

SHANGRI LA

RENOWNED MIDDLE EAST SCHOLAR BEGINS RESIDENCY AT SHANGRI LA

HONOLULU, HAWAII, December 1, 2016 - Dr. Juan Cole, Professor of History at the University of Michigan, will be Shangri La's Scholar in Residence from December 6 through December 21, 2016. Cole will be researching Shangri La's rare collection of medieval Persian verse to trace its influence on modern British and American thought, from T.S. Eliot to Jack Kerouac. Cole will also participate in a series of public programs about millennials and the Middle East, and how this generation is shaping the region through technology, art and activism.

"Cole's work on millennials and youth movements in the Arab World supports Shangri La's commitment to enrich our understanding of art through the lens of creative activism," said Dr. Konrad Ng, Executive Director of Shangri La. "We are delighted to host such a well-known and progressive voice on the dynamics of the Middle East."

"For me, as a specialist in Indo-Persian culture, the rich collections at Shangri La are like a dream, and as an Asianist I feel so at home in Hawaii," said Cole. "The opportunity to explore both is the chance of a lifetime. At this moment, being able to affirm the humanistic contributions of another civilization, in the most multicultural state in the Union, is an added bonus. I and my family look forward to exploring the unique beauty of the islands and of Shangri La itself."

On December 15, Cole will be the featured speaker in the program, "Night Shift: Millennials and the Arab World." On December 17, Shangri La will host an invite-only Wikipedia edit-a-thon to enrich entries about Arab representation on Wikipedia. Both programs are part of Shangri La's experimental #OpenShangriLa series. Tickets for "Night Shift" are limited and details on how to purchase tickets will be announced to subscribers of Shangri La's electronic mailing list. The public can subscribe to the mailing list by visiting www.shangrialahawaii.org.

Juan Cole is Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of [History](#) at the [University of Michigan](#). For three and a half decades, he has sought to put the relationship of the West and the Muslim world in historical context. His most recent books include: [The New Arabs: How the Millennial Generation is Changing the Middle East](#) (Simon & Schuster, July 2014), [Engaging the Muslim World](#) (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009) and [Napoleon's Egypt: Invading the Middle East](#) (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007). Cole has appeared on a variety of broadcast television networks to speak about the politics of Arab and Islamic worlds. He has regular columns at [The Nation](#) and [Truthdig](#). Cole commands Arabic, Persian and Urdu and reads Turkish, knows both Middle Eastern and South Asian Islam. He lived in various parts of the Muslim world for more than a decade, and continues to travel widely there.

ABOUT SHANGRI LA

As a museum of Islamic art, culture and design, Shangri La creates bold and innovative exhibitions, guided tours, public programs and digital initiatives that inspire people, ideas and actions to be citizens of the world. Shangri La supports several artist and scholar residencies each year. Previous residencies include visual artist Shahzia Sikander and jazz composer Amir ElSaffar. Built in 1937 as the Honolulu home of American heiress and philanthropist Doris Duke (1912-1993), Shangri La was inspired by Duke's extensive travels throughout North Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia and reflects architectural traditions from India, Iran, Morocco and Syria. The permanent collection features over 2,500 objects from Spain, Morocco, Egypt, Syria, Iran, Central Asia, India and parts of Southeast Asia. Shangri La is a program of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation through the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.

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