



TUESDAY,

MARCH 18

12:00 PM (ET)

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CERES Brown Bag Panel
**Orientalism without Empire:
A Comparative Study**

Hannu Juusola, Ph.D., University of Helsinki
Russell Lucas, Ph.D., James Madison College, MSU
Camelia Suleiman, Ph.D., Department of Linguistics,
Languages and Cultures, MSU

Comparative studies of Orientalism have generated debate about the role of imperial power relations in knowledge production regardless of their grouping under Oriental, Islamic, or Middle East Area Studies. This panel uses a comparative analysis of knowledge production on the Middle East, to explore new dimensions of scholarship and critique of Orientalism.

The key dimension of comparison is geographic. Finnish Orientalism is not only understudied in English, but also represents a three-century-old European tradition in a country that itself experienced the imperialism of neighbors. We place this tradition in dialogue with Zionist Orientalism which has navigated the dual self-image of European colonialism and anti-colonialism. Second, we also include a comparative discussion of the hegemonic American tradition.

Dr. Hannu Juusola is a historian of the Middle East, specializing in Israel, Palestine and Lebanon. He is the Chair of the Department of World Cultures at the University of Helsinki. He also served as the director of the Finnish Institute in the Middle East in Jerusalem, Damascus and Beirut.

