

The 4th AMSS Annual Conference
“Religious Dimensions of Democratization
Processes in Muslim-Majority Nations”

Cosponsored By:
Yale Divinity School
&
Council on Middle East Studies - The MacMillan Center
Yale University, New Haven, CT

Saturday, September 29, 2012

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Welcoming and Introductory Remarks
[Yale Divinity School - Niebuhr Hall - 409 Prospect Street]

Dean Gregory E. Sterling, Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT

Ambassador Sallama Shaker, Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT
(Program Chair)

Ali A. Mazrui (Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY)
(Former AMSS President)

9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Panel 1 (Yale Divinity School - Niebuhr Hall)
The Arab Spring: A Revolution Towards Democracy
Chair: Narges Erami, Yale University, New Haven, CT
Discussant: Jonathan Wyrzten, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Ali A. Mazrui (Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY): “The Arab Spring and Democratization in Sub Saharan Africa: Which is Cause and which is Effect?”

Thomas Uthup (Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY): “Towards a Sustainable Arab Spring: Locating Liberal Values in Islam”

Ermin Sinanovic (US Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD): “Islamic Political Thought after the Arab Spring”

11:00 – 11:15 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. 12:45 p.m. Panel 2 (Yale Divinity School - Niebuhr Hall)
Religion, Politics and Economics: Developing a Consensus Paradigm
Chair: Ambassador Sallama Shaker, Yale University, New Haven, CT
Discussant: Yousef Casewit, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Nebil Husayn (Princeton University, Princeton, NJ): “Authoritarianism in Bahrain: Motives, Methods and Challenges”

Meriem El Haitami (Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah University, Fez, Morocco):

“Morocco’s State-Sponsored Women Religious Guides (*murshidat*) and Scholars (*‘alimat*): Re-conceptualizing Female Religious Authority and Activism in Contemporary Morocco”

Nabil (Bill) Mikhail (George Washington University, Washington, DC): “The Role of Al Azhar and the Coptic Church in Post-Mubarak Egypt”

12:45 - 1:45 p.m.

Luncheon Keynote Address

[Yale Divinity School – The Common Room - 409 Prospect Street]

Ismail Raji al-Faruqi Memorial Lecture:

Keynote Speaker: Juan R. I. Cole

[Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI]

Keynote Address: “The Arab Spring and Democracy”

1:45 – 2:00 p.m. Dhur Prayers

2:15 – 3:45 p.m.

Panel 3

(Yale Divinity School - Niebuhr Hall)

***Moving Beyond the Arab Spring: Challenges to Democracy, Identity
Social Justice and Freedom in the Arab World***

Chair: Muhammad Aziz, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Discussant: Joseph Cumming, Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT

Abdul Aziz Said (American University, Washington, DC): “Transition: Islam, Arab Spring, Democracy, and the United States”

Mubarak Awad (American University, Washington, DC): “Challenges to Democracy and Justice in the Arab World”

Christian L. M. Watkins (Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT): “Political Islam and the Egyptian Awakening: Re-Imagining Political Identity, Media Narratives and the Future of Democracy”

3:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Break

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Panel 4

(Yale Divinity School - Niebuhr Hall)

Confrontation, Reconciliation and Empowerment

Chair: Mucahit Bilici, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

Discussant: Frank Griffel, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Celene Ayat Lizzio (Brandeis University, Waltham, MA): “Gender and Personal Status Law in the MENA Region: Between Secular-Liberal and Islamist Visions”

Sumaiya Hamdani (George Mason University, Fairfax, VA): “Conceptualizing the Rest: Political Islam and Historical Precedents for Minority/Majority Relations”

Shenila Khoja-Moolji (Columbia University, New York, NY): “Interrogating ‘Empowering’ Knowledges: Critical Reflections on Human Rights Education in Pakistan”

5:30 - 5:45 p.m.

Concluding Remarks

5:45 – 6:00 p.m.

Break & Asr Prayers

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Social Hour & Annual Grand Meeting

[Yale Divinity School – The Common Room – 409 Prospect Street]