



Institute for  
Social Anthropology

Centre for Studies in Asian Cultures  
and Social Anthropology



**OAW**  
Austrian Academy  
of Sciences

ISA INTERNATIONAL GUEST LECTURE

## **Paternity, Gender, and Genealogy in Contemporary Syria**

John Borneman

Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2010, 16.00 pm [s.t.]

**ÖAW Building Wohllebengasse**, Seminar room 1  
A-1040 Vienna, Wohllebengasse 12-14

Based on an analysis of dreams and daydreams in the experience of the “intersubjective third” in fieldwork in Syria, this talk examines the fear of and desire for transgression of genealogical taboos among young Syrian men. Episodes of the use of Internet pornography, desires for humiliation, and anxieties about violence and sex suggest new kinds of global exchanges in intimacy, where the rules of paternity and gender no longer structure genealogies.

**JOHN BORNEMAN:** Acting Chair and Professor of Anthropology at Princeton University (since 2001). Professor of Anthropology at Cornell University (1991-2001). Several Guest Professorships (Humboldt University, Berlin; University of California, Berkeley; Aleppo University, Syria). Guest Directeur at École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (May-June 1998).

*Research interests:* Political and legal anthropology, media studies, psychoanalysis, sexuality.

*Research areas:* Germany (Berlin), Lebanon, Syria and Central Europe (Prague, Warsaw, Budapest, Moscow).



### **Recent publications (sample):**

- 2009: (ed.) *Being There: The Fieldwork Encounter and The Making of Truth* (co-editor Abdellah Hammoudi). Berkeley: University of California Press.
- 2009: *Veiling and Women's Intelligibility*. *Cardozo Law Review* 30: 6: 2745-2760.
- 2009: *Terror, Compassion, and the Limits of Identification*. In *Violence: Anthropological Encounters*, ed. Parvis Ghassem-Fachandi, pp. 119-134. London: Berg Publishers.
- 2007: *al-Jinayah al-siyasiyyah wa-l-silm al-ijtimai*. (Political Crime and Social Peace). Rabat: Dar Tubqal li-l-Nashar.
- 2007: *Syrian Episodes: Sons, Fathers, and an Anthropologist in Aleppo*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.