



# AIMS

American Institute for Magrib Studies

# Newsletter

Spring 2004  
Volume 7 Issue 1

## Letter from the President: Exciting Opportunities in Algeria

Dear AIMS Colleagues,

I would like to report on a trip to Algeria during the first half of May. I was in the country only partly in connection with AIMS. Work on several projects involving the University of Michigan were also among the reasons for my trip. But these, too, as well as AIMS-related activities, indicate the degree to which Algeria is opening up and opportunities for American scholars and students are increasing.

Let me first discuss our work on behalf of an AIMS research center in Algeria, modeled on CEMAT in Tunis and, to a lesser extent, TALM in Tangier. We have been pursuing this for some time, and at the time of this writing details are still being worked out. But I am very hopeful that the end is in sight, and that in the coming months AIMS will not only be the only member of CAORC with research facilities in two different countries, we will also be the only one with a research center in three countries.

During my visit, I worked closely with Liz Colton, PAO at the U.S. embassy in Algiers, and Richard Erdman, our ambassador to Algeria. Both were extremely helpful, and their encouragement and support made a big difference in moving us forward. Liz and Ambassador Colton met with Professor Abdelbaki Benziane, Algerian member of our *Commission Mixte*, during a visit to Oran. Ms. Colton and I then revised the proposed protocol that Abdelbaki and I had submitted to Algerian authorities a year ago, after which she and I met with the appropriate official in the Ministry of Higher Education, the Director of External Relations. We received a warm reception and assurances that everything is on track, that the protocol would be translated and ready for signing soon, and that the Algerians would like to have the signing

ceremony at the ministerial level, with Ambassador Erdman present.

The night before our departure, the ambassador was kind enough to host a dinner for the Algerian officials and colleagues with whom we are working on this and other projects. He also invited a number of university rectors and other distinguished Algerians. In my remarks at the dinner I was able to point out that one of the prominent Algerians present, Boutheina Cheriet, was in fact a past AIMS grantee.

So there were encouraging signs and expectations of progress all around. Liz Colton and Ambassador Erdman were extremely generous and gracious. And Liz knows Mary Ellen Lane from days together in Cairo, and they talked on the phone while all this was going on to coordinate our efforts even further.

This might be the place to say something about American-Algerian relations at a time when our relations with the Arab world are so strained. In this work and in our other projects, and as I'm sure those of you visiting other Arab countries in recent days have found, people are ready to make a distinction between ourselves and our collaborative projects on the one hand and the policies our government is pursuing on the other. Actually, Algerians appear to have some appreciation for aspects of our "war on terrorism," complaining that it took 9/11 to get the U.S. and the rest of the world to see what Algeria's own tragedy should have made clear very much earlier.

More generally, however, since many aspects of our policy are not appreciated, the important point is that Algerians, to the extent I can judge, do not think that any disagreement with our government about Iraq, Israel/Palestine, or other issues is a reason not to participate in well-intentioned collaborative

ventures. On the contrary, coming out of a tragic and isolating "dark decade," Algeria is eager to rebuild and expand relations with scholars and others from the U.S. and elsewhere. Two University of Michigan doctoral students went with me on the trip, and I cannot begin to tell you how warmly they were welcomed by Algerian students and others and how many invitations they received.

One last thing about our AIMS center in Algeria: the location. Our protocol specifies that it can be in Oran, Algiers, or both. The Ministry's Director of External Relations asked if we might eventually establish a center in Constantine as well, which indicates how enthusiastic a reception we received. While there are certainly good reasons to establish the center in Algiers, my best guess at present is that

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we'll be authorized to start in Oran, which has been the plan for a long time, where the ground work has been laid by Professor Benziane, and where we were shown the building in which we may be given space.

Oran also has strong programs in social science research, and living and getting around is easier than in Algiers. Of course, Algiers would have obvious advantages, too, and we still hope to be able to establish an AIMS presence there in the future.

That's where things stand at present. Nothing is yet final, but it is all very encouraging.

And that brings me to the other things I was doing during this trip. For one thing, I worked with Algerian colleagues to design a public opinion survey that we hope to carry out in the fall. It is being funded by a grant made to the University of Michigan, in which AIMS is listed as an associated institution. The grant also has a major training component; ten Algerians spent part of the summer at Michigan in 2002 on this project, and we also carried out a major national survey that year.

I wrote about this in a previous contribution to the AIMS newsletter, indicating how, at no cost to AIMS, this illustrates the kind of synergies that we might undertake. AIMS was connected in a similar way to a workshop at Al-Akhawayn University last fall. The workshop was funded by the same grant to Michigan, with Al-Akhawayn helping on the budget as well. AIMS did not pay any of the costs, but as an associated institution we gained publicity and additional visibility in North Africa.

Michigan has still another grant for an exchange program with the University of Algiers. We have thus far had two Algerian scholars teach at Michigan as part of this program, and two more are coming this summer to take specialized

courses in survey methodology. The work relating to surveys connects with the earlier grant, giving yet additional synergy. The graduate students who traveled to Algeria with me, and who are still there, are teaching a mini-course at the university and also laying a foundation for possible dissertation research.

All in all, they have received a tremendously warm reception from students and faculty in Algiers, and new opportunities keep coming along. They have been invited to lecture at universities in four other cities. They are also assisting Algerian colleagues to carry out a project sponsored by UNDP.

I should mention that the Algerians are sharing the cost of much of this. They are supplementing our grant and paying in-country travel for our students. They are thus true partners in every sense of the term. This shows, again, how open they are to program building and collaboration. The Algerians share ownership of our projects; it's a very healthy situation, where we on the U.S. side are partners, not donors.

You perhaps saw the recent announcement for two new Fulbright lectureships in Algeria. Both the Algerians, and the U.S. embassy that administers the Fulbright program, are eager to have Americans come and teach (see below).

The message that should come through in all of these remarks is that Algeria is increasingly an open and welcoming place for American scholars and students. I am hoping that next year's competition for AIMS research grants will receive applications for work in Algeria and that the Grants Committee will fund some of these. I am also hoping that by that time, or not long after, we will have an AIMS center in Algeria to assist these scholars and students.

*Mark Tessler*

## Research Awards to Algeria 2005-2006

The Fulbright Council for International Exchange has a new research awards program that offers up to two lecturing or lecturing/research awards to Algeria.

**Stipend:** \$2,400-\$2,600 monthly base stipend, according to the standard base stipend formula.

**Maintenance:** Monthly maintenance allowances have not yet been determined. Consult CIES for details.

**Program Overview:** Academic year is from September 2005 to July 2006 and includes three terms: October through December 2005, January through March 2006 and April through June 2006, with two 2-week breaks in winter and spring. Lecturing is in Arabic or French, with the exception of American studies and English language awards, where English is employed. A working knowledge of either Arabic or French is necessary to function in universities and communities. A one- or two-page summary of the project in Arabic or French is required, except for American studies or English language proposals.

**Staff:** For deadline information and application contact Assistant Director Gary L. Garrison (202 686-4019; ggarrison@cies.iie.org) or Homa Rafiq (202 686-4018; hrafiq@cies.iie.org) or visit: [www.cies.org](http://www.cies.org).

**AIMS Grants** are available for research in Algeria, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia for AIMS members who are U.S. citizens. Short term awards are granted up to \$5,000 and long term awards are offered up to \$15,000. Check our website in the fall for an updated application. Announcements will also be sent out in membership renewal packets in January. AIMS grants are due in early March of each year.

Visit [www.la.utexas.edu/research/mena/aims](http://www.la.utexas.edu/research/mena/aims) or contact Kerry Adams at [aimscmes@u.arizona.edu](mailto:aimscmes@u.arizona.edu)



## TALM Director's Six-Month Report

Museum activity has been varied and productive in the last six months. We continue to host hundreds of visitors from around the

world. We assisted researchers, administered grants for North African scholars, and participated in frequent meetings and functions of our Tangier Medina Foundation—daily literacy and sewing classes for 100 neighborhood women, art classes for children, neighborhood improvement activities, and small business loans. We supervised Embassy-financed renovation projects and carried out a variety of aesthetic improvements to the Museum.



Women's Literacy Diploma Ceremony

Following the rain-sodden month of Ramadan, we hosted **several special events** at the Museum:

- ❖ the first gathering of Moroccan and Spanish Fulbright alumni to Morocco. Dr Nadia Erzini gave a slide presentation on *Tangier as the Diplomatic Capital of Morocco in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*.
- ❖ a guitar and lute concert by Julia and Tarik Banzi. Julia is finishing her doctorate in musicology at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Recipient of a Rotary Club scholarship, Julia and her husband are accomplished musicians, who have performed widely in the U.S. They have produced several CDs of their Andalusian-inspired music. They are currently resident in Tangier.
- ❖ an Offenbach musical farce, *Les Femmes d'Alpi*, to a capacity audience performed by an award-winning

French theater group. It was a benefit concert in support of the activities of our Tangier Medina Foundation which most recently initiated art classes for neighborhood children with the help of student volunteers from the American School of Tangier.

Among the **other highlights** of the spring period were the following:

- ❖ the visit of the Minister of Higher Education and Research, Mohamed Alioua, including the Research Library and observation of our literacy classes that were in full swing. Mustapha Bennouna, President of Abdelmalik es Saadi University in Tetouan, accompanied the Minister. Bennouna is an enthusiastic fan of the Legation.
- ❖ the five-day visit of map specialist, Leonora Navari, who is under contract with the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) to evaluate and catalogue American research center maps in the Mediterranean area. She confirmed that we have an extensive and valuable collection of several hundred original antique maps.
- ❖ Elaine Wolfensohn, wife of World Bank President, James Wolfensohn. (Her husband met with King Mohammed VI in Tangier.) She and her daughter were enchanted by their visit and Mrs. Wolfensohn complimented us on our neighborhood outreach activities.
- ❖ our fourth annual April Seminar orchestrated each year by TALMS president, Dr. I. William Zartman, and held under the patronage of His Majesty, King Mohamed VI. For the second year in a row, we chose as our theme the Free Trade Agreement with Morocco that has been signed but awaits ratification by the two governments. Thanks to Dr. Zartman's persistent efforts, we fielded two speakers from the U.S.: Michael Castellano, Trade Counsel for Congressman Sander M. Levin of the house Ways and Means Committee and Professor Melani Carnett, Assistant Professor at Brown University. The Minister of Trade, Industry, and Telecommunications attended the entire session reporting on the recently concluded negotiations. Four Moroccan speakers rounded out the program.
- ❖ several visits of the new American Ambassador, Thomas T. Riley, during his first month in country. He and his wife explored most of the museum during their first visit in mid-January. Ambassador Riley returned a second time in early February accompanied by State Department's Under Secretary

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for Management, Grant Green, who assured me of his continuing support. On Ambassador Riley's third visit, he met the Tangier press corps at the Museum. On this occasion, Architect Hanae Bekkari, the new president of the Tangier Medina Foundation which is headquartered at the Museum, briefed him on our medina renovation plans. Ambassador Riley visited our literacy and sewing classes before proceeding to Place Progresso to inaugurate the renovation of this square financed in large part by the American Ambassador's Cultural Renovation

- ❖ a 13-member Congressional staff delegation under the auspices of the Moroccan Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Moroccan Embassy in Washington, and the Livingstone Group. The purpose of their visit was to promote the recently initialled Free Trade Agreement with Morocco
- ❖ Moroccan journalists invited to meet Magda Abu-Fadil, a Lebanese-American journalist and currently Director of the Institute for Professional Journalists at

the Lebanese-American University in Beirut. Ms. Abu-Fadil was programmed by the Public Affairs section of the American Embassy in Rabat. Her presentation in Arabic about the importance of maintaining high standards of professionalism in journalism was well received.

- ❖ The Center for Cross Cultural Learning in Rabat with a delegation of persons representing NGOs in Egypt, Turkey, Germany, England, and Ireland. They are exploring opportunities for volunteer exchanges between Morocco and their countries.

At the end of the period, we were preparing for the sixth AIMS conference in Tangier. This year's theme is "Rethinking Jewish Culture and Society in North Africa." (Previous AIMS conferences in Tangier dealt with: women, environment, the Arab walled city, literature, and language in North Africa) Conference organizers, Dr. Emily Gottreich from the University of California, Berkeley, and Professor Daniel Schroeter, University of California, Irvine have invited 40 scholars from North Africa and the United States to give presentations.

*Thor Kuniholm, Director*

## 2004 AIMS Maghrebi Grants

*Grants for North African Scholars conducting research in a North African country other than their own.*

### TALM Maghrebi Grantees

**Boucheta Benaini**, University of Oran, Science

*Gestion, usages et conflits d'eau dans un bassin-versant frontalière: le cas du bassin del'Oued Mouillah*

**Sofiane Boudhiba**, University of Tunis, Social Sciences

*Urban Mortality between Morocco and Tunisia*

**Amar Boum**, University of Arizona, Anthropology

*Archaeologies of Knowledge: Remembering Jews in Southwestern Morocco*

**Juhaina Bouteraa**, University of Sfax, Archaeology

*Ksars el villages Barberes*

**Naim Ghali**, Manouba University, Geography

*Patrimoine Culturel et tourisme au Maghreb: Le cas de la Tunisie et du Maroc*

**Mabrouk Mansouri**, University of Sousse, Islamic Studies

*Imazighen Islam and Mimetic Religions in the Maghrib: Local Prophets and Mahdists in the Middle Ages*

**Hind Mostari**, University of Sidi Bel Abbas, Linguistics

*A Sociolinguistic Perspective on Language Contact Phenomena: Evidence from Arabic/French Switching*

### CEMAT Maghrebi Grantee

**Souad Eddouda**, Mohamed V University, Social Science

*Mobilizing Women Against Violence*



## CEMAT Report

One never knows, in the academic world, if spring is the beginning or the end of the year. In any case, at CEMAT, the

American research center in Tunis, this spring our calendar has been very full.

CEMAT will be twenty years old in 2005, and as we begin to make plans for a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, it is time to look back on this most recent year.

In Tunisia, glory came in January when the national football team achieved its first-ever African Nations Cup championship after a series of stunning victories in a competition played at home. The political mine field that is the contemporary Middle East and North Africa, re-named for us by the U.S. Department of State as the "Greater Middle East," of which Tunisia is clearly a piece, graced Tunisia's shores as the Summit of the Arab League, first not held in Tunis in March and then really held in Tunis in May, reflected the heavy burdens placed upon the Arab world. But at CEMAT, there is a constancy in our presence. Tunisians make a clear difference between Americans and American leaders, a distinction that they are not alone in perceiving. So it is that CEMAT is able to move forward in turbulent times, and a number of developments have strengthened our situation here.

**CEMAT Grants and Assistance.** One strategic change in the way that AIMS announces and adjudicates its annual grants competition has already led to a positive change for CEMAT. At the AIMS Board Meeting held in Anchorage during MESA in November, the Board decided that a separate announcement for grants for Tunisia, "CEMAT GRANTS," would be offered as distinct from AIMS grants in general. As a means to attract American researchers to Tunisia and enlarge the base of American scholarship in Tunisia, the CEMAT Grants will make Tunisia more visible on the research radar. This may already be the case, with five short-term and one long-term AIMS-supported scholars expected at CEMAT during 2004-5; this is sharply higher over the current year. These figures do not include other students and scholars who rely on CEMAT's assistance and call this place home, too. In addition to Americans, scholars from Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Poland, the U.K., and the Philippines have all worked at CEMAT in recent months. We ask those who come to rely on our services—letters seeking permission for research are the most prominent—to become CEMAT members.

**Conference Underwriting.** First one, and then another, and now still more. As long as we can afford it, CEMAT will entertain proposals for underwriting the travel costs

of Moroccan and Algerian conference participants to Tunis. This novel procedure of enhancing Maghribi scholarly unity started when a professor from Ibn Charif, as the Institut Supérieur des Sciences Humaines of Tunis is known, approached us for help in this regard last fall; CEMAT paid the airfare for both a Moroccan and an Algerian scholar to attend a conference on literary theory at Ibn Charif in December. Likewise, we supported Fatima Bouznirh from the African Studies Institute in Rabat to participate in a conference entitled "Of Memory and Maps" at the Higher Language Institute in Tunis (ISLIT) in April. I find this kind of support critical in allowing Maghribi scholars to attend conferences in the region and develop the kind of "trans-Maghribi" or "horizontal" relationships found, unfortunately, so seldom at academic events in North Africa. Getting Maghribi scholars together is a most basic task of AIMS; where better to do it than in Tunis?

**Conferences in the Works.** Perhaps the number of conferences in Tunis is a reflection of the level of education the country has reached. In any case, CEMAT is adding its stamp to two conferences planned for later in the year. One, organized by professors at Ibn Charif with our assistance, will be in the memory and spirit of the late Edward Said: "Out of Place: Text, Memory, and Exile" will be held December 1-3, 2004. Another, a colloquium entitled "Tolerance in the Faith of Abraham," will explore that concept as shared and defined by Islam, Christianity, and Judaism, and is being organized by CEMAT in association with the Chaire Ben Ali for Dialogue among Civilizations & Religions and the Ministry of Higher Education. "Tolerance" will take place in Sidi Bou Said on December 9-11.

**Tunisian Studies.** One of the ideas discussed at the AIMS board meeting in Anchorage was for CEMAT to create a list of what areas seemed to be best suited for research in Tunisia currently. Well, here it is June and much has changed. It occurred to us here that no one had ever invented "Tunisian Studies," and that it was high time. In February, meetings at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research led to the production of a prototype flyer in which ten areas of research in Tunisia were identified. After a few adjustments in language, the Ministry gave its blessing to the sheet, and so "Tunisian Studies" was born. We have sent it to all the FLAS Middle East studies centers to post and thereby encourage research in Tunisia; it is found elsewhere here in the *AIMS Newsletter* (see page 7). Our hope is that it serves as a kind of recruiting tool for researchers to come to Tunisia; it may, eventually, find its spirit and purpose transformed

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into broader ends. In the mean time, call upon us for further ideas or comments on the idea of "Tunisian Studies."

So spring moves on to summer, and after the wettest winter and the coolest spring in memory, it seems that summer has finally arrived in Tunisia this first week of June. The first tourist group to call upon CEMAT's assistance for lecturers since before 9/11 arrived in Tunisia in April and had an excellent sojourn up and down the country. The culmination of a year of research in Tunis for scholars, both CEMAT and Fulbright, was witnessed by a wonderful series of presentations chez nous toward the end of May. Fulbrighter Mike Suleiman addressed, in Arabic, a packed house on "The Arab American Community" on May 19, 2004. Naomi Stone, a young Fulbright graduate from Dartmouth, read poems emanating from her immersion into the Jewish community on Djerba, "Of Ritual and Faith," on May 21 - mostly in English, a couple translated into French and read by her friend and tutor, Bisma Sudani. Naomi's presentation allowed us to gather on the newly finished CEMAT patio and admire the burgeoning garden along its edges. And on May 24, Tom DeGeorges, ever the diligent Harvard History researcher, related some of his findings from the National Archives and other resources in Tunis in a presentation entitled, "La Politique française envers les Anciens Combattants Tunisiens après les Deux Guerres Mondiales," to a diverse and enthusiastic crowd.

Early summer finds us working toward the new school year just over the horizon. A new internship program known as the "Salaam Initiative" connecting Tunisia, Morocco, the U.A.E., and Egypt developed by an enterprising Tunisian university student through the auspices of the US State Department has resulted in CEMAT having an intern this May through July. Dixie O'Donnell, a budding scholar of Turkish and a hard-working new graduate of the University of Washington, is helping us organize our library's journal holdings and will update our website for the first time since its inception five years ago. AIMS' long quest to organize a studies center in Algeria may be reaching fruition and when that happens, a great Maghribi synergy of research and interaction will emerge. A strong Tunisian delegation will attend the AIMS conference in Tangier, June 22-25, on "Rethinking Jewish Culture & Society in the Maghrib." CAORC, our "other" overhead agency, has rich potential for organizing research interests right across the region, through the affiliated centers in Tangier, Cairo, Amman, Jerusalem, Sana'a, Istanbul, and Ankara and elsewhere in the Mediterranean in Rome and Athens.

In fact, a lot is going on in Tunis. My hope is that you too can become part of the community of scholars who can call Tunisia their home.

*Jim Miller, Director*

## AIMS Conference 2005

AIMS will host its 2005 conference, entitled "***The Expansion of the North African City***" ("***L'Agrandissement des villes maghrébines***"), in Tunis through the auspices of CEMAT.

Tentative dates are May 26 (Thursday) through May 29 (Sunday) 2005.

Themes will include geographic and demographic expansion, human and physical impacts, and cultural and environmental changes inherent in the growth of cities in the Maghrib.

\* Look for the call for papers in the Fall AIMS and MESA newsletters. The conference organizer is James Miller, Director of CEMAT (cemat@planet.tn).



*Riadh and Fauzi in front of CEMAT*



## Tunisian Studies

CEMAT is the American Research Center in Tunis. Its history dates from the signing of an accord between its founding agency, the American Institute of Maghribi Studies (AIMS) and the Ministry of Education, succeeded by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Technology (MHERST). CEMAT's primary purpose is to "promote scholarly and intellectual exchange on topics concerning the Maghrib between American and Tunisian scholars." Together, CEMAT and MHERST strongly believe in the words enshrined in the language used in the treaty establishing relations between our two countries in August, 1797:

**"There is perpetual and constant peace between the United States and [the magnificent Pacha Bey of] Tunis, as well as a permanent friendship, that shall ever be increased."**

Toward that end, CEMAT and MHERST encourage the development and broadening of Tunisian Studies, which we identify as intellectual endeavor focused on the unique resources found in Tunisia of interest to scholars from the United States, Tunisia, and beyond. We promote research, scholarly communication, and publication on Tunisian society, history, and science. Scholars will find the following topics are especially attractive in Tunisia:

**Islam** Tunisia's population is 98% Muslim. The country has a diverse social history of religious encounters & diversity. Christianity, Judaism, & Islam have all played a role in this land. Today, Tunisia's open and tolerant atmosphere makes it an ideal location for the study of Islam in the modern world.

**History** The depth of civilization over time in Tunisia is great. Distinctive civilizations – Carthaginian, Roman, Byzantine, Islamic, & modern European – have rendered Tunisia a locus for historical & archaeological studies. The nationalist movement & the history of independent Tunisia are also subjects of high interest. Well organized archives characterize the study of history in Tunisia.

**Language** Tunisia's history & position in the Arab World render it an unparalleled location for the study of Arabic language & linguistics. Language study in Tunisia is enriched by its multi-cultural heritage & the web of outstanding professors & facilities.

**Family Planning** Family planning, initiated in the 1960s, has transformed the nature of the Tunisian family & social structure. Stable families & relatively low levels of unemployment match the Tunisian demographic transition, features of Tunisian society that can be communicated as models world-wide.

**Women's Lives** Dramatic changes in the condition of women in Tunisia mirror similar deep-seated transformations in Tunisian life. Women play prominent roles in government, education, administration, & science. Women's organizations permeate the fabric of Tunisian life.

**Education** Foreshadowing the list of changes apparent in Tunisia is the development of universal education & the establishment of a system of higher education aiming at pushing the country into the ranks of fully developed societies.

**Civic Society** Tunisia's public life is permeated by civil organizations designed to mediate between the individual and larger spheres of public life, resulting in an open-minded society. Some professional and social organizations have long histories; others mark the shift of Tunisia to globalism.

**Agriculture** The organization of Tunisian rural land and life has been transformed in less than two generations. Agricultural production has been modernized and is underpinned by the development of water resources and a skilled labor force.

**The Environment** Tunisia's environmental diversity is subject to increasingly sophisticated management techniques. The national park program is marked by achievements in land restoration & reintroduction of endangered species. Emerging public associations favoring protection of the environment define the Tunisian landscape.

**Infrastructure and Economic Development** Forty years of strategic planning to employ, house, transport, and enrich Tunisian society have created much higher standards of living in this Mediterranean society.

*Tunisian studies is encouraged by CEMAT and the programs of its parent organization, the American Institute of Maghribi Studies, AIMS. AIMS offers an annual grants competition for scholarly projects conducted in Tunisia.*

## AIMS Scholars 2004-2005

## AIMS Long Term Grants

**Marie-Therese Ellis** PhD Candidate, UC Berkeley, French and Arabic Literature

*Print Culture and State Centralization in the Maghrib (Tunisia and Morocco)*

**Martha Morgan** PhD Candidate, University of Arizona, Anthropology/Archaeology

*Excavations at al-Basra, Morocco, and Analyses of Recovered Artifacts*

## CEMAT Long Term Grants

**Driss Cherkaoui** Professor, College of William and Mary, Arabic Literature

*Voices of North Africa*

## AIMS Short Term Grants

**Jamila Bargach** Assistant Professor, Ecole Nationale d'Architecture Rabat, Anthropology

*Rethinking Urban Poverty and Religious Radicalism in Morocco*

**Michelle Browers** Assistant Professor, Wake Forest University, Political Science

*Ideological Convergences in the Arab Region*

**Mohammed Errihani** PhD Candidate, University of Illinois Chicago, English

*Language Policy and Cultural Identity: Problems and Prospects of Teaching Berber in Morocco*

**Emily Gottreich** Professor, UC Berkeley, History  
*Arab Jews: Historical Explorations of an Ambivalent Identity and Jewish Space in the Islamic City*

**Scott Greenwood** Assistant Professor, California State University San Marcos, Political Science

*Business and Political Regimes in Morocco and Jordan*

**Chouki El Hamil** Assistant Professor, Arizona State University, History

*The History of the Blacks in Morocco: Race/Color and Gender in Moroccan Slavery*

**Katherine Hoffman** Assistant Professor, Northwestern, Anthropology

*The Effects of National Valorization of Amazigh Heritage on Language Practices in the Sous*

**Laura Rice** Assistant Professor, Oregon State University, English

*Imagined Lives*

**Jonathan Smolin** PhD Candidate, Harvard University, Modern Arabic Literature and Culture

*Investigating Moroccan Detective Fiction*

**Beatrice St. Laurent** Professor, Bridgewater State College, Art and Architecture

*The Digitalization of 2500 Glass Negatives in the TALM Collection*

## CEMAT Short Term Grants

**Debbie Barnard** Adjunct Instructor, Johnson C. Smith University, Humanities and Social Sciences

*Judeo-Tunisian Literature: The Case of Gilbert Naccache*

**John Hermann, Jr. and Annewies Van Den Hoek**, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Curators

*Sculpture of Thasian Marble in Tunisia*

Congratulations!

## AIMS and CEMAT GRANTS

The American Institute for Maghrib Studies offers AIMS and CEMAT short and long term grants to scholars and graduate students wishing to undertake research in the Maghrib. AIMS Grants are available for research in Morocco, Algeria, Libya or one of these countries and Tunisia. CEMAT Grants are available for scholars interested in studying solely in Tunisia.

The grant competition is open to all AIMS members who are U.S. citizens. Awards range from \$5,000 for short-term projects to \$15,000 for longer projects.

Grant applications will be available online every fall on our website at [www.la.utexas.edu/research/ma/aims](http://www.la.utexas.edu/research/ma/aims). Announcements for the annual grant are sent out in membership renewal packets in January. The deadline for submission is always in early March, with award decisions made in April for research beginning in the summer and academic year.

For more information contact: Kerry Adams, AIMS Executive Director  
([aimscmes@email.arizona.edu](mailto:aimscmes@email.arizona.edu) or 520-626-6498).



## Samples of AIMS Grant Projects for 2004-2005

### **Judeo-Tunisian Literature: The Case of Gilbert Naccache**

*Debbie Barnard*

My research will focus on Gilbert Naccache and his novel, *Cristal*, whose representation of post-independence Tunisia is unique for the voice that it gives both its female and Jewish characters. *Cristal* provides a rare Jewish perspective of Tunisia during a time when most Tunisian Jews had already emigrated. My research will culminate in an article destined for publication in an American literary journal so that American scholars of Maghreb literature become more familiar with both the author and his work.

### **Imagined Lives**

*Laura Rice*

The AIMS research grant allows me to continue work on a book project, entitled *Imagined Lives*, that concerns discourses of literacy as they impact Bedouin women in North Africa. This research investigates women and literacy not only as it appears in the materials of educational organizations and programs and as it has appeared in cultural texts (eg. novels, histories, films) produced in the Maghrib, but also by seeking to understand how discourse about literacy of various kinds (body literacy, word literacy, civil literacy and money literacy) is woven into the context of the lives of rural women from the southern provinces in Tunisia and Morocco and their extended families. A larger framework for the study is the investigation of the discourse concerning women's literacy as it appears in international development agendas which link women's literacy to sustainable development. The AIMS grant will allow me to conduct interviews with rural women and their families in Morocco and Tunisia, a continuation of research that I explored with a Fulbright Grant in 2001-02, but that initially grew out of years of informal discussions with some of the women who are in my family on the Tunisian side or are Tunisian and Moroccan friends dating back a decade now.

### **Arab Jews: Historical Explorations of an Ambivalent Identity**

*Emily Gottreich*

This project attempts to historicize the concept of "Arab Jews," currently popular in Literature and Cultural Studies discourses but typically invoked with little understanding of its historical underpinnings and implications. Without seeking to validate or invalidate ascribed (self- or otherwise) identities, this study will instead explore how, and under what circumstances, Middle Eastern and North African Jews identified with Arabness in a wide variety of settings, whether in the form of Arabic language and culture or through their participation in national independence movements. As an Arab country with a particularly rich Jewish past and continuous Jewish presence, Morocco will constitute a major focus of this study. The AIMS grant will also allow me to complete work on **Jewish Space and the Islamic City: A History of the Mellah of Marrakesh**, a study, largely completed, of the institutionalization and evolution of the walled Jewish quarter [Ar. *mellah*] in a Moroccan royal capital and trade emporium, with particular emphasis on the impact of spatial arrangements on the history of Jewish-Muslim relations.

### **Language Policy and Cultural Identity: Problems and Prospects of Teaching Berber in Moroccan Schools**

*Mohammed Errihani*

For the first time in the history of Morocco, the Berber language and culture have officially been recognized as part of the historical and cultural make-up of this country. The AIMS grant will allow me to investigate several questions and issues concerning the implementation of teaching Berber in Moroccan schools. These questions include: why now? What made the Moroccan policy makers decide to implement this policy at this very juncture of Moroccan history? Furthermore, if recognizing the language and the culture of the Berber people is a human right, how will non-Berbers feel about their human rights if their children are forced to learn a language that they do not identify with and that holds neither symbolic nor social capital in their view? To what extent is this *de jure* policy going to become *de facto* in public contexts? Are two weeks of training enough to prepare teachers to teach a second language? Is it reasonable or feasible for pupils to be able to absorb four languages in the first three years of elementary education? How is this new policy going to affect the linguistic culture of Morocco as a whole? I will be researching these and other questions in Rabat and several schools currently teaching Berber. This research will lay the groundwork for my dissertation.

### **Investigating Moroccan Detective Fiction**

*Jonathan Smolin*

During my time in Morocco, I will collect material to write a survey article on Moroccan Arabic and French detective fiction. I also hope to complete my on-going translation of one of the Arabic detective novels. I plan to visit the northern and central regions of the country, where most of the novels take place.

### **Rethinking Urban Poverty and Religious Radicalism in Morocco: The Case of Salé**

*Jamila Bargach*

This research concerns the mechanisms and means by which a given social actor, the "urban poor," reject, recuperate or negotiate the orientations and interpretations for a larger "societal" project that urban planning imagines for them. Since the suicide bombing in Casablanca, May 16th 2003, a natural link between urban poverty and religious radicalism has become an accepted idea even in learned circles. While it is recognized that poverty and social exclusion do feed various forms of radicalism and violence, these are not the sole reality of such neighborhoods. I prefer to argue that there is a far more complex phenomenon relating to overall social changes in Morocco within which religious radicalism and urban poverty need to be inscribed as important variables/reactions. By carrying research in poor urban neighborhoods in the city of Salé, I will attempt to explicate the imbrications (or lack thereof) of urban poverty with religious radicalism, the state's attempts at 'addressing and redressing' such thorny issues with its legitimating discourse, along with the internal view of those concerned.

## AIMS Federal Reporting

AIMS has federal outreach reports due on the thirteenth of each month. Members are usually solicited via the listserv to send in their outreach activities, which may include teaching, lectures, media interviews, publications, etc. Starting this year, AIMS also has a six-month report due in April and October of each year. Members will be solicited to tally up their outreach activities for the six-month report, usually the month before it is due. AIMS appreciates your contributions as accurate reporting helps us with our continued funding.

For the six-month report, recent publications that are contributed with complete bibliographic references will be mentioned either on the listserv or in the newsletter, as space allows. Following are the contributions for the first AIMS six month report, October 2003-April 2004.

### AIMS Members' Recent Publications

(in alphabetical order)

#### Roger Allen

Arabic version: *Muqaddimah Li-al-Adab al-'Arabi*, Cairo: Al-Majlis al-A'la li-Al-Thaqafah, 2003.

*Mihamed al-Mwaylihi: al-mu'allafat al-kamilah*, li-al-muharrir Roger Allen, 2 vols., Cairo: al-Majlis al-a'la li-al-thaqafah [Supreme Council for Culture], 2003.

Ben Salim Himish, *The Polymath*, tr. Roger Allen, Cairo: American University in Cairo Press, 2004.

*Moroccan Folktales*, tr. Jilali El Koudia & Roger Allen, Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2003.

"Translating Arabic Literature," *Translation Review* no. 65 (2003): 1-5.

"Perspectives on Arabic Teaching and Learning," *Modern Language Journal* 88, 2004: 275-279.

#### Melani Cammett

"Fat Cats and Self-Made Men: Globalization and the Paradoxes of Collective Action" in *Comparative Politics*.

#### Mounira M. Charrad

*States and Women's Rights: The Making of Postcolonial Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco*, University of California Press, 2001.

This book has recently received the following awards:

- \*Best Book in Politics and History Greenstone Award (cowinner), American Political Science Association, 2003.
- \*Best Book in Sociology Komarovsky Award (honorable mention), Eastern Sociological Society, 2003.
- \*Distinguished Book Award for the Outstanding Book in Political Sociology, American Sociological Assoc, 2002.
- \*Highest Award for the Outstanding Book in Any Field, Hamilton Award, UT at Austin, 2002.

#### Chuck Fahrner

*Political Geography*, eds. Glassner, Martin, and Chuck Fahrner. 3rd ed. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2004.

#### Andrea Flores Khalil

*The Arab Avant-Garde: Experiments in North African Art and Literature*. Greenwood-Heinemann, 2003.

#### Clement Moore Henry

*The Politics of Islamic Finance*, eds. Clement Moore Henry and Rodney Wilson. Edinburgh University Press, 2004.

#### Robert Lang

"Le Coloniese et le Colonisateur dans Les Silences du palais," in *JHA: Revue de l'Institut des belles lettres arabes*, no. 192 (2e trimestre 2003): 189-204.

#### Laura Rice

"Of Heterotopias and Ethnoscapes: The Production of Space in Postcolonial North Africa" in *Critical Matrix* (2003), 36-75.

#### Mohammed Sawaie

"A Study of Ahmed Fares Al-Shidyac's Letters in the National Archives in Tunis." *Al-Mu'assasah Al-Arabiyya Li Al-Dirasat was Al-Nashr*, 2003.

#### Charles D. Smith

*Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, 5th edition, Bedford/St. Martins, Feb. 2004.

#### Jonathan Smolin

Review of Youcef M.D., *Toute une vie pour l'aimer. Moi, le ghost lover* (Paris: Editions de l'aube). *World Literature Today*, vol. 78, no. 2 (May-August, 2004), p. 78.

#### Mary B. Vogl

*Picturing the Maghreb: Literature, Photography, (Re)Presentation*. Rowan & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2002.

*Sincere thanks to all members who contribute to the outreach reports!* Please note that though all publications provided were tallied in the federal report, due to limited space, encyclopedia contributions were not included here as there were too many to list.

Please look for the next outreach solicitation on the listserv, or you may send in your monthly and bi-annual activities directly to Kerry Adams at aimsms@u.arizona.edu.

## Journal of North African Studies

*The Journal of North African Studies (JNAS)* is a forum for scholars of and from the region. Its contents cover both country-based and regional themes which range from historical topics to sociological, anthropological, economic, diplomatic and other issues. It is the first journal to analyse the historic and current affairs of what has become an important and coherent region of the Mediterranean basin which is also linked to the Middle East and Africa. An annual subscription to JNAS, which comes four times per year, is part of AIMS membership.

### New Publishers

JNAS is now published by Taylor & Francis. For online services, including registration for SARA (Scholarly Articles Research Alerting), visit [www.tandf.co.uk](http://www.tandf.co.uk) and follow the links to journals.

### Contributions

Manuscripts for submission should be sent to either:

**John P. Entelis**, Middle East Studies Program-IL915A, Fordham University, 113 West 60th Street, New York, NY 10023, USA or

**George Joffe**, Centre of North African Studies, Fitzwilliam House, 32 Trumpington Street, Cambridge University, CB2 1QY, UK.

## AIMS Graduate Student Organization

*AIMS offers graduate students several venues in which to explore and share their interests in the Maghreb.*

**GRANTS** AIMS has a variety of grants available to students, including the AIMS long and short term grants, and the AIMS Pre-dissertation Grant which include participation in the AIMS Tangier Arabic Summer Language Program and a stipend toward conducting preliminary dissertation research at TALM.

**WORKSHOPS** The AIMS GSO hosts an annual dissertation workshop where students can discuss their research with each other and a panel of regional experts, as well as discuss topics such as how to conduct primary research in the Maghreb, what makes a viable grant proposal, and what helps facilitate dissertation writing.

**WEBSITE and LISTSERVE** As yet in progress, the AIMS GSO hopes to have a working website and active listserve where students can share research and information.

**MESA GSO Meeting** As part of the AIMS annual board meeting that is held at MESA every year, the AIMS GSO also meets to discuss ways that the AIMS GSO can facilitate services to the AIMS student membership.

Welcome!

*We welcome this year a new GSO president, Amy Elizabeth Young, with sincere thanks to Tim Fuson, our outgoing president, for his dedication and successful dissertation workshop 2003.*

### From Amy Young, AIMS GSO President

*I am pleased to be the new president of the AIMS Graduate Student Organization. I am about to begin my sixth year as a PhD student in the Department of Anthropology at Harvard University and am currently writing my dissertation on individuals and associations involved in the women's rights movement in Morocco. I returned last December from Morocco, where, thanks to grants from AIMS and Fulbright/ the Moroccan-American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange (MACECE), I had been living and doing field research for almost a year and a half.*

*Before going into the field, I benefited greatly from participation in an AIMS dissertation workshop, so I am really looking forward to hosting another one in Cambridge next spring. I also hope to find ways to enhance communication among all of us so that we can share advice about researching in or on the Maghreb. I will be in touch with all of you soon to get your suggestions and concerns, and hopefully we can find ways to work together and help each other as researchers and dissertation writers. We will also have a get-together at some point during the MESA meetings in November, and we can meet and talk more then!*

*Contact Amy for information (aeyoung@fas.harvard.edu)*

### JNAS Recent and Forthcoming Articles

The 'Grande Guerre Sainte': Moroccan Colonial Troops and Workers in the First World War **Driss Maghraoui**

Meeting the Sultan: Personal Encounters with the Commander of the Faithful **Richard Pennell**

'Aquí todo el mundo hablaba español: ' History of the Spanish Language in Tangier **Tutfi Sayahi**

Morocco, Western Sahara, and the Future of the Maghreb **Yahi H. Aoubir and Karima Benabdallah-Gambier**

The Story of the Human Being, The Woodcutter: The Anatomy of a Traditional Moroccan Oral Tale **Driss Cherkaoui**

Communication and the Social Production of Space: The Hammam, The Public Sphere, and Moroccan Women **Said Graïouid**

Constructing an Open Model of Transistion: The Case of North Africa **Francesco Cavatorta**

Unemployment in Algeria: Sources, Underestimation Problems and the Case for Integration with Europe **Abdelaziz Testas**

Reinterpreting the Barber Spring: From Rite of Reversal to Site of Convergence **Jane Goodman**

### Message from the Executive Office

**New Address** Though mail will be forwarded through the Fall 2004, please note our new address:

AIMS at University of Arizona CMES  
Marshall Bldg, Room 470  
PO Box 210158 B  
Tucson, AZ 85721-0158

**NEWSLETTER** As we arble into summer, it is clear that the *AIMS Spring Newsletter* is tardy this year. The executive office moved to our new building in March, just as the grant cycle was in full swing, so certain elements of administration got a bit behind. The Fall and Spring 2004 should be back on track.

**MEMBERSHIP** Many of you have not renewed for 2004, which is not surprising as usually the spring newsletter and JNAS (or lack of a JNAS) serves as a mid-year reminder to renew. If you have questions about the status of your membership, please contact the executive office at aims@cmes.u.arizona.edu. *Thank you all for your continued interest and support of AIMS!*

**JNAS** *The Journal for North African Studies* transitioned this winter to a new publisher, Taylor and Francis. Though the spring issue has been delayed, it should be arriving at your door shortly. There will still be four issues for 2004.



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**We're on the Web!**

[http://www.la.utexas.edu/  
research/mena/aims](http://www.la.utexas.edu/research/mena/aims)

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## The American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS)

Established in 1984, the American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS) is a private, non-profit educational organization that works to facilitate scholarly research on North Africa in all disciplines and to encourage the exchange of information between American and North African scholars. In the United States, AIMS serves as the professional association of scholars interested in the Maghrib. Abroad, AIMS organizes programs in collaboration with scholars and institutions throughout North Africa.

AIMS is one of nineteen members of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, which is housed at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. It is the only American Overseas Research Center which administers two overseas centers, TALM in Tangier and CEMAT in Tunis. Currently, AIMS is working to establish a third research center in Oran, Algeria.

### AIMS Officers

Mark Tessler, President  
John Entelis, Secretary  
Donna Lee Bown, Treasurer  
Keith Walters, Treasurer  
  
Kerry Adams, Executive Director  
Eva Bills, Assistant Director

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## MEMBERSHIP

AIMS members receive a subscription to the *Journal of North African Studies* (four per year), a bi-annual newsletter, and access to the AIMS listserve. Only members are eligible to apply for the AIMS long and short term research grants. Membership follows the calendar year, and several categories of annual membership are available.

- Individual \$55
- Student \$40
- Institutional \$500
- Library \$75

**For more information, contact the AIMS Executive Office at 520-626-6498 or [aimscmes@u.arizona.edu](mailto:aimscmes@u.arizona.edu).**