

بنيامين
عربياً

“On the Ruins of History” – A Walter Benjamin Moment in Arab Thought?



Workshop

FRI, 1 DECEMBER 2017
10:00-18:30

SAT, 2 DECEMBER 2017
09:30-19:00

Venue:

*Forum Transregionale Studien
Wallotstraße 14
14193 Berlin*

Please register:

eume@trafo-berlin.de

Please find the complete program on
our website: www.eume-berlin.de

Convenors: **Georges Khalil** (EUME/Forum Transregionale Studien),
Ayman El-Desouky & Atef Botros al-Attar (Doha Institute for Graduate Studies)

This workshop explores the increasing attention to the work of German philosopher Walter Benjamin (1892-1940) in Arab thought. Interest in Benjamin's work has been steadily on the rise among scholars, philosophers, and culture theorists and practitioners for many years, but particularly intriguing synchronicities of intellectual and creative work began to take shape in the wake of the Arab uprisings of 2011. This rise of interest has gained such a momentum that it now warrants a reflective pause and a deeper look on the current conditions of the Arab world that draws our critical attention to a seminal thinker who died as refugee in exile.

Conceived as a reflective pause, the workshop will explore the contexts of the Arab concern about Benjamin's notions of 'history', 'violence', 'law', 'language', 'time', and 'revolution' among others. These meditations on life, history, and death in the "here-and-now" ("Jetztzeit") of the post-revolutionary moment in the Middle East and North Africa and its diasporas disclose the ambivalent futures of memory, the reverberations of the disintegration of entire states and cultures, and the possibilities of critical thought and practice. Concerned with the translatability of conceptual language and thought, the workshop also approaches these questions in contemporary Arab thought, art, and history through close readings of Benjamin's writings.

Participants:

Sinan Antoon (New York U/EUME Fellow 2008/09), **Hamid Dabashi** (Doha Institute/Columbia U), **Islam Dayeh** (FU Berlin), **Walid El Khachab** (York U), **Asmaa Essakouti** (Doha Institute), **Mohammed Ezzeldin** (City U of New York), **Ahmed Farouk** (Berlin), **Ismail Fayed** (Cairo), **Fouad Halbouni** (John Hopkins U), **Ahmad Hamam** (Georgetown U), **Jens Hanssen** (U of Toronto/EUME Fellow 2017/18), **Elisabeth Suzanne Kassab** (Doha Institute), **Sami Khatib** (Leuphana U Lüneburg), **Hala Makhoul** (Cairo/London), **Sonja Mejcher-Atassi** (AUB/Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin 2017/18), **Ismail Nashef** (Doha Institute), **Issam Nassar** (Illinois State U), **Kholoud Said Amer** (Alexandria)



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