



MENA Alumni at the 2022 MESA Meeting December 1-4; Denver, Colorado

Thirteen MENA Workshops alumni, including fellows and co-leaders, presented their research and/or served as discussants at the 2022 MESA Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2022

Contested Culture: Identity Formation, Nationalism, and the State in the Modern Middle East

- *Presenting Author: Hamad H. Albloshi (2016 alumnus), Kuwait University, Identity and Political Cartoons: Arab Nationalists and Ajam in Kuwait in 1960s*
- *Presenting Author: Ahmed Alowfi, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Cosmopolitanism in a Nation-building Project: Evidence from the Art Fields in the Post-2015 Saudi Arabia*

Mobilization, Demobilization, and Protest in Jordan

- *Presenting Author: Jillian M. Schwedler (2021 co-leader), CUNY Hunter College, Questioning Hashemite Jordan: Spatial Dimensions of Protest in and against the Hashemite Kingdom*

Politics of Built Space and the Environment

- *Presenting Author: Motasem Abuzaid (2021 alumnus), Georgetown University, Networks, Urban Space, and Mobilization in Hama and Aleppo*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2022

Weaponized Allegories: The Hermeneutics of Classical Persian Literature and Culture

- *Presenting Co-author: Tereza Jermanová (2013 alumna), Charles University, Coalition Maintenance during Democratization: Comparative Insights from Tunisia and Yemen*

Scripting Change in Saudi Arabia: Narratives and Narrators, Policies and Policymakers

- *Presenting Author: Sultan Alamer (2015 alumnus), George Washington University, The Death of Wahhabism: A Bottom-Up Analysis of the state-religion relations in Saudi Arabia.*

Scripting Change in Saudi Arabia: Narratives and Narrators, Policies and Policymakers

- *Discussant: Luai Allarakia (2015 alumnus), University of Richmond, The Shura Council and the Changing Demographics of the New Saudi Arabia*

Faith-Based Activism, Charity, and the Maxims of Governance in Contemporary Shi'i Politics

- *Discussant: Oula Kadhum (2016 alumna), Birmingham University, Iraqi Shia Transnational Charities in the Age of ISIS and Counter Terrorism*

Roundtable: Statelessness in the Modern Middle East

- *Presenter: Noora Lori (2016 co-leader), Boston University*

Roundtable: Research Methods, Fieldwork and Publishing under State Scrutiny

- *Presenter: Noora Lori (2016 co-leader), Boston University*

Sultans of Swings: The Zigzagging of State, Society, and Economy in the New Maghreb

- *Presenting Author: Zaynab El Bernoussi (2021 co-leaders), international University of Rabat Constitutional Tales and the Quest for Dignity in Morocco and Tunisia since 2011*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022

Peacebuilding in Muslim Societies: Local Initiatives in Conflict Management

- *Presenting Author: Dima Smaira (2013 alumna), AUB Navigating Dahiye, Negotiating Everyday Peace: Mediation practices across Beirut's Southern Suburbs*

Roundtable: Enter the Global Gulf – Breaking Free from Regional Particularism

- *Organizer & Presenting Author: Courtney Freer (2015 alumna), Emory University*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022

Bringing in the Other Islamists – comparing Shia and Sunni Islamism

- *Presenting Author: Courtney Freer (2015 alumna), Emory University, *An Islamist Disadvantage?: Revisiting Electoral Outcomes for Islamist Parties in the Middle East**

Reconceptualizing Knowledge and Narratives

- *Presenting Author: Mona Khneisser (2021 alumna), University of Illinois, *Unsettling Crisis: Rethinking Crisis Narratives & Epistemes in Theorizing Political Economy & the Everyday in Lebanon**