Annual Reports to the Board of Directors

Caucus/Scholarly Interest Group Name:

Middle East Caucus

Report submitted by:

Niki Akhavan, Assistant Professor of Media Studies at The Catholic University of America, Co-Chair of Middle East Caucus

Date Submitted:

October 4, 2012

I. Summary of Past Activities (since last report)

A. Election Results

Nezar Andary, who is an Assistant Professor of Film and Literature at Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, was elected as co-chair.

B. Other Activities/Initiatives

1) The Middle East Caucus organized and sponsored the following panels for the 2012 Boston Conference:

D9- Humor, Comedy, and Satire in Iranian Cinema: Historical Texts and Current Contexts
CHAIR: Gayatri Devi, Lock Haven University
Katja Follmer, University of Goettingen, “Laughing at the ‘Fool’ – Humor in Iranian Media after the Revolution”
Cyrus Zargar, Augustana College, “Ironic Distance in the Comedy of Mehran Modiri: Contemporary Iranian Life through an Outsider’s Eyes”

E5- Social Media, State Power, and Censorship
CHAIR: Niki Akhavan, Catholic University of America
Hossein Khosrowjah, California College of Arts, “Two Hands of Censorship: Re-framing the Question of Media Censorship and Resistance to It in Iran”
Fakhri Haghani, Rutgers University, “Gender Relations and the Global Social Media”
M18- Activism, Media Art, Film Culture, and Social Media in the Recent Arab Uprisings

CHAIR: Nezar Andary, Zayed University
Samirah Alkassim, Anne Arundel Community College, “Connecting the Dots: From Graffiti Art to Films Preceding History in Egypt”
Dina Ramadan, Bard College, “Between Martyr and Artist: Egyptian Art after the Revolution”
Merlyna Lim, Arizona State University, “Journey to Tahrir: Social Media and Popular Movements in 2011 Egypt Revolt”

O1- Laughter That “Encounters a Void?” On Humor and Cinema in the Middle East

CHAIR: Hossein Khosrowjah, California College of Arts
Perin Gurel, Dickinson College, “America, the (Oppressively) Funny: Humor and Anti-Americanisms in Modern Turkish Cinema”
Roberta Di Carmine, Western Illinois University, “Israeli Comedy’s Multiple Voices/Languages in The Band’s Visit”

P11- No Laughing Matter: Humor in Recent Arab Cinema
CHAIR: Najat Rahman, University of Montreal
Robert Lang, University of Hartford, “Strategies of Subversion in Ben Ali’s Tunisia: Allegory and Satire in Moncef Dhouib’s The TV Is Coming (2006)”
Sariel Birnbaum, Binghamton University, “Egyptian Comedies and 2011 Revolution, Or: Why Didn’t Egyptian

2) The Middle East Caucus sponsored the following panel at the Boston 2012 conference:

R10- Documenting the Middle East

CHAIR: Terri Ginsberg, International Council for Middle East Studies
Sarah Barkin, Syracuse University, “Expanding the Realm of the Domestic: The Mother as an Authenticating Political Force in Michal Aviad’s The Women Next Door (1992) and For My Children (2002)”
Laurel Ahnert, Georgia State University, “The Veil as a Lens: An Examination of Three Photographic Works by Mona Hatoum, Jannane Al-Ani, and Lalla Essaydi”
Rebecca Adelman, University of Maryland, “That Was Mean, Motari: Spectatorship, Sympathy, and Animal Suffering in Wartime”

3) The Middle East Caucus co-sponsored the following panel (along with can/African American Caucus and the French and Francophone Scholarly Interest Group)

A10- Film and Video Cultures in Africa

CHAIR: Suzanne Gauch, Temple University
Gareth McFeely, Boston University, “Film Exhibition in Mid- Twentieth Century Ghana”
Suzanne Gauch, Temple University, “Algerian Cinema after 2002”
II. **Brief Summary of Upcoming Activities** (no more than a-half page)

A. **Annual Conference** (e.g., meeting agenda items, number of sponsored panels, workshops, screenings, special events)

The Middle East Caucus put out a CFP entitled “The “New” Middle East? Implications for Cinema and Media Studies” and submitted one panel for consideration. We encouraged all who had submitted papers to the call but whose paper was not included in the panel to submit to the open call. We have also informed our members that they should be in touch with us if their submissions are accepted for the 2013 Conference as we may be interested in the possibilities of sponsorship or co-sponsorship.

During our March 24 meeting at the Boston Conference, members suggested reaching out to Chicago based to organizations, festivals, artists and filmmakers that might be interested in networking with Caucus member and attending our panels at the 2013 SCMS Conference. Some of our members have volunteered to explore these possibilities in preparation for the upcoming conference.

B. **Other Future Activities**

III. **Bulleted Questions/Issues for SCMS Board of Directors’ consideration** (if any)