

Middle Eastern Diasporas: (In)visible Minorities

Co-sponsored by

Council on Middle East Studies, Yale University
and
Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center,
Graduate Center, City University of New York

at
Betts House, Center for the Study of Globalization
393 Prospect Street, New Haven

Friday, March 18, 2005

6:00-9:00 Reception at Betts House

Saturday, March 19, 2005

8:30-9:00 AM Breakfast

9:00-9:30 am

INTRODUCTION

Abbas Amanat, Yale University
Rola El-Husseini, Yale University
Anny Bakalian, Graduate Center, CUNY
Mehdi Bozorgmehr, Graduate Center, CUNY

9:30:-11:00 am

PANEL I: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES

Chair: Rola El-Husseini, Yale University

Steve Gold, Michigan State University, *“Transnational Ties during a Time of Crisis:
The Israeli Diaspora since Fall 2000”*

Dalia Abdel-Hady, Southern Methodist University, *“A Comparative Analysis of Public
Engagement among Lebanese Immigrants in Three World Cities”*

Sara Ohly, Yale University, *“The Ones with the Crazy Blood: Coming of Age for
Turks in the Netherlands, Post 9/11”*

11:00-11:15 AM Break

11:15-12:45

PANEL 2: DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Chair: Mehdi Bozorgmehr, CUNY

Helen Samhan, Arab American Institute, “*Measuring Middle Eastern Communities in the U.S.: Challenges for the ‘Not Quite White’*”

Jen'nan Ghazal Read, University of California, Irvine, “*Alternative Definitions of Arab-American Identity: Demographic and Socioeconomic Implications*”

Jennifer Leila Holsinger, University of Washington, Seattle, “*Advantage or Disadvantage? The Residential Experience of Arab Americans*”

Amaney Jamal, Princeton University “*Religious Identity, Discrimination and 9/11: The Determinants of Arab American Levels of Political Confidence in Mainstream and Ethnic Institutions*”

12:45-1:45 Lunch

**1:45-2:30 Demonstration by Jonathan Friedlander, UCLA on
*(MEARO) Middle Eastern American Resources Online: A Web Resource***

2:30-4:30

PANEL 3: IDENTITY ACROSS GENERATIONS

Chair: Anny Bakalian, CUNY

Kristine Ajrouch, Eastern Michigan University, “*Identity Boundaries and Arab Americans: Generations in Metro Detroit*”

Matthew Jendian, California State University, Fresno, “*Ethnic Identity among Four Generations of Armenian Americans: Retention, Fluctuation, and Social Construction of Armenian Identity*”

Shideh Hanassab, UCLA and Mehdi Bozorgmehr, CUNY, “*Ethnic Identities and Aspirations of Second-Generation Iranians in Los Angeles*”

Ilhan Kaya, Dicle University, Turkey, “*Identity Formations across Generations among Turkish Americans*”

7:00 PM Dinner at the New Haven Lawn Club, 193 Whitney Avenue, New Haven

Sunday, March 20, 2005

8:30-9:00 AM Breakfast

9:00-10:30

PANEL 4: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

Chair: Abbas Amanat, Yale University

Sarah Gualtieri, Loyola University of New Orleans, ***“Representing “Little Syria”: Early Arab Immigrants and American Orientalism”***

Sophia Martos, UCLA, ***“The Phoenician Gaucho: Syrian-Lebanese Ethnic Identity in the Face of Argentine Nationalism”***

Leah Mancina-Khagani, Yale University, ***“Duse Mohamed Ali and the Boundaries of Middle Eastern American as an Ethnic Category”***

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-12:15

PANEL 5: CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

Chair: George Abdelnour, Williams College

Neery Melconian, NYC, ***“Too Little Too Late?: Nuanced Reading of Middle Eastern Diaspora Visual Arts”***

Amy Motlagh, Princeton University, ***“Memoirs and Mirrors: Genre, Gender, and Authority in Iranian Diasporic Literature”***

Dalia Basiouny, CUNY, ***“Beyond Baklava: Arab American Women Do Political Theatre”***

12:15-1:00 Lunch and Discussion