



**Middle
East
Studies
Association**
of North America, Inc.

1219 N Santa Rita Ave
The University of Arizona
Tucson AZ 85721 USA

520 621-5850
520 626-9095 fax
mesana@u.arizona.edu
www.mesana.org



MESA '09

29 April 2009

President John Bassett
Clark University
Geography Building, Room 202
950 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01610

via fax 508-793-8831 and email presidentsoffice@clarku.edu

Dear President Bassett,

I have just learned of your decision to reschedule the talk by Dr. Norman Finkelstein, your earlier cancellation of which prompted my letter to you dated April 23, 2009. This is a welcome development. It sends a positive message about the importance of academic freedom, especially on issues relating to the Middle East.

The promotion of academic freedom is fundamental to credibility and relevance of institutions of higher education.

Sincerely,

Virginia H. Aksan
MESA President and Professor, McMaster University