



The Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies and the
The Department of History and Archaeology

cordially invite you to a lecture

Fear and Loathing

Middle Eastern History and Islam in the Age of Trump

by

Chase F. Robinson

President

The Graduate Center

City University of New York

Monday, March 27, 2017 | 5:00 pm | College Hall, Auditorium B1, AUB

The evidence suggests that when it comes to American opinions about Islam and the Middle East, strong views are often based on dubious knowledge. One recent poll showed that 30% of Republicans favored bombing the non-existent (kingdom of) Agrabah; another showed that Americans who do not know an American Muslim are more likely to think that American Muslims support terrorism. What is the scholar of the Middle East to do? There is nothing new about harsh polemics about Islam, but the challenge is all the greater in this age of 'fake news' and pseudo-knowledge. In my talk I reflect upon my public engagement (in the form of popular history, op-ed writing, interviews, etc.), and make some observations about history, expertise, bias and policy.