



## NEWSLETTER

vol 21, November 2011

### TUNISIA VOTES!



*Young women voters in « Bab Souika - Tunis » on election day*

On October 23, 2011, Tunisian citizens went to the polls in the country's first free and fair election, casting their vote for a Constituent Assembly that will head the drafting of a new Constitution and schedule imminent parliamentary and Presidential elections. Election day in Tunisia was distinctly serene, and emotional for many, as millions of Tunisians exercised their right to vote for the very first time in their lives. October 23, 2011 marked the end of a ten-month long transitional period in which new parties were forming by the day (111 political parties competed in the elections) and civil society organizations mushroomed from approximately 8000 under Ben Ali to over 20,000 by the summer of 2011. (continued on page 2)

### A YEAR OF REVOLUTIONS



*Protesters on Avenue Habib Bourguiba on January 14, 2011*

2011 marked one of the most extraordinary years in the history of Tunisia, as well as the Middle East and North Africa more generally. In December of 2010, a young street vendor by the name of Mohamed Bouazizi set himself on fire in the Southern town of Sidi Bouzid, sparking nation-wide protests in Tunisia that eventually forced Zine Abedine Ben Ali out of power, ending his 23-year rule. Inspired by the Tunisian Revolution of January 14, 2011, citizens across the Middle East and North Africa took to the streets demanding a variety of changes from incremental policy reform to the ouster of unpopular leaders. The Tunisian Revolution unleashed widespread feelings of discontent, from economic grievances to demands for more socio-political liberties. For many young Tunisians, the Revolution marked the first instance

of political participation, with hopes and dreams of widespread reforms and a commitment to liberty and freedom. The ten-month period between the January 14<sup>th</sup> Revolution and the October 23<sup>rd</sup> Constituent Assembly elections was defined by a vibrant, new, innovative, and contentious political debate, in which citizens fluctuated between revolutionary fervor and moments of political disgruntlement. Yet, the overwhelming tone across age groups, professions and geographical regions was one of pride, accomplishment and strong commitment to establishing a democratic political order.

(Continued from pg . 1)

With little surprise, the formerly outlawed moderate Islamist movement *An-Nahda* won with just over 40%, taking 89 seats in the 217- member Assembly. Since the early spring of 2011, *An-Nahda* under the leadership of party chairman Rachid Ghannouchi, has led an impressive nation-wide mobilization campaign, building on decade-old support networks which were heavily suppressed by the former regime.

Observers, however, were surprised by the success of Moncef Marzouki's *Congrès pour la République* as well as Hashemi Hamdi's *Pétition Populaire*, which came in second and third respectively. Marzouki, a doctor and well-known human rights activist in the 1980s under the former regime of Ben Ali, was running a quiet electoral campaign, as was the more controversial Hamdi, who organized his campaign from London and has yet to return to Tunisia. Equally surprising was the comparatively low popular support for such well-known and long-standing opposition parties as Nejib Chebbi's *Partie Démocratique Progressiste*, Mustafa Ben Jaffar's *Ettakatol* and Ahmed Brahim's *Pole Moderniste*. We are currently witnessing momentous political changes, including negotiations among political parties for alliances, dynamic debates among citizens about the extent of Constitutional changes, as well as a new pivotal involvement of civil society in the political sphere.

## INTRODUCING CEMAT

CEMAT, the Center for Maghrib Studies in Tunis, is a non-governmental American academic research institute established in 1985 to facilitate research on Tunisia and North Africa across all academic disciplines. CEMAT is the overseas office of the American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS), a professional organization fostering scholarly expertise on North Africa. We facilitate academic exchanges between U.S., Tunisian and North African scholars via different fellowship programs, conferences, lectures and scholarly meetings. CEMAT operates under an agreement with the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and has close working relationships with universities and research institutes across Tunisia. Since the January 14th Revolution that sparked the Arab Spring, CEMAT has played a central role among Tunisian and U.S. academic and civic communities by hosting original and policy-relevant events relating to the Tunisian Revolution and the October 23, 2011 Constituent Assembly elections. In Tunisia's post-revolutionary environment, CEMAT's reach has expanded among visiting scholars, civil society leaders, development professionals, and journalists calling on CEMAT's multi-disciplinary expertise as well as its long-standing presence in the country.

## LETTER FROM CEMAT DIRECTOR DR. LARYSSA CHOMIAK



It has been an extraordinary time to be in Tunisia and assume the position of CEMAT Director. I first visited Tunisia in 1994 as a child, then later attended a CEMAT conference in 2004, and returned in 2008 to conduct field research for my Ph.D. dissertation on political contestation and resistance. As with many others, I was excited, surprised, and overwhelmed by the Tunisian Revolution of January 14, 2011. The dramatic events of last January will have enormous consequences for Tunisia's political future; events that will undoubtedly occupy the research agendas for generations to come. Since arriving in Tunisia in the summer of 2011, I have had the unique opportunity of observing a rapidly changing political environment. I have listened to the demands, hopes, and dreams of those who made the revolution as well as those who helped negotiate and construct a new post-revolutionary political order capped by the Constituent Assembly elections of 23 October 2011.

I was very fortunate to begin my time at CEMAT working with my predecessor, Dr. Thomas DeGeorges, who navigated CEMAT through one of the most difficult periods the Center has ever experienced. Arriving just a few months before the December 2010 protests that eventually culminated in the Revolution, Tom and the CEMAT staff were forced to close down periodically as

they faced serious security issues at the Center, coped with multiple protests in the neighborhood, and confronted the general disorder taking place in downtown Tunis. Despite these roadblocks, CEMAT continued organizing lectures, holding scholars' meetings, conducting an embassy-funded grant-writing workshop for new local associations, hosting the annual AIMS conference, and administering the Department of State Educational and Cultural Affairs Critical Language Scholarship Program.

Since September of 2011 following the month of Ramadan, CEMAT has welcomed a flood of scholars, friends, students, journalists, development professionals, and visitors from the U.S. Embassy. In the short period before the historical October 23, 2011 Constituent Assembly elections, CEMAT organized a lecture series on the significance of founding elections. We invited Professor Jason Brownlee, an expert on Egypt from the University of Texas at Austin to lecture on democratization and elections. University of Tunis Professor Asma Noura contributed detailed insights from the Tunisian experience and Dr. Melani Cammett from Brown University served as moderator. This CEMAT-sponsored event was a great success with an overflow audience in attendance and diverse media coverage. Subsequent CEMAT-organized lectures took place at the University of Tunis and as part of the Diplomatic Training Institute under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. CEMAT's goal for next year is to continue a political science lecture series in which we partner U.S. specialists of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) with Tunisian scholars. Over the next year, we will cover topics such as political Islam, constitution-building, democratic consolidation, and the impact of the Tunisian experience on other MENA countries.

The global attention to Tunisia's transition will complement CEMAT's ongoing multi-disciplinary academic commitments. We have a refreshingly diverse group of researchers-in-residence examining topics from gender in Arabic children's literature to Berber-Mahri imaginaries. In its newly renovated space, CEMAT will continue holding its traditional monthly scholar's meetings in informal, salon-style format for scholars to discuss their research. For the spring of 2012 we are collaborating with the University of Sfax for a round-table on Muslim feminism, bringing in female political activists from Turkey, Egypt, and Morocco. We are also planning a multi-disciplinary conference with the University of Tunis on language, literature and symbols of the Revolution, inviting artists, musicians and writers who were inspired by the events of January 2011.

Finally, CEMAT will continue to strengthen its institutional partnerships across the country. We are beginning to collaborate with universities outside of Tunis through our U.S. Speaker Series and new project with the University of Sfax. We have also formed a new relationship with the Institute for Diplomatic Training and Education as part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At the moment, we are awaiting the appointment of a new Minister of Higher Education before we make a formal visit to renew and strengthen our long-standing ties. I am thankful for the work of previous directors, especially Thomas DeGeorges and Larry Michalak, for elaborating our relationships with the National Archives, The National Institute of Patrimony, and the various smaller libraries and research institutes in Tunis.

Without a doubt, this next year will be challenging yet rewarding for CEMAT. We welcome all AIMS members and fellow scholars, researchers, and interested parties to visit the Center and participate actively in its many academic and professional activities. Tunisia has never been so inviting and so rich with possibilities for all those engaged in Maghrebi studies. I look forward to welcoming all of you personally.



## LETTER FROM CEMAT ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR RIADH SAADAOU

Almost eleven months have now passed since the important event that changed Tunisia with wide spread repercussions in the region and elsewhere. The Tunisian Revolution of January 14, 2011 which put an end to a dictatorial regime that ran the country for twenty three years paved the way for a new wave of democracies in the Arab world and gave hope to three hundred million people in the Arab world that democratic change is indeed a possibility. January 14, 2011 is a day that



Tunisians will never forget as it commemorates those thousands of protesters who occupied downtown Tunis and congregated in front of the Ministry of the Interior demanding ex-President Ben Ali *to DEGAGE!* As a Tunisian who has always been interested in politics and especially international relations, the post-Revolutionary period has been exhilarating to say the least. I have keenly followed the development of Tunisia's unprecedented political movement characterized by the creation of more than 110 parties and the formation of more than 20,000 associations and organizations. Most impressive was the transformation of a formerly somber civil society to a vibrant new sphere in which Tunisians started to organize in hopes of consolidating a democratic society with an ardent desire to break with the past regime and political culture. As part of this vibrant new political environment, election-day on October 23, 2011 signified a day of celebration, joy, dignity and pride.

The elections marked a very special day in the history of modern Tunisia, as Tunisians who were previously stripped of their rights, freedom of choice, and liberties were finally granted the possibility to participate in politics and in a genuine democratic election. The day of the elections felt very much like Eid (Arabic term for a major holiday), as we celebrated a major step in our transition from dictatorship to democracy, from oppression to freedom and from fear to hope. Most Tunisians were voting for the first time in their life and voters were proud to show their thumbs stained with blue ink as a sign of participation. I am convinced that Tunisia's democratic transition can be a success as long as we continue to participate in political life. One small part of this effort is CEMAT's exciting scholarly agenda, in which Tunisians and visitors from across the world come together to discuss the elements of revolution, political transition and democracy. I look forward to participating in and contributing to this debate, both as a member of CEMAT's scholarly community and as a proud Tunisian citizen.

## BUILDING ON PAST SUCCESS WITH ARABIC STUDY IN TUNISIA



*CLS students in front of the language school in Sidi Bou Said*

The summer intensive Arabic program, known as the Critical Language Scholarship, continues to be CEMAT's largest annual project. Funded by the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Tunis program has expanded from a 6-week program for 16 students in 2006 to an 8-week program for 26 students in 2011. Currently under the direction of Dr. Sonia S'hiri, the 2011 program focused on intensive Arabic language study for beginning and advanced students. The intensive language curriculum was complemented with cultural excursions for students to explore Tunisia's diverse regions, participate in local practices and experience the richness of the people of Tunisia. Throughout the program, all students lived with Tunisian families and also interacted with Tunisians in

everyday situations such as the barbershop, the hammam, the café and the markets via the "language socialization" part of the program. At the beginning of the program, CLS students benefited from an orientation and security briefing at the U.S. Embassy of Tunis. For much of the program, students alternated between weekly study sessions and weekend excursions to the Cap Bon, the Sahel or "coast" of Tunisia, and the northwest of the country. The home-stays, language socialization, and the excursions complemented the students' formal lessons in Arabic by providing colloquial and regional expressions they might not have learned otherwise. The program wrapped up in spectacular fashion with a wonderful dinner reception at Hotel Sidi Bou Said. The overall impact of the program can be summed up in the words of one of its students: "I have learned so much about myself and what I am capable of achieving. I now know I can do anything I set my mind to."

## A NEW LECTURE SERIES ON TUNISIA'S DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION

From October 2011-May 2012, CEMAT is organizing a 5-part lecture series with a focus on the rapidly changing political environment in Tunisia. Our lecture series brings in American experts on Middle Eastern politics and society, whom we partner with Tunisian scholars. There has been a great demand among Tunisia's intellectual and policy community for debates about comparative experiences with political transition, elections, constitution-building, and democratic consolidation. The goal of the lecture series is to facilitate a scholarly and policy-relevant debate between regional Middle East experts and Tunisian academics on larger theoretical trends related to democratization as well as issues specific to Tunisia's post-revolutionary political environment. Our invited scholars participate at various lectures and speak to diverse audiences, including panel discussions with Tunisian academics hosted at CEMAT and lectures at universities and institutions outside of Tunis, especially in the country's South.



*Professors Jason Brownlee and Asma Noura, CEMAT Director Dr. Laryssa Chomiak and Former Prime Minister Mohamad Sayyah*

For our first set of lectures, CEMAT hosted Professor Jason Brownlee from the University of Texas at Austin (Author of *Authoritarianism in the Age of Democratization* and expert on Egypt). Dr. Brownlee's lecture series was entitled, "Founding Elections: Lessons and Models from developing Countries during the third Wave of Democratization and After." CEMAT organized three events with Dr. Brownlee, the first of which was held at CEMAT. We invited Dr. Asma Noura (University of Tunis) to complement Dr. Brownlee's talk with details from the Tunisian reform process related to elections held on October 23, 2011. Dr. Melani Cammett from Brown University served as moderator and discussant. The event attracted a full audience, including Tunisian and American students, a former Tunisian prime minister, a Cairo-based journalist for NPR, Tunisian journalists, and Tunisian and

American professors. Dr. Brownlee also spoke to an audience of approximately 80 Tunisian M.A. students at the Institut Supérieur des Sciences Humaines de Tunis, and finally at the Institute for Diplomatic Training and Education as part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR MAGHRIB STUDIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Public Health and Health Policy in the Maghrib: Exploring Current Issues and Emerging Priorities



*Professor Donna Lee Bowen on the left chairing a panel at the Public Health Conference*

From June 17-June 20, 2011, Dr. Angel M. Foster coordinated the annual AIMS conference in Tunis, bringing together international public health specialists to discuss priorities in health policy and service delivery across North Africa. The multi-disciplinary conference achieved its two principle aims: (1) it served as a forum for presenting new and original research dedicated to public health and health policy in the Maghrib, (2) it provided an opportunity for scholars, researchers, clinicians, and policy-makers working to advance public health in the Maghrib and build a network allowing for future collaboration on public health challenges, successes, research needs

and policy priorities. The conference included more than fifty oral and poster presentations and central topics included sexual and reproductive health, HIV,

chronic conditions and diseases, and violence. A report of the conference proceedings as well as several other publications are underway.

## GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP FOR TUNISIAN RESEARCHERS AND NGO ACTIVISTS



*From left, two participants from Tunisian civil society, Virginia Hernandez and Kaouther Ben Mohammed*

In April of 2011, CEMAT organized an important grant-writing workshop with financial support from the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Office. Since the Tunisian Revolution of January 14, 2011, numerous new funding streams have been channeled towards Tunisia to build a robust civil society and help consolidate the democratic transition. On the recipient side, individuals and grassroots NGOs are demanding more access to these funds, given the more open and transparent environment of post-revolutionary Tunisia. In response, CEMAT organized a two-day workshop to train future applicants in ethical research guidelines, budget preparation, interview techniques, as well as the logistics of the Fulbright grant program. Invited workshop experts included Dr. Angel Foster, Dr. Azzedine Layachi, former CEMAT Director Dr. James Miller, as well as representatives from MEPI and the

State Department's Office of Procurement. The success of the first grant-writing workshop created new demands to hold a regular series of similar workshops. In response, CEMAT is currently negotiating with funders to hold regular grant writing and logistics workshops over the next years.

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AT THE CORE OF CEMAT'S ACTIVITIES:** CEMAT would not function without the support and advice of key partners. Below is a list of the most important relationships CEMAT values and strives to maintain.

### OUR AMERICAN PARTNERS

#### CAORC/AIMS

CEMAT's activities continue to benefit from the financial support of our parent organizations. CEMAT is the American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS) Overseas Research Center in Tunis, and it is one of three centers that AIMS operates throughout North Africa. AIMS is a member of the Council for American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) and we are the only member of CAORC to operate throughout an entire region. Funding from both organizations helps CEMAT fund Tunisian research trips to other Maghrebi countries, organize the Department of State Educational and Cultural Affairs Critical Language Scholarship Program (CLS) that has taken place over the past six years, and the scanning of unique archival collections in the LALORC project, which is part of the Digital Libraries for International Research program. CAORC also invited CEMAT Director Laryssa Chomiak to participate in the Overseas Research Centers Directors meeting held in Mongolia in August 2011. The meeting provided a unique opportunity to learn of the different centers, address security and funding concerns, and collaborate with other colleagues across the world. Finally, CEMAT is grateful to CAORC for funding a documentary photography project to chronicle the January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Tunisian Revolution as well as the many defining protests in downtown Tunis throughout the post-revolutionary period

#### United States Embassy in Tunis

Gordon Gray became the American Ambassador to Tunisia in the Fall 2009. Before his arrival in Tunis, Ambassador Gray was briefed in Washington by former AIMS president Jim Miller and in Tunisia he met with former CEMAT Directors Larry Michalak and Tom DeGeorges. Since September 2011, Director Laryssa Chomiak has been invited by the Public Affairs Officer to attend weekly staff meetings at the embassy. CEMAT is grateful to the American Embassy for generous funding to our American Studies Grant Program and our U.S. Speakers lecture series. We especially thank Public Affairs Officer John Berry for his participation in the American Studies

Grant Program selection committee and for his continuing interest in and support of our public scholarly programs.

## Friends of CEMAT

In addition to the researchers who rely on CEMAT, we are very grateful to the American community that supports our efforts here in Tunisia. We respect the contribution that many Americans from diverse backgrounds have made in fostering better relations with the Tunisian people. Since the January 14, 2011 Revolution, CEMAT has become one of the central points of contact for such Americans when they visit Tunis and we look forward to welcoming more in the future. CEMAT also welcomes the diverse efforts of former Peace Corps volunteers in fostering American-Tunisian ties, especially the work of former CEMAT Director Dr. Larry Michalak. We are excited to report that since the fall of 2011, the Peace Corps program in Tunisia has been re-established after years of discontinuity since the 1990s. CEMAT enjoys a wonderful working relationship with World Learning's School of International Training in Tunis and its director Professor Mounir Khelifa. SIT students come from universities across the U.S. to spend a semester studying in Tunis, and they participate in CEMAT lectures as well as scholars' meetings. We would also like to thank some of our long-standing friends of CEMAT that have recently worked with and visited us, especially Dr. Angel Foster, Dr. I. William Zartman, Dr. Melani Cammett, Dr. Andrea Khalil and Dr. Ellen Lust.

## OUR TUNISIAN PARTNERS

### Ministry of Higher Education

CEMAT is very fortunate to have the support and advice of several key Tunisian partners. Most important of all is our relationship with the Ministry of Higher Education. We owe our existence in Tunisia since March 1985 to the goodwill and continuing encouragement of this Ministry. My initial conversations with Ministry representatives have been positive and reassuring. We are planning an official visit with the head of International Cooperation at the Ministry of Higher Education in the beginning of 2012. From our early conversations, it has become clear that the Ministry is committed to expanding educational opportunities for Tunisian academics and graduate students and looks forward to working with CEMAT to increase the scholarship opportunities and support for Tunisians for study abroad in a variety of disciplines.

### Tunisian Universities and Research Institutes



*Professor Jason Brownlee and Dr. Samira Mechri*

We are deepening links with various research institutions and universities in Tunis and throughout the country. We currently collaborate with the Institut Supérieur des Sciences Humaines de Tunis on several events. This Institute, located near the large campus of 9 Avril University, promotes diverse degree programs in English. The director of the program, Dr. Imed Bouslama, has worked closely with us to co-sponsor workshops and transfer part of CEMAT's library to the Institute. Many students from this Institute also visit CEMAT regularly to use our library resources and the JSTOR database. The Institute has hosted a lecture by Dr. Jason Brownlee on democratization and elections from a comparative perspective, which was attended by more than 80 students, radio journalists and

moderated by Dr. Samira Mechri. With Dr. Brownlee's visit and the help of Dr. Hamadi Redissi, CEMAT was able to build a new relationship with the Institute for Diplomatic Training and Education, which is part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. CEMAT continues to work closely with the Institut National du Patrimoine, the Fondation Temimi, the newly created Observatoire Tunisien de la Transition Démocratique, and the Institut pour le Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain (IRMC).

## National Archives

CEMAT signed an agreement of cooperation with the National Archives in February 2010 for both parties to explore new ways of collaborating on joint projects. The National Archives fall under the supervision of the Prime Minister's office. In 2010, CEMAT and AIMS financed two Maghrebi scholars (one from Morocco and one from Algeria) to participate in a conference on Maghrebi youth and the nationalist movements in North Africa hosted by the Archives. The National Archives also co-sponsored a lecture by Professor William Quandt in December 2010 on American foreign policy under the Obama administration. This year, CEMAT and the National Archives co-sponsored two conferences organized by the Association for Research and Studies on the Maghreb Union. The first conference was held on May 25, 2011 on the subject of "the Libyan Crisis and its Percussions on the Maghreb." The second conference was held on November 23, 2011 discussing "The Echo of the El Jallaz Events in the Maghreb," commemorating the 100-year anniversary of the uprising at the El Jallaz cemetery in Tunis in 1911.



*From left: Mabrouk Jebahi from the National Archives, Professor William Quandt and then Director Thomas DeGeorges*

**CEMAT ACTIVITIES:** As a result of our partnerships outlined above, CEMAT has been able to sponsor a wide range of activities. Below is a brief snapshot of our activities, as well as a list of scholars, researchers and others who have used our center's resources.

### Lecture Series

CEMAT continues to host various scholars, researchers, and university professors. As a result of our strong connections with the scholarly community in Tunisia and beyond, we continuously organize scholarly lectures in a variety of formats. CEMAT is especially grateful to the United States Embassy in Tunisia for its generous grant to fund a series of lectures delivered by eminent U.S. scholars of the Middle East and North Africa. Our parent organization, AIMS, has provided support to bring Dr. Ahmed Sarri, an Algerian historian to Tunisia for participation in a scholarly conference organized by the Association for Research and Studies on the Maghreb Union. Professor Sarri likewise delivered a lecture at CEMAT in November.

### 2010-2011 Lectures

- "Founding Elections: Lessons and Models from Developing Countries during the Third Wave of Democratization and After" by Jason Brownlee (Department of Government, University of Texas), Asma Noura (Professor, Faculté de Droit à Jendouba) and Melani Cammett (Professor, Brown University) Discussant, October 18, 2011.
- Orientation for 24 CLS students in Sidi Bou Said, June 4, 2011.
- "Libyan Crisis and its repercussions in the Maghreb" sponsored by CEMAT, May 25, 2011. Lecture held at the National Archives of Tunisia.
- "Grant Writing workshop" sponsored by US. Embassy, April 23-24, 2011.
- Round table discussion on the state of Ottoman studies in Tunisia chaired by Amy Kallander (Assistant Professor, Maxwell School of International Studies at Syracuse University) and Asma Moalla (Université de Tunis), December 15, 2010.
- "La politique familiale à Tunis et aux autres provinces arabe pendant l'époque ottomane" by Amy Kallander, December 14, 2010.
- "American Foreign Policy in the Age of Obama" by William Quandt (Professor of Political Science, University of Virginia), December 9, 2010.



- "La politique étrangère des Etats-Unis dans l'époque Obama ", by William Quandt, December 8, 2010. Lecture held at the National Archives of Tunisia.
- "History and the participation of youth in the reform processes in the Maghreb" sponsored by CEMAT, December 1, 2010. Lecture held at the National Archives of Tunisia.
- "Les publications des nationalistes marocains aux Etats-Unis entre 1947-1956 : Propagande et Histoire" by Jamaa Baida (Enseignant -Chercheur à l'Université de Mohamed V-Rabat), December 2, 2010.
- "La naissance du mouvement national dans une ville de l'ouest algérien : Saida" by Amar Mohand Ameer (Collaborateur au CRASC-Oran), December 2, 2010. Lecture held at the National Archives of Tunisia.
- "Frustration de la jeunesse marocaine et genèse du mouvement national dans l'entre-deux-guerres" by Jamaa Baida (Enseignant-Chercheur à l'Université de Mohamed V-Rabat), December 1, 2010. Lecture held at the National Archives of Tunisia.
- "Cinéma de la Méditerranée" by Mohamed Ben Salah (Réalisateur et Enseignant-Chercheur à l'Université, Algérie), October 29, 2010.
- "Non Archival Blogs and History Writing of the Modern Maghreb "by Lotfi Aissa (Professor, Faculté des Sciences Humaines et Sociales, Tunis), October 27, 2010. Lecture held at the National Archives of Tunisia.
- "Les débuts du cinématographe en Tunisie (1896-1943) by Morgan Corriou (Doctorante au Laboratoire SEDET, Université Paris Diderot), October 25,2010.
- "Voiles Islamiques, individus et sphères publiques" by Mohamed Kerrou (Faculté de Droit et des Sciences Politiques, Tunis), October 22,2010.



*Professor William Quandt speaking to Tunisian students at CEMAT's courtyard*

## CEMAT Scholars' Meetings

In addition to our regular CEMAT lecture series as well as U.S. Speakers Series, CEMAT periodically holds get-togethers of scholars in Tunis so that they can meet each other and share resources and ideas. Scholars' meetings are generally informal, in salon-style, and sometimes



From right, Nadia Taufiq, Caitlin Mulrine, Katie Larson, Laryssa Chomiak, Sam Liebhaber, Teije Hidde Donker and Laura Thompson

include special presentations by scholars who have significantly progressed in their research. We organize approximately 6 scholars' meetings per year. The last one was held on November 10, 2011 and was attended by 8 CEMAT scholars, CEMAT Director Laryssa Chomiak, CEMAT Associate Director Riadh Saadaoui and CEMA Director Robert Parks via skype from Algeria: Laura Thompson, Nadia Taufik, Caitlin Mulrine, Katie Larson, Sam Liebhaber, Teije Hedde Donker, Jon Gresham, and Nabihha Jerad. After scholars introduced their diverse research interests and projects, Teije Donker, a Ph.D. candidate in political science at the European University Institute in Florence, gave a presentation entitled "Islamism in Tunisia: Beyond Revolution and Elections," based on his interview and ethnographic research on political Islam in Tunisia. The conversation and debate continued informally over a dinner at Chez Nous restaurant in downtown Tunis.

## 2011 CEMAT SCHOLARS

Jason Brownlee (U. of Texas, Austin, Department of Government) was a CEMAT lecturer and researched elections and the democratic transition in Tunis.

Matthew Buehler (U. Texas Austin, PhD Political Science) is studying Islamic parties in Morocco and Tunisia. He researched in Tunis during the month of October.

Melani Cammett (Brown U.) was in Tunis before the October 23, 2011 elections researching post-revolutionary politics.

Rodney Collins (PhD anthropology Georgetown U.) is on an AIMS grant researching sign language in Tunisia.

Teije Hidde Donker (PhD cand. in Political & Social Sciences at European U. Institute, Florence), is studying Islamic movements-regime interactions in Syria and Tunisia.

Angel Foster (IBIS Reproductive Health) Emergency Contraception in Tunisia: A multi-methods assessment of availability and acceptability.

Doris Gray (Florida State U.) was conducting research on female supporters of *Ennahdha* on an AIMS Grant.

Jon Gresham is conducting research on economic immigration and rural impact in Tunisia.

Burleigh Hendrickson (Northeastern U. Boston). Decolonizing 1968(s): Between Imperial Fragmentation and Enduring Connectivity.

Katie Larson (BA sociology, U. Wisconsin-Milwaukee) is on a Fulbright grant to research gender in Arabic literature written for children. She will be in Tunisia from October 2011 to July 2012.

Sam Liebhaber (Middlebury College) The Berber-Mahri Imaginary in Arabic Socio-linguistics and Historiography.

Kyle Listen (Indiana U. PhD cand. in History) was a CEMAT scholar from September 2009-October 2011 on a Fulbright and AIMS grant for language Arabic study and research on Italo-Tunisian interaction during the Protectorate.

Monica Marks (Oxford U.). Spent the summer in Tunisia researching the rise of *Ennahdha* and the future of Tunisian feminism.

Gayla Marty (U. of Minnesota) visited Tunis during the month of Ramadan to research personal and cultural food life and change for a new book project.

Larry Michelak (U. California, Berkeley) is working on weekly markets in Tunisia.

Annette Mullaney (Stanford U.) spent the summer in Tunis researching issue salience and vote choice in uncertain electoral environments.

Caitlin Mulrine (School of International Training) is researching Tunisian women's organizations and the reproduction national identities and discourses.

Nadia Taufiq (School of International Training) is researching young Tunisian thought regarding the American Public.

Laura Thompson (MA Theology, Harvard Divinity School) has made multiple visits to Tunisia, including Fulbright research beginning in Sept 2008 on women in the public sphere.  
Mark Willis (State Dept., retired) research US-Tunisia: Encounter 1942-1944.

## CEMAT Scholar Profile: Monica Marks



Monica Marks is a Rhodes scholar and graduate student in Middle Eastern studies at Oxford University. Her research focuses on Islamist mobilization of women and young people in Turkey and the Arab World. She first came to Tunis and CEMAT in summer 2007 on a Department of State Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) to study Arabic.

Monica's primary research focus is currently Tunisia, where she spent summer 2011 exploring the nature of women's participation in the *Ennahda* party. In July and August 2011 she interviewed around two hundred Tunisian academics, lawyers, activists, and politicians, 46 of whom were female activists in the *Ennahda* party. Her research seeks to understand the impact of Islamism on women's rights in Tunisia, a topic that is dominating much public debate in Tunisia.

Monica is interested in understanding how and why women became active in *Ennahda*, the nature and types of roles they take within the party, and the interrelationships (or lack thereof) between *Ennahda* women and Tunisian secular feminists. Her articles on these topics have appeared in Open Democracy.net as well as in a New York Times op-ed entitled "Can Islamism and Feminism Mix?" which was published this past October.

Monica has also spent significant time in Egypt interviewing women in the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood. She is highly interested in how the Tunisian and Egyptian uprisings are affecting women's rights as well as Turkey's increasingly influential role in the region.

Monica is a first generation college student and native of Rush, Kentucky. She initially pursued a career in refugee law, receiving an NSEP Boren fellowship to study in Tanzania for a year (2006-2007), but ended up reorienting her scholarship northward after first visiting Turkey in December 2006 thanks to a serendipitously cheap flight on Kenya Airways.

Tunisia and Turkey remain two of Monica's favorite countries. After months of indulging in harissa and tuna sandwiches to the point of excess, Monica still craves a cheap *sandwich au thon* and deeply misses the apple shisha at Cafe Judud by the Kasbah -- her new favorite nighttime hangout in Tunis.

## CEMAT Interns

Dhouha Bokri, Revolution Records Project, February – April 2011

Yusuf Dridi, Revolution Records Project, February – April 2011

Lotfi Ben Aziza, Political Parties and Civil Society Organizations - September/October 2011

## CEMAT Library and Library Partners

CEMAT's Library includes the I. William Zartman collection of approximately 2500 English, French and Arabic-language books on North Africa as well as the Georges Sabagh collection of 1500 Doctoral Dissertations on North Africa. We offer J-Store access to CEMAT-affiliated scholars and gratuitously to Tunisian students and researchers. CEMAT also collaborates with local libraries and institutes housing collections, including: the National Archives of Tunisia, *Beit El-Bennani* (private collection), *Institute des Belles Lettres Arabes* (IBLA), *Bibliothèque des Sciences des Religions*, *Association de la Sauvegarde de la Medina de Tunis*, and the National Institute of Patrimony (Ministry of Culture). CEMAT is happy to receive relevant book donations on all issues relating to the study of North Africa.

## CEMAT Renovations

In August of 2011, we began renovations at CEMAT in anticipation of receiving a high increase of visitors, scholars and researchers as well as to prepare space for new partnerships resulting from post-revolutionary changes. We painted the inside and outside of the building, acquired new office furniture, renovated the bathrooms, and re-designed the reception area. We also began decorating our walls with framed photos of the Tunisian Revolution taken by our CEMAT interns as well as framed traditional Tunisian fabrics.

## TUNISIAN SCHOLARLY EXCHANGES TO THE UNITED STATES AND WITHIN THE MAGHREB

We are fortunate to receive funding from the Public Affairs Office at the United States Embassy in Tunis for a unique fellowship program that allows us to select Tunisian scholars and teachers that wish to travel to university campuses in the U.S. for scholarly research and to further their professional development. We are thankful to Dr. Andrea Khalil, chair of our newly established CEMAT Steering Committee in the U.S., for her assistance in placing students at appropriate U.S. institutions. Our parent organization, AIMS, assists CEMAT in funding Tunisian research in other countries of the Maghreb.

### The American Studies Grant Program Expands

CEMAT has an annual grant program entitled "American Studies Grant Program" to send Tunisian scholars to the US for a month of research on topics related to American studies. The program began with a single grant to a Tunisian student for \$3,000 under Jim Miller in 2006. Under Larry Michalak, we were able to provide another grant in 2007, then three in 2008, five in 2009, five grants in 2010, and another six grants in 2011. The current award amount has been increased to \$6,000.

Since 2010, CEMAT has administered 11 American Studies grants. The grantees work on research for books, articles, dissertation chapters or develop new curricula and syllabi for their courses back in Tunisia. This program has an important impact on the careers of Tunisian scholars. Grantees experience first-hand U.S. campus life, academic exchanges and mentorship, and have the opportunity to use valuable resources in libraries and collections. Below are a few testimonies from former grantees. CEMAT invites American Studies Grantee Alumni for round-tables at our offices where they discuss their U.S. experiences and also advise future grantees and those interested in applying to the program.

Samir Mestiri, 2010 grantee

*During my stay in Baltimore, I fully benefited from the different library resources I was allowed to access and from the interviews I conducted with the specialized faculty. My special thanks go to Pr. Kimberly Katz, Assistant Professor at Towson University, who was a great help to me. In brief, the positive impact of this trip on my thesis progress was very noticeable.*

Rym Ben Khelifa, 2010 Grantee

*Thanks to the American Studies Grant, I had the chance to visit George Washington University in Washington, DC. This kind of opportunity is really important because it gave me the opportunity to work with the professionals in the international investment law field. This experience will allow me to complete my Ph. D. Thesis and provide me with practical insider legal experience. Surely, this opportunity will help my career development, especially in today's Tunisia where we are witnessing many political, economic and legal reforms, particularly in the field of international investment law.*

Radhia Besbes Krid, 2009 grantee

*As a grantee, I went to Indiana University at Bloomington and the experience was really fruitful for my doctoral dissertation research. I had access to the library and I attended lectures in order to gain an understanding of how teaching works in the US. As part of my research, I conducted a survey to compare US and Tunisian students' responses to American poetry.*

## 2011 American Studies Grant Recipients

The 2010 American Studies grants were decided by the Selection Committee in April and announced in early May.

Rim Triki (Institut Supérieur des Sciences Humaines de Tunis), "Course development project on US immigration history," hosted by The University of Minnesota

Ahlem Ben Jemia (Université de la Manouba), "War History through Music and Songs," hosted by Columbia University

Sami Azouz (Institut Supérieur des Langues de Gabès), "Transformations and Shifts in Amiri Baraka's Plays," hosted by Howard University

Rachid Neji (Institut Supérieur des Langues de Gabès), "Apocalypse and the Ethics of Humanism: The (De) Construction of Male Identity in Thomas Pynchon's Four Novels: The Crying of Lot 49, Gravity's Rainbow, V. and Mason and Dixon," hosted by The City University of New York

Imen Chaabane (Institut Supérieur des Etudes Appliquées en Sciences Humaines de Sbeitla), "The Poetics and Politics of Identity in Three Contemporary Arab American Poets: Lawrence Joseph, Khaled Mattawa, and Suheir Hammad," hosted by The University of Michigan

## AIMS Maghrebi Grant Recipients:

The American Institute for Maghreb Studies provided annual funding to sponsor Maghrebi scholars' research in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauretania and Libya. Normally grants are for the duration of one month to six weeks. Below is a list of our recent grantees:

- "Arabic Epigraphy among Andalusians expelled from Spain in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century: Case Study of the Andalousian Community in Morocco and Tunisia", Fathi Jarray (Higher Institute of Heritage and Crafts, Tunisia)
- "Venuti's Domestication strategies in Transferring Cultural Concepts and Connotations in Verbal and non-Verbal elements in out Door Advertising in the Maghreb", Karima Bouziane (Chouaib Doukkali University, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Morocco)
- "Law and Commercial Adjudication Practices in Tunisia", Nora Seddiki El Houdaigui (University of Law and Economic Sciences in Tangiers, Morocco)
- "Mauritanian Manuscripts in Tunisia", Ahmed Mouloud Ould Eida (Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Nouakchott, Mauritania)

## Getty Fellowships

The Getty Foundation Fellowships are awarded through CAORC and the American Overseas Research Centers for foreign scholars to conduct research relating to Mediterranean Studies. CEMAT organizes the competition each year for Tunisian applicants. We submit a list of potential fellows to CAORC for the final selection process.

The 2010 Getty Fellowship was awarded to Dr. Fathi Jarray of the Higher Institute of Heritage and Crafts of the University of Tunis, to visit Turkey and study the origins and evolution of Islamic sundials.

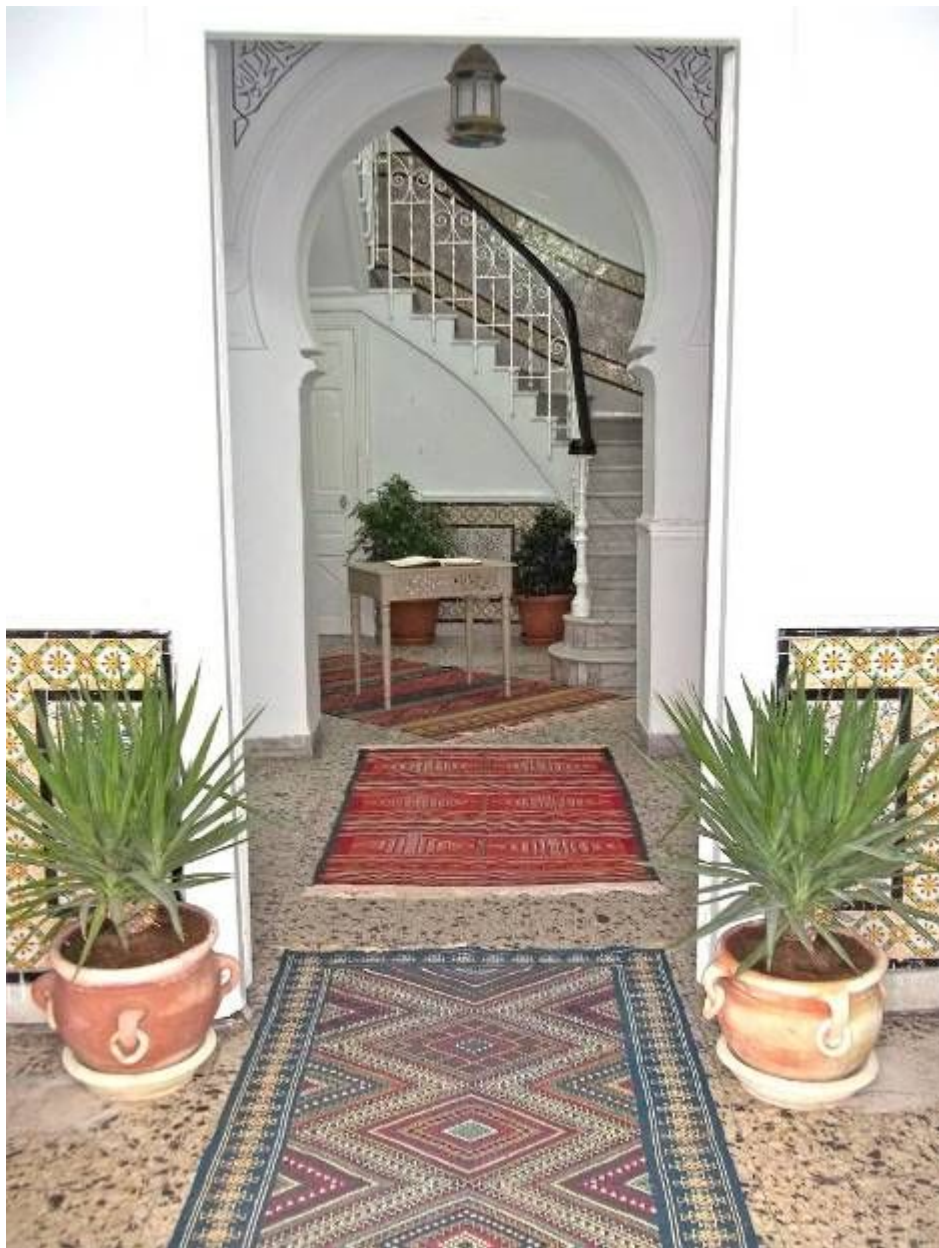
The 2011 Getty Fellowship was awarded to Anissa Daoudi from Algeria to conduct comparative research in Egypt and Tunisia on the following topic: "The Internet and the Arab world: the emergence of e-Arabic and its impacts on the Arab cultural field."

The 2012 Getty Fellowship Competition was announced in November 2011. Applicants are invited to apply for research in Algeria on "Art and Archaeology of the Sacred" or in Turkey to work on "Vision and Visual Culture in Byzantium".

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT CEMAT

Over the next year, CEMAT is looking forward to a vibrant intellectual environment with our U.S. Speakers Series focused on the country's democratic transition, our regular CEMAT lecture series, scholars' meetings, collaboration with other local and international institutes as well as a special spring program.

In collaboration with a University of Tunis Professor of Anthropology, CEMAT will sponsor a spring 2012 event on "Language, Literature and Symbols of the Revolution." We will invite young bloggers, activists, artists and musicians who either participated in the revolution or whose work was influenced by the revolution and post-revolutionary events. This two-part event will include a scholarly panel and a set of short performances.



*Renovated CEMAT Foyer!*



*CEMAT villa "Maria Carlotta" seen in full for the first time due to construction next door.*



Centre d'Etudes Maghrébines à Tunis

مركز الدراسات المغاربية بتونس

CEMAT is the American Research Center in Tunis [www.cematmaghrib.org](http://www.cematmaghrib.org)  
CEMAT is the overseas Research Center of AIMS, the American Institute of Maghrib Studies

[www.aimsnorthafrica.org](http://www.aimsnorthafrica.org)

CEMAT is a member of CAORC, the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, [www.caorc.org](http://www.caorc.org)

CEMAT Staff :

Dr. Laryssa Chomiak, Director  
Mr. Riadh Saadaoui, Associate Director  
Mrs. Sameh Bouraoui, Administrative Assistant  
Mr. Faouzi Mahbouli, General Assistant

Address:

Impasse Menabrea, 19 bis, Rue d'Angleterre  
Tunis, Tunisia

Mail:

B.P. 404, 1049 Tunis – Hached

E-mail :

[ceamat@aimsnorthafrica.org](mailto:ceamat@aimsnorthafrica.org)

[ceamat2@aimsnorthafrica.org](mailto:ceamat2@aimsnorthafrica.org)

facebook:

[www.facebook.com/ceamatmaghrib](http://www.facebook.com/ceamatmaghrib)

Phone : +216 71 326 219

Fax : +216 71 328 378

## TUNISIA'S REVOLUTION IN PHOTOS

