

EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

NANCY GALLAGHER AND SONDRHA HALE



It is a privilege to welcome our readers to the third volume of the *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* and to celebrate the migration of *JMEWS* from the University of Michigan to the University of California, Los Angeles.

Professor Marcia Inhorn, Director of the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies at the University of Michigan, and Professor Mary Layoun, Comparative Literature, University of Wisconsin, were the first editors of *JMEWS*. Professor Layoun stepped aside after the first year, and Inhorn and managing editor Alissa Surges saw the journal through its first two years. We are very proud of their pioneering creation of a totally new journal, getting it on its feet, and passing it on in good health to the new editors.

JMEWS is the official publication of the Association for Middle East Women's Studies. AMEWS is a private, non-profit, multidisciplinary, international organization of scholars and others interested in the study of women and gender in the Middle East and in Muslim societies elsewhere. *JMEWS* seeks to advance the fields of Middle East studies, women's studies, and gender studies through interdisciplinary contributions in the social sciences and humanities. The journal encourages research that uses innovative theoretical, epistemological, and methodological approaches. It invites original scholarship, including research informed by transnational feminist studies, cultural studies,

the arts, modern historical studies, new forms of ethnography, and the emerging intersections of science and philosophy. It provides a forum in which area-specific questions can be discussed among scholars from the global North and South through peer-reviewed articles, reviews, and other forms of communication and debate. The journal provides an exceptional opportunity for scholars whose research cuts across women and gender studies, Middle Eastern and North African studies, Islamic studies, diaspora studies, the study of Muslim communities, and global, international, and transnational studies.

When Marcia Inhorn completed the two years of her contract, the AMEWS Board of Directors appointed as editors Professor Nancy Gallagher, Chair of the Program in Middle Eastern Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Professor Sondra Hale, Anthropology and Women's Studies, University of California, Los Angeles. Diane James, our new managing editor, has extensive editing experience as well as a background in Middle East studies and languages. The journal moved to the UCLA Center for the Study of Women on July 1, 2006, and is funded by the UCLA Office of the Dean, Social Sciences, with additional support from the UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies, the UCLA International Institute, and the UCSB Program in Middle Eastern Studies.

The new editors will build on the achievements of the last two years. We are looking forward to original contributions from scholars of the Middle East and Muslim communities around the world. We envision a journal that publishes the works of senior scholars and draws in the exciting new generation of MEWS scholars. We see the journal building on its demonstrated strengths in history and the social sciences, and expanding in the arts and the humanities, with more focus on postcolonial theories and transnational studies. We also foresee an expansion of our Brief Communications section with debates and controversies.

We hope that you will join us during the next four years of our journey to bring *JMEWS* to the forefront of international scholarship. We look forward to your comments, submissions, peer reviews, subscriptions, and memberships. AMEWS membership offers a subscription to *JMEWS*, access to the AMEWS listserv, and opportunities to organize AMEWS-sponsored panels at MESA. We meet annually to

build community and we invite you to join us. For information on how to participate, check out the AMEWS website, <http://www.amews.org/>, and the Indiana University Press website, <http://iupjournals.org>.

In this special issue of *JMEWS*, variations on the theme of transnational feminist studies serve to underscore the forward-looking aims of the journal. The editors wish to thank guest editor Martina Rieker, Director of the Cynthia Nelson Institute for Gender and Women's Studies, American University in Cairo.