

## **Potential “Zoom into the Middle East” Speakers**

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**Name:** Attiya Ahmad

**Email:** ahmada@gwu.edu

**Home Institution:** The George Washington University

**Relevant Disciplines:** Anthropology, Religion, Women's Studies

**Countries/Regions of Expertise:** GCC, Kuwait, Turkey

**Thematic Areas:** Gender & Sexuality, Identity and Community, Islam, Islamism, & Religious Studies, Migration and Refugee Issues

**Biography:** Prof. Attiya Ahmad is trained and lectures globally on gender studies, Islamic studies and anthropology. She has conducted research throughout the Middle East, including in Kuwait and the broader Arabian Peninsula/Persian Gulf region, Palestine/Israel, and Turkey. She also researches migration and tourism both within the Middle East and transnationally between the Middle East, South Asia and Mediterranean regions. She has won multiple awards for her scholarship, and has been the recipient of numerous fellowships, including from the National Science Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Stanford Humanities Center, and the Oxford Center for Islamic Studies.

**Name:** Nabila Hijazi

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**Home Institution:** The George Washington University

**Relevant Disciplines:** Religion, Women's Studies

**Countries/Regions of Expertise:** Syria

**Thematic Areas:** Human Rights, Identity and Community, Islam, Islamism, & Religious Studies, Migration and Refugee Issues

**Biography:** Nabila Hijazi is a Teaching Assistant Professor of Writing at the George Washington University. Her research interests include Muslim and refugee women’s rhetoric(s) and literacy practices, writing center theory and practice, and multilingual writing. She teaches classes in academic writing, writing across the curriculum, writing center theory and practice, and women’s studies. Her research interests include Muslim and refugee women’s rhetoric(s) and literacy practices, writing center theory and practice, and multilingual writing. Drawing on community-based work with Syrian refugee women in the Washington, D.C. region, Hijazi examines the cultural, economic, and political dimensions of their Arabic literacy practices and English literacy learning in the United States.

**Name:** Melani McAlister

**Email:** mmc@gwu.edu

**Home Institution:** The George Washington University

**Relevant Disciplines:** American Studies, History, International Affairs, Media & Public Affairs, Religion

**Countries/Regions of Expertise:** Palestine / Israel

**Thematic Areas:** Colonialism / Colonial History, Human Rights, US Relations with the Middle East

**Biography:** Professor McAlister is a cultural historian of the US in the World. She has written extensively on US image of the Middle East and the interaction of culture and foreign policy. She is the author of *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and US Interests in the Middle East since 1945* (2001, 2005) and *The Kingdom of God has No Borders: A Global History of American Evangelicals* (2018, 2022). She is currently working on a book about the impact of Middle Eastern, African, and Latin American music and literature in the United States in the 1970s and 1980s.

**Name:** Cory Jorgensen

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**Home Institution:** The George Washington University

**Relevant Disciplines:** Classics & Near Eastern Languages

**Countries/Regions of Expertise:** Egypt, Iraq

**Thematic Areas:** Middle Eastern Languages (ATC)

**Biography:** I specialize in classical Arabic literature and Arabic pedagogy, and have published and presented papers on these topics. My current book, *Throwing Down the Verbal Gauntlet: The Arabic Invective of Jarīr and al-Farazdaq*, examines a pair of eighth-century Arab invective poets who catered their performances to their audience in order to elevate their own prestige, just as rappers do today. I have taught Latin, Greek and Arabic language courses, as well as Arabic literature courses. I have been teaching at The George Washington University since 2012.

**Name:** Ilana Feldman

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**Home Institution:** George Washington University

**Relevant Disciplines:** Anthropology, History

**Countries/Regions of Expertise:** Palestine / Israel

**Thematic Areas:** Colonialism / Colonial History, Human Rights, Migration and Refugee Issues

**Biography:** Ilana Feldman is Professor of Anthropology, History, and International Affairs at George Washington University. Her research focuses on the Palestinian experience, both inside and outside of historic Palestine, examining practices of government, humanitarianism, policing, displacement, and citizenship. She is the author of *Governing Gaza: Bureaucracy, Authority, and the Work of Rule, 1917-67*, *Police Encounters: Security and Surveillance in Gaza under Egyptian Rule*, *Life Lived in Relief: Humanitarian Predicaments and Palestinian Refugee Politics*; and

co-editor (with Miriam Ticktin) of *In the Name of Humanity: The Government of Threat and Care*.

**Name:** Sina Azodi

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**Home Institution:** George Washington University

**Relevant Disciplines:** History, International Affairs

**Countries/Regions of Expertise:** Iran

**Thematic Areas:** International Relations of the Middle East, Middle Eastern Languages, Security & Geopolitics, US Relations with the Middle East

**Biography:** Sina Azodi is a former Non-Resident Fellow at the Atlantic Council, and a PhD candidate in International Affairs. His research interests include international security, nuclear non-proliferation, and US-Iranian relations. Sina previously worked as a Research Assistant at Princeton University's Program on Science and Global Security and Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. He is a frequent commentator on both English and Persian speaking media, including BBC Persian service, Sky News, Al-Jazeera, TRT World and i24. Sina's analysis has appeared on Columbia University's Journal of International Affairs, Arms Control Association, Center for Strategic and International Studies, and the Middle East Institute, and has been quoted by the New York Times, Newsweek, Forbes and Spiegel. Sina earned his BA and MA in International Affairs from the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University.