



# MEPPI

Middle East Photograph Preservation Initiative  
مبادرة الحفاظ على الصور الفوتوغرافية للشرق الأوسط

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**SESSION TITLE: PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFICATION REVIEW**  
**INSTRUCTOR: NORA KENNEDY**

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## SESSION OUTLINE

### ABSTRACT

Identification of photographic processes within a collection permits the assignment of specialized housings, access, and storage for the long-term preservation of a collection. Knowledge of the photographic process types within one's holdings contribute significantly to the understanding of value and completes intellectual control as exemplified by cataloguing records. Proper identification utilizes a combination of tools: historical, contextual and technical.

### OBJECTIVES

The identification of major processes found in the collections in question will be reviewed including film-based negatives and albumen, gelatin silver, photomechanical and chromogenic color prints. Possible historical and contextual tools for identification will be reviewed (provenance, authorship, image content, et cetera), but emphasis will be placed on technical aspects of each process such as image quality, image and non-image color, surface texture, format and presentation, and deterioration characteristics.

### CONTENT OUTLINE

- 1) Overview of structure and component parts of negatives and positives.
- 2) General overview of nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first century photographic processes.
- 3) Review of historical and contextual tools such as provenance, authorship, image content
- 4) Negatives and positives
- 5) Review of technical tools for identification
  - a. Image quality (continuous tone, non-continuous tone, etc)
  - b. Image and non-image tonality
  - c. Surface qualities
  - d. Format and presentation
  - e. Deterioration characteristics

### METHODOLOGY

Lecture and sharing of samples

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

 = Essential reading material

 = Available online


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