

ANIS MAKDISI PROGRAM IN LITERATURE
Annual Report 2006-07

A. SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

The Anis Makdisi Program in Literature (AMPL) was inaugurated in October 2002. The aim of the program is to promote and support an interdisciplinary dialogue, develop literary and humanistic studies at AUB and to encourage an 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 has continued its varied activities in the academic year 2006-2007 working closely together with different programs and departments at AUB as well as with educational, academic and cultural institutions and intellectuals from Lebanon and abroad.

Our main achievement this year has been a close collaboration with the very prestigious international research institute, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin.

Much of our energy this year was dedicated to launching the AMPL website (<http://staff.aub.edu.lb/~webamp1/index.htm>). The website Master: **Wissam Yassine**

Advisory Committee:

Sirine Harb

Peter Heath

Maher Jarrar (Director)

As'ad Khairallah

Andrew Long (October 2002-February 2006)

Saree Makdisi (UCLA)

Graduate Assistants

Feghali, Zalfa BA (1st semester)

B. ACTIVITIES

1. Conferences

- Oct. 2-13, 2006: International Summer Academy

EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE EAST - THE MIDDLE EAST IN EUROPE
(WISSENSCHAFTSKOLLEG ZU BERLIN) & **ANIS MAKDISI PROGRAM IN LITERATURE**. In cooperation with the **HEINRICH BOELL FOUNDATION** Middle East Office and **THE GERMAN ORIENT INSTITUTE**
SUMMER ACADEMY
TRAVELLING TRADITIONS: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON NEAR EASTERN LITERATURES

Monday, October 2

20.30 - 22.00 **Keynote Speech**

PETER HEATH

Foundations and Meta-Practice: Genealogy, Metonymy, and Analogy as Principles for Organizing Literary Study.

Welcome and Moderation: Maher Jarrar and Angelika Neuwirth in Bathish Theatre in West Hall, AUB Campus

Afterwards: Welcome Coctail at Gefinor Rotana Hotel, at the C-floor foyer starting at 22:00pm

Tuesday, October 3

10.30 – 11.30 **Plenary Discussion:** Format and Agenda

Introduction: Friederike Pannewick and Samah Selim

11.30 - 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.30 **Working Groups - Presentation of Projects 1**

Group A (Selim/Hafez)

Sinan Antoon, *The Sub-Version of a Genre: The Iraqi Prose Poem*

Comment: Barbara Winckler

Group B (Pannewick)

Christiane Schlote, *Beyond Hegemony: Anglophone Arab Literature and the Postcolonial Canon*

Comment: Asli Igsiz

Group C (Neuwirth/Ashour)

Refqa Abu Remaileh, *The Representation of the Anti-Hero in Modern Arabic Literature and Film*

Comment: Dina Heshmat

13.30 – 15.00 LUNCH

15.00 – 16.30 **Discussion**

ELIAS KHOURY

Words and War. Press, Media, Literature and Representations of Violence

Moderation: Radwa Ashour

20.30 - 22.00 **Lecture**

RADWA ASHOUR

The Road Not Taken: A Reassessment of Chidiac's Adventures of Fariac

Moderation: Sabry Hafez

Wednesday, October 4

10.00 – 11.30 **Reading & Discussion**

MOURID BARGHOUTI

I saw Ramallah

Moderation: Friederike Pannewick

11.30 - 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.30 **Working Groups - Thematic Discussions 1**

Group A: **Rethinking the Colonial Model of Literary History** (Samah Selim)

Walter D. Mignolo “Rethinking the Colonial Model.”

Group B: Friederike Pannewick, **The Global Dimensions of Middle Eastern Literature**

Stephan Guth: “The Simultaneity of the Non-Simultaneous. The Global Dimensions of Middle Eastern Literature (esp. in the 19th Century).”

13.30 – 15.00 LUNCH

15.00 – 16.30 **Working Groups - Presentation of Projects 2**

Group A (Selim)

Stuart Reigeluth, *Detaching from Europe and Connecting the Mediterranean Basin*.

Comment: Elizabeth Bishop

Group B (Pannewick/Hafez)

Hani Hanafi, *Reconstructing the Past: History in the Modern Arabic Novel*.

Comment: Erol Kroglu

Group C (Neuwirth/Ashour)

Sadiha Boonstra, *Remix: The Story of Layla and Majnun in the National Cultures of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Iran*.

Comment: Mariam Nanobashvili

20.30 - 22.00 **Film**

ABOUT BAGHDAD

a Film by In-Counter Production. Followed by a Discussion with the Co-Author and Co-Producer **SINAN ANTOON**

Thursday, October 5

10.00 – 11.30 **Working Groups - Presentation of Projects 3**

Group A (Selim/Hafez)

Michael Marx, *Deciphering Giovanni Di Plano Carpini 's Travel Account to the Mongul Court (1245-1247)*.

Comment: Aminur Rahman

Group B (Pannewick)

Asli Igsiz, *Poetics and Practice of “Minor” Literature in the Western Institutions: A Contemporary Case Study*.

Comment: Frode Saugestad

Group C (Neuwirth/Ashour)

Nino Dolidze, *Maqama in the 20th Century Arabic Literature*.

Comment: Rajeev Kinra

11.30 - 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.30 **Working Groups - Thematic Discussions 2**

Group A: **The Comparative Paradigm** (Asli Igsiz)

Texts: Emily Apter: “‘Je ne crois pas beaucoup à la littérature comparée:’ Universal Poetics and Postcolonial Comparatism”, and Caryl Emerson, “Answering for Central and Eastern Europe.” Comparative Literature in an Age of Globalization.

Group B: **Literature and the Problem of the Secular** (Michael Allen)

Texts: Talal Asad: *Genealogies of Religion: Discipline and Reasons of Power in Christianity and Islam*; and Talal Asad: *Formations of the Secular: Christianity, Islam, Modernity*.

13.30 – 15.00 LUNCH

15.00 – 16.30 **Lecture**

TARIF KHALIDI

Anbara Salam in England, 1924-1926

Moderation. Angelika Neuwirth

20.30 - 22.00 **Lecture**

SAMAH SELIM

Pharaoh’s Revenge: Translation, Literary History and ‘The Colonial Difference’.

Moderation: Sabry Hafez

Friday, October 6

10.00 – 11.30 **Lecture**

FAWWAZ TARABOULSI

The Representation of Social Problems in the Musical Theatre of the Rahbani Brothers and Fairuz.

Moderation: Angelika Neuwirth

11.30 - 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.30 **Working Groups - Presentation of Projects 4**

Group A (Selim)

Elizabeth Bishop, *Fanon in Furs: Theorist for North Africa’s National Liberation in Russian Translation*.

Comment: Michael Marx

Group B (Pannewick/Hafez)

Atef Botros, *Tradition’s Criticism in Taha Hussein’s Reading of Franz Kafka*.

Comment: Hani Hanafi

Group C (Neuwirth/Ashour)

Zalfa Feghali, *Personal and Political Space in Mehdi Charef’s Tea in the Harem*.

Comment: Refqa Abu Remeileh

13.30 – 15.00 LUNCH

15.00 – 16.30 **Working Groups - Thematic Discussions 3**

Group A: **Orientalism Institutionalized – Qur’anic Studies as a Case in Point** (Angelika Neuwirth)

Group B: **Assimilation, Allegory, and Struggle** (Elizabeth Bishop)

Frantz Fanon: *The Wretched of the Earth* (166-199).

Group C: **The Shaping of Identity and a Literature Without Borders**

(Frode Saugestad)

M. M. Bakhtin: *Toward a Philosophy of the Act* (56-75); Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak: *Death of a Discipline* (1-23).

20.30 - 22.30 **Poetry Evening**

ABBAS BEYDOUN & MOURID BARGHOUTI

Moderation: Assad Khairallah

Saturday, October 7

Afternoon Tour through Zoqaq al-Blat guided by Ralph Bodenstein Afterwards ca. 19.00

Dinner at a Restaurant

Sunday, October 8

19.00 – 21.30 **Memory and Memory Politics.**

An evening with Luqman Slim and Monika Borgmann at their Hangar

Monday, October 9

10.00 – 11.30 **Working Groups - Presentation of Projects 5**

Group A (Selim/Hafez)

Aminur Rahman, *The Gaze Returned: The Empire in Indian Travelogues.*

Comment: Stuart Reigeluth

Group B (Pannewick)

Stephan Milich, *Travelling Spectres – Palestinian and Iraqi Poetry of Exile.*

Comment: Francesca Prevedello

Group C (Neuwirth/Ashour)

Dina Heshmat, *“Cosmopolitan ” Alexandria in Literary Illustrations and its Assessments at the Literary Criticism Level: A North-South Comparison Between Egyptian and Non-Egyptian Writers.*

Comment: Sadiyah Boonstra

11.30 - 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.30 **Working Groups - Thematic Discussions 4**

Group A: **History in the Novel** (Hani Hanafi)

Samia Mehrez: *Egyptian Writers Between History and Fiction: Essays on Naguib Mahfouz, Sonallah Ibrahim, and Gamal al-Ghitani.*

Group B: **Literature as Heritage** (Saadia Boonstra)

Joep Leerssen: “Literature as Heritage? Canon, Tradition, and Identity.”

13.30 – 15.00 LUNCH

15.00 – 16.30 **PLENARY DISCUSSION**

Literature, Translation and Genres of Writing

with **Abbas Beydoun & Rashid Daif**

Moderation: Sabry Hafez

20.30 - 22.00 Lecture

SABRY HAFEZ

Translation and Popular Traditions in Arabic Narrative: The Case of Mahfouz.

Moderation: Radwa Ashour

Tuesday, October 10

10.00 – 11.30 **Working Groups - Presentation of Projects 6**

Group A (Selim)

Ivo Spira, *Languages Rewritten: Isms as a Force of Change. The Impact of Isms on Chinese, Russian and Arabic: A Comparative Study on Language Modernisation.*

Comment: Michael Allen

Group B (Pannewick)

Erol Koroglu, *Perpetual Struggle of the Nation in Turkish Narratives of the Independence War: Literary Cultural History of a Thematic Genre*.

Comment: Stephan Milich

Group C (Neuwirth)

Rajeev Kinra, *Secretary-Poets in Mughal India and the Ethos of Persian: The Case of Chandar Bhan "Braham."*

Comment: Babür Turna

11.30 - 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.30 **Working Groups - Presentation of Projects 7**

Group A (Selim)

Barbara Winckler, *Gender Transgressions or How is Gender Reflected in Modern Arabic Literature?*

Comment: Sinan Antoon

Group B (Pannewick)

Francesca Prevedello, *From the Novel to the Screen: The Adaptation of Western and Egyptian Novels in Egypt between the Thirties and the Sixties*.

Comment: Atef Botros

Group C (Neuwirth)

Mariam Nanobashvili, *The Prose Romance of Barlam and Ioasaph*.

Comment: Zalfa Feghali

13.30 – 15.00 LUNCH

15.00 – 16.30 **Panel Discussion**

What and Where is World Literature?

Introduction: **Samah Selim**

20.30 - 22.00 **Lecture**

FRIEDERIKE PANNEWICK

The Performative Potential of Tradition.

At: Orient Institut Beirut, R. Hussein Beyhum, Zokat el-Blat

Moderation: Angelika Neuwirth

Wednesday, October 11

10.00 – 11.30 **WORKING GROUPS - Thematic Discussions 5**

Group A: **Cosmopolitanism, Hospitality, and Cities of Refuge** (Dina Heshmat)

Jacques Derrida, *On Cosmopolitanism and Forgiveness*.

Group B: **Alienation and Self-Creation: Locating Arab American**

Identities (Christina Schlote)

Text: Lisa Suhair Majaj: "Boundaries: Arab/American." *Food for Our Grandmothers*.

11.30 - 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.30 **WORKING GROUPS - Presentation of Projects 8**

Group A (Selim)

Michael Allan, *The Limits of Secular Criticism: On Critical Reading in Colonial Egypt*.

Comment: Ivo Spira

Group B (Pannewick)

Frode Saugestad, *Individuation and the Shaping of Personal Identity*.

Comment: Christiane Schlote

Group C (Neuwirth)

Babür Turna, *Ottoman “Nasihatname ” and European Utopia Literature in the Early Modern Period (1400-1600)*.

Comment: Nino Dolidze

13.30 – 15.00 LUNCH

15.00 – 16.30 **Working Groups – Thematic Discussions 6**

Group 1: **The Culture and Politics of Persian in South Asia** (Rajeev Kinra)

Muzaffar Alam: “The Culture and Politics of Persian in Precolonial Hindustan.”

Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi: *Refashioning Iran: Orientalism, Occidentalism, and Historiography*.

Group 2: **Influence, Intertextuality, and Transnational Literary Contexts**

(Erol Koroglu)

Jay Clayton and Eric Rothstein: “Figures in the Corpus: Theories of Influence and Intertextuality.”

Franco Moretti: “Conjectures on World Literature.”

20.30 - 22.00 **Panel Discussion**

Beirut. City of Vernacular Cosmopolitanism

Samir Khalaf, Elias Khoury, Jean Said Makdisi, Fawwaz Taraboulsi

Moderation: Stefan Weber

Thursday, October 12

10.00 – 11.30 **Lecture**

ANGELIKA NEUWIRTH

Ink vs. Blood: Biblical and Qur’anic Mnemonics in the Martyr Discourse reflected in Near Eastern Literature and Art.

Moderation: Friederike Pannewick

11.30 - 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.30 **Working Groups** - Discussion of Further Research Agenda

PUBLIC LECTURES & DISCUSSIONS & FILM

Monday, October 2, 2006, 20.30

Professor Peter Heath (American University in Beirut), *Foundations and Meta-Practice: Genealogy, Metonymy, and Analogy as Principles for Organizing Literary Study*.

Tuesday, October 3, 2006, 20.30

Professor Radwa Ashour (Ain Shams University, Cairo)

The Road Not Taken: A Reassessment of Chidiac's Adventures of Fariac.

Wednesday, October 4, 2006, 10.00

Reading: Mourid Barghouti (Palestine), *I Saw Ramallah*.

Wednesday, October 4, 2006, 20.30

About Baghdad, a Film a Film by In-Counter Production. Followed by a Discussion with the Co-Author and Co-Producer Sinan Antoon (Baghdad / New York)

Thursday, October 5, 2006, 15.00

Professor Tarif Khalidi (AUB), *Anbara Salam in England, 1924-1926*.

Thursday, October 5, 2006, 20.30

Dr. Samah Selim (Marseille), *Pharaoh ’s Revenge: Translation, Literary History and ‘The Colonial Difference’*.

Friday, October 6, 2006, 10.00

Professor Fawwaz Taraboulsi (Lebanese American University), *The Representation of Social Problems in the Musical Theatre of the Rahbani Brothers and Fairuz*.

Friday, October 6, 2006, 20.30

Poetry Evening with Abbas Beydoun (Beirut) & Mourid Barghouti (Palestine)

Moderation: Assad Khairallah

Monday, October 9, 2006, 20.30

Professor Sabry Hafez (SOAS, London), Translation and Popular Traditions in Arabic

Narrative: The Case of Mahfouz.

Moderation: Radwa Ashour

Tuesday, October 10, 2006, 20.30

Professor Friederike Pannewick (Oslo University), The Performative Potential of Tradition.

At: Orient Institute Beirut, R. Hussein Beyhum, Zokaq el-Blat

Wednesday, October 11, 2006, 20.30

Panel Discussion: Samir Khalaf, Elias Khoury, Jean Said Makdisi, Fawwaz Taraboulsi

Beirut. City of Vernacular Cosmopolitanism.

Moderation: Stefan Weber

Thursday, October 12, 2006, 10.00

Professor Angelika Neuwirth (Free University Berlin), Ink vs. Blood: Biblical and Qur'anic Mnemonics in the Martyr Discourse reflected in Near Eastern Literature and Art.

2. Exhibitions

- Monday, February 5 – 12, 2007; Opening Wednesday, February 7, at 5:00 pm West Hall, Common Room

“Bertha von Suttner. An Exhibition of her Life and Works.”

Introduced by Samira Khoury (AUB; International Vice President of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom).

Under the auspices of His Excellency the Austrian Ambassador to Lebanon Dr. Georg Markhof. Together with *The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom* and *The Arab Women Solidarity Association Lebanon*.

3. Work-shops

- Monday, March 12- Friday 16, 2007

Najwa Barakat, *A Seminar on: Arabic Creative Writing*.

The Lebanese renowned writer and novelist living in France gave a crash seminar on Arabic Creative Writing to students from AUB (together with Dr. As'ad Khairrah in Arabic 251F).

4. General Lecture Series

- Wednesday, March 28, 2007, 5:00 pm West Hall, Auditorium B

In Honor of Shafiq Juha. تكريم المرثي شفيق جحى

- Wednesday, April 18, 2007, 6:00 pm West Hall, Auditorium B

Dr. Lale Behzadi, “*Inspired Inspiration: Coethe’s Faust and Arabic Literature.*”

- Thursday, April 19, 2007, 6:00 pm West Hall, Auditorium B

Professors Martha Mundy and Richard Smith, “*Land and Property in Bilad al-Sham under the Ottoman Tanzimat.*”

- Wednesday, April 25, 2007, 6:00 pm West Hall, Auditorium B

Dr. Arnim Heinemann, “*ما أحلى القمر مثل القمر*”: *World-Music in Contemporary Arabic Literary Texts.*

5. May Memorial Lecture

- Thursday, May 24, 2007, 7 pm West Hall, Bathish Theatre

His Excellency Archbishop Georges Khodr: *al-Masīhiyyūn al-‘Arab.*

G. Future Development

To continue along the lines of our mandate as elaborated above in section A.

Director,

Maher Jarrar