

Benjamin Smuin
Curriculum Vitae

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Education

Ph.D.: University of California, San Diego Department of History (expected March 2019). Dissertation Title: ‘Speaking to the State: Petitions, Protest, and Ottoman Reform in Syria, 1870-1930.’ Advisors: Hasan Kayali and Michael Provence

M.A.: University of Utah, Middle East Studies-History, August 2011

B.S.: Weber State University, Department of History, May 2007

Teaching Experience (Instructor of Record and Teaching Assistant)

History of the Islamic Middle East (ca. 600-1800); Department of History, University of California, San Diego, Summer 2018 (Instructor of Record)

The Middle East in the New Century (2000-Present); Department of History, University of California, San Diego, Summer 2017 (Instructor of Record)

The Middle East in the 20th Century; Department of History, University of California, San Diego, Summer 2015 (Instructor of Record)

The Making of the Modern World (MMW); Eleanor Roosevelt College, University of California, San Diego (Teaching Assistant, 2012-Present): MMW 11: Pre-history and Ancient Foundations (to ca. 100 BCE) ; MMW 12 Classical and Medieval Traditions (100 BCE to 1200 CE); MMW 13: New Ideas and Cultural Encounters (1200 to 1750); MMW 14: Revolution, Industry and Empire (1750 to 1914); MMW 15: Twentieth Century and Beyond (1914 to Present)

Publications

Review of A Global Middle East: Mobility, Materiality and Culture in the Modern Age, 1880-1940, forthcoming in *Middle East Media and Book Reviews*, 2018.

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Review of *The Power and the People: Paths of Resistance in the Middle East*, by Charles Tripp, in H-DIPLO, June 2013.

(<https://networks.h-net.org/node/28443/reviews/30496/smuin-tripp-power-and-people-paths-resistance-middle-east>)

Review of *Business Networks in Syria: The Political Economy of Authoritarian Resilience*, by Bassam Haddad, in *Review of Middle East Studies* 46 (1) 2012, pp. 107-109.

Review of *Syria and Bilad al-Sham Under Ottoman Rule: Essays in Honour of Abdul-Karim Rafeq*. Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2010, Peter Sluglett with Stefan Weber, eds., in 'Syrian Studies Association Newsletter,' Vol. 16 (2), 2011.

Review of *Al Qaeda in its Own Words*, edited by Giles Kepel and Jean Pierre Milelli in *Digest of Middle East Studies*, vol. 19, 2, Fall 2010. Pp. 303-305.

Scholarships/Fellowships

2017-2018 Institute of Turkish Studies Dissertation Writing Fellowship

2016 UCSD Graduate Student Association Conference Travel Grant for MESA Annual Meeting.

2015-2016 Fulbright US Student Research Grant for Turkey (Sep 2015-June 2016)

2014-15 UCSD Frontiers of Innovation Scholarship Program (FISP) Recipient (for research in London; Geneva; and Nantes, France); Mentor-Michael Provence

2014 CLS Alumni Development Fund (conference travel funding)

2014 US Department of State Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) for intensive Turkish in Bursa Turkey, June-August 2014.

2014 Friends of the International Center Graduate Student research travel grant, UCSD

2014-2015 UCSD Department of History research travel grant (April-June, 2015)

2012-Present; Teaching Assistant Fellowship, Making of the Modern World Writing Program, UC San Diego

2012 US Department of State Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) for intensive Arabic study in Amman Jordan, June-August 2012

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2011-2012; History Department Fellowship and Readership (Authorized Grader), Department of History, University of California, San Diego (classes include History of the Islamic Middle East, The Middle East in the Age of European Empires, and The Middle East in the Twentieth Century)

2010-2011, Graduate Assistant, Middle East Center, University of Utah (served as editor of student-run journal, *Middle East Panorama*)

2010- Recipient of one-time departmental fellowship for study abroad in Damascus, Syria from Middle East Center, University of Utah, Summer 2010

2009-2010 Recipient of Academic Year Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for Arabic from the Middle East Center at the University of Utah

2006-2007 Jack and Betty Lampros History Endowment Scholarship Recipient, Weber State University

2005-2006-Recipient of Thomas and Marina Daniels Scholarship for a History Major Interested in a Career in Diplomacy/Foreign Service, Weber State University

Awards/Memberships/Service

2014-2017; Book Review Editor, Syrian Studies Association.

2012-2013; President and Middle East Cohort Representative, History Graduate Student Collective, UC San Diego Department of History

2012-2013; Student Representative to the Board of Directors of the Syrian Studies Association.

2010-present; Member, Syrian Studies Association

2010; Graduate Language Award in Arabic from the Middle East Center, University of Utah

2009-present; Member, Middle East Studies Association

2007; Recipient of 2007 Wildcat Club Alumni Association (WSU) Academic Achievement Award, presented to the graduating student-athlete with the highest GPA

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2007-Named 'Outstanding History Graduate' by the Department of History, Weber State University

Papers Presented/Accepted

"Citizenship between Empire and Nation: The Persistence of Ottoman Modernity in Mandate Syria". Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX, 15-18 November 2018.

"Justice and Corruption in Late Ottoman Aleppo: The Tenure of Cemil Pasha," Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., 18-21 November 2017.

"Doctors, Lawyers, and Extremists: 'Abd al-Rahman al-Kayyali and a New Politics of Notables in Interwar Syria,'" MESA Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, 17-20 November 2016. Also organized the panel, entitled "A Reassessment of Albert Hourani's 'Politics of Notables' after 50 years"

"Negotiating the State: Competing Nation-building Projects in Early Twentieth-century Greater Syria," 'Nation-building and nationalism in Turkey and other parts of Europe' hosted by the Study Platform on Interlocking Nationalisms of the University of Amsterdam and the Netherlands Institute in Turkey (Istanbul), 25-27 May 2016.

"Globalizing the Local: Speaking to the State and Acts of Citizenship in the Early Twentieth Century Middle East," MESA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, 22-25 November 2014.

"Berets and Bullets: Military Instruction and Nationalism in French Mandate Syria," MESA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, 10-13 October 2013.

"Citizens Without States? Claims-making and Citizenship Practice in the Early-twentieth Century Middle East." University of Pavia, Italy. SESAMO Conference: "Doing citizenship: Practices of exclusion and inclusion, claims and subjectivity in the Middle East and Europe," 17-19 September 2013.

"Fear and Rumor in Syria: A History of 'Popular' Uprising," presented at the First Postgraduate Conference on Syria, Centre for Syrian Studies, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, 1-2 September 2011.

"Hafiz al-Assad and Strategies of Power Consolidation in Authoritarian Regimes", presented at the Middle East and North Africa Graduate Student Organization Conference at the University of Arizona, March 31- April 2, 2010.

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“The Curses of Colonialism: The Resource Curse in Historical Perspective,” presented at the Middle East and North Africa Graduate Student Organization Conference at the University of Arizona, March 29-31, 2011.

‘Horizontal Alliances: Religion, Authoritarianism and State Building in the Middle East;’ Accepted, but unable to attend, for the European University Institute’s 13th Mediterranean Research Meeting, March 21-24 2012, Montecatini Terme, Italy, Workshop no. 2: “Religion, Ethnic Identities, and State Formation in the MENA Region.”

Major Papers/Theses

PhD Dissertation, University of California, San Diego: *Speaking to the State: Petitions, Citizenship, and the Legacies of Ottoman Reform in Syria, 1868-1936* (working title)

M.A. Thesis, University of Utah: *Roots of Domination: Political Institutions and Social Structures in Syria from the French Mandate to Hafiz al-Assad*, defended and approved May 12, 2011.

“Mismanagement in Mesopotamia: British Visions of the Middle East”-Senior Seminar Thesis at Weber State University

Languages

English (native)

Arabic (advanced)

Turkish (intermediate)

Ottoman Turkish (intermediate)

French (intermediate)

References

Hasan Kayali: Associate Professor of History, University of California, San Diego

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Michael Provence, Professor of History, University of California, San Diego

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Ibrahim al-Marashi: Associate Professor of History, California State University, San Marcos

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333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Rd.
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Heidi Keller-Lapp (teaching reference): Assistant Director, Making of the Modern World Program, University of California, San Diego

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