Center Activity Report, December, 2008

Faculty Research Grants

Sawyer Seminar on “Diversity and Conformity in Muslim Societies” (Banu Gokariksel and Sarah Shields), 2008-2010; 2 dissertation fellowships, 1 postdoc, in 2009-10
UNC School of Public Health, 2-year contract (2008-2010) to design environmental and water policy for United Arab Emirates

Faculty Publications

Sahar Amer

Carl Ernst

Banu Gokariksel

Charles Kurzman
Nadia Yaqub

**Faculty Conference Presentations and Invited Lectures**

**Sahar Amer**
"Franco-Arab Cultures Today: Developments, Dialogues and Challenges", Co-Organized international interdisciplinary conference at UNC-Chapel Hill, April 17-19, 2008. [www.unc.edu/francoarabic](http://www.unc.edu/francoarabic)

**Carl Ernst**
"Conversations on Rumi", May 4, 2007, Maltepe Municipality, Istanbul, Turkey
"Rumi and the Role of Women in Sufism", May 6, 2007, Conference on "Rumi and Women" Ataturk Cultural Center, Istanbul, Turkey
"The Limits of Universalism in Islamic Thought: the Case of Indian Religions", May 10-13, 2007, Levi Della Vida Conference: "Universality in Islamic Thought" UCLA, Los Angeles, California
"Sufi Literature and its Reception History", May 27-29 2007, Keynote address for conference on "Sufi Texts, Sufi Contexts". Northwestern University, Chicago, IL.
"3 Lectures on Sufism and Poetry", June 28, 2007, Robert Bly's 33rd Annual Conference on the Great Mother and the New Father, Camp Kieve, Nobleboro, Maine
"Panel on Islamic Mysticism", July 23, 2007, PBS "Mysticism and Monotheism" Project, Boston University Boston, MA
"The West and Islam? Rethinking Orientalism and Occidentalism", August 9, 2007, Chaired by: YAB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia Organized by: University of Malaya & University of Ohio Dewan Tunku Canselor (DTC), University of Malaya Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
"The West and Islam? Rethinking Orientalism and Occidentalism", April 22, 2008, Phi Beta Kappa Convocation, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
"Islamic Ethics, from the Premodern to the Postcolonial", November 5, 2007, The Vivian S. Delbrook Visiting Writers Series, Butler University, Indianapolis, IN
"Reflexivity and Islamic Identity in the Mirror of EuroAmerican Scholarship": November 17-20, 2007, Thematic Conversation on "Constructing and Deconstructing a Region: CrossRegional Approaches to the Middle East," Middle East Studies Association Conference, Montreal, Canada
"Interpreting Islam: Politics, the Media and the Academy", "Islam and the European Concept of Religion," December 8-13, two talks at Bait al-Qur’an Center, Manama, Bahrain
"Wakened by the Dove's Trill: Structure and meaning in the preface to Rumi's Masnavi (Book 4)", December 15-16, 2007, Symposium of Rumi Scholars, sponsored by Rumi Institute, Near East University; Mevlevihane, Konya, Turkey


"The West and Islam? Rethinking Orientalism and Occidentalism" (in Spanish), February 21, 2008, Instituto de Investigaciones Filosoficas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, Mexico

"La importancia de la filosofía árabe islámica": February 21, 2008, Universidad Panamericana, Mexico City, Mexico


"Prospects for a Positive Christian Attitude toward the Prophet Muhammad": March 11, 2008, Master Class at High Point University Chapel, High Point, NC

Response to panel on "Closely Reading the Body: Textual Analysis of Islamicate Sources on Embodiment", April 5-6, 2008, 5th Annual Duke / UNC Islamic Studies Graduate Student Conference, "Practice and Embodiment in Islam: Ritual and Muslim Constructions of Self," Duke University, Durham NC

Banu Gokariksel

"Beyond the Mosque: Muslim Women's Spatial Experiences of New Islamic Fashion", "Faith and Space" workshop at the Getty Research Institute, organized by Denis Cosgrove and Veronica Della Dora, May 23, 2007, Los Angeles.


"Public space, the headscarf ban, and women's Islamist activism in Istanbul", "Islam, gender, and secularism" paper session at the Middle East Studies Association of North America, November 17-21, 2007, Montreal, Canada.


"Public space, the headscarf ban, and women's Islamist activism in Istanbul", "Geographies of the secular public" paper session, the Association of American Geographers Conference, April 15-19, 2008, Boston.

Charles Kurzman

"Iran," Governor's School East, Meredith College, Raleigh, NC, July 12, 2007.


"Constructing and Deconstructing a Region: CrossRegional Approaches to the Middle East," Middle East Studies Association, Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, November 18, 2007.
"Bin Laden and Other Thoroughly Modern Muslims," guest lecture, Alexis Silver's "Sociological Perspectives" (Sociology 101, Section 3), UNCCH, March 4, 2008.
"Liberty in the Islamic Tradition," guest lecture, Ritchie Kendall's Junior Honors Colloquium (HNRS 325), UNCCH, April 2, 2008.

Omid Safi
“Conversations on Rumi”, May 4, 2007, Maltepe Municipality, Istanbul, Turkey
“Peace and Justice in Islam”, University of Mary, October 2007.
“Muhammad’s Ascension and the Body/Soul/Spirit Question” Dickinson State University, October 2007. 8 talks over a 4 day period.
“Islam and Martin Luther King”, Macalester College, October 2007.
“Human Dignity as a basis for Islamic Pluralism”, University of St. Thomas, October 2007.

Augustana College, two weeks of talks related to “Islam and Middle Eastern Studies”, December 2007

Graduate Theological Union (GTU), Berkeley, California, Spring 2008, Distinguished Visitor.

Sarah Shields

Nadia Yaqub
“Palestinian Activism in Media and Arts,” Middle East Studies Association, November, 2007
“Reading Gender and Modernity in Palestinian Political Cartoons”, Middle East Studies Association, Montreal, Canada, November 2007
"Gendering the Palestinian Road Movie”, Marketing Muslim Women, Duke University, UNC, April 2008.

"Prescreening film introduction”, "Where the Fig Trees Grow" (Yasmina Yahyaoui, 2005), Franco-Arab Cultures Today Conference, UNC, April, 2008

Canguzel Zulfikar

“Conversations on Rumi”, May 4, 2007, Maltepe Municipality, Istanbul, Turkey


"The Study of Islam in American Academia" as keynote lecture at the Theta Alpha Kappa Induction Ceremony, April 8, 2008 - Meredith College, Raleigh, NC.

Outreach

Sahar Amer

“Islam in Western Europe” at the Islam Beyond the Middle East: South Asia, Africa, Indonesia, and Western Europe Adventures in Ideas College of Arts and Sciences Summer 2007 Seminar, Program in the Humanities and Human Values, UNC-CH

Carl Ernst

"Islam in South Asia, from Adam's Peak to Bamiyan", July 27-28, 2007, Summer Seminar on "Islam outside the Middle East." Program in Humanities and Human Values, Friday Center, UNC, Chapel Hill NC

"Islam Q&A Session", September 24, 2007, Interfaith Alliance of Carolina, 204 Saunders, UNC Chapel Hill

“Introduction”, September 26, 2007, Rumi Festival, Arts Center, Carrboro, North Carolina

Reading from Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World November 12, 2007, McIntyre's Fine Books, Fearrington Village, Pittsboro, NC

Banu Gokariksel


Charles Kurzman


Canguzel Zulfikar

CCSMEMC photo gallery, 2007-8

- PhD candidate Brannon Ingram
- Dr. Karim Crow (Singapore)
- Global Middle East workshop
- Rachel Silvey at GME workshop
- Omid Safi with Mohja Kahf (at GME)
- Sarah Shields (at GME)