Trans/Formations of Arabic Literary Theory: Prospects and Limits

Columbia University
December 14 - 17, 2021

Hosted by
Columbia University’s Arabic Studies Seminar
Institute for Comparative Literature and Society
Sheikh Zayed Book Award
Brill Academic Publishers

In Memory of Jaroslav Stetkevych

Organizers: Rebecca Johnson, Nizar F. Hermes, Chiara Fontana, Bilal Orfali and Sarah Monks

Hosted at Columbia University's Faculty House and available virtually for all. Columbia University Affiliates wishing to attend in person should register here: https://forms.gle/sRUHCESoLofkLyUr6
This link is only for Columbia University faculty, students, and staff.
All others see the virtual registration links.
Day 1: Tuesday, December 14

[Register for the virtual Opening Remarks and Keynotes here.]

9:00 - 9:15am Opening Remarks
Muhsin J. al-Musawi, Columbia University

9:15-10:10am Keynote Talk
Faisal Darraj

10:10-10:45am متحف الادب The Museum of Literature
شكري المبخوت Choukri Mabkhout

[Register for the virtual Panel 1 here.]

10:45-12:15pm Panel 1: Opening Panel in Honor of Jaroslav Stetkevych
Chairperson: Muhsin J. al-Musawi, Columbia University

- Yaseen Noorani, University of Arizona
- Michael Sells, University of Chicago
- Roger Allen, University of Pennsylvania
- Moneera al-Ghadeer, Senior Advisor of International Cultural Relations, Ministry of Culture, Riyadh

[Register for the virtual Keynote here.]

12:30-1:30pm Keynote Talk
Tahera Qutbuddin, University of Chicago
Day 2: Wednesday, December 15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Chairperson</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 9:00-10:45am  | Panel 2: THE CHALLENGE OF THE CONTEMPORARY | Roger Allen, University of Pennsylvania   | “Cauldron of Conspiracy”: Modernity, Apocalypse, and Conspiracy Theory in Habiby’s The Pessoptimist and Saadawi’s *Frankenstein in Baghdad.*
Aya Labanieh, Columbia University

“Infra-political Digital Culture & the Reclaiming of Postcolonial Arab Identity.”
Ali Omar Abu-yasein, Universitat Ramon-LLull

“Adab al-manfā vs Adab al-luġū’? ‘Refugeedom’ in Contemporary Arabic Fiction of Forced Migration.”
Annamaria Bianco, Aix-Marseille Université (IREMAM)

“A Biography for a Poet?”
Jonathan Lawrence, University of Oxford |
Nouri Gana, University of California, Los Angeles

“Kitab Sudan: Arabic Language and Islamic Epistemologies in the Black Arts Movement.”
Ellen McLarney, Duke University

“Literature, Labor, Extraction.”
Shir Alon, University of Minnesota

“Poetic Accumulation: Toward a Critique of Settler Form.”
Jeff Sacks, University of California, Riverside

“Final Remarks on the Postcolonial.”
Hamid Dabashi, Columbia University |
| 12:45-1:45pm  | Keynote Talk                                | Bilal Orfali, American University in Beirut |                                                                                           |
Day 3: Thursday, December 16

[Register for the virtual Panel 4 here.]

9:00–10:30am Panel 4: THEORIZING THE CLASSICAL
Chairperson: Tahera Qutbuddin, University of Chicago

• “Mannerism Revisited: al-Maʾarī’s Zajr al-Nābiḥ and its Variations.”
  Sarah R. bin Tyeer, Columbia University

• “A Case for Love Poetry in Literary History.”
  Jennifer Tobkin, George Washington University

• المقطّعات الشعرية في مدونة المقلّين: بين ثوابت نظرية الأدب عند العرب ومتغيراتها
  Ali Boujdidi, University of Gabes

[Register for the virtual Panel 5 here.]

10:45–12:30pm Panel 5: LOCATIONS OF THEORY
Chairperson: Yaseen Noorani, University of Arizona

• “Amīn al-Rīḥānī as a Literary Theorist.”
  Michael Battalia, Princeton University

• “Sociological Perspectives to Literature in the Modern Arab World(s): ἄνι al-Wardī’s Uṣṭūrat al-adab al-rafiʿ (1957).”
  Antonio Pacifico, Jean Moulin University of Lyon 3

• “False Dichotomies.”
  Taoufik Ben Amor, Columbia University

• “The Missing Pictorial in Narrative.”
  Joscelyn Shawn Ganjara Jurich, Columbia University

[Register for the virtual Keynote Talk here.]

12:30-1:30pm Keynote Talk
Wen-Chin Ouyang, SOAS, London University, UK
Day 4: Friday, December 17

[Register for the virtual Panel 6 here.]

9:00-10:45am  Panel 6: THE CIRCULATIONS OF THEORY
Chairperson: Wen-Chin Ouyang, SOAS

- “A Balm for Sorrows? Permutations of Arabic Literary Theory in Hebrew Poetics.”
  Daniel Behar, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

- “‘High Treason Against Arabic Literature and Criticism’ Ghālib Hālasa’s Translation of Gaston Bachelard’s La poétique de l’espace.”
  Fernanda Fischione, Sapienza University of Rome

- “Doing New Criticism in Baghdad.”
  Emily Drumsta, University of Texas, Austin

- “The Absence of Mahfuz’s Economies in Criticism.”
  Karim Malak, Columbia University

[Register for the virtual Keynote here.]

10:45-12:00pm  Closing Keynote talk
Suzanne Stetkevych, Georgetown University