



**Annual North Carolina Consortium for
Middle East Studies Conference**

**MEMORIES & FUTURES IN MIDDLE
EAST STUDIES: TEMPORALITIES,
NOSTALGIAS, ANXIETIES**

APRIL 4-5, 2025

This interdisciplinary conference of North Carolina-based scholars of Middle East studies aims to illuminate the complex interplay between memory and futurity, fostering critical conversations about how historical narratives and collective memories shape contemporary realities and future possibilities in the region. The conference will feature a keynote lecture by Adam Mestyan on “Past Arab Futures? Lessons of the 1920s for the 2020s,” as well as three dynamic panels, each addressing critical facets of the overarching theme: (1) Protest & Resistance, (2)(Re)Imagined Memories & Futures, and (3) Echoes of the Past: The Role of Memory & Heritage in Transnational Relations in the Middle East.

WFU Organizing Committee:

Michaëlle Browsers, Ryan Schroth, Merih Danali, Kimberly Wortmann, Lina Benabdallah, Charles Wilkins



Please register at:
<https://go.unc.edu/NCMideast2025>



Wake Forest University
Winston-Salem, NC

Memories & Futures in Middle East Studies: Temporalities, Nostalgias, Anxieties

Conference Schedule -- April 4-5, 2024

Friday, April 4

7:30-9:00pm: film viewing of *Lyd* (Graylyn Conference Center)

Saturday, April 5

All Saturday events except the musical performance take place at WFU's Benson Center

9:00am-10:45am: Panel 1. Protest & Resistance

Panel Organizer & Chair: Ryan Schroth, French Studies, WFU

Panelists/Papers:

- Eylaf Bader Eddin, Arab Studies, Davidson College: "Because of the Revolution, We Know: Sednaya Prison Songs"
- Emek Ergun, Global Studies, UNC-Charlotte: "Kurdish Resistance and Liberation Crossing Borders in Translation"
- Rayed Khedher, Arabic, WFU: "Tunisian Migrants Enacting Their Hurriya: "The Right to Claim Rights"
- Tara di Cassio, Geography, UNC-CH: "Memory, Futurity, and Archive in Palestinian Wall Art"

10:45-11:00am: Coffee Break

11:00am-12:30pm: Panel 2. (Re)Imagined Memories & Futures

Panel Organizer & Chair: Merih Danali, Art, WFU

Panelists/Papers:

- Nadia Yaqub, Arabic Literature, UNC-CH: "Futurity after Genocide"
- Sheera Talpaz, English and Comparative Literature, UNC-CH: "Nostalgic Utopias in Zionist Literature"
- Michaëlle Browsers, Politics and International Affairs, WFU: "Generational Consciousness in Palestinian Futurism"
- Erdağ Gökner, Turkish Literature, Duke: "Law and Catastrophe in an Affective Mode: Fragments of the Ottoman War Crimes Tribunals (1919-20) and the Armenian Genocide"

12:30pm-1:15pm: Mediterranean Lunch Buffet

1:15pm-2:15pm: Keynote Address: Adam Mestyan, History, Duke University: "Past Arab Futures? Lessons of the 1920s for the 2020s"

2:15pm-2:30pm: Coffee Break

2:30pm-4:00pm: Panel 3. Echoes of the Past: The Role of Memory and Heritage in Transnational Relations in the Middle East

Panel Co-Organizers: Lina Benabdallah, Politics & International Affairs, WFU and Kimberly Wortmann, Religions, WFU

Panel Chair: Dr. Leann Pace, Religion, Wake Forest

Panelists/Papers:

- Micah Aaron Hughes, Middle East and Islamic Studies, UNC-CH: "Philology and the Mirror of Orientalism: Republican Turkish Critiques of Late Ottoman Islam"
- Ehsan Sheikholharam, Architecture, Kennesaw State University: "The Genealogy of Ismaili Spatial Politics"
- Jennifer Gates Foster, Classics, UNC-CH: "Destroying the Past to Gain the Future: Economic Pressures and Heritage Politics in Egypt"
- Ryan Lynch, Columbus State University: "Plagued with this Great Matter': The (Mis)Appropriation of the Islamic Past by ISIS in the Mosul Speech of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi"

5:00pm-6:30pm: An Appalachian Maqam. A musical performance by the Travis Williams Group (Scales, Brendle Recital Hall)