

THE MIDDLE EAST CENTER

The Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, Seattle WA

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New Faculty Members Join the Pool of University of Washington Experts on the Middle East



Arzoo Osanloo



Karen Mathews



Andrew Freeman



Marina Rustow

THIS year the University of Washington welcomes several new faculty members to its ranks whose expertise is concentrated on the Middle East. Their research and scholarly interests greatly expand the pool of talent at the University focused on the Middle East and Islamic Central Asia.

Arzoo Osanloo

Arzoo Osanloo is an assistant professor appointed in the Department of Anthropology and the Comparative Law, Society, and Justice Program. She received her Ph.D. from Stanford University writing a dissertation on women's rights in Iran. Her research examines the social, political, and legal relations that construct the world of urban, middle-class women in Iran. Before earning her Ph.D., she practiced asylum and immigration law in Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, having received her J.D.

at The American University in Washington, D.C.

Karen Mathews

Karen Mathews has been appointed as a lecturer in the Department of Art. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and has taught Islamic art at the University of California-Santa Barbara, University of Texas, and Notre Dame. Her expertise is in medieval and Islamic art, with recent publications focused on such subjects as the inscriptions on the sultan Hasan Madrasa Complex, Cairo; interpretation of the Mamluk architecture of Cairo; and Muslim-Christian relations and visual culture in the medieval Mediterranean.

Andrew Freeman

Andrew (Andy) Freeman joins the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization as a lec-

turer in Arabic. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan where he combined his interests in linguistics, Arabic language, and computer software design. A versatile linguist, he commands both modern standard Arabic and well as Yemeni, Moroccan, Egyptian and Palestinian dialects of Arabic. He couples his linguistic talents with his interest in natural language processing and computer programing.

Marina Rustow

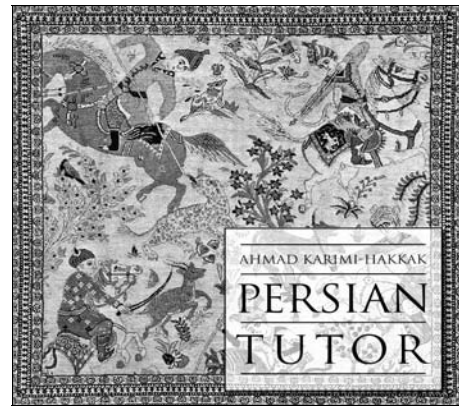
Marina Rustow is the 2003 Hazel D. Cole Fellow in Jewish Studies. She is teaching courses on medieval Jewish and Islamic history at the Jackson School while completing her Ph.D. dissertation, to be granted from Columbia University, titled "Toward a History of Jewish Heresy: Rabbanites and Karaites between Unity and Schism, 870-1250." ❧

IN THIS ISSUE: REGISTRATION FORMS FOR
2003 Film Workshop and International Updates

RESOURCES REVIEWED

Learning Persian Is Fun With This New CD

The *Persian Tutor* CD recently made available through SMiles Productions by Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, Professor of Persian, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations is an easy and fun new way to get started learning to read, write, and speak Persian. The CD, which runs on Win95 or faster computers, is simple to install and use. The Persian alphabet is introduced with interactive exercises on individual letters, connected letters embedded in words, and enhanced with audio files for pronunciation and guided practice. Skills build progressively to simple dialogues and reading exercises, which can be stopped, repeated, and digested at the student's own pace. *Persian Tutor* is a welcome addition to the learning resources for self-guided study of Persian.



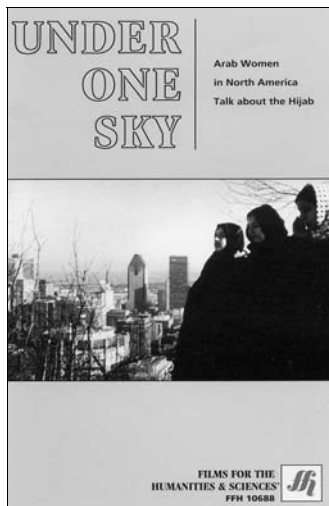
To order the CD, visit: www.smilesprod.com; or the U Bookstore's computer store (43rd & University Way, NE, Seattle)—Reviewed by Felicia Hecker, Associate Director, Middle East Center

Under One Sky: Examines the Veil in North American

In the past year and a half, Islam, veiling, and Arab women's roles have become a central focus of debate. While much of the discussion has focused on Arab women in the Middle East, it has become poignantly apparent since September 11, 2001 that there are a growing number of Muslim women in North America who are struggling on a personal level to establish their identity and observe their religious beliefs in a social and political environment that promotes, but does not always easily practice, religious tolerance.

Under One Sky: Arab Women in North America Talk about the Hijab is a powerful and extraordinary film that moves the debate about the veil from "out there" to our own backyard, poignantly and evocatively revealing the soul searching conflicts and tensions faced by Muslim women whose

choices—both to veil or to remain uncovered—carry much public, as well as personal, meaning. Por-



traying vivid cinematographic contrasts of quiet veiled prayer groups of Muslim women, billboards of half naked female models, militant vocal Muslim demonstrators, and clips of classic Ameri-

can film interpretations of Cleopatra and Lawrence of Arabia, *Under One Sky* assaults the reader with the contradictions and hypocrisies of defining women by their bodies, whether naked or covered, American or Arab, or Christian Muslim. *Under One Sky* is not a film to be viewed on a slow rainy afternoon as a quick replacement to a lecture. It is a film that demands attention and discussion; and it is certain to spur debate, not only about Islam and veiling, but about Western culture and our own obsession with women's bodies and beauty.

The video is available for loan from the Middle East Center for classroom use free of charge or for sale from Films for the Humanities: www.films.com—Reviewed by Paula Holmes-Eber, Affiliated Faculty, Middle East Center.

NEW VIDEOS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE CENTER'S RESOURCE LIBRARY

Resources may be borrowed free of charge for instructors and educators to use in their classrooms. Contact the Middle East Center by telephone (206)543-4227 or by email to: <fhecker@u.washington.edu>. The Center also publishes a video guide of its holdings, available free upon request, or view our webpage at <http://ljsis.artsci.washington.edu/programs/mideast/index.htm>

City of the Dead and the World Exhibitions. 76 min., 1995. Examines European images of the Arab world from an historical perspective and attempts to discover the roots of contemporary European politics and perception.



Frontiers of Dreams and Fears. 56 min., 2001. Traces the friendship that evolves between two Palestinian girls in different refugee camps. Directed by Mai Masri, this film won First Prize for a documentary in the 2002 International Festival of Films by Women-Turin



I Call Myself Persian: Iranians in America. 27 min., 2002. This film looks at Iranian-Americans and lets them speak about how their identities are affected by being made to feel as outsiders in the country they call home.

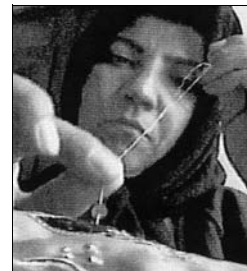
In My Own Skin: The Complexity of Living as an Arab in America. 16 min., 2001. A thought-provoking collection of meditations on issues of identity, race, and gender as experienced by five young Arab women living in New York.



Mahmoud Darwich: As the Land Is the Language. 60 min., 1997. This film examines the immense popularity of the Arab poet Mahmoud Darwich, placing his work in its political, historical, and cultural context.

The Needle and the Thread. 21 min., 1999. Examination of the colors and history of

women's clothing in Iran through the travels and work of Eshrat Badr. In Persian with English subtitles.



Saffron. 40 min., 1992. This documentary provides an account of a season's toil of saffron growers in Iran's eastern desert from planting to sale in the market. In Persian with English subtitles.

Tabaki (The Mourners). 27 min., 2001. This documentary examines the paid mourners who are called upon to attend funerals in Iran. In Persian with English subtitles.



CALENDAR OF SELECTED UP-COMING EVENTS

February 1, 2003

Documentary Film Workshop, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 413 Balmer Hall. \$40 registration required (see registration form inside this issue).

February 6, 2003

The Role of Palestinian Political Reform in Peace Building, 7:30 p.m., Kane Hall, Room 120. Speaker: Khalil Shikaki, Director, Palestinian Center for Policy & Survey Research. Contact: <mecuw@u.washington.edu>.

February 8, 2003

Origins of Iranian Modernism: Visual Arts of the Late Qajar Period (2003 Hooshang Afrassiabi Distinguished Lecture in Persian Studies). 6:30 p.m. Kane Hall, Room, 210. Speaker: Layla Diba, Brooklyn Museum. Contact: 206-543-0663.

February 13, 2003

Turkey and Iraq, 7:30 p.m., Kane 210. Speaker: Soner Cagaptay, Head, Turkish Section, Institute for Near East Policy, Washington, D.C. Contact: 206-685-2707.

February 19, 2003

The Dome of the Rock: From Its Creation to Our Age of Confrontation. 7:30 p.m., Kane 220. Speaker: Jere L. Bacharach, Professor of History, UW. Contact: 206-543-4835.

February 26, 2003

Tunisia: Problems and Prospects of Liberalization. 5:30-8:00 p.m., Walker-Ames room, Kane Hall. Speaker: Laurence O. Michalak, Vice Chair, Center for Middle East Studies, UC-Berkeley. \$25 pre-registration required (see registration form inside this issue)

February 27, 2003

Ottoman Views of the West before Westernization, 3:30-5:00, Communications Building, Rm. 226. Speaker: Cemal Kafadar, Vehbi Koc Professor of Turkish Studies, Harvard University. Contact: 206-543-3920.

The Middle East Center Newsletter

EDITOR

Felicia J. Hecker

ADDRESS

Middle East Center
Box 353650
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195 USA

TELEPHONE

206-543-4227

FAX

206-685-0668

E-MAIL

mecuw@u.washington.edu
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