



## LIBYA: LEGACY OF THE PAST, PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

Oxford, 25-27 September 2009

After protracted isolation, Libya remains at the periphery of academic research on the contemporary Arab world and largely unknown to the wider audience. Yet, the country is gradually emerging as a critical player in the international arena. Its proximity to Europe, the energy resources, its critical location at the crossroad between Africa and the Arab worlds, and the deepening diplomatic exchanges with the United States and the European Union, are some of the many reasons why a more rigorous discussion on the country is warranted. In occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the so-called Libyan revolution in September 2009, this endeavour is all the more relevant and worthwhile.

Accordingly, this year the Middle East Centre at St. Antony's College, Oxford, will bring Libya to the centre stage by organizing an international conference entitled "Libya: Legacy of the Past, Prospects for the Future," which will provide a forum to reflect upon Libya's recent history and current politics. This conference will bring together leading academics, as well as analysts and diplomats, in order to discuss some central issues that the limited literature on Libya has so far never tackled.

For any query please contact the organisers, Claudia Gazzini ([claudia.gazzini@sjc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:claudia.gazzini@sjc.ox.ac.uk)) and Emanuela Paoletti ([emanuela.paoletti@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:emanuela.paoletti@qeh.ox.ac.uk)). Should you require accommodation in Oxford, we will be happy to provide you with a list of convenient hotels and college accommodation.

To attend, please complete the registration form and return it by Aug. 30 to [emanuela.paoletti@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:emanuela.paoletti@qeh.ox.ac.uk)

With the support of:



American Institute for Maghrib Studies



Society for Libyan Studies

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**\*\*\* Preliminary programme \*\*\***

**Friday, 25 September (Taylorian Institute)**

5pm: Introductory remarks and keynote speech

**Lisa Anderson**, Provost of the American University in Cairo, “Libya: Legacy of the Past, Challenges of the Present, Prospects for the Future”

**Saturday, 26 September (Maison Française)**

9am – 12.30pm **First panel: Legacy of the past**

Chair: Claudia Gazzini

**Nicola Labanca**, University of Siena – *Italy’s colonial amnesia*

**Antonino Pellitteri**, University of Palermo – *The Role of al-Dawlah al-fatimiyyah in some Speeches of Mu’ammār al-Qadhafi between Reinterpretation of Islam, History and Politics*

**Francesca Di Pasquale**, archivist – *The “recovered” Archives – the papers of the Libyan Historical Archives and the project for its arrangement*

**Paul Bennett**, Canterbury Archaeological Trust – *Preserving Libya’s cultural heritage*

12.30pm – 2:00pm Lunch break

2:00pm – 5:30pm **Second panel: Since the Revolution**

Chair: Emanuela Paoletti

**Dirk Vanderwalle**, Dartmouth College– *Institutional transformations*

**Ronald Bruce St John**, independent scholar – *Revolutionary ideology*

**Amal Obeidi**, Gar Younis University, Benghazi – *From the Revolution to the 2009 Constitution project*

**Zahi Moghrebi**, Gar Younis University, Benghazi - *Economic and Political Reform in Libya: Obstacles and Prospects*

8pm Conference Dinner at Al Shami Restaurant, 25 Walton Crescent, Oxford

**Sunday, 27 September (St. Antony's College)**

9am – 12.30pm

**Third panel: Libyan today and its international relations**

Chair: Michael Willis

**George Joffè**, Cambridge University – *Libya and the EU*

**Yahia Zoubir**, EuroMed Marseilles – *US-Libyan Relations: Explaining the Rehabilitation of the Libyan Regime*

**Ahmad al-Atrash**, Al-Fateh University, Tripoli – *Libya and the Maghreb: Bilateralism vis-à-vis Multilateralism*

**Oliver Miles**, former British Ambassador – *Normalisation and International Business*

12.30pm – 2:00pm

Lunch break

2:00pm – 5:30pm

**Fourth panel: Libya today and its domestic politics**

Chair: Alan George

**Alison Pargeter**, Cambridge University – *Islamic activists in Libya*

**Rory Fyfe**, Economist Intelligence Unit - *Economic developments*

**Heba Morayef**, Human Rights Watch – *Human Rights in Libya*

**Mustafa Attir**, Academy of Janzur, Tripoli – *Libya's Experience with Illegal Migration: A Case of Conflicting Policies*

**Andy Barclay and Colin Allen**, King's College – *Prison reform in Libya (tbc)*

5.30-6.30pm: Concluding panel and final remarks