

**Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center  
(MEMEAC)**

Second Interdisciplinary Workshop on Religious Conversion

**The Politics of Conversion:**

Historical Perspectives, Sociological and Anthropological Insights

Organized by Ceren Ozgul

*Breakfast (9.00 –9.30)*

**PANEL 1 (9.30-10.30) Conversion and the Afterlife in Iran**

Mehrdad Amanat (Independent Scholar, LA), “Homeless Corpses and Desecrated Graves in Modern Iranian Experience”

Discussant: Ervand Abrahamian (History, Baruch/GC)

*Coffee/Tea (10.30-10.45)*

**PANEL 2 (10.45-1.00) New Approaches to Religious Conversion in the Ottoman Empire**

Marc Baer (History, UC Irvine), "The “Unconvertible Jew:” Crypto-Religion, Antisemitism, and the History of Jewish and Muslim Convergence"

Zeynep Turkyilmaz (History, Dartmouth), “Fellahs, Hūdais and Alawis: Making of communal identity in the late Ottoman Empire.

Discussant: Kabir Tambar (Anthropology, Stanford/Institute for Advanced Study)

*Lunch and Discussion (1.00-2.00)*

**PANEL 3 (2.00-4.00) Competing for Souls in Egypt**

Febe Armanios (History, Middlebury), “The Coptic-Catholic Encounter in Late Eighteenth-Century Egypt: Orthodoxy, Heresy and Socio-Religious Praxis”

Beth Baron (History, GC), "Mirror Images: Missionaries and the Rise of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt”

Discussant: Heather Sharkey (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania)

*Coffee/Tea (4.00-4.15)*

**Closing Remarks (4:15-5:00)**

Bryan Turner (Sociology, GC)

**Friday, October 14, 2011, Room 9204**

**Cosponsored with the Committee for the Study of Religion**

MIDDLE EAST & MIDDLE EASTERN AMERICAN CENTER

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