



Institute for
Social Anthropology

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ISA INTERNATIONAL GUEST LECTURE

The Middle East: Culture groups between integration and separation

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Institute for Social Anthropology,
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The presently so called Middle East was a major cross roads between three continents throughout its long history and still bears the same characteristics in todays globalized world. Its terrain is either rugged or dry leaving pockets of rich small scale plains, narrow coastal plains and oasis. On these pockets several migrations of different origins and cultures mixed with earlier population furnishing an Oriental Culture that exists even among communities who sought refuge in mountains. Two major cultural elements diversified people: First, the coexisting multi religions and sects, and second, linguistic difference represented by a majority of Arab speakers in the core land while Turkish and Persian occupies the north and east fringes respectively. Both elements - or only one - are responsible for creating culture groups.



Mohamed Riad, Professor Emeritus, was born in Cairo in 1927. He holds a B.A. in Geography and Sudanese Studies from Cairo University. In 1956 he received his PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology from the University of Vienna. In 1971 he was made Professor at 'Ain Shams University Cairo and in 1992 Professor Emeritus. Furthermore, he taught at Al-Azhar and Zagazig University in Egypt, at the Beirut Arab University in Lebanon, and at Qatar University in Qatar. His publication record includes 17 books and 31 papers in Arabic, 22 papers in English, and over 130 articles in Egyptian quarterlies as well as monthly and daily newspapers, addressing mostly economic topics, urban problems, and socio-politics of development.