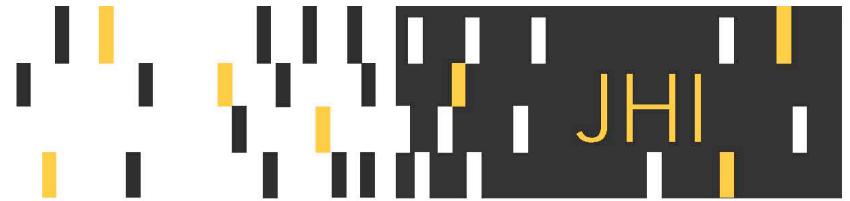




Jackman Humanities Institute  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



The Jackman Humanities Institute Program for the Arts on Humour Play and Games is pleased to present

# MICHAEL COOPERSON

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

## HAUNTING THE SECULAR: LANGUAGE, NATION, AND RELIGION ON MALTESE TELEVISION

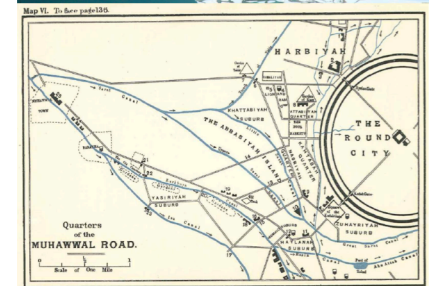
TUESDAY 24 MARCH – PUBLIC LECTURE, 3-5 PM UTM CCT2150

Since becoming a republic in 1974 and joining the European Union in 2004, the tiny nation of Malta has struggled to assert itself as a Catholic European country whose national language combines Arabic, Sicilian, Italian, and English. This talk will look at how a popular comedy series about a haunted apartment building stages questions of history and identity.

## GETTING IT WRONG: POETRY AND NARRATIVE IN NINTH CENTURY BAGHDAD

WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH, 4-6 PM, JACKMAN HUMANITIES BUILDING ROOM 100

In his verses, Abu Nuwas boasts of his drunken orgies, while his contemporary Abu l-Atahiyah begs his audience to remember death and the afterlife. This talk looks at what happened when each poet tried living out his ideal in the real world.



## ARABIC TRANSLATION LUNCH SEMINAR

THURSDAY 26 MARCH, 1-4 PM, BANCROFT HALL ROOM 200B

For graduate students, advanced undergraduates, and faculty who engage in translation from Arabic to English, this seminar will offer a practical group approach. Participation is by RSVP: Professor Jeannie Miller at [jeannie.miller@utoronto.ca](mailto:jeannie.miller@utoronto.ca) by 22 March 2015.

**MICHAEL COOPERSON** teaches Arabic language and literature at UCLA. He works on the cultural history of the early Abbasid caliphate, time travel as a literary device, and Maltese language and culture. His most recent monograph is *Al Ma'mūn*, a biography of the caliph. His most recent translation is Ibn al-Jawzī's *Virtues of the Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal*, for the Library of Arabic Literature.

If you require accommodation for a physical disability, or for further information, please contact Kim Yates at (416) 946-0313 or [jhi.associate@utoronto.ca](mailto:jhi.associate@utoronto.ca) [www.humanities.utoronto.ca](http://www.humanities.utoronto.ca). This event was supported by: Centres for Medieval Studies, and Comparative Literature; Institute of Islamic Studies; Middle East History and Theory Workshop; Toronto Arabic Studies Colloquium; and Departments of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, and Language Studies (UTM)