

The 12th Nordic Conference on Middle Eastern Studies
“The Middle East in Myth and Reality”
University of Iceland, 22-24 September 2022

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Day One	Thursday 22 September
8.15–9.00	<i>Registration</i>
9.00–10.30 University Main Building Aula	Welcome by Thorir Jonsson Hraundal (University of Iceland, conference organizer) and Mark Sedgwick (Aarhus University, Chair of the Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies) Keynote by Ragnhild Johnsrud Zorgati (University of Oslo): “Narrating the Middle East in Nineteenth-century Scandinavia: Travelogues, Academic essays, Novels, Paintings, and Photography in-between Myth and Reality”.
10.30–11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.00–13.00	Panels I
13.00–14.15	<i>Lunch break</i>
14.15–16.15	Panels II
17.00–19.00	<i>Reception at Reykjavik City Hall</i>

Day Two	Friday 23 September
9.00–11.00	Panels III
11.00–11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30–13.00	Panels IV
13.00–14.30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14.30–16.00	Panels V
16.00–16.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.30–18.00 University Main Building Aula	Keynote by Charles Kurzman (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill): “Myth-Making and Reality-Making in Middle East Political Movements”. MA Thesis Award
19.30	<i>Conference Dinner</i>

Day Three	Saturday 24 September
9.00–10.30 University Main Building Aula	Keynote by Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen (University of Copenhagen): “The Prophet Muhammad in Myth and Reality”. General Assembly of the Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies
10.30–11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.00–13.00	Panels VI
13.00–14.30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14.30–16.00	Panels VII
16.00–16.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.30–18.00	Panels VIII
18.00	<i>Conference ends</i>

FULL PROGRAM

Day One	Thursday 22 September
8.15–9.00	<i>Registration</i>
9.00–10.30 University Main Building Aula	<p>Welcome by Thorir Jonsson Hraundal (University of Iceland, conference organizer) and Mark Sedgwick (Aarhus University, Chair of the Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies)</p> <p>Keynote by Ragnhild Johnsrud Zorgati (University of Oslo): “Narrating the Middle East in Nineteenth-century Scandinavia: Travelogues, Academic essays, Novels, Paintings, and Photography in-between Myth and Reality”.</p>
10.30–11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.00–13.00	Panels I
V-007	US and European Foreign Policy in the MENA region
	<p><i>Chair: Tine Gade (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)</i></p> <p>Anne Sofie Schøtt (Royal Danish Defence College): “Strategic Consequences of Tactical Alliances: The US Balancing Act in Syria”.</p> <p>Jacob Abadi (United States Air Force Academy): “Sudan’s Role in U.S. Defence of the Middle East and North Africa: The Debate and its Consequences”.</p> <p>Kensuke Yamamoto (University of Shizuoka): “Regional Struggle over Jerusalem’s Guardianship and Jordanian Regime Survival during the Trump Administration”.</p> <p>Javad Keypour (Tallinn University of Technology): “EU’s Role in Preserving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action [Iran Nuclear Deal]: Reluctance or Lack of Potential?”</p>
V-008	Dress, Camps, Punk, and Book Covers
	<p><i>Chair: Pekka Tuominen (University of Helsinki)</i></p> <p>Cailin Kwoh (Lund University): “Contextualizing Material Culture: How Palestinians Change Narrative through Dress”.</p> <p>Andreea Midvighi (University of Basel): “Palestinian Refugee Camps between ‘Myth’ and ‘Reality’”.</p> <p>Hasan Karakilinc (University of Iceland and University of Toulouse - Jean Jaurès): “The Punk Scene in Turkey: Resistance and Alternative Spaces”.</p> <p>Lovisa Berg (Högskolan Dalarna): “Never Judge a Book by its Cover: The Visual Myth of the Middle East”.</p>

Heimasvæði	Arab Television and Media post 2011
	<p><i>Chair: Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen (University of Copenhagen)</i></p> <p>Andreas Dohn (University of Copenhagen): “<i>Arḍ al-Anbiya</i>’: Myths on Modern Maps”.</p> <p>Ehab Galal (University of Copenhagen): “A Lice Between Two Nails: How Arabic Media Have Covered the Russian-Ukraine Conflict”.</p> <p>Christine Aster Crone (University of Copenhagen): “History Writing in the Syrian Media War”.</p> <p>Zenia Bredmose Henriksen Ab Yonus (University of Copenhagen): “Bulbul al-Thawra: The Media Coverage of the Songbird of the Syrian Revolution”.</p>
V-107	Living in Displacement: Histories, Strategies, and Opportunities
	<p><i>Chair: Are John Knudsen (Chr. Michelsen Institute)</i></p> <p>Robert Forster (University of Bergen and Chr. Michelsen Institute): “Under One Roof: Resettling the Flood-Displaced of the Khan al-Askar in Tripoli, Lebanon”.</p> <p>Rebecca Bryant (Utrecht University): “Reshaping Place in Exile: Istanbul and Gaziantep as Syrian-Turkish Cities”.</p> <p>Kamel Dorai (CNRS): “From Forced Migrants to Necessity Entrepreneurs: The Case of Refugees from Syria in Lebanon”.</p> <p>Kjersti Berg (Chr. Michelsen Institute): “Choosing Immobility? Palestinian Refugees from Syria and Syrian Refugees in Gaza”.</p>
Vigdísarstofa	Uses of History
	<p><i>Chair: Bjørn Olav Utvik (University of Oslo)</i></p> <p>Jacob Ashkenazi and Nimrod Luz (Kinneret College): “Christian Landscape in the Middle East: From Mythological Landscape into Landscape of Myth”.</p> <p>Maribel Fierro (Institute of Languages and Cultures of the Mediterranean and Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas): “Al-Andalus: Myth, History, and Politics”.</p> <p>Thorsteinn Helgason (University of Iceland): “The Turkish Raid in Context”.</p> <p>Marianne Laanatza (MENA.se): “Myths and Realities in Algerian-Moroccan Contexts”.</p>
13.00–14.15	<i>Lunch break</i>
14.15–16.15	Panels II
V-007	Arab and European Foreign Policy
	<p><i>Chair: Javad Keypour (Tallinn University of Technology)</i></p> <p>Eva Taterova (Mendel University): “Czechoslovakia and the Arab-Israeli Conflict in 1948-1955: The Frequent Myths of Czechoslovak Diplomatic Engagement in the Middle East Revised”.</p> <p>Laila Makboul (University of Oslo): “‘Religious’ Opposition to the UN Beyond the Category of Religion”.</p> <p>Giulia Daga (University of Trento): “Re-Constructing Oman’s image: The Role of Legitimization Strategies in Sultan Qaboos bin Said’s Foreign Policy Discourse (1970-1976)”.</p>

	Tine Gade (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs): “Domestic Reform and its Effects on Available Foreign Policy Repertoires in Morocco and Saudi Arabia”.
V-008	Gender Issues in the Arabian Peninsula and East Africa
	<p><i>Chair: Yafa Shanneik (Lund University)</i></p> <p>Nawra Al Lawati (Sultan Qaboos University of Oman and the University of Liverpool): “Substantive Representation of Women through Appointed Parliaments: A Case on Oman’s State Council” (withdrawn).</p> <p>Zeineb Alsabeegh (University of Edinburgh): “Female Citizens in Mixed-Nationality Marriages in the Gulf”.</p> <p>Tia Kangaspunta (University of Helsinki): “Women's Mobilization in the Revolutions of Tunisia, Egypt, and Sudan”.</p> <p>Samia al-Nagar and Liv Tønnessen (Chr. Michelsen Institute): “Women, Protest and Backlash: Igniting Feminist Mobilization in Sudan”.</p>
Heimasvæði	Contesting Realities: Issues in Arab Media Studies
	<p><i>Chair: Greg Burris (American University of Beirut)</i></p> <p>Greg Burris (American University of Beirut): “Dreams/Cinema/Palestine: Fictional Places and Unoccupied Spaces in Palestinian Documentary Film”.</p> <p>Hatim el-Hibri (George Mason University): “Direct Address, Affect, and the Genres of Livestreaming in Revolutionary Times”.</p> <p>Heather Jaber (University of Pennsylvania): “Digital Conversion: Converting Bad Feeling to Good in Post-Revolutionary Egypt and Lebanon”.</p> <p>Marwan M. Kraidy (North-Western University in Qatar): “Middle Eastern Studies, Media Studies, and South-to-South Relations”.</p>
V-107	Cultures in Conflict? Football and Religion in the Middle East
	<p><i>Chair: Leif Stenberg (Agha Khan University)</i></p> <p>Dag Tuastad (University of Oslo): “Football as Orthopraxy in Shiite Lebanon”.</p> <p>Bjørn Olav Utvik (University of Oslo): “The Muslim Brothers and the Good Muslim Football Spirit”.</p> <p>Hans Hognestad (University of Southeast Norway): “Stadium Rituals in and out of the Middle East: Conflict and Celebration”.</p> <p>Tamir Sorek (The Pennsylvania State University): “The Palestinian Flag is Back: Arab Soccer in a Jewish State Revisited”.</p>
Vigdísarstofa	Migration and Diasporas in the MENA Region
	<p><i>Chair: Katharine Mackinnon (University of Glasgow)</i></p> <p>James Worrall (University of Leeds): “The Crossing Places: Mapping Iranian Diasporas in the Gulf States”.</p> <p>Lucia Carminati (University of Oslo): “Undocumented Mobility in the Suez Canal, 1859-1900: Illegality and Invisibility on Egypt’s Eastern Shores”.</p> <p>Mari Norbakk (Chr. Michelsen Institute): “Matters of Money, Matters of Nations: An Ethnographic Exploration of the Economic Practices of Egyptian Expatriates”.</p> <p>Uğur Zekeriya Peçe (Lehigh University): “The Myth of Islamic Fatalism: How Ottoman Peasants Became the Unwanted of Europe in a Climate of Conflict”.</p>
17.00–19.00	Reception at Reykjavik City Hall

Day Two	Friday 23 September
9.00–11.00	Panels III
V-007	The Syrian Civil War
	<p><i>Chair: Laila Makboul (University of Oslo)</i> Ido Yahel (Tel Aviv University): “Establishment through Influence: Iranian and Turkish Soft Power in Syria”. Jack McGinn (London School of Economics): “Myth as Mobiliser in the Early Syrian Revolution”. Tina Hyypä (University of Helsinki): “Local Councils in the Syrian War and Limits of Civil Governance”. Yaron Friedman (University of Haifa): “Alawi Myth and the Civil War in Syria”.</p>
V-008	Minorities: Assyrian, Druze, and Bahá’í
	<p><i>Chair: Knut S. Vikør (University of Bergen)</i> Rand Saleh Al-Jumaily (University of Toronto): “The Myth of ‘Minority’ Dissidence: Rewriting the Assyrians as a Nationalist Movement”. Randy Ramal (Arizona State University): “The Truth about the Druze Belief in al-Ḥākim’s Divinity”. Shay Rozen (Avshalom institute): “West Meet the Middle East: Bahá’í Western-Women Pilgrimage to the Holy Land”. Svante Lundgren (Lund University): “The Rise and Fall of Assyrian Nationalism”.</p>
Heimasvæði	Modern Iran: Politics and Culture
	<p><i>Chair: Mohammad Naeimi (University of Iceland)</i> Ata Heshmati (University of Toronto): “Machinisme in Iran: Fascination with Technology or Suspicion Against Colonialism?”. Kjetil Selvik (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs): “Routinizing Revolution: The ‘We’ of the Regime in Ali Khamenei’s Political Discourse”. Olivia Glombitza (Autonomous University of Barcelona): “Political Narratives as Instruments of Persuasion: The Iran-Iraq War in the Islamic Republic’s Everyday Political Life”. Zahra Abbasi (University of Oslo): “Mental Health as Conspicuous Consumption: Demystifying Social Mobility and Psychotherapy in Iran”.</p>
V-107	Migration and Diasporas in the West
	<p><i>Chair: Sofiya Zahova (University of Iceland)</i> Bosmat Yefet (Ariel University): “The Egyptian State and the Diaspora in the West”. Bruce Maddy-Weitzman (Tel Aviv University): “Myth-Breaking and Myth-Making: The Amazigh Movement’s Challenge to Arab-Muslim and European Orthodoxies”. Konrad Pędziwiatr (Cracow University of Economics) and Karolina Sobczak-Szelc (University of Warsaw): “The Role of Social Representations of Europe in MENA migrations: Case of Tunisia”.</p>

Vigdísarstofa	Shiism: Imagination, Dreams, and the Clergy
	<p><i>Chair: Erik Sundblad (Stockholm University)</i></p> <p>Hunter Bandy (Université PSL): "The Conversion of Gilan from Zaydi to Imami Shiism: Between Myth and Reality".</p> <p>Nada Al-Hudaid (Lund University): "The Pragmatic of Dreams: Sharing and Interpreting Dreams among Pious Shia Female Artists in Kuwait".</p> <p>Oliver Scharbrodt (Lund University): "Beyond Quietism and Activism: Clergy-State Relations in Contemporary Twelver Shiism".</p> <p>Mohammad Mesbahi (The Islamic College & Birmingham University): "The Challenges of Remaining Independent with a View to Emerging Mujtahids".</p>
V-108	Climate Change and the Green Shift in the Middle East
	<p><i>Chair: Albrecht Hofheinz (University of Oslo)</i></p> <p>Teresa Pepe (University of Oslo): "'That Future is now and it Stinks': Climate Change in Contemporary Arabic Dystopian Fiction".</p> <p>Albrecht Hofheinz (University of Oslo): "Myth or Reality? The Green Shift in Arab Media Discourse Around COP26".</p> <p>Brynjar Lia (University of Oslo): "Political Culture and Climate Change Mitigation in the Middle East".</p> <p>Greg Shapland (LSE): "Climate Change in the MENA Region: The Main Vulnerabilities".</p>
11.00-11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30-13.00	Panels IV
V-007	Beyond Sunni-centrism: Shia and Sunni Islamism in the Middle East (I of II)
	<p><i>Chair: Courtney Freer (Emory University)</i></p> <p>Morten Valbjørn (Aarhus University): "Sunni-centrism, Shia Islamism and Sectarianism".</p> <p>Toby Matthiesen (Ca'Foscari University and Stanford University): "Comparing State Sponsorship for Sunni and Shii Islamist movements".</p> <p>Maria-Louise Clausen (Danish Institute for International Studies): "Identity and Governance: The Houthis in Yemen".</p>
V-008	Gender Issues in Modern Iran
	<p><i>Chair: Laura Wickström (Åbo Akademi University)</i></p> <p>Kristin Soraya Batmanghelichi (University of Oslo): "(Not) Working 9 to 5? Unravelling the 'Non-Working Mother' in Post-revolutionary Iran".</p> <p>Zahra Tizro (University of East London), and Farhad Gohardani (independent scholar): "Gender Dynamics and Sexuality in a Cross-Cultural Context: From Battle of Sexes to Battle of Cultures".</p> <p>Jón Ingvar Kjaran and Mohammad Naeimi (University of Iceland): "Politics of Facial Hair: (Origin) Narratives of Sexuality and Gender Transgression as a Space of Praxis for Queer Activism. Examples from Iceland and Iran".</p>

Heimasvæði	Canonization, Codification, and Change in Islamic Law (I of II)
	<p><i>Chair: Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen (University of Copenhagen)</i></p> <p>Eirik Hovden (University of Bergen): “Pre-Modern Standardization of Zaydi Law”.</p> <p>Ebrahim Mansoor (University of Bergen): “History of Pre-Ottoman Zaydi Fiqh”.</p> <p>Monika Lindbekk (University of Bergen): “Codifying Family Relations: Islamic Judicial Politics in Egypt”.</p>
V-107	Branding the Middle East: A Book Project (I of II)
	<p><i>Chair: Christian Steiner (Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt)</i></p> <p>Philip Geisler (Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz and Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies): “Sinan’s Iconic Practices: Staging Early Modern Ottoman Architecture and Power”.</p> <p>Helle Lykke Nielsen (University of Southern Denmark): “Branding the Middle East in the Diaspora: Names of Mosques in Denmark” (withdrawn).</p> <p>Lisa Maria Franke (Georg-August University Göttingen): “Spiritual Branding, Islamic Ideals and Processes of Individualization”.</p>
Vigdísarstofa	Beyond the MENA Region Today: From Southeast Asia to the Arctic
	<p><i>Chair: Anne Sofie Schøtt (Royal Danish Defence College)</i></p> <p>Kirstine Sinclair (University of Southern Denmark): “The Arctic Muslim: Making Sense of Religious Practice and Authenticity in the Dark”.</p> <p>Zoltan Pall (Austrian Academy of Sciences & Avicenna Institute of Middle Eastern Studies): “The Limitations of Imagining the Land of the Two Holy Mosques in Cambodia”.</p> <p>Vidar Skretting (Norwegian Defence Research Establishment): “Expanding and Remaining: The Resurgence and Proliferation of Jihadist Groups in the Sahel after 2013”.</p>
V-108	Gender Issues in Jordan and Mobilization in Palestine
	<p><i>Chair: Tia Kangaspunta (University of Helsinki)</i></p> <p>Tamara A. Kool, Alissar Al-Hassan, and Estefania Solano de la Sala Maldonado (UNU-MERIT and Maastricht University): “Forced Displacement and Women’s Economic Empowerment: A Critical Analysis of Women’s Economic Citizenship Among Syrian Refugee Women in Jordan”.</p> <p>Yafa Shanneik (Lund University): “The Myth and Reality of Women’s Rights in the Middle East: Syrian Refugees in Jordan as a Case Study”.</p> <p>Dana El Kurd (University of Richmond), Nasir Almasri (MIT) and Alexei Abrahams (Shorenstein Center, Harvard University): “Explaining Mobilization Processes: The Case of Palestinian Activism”.</p>
13.00–14.30	Lunch break

14.30–16.00	Panels V
V-007	Beyond Sunni-centrism: Shia and Sunni Islamism in the Middle East (II of II)
	<p><i>Chair: Morten Valbjørn (Aarhus University)</i></p> <p>Courtney Freer (Emory University): “An Islamist Disadvantage? Revisiting Electoral Outcomes for Islamist Parties in the Middle East”.</p> <p>Tine Gade (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs): “Tripoli’s Sunni Islamists in an Uphill Battle During the Lebanese Citizen Protests (2019-2022): Abeyance or Nationalization?”</p> <p>Younes Saramifar (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam): “We are History: Myth-making, Radical Cosmologies and Militancy Amongst Shia Combatants”.</p>
V-008	Gender Issues in the Arab World
	<p><i>Chair: Jón Ingvar Kjaran (University of Iceland)</i></p> <p>Joel W. Abdelmoez (Lund University): “Contemporary Feminist Activism in Egypt, Tunisia, and Saudi Arabia: Transnationalism, Performances and Repertoires of Contention”.</p> <p>Rola El-Husseini Dean (Lund University): “Norm Diffusion and Gender Equality Policies in the Arab World”.</p> <p>Samuel Kigar (University of Puget Sound): “Fatema Mernissi's Psychoanalytic Myths for the New World Order”.</p>
Heimasvæði	Canonization, Codification, and Change in Islamic Law (II of II)
	<p><i>Chair: Anne Bang (University of Bergen)</i></p> <p>Knut S. Vikør (University of Bergen): “A Community Canon or a Minority Code? Views on Marriage and Divorce Among the Ibāḍīs of Sahara”.</p> <p>Christian Mauder (University of Bergen): “Playing with the Canon: Ḥanafī Legal Riddles of the Mamluk Period”.</p> <p>Mohamed Aidarus Noor (University of Bergen): “‘Becoming a Canon’: History, Process and Context in the Canonization of Minhāj al-Ṭālibīn along the Western Indian Ocean Coast in the 19th and 20th Centuries”.</p>
V-107	Branding the Middle East: A Book Project (II of II)
	<p><i>Chair: Christian Steiner (Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt)</i></p> <p>Steffen Wippel (Philipps University Marburg): “Tangier Between Europe and Africa: Branding a Globalising City at Temporal and Spatial Interfaces”.</p> <p>Ghassan Moussawi (University of Illinois): “Queer Brands, Branding Queerness: Fractal Orientalism and the Experiences of ‘Gay-friendly’ Beirut”.</p> <p>Pekka Tuominen (University of Helsinki): “Who is Branding Beyoğlu? Commodification and Surveillance of Public Spaces in Istanbul”.</p>
Vigdísarstofa	Business and Trade in the MENA Region, from the 19th Century to Management Consultants
	<p><i>Chair: Elena Chiti (Stockholm University)</i></p> <p>Ashraf El-Taher (SOAS): “Bounded Imaginaries: The Role of Management Consultants in the Gulf’s Political Economy”.</p> <p>Markku Haranne (University of Tampere): “Levantine Natural Gas in Power Politics”.</p>

	Emre Can Daglioglu (Stanford University): “Silk-made Capitalism: Local Networks and Global Entanglements in the 19th-Century Middle East”.
16.00–16.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.30-18.00 University Main Building Aula	Keynote by Charles Kurzman (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill): “Myth-Making and Reality-Making in Middle East Political Movements”. MA Thesis Award
19.30	<i>Conference Dinner</i>

Day Three	Saturday 24 September
9.00–10.30 University Main Building Aula	Keynote by Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen (University of Copenhagen): “The Prophet Muhammad in Myth and Reality”. General Assembly of the Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies
10.30–11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.00–13.00	Panels VI
V-007	Israel: Narratives and Art, Security, and Diplomacy
	<i>Chair: Maria-Louise Clausen (Danish Institute for International Studies)</i> Alan Craig (University of Durham): “Securitising Narratives of Tragedy and Loss: The Case of Israel and the Holocaust”. Jacob Eriksson (University of York): “Between Myth and Reality: The Relationship Between Security and Territory in Israel”. Tal Ben-Zvi (Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design): “Myth and Reality in the Port Towns: Acre, Haifa, Jaffa: Local Artistic Expression after 1948”. Elie Podeh (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): “From Mistress to Known Partner: Israel’s Secret Relations with States and Minorities in the Middle East”.
V-008	Youth in Myth and Reality in Turkey and the Arab World
	<i>Chair: Hasan Karakilinc (University of Iceland)</i> Ayça Alemdaroğlu (Stanford University): “The Myth and Reality of Youth between Life and Death in Turkey”. Corina Lozovan (Universidade Católica Portuguesa): “A Vision for a New Generation: Youth Political Engagement in Contemporary Omani Society”. Ivana Cosmano (University of Leeds): “The ‘Creativity of the Ordinary’: Young Jordanians between Real and Imagined Worlds”. Sarah Anne Rennick (Lund University): “Missing National Narratives and Learning-by-Doing: Youth Political Socialization in Transitional Tunisia”.
Heimasvæði	Shifting Mythologies between the Middle East and the Indian Ocean
	<i>Chair: Jonas Otterbeck (Aga Khan University)</i> Thomas Brandt Fibiger (Aarhus University): “Dubai and the Indian Ocean: The Case of Dawoodi Bohras”. Scott Reese (University of Hamburg): “An Evolving Tradition: The Impact of Modern Arabic Print on the Manuscript Tradition of Zanzibar 1900-1960”. Kjersti Larssen (University of Oslo): “Mythologies and Experiences of Mobility and Interconnection: Reflections on Identity and Belonging in Zanzibar”. Anne K. Bang (University of Bergen): “Narrations of the Pilgrimage: The Indian Ocean Mecca in the 20th Century”.

V-107	Roundtable: An Overview of Arabic Programs in Scandinavia; Educational Practices and Goals
	<p><i>Chairs: Zehad Sabri Zehad (University of Oslo) and Ulla Prien (University of Copenhagen)</i></p> <p>June Dahy and Ulla Prien (University of Copenhagen) Sylvia Akar (University of Helsinki) Ludmila Ivanova Torlakova; (University of Bergen) Andreas Hallberg (University of Gothenburg) Zehad Sabri & Carla el Khoury (University of Oslo)</p>
Vigdísarstofa	Afghanistan and Lebanon
	<p><i>Chair: Robert Forster (University of Bergen)</i></p> <p>Bahar Jalali (Loyola University Maryland): “Afghanistan’s History of Modernization Amidst the Myth of Xenophobia”.</p> <p>Scott Burse (Florida State University): “Fairy Tales from the Afghani Jihad: Martyrdom, Miracles, and Mythology in Jihadi Culture”.</p> <p>Matthew Heinrichs (Lund University): “Beyond Resistance: Negotiating Sectarian Citizenship in Lebanon”.</p> <p>Marie Kortam (Institut Francais du Proche-Orient, FMSH/PAVE-IFPO): “The Myth of Democracy in Lebanon and Iraq as Violent Extremism Driver”.</p>
<i>13.00–14.30</i>	<i>Lunch break</i>
14.30–16.00	Panels VII
V-007	Domestic Politics of the Arab World: Conspiracies and Systems
	<p><i>Chair: Tina Hyyppä (University of Helsinki)</i></p> <p>Jacob Høigilt (University of Oslo): “What Does ‘Conspiracy’ Mean? The Emergence and Function of the Modern Term <i>Mu’amara</i> in Arabic”.</p> <p>Markus Loewe (Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik) and Holger Albrecht (University of Alabama): “The Social Contract in the Middle East and North Africa: What do the People Want?”</p> <p>Ronen Zeidel (Tel Aviv University): “Politics by Proxy: Understanding the Current Iraqi Political System”.</p>
V-008	Gender Issues in Arabic Literature
	<p><i>Chair: Kristin Soraya Batmanghelichi (University of Oslo)</i></p> <p>Alice Königstetter (University of Vienna): “Belonging and Othering in Contemporary Emirati Writing: Depictions of Marginalized Groups in Works by Maryam Al-Saadi”.</p> <p>Jihan Zakariya (Aarhus University): “Otherness and Female Identity in <i>Brooklyn Heights</i> and <i>Gulls Agate</i>”.</p> <p>Mbarek Sryfi (University of Pennsylvania): “Negotiating Space: Reclaiming the Spatial Gender Boundaries of Tangier in Muhammad Shukri’s novel <i>Wujuh</i>”.</p>

Heimasvæði	Uses of the Past in Literature and Cinema
	<p><i>Chair: Rebecca Bryant (Utrecht University)</i></p> <p>Fidan Cheikosman (University of Edinburgh): “The Kemalist Illusion: A Comparative Tale of Nationalism through Elif Shafak’s and Orhan Pamuk’s Non-Fiction”.</p> <p>Martin Riexinger (Aarhus University): “The Arabic-Islamic Middle Ages as <i>Modernitas Praecox</i> in Youssef Chahine’s Movies”.</p> <p>Omar Sayfo (Utrecht University and Avicenna Institute of Middle Eastern Studies): “Napoleon on Egyptian Screens”.</p>
V-107	Roundtable: Teaching Arabic at Scandinavian Universities; Future Visions and Directions
	<p><i>Chairs: Ulla Prien (University of Copenhagen) and Zehad Sabri (University of Oslo)</i></p> <p><i>Followed by Network Meeting: Establishing a Network of Arabic Teachers in Scandinavia; Goals, Fundraising and Structure</i></p>
16.00–16.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.30-18.00	Panels VIII
V-007	Literature, Politics, and Translation
	<p><i>Chair: Christine Aster Crone (University of Copenhagen)</i></p> <p>Haytham Bahooora (University of Toronto): “Arabic Literature and the Post-2011 Arab Revolutions: Fictions of Refusal”.</p> <p>Rósa Þorsteinsdóttir (Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies): “Middle Eastern Tales in Icelandic Oral Tradition”.</p> <p>Suja Sawafta (University of Miami): “Reading between History and Myth: Protest, Petroleum, and Panorama in Munif’s <i>Cities of Salt</i>”.</p>
V-008	The Early MENA, from the 12th century to the 17th
	<p><i>Chair: Maribel Fierro (Institute of Languages and Cultures of the Mediterranean)</i></p> <p>Marieke Brandt (Austrian Academy of Sciences): “Narrating Yemen’s Pre-Islamic Past: Al-Hamdānī’s al-Iklīl and the Struggle for Legitimacy in Yemen”.</p> <p>Matthew J. Kuiper (Hope College): “The Islamization of the Middle East and Beyond in Myth and Reality, c. 1100-1700 CE”.</p> <p>Amanda Caterina Leong (University of California): “Re-thinking Female Rebellion through <i>Javānmardī: Fitna</i> in the <i>Haft Paykar</i>”.</p>
Heimasvæði	Islam in the Modern World
	<p><i>Chair: Oliver Scharbrodt (Lund University)</i></p> <p>Andreas Nabil Younan (University of Cambridge): “The Islamic Legal System in Myth and Reality: Codification and the Sharī‘a Debate in Revivalist Egypt”.</p> <p>Laura Wickström (Åbo Akademi University): “Contemporary Key Figures of Islamic Eco-Philosophy”.</p> <p>Sami Al-Daghistani (Norwegian School of Theology): “Demystifying Modern Islamic Economics and its Worldview”.</p>

V-107	Myth and the Unreal in the Quran
	<p><i>Chair: Pekka Tuominen (University of Helsinki)</i></p> <p>Erik Sundblad (Stockholm University): “Mythologizing the Early Islamicate Polity: A Qur’ānist Strategy for Exegetical Reformation”.</p> <p>Kholoud Hussein (Cornell University): “‘And When She Saw it, She Thought it Was Water’: Dialectics of the Real and the Un-Real in King Solomon’s Encounter with the Queen of Sheba in the Qur’an”.</p> <p>Mohammad Ali Tabataba’i (Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies, Tehran): “The Quranic Hints to the Circulation of the Ancient Greek Myths in Pre-Islamic Arabia”.</p>
18.00	<i>Conference ends</i>