Annelies Moors’ interest in the Middle East dates from the 1970s when she travelled extensively in Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. Having grown up with Arabic-speaking people in southern Iran, she decided to study Arabic. Initially she did so through correspondence courses at the University of Damascus. After returning to the Netherlands, she continued studying Arabic and Islamic studies at the University of Amsterdam, but soon decided to make a disciplinary move to anthropology in order to be able to work not only with texts, but also with people. Her first fieldwork brought her to the Nablus region, including the Arab world. In the Department of Anthropology at Leiden University, the Department of Anthropology and Religious Studies at the University of Amsterdam. Her women and property led her to further develop two lines of research. As gold jewellery turned out to be a major form of property and a way to transmit wealth, she investigated the material and emotional meanings of gold jewellery to its owners, shifting focus from the value of different types of gold to not only implications for women’s economic security, but also central to cultural and political negotiations of status. Next to this, her work on the Nablus sharia court led her to continue her doctoral research on women and property. This project set out to investigate universal rights and relativistic perspectives on property rights, which they are prevented from doing so, and in which contexts they value co-property in order to gain other advantages. While ethnographic fieldwork, including the collection of life stories of women from very different walks of life, is central to this study, her use of court records has enabled her to address major historical changes in women’s ability to negotiate their rights to property. In 1992, she obtained her PhD from the University of Amsterdam; a revised version of her dissertation was published under the title Women, Property and Islam. Palestinian Experiences 1920-1990 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995).

The following years, Annelies Moors also decided to devote a morning session to the tension between processes of state formation, the nature of legal texts and women’s individual and collective strategies. In 1995 Annelies Moors obtained a research grant to work on the ‘body politics of photography’. Dealing with a great variety of published photographs, such as early 20thcentury picture postcards, Israeli and Palestinian postcards from the 1970s-1990s, illustrations in National Geographic magazine, and photo-histories published by various interested parties, this project investigates how such imagery represents Palestinian community, national, religious, and local identities. In many, some ambiguous and even contradictory, ways, these pictures are imbued with debates about modernity and cultural authenticity. Starting in 1998 Annelies Moors was invited to teach at the Women’s Studies Center of the University of Sana’a. She designed and taught three intensive courses (in Arabic) on qualitative social science methods and on analysing gender in text and images. Advising students about issues of methodological variety of research projects was a great opportunity for her to be engaged in Yemeni society. It also enabled her to conduct research on women’s narratives about covering or uncovering the face, and to analyse how these changing styles of dress relate to notions of modernity and women’s involvement in the public sphere.

From her publication on Women, Moors has familiarized the general public with the theme of the last speaker, Cassandra Balchin. Another general conference on the theme of the last speaker, Cassandra Balchin, introduced to the delegations in such a way that she is the co-editor of Discourse and Palestine: Power, Text and Context (1995). She has also published a number of guest lectures by Turkish scholars participated in the projects and the participants will be made available in a volume of the journal Istanbuler Almanach, edited by Orient Institute of the DMG (Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft), and on the ISIM website.

A number of guest lectures by Turkish scholars who will familiarize the general public with ongoing debate in the host country on the theme of the Academy. The cooperation with the Orient Institutet, the Institute Francais’ Études Anatoliennes, the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, and the Netherlands Historical-Archaeological Institute will be an opportunity to become acquainted with their researchers, research facilities, and programmes. Tutors will be asked to give one lecture related to the theme of the Academy. These lectures will be open to the public.

Requests for a programme of the Summer Academy may be received, no earlier than July 2001, from either Georges Khosr (khosr@wiko-berlin.de) or Dick Douwes (douwes@ru.nl). Annelies Moors Chair at the University of Amsterdam

Annelies Moors

Workshop Report

KITY HEMMER

Every orthodoxy starts as a heresy, as Abdullah Ahmed An-Na’im pointed out at the workshop ‘Human Rights and Islam’, organized by the ISIM on 22 January 2001. With this to the need to raise awareness about, and to develop an audience of Dutch ambassadors residing in the Asian and Middle-Eastern Islamic countries, An-Na’im wished to stress that the acknowledgement of universal human rights by Islamic countries is a process, and that Western diplomats should be attentive to, and create spaces for, dissenting voices from within. This stance was shared by the other two speakers at the workshop. Cassandra Balchin, Deputy Office coordinator of the NGO Women Living Under Muslim Laws, introduced to its work, which in most cases is highly specialized, localized, and not only to the overall topic of the academy but also making it relevant to the other participants. The discussions will be based on the projects of the participants and a collection of essential readings. The project description of the participants will be made available in a volume of the journal Istanbuler Almanach, edited by Orient Institute of the DMG (Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft), and on the ISIM website.

A number of guest lectures by Turkish scholars who will familiarize the general public with ongoing debate in the host country on the theme of the Academy. The cooperation with the Orient Institutet, the Institute Francais’ Études Anatoliennes, the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul, and the Netherlands Historical-Archaeological Institute will be an opportunity to become acquainted with their researchers, research facilities, and programmes. Tutors will be asked to give one lecture related to the theme of the Academy. These lectures will be open to the public.

Requests for a programme of the Summer Academy may be received, no earlier than July 2001, from either Georges Khosr (khosr@wiko-berlin.de) or Dick Douwes (douwes@ru.nl).