

Anis K. Makdisi
Program in Literature

International Summer Academy 2006



“Travelling Traditions: Comparative Perspectives on Near Eastern Literatures”

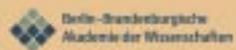
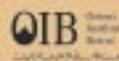


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October 2–13, 2006 | AUB





The Berlin-based research program *Europe in the Middle East - the Middle East in Europe* and the *Anis Makdisi Program in Literature* of the American University of Beirut are convening an international Summer Academy from 2 to 13 October, 2006 at the American University of Beirut on the theme 'Travelling Traditions: Comparative Perspectives on Near Eastern Literatures'. The Summer Academy is chaired by Professor Friederike Pannewick (Oslo) and Dr Samah Selim (Marseilles) and is held in cooperation with the *Orient Institute in Beirut* and the *Heinrich Böll Foundation Middle East Office*.

Twenty-four young scholars from eighteen different countries will be given the opportunity to present and discuss their current research, while a group of leading scholars from the field of Comparative Literature and Near Eastern Literatures will act as tutors. Intellectuals, writers and scholars from Lebanon will participate in the Summer Academy. The thematic focus will be on comparativist approaches to the study of literature in and across the Middle East and Europe, from early modernity onwards, through the prism of three main and interrelated issues.

The first section will explore modern canon formation in the literary traditions of the Middle East, and its relation to a hegemonic European system of national philology. Scholars are encouraged to explore the internal power of tradition-building and its relation to the politics of historical memory and nation-building. As such, this section will emphasize the diversity of textual and critical traditions, and their anarchic potential in a modern field of national literatures intersected by strict notions of autonomous cultural identities. These questions aim to foster comparative perspectives on conceptualizations of literary 'renaissance' in and beyond Arab, Persian or Turkish traditions, while broadening and problematizing the term itself as part of a wider comparative inquiry into Anglo-European intellectual history and cultural studies.



The second section will examine the formative role of translation and popular traditions in national literary histories. Here, scholars are encouraged to investigate the links between literary canons, translation and popular genres and to re-think established binaries – such as originality and imitation; ‘high’ and ‘low’ cultural forms - that shape the study of literature at large. This section also takes account of the fact that genres are themselves intrinsically porous. Scholars will be encouraged to explore and question the formal boundaries between what are usually considered distinct genres, like fiction, drama and prose poetry, as well as the mobility of literary genres across related cultural media, such as film and theatrical performance.

The third section focuses on the links between canon-formation and historical transformations in literary criticism and theory. Comparative histories of literary criticism would be of particular interest. How does literary theory travel across cultural, linguistic and discursive borders? Such movements into new locations are often distorted and impeded because they necessarily involve processes of representation and institutionalization different from those at the place of origin. The complex north/south itineraries of postmodernism and postcolonialism as well as Marxist and feminist theory are of particular interest in this context.

The Summer Academy is designed to support scholarly networks, to contribute to network formation and closer ties among research activities in and outside Europe and the Middle East, and to foster interdisciplinary research fields that will especially profit from intercultural cooperation. To promote intensive debate and to encourage new perspectives, the proposed format includes four main elements: presentations of individual research projects and working group sessions which are both limited to the participants only, and lectures and panel discussions, which are open to a wider public.

Travelling Traditions: Comparative Perspectives on Near Eastern Literatures is not only the theme of the Summer Academy but also a research field directed by Friederike Pannewick and Samah Selim that is an integral part of the multi-disciplinary Berlin-based research-program *Europe in the Middle East; the Middle East in Europe* of the *Berlin-Brandenburgische Academy of Sciences*, the *Fritz Thyssen Foundation* and the *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*. This research program emerged from the Working Group *Modernity and Islam* (1996-2006) of the *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*. It seeks to rethink key concepts and premises that divide Europe from the Middle East. Within the framework of several research fields in the disciplines of Literature, Political Philosophy, Urban History, Philology-cum-Late Antiquity, and Islamic Studies, the program will attempt to recollect the legacies of Europe in the Middle East and of the Middle East in Europe in an inclusive way that aims to do justice to their entanglements.
www.eume-berlin.de

The *Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences* is an association of more than 200 elected members which follows the tradition of the Academy of Sciences, conceived by Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz in 1700. Its purpose is to foster the sciences and the humanities. Its research profile is characterised by its efforts to promote cultural heritage, inter- and cross-disciplinary projects of scientific and social significance, as well as a dialogue between the sciences and society.
www.bbaw.de

The *Fritz Thyssen Foundation* is one of the largest private Foundations in Germany which supports since 1959 research and scholarship in universities and research institutes, primarily in the humanities, with special emphasis on the support of young scholars. (The Summer Academy is funded by the *Fritz Thyssen Foundation* with a contribution by the *Heinrich Böll Foundation*)
www.fritz-thyssen-stiftung.de



The *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*, founded in 1980, is an Institute for Advanced Study which offers outstanding researchers the opportunity to concentrate on their chosen research projects. With the help of an international Advisory Board, invitations to scholars and scientists, alone or bundled in thematic groups or emphases, are issued in a way calculated to promote mutual stimulation across disciplinary boundaries among the natural and social sciences and humanities and among researchers from different cultures of knowledge.
www.wiko-berlin.de

The *Heinrich Böll Foundation* is affiliated with the German Green Party and has its headquarters in Berlin. Its foremost task is civic education in Germany and abroad with the aim of promoting informed democratic opinion and socio-political commitment. Since its establishment in Beirut in 2004, the Foundation's Middle East Office provides spaces for regional debates on the main themes of citizenship, cultural globalization and sustainable development; seeks to enhance the dialogue between Europe and the region; and supports cooperation with civil society organizations.
www.Böll-meo.org

The *Orient Institute in Beirut* was established in 1961 by the *German Oriental Society (DMG)*. The Institute is mainly funded by the German Ministry of Education and Research and carries out and promotes research and documentation work, offers a forum for cooperation and academic exchange between scholars and scholarly institutions, publishes critical editions of classical texts as well as several series of academic studies, and maintains a specialised research library for Oriental Studies.
www.oidmg.org

The *Anis Makdisi Program in Literature (AMPL)* was inaugurated in October 2002. The aim of the program is to develop literary and humanistic studies at AUB and to encourage an openness to different cultural forms and traditions in literature. 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 to provide a forum for scholarly dialogue among the various academic communities in Lebanon. In addition, two student scholarships are awarded annually. The centerpiece of the program is the Anis K. Makdisi Memorial Lecture, held annually at AUB and given by a leading scholar or writer. The Program has continued its varied activities in the academic year 2005-2006 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.



Public Lectures in West Hall

Monday, October 2, 2006, 19.30

Provost Peter Heath, (American University of Beirut)

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

Tuesday, October 3, 2006, 19.30

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, 19.30

About Baghdad. About Baghdad, 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, 19.30

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, 20.00

Poetry Evening: Abbas Beydoun and Mourid Barghouti
Moderation: Assad Khairallah

Monday, October 9, 2006, 19.30

Professor Sabry Hafez (SOAS London)

Tuesday, October 10, 2006, 19.30

Professor Friederike Pannewick (Oslo University)

The Performative Potential of Tradition

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

Thursday, October 12, 2006, 10.00

Professor Angelika Neuwirth (Free University Berlin)

Mnemonics in the Martyr Discourse reflected in Near Eastern Literature and Art

Wednesday, October 11, 2006, 19.30

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

Beirut. City of Vernacular Cosmopolitanism

Moderation: Stefan Weber

Participants

REFQA ABU REMAILEH, Oxford
RADWA ASHOUR, Cairo
MICHAEL ALLAN, Berkeley
SINAN ANTOON, New York / Baghdad
MOURID BARGHOUTI, Palestine
ABBAS BEYDOUN, Beirut,
ELIZABETH BISHOP, Wilmington
SADIAH BOONSTRA, Amsterdam
ATEF BOTROS, Leipzig / Cairo
RASHID DAIF, Beirut
CATHERINE DAVID, Paris
NINO DOLIDZE, Tbilisi
ZALFA FEGHALI, Beirut
SABRY HAFEZ, London
HANY HANAFY, Tanta
DINA HESHMAT, Cairo
PETER HEATH (Provost), Beirut
ASLI IGSIZ, Ann Arbor / Istanbul
SAMIR KHALAF, Beirut
GEORGES KHALIL, Berlin
ASSAD KHAIRALLAH, Beirut
ELIAS KHOURY, Beirut
RAJEEV KINRA, Chicago
EROL KOROGLU, Istanbul
MAHER JARRAR, Beirut
MICHAEL MARX, Berlin
STEPHAN MILICH, Freiburg
MARIAM NANOBASHVILI, Tbilisi
ANGELIKA NEUWIRTH, Berlin
FRIEDERIKE PANNEWICK, Oslo
FRANCESCA PREVEDELLO, Venice
AMINUR RAHMAN, Manchester / Dhaka
STUART REIGELUTH, Toledo
JEAN SAID MAKDISSI, Beirut
FRODE SAUGESTAD, London
CHRISTIANE SCHLOTE, Bern
SAMAH SELIM, Marseilles
IVO SPIRA, Oslo
FAWWAZ TARABOULSI, Beirut

Program

Working Groups Discussing Projects

Working Group A (Sabry Hafez, Samah Selim)

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

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

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

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

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

Stuart Reigeluth, Detaching from Europe and Connecting the Mediterranean Basin

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

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

Working Group B (Sabry Hafez, Friederike Pannewick)

Stephan Milich, Travelling Spectres Palestinian and Iraqi Poetry of Exile

Atef Botros, Tradition's Criticism in Taha Hussein's Reading of Franz Kafka

Asli Igsiz, Poetics and Practice of "Minor" Literature in the Western Institutions: A Contemporary Case Study

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

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

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

Frode Saugestad, Individuation and the Shaping of Personal Identity

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

Working Group C (Radwa Ashour, Angelika Neuwirth)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

