

WEST ASIA WORKSHOP

University of Sussex, Tuesday May 16th 2017

Ashdown House Room 102

Welcome and Opening Remarks 09:10 – 09:15 (Professor Magnus Marsden, Sussex Asia Centre)

Keynote Address (1) 9: 15 – 10: 15 Professor Nile Green (University of California, Los Angeles)

“Worlds & Roads: The Mechanics and Semantics of Space-Making”.

Chair: Professor Magnus Marsden (School of Global Studies, University of Sussex)

Panel 1: 10:15 – 11: 45 Religion Interactions and West Asian Dynamics

Chair: Dr Hillary Kalmbach (School of History/Middle East & North Africa Centre, University of Sussex)

Professor Oleg Yarosh (Oriental Philosophy, National Academy of Sciences Ukraine): “Globalization of redemptive sociality: Al-Ahbash and Haqqaniyya transnational Sufi networks in West Asia and Central-Eastern Europe”.

Dr Andreas Bandak (Copenhagen University): “Spiritual and Political Kinship: Preserving Christianity in the Levant amidst the Play of Geo-Politics”.

Dr Simon Wolfgang Fuchs (University of Cambridge): “Potentials of Periphery: how Pakistan's Shi'is navigate the pull of West Asia”.

Prof Sebnem Akcapar (Koç University Asia Centre): “‘The Ties That Bind’: Religious Conversions among Afghan Refugees in India, from Islam to Evangelism”.

11:45 – 12:00 - Break

Panel 2: 12:00 – 13:15 Re-aggregating West Asia: Intra-Asian Comparisons and Connections

Chair: Dr Kamran Matin (School of Global Studies, University of Sussex)

Dr Diana Ibañez Tirado (School of Global Studies, University of Sussex): “Moscow 1990s and Yiwu 2000s – a comparative analysis of the life-trajectories of former students in West, Inner and East Asia”.

Dr Paul Anderson (University of Cambridge): “Choosing China: contextualising Syrian and Yemeni eastward migration to Yiwu after 2011”.

Dr Burak Gürel & Dr Erdem Yörük (Department of Sociology, Koç University): “The politics of social assistance in contemporary Asia: comparative analysis of China, India, and Turkey”.

13:15 – 14:15 Lunch for Speakers, Chairs and Invited Guests

Keynote address (2) 14:15 – 15:00 Professor Francis Robinson (Royal Holloway, University of London)

“West Asia and South Asia through 1000 years”.

Chair: Professor Filippo Osella (School of Global Studies, University of Sussex)

Panel 3: 15:00-16: 15 West Asian Mobilities and Identities in the ‘Era of Globalisation’

Chair: Dr Ka Kin Cheuk (Leiden University)

Mr. Kourosh Kouchakpour (School of Education & Social Work, University of Sussex): “Shifting Patterns of Student Mobility in West Asia: An Analysis of the University Students’ Challenges and Opportunities for Participation in International Contexts”.

Professor Magnus Marsden (School of Global Studies, University of Sussex): “Partial Neighbourhoods: Central Asian Emigres across West Asian Cities”

Ms. Idil Akinci (School of Global Studies, University of Sussex): “Politics of Belonging in the Cosmopolitan Persian Gulf- a study of national identity construction in the Emirates”.

16:15 – 16:30 Break

Panel 4: 16:30 - 17:30 Whose West Asia? – Critical reflections on ‘the region’

Chair: Dr Alice Wilson (School of Global Studies, University of Sussex)

Dr Till Mostowlansky (Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, The University of Hong Kong): “Whose West Asia? Reflections from Hong Kong, Singapore and lesser known places”.

Dr David Henig (Department of Anthropology, University of Kent at Canterbury): “A scent of the other shore”.

Concluding Remarks: 17:30 – 18:00: Dr Seteney Shami (Programme Director, Inter-Asia, Social Science Research Council; Founding Director, Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS), Beirut)

Chair: Professor Magnus Marsden (School of Global Studies, University of Sussex)

18:00 Drinks and Buffet dinner: Speakers, Panel Chairs and Invited Guests - The Dhaba