



in their words | in our words

Date

23 & 24 November 2017
9am-5.30pm

Location

**The Centre for Arab &
Islamic Studies**

Building 127, Ellery Cres, ANU

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Register

W [cais.cass.anu.edu.au/
events/conference/](http://cais.cass.anu.edu.au/events/conference/)



The Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (ANU) is proud to convene its third conference for postgraduates and early career researchers. This two day interdisciplinary conference is open to scholars, students, professionals, and the general public with an interest in the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia.

The conference, titled *in their words | in our words* will be two days of in-depth discussion on contemporary issues of the region. It will highlight research on the images, words, ideas and other representations that dominate discussion of and in the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia. The conference is designed to attract research and participation that addresses the increasing complexities of political analysis in these regions.

It will meet the need of a renewed and sustained engagement with empirical and online material from these regions by both researchers and policy-makers. We have witnessed, for example, the ongoing mutation of propaganda tactics by Islamist groups and the frequent confused efforts at interpretation by Western commentators. This highlights the necessity for a discourse on enhancing approaches to the analysis of these emerging trends.

This conference promises to be full of insight for the public and private sectors, and others engaged in the region. It is a great opportunity to hear the latest research in this critical field. The conference organisers have endeavoured to present the research through a strategic lens, for the benefit of both the academic audience, and the policy-making community. Finally, this conference will be an opportunity for networking and developing collaborative relationships.

Presented by

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

**ANU College of
Arts & Social Sciences**

This conference was funded by The ANU Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies, and the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences, and supported by the ANU Humanities Research Centre. The CAIS postgraduate students would like to thank each of these academic units.



IN THEIR WORDS | IN OUR WORDS

Day 1 – Thursday, 23 November

8:15 – 9:00: Registrations and Coffee

9:00 – 10:10: Opening Addresses and Keynote speeches

10:10 – 10:30: Morning tea

10:30- 11:45 Panel 1: Gender in the 21 Century Middle East

Cristina Mouratides-Mediouni: *Manhood in Post-revolution Tunisia*

Ayah Abubasheer: *Women in Hamas*

Phoebe Pua: *Universal Feminism in the Afghan Desert*

11:45- 1:00 Panel 2: Changing dynamics within Kurdish Politics

Eda Günaydın: *Malleable allies? An applied discourse analysis of foreign policy, Kurdish identity and agency in Syria*

Renee Westra: *Democratic Autonomy: the 'other' solution to the Kurdish problem*

Dr Murat Yurtbilir: *Voting for the HDP in Turkey: Kurdish Movement in Turkish Parliamentary Elections*

1:00-1:50 Lunch

1:50- 3:20 - Panel 3: Russia and its surrounding region

Kyle Wilson: *Dealings with the Russians*

Ian Parmeter: *Putin, Israel and Palestine: Implications for US interests under Trump*

Dr Kirill Nourzhanov: *Russian soft power in Tajikistan: a hard job in a competing environment'*

3:20-3:45- Afternoon tea

3:45-4:55- Panel 4: Discourse on the Other

Samuel Blanch: *An anthropological challenge to knowledge-by-representation in Shi'a communities?*

Morteza Bahrani: *Philosophy and modernity as 'Others' in Islamic past and present*

Priyanka Chandra: *The Politics of Media in the Arab Spring: Hegemony and Counter-hegemony*

4:55-6:05- Panel 5: Representations in literature

Mahmood Haidari: *Representations of the other in the fictional Works of Abdul Rahman-Munif*

Geoff Piggot: *Beyond the Other: The Empathetic Power of Contemporary Narrative Non-Fiction of Mumbai*

Beth Harris: *'Where are their words?' Western Travel Literature about the Middle East and Central Asia*

Day 2 – Friday, 24 November

9:00-9:20- Coffee

9:20 – 11:00- Panel 6: Muslims as a minority

Sandra Elhelw Wright *Domestic and family violence in Australian Muslim communities: A different kind of domestic terrorism*

Simone Theobald *When is Islamophobia not Islamophobia?: Anxiety and 'anti-Muslim' canards in the representations of local Sunni Muslims in Shi'ite Mashhad*

Dr Ghada M. Wadeisa *Cyber Islam: A religious space between the Mates, the King and the Mufti*

11:00-11:30- Morning tea with conference photograph

11:30 – 1:00- Panel 7: Iran and Persia

Setayesh Nooraninejad: *Education and the Writing Culture of Iranian Soldiers in the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988)*

Adel Hashemi: *Demystifying the new martyrdom narrative in Twelver Shi'i Iran: Martyrs of Shrine Defenders*

Mahmoud Pargoo: *Paradoxes of Islamisation and Secularisation: The Case of Post-Revolutionary Iran*

1:00- 2:00- Lunch

2:00-3:00- Panel 8: Memory and Empire

Dinara Pisareva and Nygmet Ibadildin: *Famine, Public Memory, and the Other in Kazakhstan and Ukraine*

3:00 – 3:30- Afternoon tea

3:30-4:30 - Panel 9: Iraq after Saddam

Damian Doyle: *Sadrists: Militant sectarianism or aspiring nationalism?*

Jon Norling: *U.S.-Iraq: A patron-client relationship?*

4:30-4:50- Closing Address