

TUESDAY 4/30/2019

314 ROYCE HALL, 12 PM

VITERBI SEMINAR IN
MEDITERRANEAN JEWISH STUDIES

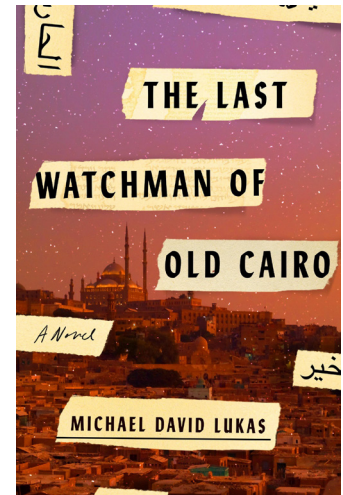
THE LAST WATCHMAN OF CAIRO



MICHAEL DAVID
LUKAS
(AUTHOR)

With guest respondent:
AOMAR BOUM (UCLA)

Moderator:
LIRAN YADGAR (UCLA)



Sponsored by the
UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies

Cosponsored by the
UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies
UCLA Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
UCLA Department of English

Michael will be reading from his second novel, *The Last Watchman of Old Cairo*. A multigenerational novel centered around Cairo's Ibn Ezra Synagogue, the book knits together the disparate experiences of three different narrators—an eleventh century Muslim watchman, a pair of Victorian-era linguists, and a contemporary Comparative Literature graduate student—as each “discovers” a trove of discarded documents hidden in the attic of the synagogue. After reading a selection from the novel, Michael will be in conversation with Professor Aomar Boum.

About the Speaker: Michael David Lukas has been a Fulbright Scholar in Turkey, a night-shift proofreader in Tel Aviv, and a waiter at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference in Vermont. Translated into more than a dozen languages, his first novel *The Oracle of Stamboul* was a finalist for the California Book Award, the NCIBA Book of the Year Award, and the Harold U. Ribalow Prize. His second novel, *The Last Watchman of Old Cairo*, was published recently by Spiegel & Grau. A graduate of Brown University and the University of Maryland, he is a recipient of scholarships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Montalvo Arts Center, New York State Summer Writers' Institute, Squaw Valley Community of Writers, and Elizabeth George Foundation. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Slate*, *National Geographic Traveler*, and *Georgia Review*. He has taught at University of San Francisco, University of the Pacific, 826 Valencia, and San Francisco State University.

While the event is free and open to Leve Center members, [pre-registration is required](#).
E-mail cjsrsvp@humnet.ucla.edu or call (310) 267-5327 to register.