



# Thursday, 20 April 2017

5:30–7:00 pm • UNC Chapel Hill • Hamilton Hall 569

**MIRIAM COOKE** (Duke University • Department of History)



## Islamic State, Women and Violence

The millennial association of rape and war was challenged in 2001 when the ICTY decreed that rape in war constituted a crime against humanity. Although men in all parts of the world at war have not been dissuaded from attacking women and men sexually, their actions are now more likely to be publicized and sometimes even prosecuted. Above all, victims are no longer always shamed into silence. One of the most disappointing instances of the strategic use of rape in war comes from the 2011 Egyptian, Libyan and Syrian revolutions when men and women protesters were systematically targeted. Victims spoke out despite stigma and some organized campaigns to prevent further violence. One of the most alarming instances of the strategic use of rape in war comes from Islamic State whose brutalization of Yazidi women in 2014 shocked the world. This talk will focus on media and artists' representation of sexual violence in the 21st century Arab world.

**Miriam Cooke** is Braxton Craven Distinguished Professor of Arab Cultures at Duke University. She has written about Arab cultural studies with a concentration on Syria and the Arab Gulf. She is the author of several monographs that include *Women and the War Story* (1996); *Dissident Syria: Making Oppositional Arts Official* (2007); *Tribal Modern: Branding New Nations in The Arab Gulf* (2014) and most recently *Dancing in Damascus: Creativity, Resilience and the Syrian Revolution* (2016).

**In cooperation with: Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations**

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