Practicing Philosophy in Lebanon
Authors, Texts, Trends, Traditions

UNESCO WORLD PHILOSOPHY DAY 2013

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT
(AUB, College Hall, Auditorium B1)

Wednesday, November 20, 2013 & Thursday, November 21, 2013

Anis Makdisi Program in Literature (AUB)

in association with

Centre d’Études Michel Henry (USJ)
Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (NDU)
Forum of the Civilization Sequence Program (AUB)
Synopsis

The engagement with modern philosophy in Lebanon in the twentieth century has had an active and distinguished history, not only in the local Levantine context, or the broader region within the Arab world and the Middle East, but also at certain times internationally. The intensity and continuity in practicing philosophy in Lebanon, within academic institutions, learned societies, and centers, fluctuated over the past four decades, albeit, a new generation of active intellectuals and academics emerged during this period, with many amongst them establishing local and global recognition of their contributions to philosophical research and thinking. This proposed colloquium corresponds with the UNESCO ‘World Philosophy Day 2013’, and it aims at gathering academics and intellectuals in Lebanon, who are engaged in philosophical investigations within universities, institutes, and centers, to generate a forum for sharing their oeuvres and debating their research methods and questions, around authors, texts, trends, and traditions within the various schools of philosophy. The papers and discussions will also address the particularities of practicing philosophy in Lebanon, through individual initiatives or teams, while assessing the conditions of rooting thought within a Levantine context that is marked by cultural, linguistic, literary, and confessional hybridity in its lived experiences and histories.
The themes are focused on specific technical issues in philosophizing (whether in ontology, epistemology, theories of value, history of philosophy, philosophy of science, philosophy of religion, etc.), and/or examining the adaptive assimilation of contemporary schools of philosophical thinking within a *milieu* that is marked by diverse Levantine expressions of thought, knowledge, culture, religion, and society; including the development of certain facets in philosophizing that respond to local and regional intellectual concerns and legacies. The papers also focus on the potentials and obstacles that face philosophical research when situated between different schools of thought and civilizations, in addition to reflecting on practicing philosophy by way of translation from and into the Arabic language. The colloquium is open to all philosophical orientations and areas of specialism, and the presentations will be conducted in Arabic, English, and French. The expanded versions of the colloquium papers will be eventually published in a tri-lingual proceedings volume, and this gathering will be followed by future events and symposia to consolidate the research activities of the participants and generate the basis for collaborations and deliberations over the possibility of structuring the philosophical activities in the Lebanese context. Annual meetings would rotate between the participating institutions (as represented by the participating speakers), and potentially formalizing the gatherings in a registered “Lebanese Philosophical Association” (or: مجمع الفلسفة في لبنان) with a secretariat bureau and executive council.
Wednesday
20 November, 2013

Morning Coffee
8:30 am – 9:00 am

Welcome Address
9:00 am – 9:15 am

Opening Remarks
9:15 am – 9:30 am
Nassif Nassar (Lebanese University)

Session 1
9:30 am – 11:00 am
Moderator: Nader El-Bizri (American University of Beirut)

Muta’ Safadi (Arab Center for National Development)
لماذا لا نفكر فلسفياً نحو استراتيجية جيو-فلسفية

Shafik Jaradi (Sapiential Knowledge Institute)
الهيئات المعرفة بين النص والتأويل الفلسفي

Mousa Wehbe (Lebanese University)
المصطلح الفلسفي بالعربية كمشكلة فلسفية

Coffee Break
11:00 am – 11:30 am

Session 2
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Moderator: Pascale Lahoud (Université Antonine)

Jad Hatem (Université Saint-Joseph)
Le Dieu homme dans le cadre d’une philosophie des religions du Moyen-Orient

Marlène Kanaan (University of Balamand)
La Philosophie au rythme du sacré et du profane

Nicole Hatem (Université Saint-Joseph)
Un autre visage de Kierkegaard?
Lunch
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Session 3
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Moderator: Marlène Kanaan (University of Balamand)

Pascale Lahoud (Université Antonine)
فلسفة العلوم منظورًا إليها من لبنان القرن العشرين

Mouchir Aoun (Lebanese University)
الأسس الفلسفية التي تسؤغ التعدِّيَة الكونية

Zahida Darwiche-Jabbour (UNESCO)
الفلسفة والشعر وسؤال المعنى

Coffee Break
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Session 4
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm
Moderator: Frank Darwiche (University of Balamand)

George Kattoura (Lebanese University)
Max Weber et le média

Charbel El-Amm (Université Saint-Joseph)
Maître Eckhart: « Le Néant, c’était Dieu »

Committee Meeting in camera
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
CONVENED BY INVITATION

Dinner
8:00 pm – 11:00 pm
(By invitation: Mayrig Restaurant)
Thursday
21 November, 2013

Morning Coffee
9:00 am – 9:30 am

Session 1
9:30 am – 11:00 am
Moderator: Peter Bornedal (American University of Beirut)

Edward Alam (Notre Dame University–Louaizé)
Cultivating Resource Philosophy: Lebanon’s Infertile Fertile Soil

Chady Rahme (Notre Dame University–Louaizé)
The New Quest for Perpetual Peace: Philosophy between Affectivity and Rationality

Frank Darwiche (University of Balamand)
Philosophy in Lebanon: The Urgent Question of Origins

Coffee Break
11:00 am – 11:15 am

Session 2
11:15 am – 12:45 pm
Moderator: George Kattoura (Lebanese University)

Nader El-Bizri (American University of Beirut)
قول في المكان

Nadine Abbas (Université Saint-Joseph)
الصفات الإلهية والتثليث المسيحيّ: رسالة يحيى بن عديّ في الرذ على الجراح نموذجًا

Hussein Abdulsater (American University of Beirut)
طريق البقين وعقلانية الخلاص: المتكلمون الأوائل ومهلة النظر

Lunch
12:45 pm – 2:00 pm
Session 3
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Moderator: Edward Alam (Notre Dame University–Louaizé)

Peter Bornedal (American University of Beirut)
Ethical and unethical discourse: on Derrida’s difficulties with speech-acts

Robert Gallagher (American University of Beirut)
Antiphasis as a Homonym
Three significations of ‘contradiction’ in Aristotle’s philosophy

Dustin McWherter (American University of Beirut)
The Critique of Subjectivism in Schelling's Identity Philosophy

Coffee Break
3:30 pm – 3:45 pm

Session 4
3:45 pm – 4:45 pm
Moderator: Robert Gallagher (American University of Beirut)

Hani Hassan (American University of Beirut)
In the words of al-Kindī

Oussama Arabi (Rafik Hariri University)
Subjective Error in Islamic Law: An Exercise in Comparative Jurisprudence

Concluding Presentation
(with a short video)
4:45 pm – 5:30 pm
Jalal Toufic (The Lebanese Association for Plastic Arts, Ashkal Alwan)
The Aura: An Approach

Closing Remarks
5:30 pm – 5:45 pm

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