The History and Archaeology Department at the American University of Beirut, the Exzellenzcluster “Religion and Politics” at the University of Münster, and the Orient-Institut Beirut invite you to a symposium

**Inhitat: Its Influence and Persistence in the Writing of Arab Cultural History**

**Beirut | December 8–11, 2010**  
**AUB | College Hall, B 1**

Thanks are due to the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES) and the Office of the Provost for their special support.
Wednesday, 8th of December

INTRODUCTION
10:00–10:10
Ahmad Dallal, provost AUB
10:10–10:20
Stefan Leder, director OIB
10:20–10:35
Thomas Bauer, Exzellenzcluster WWU Münster
10:35–10:45
General Information

10:45–11:10
Coffee Break

MAIN PART
Chaired by Manfred Sing
11:10–11:50
Suzanne Kassab
Inhitat, Nahda, ‘Ajz: From one turn of century to another
11:50–12:30
Tylor Brand
Selling Themselves Short: The Illusion of Decline in Arab Nationalist Discourse

12:30–14:30
Lunch Break

Chaired by Alexis Wick
14:30–15:10
Nadia Bou Ali
Progress and History in the works of Butrus al Bustani
15:10–15:50
Ines Weinrich
Writing Arab Music History: Contradictions between Theory and Practice

15:50–16:10
Coffee Break

Chaired by Stefan Leder
16:10–16:50
Geert Jan van Gelder
Good Times, Bad Times: Opinions on fasād al-zamān, “the Corruption of Time”
16:50–17:30
Tarif Khalidi
On Progress and Decline in Ibn Khaldun

20:00
Dinner

Thursday, 9th of December

Chaired by Leila Fawaz
09:30–10:10
Thomas Bauer
The Aesthetics of Mamluk Literature
10:10–10:50
Marek Dziekan
‘Asr al-Inhitat in Arabic Culture: Traditional Views versus an Attempt of New Interpretation

10:50–11:10
Coffee Break

Chaired by John Meloy
11:10–11:50
Syrinx von Hees
Meaning and function of ´aja’ib in Mamluk historiographical writing
11:50–12:30
Abdallah Kahlil
Late Mamluk Architecture

12:30–14:30
Lunch Break
Chaired by Anne Troadec
14:30–15:10
Elias Muhanna
Mamluk Encyclopaedias as Tokens of Decadence and Renaissance
15:10–15:50
Sonja Brentjes
<Decline> as an unsuitable historiographical concept for the study of the intellectual life under the Ayyubids, Mamluks and Ottomans
15:50–16:10
Coffee Break

Chaired by Malek Sharif
16:10–16:50
Dahlia Gubara
The Spaces of Modern Time: al-Azhar and its Environ in the “Age of Decline”? 
16:50–17:30
Khaled Rouayheb
The Logical Writings of Ahmad b. ʿAbdulfattāḥ al-Mallawī (d.1767)
20:00
Dinner

Friday, 10th of December
Chaired by Samir Seikaly
09:30–10:10
Dana Sajdi
New Voices from the Street: The Levantine-Eighteenth Century Reconsidered
10:10–10:50
Ahmad Dallal
The Eighteenth-Century Islamic Enlightenment Thesis and the Persistence of the Paradigm of Decline
10:50–11:10
Coffee Break

Chaired by Stefan Knost
11:10–11:50
Ralf Elger
The question of decadence in 18th century Middle East: Contemporary German sources
11:50–12:30
Ertuğrul Ökten
The creation of cultural icons and intellectual icons and their persistence
12:30–14:30
Lunch Break

Chaired by Leila Fawaz
14:30–15:10
Himmet Taşkömür
Legal and political pamphleteering in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries
15:10–15:50
Cemal Kafadar
Ottoman Debate on Ottoman Decline in the long Seventeenth Century
15:50–16:10
Coffee Break

Chaired by Abdul-Rahim Abu-Husayn
16:10–16:50
Christoph Herzog
Ottoman visions of decline: Do we need a revision of the revision?
16:50–17:30
Engin Akarlı
Paradigmatic Implications of the ‘inhitat’/’decline’ discourse in Ottoman historiography
20:00
Dinner
Abdul-Rahim Abu-Husayn
Professor, Department of History and Archaeology, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Engin Akarlı
Joukowsky Family Distinguished Professor of Modern Middle East History and Professor of History, History Department, Brown University, Providence, USA

Thomas Bauer
Professor, Institut für Arabistik und Islamwissenschaft, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, Germany

Nadia Bou Ali
PhD Candidate, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford, Great Britain

Tylor Brand
PhD Candidate, Department of History and Archaeology, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Sonja Brentjes
Professor, Departamento de Filosofía y Lógica y Filosofía de la Ciencia, University of Sevilla, Spain.

Ahmad Dallal
Provost, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Marek Dziekan
Professor, Department of Middle East and North Africa, University of Lodz, Poland

Ralf Elger
Professor, Seminar für Arabistik und Islamwissenschaft, Martin-Luther-Universität, Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Leila Fawaz
Issam M. Fares Professor of Lebanese and Eastern Mediterranean Studies, Tufts University, Oregon, USA

Geert Jan van Gelder
Laudian Professor of Arabic, the Oriental Institute, University of Oxford, Great Britain

Dahlia Gubara
PhD Candidate, Department of History, Columbia University, New York, USA

Syrix von Hees
Research Associate, Orient-Institut Beirut, Lebanon

Christoph Herzog
Professor, Institut für Sprachen und Kulturen des Vorderen Orients, Otto-Friedrich-Universität, Bamberg, Germany

Cemal Kafadar
Vehbi Koç Professor of Turkish Studies, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA

Abdallah Kahlil
Professor, Lebanese American University, Beirut, Lebanon

Suzanne Kassab
Independent Scholar, Lebanon

Tarif Khalidi
Shaykh Zayid Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Stefan Knost
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