

150  
AUB



The Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Office of the Provost, “Converging Creativities: Science and the Arts and Humanities in Dialogue at AUB,” the Center for Arts and Humanities (CAH), the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal bin Abdel Aziz Alsaud Center for American Studies and Research (CASAR), the Department of English, and the Theater Initiative at AUB

Present

# DARWIN, AUB AND THE ARAB WORLD

An International Conference in Celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AUB, organized by Robert Myers, Professor of English, AUB; Arne Dietrich, Professor of Psychology, AUB; Sahar Assaf, Assistant Professor of Theater, AUB

September 25–27, 2016

## Sunday, September 25

Location: West Hall, Auditorium B

---

**7:00 pm** A staged reading of ***After Darwin***,  
by Timberlake Wertenbaker, about the voyage of the *Beagle*,  
directed by Sahar Assaf, Assistant Professor of Theater, Department  
of FAAH, AUB, with Robert Myers, Professor of English, AUB.  
The reading will be followed by a brief discussion

## Monday, September 26

Location: College Hall, Auditorium B1

---

**9:00–9:30 am** Coffee

**9:30–10:00 am** Opening remarks  
**Fadlo R. Khuri, MD**, President, AUB

**10:00–11:00 am** Opening Keynote Address  
**“Charles Darwin and American Liberal Education”**  
**Betty Anderson**, Associate Professor of History, Boston University

**11:00–11:30 am** Coffee break

**11:30 am–1:00 pm** **Darwin in the Arab/Islamic World 1860–1940**  
**Betty Anderson**, Associate Professor of History, Boston University  
**Salman Hameed**, Charles Taylor Chair and Associate Professor of Integrated  
Science and Humanities, Hampshire College  
**Saouma Boujaoude**, Professor of Science Education, AUB

**1:00–2:30 pm** Lunch

**2:30–4:00 pm** **Darwin in Theater and on Film**  
**Tarek El Dewiri**, Theater Director and Actor  
**Youssef Esmail**, The Egyptian National Theatre  
**Sahar Assaf**, Theater Director and Actress and Assistant Professor  
of Theater, AUB  
Excerpts from *Inherit the Wind*, directed by El Dewiri at the Egyptian  
National Theater; Hollywood’s version of *Inherit the Wind*;  
and *Time of the Plague*, an adaptation of *Life of Galileo* by Brecht,  
directed by El Dewiri (Presentations in Arabic. Translation will  
be available)

**4:00–4:30 pm** Coffee break

**4:30–6:00 pm** **Darwin and the Liberal Arts**  
**Charles Harb**, Associate Professor of Psychology, AUB  
**Saouma Boujaoude**, Professor of Science Education, AUB  
**Robert Myers**, Professor of English, AUB

**8:00 pm** Dinner, Location TBA

## Tuesday, September 27

Location: College Hall, Auditorium B1

---

- 9:00–9:15 am** Coffee
- 9:15–10:00 am** Guest keynote address  
**“Contemporary Reception of Darwin in the Arab and Islamic Worlds”**  
**Salman Hameed**, Charles Taylor Chair and Associate Professor of Integrated Science and Humanities, Hampshire College
- 10:00–10:30 am** Coffee break
- 10:30–11:15 am** Guest keynote address  
**“From Darwin’s Natural Selection to Techno-Procreation: Medically Assisted Reproduction and Islamic Bioethics in the High-tech Middle East”**  
**Marcia Inhorn**, William K. Lanman, Jr. Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs, Yale University
- 11:15 am–12:15 pm** **Darwin and Evolution at AUB, in the Classroom and in the Arab World (With Keynote Speakers): Open Mic**
- 12:15–2:00 pm** Lunch
- 2:00–4:00 pm** **Darwin, Medicine and Science in the Arab World**  
**Fadlo R. Khuri, MD**, President, AUB  
**Arne Dietrich**, Professor of Psychology, AUB  
**Colin Smith**, Associate Professor of Biology, AUB
- 4:00–4:30 pm** Coffee break
- 4:30–5:15 pm** Closing remarks
- 8:00 pm** Dinner, Location TBA

## Keynote Abstracts

---

### **Betty Anderson** “Charles Darwin and American Liberal Education”

AUB is today still based on the tradition of the American liberal education system, but questions have always arisen about its elements and goals as a curricular program. I will discuss how the work of Charles Darwin influenced the development of this influential educational program and also how the program evolved over the 150 years of AUB’s existence. This is a relevant topic today because the American system of education has never been so popular across the Middle East, as seen in the recent proliferation of American-style secondary institutions and universities. At the same time administrators, faculty and students are challenging the different rationales for maintaining the liberal educational system back home in America. The decisions made in the US will have a wide-ranging influence over education across the world.

### **Salman Hameed** “Contemporary Reception of Darwin in the Arab and Islamic Worlds”

Over the past century and a half, the topic of biological evolution has dominated the discourse about science and religion. There are well known public controversies related to the topic including the Huxley-Wilberforce debate in the UK, the Scopes “Monkey” Trial in the US, and, of course, the 1882 controversy at the *Syrian Protestant College* in Beirut. All of the above examples involved a debate with or within Christianity. More recently, however, we are seeing the emergence of public debates over evolution in the Muslim world as well. Just this past summer, Saudi Arabia reaffirmed an earlier *fatwa* by Egyptian theologian Yusuf al-Qaradawi to ban the popular game *PokemonGO*, partly on the basis that the characters are based on evolutionary ideas. This ban aside, how is biological evolution viewed in various parts of the contemporary Muslim world? Using interview data on the topic, I will highlight the complex ways in which contemporary Muslims are engaging with Darwin and evolutionary biology.

### **Marcia C. Inhorn** “From Darwin’s Natural Selection to Techno-Procreation: Medically Assisted Reproduction and Islamic Bioethics in the High-tech Middle East”

Assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) to create “test-tube” babies are now widely available across the Middle East, including in Lebanon, where AUB has played a leading role. Medically assisted reproduction has developed hand in hand with Islamic bioethical rulings, which have permitted many ARTs, while prohibiting others. Recent Shia rulings have created interesting technoscientific possibilities for infertile Muslim couples, thereby turning both Iran and Lebanon into regional “reprohubs.” Although the Middle East is rarely regarded as a “high-tech” setting, it is a key site for understanding the intersection of technoscience, Islamic bioethics, and medical modernity—or the brave new world of “techno-procreation” never anticipated by Darwin in his study of natural selection and the origin of the species.

## Participants

---

**Sahar Assaf** is Assistant Professor of Theater at the American University of Beirut, a theater actress and director, and co-director of the AUB Theater Initiative. She directed the world premiere of the English-language versions of Saadallah Wannous' *Rituals of Signs and Transformations* (2013) and *The Rape* (2014) in Beirut, Issam Mahfouz's *The Dictator* (2015) in New York, and *Watch Your Step: Beirut Heritage Walking Tour*, a site-specific promenade performance in the Khandaq al Ghamiq neighborhood of Beirut (2014). She is co-founder of Tahweel Ensemble Theater, a Beirut-based theater group, which was launched in New York at the Between The Seas Festival in September 2015 with the production of *The Dictator*. Her latest appearances on stage as an actress were in Dario Fo and Franca Rame's *An Arab Woman Speaks*, produced by Faction Ensemble Theater at New Diorama Theater in London (2016), and in *Ab: Beit Byout*, based on Tracey Letts' *August: Osage County*, which she translated, co-produced and co-directed at Babel Theater in Beirut (2015). She is a Fulbright alumna with an MA in Theater Studies from Central Washington University (2011) and a member of Lincoln Center Director's Lab.

**Betty Anderson** is the author of *Nationalist Voices in Jordan: The Street and the State* (University of Texas Press, 2005), *The American University of Beirut: Arab Nationalism and Liberal Education* (University of Texas Press, 2011), and *A History of the Modern Middle East: Rulers, Rebels and Rogues* (Stanford University Press, Spring 2016), as well as a co-author with Carol Berkin of the *History Handbook* (Houghton-Mifflin 2003 and Cengage 2011). Dr. Anderson has published articles in *Civil Wars*, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, *Critique*, and *Jordanies*, as well as chapters for a number of edited volumes. She has written about the themes covered by Islamic and history textbooks used in Jordan, the politicizing role of education in twentieth-century Middle East history, and the evolution of the American liberal education system at the American University of Beirut (AUB). Her latest project examines the economic, educational, political and social changes that have come to Beirut, Amman, and Ramallah over the last 25 years. Dr. Anderson has received Fulbright and American Center for Oriental Research (ACOR) grants to conduct research in Jordan and Lebanon. At Boston University, she is director of the Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations.

**Saouma Boujaoude** is Professor of Science Education at AUB. He joined AUB in 1993, where he was the director of the Science and Math Education Center between 1994 and 2003 and is presently director of the Center For Teaching and Learning. His research interests include the nature of science, curriculum, teaching methods, and students' views about the theory of evolution. Reports of his research have appeared in the *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*, *Science Education*, *International Journal of Science Education*, *School Science and Mathematics*, *the Science Teacher*, and *School Science Review*, among other publications. In addition, Boujaoude is a member of the National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST), the American Educational Research Association (AERA), and the European Science Education Research Association. Presently he serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Science Teacher Education*, is a consulting editor for *International Review of Education*, and a contributing international editor of *Science Education*

**Arne Dietrich** ([www.arnedietrich.com](http://www.arnedietrich.com)) is Professor of Psychology at AUB. He holds a Ph.D. in cognitive neuroscience from the University of Georgia. His research focuses on the higher cognitive functions of the prefrontal cortex, especially creativity, altered states of consciousness, and the psychological effects of exercise. His major publications include a theoretical framework for the neural basis of creativity, (*Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, 2004), a review article of neuroscientific studies of creativity (*Psychological Bulletin*, 2010),

a new, mechanistic theory of altered states of consciousness, the transient hypofrontality theory (*Consciousness and Cognition*, 2003, 2004), and the proposal of new explanations for the effects of exercise on emotion and cognition. He is also the author of a textbook on consciousness (Macmillan, 2007) and, most recently, *How Creativity Happens in the Brain* (Macmillan, 2015). He has given numerous invited lectures around the world and his work has been featured prominently in the international press.

**Tarek El Dewiri** is a director and actor for the Egyptian National Theatre and a founder of the independent troupe “Laboratory Group for Media and Theater.” He won the National Encouragement Award for directing *Time of the Plague* in 2001, an adaptation of Brecht’s *Life of Galileo*. In 2003, he participated in the Experimental Festival and represented Egypt in the Carthage Nights Theatre Festival in Tunis. In 2007, he directed *The Third Position*, based on texts about war and violence, co-written by Rasha Abdel Moneim, staged at the National Theater. In 2009, El Dewiri, along with his troupe, produced and directed a production of *Locusts*, written by Hassan Ahmad Hassan, staged in the Festival for Independent Troupes. In 2010, he produced and directed Wannous’s *A Country Narrower than Love* at the Hanager Arts Center, for the National Festival. In 2013, he acted with LaMusica, an Egyptian theater group, in a production of Ibsen’s *An Enemy of the People*, directed by Nora Amin, at the National Festival and won best actor in a leading role. In 2014, El Dewiri produced and directed a version of Jerome Lawrence and Robert Lee’s *Inherit the Wind* for the National Festival, which won five awards including best performance, best director, best actor in a leading role, best musician, and best set design. At the Hanager he also staged *The Double History of Doctor Valmy*, by Buero Vallejo, and *The Zombie and the Ten Sins*, co-written with Dr. Nashwi Moharam, based on 1984, *Fahrenheit 451* and the writings of Wadih Saade. The latter play received awards for best playwright, best musician, and best publicity.

**Salman Hameed** is the director of the Center for the Study of Science in Muslim Societies (SSIMS) and Associate Professor of Integrated Science and Humanities in the School of Cognitive Science at Hampshire College, Massachusetts. His primary research interest focuses on understanding the reception of science in the Islamic world and how Muslims view the relationship between science and religion, and how this discourse unfolds in online videos. He recently led a four-year National Science Foundation-funded study on the reception of biological evolution in diverse Muslim societies. Courses he teaches at Hampshire include “Evolution, Islam, and Modernity,” “Science in the Muslim World,” “Science and Religion: Biological Evolution in the Public Sphere.” Salman also runs *Irtiqa*, a science and religion blog with an emphasis on scientific debates taking place in the Muslim world.

**Charles Harb** is chair of the Department of Psychology and Associate Professor of Social Psychology at AUB. He is a social and political psychologist interested in research on identities and group dynamics, with a special focus on the Arab world. His research includes investigating sectarianism, social identities, identity motives and preferences, self-concept across cultures, values, and life satisfaction. He has collaborated on cross-cultural projects on identities, emotions, social axioms, organizational behavior, and values. He is the author of numerous articles and studies for the *European Institute of the Mediterranean Yearbook*, the United Nations, *Asian Journal of Social Psychology*, *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, *Journal of Applied Psychology* and other institutions and publications. He is currently working on intergroup distances, sectarian and group dynamics, and identities within the Lebanese socio-political context and the larger Arab world. He has also consulted on several United Nations related projects

**Marcia C. Inhorn**, PhD, MPH, is the William K. Lanman, Jr. Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs in the Department of Anthropology and The Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale University. A specialist on Middle Eastern gender, religion, and health issues, Inhorn has conducted research on the social impact of infertility and assisted reproductive technologies in Egypt, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, and Arab America over the past 30 years. She is the author of five books on the subject, including her latest, *Cosmopolitan Conceptions: IVF Sojourns in Global Dubai* (Duke University Press, 2015). She is also the co-editor of nine books, the founding editor of the *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies (JMEWS)*, and co-editor of the Berghahn Book series on "Fertility, Reproduction, and Sexuality." She has served as president of the Society for Medical Anthropology of the American Anthropological Association; on the Board of Directors of the Middle East Studies Association; and as director of Middle East centers at both Yale and University of Michigan. Inhorn has been a visiting faculty member at the American University of Beirut, the American University of Sharjah, and the University of Cambridge. She has received numerous awards, including the American Anthropological Association's Robert B. Textor and Family Prize, the AAA's Eileen Basker and Diana Forsythe Prizes, the JMEWS Book Award in Middle East gender studies, and the Middle East Distinguished Scholar award from the AAA's Middle East Section. Currently, Inhorn is writing a book on Arab refugee reproductive health, which is under contract with Stanford University Press. She is also completing a two-year National Science Foundation-funded research study on oocyte cryopreservation (egg freezing) for both medical and elective fertility preservation.

**Fadlo R. Khuri, MD** is the President of the American University of Beirut. He was previously Professor and Chairman of the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology, Emory University School of Medicine, and held the Roberto C. Goizueta Distinguished Chair for Cancer Research. He also served as Deputy Director for the Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University and as the Executive Associate Dean for Research of the Emory University School of Medicine. An accomplished molecular oncologist, Dr. Khuri's clinical expertise and research are focused on the development of molecular, prognostic, therapeutic, and chemopreventive approaches to improve the standard of care for patients with lung and aerodigestive cancers. He has conducted seminal research on oncolytic viral therapy, developed approaches to integrate molecularly targeted therapies by combining signal transduction inhibitors with chemotherapy, pioneered novel induction and window of opportunity trials, and led major cooperative group chemoprevention efforts for these cancers. He serves as Editor-in-Chief of *Cancer* and has published over 300 peer-reviewed articles in *Nature Medicine*, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, *Journal of Clinical Oncology* and other publications. Dr. Khuri has also served as a permanent member of multiple peer review committees for the *American Cancer Society*, *American Society of Clinical Oncology*, and the NCI, including currently serving as the Chair of the NIH's Clinical Oncology Study Section. He is the recipient of the *Nagi Sahyoun Award of the Middle East Medical Assembly*, the *Waun Ki Hong Distinguished Professorship* by the University of Texas MD Anderson, and the *2013 Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Memorial Award* from the AACR. He has been listed among America's Top Doctors by Castle Connolly for the last 8 years.

**Robert Myers** ([www.robert-myers.com](http://www.robert-myers.com)) is Professor of English and Creative Writing at AUB. He is co-director of AUB's Theater Initiative, a former director of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Center for American Studies (CASAR) and a founding member of Tahweel Ensemble Theater, a Beirut-based theater company. He is a playwright and cultural historian whose areas of interest include modern and contemporary literature and theater from the U.S., Latin American, Europe and the Arab world. His stage plays include *Atwater: Fixin' to Die*, *The Lynching of Leo Frank*, *Unmanned*, which he adapted as *Drone Pilots* for BBC's Radio 4, and *Mesopotamia* and *Twilight Country*, both of which featured Kathleen Chalfant. Plays



he has co-translated from Arabic with Nada Saab include *Baghdadi Bath*, by Jawad Al Assadi (produced at LaMama in New York); *The Dictator*, by ‘Issam Mahfouz (produced at the *Between the Seas* festival in New York, directed by Sahar Assaf); *Rituals of Signs and Transformations*, by Sa’dallah Wannous (produced with a grant from the MacArthur Foundation at Babel Theatre in Beirut, directed by Sahar Assaf); and *The Rape*, also by Wannous (produced at Irwin Theatre in Beirut, directed by Sahar Assaf). He is currently co-editing and co-translating *Sentence to Hope*, a Wannous reader, for Yale University Press’s Margellos World Republic of Letters with Nada Saab. He is the recipient of a Franke fellowship from Yale, two Fulbright fellowships, a Mellon grant and a New York State Individual Artist’s grant. His work has appeared in publications such as *PAJ*, *Theatre Research International*, *Middle East Critique* and *The New York Times*, for which he wrote one of the earliest articles about science and theater.

**Colin Smith** is Associate Professor and former chair in the Department of Biology at AUB. His principle areas of study are biochemistry and molecular evolution. His current interest focuses on how macromolecules evolve new recognition strategies. Neutral theories of evolution contend that for any given genotype, there are enough single-site mutants of neutral fitness such that paths exist between genotypes with different phenotypes. By traversing intersecting paths, genetic drift can lead to new phenotypes. Complexes of arginine-rich peptides and small RNAs are structurally diverse, found mediating important regulatory events, and are attractive models of recognition. Computational modeling of evolving RNA secondary structures strongly supports neutral theories, where RNA sequences are genotypes and their secondary structures represent phenotypes. Other current research interests include steroid biotransformation and applications of molecular biology to natural science. He has taught “Introduction to Biochemistry,” “Genetics,” and “Molecular Genetics” at AUB. His research has appeared in *Journal of Bacteriology*, *Steroids*, *Journal of Cancer Science and Therapy*, *Journal of Plant Studies*, *Journal of Molecular Recognition* and other publications.

### **The organizers would like to express their special appreciation to:**

President Fadlo R. Khuri, MD  
Provost Muhamad Harajli  
Dean of FAS Nadia al Cheikh  
Professor Sonja Mejcher-Atassi  
Department of English  
Former Dean of FAS Patrick McGreevy  
Former Director of CAH Maher Jarrar  
CASAR  
Associate Dean Colin Smith  
Professor Charles Harb  
Rita Bassil  
Nancy Batakji Sanyoura  
Yolla Hassan Haidar  
Rawan Nasser  
AUB 150<sup>th</sup> Planning Committee  
Jennifer Muller  
Madonna Jindy