Conference Preliminary Program

Arabic Literature: Migration, Diaspora, Exile, Estrangement

November 7-9, 2013
Columbia University

Steering Committee: Joscelyn Jurich

Organizer: Muhsin al-Musawi (Columbia University); The Journal of Arabic Literature

Co-organizers: Elizabeth Holt (Bard College), Yasmine Khayyat (Rutgers University), and Tarek El-Ariss (University of Texas at Austin)

Place:
Nov. 7: Butler Library, 203 Ground Floor, 116 and Broadway

1 Sponsored by the Middle East Institute, the Department of Middle East and South Asian and African Studies, the Columbia University Seminar on Arabic Studies, Brill Academic Publishers, Butler Library, ICLS, Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures.
Nov. 8-9: Knox Hall 509, Columbia University, 606 West 122nd Street

Exhibition of Selected Paintings by the Iraqi Painter Alaa Bashir

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2013
(Butler Library 203)

Guest Lecture: Adonis (Ali Ahmad Said) TBA
“Al-Manfa wa Manfa al-Kalimat” (Exile and the Exile of Words)

8:30-9:00 am Refreshments and Registration

9:00-9:15 am Opening Remarks
Timothy Mitchell, Chair, Department of Middle East and South Asian and African Studies, Columbia University

9:15-10 am Keynote Address
Peter Gran, Temple University
“After Post-Colonialism: Rethinking the Interpretation of Arab Literary Exile”

10 am-12:30 pm First Session
Chair: Roger Allen, University of Pennsylvania
Muhsin al-Musawi, Columbia University
“Exilic Topographies”
Ahmad H. Sa’di, Ben-Gurion University
"Notes on the presentations of the Exile/Return Dialectic in Palestinian literature"
Barbara Harlow, University of Texas at Austin
“Ghassan Kanafani and the Question of Palestine: From the Right of Return to Universal Jurisdiction”
Nadia Yaqub, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
“Exile and Alternative Home (land) in Palestinian Cinema”

12:30-1:30 pm Lunch

1:30-3:30 pm Second Session
Chair: Elizabeth Holt, Bard College
Amal Amireh, George Mason University
“Representing the Nakbah in Post-Oslo Palestinian Narrative”
Orit Bashkin, University of Chicago
“The Jewish Iraqi Approach to the Question of Palestine”
Tahia Abdel Nasser, American University in Cairo
“Memoirs and Murals: Mahmoud Darwish’s Memory for Forgetfulness in Exile”
Ayelet Even-Nur, University of California, Berkeley
“Exile and Love in Darwish’s The Stranger’s Bed”
3:30-4:00       Coffee Break

4-4:30 pm       Discussion

4:30-6:30 pm    Third Session

Chair: Barbara Harlow, University of Texas at Austin
Tarek El-Ariss, University of Texas at Austin
“The Affects of Ghurba”

Ghenwa Hayek, Claremont McKenna College
“Transnational Incorporation: Migration and Diaspora in Contemporary Lebanese Fiction”

Lilian Farhat, The College of New Jersey
“Displacement and Exile in the Novels of Hoda Barakat”

Christina Civantos, University of Miami
“The View from Beyond: Diaspora and Intertextuality in Elias Khoury’s Majma’ al-Asrar”

Yasmine Khayyat, Rutgers University
“Lebanese Poetry of the South: a Poetry of Exile?”

6:30-7pm        Discussion

Dinner / 7pm: Invitees. Faculty House: In Honor of Jaroslav Stetkevych for his Great Services to the Profession [check with Joscelyn to attend please]. Non-invitees a charge of $25.

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Friday, Nov. 8, 2013  (Knox Hall 509)

8:30-9:00 am       Refreshments and Breakfast

9:00-9:45 am       Guest Lecture

Ato Quayson, Professor and Director of the Center for Diasporic Studies, University of Toronto
“Post-Colonialism and the Diasporic Imaginary”

9:45 am-11:45 pm   First Session

Chair: Ato Quayson, Director of the Center for Diasporic Studies, Professor; University of Toronto

Roger Allen, University of Pennsylvania
“Exiled in Translation: Translating Arabic Fiction into English”

Robyn Creswell, Brown University
“Travelling Genres: The Tombeau in Translation”

Michelle Hartman, McGill University
“My Story if Too Long to Tell: The Locust and the Bird between South Lebanon and New York City”

Zeina G. Halabi, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
“The Banality of Exile: Refiguring the Displaced Intellectual in the Works of Rawi Hage and Elia Suleiman”
Elizabeth Holt, Bard College
“Fear of Flight: Restive Capitals of the Nahdah”

11:45-12:15 Discussion

12:15-1:00 pm Lunch

1:00-3:00 pm Second Session
Chair: Peter Gran, Temple University
Hussein N. Khadhim, Dartmouth College
“Aziz al-Sayyid Jasim and the Expounding of Ightirab in at Sharif al-Radi”

Suzanne P. Stetkevych, Georgetown University/Indiana University-Bloomington
“The Lexical Exile of Abū al- Ālā al-Maʿarrī”

Yaseen Noorani, University of Arizona
“Estrangement and Selfhood in the Classical Concept of Watan”

Mona Zaki, Drew University
“Arab Migrant Labor in Gulf Literature: The Old and the New”

2:30-3 pm Discussion

3:00-3:15 pm Coffee Break

3:15-5:15 pm Third Session
Chair: Jesus Rodriguez-Velasco, Chair of Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures, Columbia University
Patricia Grieve, Columbia University
“Early Modern Mediterranean Stories of Captivity and Ransom: Identities, Trade, Miracles, and Money”

Madeleine Dobie, Columbia University
“The Poetics of Migration in Contemporary Maghrebi Cinema and Film”

Ian Campbell, Georgia State University

Tina Dransfeldt Christensen, Roskilde University, Denmark
“Homosexuality and Self-narration in Contemporary Moroccan Literature: L’Armée du salut by Abdellah Taïa”

4:45-5:15 Discussion

5:15-5:30 pm Coffee Break
5:30-7:40 pm  Fourth Session
Chair: Suzanne P. Stetkevych, Georgetown University/Indiana University-Bloomington
Silvia Ferreira, University of California, Santa Barbara
“Confessions and Indiscretions: The Politics of Cultural Translation in Southern Mahjar Autobiographies”
Mohammad Salama, San Francisco State University
“Crisiticism on Trial: The Exile of Nasr Hamid Abu Zayd”
Mònica Rius-Piniés, University of Barcelona
“Mahjar Literature in Spain: Construction of New Cultural Identities through Arabic Authors”
Nancy E. Berg, Washington University in St. Louis
“Motherland: Arab Jews and the Diaspora.”
Yasmeen Hanoosh, Portland State University
The Exilic and the Other: Iraqi Fiction in Diaspora and the Discursive Reenactment of Ethno-Religious Identities

7:10-7:40  Discussion
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Saturday, Nov. 9, 2013
(Knox Hall 509)
8:30-9:00 am  Refreshments and Breakfast

9:00-11:00 am  First Session
Chair: Mohammad Salama, San Francisco State University
Bilal W. Orfali, American University of Beirut
“Employment Opportunities in Literature in the 4th/10th Century Islamic Courts”
Gretchen Head, University of California, Berkeley
“Figures of Exile in Seventeenth-Century Morocco”
Nizar Hermes, Princeton University
“Al-Ghassānī’s Ri  lat al-Wazīr fī Iftikākī ʿl-Asīr (1690-1691) as a Narrative of Loss, Exile, and Return”
Rana Siblini, University of Munster
“Mirroring estrangement and nostalgia in pre-modern Arabic compilations”

11:00-11:15 am  Coffee break

11:15 am-1:45 pm  Second Session
Chair: Madeleine Dobie, Columbia University
Shaden M. Tageldin, University of Minnesota
“Migration and the Estrangement of Modern Arabic”
Boutheina Khaldi, American University of Sharjah
"The Ambivalent Emigrée: Mayy Ziyadah's Rhetoric of Nationhood"

Mona El- Sherif, The University of Miami
“From the Mosque to the Metropolis: Theo-political to Geopolitical shifts in the early Nah ah Narratives (1834-1882)”

Veli N. Yashin, Columbia University
"The Deposition of the Sultans": Ibrahim al-Muwaylihi and Dislocations of Imperial Sovereignty”

Benjamin Koerber, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
“Rewriting the “Plot”: Parodies of Paranoia in Contemporary Egyptian Literature.”

1:45-2:30 pm  Lunch

2:30-4:45 pm  Third Session
Chair: Shaden M. Tageldin, University of Minnesota

Elisabeth Anagnostaki Moestrup, University of Aarhus
“Who is the reader? – Iraqi migrant fiction in Scandinavia.”

Emma Chubb, Northwestern University
“Barrada/Khalili: Representing Migration in Contemporary Art from Morocco.”

Jumana Bayeh, University of Edinburgh
“Myth of Origins: Arab-American Diaspora Writers Contest the Nation.”

Emily Drumsta, University of California, Berkeley
“‘All the words have been pulverized’: Forms of Exile in Jabrā Ibrāhīm Jabrā’s Al-Ba th an Walīd Masūd”

4:45-5:00 pm  Coffee Break

5:00-7:15 pm  Fourth Session
Chair: Orit Bashkin, University of Chicago

Suneela Mubayi, New York University
“My Language is My Exile: A Study of the Traces of Imru al-Qays in Modern Arabic Poetry

Max Shmookler, Columbia University
“Biting Their Mother Tongue: New Sudanese Writings on Estrangement."

Valerie Anishchenkova, University of Maryland - College Park
“Self, Interrupted: The Making of American Identity in Arab Immigrant Autobiographical Writing”

Anna Ziajka Stanton, University of Texas at Austin
“Before the Funeral: A Levantine Reading of Wagih Ghali’s Beer in the Snooker Club”

Caitlin Scholl, University of California, Berkeley
“Writing, the Self: Ahmad Baba’s Exilic Autobiography and the Anxiety of Literacy.”

7:15-7:30 pm  Concluding Remarks
Ato Quayson, Director of the Center for Diasporic Studies, Professor; University of Toronto