

*Transformations of Middle Eastern
Natural Environments: Legacies and Lessons*

October 28 – November 1, 1997

YALE UNIVERSITY

Conference Panels

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Gustav Ranis, Director, Yale Center for International and Area Studies
Abbas Amanat, Chair, Council on Middle East Studies

PLENARY TALK

History and Ecology at Cross Purposes

Brian Spooner

PANEL: ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

The Environment and Disease Transmission: the Case of Cholera in 19th Century Iran

Amir A. Afkhami

Land Law and the “Development” of Mandate Palestine

Martin Bunton

Monitoring the Desert Locust in the Middle East Since 1945: An Overview

Keith Cressman

**Rural Social Centers in Egypt, 1939-1951: A Case Study in the Transfer of Western
Social Science Thinking to Egypt**

Amy J. Johnson

**Consequences of Rapid Population Growth and the Fertility Policies in the Arab Countries of the
Middle East**

Onn Winckler

Moderator: Steven Stoll

Discussant: Roger Kenna

PANEL: AGRICULTURE, PASTORALISM, AND DEVELOPMENT

Air Pollution in Tehran, Iran: the Linkage between Land Use, Transportation, and Air Quality

Farhad Atash

Use of Land by Nomadic Pastoralists in Iran

Lois Beck

Biodiversity and Sustainable Agriculture in the Fertile Crescent

A. A. Jaradat

Environmental Problems in a Sugar-beet Growing Region of Turkey:

The Links with Contract Farming

Behrooz Morvaridi

Gender, Pastoralism, and Intensification: Changing Environmental Knowledge and Resource Use in Morocco

Susanne H. Steinmann

Moderator: Nader Habibi

Discussant: Linda Schilcher

PHOTO ESSAY

Classical Landscapes and Other Delights

Luke Powell

PANEL: IRRIGATION HISTORY

Middle East Irrigation: Legacies and Some Lessons

Peter Christensen

The Saudi Arabian Grain Experiment of the Early 1980s

David DeRosa

Qanats and Lifeworlds in an Iranian Plateau Village

Paul Ward English

Traditional Water Use in the Jordan Valley and Dead Sea Basin: A Survey of the Archaeological, Historical, and Ethnographic Evidence

Joseph Greene

Irrigating the Badia: Bedouin Entrepreneurialism or Environmental Suicide?

Alistair Kirk

Moderator: Magnus Bernhardsson

Discussant: Daniel Hillel

PANEL: WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

“Virtual Water:” A Current and Future Solution

J. A. Allan

The Impact of Water Management Strategies on the Tigris-Euphrates Basin

Peter Beaumont

Toward a Sustainable Water Resource Strategy: The Use of a Decision Support System

Hynd Bouhia

Defining the Political-Ecological Threshold for the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers

John Kolars

Should Ethiopia Engage in Negotiations on a New Nile Waters Agreement?

Dale Whittington

Moderator: Jeff Albert

Discussant: J. A. Allan

PANEL: UNIFIED MANAGEMENT OF THE JORDAN RIVER BASIN

Past Agreements, Plans, and the Future Management of the Jordan Basin

Sharif S. Elmusa

The Water Agreements Between Israel and its Neighbors

Uri Shamir

“Hydrostrategic” Territory in the Jordan River Basin: Water, War, and Arab-Israeli Peace Negotiations

Aaron T. Wolf

Moderator: W. Michael Reisman

Discussant: J. A. Allan

PANEL: ISSUES OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Issues of the Marine Environment: An Overview

Menakhem Ben-Yami

Fisheries Development in the Arab World

Izzat Feidi

The Impact of Red Sea Fish Migrants through the Suez Canal on the Eastern Mediterranean Environment

Daniel Golani

International Fishing Activities in the Eastern Mediterranean

Andreas Keleshis

Assessment of Oil Spill Damages to Commercial Fisheries and the Marine Environment of Fujairah, U.A.E.

Walter Pearson

Moderator and Discussant: Abdul Rahman al-Awadi

PANEL: NATURE AND CULTURE: THE IDEA OF A GARDEN

Gardens of Eden: Exotic Flora and Fauna in the Ancient Near East

Karen Polinger Foster

The Arboreal Aesthetic: Landscape, Painting, and Architecture from Mongol Iran to Mamluk Egypt

Bernard O’Kane

Prefiguring Orientalism: Fernando de Medici’s Boboli Gardens Projects and Renaissance Study of the Islamic Landscape

Christopher Pastore

Rethinking the Islamic Garden

Attilio Petruccioli

Between Paradise and Political Capital: The Gardens of Isfahan

Heidi Walcher

Moderator: Ahmad Dallal

PANEL: CLIMATE CHANGE

North Atlantic Influence on the Middle Eastern Climate and Water Supply

Heidi Cullen

Holocene Climate Change in the Near East: The Perspective from Lake Van

Gerry Lemcke

Lake Evidence of Global Moisture Balance Stepover ca. 4000 B.P.

Rusanne Low

Large-scale Climate Reconstructions Over the Past Millenium Based on Multiproxy Network Calibrations

Michael Mann

Social Responses to Abrupt Climate Changes in Rainfed Northeast Syria

Harvey Weiss

Moderator and Discussant: Cynthia Rosenzweig

PANEL: MONITORING TRENDS IN THE USE AND REGENERATION OF RESOURCES

Degradation of the Syrian Steppe under Modern Exploitation

Youssef Barkoudah

Monitoring the Use and Restoration of Natural Resources in Southwest Asia

Nicholas Kouchoukos

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Natural Resource Economics in West and Central Asia

Thomas Nordblum

Climatic Atlas of the Near East: A Working Document

Ronald Smith

Moderator and Discussant: Frank Hole

PANEL: ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS

ROPME and Protection of the Marine Environment

Abdul Rahman al-Awadi

A New Environmental Agency for the United Arab Emirates

Saif M. Al-Ghais

Ecopeace: A Model Organization for Regional Cooperation in the Middle East

Gidon Bromberg

Environmental Movements and Problems in Egypt

Nicholas Hopkins

Ecotourism from Petra to Palmyra: New Age Trauma

Linda Schilcher

Moderator: Nancy Ruther

Discussant: Brian Spooner

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

J. A. Allan, Youssef Barkoudah, Brian Spooner

Moderator: Frank Hole

Conference Poster Sessions

**Monitoring Irrigation Development in the Harran Basin, Turkey,
Using Landsat MSS Imagery**

Jeff Albert and Nick Kouchoukos, Yale University

**Cultural Identity and Communal Politicization in the Resettled
Nomadic Environment: The Case of the Israeli Negev Bedouin**

Stephen C. Dinero, Philadelphia College

**The Importance of Group Affiliation, Land Use and Ideology in Shaping
Perceptions of the Extent and Causes of Desertification in the
Southern West Bank**

Steven Gasteyer, Iowa State University

**Classifying Vegetation in the Semi-Arid Near East Using Fourier Series
Techniques**

Art Gleason, Yale University

The Marshlands of Southern Iraq: A Forgotten Environment

Sayed Nadeem A. Kazmi, Al-Khoei Foundation

Origins of Islam: Socio-Political and Socio-Ecological Contexts

Andrey Korotayev, Oriental Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Developing Sustainable Water Management in the Jordan Valley

Rudolph Orthofer, Austrian Research Centre

Transformation of the Environment in the History of Ancient Egypt

Dmitry B. Proussakov, Oriental Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences

**Syria's Agricultural Development and Environmental Concerns:
Conflicts and Solutions**

Gloria Saliba, University of California, Los Angeles

**Remote Sensing Analysis of Irrigation-Associated Land Use Changes in
Southeastern Turkey: Possible Relation to Increased Incidence of Malaria**

Antoinette Wannebo, Columbia University

**Risk and Transformation of Water Use Governance in the Middle East:
A Systems Perspective**

Jeroen Warner, University of Groningen

Conference Participants

- AMIR A. AFKHAMI Yale University
- ABDUL RAHMAN AL-AWADI Regional
Organization for the Protection of the Marine
Environment, Kuwait
- JEFF ALBERT Yale University
- J. A. ALLAN University of London
- ABBAS AMANAT Yale University
- FARHAD ATASH University of Rhode Island
- YOUSSEF BARKOUDAH International Plant
Genetic Resources Institute
- PETER BEAUMONT University of Wales
- LOIS BECK Washington University
- MENAKHEM BEN-YAMI Consultant
- MAGNUS BERNHARDSSON Yale University
- HYND BOUHIA Harvard University
- GIDON BROMBERG Ecopeace
- MARTIN BUNTON University of Victoria
- PETER CHRISTENSEN University of Copenhagen
- HEIDI CULLEN Columbia University
- KEITH CRESSMAN FAO-Rome
- AHMAD DALLAL Yale University
- DAVID DEROSA Yale University
- STEVEN DINERO Philadelphia College
- SHARIF S. ELMUSA Institute for Palestine Studies
- PAUL WARD ENGLISH University of Texas, Austin
- IZZAT FEIDI FAO-Rome
- KAREN POLINGER FOSTER Yale University
- STEPHEN GASTEYER Iowa State University
- ART GLEASON University of Maryland
- DANIEL GOLANI Hebrew University
- JOSEPH A. GREENE Harvard University
- NADER HABIBI Yale University
- DANIEL HILLEL University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- FRANK HOLE Yale University
- NICHOLAS HOPKINS American University of Cairo
- A.A. JARADAT International Plant Genetic
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- AMY T. JOHNSON Harvard University
- SAYEED NADEEM A. KAZMI Al-Khoei Foundation
- ANDREAS KELESHIS FAO-Cyprus
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- ALISTAIR KIRK University of Durham
- JOHN KOLARS University of Michigan
- ANDREY KOROTAYEV Oriental Institute of the
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- MICHAEL MANN University of Massachusetts, Amherst
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- THOMAS NORDBLUM International Center for
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- W. MICHAEL REISMAN Yale Law School
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- GLORIA SALIBA University of California, Los Angeles
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- HARVEY WEISS Yale University
- DALE WHITTINGTON University of North Carolina
- ONN WINCKLER University of Haifa
- AARON WOLF Oregon State University

Council on Middle East Studies

YALE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AND AREA STUDIES

The Council on Middle East Studies at Yale University, chaired by Abbas Amanat, is a member of the Yale Center for International and Area Studies. The Council works to coordinate offerings relating to the Middle East among various departments of the university and enhances the permanent resources available on campus by sponsoring discussions and lectures by visiting scholars as well as conferences and workshops. The Council also provides information concerning grants, fellowships, research programs, and foreign study opportunities and disseminates information to the Yale community regarding study of the Middle East in the vicinity of New Haven, and is involved in the outreach effort carried out by the program in International Studies.

The Council's recent projects include a year-long seminar on "Millennialism: Motifs and Movements" (a Mellon/Sawyer Seminar, 1998), an international conference on Islamic Law (1994) and the 1997 conference "Transformations of Middle Eastern Natural Environments." Projects of the Council planned for the future include a conference on Arabic and Persian medieval literature, a series of conferences on American-Middle Eastern relations (economic, political, and cultural) and a study of water management in the Middle East.

More information about the Council can be found on the following website: <http://www.yale.edu/ycias/cmcs>.

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