

# AIMS NEWSLETTER

American Institute for Maghrib Studies - Fall 1997

---

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Mark Tessler

As the articles in this Newsletter demonstrate, AIMS has been busy and productive during the last six months. We have completed the largest grants competition in our history, gone forward in the planning for our next annual conference, seen the publication of an important two-volume collection based on a past annual conference, seen significant progress as well in our cross-national study of public opinion in the Maghrib, completed the most successful session to date of our summer intensive Arabic language program in Tangier, laid the foundation for the publication of a new scholarly journal, and established a graduate student organization and conducted our first dissertation workshop.

In addition to these and other scholarly accomplishments, we have good news as well with respect to AIMS administration. Our membership continues to grow, thanks in part to the efforts of our new secretary, John Entelis. Equally significant, our new treasurer, Donna Lee Bowen, recently received word that the proposal she prepared and submitted for CAORC funding during 1997-98 was successful. Our overseas research facilities at CEMAT and TALM have been extremely active, and planning to establish an AIMS facility in Algeria, when conditions permit, has also gone forward.

These important accomplishments notwithstanding, we will face some challenges and uncertainties in the coming months. The most important are financial, since there is concern that federal funding for international programs, including the CAORC centers, will diminish in the future. Nevertheless, I am greatly encouraged by our expanding list of activities. AIMS is healthy and growing, and I want to record my sincere thanks to members of the Board and others who have worked so hard on our various projects.

I look forward to seeing many of you at MESA and to keeping in touch in the months ahead.

## AIMS Membership

Through the efforts of the new AIMS secretary, John Entelis, AIMS membership has increased significantly. AIMS now has 213 individual members and IO institutional members. If you are not yet a member, please

contact John Entelis at: E-mail: <entelis@murray.fordham.edu>. Members receive the AIMS Newsletter, are eligible to apply for AIMS grants, have access to AIMS overseas research facilities, may subscribe to the *Journal of North African Studies* at a heavily discounted rate, may take part in AIMS international conferences, and are eligible for various other benefits.

### *MESA News!*

AIMS will sponsor a panel at the 1997 annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association in San Francisco. The panel will be held on Sunday, November 23, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.:

#### **Tunisia: Ten Years After the "Tranquil Revolution"**

*Tunisia's Foreign Economic Policy Under Ben Ali: The More Things Remain the Same*

**Gregory W. White**, Smith College

*Women's Rights and the State in Tunisia: A Comparison of the Ben Ali and Bourguiba Regimes*

**Laurie A. Brand**, University of Southern California

*Tunisia's Rural Development in Comparative Perspective: 1987-1997*

**Jeremy Foltz**, University of Wisconsin-Madison

*Back from the Democratic Brink.- Tunisian Insights on Regional Political Dilemmas*

**Christopher Alexander**, Texas A& M University

*The Social Origins of Accountability: Industrialization and Democratization in Tunisia*

**Eva Bellin**, Harvard University

Chair: **Christopher Alexander**, Texas A&M University

Discussant: **Mark A. Tessler**, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

-----  
The annual meeting for AIMS Board members will be on Saturday, November 22, 8: 00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., in Garden A, of the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

The annual AIMS Business meeting will be on Monday, November 24, 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., in Seacliff A, of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. This meeting is open to all current and prospective AIMS members.

#### **AIMS Grants Program**

The grants program for 1998-99 will be announced in January 1998. Information will be sent to all current AIMS members. Because funds for this program are provided by the U.S. government, only U.S. citizens and permanent residents are eligible to receive grants.

Over 50 proposals were received for the 1997-98 grants program. Short-term travel grants were awarded to the following individuals, two of whom are graduate students:

**Zeynep Celik**, New Jersey Institute of Architecture

*Colonial Politics, Cultural Identity, and Domestic Architecture: Housing the Tunisians*

**Bradford Dillman**, American University in Cairo

*The Moroccan Private Sector in the Face of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership*  
**Jeremy Foltz**, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
*Sharecropping in Tunisia.- Historical Anomaly or Efficient Economic Institution?*  
**Moshe Gershovich**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
*Serving the Tricolor.- Moroccan Veterans Recounting their Careers in French Uniforms*  
**Nicholas Hopkins**, American University in Cairo  
*People and the Environment in Tunisia*  
**Deborah Kapchan**, University of Texas at Austin  
*Narrating the Abject and Ecstatic Body.- Moroccan Gnawa Practitioners in Trance*  
**Marybeth MacPhee**, University of Arizona  
*The Meaning of Marid Shim in the Ziz Valley, Morocco*  
**Susan Slymovics**, Brown University  
*Contemporary Moroccan Writers*  
**Amy Smiley**, Johns Hopkins University  
*The French Gateway: Literature, Culture, and the Franco-Tunisian Colonial Encounter*

Grants for longer periods were awarded to the following individuals, seven of whom are graduate students:

**Ali Abdullatif Ahmida**, University of New England  
*The Nation-State in North Africa.- Rescuing History from Colonialism and Nationalism.:1798-1956*  
**Ellen Amster**, University of Pennsylvania  
*The Gender of healing.- Medicine in French Colonial Morocco, 1912-1956*  
**Scott Greenwood**, University of Michigan  
*Economic Liberalization, the Private Sector, and Democratization in the Arab World.- An Analysis of Morocco and Jordan*  
**David Gutelius**, Johns Hopkins University  
*Markets and Social Change in the Western Maghrib, 1640-1830*  
**James Housefield**, California State University, Hayward  
*Morocco in World Art.- The Colonies as a Test Case for the Merging of art, Craft, and Industry*  
**Geoffrey Porter**, New York University  
*A Cure for the Poor? Moroccan Muslim Interpretations of Divine Providence*  
**Suzy Stimier**, Georgetown University  
*Gender and Medicine in Protectorate Morocco.- Moroccan Women and French Obstetric/ Gynecological Practice, 1936-1956*

**Cathy Sweet**, University of California, Los Angeles  
*Democratization in the Maghrib*  
**Andrew Wolfe**, State University of New York, Binghamton  
*Institutions and Opportunities: The Relationship Between Water User Associations and Entrepreneurial Activity in Southern Tunisia*

## Tangier Arabic Program

Dr. Margaret Nydell of Georgetown University directed the 1997 AIMS summer Arabic program in Tangier. The program was well-received and was successfully completed by 12 students. Two American program directors/teachers and 3 Moroccan instructors conducted the program. Intermediate level Modern Standard Arabic and Moroccan Colloquial Arabic were both taught. The program also included weekly lectures, which were organized by Thor Kuniholm of TALM, and a very successful one-week trip around Morocco was led by

Mr. Kuniholm as well. A mini-film series, couscous-making demonstrations, and trips to the Hammam further enhanced the program.

For information about the summer 1998 intermediate Arabic program in Tangier, please contact Dr. Nydell at the Department of Arabic Language, Literature & Linguistics, Georgetown University, Box 571046, Washington, DC 20057-1046. Several full and partial scholarships are available.

### **Journal of North African Studies**

The official AIMS scholarly journal is the *Journal of North African Studies*, which is cosponsored by the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London and published three times a year by Frank Cass, Ltd. The first joint publication will be available in fall 1998. Each issue is devoted to English-language scholarly, peer-reviewed articles in the humanities and social sciences along with research reports, interviews, review essays, and book reviews. Co-editors are John Entelis (Fordham University) and George Joffé (University of London). They are supported by an editorial board and an international advisory committee composed of recognized scholars in the field of North African studies. Those interested in submitting articles for the *Journal* and/or willing to review scholarly books, should contact:

For the Social Sciences:                    Dr. John P. Entelis, Co-Editor  
*Journal of North African Studies*, Middle East Studies Program-LL915A  
Fordham University, 113 W., 60th Street  
New York, NY 10023, U.S.A.

For History & Humanities:            Dr. EGH Joffé, Co-Editor  
*Journal of North African Studies*  
Geopolitics Research Centre, School of Oriental and African Studies  
University of London, Thornhaugh St., Russell Square  
London WC1H 0XG, U.K.

### **AIMS Cross-National Survey Research Project**

With support from USIA and the Ford Foundation, AIMS has organized a collaborative research project to examine the attitudes and behavior patterns of ordinary citizens as part of a study of social and demographic change in urban North Africa. Data collection for this project has involved the conduct of in-depth interviews with heads of and residents of 1,000 randomly selected households in Oran, Algeria, and Rabat, Morocco.

Work on this project has gone forward at two data-analysis workshops during the last six months, one in Casablanca and the other at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Participants included Rahma Bourqia, Mohtar El Harras, Abdellatif Lfarakh, and Jamila Bennaghmouch of Morocco; Abdelbaki Benziane and Mohamed Farid Azzi of Algeria; and Mark Tessler, Georges Sabagh, and Paula Holmes-Eber of the U.S. Two U.S. graduate students, Jodi Nachtwey and Jacquelyne Champagne, also took part in the Milwaukee workshop.

Findings will not be published until participants in the project have completed their collaborative analysis, which is currently underway. Papers reporting these findings will be presented at a conference to be scheduled in 1998. In the meantime, however, by way of example, a very brief and partial summary of findings pertaining to media habits and cultural orientations is presented below.

Turning first to Algeria, it may be noted that only 3 percent of the respondents report that they do not watch television frequently. Of the remainder, about 43 percent report watching only national channels and about 57 percent report watching foreign channels at least some of the time. With respect to newspaper readership, 19 percent read the local Arabic language press daily or often and 34 percent read the local French language press daily or often, whereas the foreign Arabic press and foreign French press are both read daily or often by only 3 percent of the respondents. With respect to preferences in music, to provide information about a different kind of cultural orientation, 25 percent, 44 percent, 11 percent, and 10 percent respectively indicate that they like very much the following varieties: classical Arab, local popular, Western classical, and Western popular.

Findings are also available about some of the attitudes associated with the consumption of foreign media, and particularly with television in this instance. Algerian respondents who watch foreign television channels frequently are more likely than those who watch only national television channels to believe that openness to diverse political ideas is an important qualification for political leadership. The relationship is statistically significant, and it remains so when education is held constant. The same relationship characterizes political efficacy, with the consumption of foreign television programs significantly and independently associated with a belief that political life is not too complicated to be understood by ordinary citizens. Nor is this pattern limited to political attitudes. It characterizes attitudes toward gender equality, for example, including a belief that education is just as important for a girl as for a boy. Again, all of these relationships are statistically significant when education is held constant.

A few preliminary observations based on the Moroccan survey may be offered as well. National studies report that about 13 percent of all urban Moroccans reside in households served by a satellite dish, and the survey in Rabat found the percentage in the Moroccan capital to be about 20 percent. To appreciate the importance of this finding it should be kept in mind that Rabat, like other Moroccan cities, has a large proportion of residents who live in shanty towns or other poor neighborhoods. Thus, for example, the survey found that fully 58 percent of the households surveyed had neither a bath nor a shower.

While access to satellite television is indeed substantial under these circumstances, the extent of both access to and viewership of regular television is even more striking. Only 3 percent report that they rarely or never watch television. And even more noteworthy, perhaps, is the finding that fully 65 percent watch foreign television programs regularly, as frequently or sometimes even more frequently than Moroccan television programs. Moreover, there is a strong and statistically significant relationship between a tendency to watch foreign television programs on the one hand and such attitudes as support for gender equality and for democratic political forms on the other. While watching foreign programs is also associated with education, these relationships, again, remain statistically significant when education is held constant. Thus, in Morocco as in Algeria, preliminary evidence strongly suggests that attitudes toward important social and political issues are indeed influenced by patterns of media consumption.

May 27-31, 1998  
The University of Tunis, Manouba Campus

*Plans are well underway for the 1998 AIMS conference. Professors Julia Clancy-Smith of the University of Arizona and John Ruedy of Georgetown University are putting together the final conference program. This year's conference is being cosponsored by CEAMT and by the Department of history at the University of Tunis, Manouba Campus. For more information, please contact one of the conference organizers:*

**Julia Clancy-Smith**, University of Arizona  
Fax: 520/621-2333  
E-mail: <jcsmith@ccit.arizona.edu>

**John Ruedy**, Georgetown University  
Fax: 202/687-7245

E-mail: <ruedyj@guvax.georgetown.edu>

#### Notes from AIMS Overseas Research Centers

CEMAT (Centre d'Etudes Maghrébines à Tunis)  
by Jeanne Mrad

CEMAT had a great burst of activity in late spring and early summer (in June alone we planned five lectures and a gathering of researchers), then closed down for the middle two week of August to give the staff some vacation. We have reduced the staff to one assistant, Ms. Sonia Ben Moussa, and our custodian, Mr. Faouzi Mahbouli, due to the loss of U.S. Department of Education funding.

During the academic year we counted over 1,300 visits to the CEMAT office, with some 865 people involved in CEMAT activities, of whom about 41% were Tunisians, 41% Americans, the rest of various other nationalities. Approximately 39 researchers were formally affiliated with CEMAT during the year, and we organized 19 activities (lectures, seminars, visits, etc.). Assistance was given to members of archaeological teams in Carthage and Jerba, students at the Bourguiba School, and various categories of researchers.

CEMAT has instituted a separate CEMAT affiliation fee for those researchers working in Tunisia. At present, these fees are \$25 for pre-doctoral researchers and \$50 for post-doctoral researchers, for a stay not longer than 4 months. In addition, there is a flat charge of \$25 for anyone requesting research clearance through CEMAT. These charges are necessary to cover the cost of the services provided.

Research authorization procedures, especially for any kind of field work, have continued to become more complicated, with the result that CEMAT recommends strongly that anyone planning to do research in Tunisia contact us as early as possible for advice, preferably by e-mail <I0620I.26I2@compuserve.com>. Permissions for field work that include any kind of interviewing can take up to three months to clear, and may not clear at all.

The CEMAT web site contains information for researchers planning to work in Tunisia (<http://bertie.la.utexas.edu/research/mena/CEMAT/index.html>). CEMAT's phone number has changed to 326-219, and our fax is now 328-378.

We look forward to hearing from you.

### **TALM (Tangier American Legation Museum) by Thor Kuniholm**

The TALM Research Library is a rich resource for Maghribi scholars. The considerable addition to our holdings from Ambassador Reed's and David Hart's donations make our collection one of the most complete on Morocco. However, we suffered two blows this year with the unexpected

resignation of our professional librarian and the loss of our AIMS library grant. The recent hiring of a Moroccan assistant and the possibility of eventual reinstatement of the NMERTA Library Grant gives us hope that we can maintain our computer catalogue of holdings while responding to user requests. Regrettably, our Research Library remains underutilized because of our inconvenient location in Tangier. However, for those scholars who make the effort come here, they are almost always rewarded with the discovery of useful materials not available elsewhere in the country -- and in some cases not even in the U.S.

In August we completed the fourth year of our USIA-financed eight-week summer language program designed for intermediate students of Arabic from American universities. Dr. Margaret Nydell, Acting Chair of the Arabic Department at Georgetown University, directs the language component, assisted by David Mehall, who also teaches at Georgetown. Room and board are provided at the American School of Tangier, where the language classes take place. TALM organizes a lecture series and a one week excursion to Fez, Marrakech, and Rabat.

An important focus of our activity continues to be conservation -- of the rambling 40 room TALM structure and our extensive art collection -- as well as hosting visitors to the Museum. Currently we are engaged in preparations for a three day celebration of the 200th anniversary of the American diplomatic presence in Morocco, to take place in November. The Crown Prince of Morocco is expected to attend the opening ceremonies. Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, has also been invited.

The Museum is also participating in a local committee effort to clean up the surrounding neighborhood, as well as to launch a more general campaign for Tangier in the hope that this city can attract more visitors and foreign investors.

### **CAORC Workshop in Istanbul by Jeanne Mrad**

*The Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) sponsored a workshop in Istanbul, June 2-7, 1997. Resident directors of both AIMS overseas research centers, Mr. Thor Kuniholm, and Ms. Jeanne Mrad, attended the workshop.*

Both Thor Kuniholm and I attended meetings organized for directors of the overseas research centers (orc's) which come under CAORC's umbrella. This group includes a variety of centers ranging from the prestigious American Academy in Rome to the newly established American Institute of Pakistan Studies. Some of these centers have impressive endowments and others are struggling to obtain funding to stay afloat.

The Istanbul meeting provided an opportunity for the research centers to exchange ideas. Representatives of the Smithsonian Institution, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Information Agency, and CAORC staff also participated. In the more formal part of the meeting, there was a

panel on federal and private funding, with a review of the grim picture for federal funding for orc's and of the impact of the integration of USIA into the State Department. One of the main ideas to emerge from this panel: in order to obtain continued federal funding, overseas research centers need to underline how they are unique, show their effectiveness in servicing more scholars for less money than other organizations, and emphasize the appeal of the social sciences (e.g., as opposed to archaeology).

There was a lengthy discussion of electronic communication technology and whether CAORC should develop a grant proposal for the centers involving some aspect of this. As there is such diversity among the centers, with some having started on-line library catalogues and others not even having Internet access, the discussion was referred to a committee. The rest of the more formal meetings concerned accounting procedures and more general discussion. There was an opportunity to visit library and archival resources in Istanbul, as well as the American Research Institute in Turkey.

As a result of informal talks at the meeting, CEMAT is now discussing with the American School of Classical Studies at Athens the possibility of organizing an on-site archaeology visit to Tunisia in the spring of 1998.

Thor and I felt that although it is always useful to exchange ideas with other directors and to make comparisons, at this particular time, when both CEMAT and TALM are suffering from inadequate funding, the most useful part of the meeting concerned financial questions. I came away with a sense of the need for AIMS to imaginatively search beyond federal sources in order to create a firm financial foundation for its centers.

### **AIMS Graduate Student Association**

Thanks to David Gutelius, of Johns Hopkins University, the AIMS Graduate Student Association now has its own web page at <<http://jhunix.hcfjhu.edu/~gutelius/Home.html>>.

The AIMS Graduate Student Association is currently planning its second dissertation workshop, which will take place in New York City in spring 1998. For more information, please contact Cathy Sweet at <[csweet@ucla.edu](mailto:csweet@ucla.edu)>, or Jim Ketterer at <[JPKetterer@aol.com](mailto:JPKetterer@aol.com)>.

### ***People and the Environment in Tunisia: A Research Report***

**By Nicholas S. Hopkins**, Department of Anthropology, American University in Cairo

*[The following is excerpted from a longer research report submitted by a recipient of one of the 1997 AIMS short-term travel grants.]*

This project examined how environmental changes affect people in Tunisia, and how the behavior of ordinary people and elites leads to change. It is part of a larger study of the Arab World.

Environmental changes affect everyone in society, so all are stakeholders, though differences by gender and class occur. A consideration of the ways in which these changes are culturally constructed by different groups contributes to the study of governance in Tunisia. The analysis of the social response to environmental issues in the Arab World yields a fresh look at development prospects in that region.

I spent the period between June 17 and July 15, 1997, in Tunisia, doing research on the relationship between people and the environment. I was interested in several questions: (1) how people and officials in Tunisia see, perceive and construct various aspects of the environment; (2) what governmental and nongovernmental organizations are active in Tunisia in trying to ameliorate environmental conditions, and what they are able to accomplish; and (3) what is the effect of environmental change on people, and what is the effect of people's behavior on environmental change.

Many people in Tunisia expressed the opinion that the government is currently encouraging voluntary organizations (NGOs), perhaps especially in the environmental area where there is a determination by the government to take the lead in correcting pollution and in beautification. This also seems to reflect a policy on the part of the government to develop a "civil society," perhaps in place of a vigorous multiparty democracy. At the same time, obtaining authorization for an NGO is a very political process, and there is pressure on the NGOs to avoid politics. The founder and all members must be in good standing with the government. NGOs must work with the ministries concerned, but within this framework they seem to find ways to advance their interests, and keep certain issues in the forefront, often through studies and seminars.

Some of the problems of Tunisia correspond to those of Egypt and other countries in that they are a reflection of rapid urbanization. These include waste disposal and urban beautification and planning issues. There are also problems of noise, though much less so than in Cairo. The overall water budget is an issue of concern in Tunisia, though one geographer told me that the reuse of treated waste water had expanded the total amount of water available considerably. Water quality is an issue outside the cities and towns served by the national water company (SONEDE). Soil quality, threatened by erosion and chemical contamination, is a subject of debate, as is the related question of desertification (the northward creep of the Sahara desert).

Another major concern is the quality of water in the Mediterranean Sea. Some of the problems are common to all coastal countries, some are specific to Tunisia. There has been a problem in the past with dumping untreated sewage in the sea. There are still problems derived from industries located on the coastline, particularly in Gabes and Skhira (and formerly in Sfax) in the south. There are also problems with unregulated fishing, including the use of illegal equipment, where the perpetrators often are not Tunisians. Thus the problems of the Mediterranean are partly Tunisian and partly panMediterranean, and Tunisia cooperates with neighboring countries in addressing them.

### *New Publication*

**Femmes, Culture et Soci t  au Maghreb**  
**Volume I: Culture, Femmes et Famille**  
**Volume II: Femmes, Pouvoir Politique et D veloppement**

Edited by R. Bourqia, Universit  Mohammed V, Rabat; M. Charrad, University of Pittsburgh;  
and N. Gallagher, University of California-Santa Barbara

*Casablanca, Morocco: Afrique Orient, 1996. Paperback \$20 per set (\$15 for AIMS members).  
ISBN.- 9981-25-046-5 (set of 2 volumes); 9981-25-047-3 (vol. 1); 9981-25-048-1 (vol. 2)*

Edited by an anthropologist, a sociologist and an historian, this 2 volume set brings together innovative articles by Maghrebi and U.S. scholars. It combines ground-breaking empirical research and theoretical essays on gender in Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. The articles explore gender relations within the broader cultural, political, economic and social environment of the contemporary Maghreb. They examine such issues as change and continuity in family patterns, cultural notions of femininity, the meaning of the veil, developments in family law, and the implication of economic and political change.

*Contributors include: F Adel, S. Benguerine, R. Bourqia, M Charrad, E. Combs-Schilling, A.M. Darghouth, &S. Davis, S. Ferchiou, M El Harras, N. Gallagher, D. Guerraoui, F Hajjarabi, L. Hessini, A. E. Mayer, A. Moulay Rchid, E. E. Rosander, F. Z Sai, F Z Tamouh, E Waltz, S. ZouariBouattour*

**This is a 2 volume collection in French.**

Order Form - Please Print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Quantity Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Price: \$20 per set/\$15 per set for AIMS members)

Please enclose a check or money order payable to **AIMS** (and drawn from a U.S. bank) & mail to:

AIMS  
Center for International Studies, Garland 102  
P.O. Box 413, UWM  
Milwaukee, WI 53201

*The American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS) is one of thirteen members of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) administered by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC AIMS is supported by US. Government grants, grants from other funding agencies, and the dues of individual and institutional members.*

**AIMS Officers:**

Mark Tessler, President (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)  
Susan Miller, Vice President (Harvard University)  
John Entelis, Secretary (Fordham University)  
Georges Sabagh, Treasurer (UCLA)  
Donna Lee Bowen, Treasurer Elect (Brigham Young University)

**AIMS Board of Directors:**

Reda BenSmaia (Brown University)  
Laurie Brand (University of Southern California)  
Julia Clancy-Smith (University of Arizona)  
Deborah Kapchan (University of Texas at Austin)  
Ann Mayer (University of Pennsylvania)  
Kenneth Perkins (University of South Carolina)  
Attilio Petruccioli (MIT)

---

The American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS)  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Center for International Studies  
Garland I02, P.O. Box 413  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201  
Phone: 414/229-3757; Fax: 414/229-3626

Non Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 864  
Milwaukee, WI