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Conference

The poster features a central title 'Tales of Trickery, Tales of Endurance' in large, bold, black font. Below it, the subtitle 'Gender, Performance, and Politics in the Islamic World and Beyond' is written in a smaller, white font. The text 'A Conference in Honor of Margaret Mills' is centered below the subtitle. The dates 'May 18 - 19, 2012' are prominently displayed in a large, orange font. The location 'The Mershon Center, 1501 Neil Avenue' is listed at the bottom in orange. The poster is framed by a grid of small, square portraits of various individuals, including men and women in traditional Islamic attire. At the bottom, there is a small line of text: 'Organized by the Center for Folklore Studies with major support from the Division of the Arts and Humanities and the Mershon Center for International Security Studies.' The Ohio State University logo is visible in the bottom right corner.



Margaret Mills

Professor of Near Eastern  
Languages and Cultures  
The Ohio State University



Dorothy Noyes  
Director

Center for Folklore  
Studies  
The Ohio State University

## Tales of Trickery, Tales of Endurance: Gender, Performance, and Politics in the Islamic World and Beyond

A Conference in Honor of Margaret Mills

Friday, May 18 - Saturday, May 19, 2012  
Mershon Center for International Security Studies  
1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201

### Organizers

[Dorothy Noyes](#), Director of the Center for Folklore Studies and  
Associate Professor at The Ohio State University

[Barbara Lloyd](#), Associate Director of the Center for Folklore Studies at  
The Ohio State University

To RSVP for the conference, email [Elo-Hanna Seljamaa](mailto:Elo-Hanna.Seljamaa@osu.edu) at  
[seljamaa.1@buckeyemail.osu.edu](mailto:seljamaa.1@buckeyemail.osu.edu)

## Overview

Professor Margaret Mills, retiring in June 2012 from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, has made major contributions to the study of women in contemporary Afghanistan, the folklore of the Persian-speaking world and South Asia, women's oral traditions, and traditional pedagogies. She has helped us to think about the rhetorical dimension of oral traditions; the gendering of religious experience; the partitioning of the traditional public sphere into gendered and performative situations; how literacies and pedagogies are mobilized to form political identities; how individual and collective expressive repertoires respond to war and displacement.

This conference assembles some of her former students and longterm colleagues to discuss new developments in these lines of research. Expected participants include:

Joyce Burkhalter-Flueckiger (Religion, Emory)  
Cati Coe (Anthropology, Rutgers-Camden)  
Yücel Demirer (Political Science, Kocaeli U, Turkey)  
Ben Gatling (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, NYU)  
Deborah Kapchan (Performance Studies, NYU)  
Derya Keskin (Education, Kocaeli U, Turkey)  
Frank Korom (Religion and Anthropology, Boston U)  
Ulrich Marzolph (Enzyklopädie des Märchens, Göttingen)  
Susan Niditch (Religious Studies, Amherst)  
Ruth Olson (Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures, UWMadison)  
Arzu Öztürkmen (History, Bogaziçi U, Turkey)  
Leela Prasad (Ethics and Religious Studies, Duke)  
Dwight Reynolds (Religious Studies, UC-Santa Barbara)  
Susan Slyomovics (Anthropology and Near Eastern, UCLA)  
Meltem Türkoz (Humanities and Social Sciences, Isik U, Turkey)  
Susan Wadley (South Asian Studies, Syracuse)  
Bill Westerman (American Folklife Center Green Fellow)

## Program

### Friday, May 18

9 a.m. -- Continental Breakfast

9:15 a.m. -- Welcome

Dorothy Noyes, Director of the Center for Folklore Studies, and  
Sebastian Knowles, Associate Dean for Faculty and Research,  
Division of Arts and Humanities

9:30 a.m. -- Finding and Shaping Performance

Performance in the Ottoman World: A Folkloric Approach to Historical  
Research

[Arzu Öztürkmen](#), Bogaziçi University

Kinship & Borders: The Worlding of Genres in the Writings of a Telugu  
Folklorist in Colonial India

[Leela Prasad](#), Duke University

In Search of Islamic Feminist Poets: Memoir, Ethnography and

Storytelling

[Deborah Kapchan](#), New York University

Chair: [Morgan Liu](#), Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

11 a.m. -- Break

11:15 a.m. -- Tricksters and Goddesses

Abu Zayd Al-Hilali: Hero, Trickster, Sufi, Poet

[Dwight Reynolds](#), University of California-Santa Barbara

"Dancing with Chains" and the Ambiguity of Power: Women Tricksters in the Hebrew Bible

[Susan Niditch](#), Amherst College

"Crazy for the Goddess": Personal Narratives of a Consuming Relationship

[Joyce Burkhalter Flueckiger](#), Emory University

Chair: [Bruce Fudge](#), Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

12:45 p.m. -- Buffet Lunch

2 p.m. -- Expressive Agendas and Audience Design

Likhiya: Painting Stories in the Mithila Region

[Susan Wadley](#), Syracuse University

Satire Under the Conditions of an Islamic Republic

[Ulrich Marzolph](#), Enzyklopädie des Märchens and University of Göttingen

Guru Bawa's Funny Philadelphia Family

[Frank Korom](#), Boston University

Chair: [Dick Davis](#), Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

3:30 p.m. -- Break

3:45 p.m. -- Old Forms, New Politics

Algerian Women's *Buqalah* Poems: Cultural Politics, Oral Literature and Anti-Colonial Resistance

[Susan Slyomovics](#), UCLA

Revisiting the Headscarf Issue after a Decade: Changing Forms and Images at the Intersection of Religion, Politics and Economics in Turkey

[Derya Keskin](#), Kocaeli University

Folk Hagiography and Islamic Revivalism in Tajikistan

[Benjamin Gatling](#), The Ohio State University

Chair: [Sabra Webber](#), Departments of Comparative Studies and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

5:30 p.m. -- Reception, Dinner, and Roast in honor of Margaret Mills

Master of Ceremonies: [Ulrich Marzolph](#)

**Saturday, May 19**

9:15 a.m. -- Continental Breakfast

9:30 a.m. -- Re-forming Place

Of Argonauts and Afghans, Rowing to Lesbos

[Bill Westerman](#), American Folklife Center

Multivocality in the Construction of Place in Sile, Turkey: Experiments with Photo-Elicitation

[Meltem Türköz](#), Isik University

Mosque Architecture as Conflict Transformation: The Cases of Göztepe Park, Taksim Square and Sakirin Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey

[Yücel Demirer](#), Kocaeli University

Chair: [Amy Shuman](#), Department of English

11 a.m. -- Break

11:15 a.m. -- Pedagogies at Cultural Boundaries

Work Stories, Gossip, and the Ethnicization of Pedagogy among  
Ghanaian Immigrant Parents

[Cati Coe](#), Rutgers University, Camden

Learning about Survivance: A Critical Approach to Teaching Native  
American Culture

[Ruth Olson](#), Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures,  
U Wisconsin-Madison

Chair: [Katey Borland](#), Department of Comparative Studies

12:30 p.m. -- Lunch Buffet

## Sponsors

Mershon Center for International Security Studies

Division of the Arts & Humanities

Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

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