Arab Responses to Fascism and Nazism, 1933-1945: Reappraisals and New Directions

International Research Workshop of the Israel Science Foundation

May 23rd - May 26th 2010

The Israel Science Foundation (ISF)
Department of Middle Eastern and African History
Tel Aviv University

Department of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies, The Open University of Israel
Dayan Center, Tel Aviv University

Kaplan Chair for Egyptian History, Dean of Humanities, Rector and President of
Tel Aviv University

Monday, May 24th

Room 496, Gilman Building, Tel Aviv University

Greetings: Prof. Shlomo Biderman, Dean of Faculty of Humanities, Tel Aviv University

Session One 9:30 - 11:00
Italian Fascist Policies and Arab Responses
Chair: Israel Gershoni (Tel Aviv University)
Discussant: Joel Gordon (University of Arkansas)

Haggai Erlich (Tel Aviv University and The Open University of Israel)
The Tiger and the Lion – Fascism and Ethiopia in Arab Eyes

Nir Arieli (Leeds University)
Ambitions and Limitations in Fascist Italy’s Middle Eastern Policy

Coffee Break 11:00-11:30

Session Two 11:30 – 13:00
Fascist Propaganda, British Reaction and Arab Responses
Chair and Discussant: Sonja Hegesy (ZMO Berlin)

Anna Baldinetti (Perujia University)
Fascist Propaganda and the Maghrib

Meir Zamir (Ben Gurion University)
Against the Tide: The Secret Alliance between the Syrian National Bloc Leaders and Great Britain, 1941-1942
Lunch 13:00- 15:00 (on campus)

Session Three 15:00- 17:00
Nazi Propaganda and Arab Attitudes towards Nazi Germany
Chair and Discussant: Meir Litvak (Tel Aviv University)

Jeffrey Herf (University of Maryland)
Nazi Propaganda to the Arab World during World War II and the Holocaust: Rethinking the Meaning of ‘Response’ in Wartime Berlin and Some Thoughts on Postwar After Effects

Peter Wien (University of Maryland)
The Culpability of Exile: Arabs in Nazi Germany

Tuesday, May 25th
Room 496, Gilman Building, Tel Aviv University
הכנסה חופשית

Session One 9:30 - 11:00
Arab Reactions to Fascism and Nazism – The Syrian Case
Chair and Discussant: Keith Watenpaugh

Götz Nordbruch (University of Southern Denmark)
A Challenge to the Local Order: Reactions to Nazism in the Syrian and Lebanese Press

Eyal Zisser (Tel Aviv University)
Memoirs Do Not Deceive: Syrians Consider the Fascist and Nazi Options - as Reflected in the Memoirs of Syrian Leaders and Intellectuals

Coffee Break 11:00 - 11:30

Session Two 11:30 – 13:00
Arab Reactions to Fascism and Nazism – The Iraqi Case
Chair and Discussant: Joel Gordon (University of Arkansas)

Orit Bashkin (University of Chicago)
Arab Attitudes to Fascism in Iraq – Enemies and Friends

Lunch 13:00- 15:00 (on TAU campus)

Session Three 15:00- 17:00
Palestinian Public and Official Reactions to Fascism and Nazism
Chair and Discussant: Eve Troutt Powell

René Wildangel (ZMO, Berlin)
More than the Mufti: Other Arab-Palestinian Voices on Nazi Germany 1933-1945 and their Post-War Narrations

Mustafa Kabha (The Open University of Israel)
Palestinian Responses to Fascism and Nazism: 1920-1945

Martin Cueppers (University of Stuttgart)
Third Reich’s Planning toward the Arab World

Wednesday, May 26th
Kanbar Hall, The Open University of Israel

Greetings: Prof. Hagit Meser-Yaron, President of the Open University of Israel

Session One 9:30 -11:00
Egyptian Responses to Fascism and Nazism vs. Communism and Liberal Democracy
Chair and Discussant: Yoav Di-Capua

Jim Jankowski (University of Colorado)
The View From the Embassy: British Assessments of Egyptian Attitudes Towards World War II

Rami Ginat (Bar Ilan University)
The Rise of Homemade Egyptian Communism: A Response to the Challenge Posed by Fascism and Nazism?

Coffee Break 11:00-11:30

Session Two 11:30 – 13:00
Egyptian Public Discourse, Nazism and the Holocaust
Chair and Discussant: Mona Russell

Israel Gershoni (Tel Aviv University)
The Crime of Nazism against Humanity: Ahmad Hasan al-Zayyat and the Outbreak of the World War II

Esther Webman (Tel Aviv University)
Between Reflections on the War and Initial Responses to the Holocaust in the Egyptian Public Discourse

Lunch 13:00- 15:30 (on campus)

Concluding Session 15:30- 17:30
Rethinking Arab Middle East Reactions to Fascism and Nazism
Chair: Israel Gershoni (Tel Aviv University)

General Discussion Led by:
Keith Watenpaugh (University of California)
Joel Gordon (University of Arkansas)
Eve Troutt Powell (University of Pennsylvania)
Yoav DiCapua (University of Texas)
Mona Russell (University of South Carolina)
Sonja Hegesy (ZMO Berlin)