

NMCSU & NMCGSA  
In collaboration with  
**Syria Solidarity Collective**  
Presents

**SYRIA:  
A Critical Discussion of  
Crisis and Destruction**



Supporting

University of Toronto  
Lifeline Syria

&

University of Toronto  
Scholars at Risk

**Program Schedule**

Doors Open

4:10pm

Opening Remarks by Rasha El-endari

4:20pm

University of Toronto Lifeline Syria

& Scholars at Risk

Statements

4:30pm

Speakers' Presentations

4:40pm

We and the Syrians:

The Ethics of Engagement in the Age of the War on Terror

*Jens Hanssen*

Syrian Refugees in Syria: Between Politics of Solidarity and  
Politics of Humanitarian Aid

*Şenay Özden*

A Scholar's Dilemma:

Does Cultural Heritage Destruction Matter in  
Light of Human Carnage?

*Clemens Reichel*

Question and Answer Period

5:30pm

**Special Thanks to:**

Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations Students' Union

Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations Graduate  
Students' Union

Syria Solidarity Collective

University of Toronto Lifeline Syria

University of Toronto Refugee Alliance

University of Toronto Scholars at Risk

**Speaker Bios**

*Dr. Jens Hanssen*

Jens Hanssen is Associate Professor of Middle Eastern and Mediterranean History, and Arab civilization. He received his D.Phil in Modern History from Oxford University in 2001 and joined the University of Toronto the following year. His Dissertation has been published by Clarendon Press as *Fin de Siècle Beirut* in 2005. His writings have appeared in *The New Cambridge History of Islam*, *The Routledge Reader of Fin de Siècle History*, *Critical Inquiry*, the *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* and *www.hannaharendt.net - Zeitschrift für Politisches Denken*. His current research interests include the intersections between urban culture and intellectual production in 19th- and 20th-century Arab history, the global fin de siècle, and German-Jewish echoes in modern Arab thought.

*Dr. Şenay Özden*

Şenay Özden is a cultural anthropologist from Turkey. Her research areas include international migration, refugees, Turkish state's refugee policies, and politics of humanitarian aid. She has numerous articles, reports published on Syrian refugees in Turkey, and hosts a weekly radio program in Turkey about Syrian refugees. After her graduate studies in anthropology at Duke University, she taught at various universities in Damascus and Istanbul. She is one of the founders of the Syrian Cultural House in Istanbul, Hamisch.

*Dr. Clemens Reichel*

Clemens Reichel (Ph. D, University of Chicago, 2001; M.A., University of London, 1990) is Professor for Mesopotamian Archaeology at the University of Toronto's Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations and Curator for the Ancient Near East at the Royal Ontario Museum. He has excavated widely in the Middle East; between 2004 and 2010 he directed excavations at the site of Hamoukar in northeastern Syria. He is the Director of the Diyala Project, an ongoing online publication of a large archaeological project undertaken by the Oriental Institute (University of Chicago) in Iraq during the 1930s. His research interest and recent publications focus on the emergence of complex societies, urbanism, and prehistoric bureaucracies.

## Where to Donate

### *University of Toronto Lifeline Syria*

University of Toronto Lifeline Syria is a community response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria by supporting Syrian refugees to come to Canada and resettle in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), held in partnership with Ryerson University, York University, and OCAD University. As a joint initiative, 75 sponsorship teams will be created to sponsor 75 displaced families of approximately 300 individuals. \$27,000 will be raised for each family, which helps support the financial costs of resettlement for up to one year following their arrival. It is our hope that a combination of these initiatives will be able to help ease the individual suffering of displaced Syrian families.

For more information on how you would be able to help, please visit:

<http://www.ryerson.ca/lifelinesyria/uoft/index.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/uoftlifelinesyria>

### *University of Toronto Scholars at Risk*

Here at the University of Toronto, we are establishing a new bursary program for students and scholars at risk. Our goal is to raise \$1 million and create up to 100 bursaries, each valued at \$10,000, which we would disperse over the next 10 years. To support this initiative, U of T is committing \$500,000 to fully match (1:1) donations of any size from students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters. U of T will award the bursaries to undergraduate and graduate students who have obtained refugee status in Canada. The bursaries will be open to Syrian students and scholars at risk, but also other refugees who have had their education disrupted by conflict or war. We believe these bursaries will play a powerful role in helping these students and their families rebuild their lives in Canada.

For more information please visit:

[www.president.utoronto.ca/students-and-scholars-at-risk](http://www.president.utoronto.ca/students-and-scholars-at-risk)

And donate at:

<http://uoft.me/zl>

## More Information

### *Syria Solidarity Collective*

The Syria Solidarity Collective is an anti-oppression group which strives for social justice for people in Syria, including class justice and gender justice. We oppose sectarianism and colonialism. We endeavour to reach out to those Syrians who are struggling both against Assad as well as against the reactionary forces attempting to co-opt their revolution. We prioritize the defeat of Assad, while refusing to compromise and limit the principles that define and develop the open mandate of dignity. We seek to understand and support representative and participatory institution building, towards a voluntary society that practices citizenship from below, rather than coercion of the state. The Syria Solidarity Collective is a consensus based group, where gender dynamics of patriarchy will be challenged in the organizing space.

Contact us at: <https://www.facebook.com/SSCToronto>

### *University of Toronto Refugee Alliance*

The University of Toronto Refugee Alliance (UTRA) was founded with an objective to raise awareness about refugee crises worldwide, and give students the opportunity to engage in refugee relief programs. UTRA has served as a platform for students to discuss various refugee concerns, both locally and internationally, advocate for refugees, volunteer and help with refugee relief efforts, and fundraise for refugee emergencies. UTRA serves to spark interest among students from various disciplines at the University of Toronto to come together and devise solutions to provide relief for refugees worldwide.

UTRA is raising funds for Syrian Refugees in urban areas in Amman, Jordan through the Collateral repair project (CRP) by selling CRP T-shirts. 100% of the proceeds will go to provide heating fuel for Syrian Refugees living in urban areas in Amman.

Contact us at: [uoftrefugeealliance@gmail.com](mailto:uoftrefugeealliance@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/UTRefugeeAlliance>



Image by Tamnam Azzam



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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