Past Sabbagh Lectures

1993 - Professor Talal Asad  
City University of New York  
“Tradition and Traditions in the Arab World: An Anthropological View”

1994 - Professor Dale F. Eickelman  
Dartmouth College  
“Muslim Politics: The Prospects for Democracy in the Arab World”

1995 - Associate Professor Lila Abu-Lughod  
New York University  
“Illusions of Equality: Women and the New Islamic Morality in Egypt”

1996 - Professor Fredrik Barth  
Emory University  
“Tolerance and Multiculturalism in the Arab Nation of Oman”

1997 - Professor Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad  
University of Massachusetts  
“The Silk Curtain: The West, Arab Women and the Veil”

1998 - Professor Robert A. Fernea  
University of Texas at Austin  
“Transformation from Kinship and Subsistence to Accommodation and Resistance: 40 Years of Field Work in the Arab World”

1999 - Professor Brinkley Messick  
Columbia University  
“Justice in an Arab Court”

2000 - Professor Abdellah Hammoudi  
Princeton University  
“The Anthropology of Islam: Misunderstandings of the Past, Perils of the Future”

2001 - Professor Clifford Geertz  
Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University  
“Islam, Identity and Local Culture: A Comparative Case”

2002 - Professor Edmund Burke, III  
University of California at Santa Cruz  
“Itineraries in the Arab Mediterranean Before Colonialism: The Adventures of Ali bin Uthman, Mamluk of Napoleon”

2003 - Professor Suad Joseph  
University of California, Davis  
“Self, Homework, and the Other: Representations of the Arab in Media and Scholarship”

2004 - Professor Dimitri Gutas  
Yale University  
“The Social Contexts of Medieval Arabic Science”

2005 - Professor Zainab Bahrani  
Columbia University  
“Mesopotamia as Battleground: Iraq’s Cultural Heritage Under Occupation”

2006 - Professor Juan R.I. Cole  
University of Michigan  
“Amercia and the Iraqi Shi’ites”

2007 - Professor Azizah Y. al-Hibri  
University of Richmond  
“Gender and the Islamic World View”

2008 - Professor Kanan Makiya  
Brandeis University  
“Is Iraq Viable?”

2009 - Professor Andrew Shryock  
University of Michigan  
“Best of Times/Worst of Times: Citizenship and Its Contradictions in Arab Detroit”

2010 - George Packer  
The New Yorker  
“Journalism as Anthropology: Stories from the Middle East”

2011 – Professor Lawrence Rosen  
Princeton University  
“The Concept of the Self in Arab Society and Culture”

2012 – Professor Juan R.I. Cole  
University of Michigan  
“The Arab Spring One Year Later”

2013 – Professor Marcia C. Inhorn  
Yale University  
“The New Arab Man: Emergent Masculinities, Technologies, and Islam in the Middle East”

2014 – Professor McGuire Gibson  
The University of Chicago  
“The Neo-Assyrian Queens’ Tombs and What They Tell Us About the Elite, Diplomacy, and Dowries”

2015 – Scheduled and Canceled

2016 – Steven C. Caton  
Harvard University  
“Oasis, Coast, and Mountain: Land/Waterscapes of Culture and History in the Arabian Gulf”

2017 – Orit Bashkin  
The University of Chicago  
“The History of Iraqi Jewish Children—In Israel and Iraq”

2018 – Michael Gilsenan  
February 22, 2018  
7:00 PM  
“The History of Iraqi Jewish Children—In Israel and Iraq”

The 26th Annual Sabbagh Lecture  
Tucson University Park Hotel  
880 East 2nd Street • Tucson, Arizona
About the Speaker
Michael Gilsenan, a social and cultural anthropologist, is the David B. Kriser Professor in Anthropology and Middle Eastern Studies at New York University. He was previously the director of the Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies at NYU. Professor Gilsenan studied at Oxford University (B.A. Oriental Studies; DPhil Social Anthropology). He was a lecturer and then reader in anthropology at University College London and the Khalid bin Abdullah al Saud Professor at Magdalen College, Oxford. Gilsenan’s doctoral work was about the sociology of Sufi orders in Egypt. He later spent two years in north Lebanon living in a village in the region of Akkar.

Gilsenan is currently researching the Hadhrami Arab diaspora in Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia, with a focus on law, inheritance, property, and family over multi generations in colonial and post-colonial contexts. He is also exploring the politics of imperial translations in Britain and China during 1880-1914. His writing has dealt with sociological approaches to the study of forms of Islam in the modern world.

About the Lecture
Arabs from the Hadhramaut area of Yemen have migrated to South and Southeast Asia for centuries. Gilsenan is studying the larger migrations from the 1870s on, of those who travelled or settled in what are now Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore. How do migrants transmit goods, monies, and properties? How do they originate and reproduce cultural practices over the generations? How do often shifting ideas of ‘family,’ ‘blood,’ and morality intersect with colonial legal institutions as well as with changing forms of Sharia in the colonies from the later 19th century on?

One inheritance strategy until the Second World War was to set up family trusts under English law, trusts whose funds usually have to be distributed to heirs some 75-85 years after their establishment. Conflicts over such trusts, as in America and Britain, are legion, the stuff of jokes, impassioned narratives, and wildly complicated documentations. Combine these entanglements with legal challenges to wills and we have all the material of family dramas across the generations and diasporic spaces that to this day play out in contemporary Singapore courts in which judges rule in terms of both Sharia and Singapore law.

The Sabbagh Lectures
The School of Anthropology is very pleased to present this series of distinguished speakers in the Sabbagh Lectures. This year the School presents the twenty-sixth annual Sabbagh Lecture. The lectures focus on the Arab cultures of the Middle East from an anthropological perspective.

Through the generosity of Drs. Entisar and Adib Sabbagh, an expert in Arab cultures is brought to campus each year. The guest speaker participates in one public lecture and a master seminar for graduate students.

Dr. Entisar (Vivi) Sabbagh is a Ph.D. graduate of the UA School of Anthropology, and Dr. Adib Sabbagh is a Tucson cardiac surgeon.

The Sabbaghs are sponsoring these lectures to enhance public understanding and appreciation for the complexity and diversity of Arab cultures. The lectures also serve to enrich the curriculum of the School of Anthropology by bringing to it the expertise of eminent scholars.

Questions?
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