

SUMMER ACADEMY
TRAVELLING TRADITIONS: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON NEAR EASTERN LITERATURES

Schedule (first week)

TIME	MON, Oct 2	TUE, Oct 3	WED, Oct 4	THU, Oct 5	FRI, Oct 6	SAT Oct 7
10.00. - 11.30	A R R I V A	10.30 PLENARY DISCUSSION of Format and Agenda	READING & DISCUSSION MOURID BARGHOUTI I Saw Ramallah	WORKING GROUPS Presentation of Projects 3	LECTURE FAWWAZ TARABOULSI The Representa- tion of Social Problems in the Musical Theatre of the Rahbani Brothers and Fairuz	O F F
11.30 - 12.00	L	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	
12.00 - 13.30		WORKING GROUPS Presentation of Projects 1	WORKING GROUPS Thematic Discussions 1	WORKING GROUPS Thematic Discussions 2	WORKING GROUPS Presentation of Projects 4	
13.30 - 15.00		LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	
15.00 - 16.30		ELIAS KHOURY Words and War. Press, Media, Literature and Representations of Violence	WORKING GROUPS Presentation of Projects 2	LECTURE TARIF KHALIDI Anbara Salam in England, 1924-1926	WORKING GROUPS Thematic Discussions 3	Afternoon Guided Tour Zoqaq al- Blat
20.30. - 22.00.	Keynote Speech PETER HEATH Foundations and Meta-Practice: Genealogy, Metonymy, and Analogy as Principles for Organizing Literary Study.	Lecture RADWA ASHOUR: The Road Not Taken: A Reassessment of Chidiac's Adventures of Fariac	Film ABOUT BAGHDAD An In-Counter Film followed by a Discussion with the Co- Author SINAN ANTOON	Lecture SAMAH SELIM Pharaoh's Revenge: Translation, Literary History and 'The Colonial Difference'	Poetry MOURID BARGHOUTI & ABBAS BEYDOUN Poetry Evening	

Schedule continued. (second week)

TIME	SUN, Oct 8	MON Oct 9	TUE, Oct 10	WED, Oct 11	THU Oct12	FRI Oct 13
10.00. - 11.30		WORKING GROUPS Presentation of Projects 5	WORKING GROUPS Presentation of Projects 6	WORKING GROUPS Thematic Discussions 6	LECTURE ANGELIKA NEUWIRTH Ink vs. Blood: Biblical and Qur'anic Mnemotechnics in the Making of the Martyr as Reflected in Near Eastern Literature and Art	D E P A R T U R E
11.30 - 12.00		Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	
12.00 - 13.30		WORKING GROUPS Thematic Discussions 4	WORKING GROUPS Presentation of Projects 7	WORKING GROUPS Presentation of Projects 8	WORKING GROUPS: Discussion of further research agenda	
13.30 - 15.00		LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH		
15.00 - 16.30		PLENARY DISCUSSION with ABBAS BEYDOUN & RASHID DAIF	PANEL DISCUSSION What and Where is World Literature	WORKING GROUPS Thematic Discussions 7	PLENARY SESSION Final Debate until 4.00 p.m.	
20.30. - 22.00.	19.00 MEMORY & MEMORY POLITICS An Evening with LUQMAN SLIM & MONIKA BORGSMANN at their Hangar	LECTURE SABRY HAFEZ Translation and Popular Traditions in Arabic Narrative: The Case of Mahfouz	LECTURE FRIEDERIKE PANNEWICK The Performative Potential of Tradition at the German Orient Institute	PANEL DISCUSSION BEIRUT City of Vernacular Cosmopolitanism SAMIR KHALAF, ELIAS KHOURY, JEAN SAID MAKDISI, FAWWAZ TARABOULSI Moderation: STEFAN WEBER		

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**EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE EAST - THE MIDDLE EAST IN EUROPE
&
ANIS MAKDISI PROGRAM IN LITERATURE**

**SUMMER ACADEMY
TRAVELLING TRADITIONS: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON NEAR EASTERN
LITERATURES**

at the American University in Beirut

Monday, October 2

20.30 - 22.00 **Keynote Speech**

PETER HEATH

Foundations and Meta-Practice: Genealogy, Metonymy, and Analogy as Principles for Organizing Literary Study.

Welcome and Moderation: Maher Jarrar and Angelika Neuwirth

in Bathish Theatre in West Hall, AUB Campus

Afterwards: Welcome Coctail at Gefinor Rotana Hotel, at the C-floor foyer starting at 22:00pm

Tuesday, October 3

10.30 – 11.30 **Plenary Discussion:** Format and Agenda

Introduction: Friederike Pannewick and Samah Selim

11.30 - 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.30 **Working Groups - Presentation of Projects 1**

Group A (Selim/Hafez)

Sinan Antoon, *The Sub-Version of a Genre: The Iraqi Prose Poem*

Comment: Barbara Winckler

Group B (Pannewick)

Christiane Schlote, *Beyond Hegemony: Anglophone Arab Literature and the Postcolonial Canon*

Comment: Asli Igsiz

Group C (Neuwirth/Ashour)

Refqa Abu Remaileh, *The Representation of the Anti-Hero in Modern Arabic Literature and Film*

Comment: Dina Heshmat

13.30 – 15.00 LUNCH

15.00 – 16.30 **Discussion**

ELIAS KHOURY

Words and War. Press, Media, Literature and Representations of Violence

Moderation: Radwa Ashour

20.30 - 22.00 **Lecture**

RADWA ASHOUR

The Road Not Taken: A Reassessment of Chidiac's Adventures of Fariac

Moderation: Sabry Hafez

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Wednesday, October 4

10.00 – 11.30 **Reading & Discussion**

MOURID BARGHOUTI

I saw Ramallah

Moderation: Friederike Pannewick

11.30 - 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.30 **Working Groups - Thematic Discussions 1**

Group A: **Rethinking the Colonial Model of Literary History** (Samah Selim)

Walter D. Mignolo “Rethinking the Colonial Model.”

Group B: Friederike Pannewick, **The Global Dimensions of Middle Eastern Literature**

Stephan Guth: “The Simultaneity of the Non-Simultaneous. The Global Dimensions of Middle Eastern Literature (esp. in the 19th Century).”

13.30 – 15.00 LUNCH

15.00 – 16.30 **Working Groups - Presentation of Projects 2**

Group A (Selim)

Stuart Reigeluth, *Detaching from Europe and Connecting the Mediterranean Basin*

Comment: Elizabeth Bishop

Group B (Pannewick/Hafez)

Hani Hanafi, *Reconstructing the Past: History in the Modern Arabic Novel*

Comment: Erol Köroglu

Group C (Neuwirth/Ashour)

Sadiah Boonstra, *Remix: The Story of Layla and Majnun in the National Cultures of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Iran*

Comment: Mariam Nanobashvili

20.30 - 22.00 **Film**

ABOUT BAGHDAD

a Film by In-Counter Production. Followed by a Discussion with the Co-Author and Co-Producer **SINAN ANTOON**

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Thursday, October 5

10.00 – 11.30 Working Groups - Presentation of Projects 3

Group A (Selim/Hafez)

Michael Marx, *Deciphering Giovanni Di Plano Carpini's Travel Account to the Mongul Court (1245-1247)*

Comment: Aminur Rahman

Group B (Pannewick)

Asli Igsiz, *Poetics and Practice of "Minor" Literature in the Western Institutions: A Contemporary Case Study*

Comment: Frode Saugestad

Group C (Neuwirth/Ashour)

Nino Dolidze, *Maqama in the 20th Century Arabic Literature*

Comment: Rajeev Kinra

11.30 - 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.30 Working Groups - Thematic Discussions 2

Group A: **The Comparative Paradigm** (Asli Igsiz)

Texts: Emily Apter: "Je ne crois pas beaucoup à la littérature comparée: Universal Poetics and Postcolonial Comparatism", and Caryl Emerson, "Answering for Central and Eastern Europe." Comparative Literature in an Age of Globalization.

Group B: **Literature and the Problem of the Secular** (Michael Allen)

Texts: Talal Asad: *Genealogies of Religion: Discipline and Reasons of Power in Christianity and Islam*; and Talal Asad: *Formations of the Secular: Christianity, Islam, Modernity*.

13.30 – 15.00 LUNCH

15.00 – 16.30 **Lecture**

TARIF KHALIDI

Anbara Salam in England, 1924-1926

Moderation. Angelika Neuwirth

20.30 - 22.00 **Lecture**

SAMAH SELIM

Pharaoh's Revenge: Translation, Literary History and 'The Colonial Difference'

Moderation: Sabry Hafez

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Friday, October 6

- 10.00 – 11.30 **Lecture**
FAWWAZ TARABOULSI
The Representation of Social Problems in the Musical Theatre of the Rahbani Brothers and Fairuz
Moderation: Angelika Neuwirth
- 11.30 - 12.00 Coffee Break
- 12.00 – 13.30 **Working Groups - Presentation of Projects 4**
- Group A (Selim)
Elizabeth Bishop, *Fanon in Furs: Theorist for North Africa's National Liberation in Russian Translation*
Comment: Michael Marx
- Group B (Pannewick/Hafez)
Atef Botros, *Tradition's Criticism in Taha Hussein's Reading of Franz Kafka*
Comment: Hani Hanafi
- Group C (Neuwirth/Ashour)
Zalfa Feghali, *Personal and Political Space in Mehdi Charef's Tea in the Harem*
Comment: Refqa Abu Remeileh
- 13.30 – 15.00 LUNCH
- 15.00 – 16.30 **Working Groups - Thematic Discussions 3**
- Group A: **Orientalism Institutionalized – Qur'anic Studies as a Case in Point** (Angelika Neuwirth)
- Group B: **Assimilation, Allegory, and Struggle** (Elizabeth Bishop)
Frantz Fanon: *The Wretched of the Earth* (166-199).
- Group C: **The Shaping of Identity and a Literature Without Borders** (Frode Saugestad)
M. M. Bakhtin: *Toward a Philosophy of the Act* (56-75); Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak: *Death of a Discipline* (1-23).
- 20.30 - 22.30 **Poetry Evening**
ABBAS BEYDOUN & MOURID BARGHOUTI
Moderation: Assad Khairallah

Saturday, October 7

- Afternoon Tour through Zoqaq al-Blat guided by Ralph Bodenstein
- Afterwards
ca. 19.00 Dinner at a Restaurant

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Sunday, October 8

19.00 – 21.30 **Memory and Memory Politics.**
An evening with Luqman Slim and Monika Borgmann at their Hangar

Monday, October 9

10.00 – 11.30 **Working Groups - Presentation of Projects 5**

Group A (Selim/Hafez)

Aminur Rahman, *The Gaze Returned: The Empire in Indian Travelogues*

Comment: Stuart Reigeluth

Group B (Pannewick)

Stephan Milich, *Travelling Spectres – Palestinian and Iraqi Poetry of Exile*

Comment: Francesca Prevedello

Group C (Neuwirth/Ashour)

Dina Heshmat, “*Cosmopolitan*” *Alexandria in Literary Illustrations and its Assessments at the Literary Criticism Level: A North-South Comparison Between Egyptian and Non-Egyptian Writers*

Comment: Sadiah Boonstra

11.30 - 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.30 **Working Groups - Thematic Discussions 4**

Group A: **History in the Novel** (Hani Hanafi)

Samia Mehrez: *Egyptian Writers Between History and Fiction: Essays on Naguib Mahfouz, Sonallah Ibrahim, and Gamal al-Ghitani.*

Group B: **Literature as Heritage** (Saadia Boonstra)

Joep Leerssen: “Literature as Heritage? Canon, Tradition, and Identity.”

13.30 – 15.00 LUNCH

15.00 – 16.30 **PLENARY DISCUSSION**

Literature, Translation and Genres of Writing
with **Abbas Beydoun & Rashid Daif**

Moderation: Sabry Hafez

20.30 - 22.00 Lecture

SABRY HAFEZ

Translation and Popular Traditions in Arabic Narrative: The Case of Mahfouz

Moderation: Radwa Ashour

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Tuesday, October 10

10.00 – 11.30 Working Groups - Presentation of Projects 6

Group A (Selim)

Ivo Spira, *Languages Rewritten: Isms as a Force of Change. The Impact of Isms on Chinese, Russian and Arabic: A Comparative Study on Language Modernisation*

Comment: Michael Allen

Group B (Pannewick)

Erol Koroglu, *Perpetual Struggle of the Nation in Turkish Narratives of the Independence War: Literary Cultural History of a Thematic Genre*

Comment: Stephan Milich

Group C (Neuwirth)

Rajeev Kinra, *Secretary-Poets in Mughal India and the Ethos of Persian: The Case of Chandar Bhan "Braham"*

Comment: Babür Turna

11.30 - 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.30 Working Groups - Presentation of Projects 7

Group A (Selim)

Barbara Winckler, *Gender Transgressions or How is Gender Reflected in Modern Arabic Literature?*

Comment: Sinan Antoon

Group B (Pannewick)

Francesca Prevedello, *From the Novel to the Screen: The Adaptation of Western and Egyptian Novels in Egypt between the Thirties and the Sixties*

Comment: Atef Botros

Group C (Neuwirth)

Mariam Nanobashvili, *The Prose Romance of Barlam and Ioasaph*

Comment: Zalfa Feghali

13.30 – 15.00 LUNCH

15.00 – 16.30 Panel Discussion

What and Where is World Literature:

Introduction: **Samah Selim**

20.30 - 22.00 **Lecture**

FRIEDERIKE PANNEWICK

The Performative Potential of Tradition

At: Orient Institut Beirut, R. Hussein Beyhum, Zokat el-Blat

Moderation: Angelika Neuwirth

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Wednesday, October 11

- 10.00 – 11.30 **WORKING GROUPS - Thematic Discussions 5**
- Group A: **Cosmopolitanism, Hospitality, and Cities of Refuge** (Dina Heshmat)
Jacques Derrida, *On Cosmopolitanism and Forgiveness*
- Group B: **Alienation and Self-Creation: Locating Arab American Identities** (Christina Schlote)
Text: Lisa Suhair Majaj: “Boundaries: Arab/American.” *Food for Our Grandmothers*.
- 11.30 - 12.00 Coffee Break
- 12.00 – 13.30 **WORKING GROUPS - Presentation of Projects 8**
- Group A (Selim)
Michael Allan, *The Limits of Secular Criticism: On Critical Reading in Colonial Egypt*
Comment: Ivo Spira
- Group B (Pannewick)
Frode Saugestad, *Individuation and the Shaping of Personal Identity*
Comment: Christiane Schlote
- Group C (Neuwirth)
Babür Turna, *Ottoman “Nasihatname” and European Utopia Literature in the Early Modern Period (1400-1600)*
Comment: Nino Dolidze
- 13.30 – 15.00 LUNCH
- 15.00 – 16.30 **Working Groups – Thematic Discussions 6**
- Group 1: **The Culture and Politics of Persian in South Asia** (Rajeev Kinra)
Muzaffar Alam: “The Culture and Politics of Persian in Precolonial Hindustan.”; Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi: *Refashioning Iran: Orientalism, Occidentalism, and Historiography*.
- Group 2: **Influence, Intertextuality, and Transnational Literary Contexts** (Erol Koroglu)
Jay Clayton and Eric Rothstein: “Figures in the Corpus: Theories of Influence and Intertextuality.”; Franco Moretti: “Conjectures on World Literature.”
- 20.30 - 22.00 **Panel Discussion**
- Beirut. City of Vernacular Cosmopolitanism
Samir Khalaf, Elias Khoury, Jean Said Makdisi, Fawwaz Taraboulsi
Moderation: Stefan Weber

Thursday, October 12

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- 10.00 – 11.30 **Lecture**
ANGELIKA NEUWIRTH
Ink vs. Blood: Biblical and Qur’anic Mnemonics in the Martyr Discourse
reflected in Near Eastern Literature and Art
Moderation: Friederike Pannewick
- 11.30 - 12.00 Coffee Break
- 12.00 – 13.30 **Working Groups** - Discussion of Further Research Agenda
Group A
Group B
Group C
- 13.30 – 15.00 LUNCH
- 15.00 – 16.00 Plenary Discussion - : Final Debate

= EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE EAST - THE MIDDLE EAST IN EUROPE
&
ANIS MAKDISI PROGRAM IN LITERATURE
In cooperation with the
Heinrich Boell Foundation Middle East Office and the German Orient Institute

SUMMER ACADEMY
TRAVELLING TRADITIONS: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON NEAR EASTERN
LITERATURES
at the American University in Beirut

PUBLIC LECTURES & DISCUSSIONS & FILM

Monday, October 2, 2006, 20.30

Professor Peter Heath (American University in Beirut), *Foundations and Meta-Practice: Genealogy, Metonymy, and Analogy as Principles for Organizing Literary Study*

Tuesday, October 3, 2006, 20.30

Professor Radwa Ashour (Ain Shams University, Cairo)
The Road Not Taken: A Reassessment of Chidiac's Adventures of Fariac

Wednesday, October 4, 2006, 10.00

Reading: Mourid Barghouti (Palestine), *I Saw Ramallah*

Wednesday, October 4, 2006, 20.30

About Baghdad, a Film a Film by In-Counter Production. Followed by a Discussion with the Co-Author and Co-Producer Sinan Antoon (Baghdad / New York)

Thursday, October 5, 2006, 15.00

Professor Tarif Khalidi (AUB), *Anbara Salam in England, 1924-1926*

Thursday, October 5, 2006, 20.30

Dr. Samah Selim (Marseille), *Pharaoh's Revenge: Translation, Literary History and 'The Colonial Difference'*

Friday, October 6, 2006, 10.00

Professor Fawwaz Taraboulsi (Lebanese American University), *The Representation of Social Problems in the Musical Theatre of the Rahbani Brothers and Fairuz*

Friday, October 6, 2006, 20.30

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Poetry Evening with Abbas Beydoun (Beirut) & Mourid Barghouti (Palestine)

Moderation: Assad Khairallah

Monday, October 9, 2006, 20.30

Professor Sabry Hafez (SOAS, London), Translation and Popular Traditions in Arabic Narrative:

The Case of Mahfouz

Moderation: Radwa Ashour

Tuesday, October 10, 2006, 20.30

Professor Friederike Pannewick (Oslo University), The Performative Potential of Tradition

At: Orient Institute Beirut, R. Hussein Beyhum, Zokaq el-Blat

Wednesday, October 11, 2006, 20.30

Panel Discussion: Samir Khalaf, Elias Khoury, Jean Said Makdisi, Fawwaz Taraboulsi

Beirut. City of Vernacular Cosmopolitanism

Moderation: Stefan Weber

Thursday, October 12, 2006, 10.00

Professor Angelika Neuwirth (Free University Berlin), Ink vs. Blood: Biblical and Qur'anic Mnemonics in the Martyr Discourse reflected in Near Eastern Literature and Art

Working Groups Discussing Projects

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Working Group A (Samah Selim/Sabry Hafez)

Sinan Antoon, *The Sub-Version of a Genre: The Iraqi Prose Poem*,

Michael Allan, *The Limits of Secular Criticism: On Critical Reading in Colonial Egypt*,

Elizabeth Bishop, *Fanon in Furs: Theorist for North Africa's National Liberation in Russian Translation*,

Michael Marx, *Deciphering Giovanni Di Plano Carpini's Travel Account to the Mongul Court (1245-1247)*,

Aminur Rahman, *The Gaze Returned: The Empire in Indian Travelogues*,

Stuart Reigeluth, *Detaching from Europe and Connecting the Mediterranean Basin*,

Ivo Spira, *Languages Rewritten: Isms as a Force of Change. The Impact of Isms on Chinese, Russian and Arabic: A Comparative Study on Language Modernisation*,

Barbara Winckler, *Gender Transgressions or How is Gender Reflected in Modern Arabic Literature?*

Working Group B (Friederike Pannewick/Sabry Hafez)

Atef Botros, *Tradition's Criticism in Taha Hussein's Reading of Franz Kafka*,

Asli Igsiz, *Poetics and Practice of "Minor" Literature in the Western Institutions: A Contemporary Case Study*,

Hani Hanafi, *Reconstructing the Past: History in the Modern Arabic Novel*

Erol Koroglu, *Perpetual Struggle of the Nation in Turkish Narratives of the Independence War: Literary Cultural History of a Thematic Genre*,

Stephan Milich, *Travelling Spectres – Palestinian and Iraqi Poetry of Exile*

Francesca Prevedello, *From the Novel to the Screen: The Adaptation of Western and Egyptian Novels in Egypt between the Thirties and the Sixties*,

Frode Saugestad, *Individuation and the Shaping of Personal Identity*,

Christiane Schlote, *Beyond Hegemony: Anglophone Arab Literature and the Postcolonial Canon*.

Group C (Angelika Neuwirth/Radwa Ashour)

Refqa Abu Remaileh, *The Representation of the Anti-Hero in Modern Arabic Literature and Film*,

Sadiyah Nynke Boonstra, *Remix: The Story of Layla and Majnun in the National Cultures of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Iran*,

Nino Dolidze, *Maqama in the 20th Century Arabic Literature*,

Zalfa Feghali, *Personal and Political Space in Mehdi Charef's Tea in the Harem*,

Dina Heshmat, *"Cosmopolitan" Alexandria in Literary Illustrations and its Assessments at the Literary Criticism Level: A North-South Comparison Between Egyptian and Non-Egyptian Writers*,

Rajeev Kinra, *Secretary-Poets in Mughal India and the Ethos of Persian: The Case of Chandar Bhan "Braham"*,

Mariam Nanobashvili, *The Prose Romance of Barlam and Ioasaph*.

Babür Turna, *Ottoman "Nasihatname" and European Utopia Literature in the Early Modern Period (1400-1600)*.

Tutors

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The following persons will act as tutors during the Summer Academy:

RADWA ASHOUR is Professor of English literature and former chairperson of the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt. She obtained her PhD in African-American literature from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, 1975. She is an acclaimed novelist and a distinguished literary critic. Her widely acknowledged novel *Granada Trilogy* was awarded the first prize of The First Arab Woman Writers Book Fair, Cairo, November 1995. Among her other novels are *Hajar Daffe'* (Warm Stone), Cairo, 1985; *Khadija wa Sawsan* (Khadija and Sawsan), Cairo, 1989; *Seraj* (Seraj), Cairo, 1992; *Atyaf* (Shadows) Cairo, 1999; and *Qit'aa min 'Urubba* (A Slice of Europe), Beirut & Casablanca, 2003; and Cairo, 2003. Her critical books include *at-Tariq 'ila 'l-Khaimat al-Ukhra* (A Study of the Works of the Palestinian novelist and short story writer Ghassan Kanafani), Beirut, 1977; *Gibran and Blake: A Comparative Study*, Cairo 1978; *Al-Tabi' Yanhad: al-Riwaya fi Gharb Ifriqiya* (The Novel in West Africa), Beirut, 1980; and *Fi 'l-Naqd at-Tatbiqi: Sayadu a- Zhakira* (Critical Essays), Beirut, 2001. She has co-edited the four volume *Zhakera lel-Mustaqbal: Mawsu'at al- Kateba al- 'Arabeya* (Memory for the Future: A Guide to Arab Women Writers) Cairo, 2004.

MOURID BARGHOUTI is a Palestinian poet. He was born in Ramallah, Palestine, in 1944. He has published 14 books of poetry, the last of which is *Muntasaf al-Lail* (Midnight), Beirut, 2005. His Collected Works came out in Beirut in 1997. *A Small Sun*, his first poetry book in English translation, was published by The Aldeburgh Poetry Trust, 2003. He was awarded the Palestine Award for Poetry (2000). His poems are published in Arabic and international literary magazines. English translations of his poetry were published in *Banipal*, *Times Literary Supplement* and *Modern Poetry in Translation*. His autobiographical narrative *Ra'ytu Ramallah* (I Saw Ramallah), 1997, published in several editions in Arabic, won the Naguib Mahfouz Award for Literature (1997) and was translated into several languages; the English translation was published by the American University in Cairo Press as well as by Random House, New York and Bloomsbury, London; Barghouti participated in numerous conferences and poetry readings and festivals in almost all Arab countries and in several European cities. He lives in Cairo.

Edward Said described *I saw Ramallah* as “one of the finest existential accounts of Palestinian displacement we now have.” and John Berger wrote that *I Saw Ramallah* was “a bedside book if ever there was one, unforgettable memories, razor insights, name –games, stories with eyes closed, no conclusions, only the passionate pain of exile, recounted at the end of the day by a true poet.”

SABRY HAFEZ is Professor of Modern Arabic Literature and Drama at the Department of the Near & Middle East at the SOAS, London. He is the head of the research project “Narrating and Imaging the Nation” at SOAS. He received his M.A. from the Academy of Arts, Cairo, Egypt, in 1970 with the thesis: “Chekhov’s Drama – a Critical Study of his Plays” and his Ph.D. in Modern Arabic Literature from the SOAS in 1979 with his thesis: “The Rise and Development of the Egyptian Short Story (1881-1970)”. He has been affiliated with various institutions such as the Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts, Cairo (1971-73), St. Antony’s College, University of Oxford (1978-79), the American University of Cairo, (1980-81), the University of Edinburgh, (1981-82), the Institute of Oriental Languages, University of Stockholm, and the Institute of Semitic Studies, University of Uppsala, (1982-84). He has been Visiting Professor at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, University of California at Los Angeles, (1985-86), and has taught at the SOAS since 1988. Among his publications in English are: *The Genesis of Narrative Discourse: A Study in the Sociology of Modern Arabic Literature*, (London, Al-Saqi Books, 1992) and *The Modern Egyptian Short Story: A Study in the Development of a Literary Genre* (forthcoming).

ANGELIKA NEUWIRTH teaches Arabic literature, classical and Modern at Free University Berlin. Her research focus is on Qur’anic Studies on the one hand and the aesthetic dimensions of Near Eastern social practices reflected in literature, on the other. She has been the director of the Orient Institut der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft in Beirut and Istanbul (1994-99), and has since taken particular interest in the de-limitation of arts, genres and styles that is typical of Levantine culture. Among her recent publications are 'Myths, historical archetypes and symbolic figures in Arabic Literature - Towards a new hermeneutic approach' (with Birgit Embalo, Sebastian Günther & Maher Jarrar, eds.) Beirut/Wiesbaden 1999, 'Ghazal as World Literature I: Transformations of a literary genre', (with Thomas Bauer, eds.) Beirut/Würzburg 2005, 'Ghazal as World Literature II: From a literary genre to a Great Tradition'. 'Ottoman gazel in context' (with Börte Sagaster, Judith Pfeiffer & Michael Hess, eds.) Beirut/Würzburg 2006. 'Arabische Literatur, postmodern' (with Andreas Pflitsch & Barbara Winckler, eds.) München 2004.

FRIEDERIKE PANNEWICK since 2005 is Associate Professor of Arabic Language and Literature, University of Oslo. She received her PhD (Dr. phil.) in Arabic and Theater Studies from Free University Berlin in 1999 with a thesis on the notions of theatricality and performance in Arab theater, her M.A. in 1993 from FU Berlin in Arabic and Turkish Studies. From 2001-2005 she has been the director of the project Cultural Mobility in Near Eastern Literatures within the Working Group ‘Modernity and Islam’ and since 2006 is co-director of the project Traveling Traditions. Comparative Perspectives on Middle Eastern Literatures within the Working Group ‘Europe in the Middle East – the Middle East in Europe’, both at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu

Berlin. Among her publications are 'Das Wagnis Tradition. Arabische Wege der Theatralität.' Wiesbaden (2000); 'Bio-bibliographischer Survey der modernen palästinensischen Dichtung.' Neuwirth, Embaló, Pannewick. Beirut, Würzburg.(2001); Martyrdom in Literature. Visions of Death and Meaningful Suffering in Europe and the Middle East from Antiquity to Modernity. Ed. F. Pannewick. Wiesbaden.(2004).

SAMAH SELIM is an independent scholar and translator of modern Arabic literature. She received her Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1997, and has taught Arabic and Comparative Literature at Columbia and Princeton Universities. Her book, *The Novel and the Rural Imaginary in Egypt 1880-1985*, was published by Routledge Press in 2004. She was a fellow of the Working Group Modernity and Islam in 2004/5 and is currently a Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (Institute for Advanced Study), and Associate Researcher at the Institut de Recherches et d'Etudes sur le Monde Arabe et Musulman in Aix-en-Provence. She is currently co-director of the project *Traveling Traditions: Comparative Perspectives on Middle Eastern Literatures within the Working Group 'Europe in the Middle East – the Middle East in Europe'*, both at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. Her ongoing work focuses on translation and popular fiction in turn-of-the-century Egypt.