



## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (MENA) STUDIES CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT MAY–DECEMBER 2019

### Executive Summary

The Centre's core members have been engaged individually and as partners in collaborative projects as evidenced by success in securing grant funding, in publications, conference presentations and community outreach. We have been invited both nationally and internationally to disseminate our research results. Many of us serve as committee members in professional societies. We enjoy these various activities not least because they increase the visibility of the Centre.

We are particularly proud that Farzin Vejdani, one of our founding members, was appointed as a Visiting Fellow at the Harvard Law School Program on Law and Society in the Muslim World from September 2019 to May 2020.

During the fall term 2019, the Centre's core members offered numerous undergraduate and graduate courses with a focus on MENA-related topics and also supervised graduate students at Ryerson and other universities. In this context we are pleased to report that the Centre successfully developed a multidisciplinary minor in MENA Studies and secured approval by University Senate in October 2019.

On November 1, 2019, we hosted an event with the award-winning Yemeni-Israeli-Canadian author Ayelet Tsabari who read from her memoir *The Art of Leaving* (HarperCollins, 2019). Co-organizer was the Diaspora Film Festival.

Please note: The Centre was inactive since January 2020, which is why this report only includes activities for the period May to December 2019 during Dr. Mustafa Koc's term as Director.