



2014-2015



The Anis Makdisi Program in Literature

برنامج أنيس المقدسي للآداب في الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت

The Anis Makdisi Program in Literature (AMPL) was inaugurated at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the American University of Beirut in October 2002. The aim of the program is to promote and support interdisciplinary dialogue, develop literary and humanistic studies at AUB, and encourage openness to different cultural forms and traditions in literature, in keeping with the approaches elaborated in the work of Anis K. Makdisi. The Program fosters intellectual dialogue and scholarly exchange among members of different departments, their students, and visiting scholars. The Program's activities include seminars, lecture series, workshops and conferences on various topics in cultural and literary studies, in order to provide a forum for scholarly dialogue among the various academic communities in Lebanon. In addition, two student scholarships are awarded annually; a graduate fellowship to support graduate studies in literature at AUB, and an undergraduate scholarship for undergraduate studies. The centerpiece of the program is the Anis K. Makdisi Memorial Lecture, held annually at AUB, and given by a leading scholar or author. The Program continued its varied activities in the academic year 2014-2015 while working closely with different programs and departments at AUB as well as with educational, academic and cultural institutions and intellectuals from Lebanon and abroad. Most of the events have been covered by the media, press, and online forums.

PEOPLE

Honorary Members

Dorman, Peter	President
Dallal, Ahmad	Provost
McGreevy, Patrick	FAS Dean

Director

El-Bizri, Nader

Advisory Committee

Dallal, Ahmad

Harb, Sirene

Jarrar, Maher

Khairallah, Asaad

Makdisi, Saree (UCLA)

Affiliated Doctoral Candidate

Farrahi, Abdullah (University of Tehran)

Graduate Assistant

Nuwayhid, Wissam

EVENTS

“Guitar Night 6”

An Assembly Hall concert with Maestro Michel Jureidini and his apprentices

21 August 2014

“The Other Architecture:

Geometry, Vernacular Architecture and Hassan Fathy”

A Lecture by Salma Samar Damluji

22 September 2014

“The Art of Arabic Letters:

The calligraphic paintings of Samir Sayegh”

A Panel with Samir Sayegh and Nader El-Bizri

29 October 2014

“Le Christ dans les doctrines druze et nusayrite”

A Lecture in French by Jad Hatem

26 November 2014

“Middle Eastern Films Before Thy Gaze Returns to Thee—in Less than 1/24 of a Second”

A Lecture with film footage by Jalal Toufic

24 February 2015

“Asad Rustum: Founder of the Modern Science of History in the Arab World”

**A Lecture in Arabic organized in association with the *Liqā’ al-Orthodoxi* by
Rev. George Berberi, introduced and moderated by Amal Dibo**

26 March 2015

“The Codicology of Islamic Manuscripts”

**Week long International Workshop organized in collaboration with The
Islamic Manuscript Association, Thesaurus Islamicus, Jafet Library, and
CAMES**

20-24 April 2015

“The Value of Paper”

**A Lecture by Jan Just Witkam, organized in collaboration with The Islamic
Manuscript Association, Thesaurus Islamicus, Jafet Library, and CAMES**

22 April 2015

“Philistine Aesthetics”

**A Panel by Justin E. H. Smith and Catherine Hansen, organized in association
with AHI, CAMES and SOAM at AUB**

20 April 2015

“Social Thought and Theory in the MENA Region:

Comparative Methods in Studying Religion and Society”

**An International bilingual Arabic/English Conference organized in association
with CAMES and SOAM**

25-26 April 2015

“Marx, Mroueh, Mahdi”

A bilingual Arabic/English symposium on Marxist thinkers in Lebanon, organized in association with the Council for Research on Values and Philosophy at NDU, The Red Oak students’ club at AUB, and the Mahdi Amel Foundation in Beirut

5-7 May 2015

“Scripture, Poetry, and the Making of a Community: Reading the Qur'an as a Literary Text”

The Anis Makdisi Memorial Lecture 2015, offered by the eminent scholar Angelika Neuwirth, and introduced by Nader El-Bizri

20 May 2015

PUBLICATIONS

An edited volume of studies in Arabic on the legacy of Asad Rustum, published in association with Dar al-Farabi, Beirut 2015: [*Asad Rustum: Mu’assis ‘ilm al-tarikh fi al-‘alam al-‘arabi*], eds. L. Shehadeh, S. Sleem, M. Jarrar, N. El-Bizri

The second print of a book consisting a collection of papers in Arabic by Nizar Mroue on music theory and criticism, compiled by Mohammad Dakroub, and published in association with Dar al-Farabi, Beirut 2014: [*Fi al-musiqah al-lubnaniyya wa’l-‘arabiyya, wa’l-masrah al-ghina’i al-Rahbani*]

Multi-authored *cahiers* in Arabic on the legacy of Nizar Mroue, published by the AUB, Beirut 2014: [*Nizar Mroue fi ‘awalimih al-thaqafiyya wa fi durub hayatih*]

PROJECTS

Hosting the “Lotus Project” that is coordinated at Aub by Dr. Tariq Mehmood, and that aims at documenting and examining the legacy, impact and current relevance of the works of the anti-colonial writers of the Afro-Asian Writer's Association (AAWA) and their journal Lotus, which was published in Arabic, English and French from Cairo and Beirut between the 1960s and the late 1980s.

Restoring a 19th century Arabic manuscript from Iraq and safekeeping it at the Jafet Library archives

Publishing a glossy illustrated and in color new AMPL catalogue

Conducting research at the Jafet Library archives on pre-modern Arabic scientific sources

Establishing a descriptive inventory of old scientific instruments at AUB

Nader El-Bizri

Director

(AUB, May 2015)