

The Literary 1980s in the Middle East and North Africa: Towards A Transregional History of the Present

Workshop | 29 June to 1 July, 2022, Berlin, Forum Transregionale Studien

Convened by Anne-Marie McManus (Forum Transregionale Studien / SYRASP / EUME Fellow)
and Amir Moosavi (Rutgers University—Newark / EUME Fellow 2016/17).

Funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation.

Venue: Forum Transregionale Studien, Wallotstr. 14, 14193 Berlin

Program

Wednesday, 29 June	
17:00	<p>MECAM Rencontre Ibn Khaldun & EUME Berliner Seminar »Approaching the Literary 1980s in the Maghreb and Middle East: Connections, Comparisons, Periodizations«</p> <p>Anne-Marie McManus: <i>Transregionalism and Arabic Novels: On Literary Uses of History in the 1980s</i></p> <p>Amir Moosavi: <i>War and Relation: Reading the 1980s across the War Literatures of Iran and Lebanon</i></p> <p>Discussant: Samah Selim</p> <p>Chair: Friederike Pannewick</p>
Thursday, 30 June	
09:00-09:15	Introductory remarks
09:15-10:30	<p>Panel 1 Situating Literature: Between History and the Contemporary, Locality and Worldliness</p> <p>Barbara Winckler: <i>Towards an 'Arab Democratic Culture': Transnational Debates on 'Cultural Heritage' (al-turāth), 'Modernity' (al-ḥadātha) and the Role of Literature and Culture in Qaḍāyā wa-Shahādāt (Damascus, 1989-1993)</i></p> <p>Stephan Milich: <i>Multi-directionality in Palestinian and Arab-Jewish thought in the late 1980s and early 1990s: From Beirut to Toledo</i></p> <p>Samah Selim: <i>Sex, Terror and the Body in Ghalib Halasa's Al-Khamasin</i></p>

	Discussant: Hana Sleiman
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-12:00	Roundtable 1 Journals as Archives Speakers: Yvonne Albers, Barbara Winckler, Fatemeh Shams, Qussay Al-Attabi
12:00-13:00	Lunch Break
13:00-14:30	Panel 2 Memory and the Repressed: Returns in Literature and Literary Fields Brahim El Guabli: <i>Amazigh Literature: Memory, Amazighitude, and the Construction of a Literary Field</i> Sophia Brown: <i>Narratives of the Israeli Occupation, Then and Now: The Life Writing of Raja Shehadeh</i> Sibel Irzik: <i>The Black Book: Mapping the Imaginary Underworld of the 1980's in Turkey</i> Discussant: Idriss Jebari
14:30-15:00	Coffee Break
15:00-16:30	Panel 3 Reading the 1980s Beyond the "Middle East:" Connections, Parallels and Contradictions in Afghanistan and the USSR Wali Ahmadi: <i>Determining the Subject of Indeterminate History: Narrative and Subjectivity in the Literary 1980s Afghanistan, the Case of Asadullah Habib</i> Margaret Litvin: <i>Sinbad Goes to Kiev: The Education of Mohamed Makhzangi</i> Discussant: Siarhei Bohdan
Friday, 1 July	
09:00-10:30	Panel 4 1980s Iran: Narratives and Counter-Narratives in the Shadow of War Samad Alavi: <i>Voicing Absence, Mourning Loss: Iranian Literary Memory After 1988</i> Fatemeh Shams: <i>Homes Unbound: Flight, Displacement, and Homing Desire in Exile Persian Poetry</i> Goulia Ghardashkhani: <i>Fighting the Wrong War: Narrative Misplacement in Zakariya Qa'emi's Alabula [Hazy] (2020)</i> Discussant: Naghmeh Sohrabi
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-12:00	Roundtable 2 Centering Prisons Speakers: Samad Alavi, Yassin al-Haj Saleh, Brahim El Guabli, Hannah Elsis Ashmawi

12:00-13:00	Lunch Break
13:00-14:30	<p>Panel 5 How Literature Met (and Meets) Politics: Representation and Resistance</p> <p>Özen Seekin: <i>Mourning Revolution and Abandoning Realism: Narrative Strategies of Representing the 1980 Coup</i></p> <p>Friederike Pannewick: <i>Speaking Truth to Power: Historical Consciousness and Critical Humanism in Sa'dallah Wannous' Drama in the Long 1980s</i></p> <p>Qussay Al-Attabi: <i>Fighting with Songs: The Militant Use of Vernacular Poetry in the Iraq-Iran War, 1980-1988</i></p> <p>Discussant: Sana Tannoury-Karam</p>
14:30-15:00	Coffee Break
15:00-16:00	<p>Roundtable 3 Palestine between the Left and Right, North and South</p> <p>Speakers: Joseph Ben Prestel, Sophia Brown, Stephan Milich, Chloé Kattar</p>
16:00-17:00	Final Discussion & Closing Remarks

Participants: Speakers & Discussants

Wali Ahmadi (UC, Berkeley)

Samad Alavi (U of Oslo)

Yvonne Albers (FU Berlin)

Qussay Al-Attabi (Kenyon College)

Yassin al-Haj Saleh (writer / public intellectual)

Siarhei Bohdan (independent researcher)

Sophia Brown (FU Berlin)

Goulia Ghardashkhani (U of Bamberg)

Brahim El Guabli (Williams College)

Hannah Elsis Ashmawi (University of Cambridge)

Sibel Irzik (Sabancı U)

Idriss Jebari (Trinity College Dublin)

Margaret Litvin (Boston U)

Chloé Kattar (EUME Fellow 2021/22)

Anne-Marie McManus (FTS / SYRASP / EUME Fellow)

Stephan Milich (U of Cologne)

Amir Moosavi (Rutgers U-Newark)

Friederike Pannewick (Phillips U Marburg / EUME)

Joseph Ben Prestel (FU Berlin)

Ozen Nergis Seckin Dolcerocca (U di Bologna)

Samah Selim (Rutgers U-New Brunswick)

Fatemeh Shams (U of Pennsylvania / EUME Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation 2021-22)

Hana Sleiman (Murray Edwards College / EUME Fellow 2022)

Naghmeleh Sohrabi (Brandeis U)

Sana Tannoury-Karam (EUME Fellow 2020-22)

Barbara Winckler (U of Münster)