Annual Lecture Series featuring

**Dr. Nina Berman**

Director of the School of International Letters and Cultures

Moderated by Dr. Souad T. Ali, CAIS Founding Chair

**Thursday, April 19, 2018. 4:30 P.M.**

ASU Tempe Campus, COOR 184

Free & open to all ASU students, faculty, staff & the public

Professor Berman’s talk explores the dynamics between cultural textual archives (such as travel writings, folk talks, and geographical and anthropological texts) and data about social, economic, and political practices (such as marriage, conversion, war, trade, and taxes). She discusses mechanisms of exclusion and inclusion operative in textual representations from the medieval Islamic period, and uses observations gained from this analysis to shed light on comparative cases of imperial discourses. She argues that only careful contextualization and comparative inquiry facilitate an understanding of the political role played by literary/cultural discourses.

Nina Berman (PhD Berkeley) is director of the School of International Letters and Culture at Arizona State University. She has published books and articles on various questions related to German colonialism and orientalism, minority literature, disability, translation, and intercultural contact, including *German Literature on the Middle East: Discourses and Practices, 1000-1989* (2011, Outstanding Academic Title 2012, Choice) and *Impossible Missions? German Economic, Military, and Humanitarian Efforts in Africa* (2004). With Klaus Mühlhahn and Patrice Nganang, she edited *German Colonialism Revisited: African, Asian, and Oceanic Experiences*. Her most recent book, *Germans on the Kenyan Coast: Land, Charity, and Romance* (2017), discusses social and economic dimensions related to the contemporary presence of Germans on the coast south of Mombasa. She is presently co-editing, with Kimani Njogu and Michael M. Ndurumo, an anthology on *Disability and Social Justice in Kenya*.

http://ninaaberman.wordpress.com/
http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/product_info.php?products_id=808322

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