Interregional CONFERENCE

MIDDLE EAST in LATIN AMERICA

DUKE UNIVERSITY
Friday, October 21, 9:30AM–6:00 P.M.
John Hope Franklin Center,
Ahmadieh Family Conference Hall, Rm 240
LATINO ISLAM

9:45 a.m.  INTRODUCTION
Ellen McLarney, Asian and Middle East Studies, Duke University
Kiah Glenn, Center for Muslim Life, Duke University

10:00 a.m.  Hajj del corazón: Islam Liberation Theology, Ethnopoetics, and Latinx Islam
Antonio de Jesús López, Masters of Fine Arts in Poetry, Rutgers University

10:30 a.m.  We Are All Moors
Anouar Majid, Vice President for Global Affairs and Communications, University of New England

11:00 a.m.  Latino Muslims in America
Harold Morales, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Morgan State University

11:30 a.m.  Q&A and DISCUSSION
Respondent: Rodrigo Adem, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in Islamic Studies, Religious Studies, UNC

12:00 p.m.  LUNCH

MIDDLE EAST & LATIN AMERICA

1:15 p.m.  INTRODUCTION
Patrick Duddy, Director, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and former Ambassador to Venezuela

1:30 p.m.  OPENING KEYNOTE
The Middle East and Brazil: From Third Worldism to ‘Emerging Power’ Solidarity — and Now Back to Revanchist Neocoloniality?
Paul Amar, Political Science, University of California, Santa Barbara

2:00 p.m.  Redrawing Area and Ethnic Studies:
Arab América Across and Beyond the Hemisphere
John Tofik Karam, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

2:30 p.m.  Guests of Islam: Transnational Leadership and the Institutionalization of Islam in Mexico
Camila Pastor de María y Campos, División de Historia, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, Mexico

3:00 p.m.  Q&A and DISCUSSION
Respondent: Christine Folch, Cultural Anthropology, co-director of the Global Brazil Lab, Duke University

3:30 p.m.  COFFEE BREAK

4:00 p.m.  PANEL
The Algerian War in Argentina
Steven Hyland, History, Wingate University

Envisioning Middle Eastern Communities in Argentina: A Digital History Project
Lily Balloffet, History, Western Carolina University

4:30 p.m.  CLOSING KEYNOTE
Cuba’s X-Files: Coloniality, Arabs, and Islam from the 19th Century to the Present
Christina Civantos, Modern Languages and Literatures, University of Miami

5:00 p.m.  Q&A and DISCUSSION
Respondents: miriam cooke, Braxton Craven Professor of Arab Cultures, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Duke University
Akram Khater, Khayrallah Chair in Diaspora Studies, History, North Carolina State

5:30 p.m.  CLOSING COMMENTS & PERFORMANCE
Walter Mignolo, Center for Global Studies and the Humanities, Duke University

The Ethnopoetic Imagination
Antonio de Jesús López, Masters of Fine Arts in Poetry, Rutgers University
Ellen McLarney is an Associate Professor of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at Duke. She was named a Fellow of the National Humanities Center in 2011. McLarney's studies are currently in the fields of Arabic literature, Islamic studies, and gender studies in the Middle East. She has written a number of scholarly and peer-reviewed papers, and one published book, *Soft Force: Women in Egypt’s Islamic Revival*, with a second, *Middle East in Latin America: Media, Migration, and Muslims*, in preparation.

Paul Amar, Professor in the Global Studies Department at the University of California, Santa Barbara, is a political scientist and anthropologist with affiliate appointments in Feminist Studies, Sociology, Comparative Literature, Middle East Studies, and Latin American & Iberian Studies. He currently serves as Director of the M.A. and Ph.D. Programs in Global Studies and as Coordinator of the Global Security Studies Hub. His books include: *Global South to the Rescue* (2011); *Dispatches from the Arab Spring* (2013); *The Security Archipelago* (2013); and *The Middle East and Brazil* (2014).

Christina Civantos is an Associate Professor of Spanish and Arabic at the University of Miami (Florida). She researches and teaches modern Hispanic and Arabic literary and cultural studies, with a focus on postcolonial studies, nationalisms, and the Arab diaspora in the Americas, and the ethno-racial and gender politics of literacy. Her publications include numerous essays on these topics as well as the book *Between Argentines and Arabs: Argentine Orientalism, Arab Immigrants, and the Writing of Identity* (2006). Her forthcoming book, *The Afterlife of al-Andalus*, examines Medieval Muslim Iberia as a site of memory and transformation.

Rodrigo Adem is a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Islamic Studies in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In 2012, he received a fellowship from the American Research Center in Egypt. He has published a number of reviews and peer-reviewed articles, and is working on his first monograph, tentatively titled *Necessary Proof: The Great Epistemic Shift in Classical Islam*.

Lily Balloffet, Professor at Western Carolina University, is a historian of global migration. Her work focuses specifically on Latin America and the Middle East, and the flows of people, goods, and ideas that connect these regions’ histories. She is currently working on a book manuscript that deals with Syrian migration to Argentina in the 20th century. Her research has been supported by the U.S. Department of Education’s Foreign Language and Area Studies Program, the Hemispheric Institute of the Americas, and the Hoover Institute at Stanford University.

Camila Pastor de María y Campos is a Profesora Investigadora of the History Division of Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas in Mexico City. She has focused on Middle Eastern migrants’ circulations at the intersection of French imperial practice and Latin American postcolonial societies. The author of multiple articles and book chapters, she has recently completed an ethnographic census of Muslim populations in Mexico and is currently researching women’s work and mobility. She is also the Associate Editor for *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam in North America*.
**Miriam Cooke** is the Braxton Craven Professor of Arab Cultures at Duke University. Her writings have focused on the intersection of gender and war in modern Arabic literature and Arab women writers’ constructions of Islamic feminism. Her more recent interests have turned to Arab cultural studies with a concentration on Syria, and to the networked connections among Arabs and Muslims around the world.

**Patrick Duddy** is a visiting senior lecturer at Duke University’s Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Ambassador Duddy was one of the Department of State’s most senior Latin American specialists with exceptionally broad experience in trade, energy, public affairs, and crisis management. From 2007 to 2010, he served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for both President Bush and President Obama.

**Christine Folch** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Cultural Anthropology at Duke University. Her work is on water and energy politics amidst the constraints of the Anthropocene. Her larger research agenda is on environmental ethics and how groups conceptualize and politicize their relationships to nature. She is particularly interested in how energy and environmental impacts disproportionately negatively affect marginalized communities.

**Kiah Glenn** is the Program Coordinator for the Center for Muslim Life. She is a recent M.A. graduate from the Department of Religion at Duke University. Her research included women, gender, sexuality, Muslims in the Americas, and under-represented groups such as Black and Latino Muslims. She has worked for various organizations, such as the International Justice Project and the American Society for Muslim Advancement.

**Steven Hyland** teaches in the Department of History and Political Science at Wingate University. A scholar of modern Latin America and transnational migration and political movements, he is fascinated by people and ideas on the move and how each has an impact on sending and receiving societies. His first book, *More Argentine Than You: Arabic-Speaking Immigrants in Argentina* (2017), examines this community in northwestern Argentina during the first half of the 20th century.

**John Tofik Karam** is an associate professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He is the author of *Another Arabesque: Syrian-Lebanese Ethnicity in Neoliberal Brazil* (2007), and a co-editor of *Crescent over Another Horizon: Islam in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latino U.S.A.* (2015). Partly funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, his current book project is titled, “Manifold Destiny: Arabs at a Crossroads of the Americas.”

**Akram Khater** is University Faculty Scholar, Professor of History, and holds the Khayrallah Chair in Diaspora Studies at North Carolina State University where he also serves as the Director of the Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies. His books include *Inventing Home: Emigration, Gender and the Making of a Lebanese Middle Class, 1861–1921*, and *A History of the Middle East: A Sourcebook for the History of the Middle East and North Africa*.

**Antonio de Jesús López** received a double B.A. in Global Cultural Studies (Literature) and African-American studies from Duke University. An inaugural John Lewis Fellow and a recipient of Rudolph William Rosati Creative Writing Award, López works in the intersections of language, faith, social justice movements, and education. He is currently pursuing a Master in Fine Arts (poetry) at Rutgers University-Newark.

Walter Mignolo is William H. Wannamaker Professor of Literature at Duke University and has joint appointments in Cultural Anthropology and Romance Studies. He has published extensively on semiotics and literary theory, and has in the past years been working on different aspects of the modern/colonial world and exploring concepts such as global coloniality, the geopolitics of knowledge, transmodernity, border thinking, and di/pluriversalities. His recent publications on these latter topics include: *The Idea of Latin America* (2005) and *The Darker Side of the Renaissance: Literacy, Territoriality, Colonization* (1995).

Harold Morales is a Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Morgan State University. His research focuses on the intersections between race and religion and between lived and mediated religion. He uses these critical lenses to engage Latino religions in general and Latino Muslim groups in particular. His research will appear in a forthcoming monograph titled *Latino Muslims in America: Race-Religion, Media and the Making of a New Minority*. Morales is now focusing on developing applied approaches to the academic study of religion with projects that focus on public art in Baltimore, art-infused learning, and ethnographic community organizing.
A symposium exploring Arab and Middle Eastern communities in Latin America — whether Muslim (Sunni, Shia), Jewish, Christian, or secular — in Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, and Argentina. We chart flows of migration and immigration across time and space, driven by commerce and politics, bringing languages, dialects, religions, and ethnicities into contact and new combinations. We bring together anthropologists, historians, political scientists, literary theorists, art critics, poets, converts, and filmmakers. The symposium looks at the convergences and divergences between two seemingly remote regions and cultures, with attention to allegiances forged across the Global South. We particularly examine the articulation of a radical politics across different political, cultural, and historical contexts: liberation theologies, feminism, decolonization, Marxism, and socialism. We pay special attention to the expression of these ideologies through not just political movements, but also art, music, media, film, literature, and poetry.

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