



Council for British Research in the Levant

November 2023

Notice of Annual General Meeting – December 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the Council for British Research in the Levant will be held at the Royal Asiatic Society, London, and by Zoom on Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 5.30 pm UK time for the purpose of transacting the following business:

1. To receive the annual trustee report of the Chairman and financial statement, the audited accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2023 and the reports of the Board of Trustees and auditors thereon.
2. To reappoint WMT LLP as auditors of the Council for British Research in the Levant, and to authorise the Board of Trustees to set their remuneration.
3. To elect the President, Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Research Chair, Honorary Publications Chair, and Honorary Development Chair for a period of one year from 13th December 2023.
4. To elect two members of the Board of Trustees to serve for four years from the end of this Annual General Meeting.
5. For any other purpose of which due notice shall be given by 6th December 2023.

Dated: 15 November 2023

By order of the Board of Trustees

The AGM will be followed by the AGM lecture, *Gaza, The Key to War and Peace in the Middle East* which will be presented by [Prof. Jean-Pierre Filiu](#) at 7.00 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom D. Thomson', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Tom Thomson, Honorary Secretary

Registered Office: The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH

President

The President is an honorary role, and the incumbent is not a Trustee or Company Director but is welcome to attend Board of Trustee meetings in an ex-officio capacity. Professor Dawn Chatty was first elected to serve as President in December 2022, and has expressed her willingness to continue to serve in the role and is standing for re-election.

Nominations for Honorary Officers

Honorary Officers are members of the Board of Trustees and therefore serve as charity Trustees and Directors under Company Law. Under the provisions of Article 17 of our Articles of Association, the Honorary Offices are normally held for four consecutive one-year terms, but this may be extended for a further period under Article 18.

The Board of Trustees has nominated the following for election to the Honorary Offices:

Honorary Chair	John Shakeshaft , standing for election
Honorary Secretary	Tom Thomson , standing for re-election
Honorary Treasurer	Vacant
Honorary Research Chair	Professor Andrew Arsan , standing for election
Honorary Publications Chair	Professor Graham Philip , standing for election
Honorary Development Chair	Vacant

Members interested in the positions of Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Development Chair may write to the [CBRL Director](#) for further information.

The Board of Trustees proposes the following are elected:

John Shakeshaft, Chairman

John Shakeshaft has a career as a diplomat, banker, director and academic trustee has covered responsibility, finance and governance internationally.

He is a trustee and chair of finance and resources at Cardiff University, also of the London Symphony Orchestra and the Museum of the Home. He was deputy chair of Council at Cambridge University (2010-18), trustee of the Institute of Historical Research (2004-20) and the Bush Theatre (2004-12).

He is a member of the investment committee, Trinity College, Cambridge and the acceptance of gifts committee, British Academy and a director of investment manager, Corestone, AG. John chaired the Economy Bank, NV, specialising in trade finance with Turkey and the Levant (2004-18), was a director and audit chair of Tele2, AB and Kinnevik, AB (2003-18), managing investments globally, chair of various listed funds active in the Middle east (2007- 18), a director of TT electronics plc (2007-17) and Questair, Inc (2004-12).

He was previously a partner of Lazard, Baring and Morgan Stanley in corporate finance and capital markets, principally EMEA. He served in HM Diplomatic Service in Brussels (EU), Tehran and Addis Ababa.

He has a lifelong interest in the people, places and many histories and legacies of the Ottoman empire. John held a Harkness Fellowship at Princeton and UC Berkeley and was an undergraduate at Trinity College, Cambridge.

John was elected CBRL Honorary Treasurer in November 2020 and has served as chair of the finance and governance sub-committee and is a member of the development sub-committee. John has indicated he is willing to serve both as Chair of the Board of Trustees and provide support for the Honorary Treasurer role until a new Treasurer can be recruited.

Professor Andrew Arsan, Chair of Research Committee

Andrew Arsan is currently Professor of Arab and Global History in the Faculty of History, University of Cambridge, and a Fellow of St John's.

Andrew is a historian of the Arab world, with a particular interest in the region's cultural, political, and intellectual history; European imperialism in the Middle East and North Africa; and diaspora and the transregional movement of people.

He is the author of two books, the prize-winning *Interlopers of Empire* (2014) and a study of contemporary Lebanon, *Lebanon in Fragments* (2018), and the co-editor of a major collection on the Mandate states of the Middle East. He has also published articles in journals including *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Modern Intellectual History*, and the *Journal of Global History*, as well as a number of chapters in edited collections.

Andrew is currently completing a new political and intellectual history of the 'Arab twentieth century', for publication with Basic Books and Allen Lane.

He has previously held positions at Birkbeck and Princeton and was the 2016-17 Chaire Ganshof van der Meersch at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. In 2018, he was awarded a Philip Leverhulme Prize in History.

One of the founding editors of the *Journal of Middle East and North African Migration Studies*, he has also served as the reviews editor of the *Historical Journal*.

Professor Graham Philip, Chair of Publications Committee

Prof. Graham Philip is an archaeologist who specialises in the later prehistory and Bronze Age of the Levant and has undertaken fieldwork across the Middle East. He currently co-directs excavations at Tell Koubba in Northern Lebanon, in collaboration with colleagues at the American University of Beirut, having previously directed excavations at Tell esh-Shuna in Jordan (1991-94), and a joint Syrian-British regional survey in the Homs region of Syria (1999-2010), a project that pioneered the systematic combination of remote sensing with fieldwork, to enhance archaeological survey work.

After completing his doctorate in at Edinburgh University in 1988, Prof. Philip worked initially at the British Archaeological Expedition to Iraq in Baghdad and was then Assistant Director of the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History (1989-1992). He briefly held a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship at University College London, before moving to Durham University in 1994, where is currently a professor of Archaeology.

His current research interests lie in three main areas: landscape archaeology, artefact studies, and efforts to understand the nature of early complex societies. In recent years his work on remote sensing techniques has extended to embrace heritage protection. Since 2016 Prof. Philip has been a Co-Investigator on the multi-institutional project Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa (EAMENA), which seeks to document heritage sites across a wide swathe of the MENA region, and which, with support from the Cultural Protection Fund of the British Council has delivered training to local heritage organisations across the region, with a particular focus on Lebanon, Syria and Iraq in the case of the Durham component of the project.

Prof. Philip served as Editor of *Levant* from 2008-2020 and from Dec. 2023 has returned to the CBRL to serve on the journal's Editorial Board, and as Chair of the Publications Committee.

Board of Trustees

Members of the Board of Trustees serve as charity Trustees and Directors under Company Law. Under the provisions of Articles, 40 and 42 of the CBRL's Articles of Association, elected members of the Committee must retire after serving for four consecutive years and are not eligible for re-election until at least one year has passed. Three ordinary trustees will retire at this Annual General Meeting, and one stepped down previously in September 2023.

The Board of Trustees is recommending the appointment of two new trustees in order to broaden trustee representation. The nominations bring several specific skills and knowledge of the Levant to the Board of Trustees.

If CBRL Members wish to propose alternative candidates for the committee or Honorary Officers, then they are invited to do so on the [nomination form](#) by the date indicated.

The nominee must be a member of CBRL, resident in the UK, and be available for the meetings of the Board, which are normally four times a year (Wednesdays in the middle of April, July, October and January). The nominee would be expected to participate fully in the various activities and initiatives of the CBRL. Please note that the nominee's Proposer and Secunder must also be members of the CBRL but are not usually serving on the Board of Trustees. The Nominee is expected to be present at the AGM, but attendance by Proposers and Seconders, while preferable, is not a requirement. Please contact challiday@cbrl.ac.uk for a nomination form.

While Dr Robert Bewley is stepping down as Chair, he will continue as an ordinary trustee for the final year of his 4-year term.

The two candidates nominated by the Board of Trustees are as follows:

Dr Bahar Baser

Dr Baser joined Durham University's School of Government and International Affairs as Associate Professor in Middle East Politics in 2021. She is an active member of the Institute for Middle East and Islamic Studies at Durham University. Previously, she was Associate Professor at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University where she led the "Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation Research Group". Prior to that, she was a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Warwick at the Department of Politics and International Studies between 2012 and 2014. Dr. Baser completed a PhD in Social and Political Sciences at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. During her PhD, she had the

opportunity to work as a Visiting Research Fellow at Humboldt University (Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences) in Germany, REMESO (Institute for Research on Migration, Ethnicity and Society) in Norrköping, Sweden and the Instituto de Ciências Sociais (ICS) in Lisbon, Portugal. She is an expert in the area of migration and diaspora studies, peacebuilding and conflict transformation, with a regional focus on the Middle East. She has conducted extensive research on conflict-generated diasporas' engagement in peace processes, post-conflict reconstruction and state-building in the Global South. She has published extensively on Middle Eastern diasporas activism and mobilisation in Europe and beyond with a specific focus on host states' counterterrorism policies, radicalisation of diaspora members and transnationalisation of homeland conflicts. She is the editor of Kurdish Studies Series published by Lexington Books and the co-editor of Diasporas and Transnationalism Series published by Edinburgh University Press. She is also a senior associate research fellow at the Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA), Stellenbosch University, South Africa and visiting professor at Tampere Peace Research Institute, Tampere University, Finland. Her research has been funded by the CBRL, Swedish Institute, European Union, British Academy, Newton Fund, Thomson Reuters Foundation as well as Italian and Swedish Foreign Ministries. She is currently the Chair of the Ethnicity, Migration and Nationalism Section of the International Studies Association where she also serves as the member of the Governing Council.

Professor Timothy Insoll

Professor Timothy Insoll, FBA FSA FRAS is Al-Qasimi Professor of African and Islamic Archaeology and Director of Research at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, where he is also founding Director of the Centre for Islamic Archaeology. He is Honorary Archaeological Advisor to the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Bahrain, HRH Sh. Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa and is an Honorary Curator in the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board and Honorary Lecturer, Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. He is a Fellow of the British Academy, Society of Antiquaries and Royal Asiatic Society.

He has completed extensive archaeological fieldwork in Gao and Timbuktu in Mali, northern Ghana, Bahrain, western India, and eastern Ethiopia, the latter as PI of a recently ended ERC Advanced Grant funded project, *Becoming Muslim* (2016-2022). Most recently he has started a new partnership archaeological research project looking at the *Darb al-Anbiyā'*, the 'Way of the Prophets', between Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia. In addition to the ERC, he has received research funding from the Wellcome Trust, AHRC, British Academy, and Max van Berchem Foundation. He completed his studies at the Universities of Sheffield (1989-1992) and Cambridge, and after finishing his PhD (1992-1995) was a Research Fellow at St John's College, Cambridge (1995-1998), and was subsequently at the University of Manchester (1999-2016). He is curator of two site museums in Bilad al-Qadim, Bahrain, and Harlaa, Ethiopia and has recently co-curated the new Islamic archaeology section, Ancient Islamic Societies, in the National Museum of Ethiopia. He was curator of the exhibition, *Fragmentary Ancestors* in Manchester Museum (2013-2014) and co-curator for Africa in *Hajj. Journey to the Heart of Islam* in the British Museum (2012).

He has published extensively, including 11 monographs (one translated into Turkish and one into Persian), 13 edited volumes and special issues of journals and approximately 55 peer-reviewed journal articles, and 50 contributions to edited volumes. Most recently he edited a special section on the Islamic archaeology in sub-Saharan Africa for the *Journal of Islamic Archaeology* (2022, 9[2]), and is currently working on three books, a monograph, *Islamic Archaeology in Global Perspective* (Abingdon: Routledge), and as editor, *Becoming Muslim: Archaeology in Harlaa*

and Harar, Eastern Ethiopia (Leiden: Brill), and The Church of the East. Excavations in Samahij, Bahrain (Oxford: Archaeopress).

In 2023, both Dr Bahar Baser and Professor Tim Insoll served as external members of CBRL's Research Committee.