



## **Re-centering the Bench**

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*Part of the Middle East Librarians Association (MELA) Social Justice Lecture Series 2020-2021 season, [Stories and Silences: Research on Race in the Middle East](#).*

**June 17, 2021, 12:00 EDT (UTC -4)**

Register here: <http://bit.ly/MELABench>

**Since 2018, Stanford Libraries' Conservation Services has been involved in the Linked Conservation Data Consortium with institutions in the U.S. and the U.K. seeking to increase the visibility and accessibility of conservation documentation through the use of Linked Open Data. The project spurred an evaluation of our documentation practices, forms, and terminology. During the process of examining how we define the terms we use in our documentation, we began to discuss specific terminology and to address terms that are defined in exclusionary, Euro-centric, and/or colonialist language, such as the term "non-Western".**

**We believe conservation departments should follow suit and be a part of the discussion about whether our documentation practices are inclusive and respectful. In this talk we will address questions including, Can we reject such white-centric, Euro-centric, orientalist, colonialist practices of description? What changes are needed in our current practice? Are conservation labs already asking these questions and implementing change in their institutions and if so what changes have been made to develop anti-racist terminology and practices? Evaluating our documentation language and creating more inclusive practices are tangible steps towards positive change. Our documentation is a legacy for future generations of conservators. We should ask ourselves, what kind of legacy do we want to leave behind?**