

SUMMER ACADEMY
SEPTEMBER 16 - 27, 2012

AESTHETICS AND POLITICS

COUNTER-NARRATIVES, NEW PUBLICS, AND THE ROLE OF DISSENT IN THE ARAB WORLD



PUBLIC LECTURES AND PANELS PROGRAM

About the Summer Academy: September 16-27, 2012

'Aesthetics and Politics: Counter-Narratives, New Publics, and the Role of Dissent in the Arab World' is the theme of the International Summer Academy the research program Europe in the Middle East—The Middle East in Europe (EUME) of the Berlin-based Forum Transregionale Studien and the 'Center for Translation Studies' of the American University in Cairo are jointly organizing from September 16 — 27, 2012 at the American University in Cairo in cooperation with the English Department of Cairo University and the Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies of Philipps University Marburg, Germany.

The Summer Academy is designed to support scholarly networks and contribute to closer ties among research activities in and outside Europe and the Middle East. Academics and Artists are encouraged to explore aesthetic forms in the broadest sense—not in only literature, but also in new media, music, film, performance, fashion and street art.

The uprisings in the Arab world have challenged traditional paradigms for understanding culture and politics in the region and have opened up new sets of questions in both spheres. 'Revolution,' as both concept and practice, has at once enabled innovative modes of critique, imaginings of new utopias, re-signified subjectivities, as well as communal solidarities. What are some of the new terms, frames of understanding, and transformations that have begun to crystallize through the political and cultural changes in the aftermath of the Arab uprisings? In what ways do the uprisings across the Arab world reformulate the relationship between politics and culture in and outside the region? How could the role of dissent and counter-narratives in the political process be understood? And how should the place of literature and the arts in this new context be conceived?

Part of analyzing the relationship of aesthetics and politics means rethinking the role of culture and intellectuals in a revolutionary context. Does the term 'intellectual' apply to the new actors, movements, and organizations involved in the Arab uprisings? How are intellectuals, artists, institutional actors and the broader public beginning to rethink the idea of culture as a public good in light of the complex tensions between the effects of globalization and the marketplace on the one hand, and established practices of 'managed' national culture on the other? How are we to define public culture in this context, and how can we begin to map out a revolutionary genealogy of cultural practice relevant to the changing landscapes of the 21st century?

For a period of 2 weeks 34 doctoral, post-doctoral, and advanced researchers from different academic disciplines, from Europe, the Arab World and the United States will discuss the relationship of Aesthetics and Politics in relation to the ongoing transformations in the Arab World on the basis of their own research projects, among each other and with academics, artists, writers and intellectuals from Egypt.

The public program of the Summer Academy will be scheduled to begin on Monday, September 27 and will end on Wednesday, September 26. It includes working sessions of the participants and public lectures panel discussions detailed in this brochure and involves academics, graduate students, artists, intellectuals, and writers.

The Summer Academy is chaired by a group of scholars that include **Randa Aboubakr** (Cairo University), **Michael Allan** (University of Oregon), **Ayman El-Desouky** (SOAS London), **Elias Khoury** (NYU/Beirut), **Samia Mehrez** (American University in Cairo), **Rachid Ouaissa** (Philipps-Universität Marburg), **Friederike Pannewick** (Philipps-Universität Marburg), **Samah Selim** (Rutgers University).

Georges Khalil, Forum Transregionale Studien, EUME, Berlin

Samia Mehrez, Center for Translation Studies, American University in Cairo

Program

Monday, September 17, 7 pm

Keynote Address (in Arabic)

Elias Khoury, (writer)

نحو مدونة أخلاقية و فكرية في زمن الثورات العربية

Towards an Intellectual-Ethical Code in the Time of the Arab Revolutions

Welcome and Introduction:

Georges Khalil (Forum Transregionale Studien, EUME, Berlin)

Samia Mehrez (Center for Translation Studies, AUC)

Venue: Oriental Hall, AUC Tahrir Campus

Tuesday, September 18, 2 pm-3:30 pm

The Role of Intellectuals in the Arab Revolutions: Panel Discussion (in English)

Introduction: Elias Khoury (writer)

Venue: Oriental Hall, AUC Tahrir Campus

Tuesday, September 18, 7 pm

Lecture (in English)

Huda Lutfi, (visual artist and cultural historian)

The Artist and the Historical Moment: A Testimony

Introduction: Samia Mehrez (Center of Translation Studies, AUC)

Venue : Oriental Hall, AUC Tahrir Campus

Wednesday, September 19, 7 pm

Literature, Revolution and Politics: Panel Discussion (in Arabic)

الأدب و الثورة و السياسة

Ezzedine Choukri Fishere (writer and academic)

Mona Prince (writer, academic, and activist)

Mohammad Rabie (writer)

Ahmed Sultan (journalist and activist)

Welcome: Randa Aboubakr (Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Cairo University)

Introduction: Elias Khoury (writer)

Discussant: Samia Mehrez (AUC)

Venue: Cairo University, Faculty of Arts, Conference Room (First Floor-History Building)

Sunday, September 23, 7 pm

Cultural Policies: Panel Discussion (Arabic)

الثورة في رؤى و السياسات الثقافية

Sayed Mahmoud (journalist and cultural critic)

Visions of Cultural Policies/ رؤى السياسات الثقافية

Karima Mansour (dancer, choreographer, and Artistic Director for the Cairo Contemporary Dance Center)

Challenges and Obstacles / التحديات والمعوقات

Fayrouz Karawya (performer and cultural anthropologist)

The Cultural Policies Initiative: Context and Significance / والأهمية والسياق مبادرة السياسات الثقافية:

Yasser Allam (academic, cultural critic and drama writer)

Summary of the Cultural Policies Initiative / ملخص مبادرة السياسات الثقافية

Tamer El Said, (documentary filmmaker and activist)

Implementation: Aspirations and Risks / آليات تفعيل المبادرات والمخاطر: الآمال و

Chair and Moderation: Sayed Mahmoud

Venue: Cairo University, Faculty of Arts, Conference Room (First Floor-History Building)

Monday, September 24, 7 pm

Archiving the Revolution: Panel Discussion (Arabic and English)

Khaled Fahmy (Professor of History, AUC)

Mosireen Collective

AUC Student Pilot Project: Wiki Biographical Dictionary of the Revolution

Chair: Khaled Fahmy

Moderator: Emad Abou Ghazi (historian, former minister of culture)

Welcome: Samia Mehrez (AUC)

Venue: Oriental Hall, AUC Tahrir Campus

Tuesday, September 25, 2 pm-3:30 pm

Popular Culture and Revolution: Panel Discussion (in Arabic and English)

الثورة والثقافة الدارجة

Introduction: Randa Aboubakr (Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Cairo University)

Venue: Oriental Hall, AUC Tahrir Campus

Tuesday, September 25, 7 pm

Lecture (English)

Michael Allan (University of Oregon)

Old Media/New Futures: Fanonian Reflections on the Arab Uprisings

Introduction: Ayman El-Desouky (SOAS, London)

Venue: Oriental Hall, AUC Tahrir Campus

Wednesday, September 26, 7 pm

Documentary Film

Premiere of “Nafass Tawil” (A Deep, Long Breath) by Tahani Rached

Welcome and Introduction: Lisa Anderson (President, AUC), Friederike Pannewick (Professor of Arabic Studies, Phillips University Marburg / EUME, Berlin) and Samia

Mehrez (AUC)

Presentation: Tahani Rached (documentary filmmaker)

Discussion: Film Cast and Crew

Venue: Ewart Hall, AUC Tahrir Campus

Public Program Participants and Steering Committee Biographies

Randa Aboubakr is Professor of English and comparative literature at Cairo University. She is the author of *The Conflict of Voices in the Poetry of Dennis Brutus and Mahmud Darwish* (Wiesbaden: Reichert Verlag, 2004), and “The Role of New Media in the Egyptian Revolution of 2011: Visuality as an Agent of Change,” in *Popular Culture in the Middle East and North Africa: A Postcolonial Outlook* (New York, Routledge, forthcoming 2012).

Emad Abou Ghazi is former minister of culture and an Egyptian historian and archivist. He is Associate Professor in Faculty of Arts, Cairo University, Department of Libraries, Archives and Information Science. He was the secretary general of the Supreme Council of Culture and supervisor of the culture committees in the Council since May 1999. He is an active member in several Egyptian NGOs.

Yasser Allam is a dramatist and critic. He is editor in chief of *Al-Masrah* magazine and is a lecturer at the Academy of Arts. He is a founding member in several cultural and artistic groups and organizations and is particularly interested in the relationship between art and issues of development about which he has lectured and written extensively at the national and regional levels.

Michael Allan is an Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Oregon. His current book project, *Inventing World Literature: How Adab Became Literary*, offers a colonial history of literature at the intersection of the French, British and Ottoman empires, nineteenth-century moral education, and reforms in Qur'anic instruction in Egypt. During the 2011-2012 academic year, he was a EUME Fellow at the Forum for Transregional Studies in Berlin.

Lisa Anderson is the President of the American University in Cairo, Egypt. She assumed this position in January 2011 after having served as Provost of the same institution from September 2008 through December 2010. Her academic background is as a professor of international relations, with special expertise in state formation and regime change. She is a specialist on Lybia and is the author of several books including *Pursuing Truth, Exercising Power: Social Science and Public Policy in the Twenty-first Century*, 2003.

Ayman El Desouky is Senior Lecturer in Modern Arabic and Comparative Literature and founding Chair of the Centre for Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies (CCLPS) at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), the University of London.

Tamer El Said is an Egyptian filmmaker. He studied filmmaking and journalism and went on to make many documentaries and short films that received several international and local awards. In 2007, he founded *Zero Production* to produce independent films. He is currently setting up *Cimatheque - Alternative Film Centre* in Cairo, to support independent and alternative cinema in Egypt. He is also finishing his first feature length film, *In the Last Days of the City* due for release in 2013.

Khaled Fahmy is professor and chair of AUC's Department of History. Previously he served as associate professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic studies at New York University (NYU). Fahmy's research interests focus on the social history of the modern Middle East, with an emphasis on the history of law and medicine. He is the author of *Mehmed Ali: From Ottoman Governor to Ruler of Egypt*, *All the Pasha's Men: Mehmed Ali Pasha, His Army and the Founding of Modern Egypt*, and *The Body and Modernity: Essays in the History of Medicine and Law in Modern Egypt*.

Ezzedine Choukri Fishere is an Egyptian writer. Two of his six novels were nominated for the Arabic Booker Prize. He writes and speaks frequently about socio-political conditions in Egypt and the Middle East, and teaches at the American University in Cairo since 2007. Previously, he worked as an Egyptian and UN diplomat.

Fayrouz Karawya is an artist, writer, and researcher. She has been writing lyrics, composing, and singing since 2006. She has a bachelor's in medicine and a master's in sociology and anthropology from the American University in Cairo. She wrote her thesis about popular culture and politics in Egypt. Fayrouz has published her first Arabic book, based on her thesis, "Constructions of Chaos" in 2010. She released her first song album "Barra Menny" in April 2012".

Georges Khalil works at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin/Institute for Advanced Study and is the Academic Coordinator of the Forum Transregionale Studien and is responsible for "Europe in the Middle East – The Middle East in Europe" (EUME), a research program that seeks to rethink key concepts and premises that link and divide Europe and the Middle East. He has been the Coordinator of the "Working Group Modernity and Islam" from 1998 to 2006 at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, and studied History and Islamic Studies in Hamburg and Cairo, as well as European Studies at the Europa-Kolleg Hamburg.

Elias Khoury is a Lebanese novelist, playwright, critic and a prominent public intellectual. He has published several novels, which have been translated into many languages, as well as several works of literary criticism. He has also written three plays. He was editor of *Shu'un Filastin (Palestinian Affairs)*, collaborating with Mahmoud Darwish, and editorial director of *Al-Karmel*. From 1983 to 1990 he was editorial director of the cultural section of *Al-Safir* and later became editor of *Al-Mulhaq*, the cultural supplement of *Al-Nahar*. He has taught in Columbia University, New York, in the American University of Beirut, the Lebanese University, the Lebanese American University and New York University.

Huda Lutfi is both an artist and cultural historian working and living in Cairo. She has been teaching Arab Muslim cultural history at the American University in Cairo since the 80's. She has also taught several art workshops for children living in Cairo and Copenhagen. Her training as a historian has influenced her work as an artist, juxtaposing historical past and present, as well as traversing and fusing cultural boundaries. In her attempts to do so, she works with a wide range of artistic mediums. She has exhibited both locally and internationally.

Sayed Mahmoud is a journalist in *Al-Ahram* and is the managing editor of the cultural section of the *Al-Ahram* portal. He has written extensively on cultural policies and the

literary field in numerous national and arab venues including *Al-Badil*, *Al-Hayat*, and the Lebanese *Al-Akhbar*. He is also the author of two film scripts as well as other publications in the literary field including *Student Blood: The Student Movement in 1946*.

Karima Mansour is Artistic Director for the Cairo Contemporary Dance Center at the Creativity Centre of the Egyptian Ministry of Culture and is the founder of MAAT for Contemporary Dance, the first independent dance company in Egypt established in 1999. She studied Contemporary Dance and Film in London and Cairo respectively and continues to be a free-lance teacher and choreographer of contemporary dance. She has taught at the Cairo Opera Dance Theatre Company, the Ballet Institute at the Academy of Arts, and the American University in Cairo.

Samia Mehrez is Professor of Arabic Literature and Director of the Center for Translation Studies at the American University in Cairo. She is the author of *Egyptian Writers between History and Fiction: Essays on Naguib Mahfouz, Sonallah Ibrahim and Gamal al-Ghitani* and *Egypt's Culture Wars: Politics and Practice*. Her edited anthologies *A Literary Atlas of Cairo* and *The Literary Life of Cairo* are published in English and in Arabic. She is the editor of *Translating Egypt's Revolution: The Language of Tahrir*, AUC Press, 2012 and is currently working on a translation into English of Mona Prince's memoir, *Ismi Thawra* (Revolution is My Name).

Mosireen Collective a group of revolutionary filmmakers and activists in Cairo. Mosireen currently hosts the world's most extensive archive of footage of the Egyptian revolution. With over 1000 hours of footage filmed by 115 filmmakers, activists and revolutionaries every event is covered. Mosireen's coverage of the revolution has amassed 3.5 million views on YouTube and is regularly featured on national and international channels.

Rachid Ouassa is Professor of Politics of the Near and Middle East at the Centre for Near and Middle Eastern Studies (CNMS) of the Philipps-Universität Marburg. He received his PhD from the University of Leipzig in 2004. His research focuses on Social movements in the Middle East and North Africa, relations between capitalist industrial countries and developing countries, and the questions of fundamentalism. His publications include *La Classe-Etat algérienne 1962-2000* (Publisud Paris, 2010) and *La guerre d'Algérie vue par ses acteurs Français* (Edition Casbah Alger, 2009) among others.

Friederike Pannewick is professor of Arabic Literature and Culture at the Philipps-Universität Marburg, Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies (CNMS), and co-director of the research field *Travelling Traditions: Comparative Perspectives on Near Eastern Literatures* within the frame of the research program "Europe in the Middle East – the Middle East in Europe" at the Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin. She is the co-editor of the series *Literatures in Context – Arabic – Persian – Turkish*, and has published extensively on modern Arabic literature, history of ideas and theater.

Mona Prince teaches English literature at Suez Canal University. She is also a novelist and short story writer. Her novel *So You May See* has been translated from the Arabic and published by the AUC Press in 2011. Mona was one of the Presidential hopefuls in Egyptian 2011 a strategic move to try to change the very image of the president by gambling on the

imagination of the voters. She has recently completed a memoir about Egypt's revolution entitled *Ismi Thawra* (Revolution is My Name) expected to appear in English translation in 2013.

Mohammad Rabie graduated from faculty of engineering in 2002, His first novel *Kawkab Anbar* was released in 2010, and received the first prize in the Emerging Writers' category of Sawiris Cultural Award Competition in 2012. His second novel *Year of the Dragon* was released in 2012.

Tahani Rached is an award-winning documentary filmmaker. She attended Montreal's École des Beaux-Arts and was involved in community action until she made her first film, *Pour Faire Changement* (1972), a documentary produced by Le Vidéographe, which set the tone for all her future work. Rached's films include *Beirut! Not Enough Death to Go Round* (1983); *Au Chic Resto Pop* (1990); *Four Women of Egypt* (1997); *For a Song* (2001); *Soraida, a Woman of Palestine* (2004); *El Banat Dol (These girls, 2006)*, *Giran (Neighbours, 2009)* and *Nafass Tawil (A deep, long breath, 2012)*.

Ahmed Sultan is a graduate of the Faculty of Law and is currently a journalist in the online *Al-Badil* newspaper. He worked as a broadcaster in several online radio stations and has also acted in several plays and short films. He was a researcher at the Arab Information Network for Human Rights and is one of the editors of *Ajindat al-Thawra*, a Facebook-based diary of Egypt's revolution. He has his own blog that is titled *Kalam Sultan*.

Samah Selim is Assistant Professor of Arabic Literature in the Department of African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literatures, Rutgers University and co-director of the research field *Travelling Traditions: Comparative Perspectives on Near Eastern Literatures* within the frame of the research program "Europe in the Middle East – the Middle East in Europe" at the Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin. Selim is the author of *The Novel and the Rural Imaginary in Egypt 1880-1985* and is an award-winning literary translator.

Summer Academy Participants

Yakein Abdelmagid (*Duke University*), Artists and Art of Living: Labor, Aesthetics and Politics

Ghada Alakhdar (*Modern Sciences and Arts University, Cairo*), Promoting Cultural Diversity Online

Yvonne Albers (*Philipps-Universität Marburg*), The Artist and his Public – Theoretical and Artistic Self-Reflection in Contemporary Lebanese Art

Hanan Badr (*Universität Erfurt / Cairo University*), Internet Activism and Aesthetics in Egypt's Online Political Communication

Judith Bihl (*Universität zu Köln*), *Ornamental Break throughs*. Contemporary Egyptian Art within an Intercultural Discourse

Sina Birkholz (*Universität Augsburg / Fellow Max-Weber-Programm*), (Re-)writing Personal Stories: Women and Youth in Post-Revolutionary Egypt

Julia Clauß (*Berlin Graduate School of Muslim Cultures and Society*), Cultural Change in 21st Century Saudi Arabia

Nancy Demerdash (*Princeton University*), Of Political Prerogatives and Artistic Praxis

Ilka-Susanna Eickhof (*Otto-Suhr-Institut für Politikwissenschaft, Berlin*), Pretty Interventions – A Critical Analysis of the Regulation of Contemporary Art and Cultural Politics in Amman and Cairo (and Damascus)

Mohamed Elshahed (*New York University*), Revolutionary Modernism? Architecture and the Politics of Transition in Egypt 1939-1965

Doa'a Embabi (*Ain Shams University*) , (Re)claiming Egyptian Public Sphere

Amal Egeiq (*University of Washington*), The Ghetto Intellectual: Voicing Dissent from the Margins

Joseph R. Farag (*University of London*), Write of Return: The Palestinian Short Story in Exile

Igor Gatzsche (*Universität Hamburg*), Hip Hop in Egypt. Rebellion and Religion in North-African Popular Culture

Laura Gribbon (*SOAS, University of London*), Narratives of Martyrdom throughout the Egyptian Revolution, 2011-12

Walid El Houry (*University of Amsterdam*), Resistance as Hegemony: Space and People in the Arab Uprisings

Helena Nassif (*Arab Council for the Social Sciences, Beirut*), Who Crosses the Patriotic Border? Fiction, Protest and Stardom. The Case of Muna Wassef

Georgiana Nicoarea (*University of Bucharest*), Graffiti in the Arab World – Youth Identity between Tradition and Modernity

Nora Parr (*SOAS, University of London*), Nationalism, Subjectivity, Intertextuality: Palestinian Literature Re-Framing the Paradigm

Nadia Radwan (*Geneva University*), Arts and Politics in Egyptian Uprisings: A Cultural Awakening?

Lewis IV Sanders (*American University in Cairo*), Curating an Uprising: The Dynamics of Art and Revolution on the Egyptian Street

Peter Snowdon (*University of Hasselt*), The Possibility of a Community: Documentary Film Practice after the Arab Spring

Hania Sobhy (*SOAS, University of London/EUME-Fellow 2012/13*), Passionate Politics in the Aftermath of the 'Egyptian Revolution': Salafi and Revolutionary Mobilization in the 2012 Presidential Elections

Ali Sonay (*Philipps-Universität Marburg*), Becoming Political and Global in Egyptian Youth Movements

Mark Westmoreland (*American University in Cairo*), Political Evidence: Documentary Aesthetics in Lebanon and Egypt

Contact:

Georges Khalil (EUME / Forum Transregionale Studien)

eume@trafo-berlin.de

<http://www.eume-berlin.de>

<http://www.forum-transregionale-studien.de>

Samia Mehrez (Center for Translation Studies, American University in Cairo)

samehrez@aucegypt.edu

Iman Zarif (Assistant to Director, Center for Translation Studies, AUC)

imanzarif@aucegypt.edu

<http://www.aucegypt.edu/research/cts/Pages/AboutUs.aspx>

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