.00 pm Conference Dinner

Day 2 – Friday, 23 November

9:00 – 10:30 Arabic Panel (Lecture Theatre)

Charbel El-Khaissi - *A Comparative Phonetic Analysis of Native and Non-Native Arabic Speakers at the Australian National University*

Dr Majdi Faleh - *The City in Pre-modern and Modern Arabic Literature*

Khoirin Nikmah - *Question Words: An error analysis of Indonesian learners in L2 Arabic*

Chair: France Meyer

9:00 – 10:30 Persian Panel (Tutorial Room)

Dr Yaghoob Foroutan - *The Place of Languages in Gender Identity in Iran: Persian, Arabic and English languages*

Elham Naeej - *Gender Violence in Contemporary Iranian Romance Novels*

Dr Michael King - *The Culture of Love in Hafiz Poetry: A comparison of the Persian poetry and its English translation*

Chair: Dr Negar Davari Ardakani

10:30 – 11:00 Morning tea

11:00 – 12:30 Persian Panel (Lecture Theatre)

Dr Heydar Shadi - *Noah's Three Sons and Identity Politics in the Modern Middle East*

Dr Hamish McGregor - *Reformism and Political Discourse in Iran: looking back at the legacy of President Seyed Mohammad Khatami*

Parisa Nakhaei - *Caught Between the Formal and Informal Economy: Women home-based business entrepreneurs in Iran*

Chair: Dr Negar Davari Ardakani

11:00 – 12:30 Arabic Panel (Tutorial Room)

Grant Kynaston - *Universalising International Law through Language: The use of Arabic in United Nations conventions*

Hasan Alalmay - *Politeness in Saudi Arabia: An observational analysis of social interaction between hosts, guests, and audiences in television shows*

Zakaryia Mustafa Slameh Almahasees - *Holistic Assessment of Google Translate in the Translation of UN Documents from English into Arabic*

Chair: Leila Kouatly

12:30 - 1:15 Lunch

1.15 – 3.15 Arabic Panel (Lecture Theatre)

Mona AlBluwi - *Investigating Learners' Beliefs about Arabic as a Foreign Language*

Dr Terhi Nurmikko-Fuller - *Ancient tales and modern machines: Publishing Sumerian literary narratives in machine-readable formats*

Leila Kouatly and France Meyer - *Developing and Teaching Arabic Online - Challenges and lessons learned*

Chair: Dr Huda Al-Tamimi

1.15 – 3.15 Persian Panel (Tutorial Room)

Mahmoud Pargoo - *Haram or Culturally Unacceptable? Secularizing language in post-Khomeini Iran*

Muhammed Ourang - *A Syllabus for Teaching Persian Grammatical Tenses: From critique on existing resources to designing tasks*

A/Prof. Negar Davari Ardakani - *Persian Kinship Terms: From sociocultural and cognitive points of view*

Leila Alhagh - *A Middle Eastern Manuscript Narrates: A study of text and paintings of Futūḥ al-Ḥaramayn*

Chair: Dr Zahra Taheri

Closing Address - Dr Zahra Taheri

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Stefano Carboni

Venice and its Artistic Relationship with the Islamic World: A tale of many languages and cultures

Abstract

When the celebrated Venetian painter Gentile Bellini was sent by the Serenissima Republic to spend two years at the court of Mehmet II the Conqueror in Istanbul in 1479, an important moment in the cultural and artistic relationship between Venice and the Islamic world took place. Venice, however, had been engaged in trade and diplomatic and cultural exchange with the Arab and Persian regions for centuries before Bellini's journey. The Republic's pragmatic approach to the relationship with her trading partners in the Near and Middle East, the establishment of Venetian mercantile communities protected by the presence of officially recognized consuls and a no-nonsense attitude in religious matters inevitably favoured a better and deeper understanding of each other's way of life with the consequent development of cultural and artistic ties and cross-influences.

The wealthy Venetian merchants who shuttled between their city and the important centres of Alexandria, Cairo, Damascus, Istanbul, Trebizond and Tabriz and spent extended periods in these outposts also began to appreciate the local culture, speak its language and understand and respect Islamic customs. This can be rightfully described as the true 'Orientalist' phase in Venetian artistic production, whereby this term does not have the same colonial or westernized connotation that distinguishes its 18th- and 19th-century modes because it is based on a better understanding of, and synergy with, a culture that is seen as the 'other' but not in confrontational or derisive terms.

No other city or European power from the Medieval and Renaissance periods can claim the complex and mutual closeness to the Arab and Turkish world that Venice enjoyed for many centuries. The period spanning the 15th and 16th centuries represents a true 'moment of vision' in the fecund relationship between two apparently distant cultures.

Biography

Stefano Carboni has been the Director of the Art Gallery of Western Australia in Perth since October 2008. Previously he was Curator and Administrator in the Department of Islamic Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Visiting Professor at the Bard Graduate Center in New York. He joined the curatorial staff at the Metropolitan Museum in 1992 after completing his graduate studies in Arabic and in Islamic Art at the University of Venice and his PhD in Islamic Art at the University of London. At The Metropolitan Museum he was responsible for a large number of exhibitions, including the acclaimed Venice and the Islamic World, 828–1797 (2006–2007). His publications include authoring and editing several exhibition catalogues, among which is the recent *The Wonders of Creation and the Singularities of Painting: A Study of the Ilkhanid London Qazvīnī* (2015). Stefano has lectured widely and taught regular courses in Islamic Art and Curatorial Studies at the Institute of Fine Arts (NYU), Hunter College (CUNY), and the Bard Graduate Center for the Decorative Arts in New York. He is currently Adjunct Professor at the University of Western Australia and lectures widely in Islamic Art and Curatorial Studies in addition to all other activities related to his directorship.

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Ali Mozaffari

Cultural heritage in Iran: the dialectics of continuity and sudden change

Abstract

The Middle East is an enigma, fascinating yet unpredictable; it is at once the hub of the world's energy; the cradle of civilisations, a tapestry of ethno-linguistic, cultural, and religious diversity that has endowed the region with the historical potential for tolerance and appreciation of diversity and difference. Ironically, the same characteristics seem to have harboured politically violent ideologies that tend to descend various parts of the region into destructive wars and have instigated various refugee crises at a global scale. In light of sudden historical shifts that characterise this region, both the prevalent violence and the less-publicised diversity and tolerance are part of historical and cultural processes involved in making, transforming, and re-imagining collective identities. Here, sudden change produces new identities and with them, new relationships between the past and the present through a cultural process that we know as heritage. Looking at the historical background of the region and Iran, one might venture to suggest that there is a dialectical relationship between historical and cultural diversity in this region and sudden and unpredictable change — recurring volatilities — in which it is mired.

Approaching Iranian national heritage from this angle, this lecture shows that at each historical juncture, from the formation of the modern nation-state to the present, there has been a close relationship between abrupt historical change and the making of national heritage. Heritage is transformed and re-imagined in response to sudden change, but it also contributed to change while at the same time fostering a sense of cultural stability. This process is not unique to Iran and may be found in other Middle Eastern societies. From this perspective, volatility appears to have a cultural function that is hitherto under-explored. As volatility challenges people's relationship to their pasts and their identities, it results in the mobilisation of cultural heritage in different and contradictory ways. Referring to examples of cultural heritage from Iran, this lecture illustrates that some of the most iconic examples of Iranian cultural heritage, those that seem to suggest a reassuring historical continuity in the present, are products of social and historical volatilities in the country. Here, heritage seems to suggest the desire and even potential for cultural stabilisation.

Biography

Ali Mozaffari is a Fellow of the Australian Research Council (DECRA) in the Alfred Deakin Institute, at Deakin University, Australia. The focus of his current work is on the uses of the past in present relations in Iran and West Asia. His work has attended to the politics of heritage, social movements and the making of cultural heritage and the built environment, and histories and design of architecture in Iran and more broadly in West Asia. His recent publications include 'Designing a Revolutionary Habitat: Tradition, Heritage and Housing in the Immediate Aftermath of the Iranian Revolution – Continuities and Disruptions'. *Fabrications* 28, no. 2 (May 2018): 185–211, co-authored with Nigel Westbrook and the edited volume *World Heritage in Iran: Perspectives on Pasargadae*. Abingdon: Routledge (2016). Mozaffari is co-editor of Berghahn's *Explorations in Heritage Studies* book series.

Michael King

The Hidden Wisdom of Ibn-e-Sina

ابن سینا The hidden wisdom of
که در برابر چشمی و غایب از نظری ... (حافظ)

Abstract

As one strand of a project demonstrating the cultural and practical value of historical Persian literature, a data-mining approach to uncover health and wellness directed wisdom, combined with modern science, has produced previously invisible clues to cause and cure of a currently untreatable illness - Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS). Accepting the fact of uncountable prior searches which failed to find a 'hidden (nor obvious) cure' for CFS, the present review of Avicenna proceeded by:

- a) Seeking his traditional suggestion of assistance for CFS-like conditions
- b) viewing 'a' through the prism of current medical knowledge
- c) finding from 'b' that Avicenna provides clues to a credible (but not previously knowable) *putative vector of cause* of CFS;
- d) leading to the prospect of treatment based upon an improved understanding of CFS.

The proposed way ahead is to continue the study of traditional Persian medical literature with the presently developed new tool set.

With the greatly appreciated support and contribution of Dr Negar Davari Ardakani, CAIS, ANU.

Biography

Michael King (PhD, PhD, M.App.Sc., M.Ed. Clinical Psychologist) holds a doctoral degree in Psychology, University of Melbourne, has lectured on the topics of psychological assessment and other aspects of cognitive and emotional psychology Australian and overseas universities, and published numerous professional articles on the use and interpretation of psychological assessment tools including the measurement and interpretation of style of bonding — in romantic relationships. Regarding Love and Romantic Attachment: Dr King first published in 1990 on the measurement of love. (King M. G. 'The Development of Romantic Attachment' — an analysis of the emotional components of romance. Australian Social Psychological Conference. 1991). Ongoing investigation to the present time has deepened the author's knowledge and experience in the assessment and interpretation of romantic attachment including the recent focus of judicial processes (relating to Immigration decisions) on the quality of love in a professed relationship.

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Bahar Davary

Sohrab Sepehri: A Muslim-Zen eco-critic

Abstract

Reflecting on the poetry of the best-selling contemporary Iranian poet, Sohrab Sepehri (1928-1980), this paper discusses the notion of the responsibility of the poet in regards to issues of justice and dissent, positioning the debate in the context of Plato's critique of poetry, and of poets. The paper will discuss Sepehri's mindfulness of nature, and his attention to the divine-human-animal-plant-mineral connectedness, and to maintenance of harmonious relationship. For Sepehri, the harmony in nature bears a sacrality that unmistakably points to the Transcendence. He is a modernist, and a modern mystic, rooted in Islamic contemplative tradition, influenced by Rumi; and touched by eastern traditions (such as Zen, Advaita Vedanta, and Taoism). This paper elaborates on particular selections of his *Hasht Ketab*, namely, '*seday-e pa-ye ab*'; *Water's Footfall*, and a collection entitled '*hajme sabz*'; *the Green Immense*, in order to contextualise his work as a lyrical ecocritic, *avant lettre*.

Biography

Bahar Davary is Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of San Diego, and the affiliate faculty for the Kroc School for Peace 2016/2017. She received her PhD. from the Catholic University of America in Catholic Theological Tradition and Muslim-Christian Dialogue. She teaches courses on World Religion; Islamic Faith and Practice; Islam, Women, and Literature. Her research interests and published work are focused on Women in interpretations of the Qur'an, Muslim-Christian Dialogue, and Islam and ecology. Her book *Women and the Qur'an: An Islamic Hermeneutic* (2009) examines classical interpretations of the Qur'an, focusing on the development, continuity, and change in the portrayal of woman and the ways in which the commentaries affect the self-perception of Muslim women.

Hakeem Kasem

Global Language Engagement Through Virtual Worlds: Enriching Arabic learners' proficiency and cultural understanding

Abstract

Global language and cultural communicative competency is an ever increasing requirement in our connected world. One of the main challenges Second Language learners face when learning another language (L2) in an academic setting in countries where that language is not actively used – so little L2 exposure – is that it is harder to provide an authentic and meaningful contexts for learning. This restriction in L2 exposure in the formal academic framework is due to the limited face-to-face learning time and, more significantly, is compounded by lack of exposure to the language's authentic use settings. Students are often isolated from the target language's authentic discourse communities and native speakers. This situation is exacerbated for learners of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) who have no or very little exposure to MSA outside the classroom boundaries. All of these factors make developing communicative oral fluency in MSA more difficult and challenging for many learners.

With the evolution and maturity of immersive 3D virtual worlds, their value for engaged, multiuser, experiential language learning is exciting. This project aims to increase the Arabic language proficiency and cultural understanding of Australian university students by developing a globally shareable and sustainable 3D immersive real-time educational virtual world environment that is flexible, accessible and targets today's global learners. All the affordances of 3-D virtual worlds will be utilized to serve as a cultural context to engage learners via scaffolded and exploratory activities and connect them with native speakers of Arabic across the Middle East.

Biography

Hakeem Kasem, is the Convenor of the Arabic Language and Culture Studies in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Deakin University. Hakeem's teaching has received plaudits both at Deakin, and also via national prizes and international commendations. His work – especially in the development of a world first-class comprehensive Arabic online resources in 2004 – is widely known in the Arabic teaching community at a national and international level.

In 2009, the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) awarded him a National Teaching Excellence Award in the Humanities and the Arts category, for pioneering this Arabic program that led to innovative and creative approaches to teaching foreign languages at tertiary level nationally. In 2008, he also received the Australian Learning and Teaching Council Award for Outstanding Contributions to Students' Learning. He also received more than 6 Deakin University awards for his innovative work and teaching excellence.

In collaboration with universities in the Middle East, Hakeem is currently working on a new innovative project 'Global Interactions: Enriching Arabic Language Learner Experiences and Proficiency through Virtual Worlds – Second Life (SL)'. This project aims to develop authentic, stimulating, innovative and engaging Arabic language virtual 3-D learning spaces in Second Life to enrich real-time interactive university student learning experiences.

A/Professor Kasem's research interests involve Arabic language and culture studies, blended learning, e-learning, second language acquisition and cross-cultural communication. He has contributed to numerous national and international conferences and published widely in national and international publications. His most recent publications in 2018 include: 'The Role of Virtual Worlds in Developing Oral Proficiency for Learners of Arabic as a Second Language', *Journal of Language and Linguistics*; Two book chapters (co-authored with A/Professor Ghassan Al-Shatter) *A Psycholinguistic Approach to Second Language Acquisition*, King Abdullah Centre for Arabic Language Service & *Foreign Language Teaching and Technology: Tools for the Development and Enhancement of Language Skills*, King Abdullah Centre for Arabic Language Service.

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Luluh Alfurayh & Melanie Burns

Redefining ‘me’: Identity change among female Saudi study abroad students in Australia

Abstract

For female Saudi students undertaking study in Australia, the transition from living in a traditional and socially conservative environment to a secular and more liberal society means that these students must navigate a new culture with highly different gender norms. As Saudi women negotiate this cultural divide, some may strengthen their existing identities and retain strong links to their home community and its norms, while others may modify their personal and social identities as they gain exposure to the new culture.

This study explores how five female postgraduate Saudi students have experienced identity change during their time in Australia. Through in-depth interviews, participants shared their experiences studying in Australia and their views on their evolving understandings of what it means for them to be Saudi, women, wives, mothers, and students. How study abroad gives these women opportunities to modify their cultural and gender identities is explored, with key points of analysis including how participants are renegotiating the mandates on women’s roles in Saudi culture within their new environment, the ways in which participants are reinterpreting Islamic teachings to meet their developing identity needs, and how the identity changes cultivated through exposure to a new culture are contributing to a desire for both personal and social change upon their return to Saudi Arabia. The presentation considers the implications of the popularity of study abroad amongst Saudis in terms of how this may change students’ values, beliefs, and behaviours, and explores how this is contributing to wider cultural change in Saudi society.

Biography

Luluh Alfurayh is a PhD candidate in the School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics, Monash University. Her research explores the experiences of Saudi women in their study abroad journey and how they are negotiating their identities and finding their own voices.

Melanie Burns is a linguist teaching at Monash University, Melbourne. She specialises in discourse analysis and sociolinguistics, with her research areas including the discursive construction of gender and sexuality, representations of sexualities in the media, and language and taboo.

Banu Senay

Musical Islam: Explorations in Sufi Music

Abstract

Too often, conventional social science investigation of Muslim governments and movements privilege political and legal fields as its focus of study. By contrast, this talk examines relations between State-driven projects of modernity and citizens' everyday practices through the lens of arts and aesthetics.

Based on extensive fieldwork in Istanbul, and taking the chequered social life of Sufi music there as its case study, the talk explores complex interactions between Islam, nationalism and cultural politics in modern Turkey.

Biography

Banu Senay is a Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. Her research areas include phenomenological anthropology, music and cultural politics, Islam and subjectivity, and trans-nationalism. Her current research on Islamic art pedagogies in Istanbul explores the effects of skill acquisition, engaging with important debates in anthropology around learning, self-formation and ethics, specifically in relation to Sufi Islam and to one of its most significant dimensions, music.

Dr Senay is the author of *Beyond Turkey's Borders: Long-distance Kemalism, State Politics and the Turkish Diaspora* (I.B. Tauris, 2013) and *Crafting Ethical Selves: Islam and Music in Istanbul* (forthcoming).

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Aydogan Kars

Commentary Tradition on the Divine Names: Sufi Theology from Andalusia to Ottoman Anatolia

Abstract

The nature of the divine names was a key component of Islamic theology from early on. Yet, a separate genre of commentary on the beautiful names of God [sharḥ asmāʾ Allāh al-ḥusnā] did not emerge until the tenth century. This study traces the transmission of this genre from its emergence in Arabic to the proliferation of a rich Ottoman Turkish literature in the seventeenth century. The paper argues that the Andalusian hermeneutical tradition of Ibn Barrajān (d.536/1141) was transmitted to the Ottoman theological world not only through Ibn ʿArabī (d.637/1240) but also through this genre. The paper also defends that the genre transformed from a grammatical inquiry into a field of mystical hermeneutics in the eleventh century. Ottomans (r.1298-1920) inherited this Sufi genre, and enriched it by expanding it into the Turkish language. The study introduces the first critical edition and English translation of the popular Ottoman Turkish Commentary penned by the prominent Halveti Sufi master Niyazi-yi Mısri (d.1105/1694). In order to compare and contrast Mısri's epistle with the influential commentaries, the study also translates, largely for the first time, relevant Arabic passages penned by al-Qushayrī (d.465/1072), Abū Ḥāmid al-Ghazālī (d.505/1111), Ibn Barrajān, and Ibn ʿArabī. This comparison puts the scholarship on pre-Ottoman and Ottoman Sufism in conversation, and approaches Mısri's theology from a wider intellectual perspective. This perspective shows us not only the enduring impact of Sufism in Muslim theologies, but also the continuities and differences of the genre of commentary on divine names in Arabic and Ottoman Turkish.

Biography

Aydogan Kars is a Lecturer in the Centre for Religious Studies and the Coordinator of the Islamic Studies Program at Monash University. Aydogan received his BS at Hacettepe University and MA (Honours) at the Middle East Technical University. He worked four years for the Scientific & Technological Research Council of Turkey. He earned an MA and PhD in Religion at Vanderbilt University in 2014 and 2016 respectively. He worked four years for the Vanderbilt Library as the bibliographer in the fields of Islamic studies and world religions. During 2015-2016, Aydogan served as a Visiting Faculty and Dissertation Fellow in the Dept. of Philosophy at the Middle Tennessee State University. His primary research field is medieval Islamic intellectual history. His first book, *Negative Theology in Islam* is currently under contract with Oxford University Press.

Adrian Jones

Eyes of Beholders: When was a gift a bribe, a tribute, and/or a facilitation: whose, when for whom?

Abstract

Marcel Mauss' original and influential anthropological model of the gift depends on the giver and receiver inhabiting the same cultural milieu. My paper discusses an Ottoman-Russian-Tatar-Romanian case study centred around the 'gift/bribe' paid, immediately after the Battle of the Prut, to the Ottoman Grand Vizier (Sadriazam) Baltacı Mehmed Paşa in July 1711. The paper reflects the interplay, to adapt Pierre Bourdieu's *Outline of a Theory of Praxis* (1972), of differing concepts of 'symbolic capital': Persian-Ottoman, Russian, Romanian and Crimean and Bucak Tatar.

Biography

Adrian Jones, OAM, Associate Professor of History and Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), School of Humanities and Social Sciences, La Trobe University. A foundation Director of the [Australian] National Centre for History Education and a former Chair of the History Council of Victoria, Adrian graduated from the University of Melbourne, La Trobe University and Harvard University.

Prof. Jones's academic interests traverse early-modern European histories, especially Russian, Balkan and Ottoman, and philosophies of the writing and researching of histories, and of their implications for the ways history is taught in schools and universities. He wants to transcend the limits of the linguistic turn in historiography, searching for ways to research and evoke lost realms of being. Prof. Jones is also fascinated by the intersections between Russians, Romanians and Ottomans at the dawn of the eighteenth century.

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Scott Patton

The Intersection of Identity: Kurdish, Turkish, Arabic, Persian, and their attempted synergy

Abstract

Kurdistan borders four states whose majority populations are Turks, Arabs, and Persians. Due to the proximity of the states, the interactions the Kurds have had with these other nations and ethnic identities have influenced each other in many ways. While closer to Persians in ethnography, the Kurds have had a transformative effect on Turkey, Iraq, and Syria in both political and cultural terms. In each of the four states that house a Kurdish population, their interactions with the ethnic majority has differed significantly depending on the ideology of the host government's as well as the receptiveness of the host ethnicity to engage in dialogue with the minority groups they harbour. This uneven experience had led to a fractured concept of what it means to be Kurdish in contemporary society which impacts every aspect of their lives, from their capacity to use their aboriginal language to their sense of identity. This continual identity-based ambivalence has led to the uneven development of Kurdish identity, which has also affected the identity of Turks, Arabs, and Persians and has facilitated many of the contemporary issues these communities face.

Biography

Scott Patton is a third year PhD candidate in the Asia Institute, University of Melbourne. His research area is Middle Eastern studies, with a particularly focus on ethno-nationalism and contemporary history. Scott's research is centred on the Kurdish political groups. His work includes their history, ideology, and their interactions with not only other Kurdish groups, but also other state based political groups and organisations.

Tamas Dudlak

House of Kurds in Turkey: The use of security narrative in contemporary politics

Abstract

My paper intends to examine the House of Cards series within the context of the Middle East, or more specifically, it focuses on the comparison between the foreign policy of the Underwood administration and Turkish politics. The main issue analysed is the question of securitisation (defined by Barry Buzan) as a tool for gaining more control over the course of political events.

This method is frequently used by the Underwoods in the series and several examples show the frequent use of securitisation in Turkish politics as well. Life-threatening events are part of the drama and real life too: both leaders, President Francis J. Underwood and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan had their own moment of near-death experience (an assassination attempt on Francis J. Underwood, a coup attempt against Erdoğan). Beside these personal experiences, mounting challenges of recent years in Turkey (such as electoral uncertainties in 2015, a coup attempt in 2016, a vote on constitutional amendment aiming to extend presidential power in 2017 and constant threats of organizations such as ISIS, PYD and PKK) led to the re-securitisation of the 'Kurdish problem' in Turkey, consequently, the government started to frame the issue of 'terrorism' and the Kurdish question alike. Analysis of Turkish–Kurdish relations within Turkey necessitates an outlook to the relevant regional events as well, the same way as there are several cases in the series (such as the threat of ICO and the crisis in the Jordan Valley) that provide a 'popular' insight into broader Middle Eastern affairs.

Biography

Tamas Dudlak is a doctoral student of international relations in the Corvinus University of Budapest. He focused on the paradigm shift of Turkish foreign policy in Syria (in 2011) as the topic of his dissertation. By examining Turkish foreign policy and its narratives in recent years, he also engaged in the topic of Turkish opening to Africa and the Turkish impact on the African continent in general. His interests include the domestic and foreign relations of different Kurdish actors in Syria, Iraq and Turkey and their interrelated policies; Turkish energy policy; and the status of Syrian refugees in Turkey.

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Charbel El-Khaissi

A Comparative Phonetic Analysis of Native and Non-Native Arabic Speakers at The Australian National University

Abstract

Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) is characterised by a rare consonant sound: the pharyngealised voiced alveolar stop /d^ʕ/. This sound is often understood to be an emphatic pronunciation of the /d/ (as in 'dog') speech sound, which also exists in the MSA phonetic inventory system. This study investigates the production of /d^ʕ/ and /d/ Arabic speech sounds by fourteen students learning the Arabic language and two native Arabic speakers at the Australian National University (ANU). The primary research question this study asks is how language learners' production of /d^ʕ/ and /d/ sounds compare to native Arabic speakers in MSA. Recordings were closely analysed in the phonetic analysis software, Praat, and results were visualised in the statistical software, RStudio. The results of this research are preliminary and show that although language learners of Arabic do not achieve a native-like pronunciation of /d^ʕ/, they employ other acoustic strategies to distinguish /d^ʕ/ and /d/ speech sounds. This study is the first of its kind in Australia and aims to fill the research gap regarding Arabic language pedagogy in Australian universities and foreign accented production among non-native speakers of Arabic in Australia.

Biography

Charbel El-Khaissi is a Masters of General and Applied Linguistics (research) student at the Australian National University. Charbel holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and is currently a postgraduate student in linguistics at ANU. His research interests include the syntax of Semitic languages, corpus linguistics and computational techniques. He has tutored introductory linguistics for undergraduate students at ANU, and is currently working as a linguistic project manager for Appen.

Majdi Faleh

The City in Pre-modern and Modern Arabic Literature

Abstract

In the wake of globalization, Gulf countries have seen great tensions between their local heritage and the recent architectural patterns and developments that shaped cities like Dubai. Dr. Badria Al-Bishr describes this phenomenon in her book *The Effect of Globalization in the Societies of the Arab Gulf: Dubai and Riyadh as case studies*. The author describes the socio-cultural effects of globalization on 'Khaleej Society' or 'Gulf society,' using a brutalized narrative to evaluate the struggle of a modernized society in the age of technology. The 'shock' of globalization and the 'drowning' moment are instances that lead to misconception and confusion about understanding history. Through her urban study of social, cultural, and anthropological changes, the author's elegiac narrative calls for an evaluation of the system of values of the Gulf society.

In his book *Society and State in the Gulf and Arab Peninsula*, Kuwaiti sociologist and scholar Dr. Khaldoun Al-Naqeeb addressed urban, political and economic issues related to Gulf modern societies. Al-Naqeeb touched upon the spirit of the *šibh al-jazīra al-'Arabīya* (Arabian Peninsula), while eulogizing the Arab city, Adan. The image of the global Arab city, and particularly the Gulf city of the past is examined through an analytical study that relies on figurative language to emphasize its image. The mapping of the city's social and economic realities plays a major role in the narrative of the writer reflecting another trend in modern Arabic literature of the Gulf.

This research offers a critical study of Gulf cities, society, and modern history beyond the narratives of oil eras that are dominant in the literature. This study analyses Al Bishr's doctoral thesis (2008) and Al-Naqeeb's analytical study (1987-1989), both published by *Markaz Dirāsāt al-Wahda al-'Arabīya*, and examines the representation of the Gulf city through these two modern narratives of the 20th and 21st centuries. The descriptive literature of Al Bishr and the analytical method used by Al-Naqeeb are compared to evaluate how modern Arabic literature constructs the reality of Arab Gulf cities and not only engages eulogy but also scientific methods to do so.

This book is one of the series of five books written by Arab writers on the topic of 'Prospects of Future of the Arab World.' These books or *Mujalladaṭ* focus on society and government in the Arab World, and they are part of a large scientific project published by the Centre for Arab Unity Studies in Beirut.

Biography

Majdi Faleh, PhD (Architecture and Humanities), Fulbright, Architect. Majdi has been travelling around the world for the past few years, to seek more knowledge and different cross-cultural experiences. From his home country Tunisia in North Africa to Europe, then to the United States. Recently, he has passed his PhD in architecture and humanities with excellent results. He has also been a teaching assistant at the Engineering Faculty, Faculty of Earth and Environment, and the Design School, at UWA. Majdi was also a visiting lecturer at NEFU University and Xi'an XUAT University in China.

Majdi is also an emerging professional, and he worked at international architecture firms in the US, HKS, and in Paris, Architecture Studio. Some of Majdi's most exceptional academic achievements include being awarded the prestigious grant, The Fulbright Scholarship from 2009 to 2012. Majdi completed his Masters of Architecture at Ball State University in Indiana, USA. Majdi is also an awardee of the IPRS/APA Australian government scholarships for doctoral studies.

Majdi speaks five languages fluently including Arabic, French, English, Spanish, and German; and he also has a basic level of Persian, Greek, and Bahasa Indonesia. Majdi is also an activist in Africa, and he got involved in humanitarian work, rebuilding schools and supporting families from remote areas, in post-revolutionary Tunisia.

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Khoirin Nikmah

An Error Analysis of Indonesian Learners in L2 Arabic

Abstract

Arabic is one of the most frequently learned foreign languages in Indonesia. Generally, it is taught from primary school. As a foreign language, error analysis is one of the methods that can be used as teaching parameter. In this case, the research focuses on interrogative sentences, especially in WH-question forms. Thereby, the aims of this research are; 1) investigating WH-question forms in Arabic and Indonesian in order to identify similarities and differences between them; 2) identifying WH-question error forms of Indonesian learners in L2 Arabic; 3) describing teaching strategy in WH-question forms. The approach applied in this research is descriptive qualitative. Meanwhile, the method of collecting data is observation using recording technique, participant observer technique, and note-taking. Then, Contrastive Analysis (CA) and Error Analysis (EA) are used to analyze the data. According to the research, there are three concluding points, namely: 1) WH-question forms between Arabic and Indonesian have similarities and differences; 2) Language interference effects caused grammatical error of WH-question forms; 3) language understanding focused on learners is needed to minimise errors.

Biography

Khoirin Nikmah works in the Arabic Education Program at the Universitas Negeri Malang, Indonesia; and the Linguistics Program, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia. Research: Case study of Arabic learning interest, literature structure genetic analysis, phonology, morphology, semantic on componential analysis, pragmatics, Arabic as a foreign language, linguistics across culture.

Yaghoob Foroutan

The Place of Languages in Gender Identity in Iran: Persian, Arabic and English Languages

Abstract

This paper focuses on the association between language and gender from a sociological perspective. It also provides research-based evidence to analyse whether and to what extent gender characteristics represented through the educational system are associated with the languages used in the educational resources. The analysis uses socialisation theory which recognizes the educational system, particularly the school and its educational materials, as the first official agent and the most powerful engine of gender socialization. Using the method of content analysis, this study is based on Iranian school textbooks, including 35 teaching and grammar textbooks for Persian (Farsi), Arabic and English languages. Generally speaking, the results show that while the dominance of male gender persists throughout the textbooks, the intensity of the dominance varies according to the learning stages of the languages. The results also suggest that the association between 'gender and language' is more strongly influenced by social and ideological structure.

Biography

Yaghoob Foroutan completed a PhD in Demography & Sociology Program at the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia. His doctoral dissertation on Muslim/Non-Muslim women's employment differentials in Australia was awarded The W. D. Borrie Essay Prize by the Australian Population Association. He has been a Post-Doctoral Fellow at The University of Waikato, New Zealand (2010-2012), where he now holds a position as Research Associate at The University of Waikato Islamic Studies Group, Hamilton, New Zealand. Further, he is an Associate Professor of Demography at the Department of Social Sciences, The University of Mazandaran, Babolsar, Iran. Dr Foroutan also holds a position as Adjunct Fellow at the School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University.

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Elham Naeef

Gender Violence in Contemporary Iranian Romance Novels

Abstract

There is enormous amount of gender violence in contemporary Iranian romance novels. Gender violence (GV) can be verbal, physical, economical, and sexual. GV can happen in private or public spheres and most often it is initiated by a close family member like the partner. It has a direct linkage with gender inequality. The specific interest of this research is to discuss factors that increase the frequency of gender violence in the novels, such as the link between GV and the tendency to regulate the female body and the existence of gender stereotypes. Meanwhile, the article looks at the attitude of Islam's scripture and Iran's legal and socio-political structure to GV. Then it discusses the cases of gendered violence to analyse why and when the heroines accept and reject the gender violence. Later, the paper will concentrate on the underlying reasons for the prevalence of gender violence in romance novels: is it a masochistic tendency, an obsession with the masculine or a substitute for eroticism? Finally, the research surveys the prevalence of GV to investigate if there has been any changes throughout the years. This paper is important in understanding the structural, cultural and ideological inequalities that perpetuate violence against women in a feminine literary genre that is predominantly written and read by women.

Biography

Elham Naeef is a second year PhD student at SAM, UNSW with Laetitia Nanquette as her main supervisor and Fiona Morrison as her co-supervisor. Her thesis is a genre, field, gender project that addresses topics like capital, and women's body, identity, gender violence and captivity in contemporary Iranian romance novels. The research includes a genre analysis of romance novels, including literary and extra-literary aspects affecting the genre. She received her Masters degree in English literature at Shahid Beheshti University and her bachelor degree at University of Tehran, Iran.

Negar Davari Ardakani & Michael G King (presenting)

The Culture of Love in Hafiz Poetry (A Comparison of the Persian poetry and its English Translation)

Abstract

Across and within cultures there is a recognition of the possibility of a special bond between two adults: 'For centuries, romantic love has been explored by writers and philosophers who have revealed multiple emotions and feelings'. The longevity of particular poetic/romantic (although evidence of literary excellence) indicates an enduring resonance within that culture and across generations. Thus it is our proposition that enduring romantic poetry illustrates a cultural attitude to romance.

Midway through the last century, social scientists began the separation of love into independent components: half a dozen 'colours of love', or more recently, 33 distinguishable aspects were found in romantic narrative. The present study uses a 10-factor love scale as a device (this tool translated into Persian and English) to analyse enduring romantic work of Hafiz from Persia. Building upon the interpretation that 'enduring' works reflect the romantic attitudes of the cultural group which embraces those oeuvres, and seeking to further illustrate the power of a different language to change the nuances of meaning (for example illustrating, even within the Romantic/Germanic group, I speak Spanish to God, Italian to women, French to men, and German to my horse) the works of Hafiz will be separately analysed in Persian and in English to seek differences embodied in language itself

Biography

Michael King (PhD, PhD, M.App.Sc., M.Ed. Clinical Psychologist) holds a doctoral degree in Psychology, University of Melbourne, has lectured on the topics of psychological assessment and other aspects of cognitive and emotional psychology in Australian and overseas universities, and published numerous professional articles on the use and interpretation of psychological assessment tools including the measurement and interpretation of style of bonding — in romantic relationships. Regarding Love and Romantic Attachment: Dr King first published in 1990 on the measurement of love. (King M. G. 'The Development of Romantic Attachment' — an analysis of the emotional components of romance. Australian Social Psychological Conference. 1991). Ongoing investigation to the present time has deepened the author's knowledge and experience in the assessment and interpretation of romantic attachment including the recent focus of judicial processes (relating to Immigration decisions) on the quality of love in a professed relationship.

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Heydar Shadi

Noah's Three Sons and Identity Politics in the Modern Middle East: Revisiting old narratives for new perspectives

Abstract

Some of the Middle East societies suffer currently from identity conflicts. These crises are partly due to the decline of an inclusive and integrative identity in the region. The losing of the regional inclusive identity can be traced back to the late 19th and the early 20th centuries when the imported ethnic-nationalist narratives replaced the local trans-ethnic narratives. For example, the narrative of Noah's three sons that, according to its Islamic version, regarded Arabs, Turks, and Persians as the members of a family was replaced by the racial nationalist discourse that regarded these three main nations of the region as coming from three completely different origins and races (Aryan, Semitic, and Altaic) without leaving any chance for a commonality.

In recent decades the nationalist boundaries and identities have been challenged and deconstructed in different fields including revisionist historiography and geology. This paper will review these critiques on the nationalist discourse in Iran and revisit the pre-modern trans-ethnic narratives such as Noah's three sons in order to reflect on developing a trans-national regional identity. An identity that can foster inter-linguistic exchanges and thereby support a sustainable peace and prosperity in the region.

Biography

Heydar Shadi is currently research fellow at Sankt Georgen Graduate School of Philosophy and Theology, Frankfurt, Germany.

He studied philosophy and Islamic classics in Tabriz, Qom, and Tehran (Iran) and did his PhD (2013) at Erfurt University, Germany on philosophy of religion in post-revolutionary Iran. He worked as lecturer and researcher at several centres in both Iran and Germany including Berlin-Brandenburgian Academy of Sciences and Medical Ethics Center at the University of Tehran. His research interests include among others: intercultural philosophy, Islamic(ate) intellectual history, and identity in the Middle East.

Some of his publications and lectures are: *The Philosophy of Religion in Post-Revolutionary Iran* (Routledge 2018), *Islamic Peace Ethics*, ed. (Nomos 2017), 'Philosophical Occidentalism in Iran,' 'Charles Taylor's Ethical Critique on Modernity,' and 'Globally Post-colonialist, Locally Colonialist: A Critique on Iranian Nationalism.'

Hamish McGregor

Reformism and political discourse in Iran: looking back at the legacy of President Seyed Mohammad Khatami

Abstract

Before the Arab Spring movement irrevocably changed the political trajectory of the Middle East, Iran's reformist movement was one of the region's most surprising and vibrant political movements. Its success was symbolised by the 1997 landslide election victory of Seyed Mohammad Khatami who became one of Iran's most popular political leaders of the twentieth century.

Reformism was brought about by a range of political and social forces but it was Khatami himself who shaped a new mode of political discourse with an eloquent rhetorical blend of political Islam, nationalism, democracy and civil rights that offered a completely new conception of state-society relations. Khatami's vision emerged as the most complete, practical and intellectually sophisticated political theory in modern Iranian history.

Despite the waxing and waning of reformist political fortunes up to the present day, this paper will argue that Khatami's reformist project was truly transformative. Khatami not only redefined Iranian politics - he changed Iranians' perceptions of themselves and their country. In 1997 a new spirit of hope, national pride, pluralism and dialogue infused Iranian politics and society. For the first time, Iranians felt they could actually talk to their leadership.

Khatami's two terms unleashed a range of political, social, and cultural changes which began to pull the Islamic Republic in new and unexpected directions. This paper also argues that Khatami and his reformist allies, by accident as much as design, brought about a further, more profound change: the evolution of Iran towards being a post-revolutionary society. This post-revolutionary society - marked by an increasingly secular and media-savvy population that is disconnected from the revolutionary-era mores and discourse of the clerical and military establishment - is the fundamental reality of Iran today.

Biography

Hamish McGregor is an independent researcher from New Zealand. He lectures regularly on Iranian and Middle Eastern history. He has lived and worked in Iran for a number of years, and completed a PhD on Modern Iran at The Australian National University in 2010.

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Parisa Nakhaei & Nelia Hyndman-Rizk

Caught Between The Formal And Informal Economy: Women home-based business (Hbb) entrepreneurs in Iran

Abstract

Despite the improvement in Iran's human development index during recent decades, the female labour force participation rate in Iran is one of the lowest in the Middle East region, at 12%. Self-employment is one strategy to overcome the problem of low female labour force participation. However, in the business process, women cope with different obstacles, both social and economic, and home-based business (HBB) women are no exception. Furthermore, due to the different experiences that women entrepreneurs face in the informal sector or formal sector, they may encounter different kinds of barriers to the entrepreneurial process. Therefore, this article presents a case study on women's home-based businesses in Tehran, Iran's capital city, in both the formal and informal sectors, focusing on the garment and food industries. Bouguerra's Model (2015) of women's entrepreneurial process is applied, as the overarching theoretical approach, which guides the objective of the article to understand: what are the barriers of women's home-based business in Iran and why do they choose to act in the formal or informal sector? The comparative case study adopts a qualitative approach, and 31 semi-structured interviews with women HBB entrepreneurs in the formal and informal economy were completed from January till May 2018. The paper finds that similar barriers impede women's home-based businesses in both the formal and informal sectors. Although Iran's government has adopted policies to assist HBB entrepreneurship and facilitate their movement into the formal sector, some barriers persist, which disrupt and delay their successful implementation. In the garment industry, for example, access to financial resources are one of the most intriguing factors that encourages women to apply for a formal work permit. However, administrative bureaucracy and loan requirements limit women's access to bank loans. Women in the food industry, meanwhile, face other barriers to the business process, including the multistage procedure to gain a work permit, because health permits are a precondition for work permits and, thus, are an additional barrier and, in some cases, act as a business inhibitor to joining the formal sector. This article's findings contribute to both theory and practice. In terms of theory, the paper findings contribute to knowledge about the barriers in the women entrepreneurial process in Iran. In terms of practice, the findings provide opportunities for policy makers to revise existing policies to promote female home-based entrepreneurship and improve female labour force participation in Iran.

Biography

Nelia Hyndman-Rizk is an organisational anthropologist and her research examines four key areas: Firstly, the economic, cultural and social dimensions of migration and transnational flows between the Middle East and Australia, especially the Lebanese Diaspora. Secondly, social movements in the Middle East, particularly the Lebanese women's movement and thirdly, cross cultural competency and diversity management in organisations and, lastly, comparative ethnic entrepreneurship.

Parisa Nakhaei is currently a PhD candidate in the business school of UNSW Canberra majoring in management and economics. Before her PhD she did a Master and a Bachelor degree at the University of Tehran in the fields of development studies and sociology. She is interested in a range of women's issues including barriers to female academic staff promotion in Iran, women and drugs in Iran---funded by UNODC---and the evolving nature of rural women's economic activities in Iran. The main foci of her PhD research studies are the motivations and challenges that women experience when working in entrepreneurial home-based businesses in Iran.

Grant Kynaston

Universalising International Law through Language: The Use of Arabic in United Nations Conventions

Abstract

Public international law purports to represent the whole international community, based on the values states have agreed on to govern their relations. This universalising mission extends to language: where major United Nations Conventions are drafted in more than one official language, each authenticated text is equally authoritative, and binding upon all parties to that treaty. (Modern Standard) Arabic was adopted as the sixth official language of the United Nations in 1973. This paper analyses the use of Arabic in UN Conventions, to explore the difficulties of applying Arabic, a language defined by its own, unique socio-cultural context, in a legal setting whose terminology and rhetoric are intrinsically Western. It first covers the history of Arabic-language law at the UN and before the International Court of Justice, noting these bodies' substantive failure to consider the distinctive features of Arabic-language legal traditions when developing generally applicable law. It then turns to the key disjuncts between international law conceptions in Western languages, and their Arabic counterparts, particularly regarding semantic range and connotation. Finally, it applies this comparative linguistic approach to the case study of a major UN Convention authenticated in Arabic, the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea ('UNCLOS'). It posits that the choice of terms and grammatical structures in Arabic have different connotations to those in English and French: these differences are substantive, potentially creating parallel legal frames in certain cases, and have consequences for the development of customary international law out of UNCLOS.

Biography

Grant Kynaston is currently completing a Bachelor of Laws at the University of Sydney. He completed a Bachelor of Arts in 2017, majoring in Latin and Classical Greek, as well as a Diploma of Language Studies, majoring in Arabic Language and Cultures. His current research, through Charles Sturt University, focuses on the modern application of traditional issues in Islamic *fiqh*, particularly in international law and family law. He also has experience in public international law, especially the Law of the Sea, and was a member of the winning team at the Australian rounds of the Jessup International Law Moot Competition in 2018. He has previously contributed academic journal articles on classical philology, particularly on Classical Greek drama and archaic poetry. Outside of academia, Grant has experience working with legal professionals in Gulf Cooperation Council states, and with community groups supporting the Arab and Muslim diaspora in Sydney.

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Hasan Alalmay

Politeness in Saudi Arabia: An Observational Analysis of Social Interaction Between Hosts, Guests, and Audiences in Television Shows

Abstract

The current study investigates greetings and responses in the context of Saudi Arabian television shows. The uniqueness of the study lies not in the status of the participants, but in the interaction between the television shows' hosts, their guests and the shows' audience participants, and the level of formality with which they approach the whole communicative act. Using observations and transcription methods, the researcher adopted a descriptive yet analytical approach based on the frequency of occurrence method. The observational method focused mostly on verbal utterances when it came to compliments and politeness due to the difficulty of accounting for telephone callers. The television shows' guests were senior and respected religious scholars, and Saudi Arabia's religious and cultural etiquettes provide the participants, hosts and guests with a wide range of greetings and responses to meet their face needs. The Politeness Theory was tested in this study, with particular relevance to positive face needs. Negative face needs were less evident in the data. Arab Muslims in general tend to be very courteous and polite to their religious scholars. The major findings of this study indicate that Saudi Arabians are particularly formal and traditional in their choice of language and greetings for their religious scholars, though with varying rates. Just as in politics, the higher a religious scholar is in his community the more his interlocutors become careful with their language and social interactions.

Biography

Hasan Alalmay is a doctoral student at The University of New England. He has a MSc, Ulster University and has completed a Pre-Masters course at The University of Sussex, UK. Hasan has a Bachelors degree in Arabic Language and Linguistics, and a General Diploma in Education from King Kahlid University, Abha, Saudi Arabia. He has worked as a Lecturer in Arabic Linguistics at King Khalid University since 2013. His research interests include Pragmatics and Discourse Analysis, Conversation Analysis, and Sociolinguistics.

Zakaryia Almahasees

Holistic Assessment of Google Translate in the Translation of UN Documents from English into Arabic

Abstract

The United Nations (UN) is the largest document producer in the world. The UN resolutions and reports are adopted by the UN body, which is always issued either by the Security Council or the General Assembly. Translation of UN documents has a central role to the functioning of the organisation. Despite the long history of translation practice at the UN, very little research has been conducted on the capacity of Machine Translation (MT) in dealing with the UN documents.

In recent Years, MT has been used widely throughout the world for free or at a low cost. The spread of MT entails an intensive analysis of the translation produced by MT systems. The present study scrutinises the capacity of the two prominent systems – in translating UN documents from Arabic into English. The question that arises in the study, could we place our trust in MT systems in handling UN documents or not? To conduct that, the study has adopted Costa's (et al) framework *Linguistic Error Analysis* (2015) to shed light on the limitations and strengths of MT when dealing with UN documents. The results of the study shows that both systems achieve good results in the orthographic, lexis and grammatical levels. They also obtain satisfactory results of the lexical and grammatical collocations levels. However, MT is still incapable of providing full accurate and natural translation for UN documents because the nature of UN documents requires specific technical and stylistic requirements, which is inaccessible by MT systems. The two systems can usually convey the gist of the input, which can aid the potential users to grasp the subject matter of the source text. MT is still far behind human translators in creating quality translations.

Biography

Zakaryia Mustafa Slameh Almahasees was born in Jordan. Currently, he is a PhD student in Machine Translation at University of Western Australia. His main research is 'Translation and Technology: Machine Translation'. He is working on English-Arabic Machine Translation systems. He has worked for three years as a full-time lecturer in the English Department, Najran University, Saudi Arabia. He got his PhD scholarship from Applied Science Private University, Jordan in 2015. He completed his MA in English Language and Literature in 2012 Language and Literature, Jordan and his BA in English in 2008 from Yarmouk University, Jordan.

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Mona AlBluwi

Investigating Learners' Beliefs about Arabic as a Foreign Language

Abstract

In the last three decades, the interest of Second Language Acquisition (SLA) research interest has shifted from a teacher-classroom oriented to a learner-centered approach focusing on language learner's characteristics such as personality, motivation and aptitude. With that shift came the interest in learners' beliefs in Applied Linguistics in the mid 1980s and research on the nature and role of learners' beliefs about second/foreign language (L2) learning has been increasing since then. The essential role of learners' beliefs about language learning lies in their influence on the learning process including learning strategy use and learning outcomes. SLA research suggests a link between learners' beliefs and their achievement, behaviour, productivity, and persistence in the learning process in and out of the classroom.

The current study draws on this rationale attempting to identify learners' beliefs about learning Arabic as a foreign language using BALLI questionnaire (Horwitz, 1988) which is widely employed in previous studies with recognized reliability and rigor. In addition, metaphor analysis is adopted following Ellis (2003) to gain an insight into learners' subconscious ideologies about Arabic language learning in their own words.

The results of the study will shed lights on different components of learners' beliefs about foreign language learning while gaining in-depth investigation of the underlying cognitive and affective dimensions of learners' beliefs about foreign language learning. It also contributes to the field of Applied Linguistics since it can offer L2 teachers and curriculum designers better awareness of the learners' abilities, expectations, and satisfaction with their language classes.

Biography

Mona AlBluwi is a lecturer of Linguistics at King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Her research interests include applied linguistics and second language acquisition, especially learning Arabic as a foreign language. Mona started her PhD degree at ANU a year ago and her current doctoral research is an experimental study which investigates the speech perception and production of Arabic guttural sounds by Australian second language learners.

Terhi Nurmikko-Fuller

Ancient tales and modern machines: publishing Sumerian literary narratives in machine-readable formats

Abstract

The rich literary history of the ancient Middle East provides us with large collections of creative writings in a multitude of ancient languages, ranging from the linguistic isolate Sumerian to the Semitic Akkadian (with all the dialects of Assyrian and Babylonian), and the Indo-European Hittite to name but a few. This multilingual world is captured in the writings of Akkadian scribes who wrote literature in Sumerian, or added glosses creating bilingual inscriptions. The narratives themselves manifest across time and space, appearing and reappearing through the literary tradition as bilingual scribes compete to display their skills, expertise, and prior knowledge through references, allusions, and comments embedded into the body of the story, appearing as reoccurring narrative arcs and in the dialogues of proverb-quoting characters.

This paper will discuss the affordances and challenges presented by the processes of representing these inscriptions in machine-readable formats. This, by necessity a reductionist approach, has helped highlight the reoccurring motifs of literary narratives from the Middle East, many of which have an element of universal recognisability about them.

Biography

Terhi Nurmikko-Fuller is a lecturer in Digital Humanities at the Centre for Digital Humanities Research at the Australian National University. Her research involves the use of Linked Data and Semantic Web technologies to support and diversify scholarship across a range of topics in the Digital Humanities. Her academic background is in the study of the ancient languages of the ancient Near East, particular in the context of examining the narrative structures of Sumerian literary compositions of the Old Babylonian period.

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Leila Kouatly and France Meyer

Developing and Teaching Arabic Online: Challenges and lessons learned

Abstract

In 2013, The Australian National University dedicated funding to put a number of language courses online. Persian Online was first developed and offered in Semester 1 2014, followed by Media Arabic Online in Semester 2, 2014 and Introductory Arabic Online in 2015. Although we had approval to reproduce our In-Person course manual material for our online lessons, we chose a more challenging path. We decided to write our own reading texts and grammar notes, record corresponding audio files, create interactive glossaries, and design an original course purposely-aimed at a broader audience and catering for both students and people in the work force. Creating such course while ensuring that its learning outcomes are the same as its on-campus counterpart, presented a number of challenges in regards to content, delivery and assessment.

This presentation aims at providing an overview of the course structure, and at sharing some of the successes and issues we faced as well as the lessons we learned while developing and teaching this innovative course over the past four years.

Biographies

Leila Kouatly is an Associate Lecturer in the Arabic program. Ms Kouatly holds a Bachelor of Information Management from the University of Canberra and is currently completing a Master of Teaching (Languages Other Than English). She has been involved in the teaching of CAIS Arabic courses since 2011. More recently, she held the role of Educational Developer for the CAIS Online Languages project, working on the design and development of the CAIS courses for online delivery. As part of this project, Leila has worked on two levels of Introductory and Intermediate Arabic courses as well as the Arab Current Affairs and Media course. Her interests include Second Language Acquisition and Technology-Enhanced Language Learning. Leila is working with France Meyer to publish an Introductory Arabic e-Text based on the online course that they designed and implemented through CAIS. They have recently been awarded an ANU eTEXT Grant to work on this publication.

France Meyer grew up in Morocco, and studied in France and later in Cairo. She was awarded a scholarship at the *Institut Français du Proche Orient* in Damascus where she lived for two years. She is a professional literary translator of Modern Arabic Literature and has translated into French many articles and 19 novels, seven of them by Egyptian writer and Nobel Prize Laureate Naguib Mahfouz.

Ms Meyer has worked in collaboration with the *Institut du Monde Arabe* and is currently a translator and reviewer of Modern Arabic literature for several major French Publishing Houses (Piranha, Kero, Actes Sud, Phébus, etc). Her latest literary translation of Ahmed Saadawi's *Frankenstein in Baghdad* (2014 International Prize for Arabic Fiction - IPAF) was published in September 2016 by Piranha Publishing House, Paris, and received the *Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire* (Foreign fiction) in June 2017.

She took up her position at CAIS in January 2011 and is the convenor and lecturer of the Introductory Arabic Program, both on-campus and online.

Mahmoud Pargoo

‘Haram’ or ‘culturally unacceptable’? Secularizing language in post-Khomeini Iran

Abstract

Post-Khomeini Iran has shifted paradigmatically from the early revolutionary years. In cosmology, it does not open a room for God's intervention; in the telos of life, it is re-oriented from the hereafter (the centrality of martyrdom) to this world; and in politics, once widespread resentment from capitalism and the US, it is turned into an urge for better a relation with the US, and merging with global economy. There is also a shift from a society wherein poverty was a virtue (the Islam of bare-footers, dispossessed, and the poor) to one whose focus is on welfare and prosperity. After three decades of struggles, Iran seems diverged from the ethos of revolutionary religiosity, or, in better terms, it is secularized. This long march to secularity was entangled with a profound and extensive linguistic change. To make the state's new Islamic secularity acceptable to a wider public, a new language was required. Certain words were removed from the official jargon; others were invented or reintroduced; basic conceptual metaphors behind those linguistic expressions were changed or replaced and so on. This article will explore these transformations by focusing on the issues of hijab and alcohol.

Biography

Currently a PhD candidate at Institute for Social Justice (Australian Catholic University), **Mahmoud Pargoo** works on the intersection of Shia fiqh and secularisation in Iran in his thesis titled 'Paradoxes of secularisation and Islamisation: the case of post-revolutionary Iran'. Mahmoud has been a lecturer at University of Sydney teaching 'Islam and Democracy in the Muslim World' and his most recent academic paper is published in 'Islam and Muslim and Christian Relations' (2017) titled 'Expansion and Contraction of Scripture: The Ritual (Im)purity of Unbelievers According to Shī'a Jurisprudence'. His in-depth comments on current affairs of the Middle East is published in Washington-based Al-Monitor and Lobelog.

ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Muhammed Ourang

A Syllabus for Teaching Persian Grammatical Tenses: From Critique on Existing Resources to Designing Tasks

Abstract

Although the existing resources on teaching Persian grammar have covered off a large proportion of this area, there are some methodological flaws which are not addressed in previous studies yet. The present research aims to propose an organised syllabus for teaching a selected set of grammatical tenses to Persian learners at upper-intermediate to advanced level. The research, which is conducted in task-based language framework, examines the weaknesses and strengths of existing resources for teaching grammar and then sheds light on a proposed syllabus focusing on grammar teaching through tasks. Research populations including all Persian teaching books, among which 'Applied Grammar, Vol. 1 & 2' (Jafari, 2011), and 'Farsi Shirin Ast' (Shabani Jadidi & Brookshaw, 2010) were selected using convenience sampling method. Chosen tenses of 'past simple, present perfect and impossible conditionals' were analysed within the samples. Afterwards, a syllabus was designed to teach grammatical tenses via short films, short stories and narrations. The proposed tasks facilitate learners' knowledge of grammatical tenses in Persian.

Biography

Muhammed Ourang is PhD candidate of Linguistics at University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Sydney. He is currently working on documentation of Lari language as an endangered variety in Iran. Muhammed has 5 years of experience in teaching Persian to speakers of other languages in centres of Qazvin International University and National University of Iran (post-revolution Beheshti). Teaching the skills of listening and writing are among his interests following designing syllabus for speaking at an advanced level.

**Parsa Bamshadi, Shadi Ansarian, Fatemeh Bahrami,
Negar Davari Ardakani (presenting)**

Persian Kinship Terms: From sociocultural and cognitive points of view

Abstract

Kinship has been a highly disputed subject in anthropology and linguistics and kin terms have constituted one of the most interesting areas of research in human and social sciences since the opening years of the twentieth century. So far, researchers have studied the subject by different approaches and have arrived at different conclusions. One of these approaches is Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) which is taken by Wierzbicka (2010, 2013) in exploring kin terms of some Australian languages. The NSM approach is based on evidence that there is a strictly limited set of basic, universal meanings, known as semantic primes, which can be used to describe complex meanings in all languages. Besides, it proposes the notion of semantic molecules as complex meanings which are decomposable into combinations of semantic primes but which function as units in the structure of other, more complex concepts. In the present study we try to analyse Persian kin terms within the framework of NSM as a non-Anglocentric and culture-neutral analytical framework to find out whether we can explicate Persian kin terms by use of seven semantic molecules suggested by Wierzbicka (2010, 2013) - i.e. 'mother,' 'father,' 'wife,' 'husband,' 'men,' 'women' and 'children'- and if possible, how it can be accomplished with the techniques of NSM semantics. The initial results of the research propose that these semantic molecules accompanied by semantic primes can successfully describe diverse kin terms in Persian from an indigenous perspective intelligible for both Persian and Non-Persian Speakers.

Biographies

Parsa Bamshadi is a PhD candidate at the Shahid Beheshti University (SBU). He holds a Masters in General Linguistics from Razi University. His main research interests are Cognitive Construction Morphology (CCM), Cognitive Construction Grammar (CCG), Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) and Teaching Persian to Speakers of Other Languages (TPSOL).

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ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Leila Alhagh (presenting), Petronella Nel, Robyn Sloggett & Amir Zekrgoo

A Middle Eastern Manuscript Narrates: A study of text and paintings of Futūḥal-Ḥaramayn

Abstract

This paper presents an investigation into historical, emotional, social and cultural narratives from 15th -16th centuries Iran as reflected in a Persian manuscript (MUL17) from the Middle Eastern collection of the University of Melbourne. The Collection has around 200 manuscripts including Qur'ans and various commentaries, dictionaries, poetry books, love stories, biographies and medical treatises written in various languages.

Şad Kalamih Shāh Vilāyat: Manẓūmih dar Ḥajj (MUL17) is a Persian manuscript from the collection. It consists of two separate parts bound together as one unit. Each part is an independent complete manuscript exhibiting noticeable characteristics and values. The first part of MUL17 contains one hundred sayings of 'Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib and their translation to Farsi in the form of poetry. The second part contains pieces of poetry on the poet's spiritual and cultural experience during the Muslims' famous pilgrimage 'Hajj'. This part contains detailed and well-performed illustrations which can be considered as maps of actual places in Mecca and Medina. It is an illustrated travelogue documenting important social, geographical, cultural and religious information.

After introducing the second part of MUL17, the poet and his life, this paper studies the overall structure of the text and three paintings of the manuscript in detail. For this purpose, historical context, significance and narratives and pieces of poetry related to each painting have been studied. Other copies of this manuscript, maps and old photographs of actual places have been consulted as well.

Biographies

Leila Alhagh is a PhD candidate (SHAPS – GCCMC) with her research based on the artistic and literary aspects of 'Sad kalamih Shah Vilayat (One hundred sayings by Ali): an analytical study of MUL17 (a manuscript from the University of Melbourne Middle East manuscript collection) with a research focus on codicology, artistic and cultural interpretation of manuscripts.

Petronella Nel is a Lecturer at the Grimwade at the University of Melbourne. She is currently leading a collaborative ARC Linkage Project 'A National Framework for managing malignant plastics in Museum Collections'. She is interested in developing analytical techniques for characterising polymers, dyes and pigments in order to inform their preservation.

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Amir Zekrgoo has been writing and lecturing on subjects related to art, symbolism and mysticism in Asian religious traditions (Islamic, Buddhist and Hindu) for over 25 years. He has authored 12 books and over a hundred articles. He is an artist and his work has been exhibited in over 50 exhibitions in Asia, America and Europe since 1977.

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