



# BRISMES

British Society for Middle Eastern Studies



## ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009 UPDATE FROM THE ORGANISERS

### EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS/PANEL PROPOSALS

NEW DEADLINE:  
TUESDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2009

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THE CONFERENCE NOW HAS A DEDICATED WEBSITE  
[HTTP://WWW.BRISMES2009.COM](http://www.brismes2009.com)  
(PLEASE CHECK REGULARLY FOR UPDATES/REGISTRATION INFO ETC.)

**'Frontiers: Space, Separation and Contact in the Middle East'**  
**University of Manchester**  
**4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

The 2009 BRISMES Annual Conference will be hosted by the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures at the University of Manchester from Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> to Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

The theme of this year's conference is 'Frontiers: Space, Separation and Contact in the Middle East'. Given that the 'spatial turn' in the humanities and social sciences has not yet figured prominently at BRISMES Annual Conferences, the organisers think it timely that our attention shift to a more detailed debate of the question of 'space'. Political and territorial frontiers in the Middle East have been a source of conflict and violence for millennia and continue to be so with acute topicality. However, while undoubtedly functioning as separators, borders have also always been zones of contact and exchange. Furthermore, the 2009 theme endeavours to embrace a much wider notion of 'frontier' that goes far beyond mere geo-political implications by inviting thought and reflection on 'frontiers' at a whole host of levels, be they cultural, ideological or economic and as they relate to the study of subjects such as art, philosophy, literature, religion and science. The organisers encourage proposals which explore any aspect of the above in any given historical period from pre-history to the present day. The conference theme has been chosen with the aim to stimulate debate and to provide a particular focus, however, it is not meant to be exclusive. Hence, as always with BRISMES Annual Conferences, the 2009 conference is for all those conducting research relating to any field within Middle Eastern Studies.

Titles and abstracts (250 words) for 20-minute papers, with a short biographical statement, contact details and affiliation should be sent by **31 March 2009** to:

Dr Oliver Bast  
Head of Middle Eastern Studies  
School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures  
University of Manchester  
Manchester  
M13 9PL  
United Kingdom

Alternatively, e-mail your abstract to [oliver.bast@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:oliver.bast@manchester.ac.uk) (please mark your e-mail subject line: BRISMES 2009).

Proposals will also be considered for panels (of three papers or more). A 200-word rationale should include panel title, brief description of panel theme, name of the panel chair, and 250-word abstracts of each paper, contact details and affiliation for each speaker.



Please note that we also welcome non-presenting conference participants.  
For information and registration details, please contact the conference team at:  
[secretary@brismes2009.com](mailto:secretary@brismes2009.com).

