It has long been argued that in developing itself as a western nation, Israel missed an opportunity to root itself in its Middle Eastern setting. In particular, it has been argued that Israel failed to utilize its mass immigration of Jews from the Middle East to create an identity for itself that was both Jewish and Arab. Work in this vein, however, has focused on the past and illuminated the road not taken. This panel will focus on evidence (or lack of evidence) of currently viable nonwestern Israeli Jewish identities, and their implied connections to Israel’s geographic setting. Is an Arab identity for Jews no longer feasible? And if not, what is?

**ISRAEL IN THE MIDDLE EAST?**

Nonwestern Identities in Jewish Israeli Society

**APRIL 23, 10:00AM—1:30PM**
Distinguished Alumni Room, IMU

featuring:

Karen Grumberg
University of Texas at Austin

Shay Hazkani
New York University

Aziza Khazzoom
Indiana University

Andre Levy
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Shaul Magid
Indiana University

10:00-10:10: Introduction
Aziza Khazzoom

10:10-10:35: The Other Right of Return: Moroccan Jewish Letters to the Old Country
Shay Hazkani

10:35-11:00: Jewish “Roots Travels” to Morocco and the Israeli state
Andre Levy

11:00-11:10: Break

11:10-11:35: Alternative Visions of Being in Israeli Literature
Karen Grumberg

11:35-12:00: Discussion
Shaul Magid

12:00-12:30: Question and Answer
12:30-1:30: Reception

Free Lunch Provided!