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Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Center for Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies
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present

Nazira Zeineddine
Pioneer of Islamic Feminism

by

miriam cooke

Tuesday, February 19, 2019 | 5:30 pm | College Hall, Auditorium B1

In 1928, Nazira Zeineddine published Al-sufur w’al-hijab, a careful polemic against the niqab. Quoting liberally from the Qur’an and Hadith, she argued that the niqab is not Islamic and women are not lacking in reason and religion. A Druze from ‘Ayn Qani, she positioned herself paradoxically as an accomplished Muslim scholar and a secular cosmopolitan woman familiar with international politics and society. While many praised her, the ‘ulama’ and especially Shaikh al-Ghalayini attacked her for undermining Islam. Her faith-based cosmopolitanism was condemned as cultural betrayal. She published a rebuttal the following year, and then disappeared. Why?