



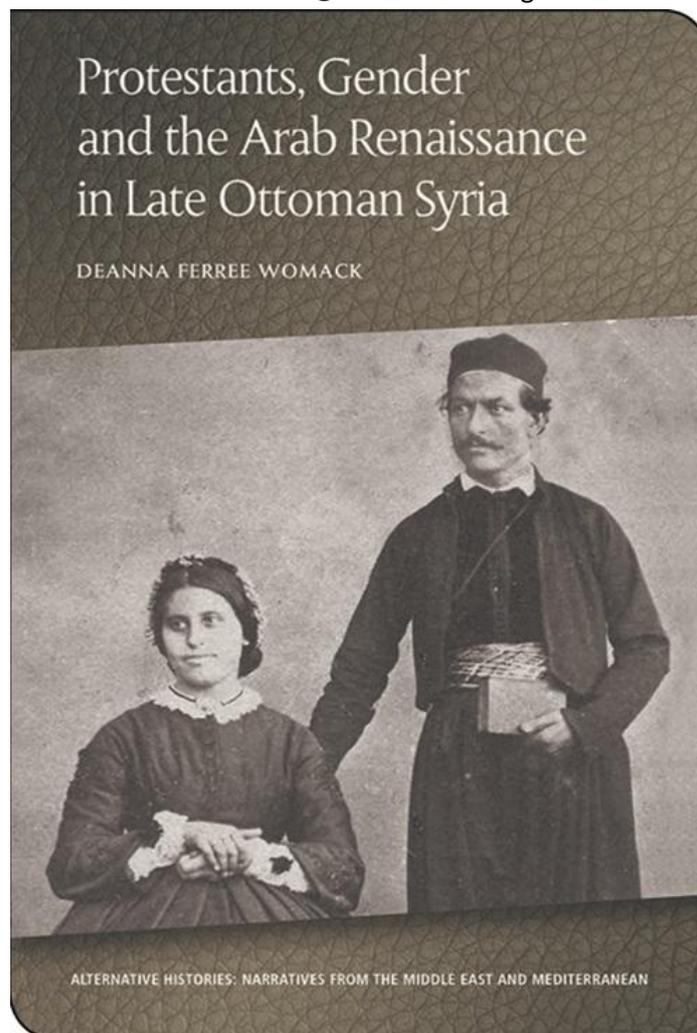
41st Levantine Heritage Foundation Zoom lecture with guest speaker Dr. Deanna Ferree Womack - 10 November 2025, 6.00 pm (UK time)

Protestants, Gender, and the Arab Renaissance

The Ottoman Syrians — residents of modern Syria and Lebanon — formed the first Arabic speaking Evangelical Church in the region. This talk, based on Deanna Womack's *Protestants, Gender and the Arab Renaissance in Late Ottoman Syria*, offers a fresh narrative of the encounters of this minority Protestant community with American missionaries, Eastern churches, and Muslims at the height of the Nahda (Arab Renaissance), from 1860 to 1915. Drawing on rare Arabic publications, this research challenges historiography that focuses on Western male actors. Instead, it shows that Syrian Protestant women and men were agents of their own history who sought the modernization of Syria while adapting and challenging missionary teachings. These pioneers established a critical link between evangelical religiosity and the socio-cultural currents of the Nahda, making possible the literary and educational achievements of the American Syria Mission and transforming Syrian society in ways that still endure today.

Booking essential: <https://deanna-womack-presentation.eventbrite.co.uk>

Contact: contact@levantineheritage.com



Dr. Deanna Ferree Womack is Associate Professor of History of Religions and Interfaith Studies at Emory University's Candler School of Theology. Her research focuses on Protestant missions in the Middle East, Middle Eastern Christianity, and Christian-Muslim relations. Womack is the author of *Protestants, Gender and the Arab Renaissance in Late Ottoman Syria* (2019), *Neighbors: Christians and Muslims Building Community* (2020), and *Re-inventing Islam: Gender and the Protestant Roots of American Islamophobia* (2025). She is co-editor of the Edinburgh Studies in Middle Eastern Christianity book series and co-editor with Raimundo Barreto of *Alterity and the Evasion of Justice: Explorations of the "Other" in World Christianity* (2023). Womack's current research project on Middle Eastern Christian migration to the Americas is supported by a Louisville Institute Grant for Researchers.

Please [join](#) the LHF. Members can attend online talks for free and have priority registration at in-person events. They also receive priority support for their family or academic research projects. For event sponsorship packages, please contact chairman@levantineheritage.com. All sponsors will be thanked at events and on our website.