

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Najwa Adra is a cultural anthropologist with over 30 years of field research and experience in international development. Her doctoral dissertation, *Qabyala: The Tribal Concept in Yemen's Central Highlands*, examined the emic bases of tribal organization and identity in Yemen. In development, she has worked on projects as diverse as linkages between informal and formal legal systems, changing women's roles in agriculture, adult literacy and intangible heritage. Currently a Visitor in the School of Social Sciences, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey and associated researcher at the Institute for Social Anthropology, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Najwa Adra is finalizing her book, *Tribal Dynamics and Nation Building in Yemen*.

Marieke Brandt is a researcher at the Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna. Her research focuses on tribalism, tribal genealogy and history, and tribe-state relations in Southwest Arabia. She was a PhD fellow of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, DAAD fellow in Sana'a, Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellow of the European Union, and project leader of the New Frontiers Groups Programme (NFG) project "Deciphering Local Power Politics in Northern Yemen" funded by the Austrian National Foundation for Research, Technology and Development. She is the author of the award-winning *Tribes and Politics in Yemen: A History of the Houthi Conflict* (Hurst/Oxford University Press 2017).

Steven C. Caton is an anthropologist with a focus on the Middle East. He has worked on poetry as a form of political rhetoric in tribal Yemen and is now researching the politics of water scarcity in the Arabian Peninsula. He has also written on film, particularly on the image of T. E. Lawrence. The image is an ideological one, furthering the ends of various political agendas in trans-Atlantic culture. At Harvard, he regularly teaches courses on language and culture; Middle East ethnography; linguistic pragmatics and cultural description; anthropology, cultural studies, and film; and the history of anthropological theory. His books include *Peaks of Yemen I Summon: Poetry as Cultural Practice in a Northern Yemeni Tribe* (University of California Press 1990), *Lawrence of Arabia: a Film's Anthology* (University of California Press 1999), and *Yemen Chronicle: the Anthropology of War and Mediation* (Hill and Wang 2006).

Paul Dresch is an Emeritus research fellow of St John's College, Oxford. He took early retirement from the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology in 2013 and is currently working on tribal law manuscripts from Yemen. His books include *Tribes, Government and History in Yemen* (Oxford, 1989), *A History of Modern Yemen* (Cambridge, 2000), and *The Rules of Baraṭ* (Ṣan'ā', 2006).

Andre Gingrich carried out fieldwork among the Munabbih and other Khawlan al-Sham tribes of North West Yemen, and before that, in Asir and southern Hijaz. He is a fellow of the World Academy for the Advancement of Sciences, a member of the Royal Swedish and the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and was director of the Institute for Social Anthropology at the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

Helen Lackner studied social anthropology at SOAS and has worked as a development anthropologist in rural areas of over 30 countries during the past four decades. In Yemen she has been involved with projects throughout the country, analyzing the socio-economic conditions of rural communities, and gained a deep understanding of the transformations in social structure during that period under the different political regimes which prevailed since the 1970s. Her latest book is the award-winning monograph *Yemen in Crisis: Autocracy, Neo-Liberalism and the Disintegration of a State* (Saqi 2017). She is a regular contributor to Arab Digest, Oxford Analytica and Open Democracy.

Lisa Lenz-Ayoub is a PhD researcher in the discipline of social and cultural anthropology. Her regional focus is the Middle East. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Vienna and studied for one year at the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon. Lisa has traveled and worked in different projects and positions in other Middle Eastern countries, e.g. in Iran and Oman. Employed at the Institute for Social Anthropology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, she is currently working on her PhD thesis on the Yemeni-Saudi border from a local tribal perspective.

Mikhail A. Rodionov is a professor of Oriental Studies at St. Petersburg University and chief research scientist of the South and South West Asia Department in the Peter-the-Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnology, Russian Academy of Sciences. There he got his PhD on the Maronites of Lebanon in 1975 and habilitated on "Traditional Culture of Western Hadramawt" at the Institute for Oriental Studies in 1991. His research and teaching competence comprises comparative religion studies of the Middle East (Druzes, Maronites, Baha'is, Classical & Modern Islam); history of the Middle East; social, cultural and field anthropology of the Arab world/ and Arab poetry. His field experience includes Syria (1967-68), Egypt (1973), Lebanon (1973 and 2011), Yemen (14 field seasons in Hadramawt, 1983-2008). He is the author of more than 100 scientific presentations, over 220 articles, reviews, translations, and 14 books.

Daniel Martin Varisco is an anthropologist and historian with a focus on Yemen. He conducted ethnographic fieldwork in the central highlands of Yemen in 1978-79, returning throughout the next decade as a development consultant and researcher. He is the president of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies, was a senior fellow at the Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (2017-2018) working on agriculture and water resource use in Yemen's northern highlands, a senior fellow at the Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg (2019) researching Rasulid-Mamluk relations, and a member of the School for Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton (2019-2020).

Alexander Weissenburger holds an MLitt in Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asian Security Studies from the University of St Andrews and an MA in Islamic Studies from the University of Vienna. He currently works as a doctoral researcher at the Institute for Social Anthropology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and as a lecturer at the University of Vienna. His main research interests are Islamic mobilization and radicalization, Islamic religious and political thought as well as religious minorities of the Middle East. Alexander's PhD project investigates the ideology of the Ḥūthī movement.