

CALL FOR PAPERS

**Visualizing Modernity in the Nineteenth Century:
Photographs and Print Culture from the Middle East, Iran, North Africa and South Asia**
Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting 2014
Washington, DC, Nov 22-25, 2014

Organizers:

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Deadline for Submission of Abstracts:

Please email paper abstract (max 400 words) and CV as PDF or Word documents to halaauji@gmail.com or schwerda@princeton.edu by **January 31, 2014**.

Authors of selected papers will be notified by February 6, 2014 and will need to upload their paper abstracts to myMESA by the February 15, 2014 deadline. MESA membership is required to submit an abstract to the MESA online system. The MESA program committee will decide on the acceptance of the entire panel. For more information on the conference, see: <http://www.mesa.arizona.edu/annual-meeting/index.html>

Panel Summary:

This proposed panel invites papers that address the forms, meanings and functions of photographic and printed works produced in the Islamic realms during the nineteenth century. During this transformative era, regional urban centers, including cities like Beirut, Cairo, Tehran and Istanbul, experienced modernization reforms, a new form of global politics, and intellectual movements that called for secular education and nationalist ideals. Throughout the 1800s, these increasingly cosmopolitan centers also witnessed widespread technological changes, including the emergence of photography and the transition from scribal modes of book production to printing technologies.

The goal of this panel is to present new and unpublished research that explores the complex dynamics of such endeavors as found in the photographs and printed artifacts produced in cities within the geographic boundaries of the Middle East, Iran, North Africa and South Asia. Studies may be exclusively limited to particular examples or various aspects of photography and/or printed works. Papers may also integrate a study of text and image through material objects like newspapers, travel catalogs and advertisements, to name a few. However, of particular importance are papers that demonstrate how the visual and textual dimensions of such photographic and printed works negotiated regional perceptions of modernity. This may include, but is not limited to, addressing one or more of the following:

- The ways in which notions of technological and industrial progress diverged from/intersected with those of customary visual practices.
- How technological change resulted in shifting artistic notions of images and/or the written word.
- How print and/or photography related to issues of political, national or cultural identity.
- How the visual dimensions of modernity in regional photographic and printing practices interfaced with those of external forces of westernization.

Although this panel places an emphasis on papers that deal with examples of visual and material culture produced by regional members of multi-confessional and multi-ethnic communities, projects addressing any of the above stated issues from the perspective of western residents (i.e. missionaries, orientalists, European travelers, etc.) are also welcome.