



## Center Activity Report, December, 2008

### Faculty Research Grants

Carnegie Islam scholar: Omid Safi (2007)

Sawyer Seminar on "Diversity and Conformity in Muslim Societies" (Banu Gokariksel and Sarah Shields), 2008-2010; 2 dissertation fellowships, 1 postdoc, in 2009-10

National Science Foundation, Human and Social Dynamics Program, "Dynamic Patterning in Conflict Behavior between States and Non-State Actors," (Charles Kurzman, Mark Crescenzi, Robert Jenkins), 2008- 2010. 1 RA in Spring 2009.

United States Institute of Peace, "Islamist Participation in Parliamentary Elections" (Charles Kurzman), January 2007-December 2008. 1 RA for the entire period.

UNC School of Public Health, 2-year contract (2008-2010) to design environmental and water policy for United Arab Emirates

### Faculty Publications

#### Sahar Amer

"Sex and the Spirit," in *Xavier Review*, special issue, eds. Robin Vander and Keith Mitchell, pp. 52-66.

#### Carl Ernst

"Accounts of Yogis in Arabic and Persian Historical and Travel Texts." *Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam*, vol. 34 (2008), pp. 409-426.

#### Banu Gokariksel

"Feminist Geographies of Veiling: Gender, Class and Religion in the Making of Modern Spaces and Subjects in Istanbul", in Karen Morin and Jeanne Kay Guelke eds. *Women, Religion, and Space*, 2007, pp. 61-80. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press.

#### Charles Kurzman

*Democracy Denied, 1905-1915*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2008.

"CrossRegional Approaches to Middle East Studies," Middle East Studies Association Bulletin, Vol. 41, No. 1, June 2007, pp. 24-29.

"Celebrity Status," first author with Chelise Anderson, Clinton Key, Youn Ok Lee, Mairead Moloney, Alexis Silver, and Maria W. Van Ryn, *Sociological Theory*, Vol. 25, No. 4, December 2007, pp. 347-367.

**Nadia Yaqub**

"The Palestinian Cinematic Wedding," *Journal of Middle Eastern Women's Studies*, vol. 3, no. 2, 2007.

**Faculty Conference Presentations and Invited Lectures****Sahar Amer**

"Medieval Arab Lesbians", at the Mediterranean Studies Association Conference, Evora, Portugal, 2007.

"Medieval Cross-Cultural Sexuality Research", April 2008, Duke University

"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

"A Little Indicates Much': Structure and Meaning in the Prefaces of the Masnavi": May 8, 2007, UNESCO International Congress on Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi 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

"A Little Indicates Much': Structure and Meaning in the Prefaces of the Masnavi, Books 1-3", September 13-15, 2007, Conference on "Wondrous Words: the Poetic Mastery of Jalal al-Din Rumi" British Museum, London

"The West and Islam?' Rethinking Orientalism and Occidentalism", April 22, 2008, Phi Beta Kappa Convocation, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Panel Discussion: "Omar Ibn Sayyid and the African Muslim Presence in the Americas." October 16, 2007. 4003 FedEx Global Education Center, UNC-CH.

"Islamic Ethics, from the Premodern to the Postcolonial", November 5, 2007, The Vivian S. Delbrook Visiting Writers Series, Butler University, Indianapolis, IN

Panel Discussion: "Pakistan and the Current Crisis," November 13, 2007, 4003 FedEx Global Education Center, UNC.

"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
- "Fayzi's Illuminationist Interpretation of Vedanta: The *Shariq al-Ma`rifat*", January 17-18, 2008, Conference on Perso-Indian Mysticism, University of Washington, Seattle WA
- "'The West and Islam?' Rethinking Orientalism and Occidentalism" (in Spanish), February 21, 2008, Instituto de Investigaciones Filosóficas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, Mexico
- "La importancia de la filosofía árabe islámica": February 21, 2008, Universidad Panamericana, Mexico City, Mexico
- "'The West and Islam?' Rethinking Orientalism and Occidentalism", March 6-7, 2008, Keynote for Humanities Convocation: Faith, Reason, Doubt Colloquium; University of Colorado Boulder, Colorado
- "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 Islamic 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.
- "Gender, sexuality, and the nation: Israel/Palestine peace movement", "Contextualizing Representations of Sexual Politics in the Middle East" Panel on Elle Flanders' documentary, "Zero Degrees of Separation", Duke University, October 3, 2007.
- "The politics of the veil", Duke Islamic Studies Center Advisory Board Meeting, November 10, 2007.
- "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.
- "The politics of the veil: Islam, secularism, and modernity", The Walker Institute for International and Area Studies, Lecture Series: "East and West in the Turkish Nation: Contemporary Issues in Turkey," University of South Carolina, February 13, 2008.
- "The politics of the veil: Islam, secularism, and modernity", The Curriculum in Women's Studies, University of North Carolina, February 20, 2008.
- "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.
- "Sociology of the Middle East," American Sociological Association, Annual Meeting, New York, NY, August 12, 2007.
- "Anatomy of a Coup: The CIA in Iran," discussion of documentary film, Middle East Student Forum, UNCCH, October 25, 2007.
- "Constructing and Deconstructing a Region: CrossRegional Approaches to the Middle East," Middle East Studies Association, Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, November 18, 2007.

- "The Place of Inquiry in the Undergraduate Classroom," UNCCH, February 15, 2008.
- "Liberal Islam: The Reformation within the Reformation," symposium on "Islam: The Politics of Reform," Yale University, New Haven, CT, March 1, 2008.
- "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.
- "The Challenges of Radical Islam," Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC, April 16, 2008.

### **Omid Safi**

- "Conversations on Rumi", May 4, 2007, Maltepe Municipality, Istanbul, Turkey
- "Harmony between Women and Men on the Muhammadi Path", International Symposium on Rumi and Women. Istanbul, May 2007.
- "We Are the Inheritors of the Light of Muhammad: Rumi, Adab, and Muhammadi Intimacy", International Symposium in honor of the 800th anniversary of Rumi's Birthday. Istanbul and Konya, Turkey, May 2007.
- "Peace and Justice in Islam", Concordia College, October 2007.
- "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.,
- "Islam and Martin Luther King", Gustavus Adolphus, October 2007.
- "From Muslims in America to American Islam", St. Olaf College, October 2007.
- "Human Dignity as a basis for Islamic Pluralism", University of St. Thomas, October 2007.
- "Reforming Islam in the 'Axis of Evil': Contesting Islam in Post-Revolutionary Iran". Harvard University, First Annual Prince Al-Waleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Program Conference, November 2007.
- Augustana College, two weeks of talks related to "Islam and Middle Eastern Studies", December 2007
- "Muslim Identities: Religion and Cosmopolitanism", University of British Columbia, January 2008.
- "Family of the Prophet in Islamic Spirituality", Turkish Women's Cultural Association, Istanbul, March 2008.
- Graduate Theological Union (GTU), Berkeley, California, Spring 2008, Distinguished Visitor.

### **Sarah Shields**

- "Thoughts on Reentry: American Politics after Returning from Syria", North Carolina Society for Ethical Culture, March 2008.
- "Israel/Palestine 101", University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, February 2008.

### **Nadia Yaqub**

- "The Palestinian Road Movie", Fez, Morocco, July 2007.
- "When the Bulbul Stops Singing", Playmakers Reparatory Theatre, Post performance discussion, September, 2007.
- "Offside-Jafar Panahi, 2006", Post performance discussion, North Carolina State University, October, 2007.
- "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
- "Literature Panel", Marketing Muslim Women Conference, Duke University, April, 2008.

“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

"From Rumi (1207-1273) To Kenan Rifai (1867-1950): Women in the Sufi Concept" Sehnucht nach dem andern Ende der Welt: Studientag zur Islamischen Mystik, October 27, 2007 in Frankfurt, Germany.

"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, Fearington Village, Pittsboro, NC

### **Banu Gokariksel**

“Hope not hate: a geographical approach”, "Hope not Hate: The Future of U.S.Muslim World Relations" panel organized by Americans for Informed Democracy, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, October 1, 2007.

### **Charles Kurzman**

"Liberal Islam," Chapel Hill/Durham Hadassah, November 14, 2007; Raleigh/Cary Jewish Community Center, January 9, 2008.

"Muslim Americans After 9/11," seminar on "Xenophobia: Nationality and Ethnicity in Wartime America," Program in the Humanities and Human Values, UNCCH, December 8, 2007.

"End Game in Iraq," Peer Learning, Chapel Hill, NC, February 4, 2008.

### **Canguzel Zulfikar**

"Muslims and Islam" in the Living in Peace in a Multi-Faith Society forum at Richmond Community College, in Hamlet, North Carolina on April 2, 2008.

# 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



Sarah Shields (at GME)



PhD candidate G. A. Lipton



Franco-Arab Cultures Conference



William and Mary Music Ensemble



Arabic Theater Workshop



Audience at Franco-Arab Cultures



Panel discussion on Pakistan



Symposium on Omar ibn Sayyid



Ramadan dinner with Nasser Islem