

EUME

Europa im Nahen Osten
Der Nahe Osten in Europa

Summer Academy

**Aesthetics and Politics: Counter-Narratives, New Publics, and
the Role of Dissent in the Arab World**
AUC, Tahrir Square, September 16—27, 2012

Forum
Transregionale
Studien



THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
IN CAIRO
مركز دراسات الترجمة
Center for Translation Studies

Philipps



Universität
Marburg

SUMMER ACADEMY
AESTHETICS AND POLITICS
'COUNTER-NARRATIVES, NEW PUBLICS, AND THE ROLE OF DISSENT IN THE ARAB WORLD
September 16 – 27, 2012

CENTER FOR TRANSLATION STUDIES, American University in Cairo (AUC)
EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE EAST – THE MIDDLE EAST IN EUROPA (EUME)
FORUM TRANSREGIONALE STUDIEN, BERLIN

In cooperation with:
CENTER FOR NEAR AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES, PHILIPPS UNIVERSITY MARBURG
FACULTY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE, CAIRO UNIVERSITY

Schedule

Sunday, September 16

6.30pm – **Reception**
9.30pm

Monday, September 17

Main Venue: American University in Cairo, Tahrir Square, Downtown

9.30am – 11am **Introduction** (Oriental Hall)

Georges Khalil, Samia Mehrez, Friederike Pannewick, Samah Selim

11am - 11.30am Coffee Break

11.30am – 1pm **Project Presentations 1**

Group A / (Smart Room 120 Main):

Mohamed Elshahed (New York University):

*Revolutionary Modernism? Architecture and the Politics of Transition
in Egypt 1939-1965*

Chair: Samah Selim

Group B / (Marriott Room 109):

Sina Birkholz (Augsburg University / Fellow Max-Weber-Program):

*(Re-)writing Personal Stories: Women and Youth in Post-
Revolutionary Egypt*

Chair: Amal Equeiq

Group C / (Armenian Room 119):

Doa'a Embabi (Ain Shams University):

(Re)claiming Egyptian Public Sphere

Chair: Nora Parr

1pm -2pm Lunch

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2pm – 3.30pm **Thematic Discussions:**

Group 1 / (Marriott Room 109)

Modernity as a Political Canvas: Art, National Discourses and Western Canons in the Arab World

introduced by Nadia Radwan,

Texts: Winegar, Jessica: "Creative Reckonings: The Politics of Art and Culture in Contemporary Egypt", AUC Press, 2007, Chapter II, p. 88-130.
Scheid, Kirsten: "The Agency of Art and the Study of Arab Modernity", MIT Electronic Journal of Middle East Studies, 7, Spring 2007.

Group 2 / (Armenian Room 119)

Populism, Hegemony, and Resistance: the Articulation of Political Subjects in Space and Meaning

introduced by Walid el-Houri

Texts: Laclau, Ernesto. "Populism: What's in a name?". In: *Populism and the mirror of democracy*, 2005.
Arditi, Benjamin. "Review Essay: Populism is Hegemony is Politics? On Ernesto Laclau's On Populist Reason." *Constellations* 17:488-497, 2010.

7pm

Keynote address (in Arabic)

Elias Khoury (writer)

نحو مدونة أخلاقية و فكرية في زمن الثورات العربية

Towards an Intellectual and Ethical Code in the Time of the Arab Revolutions

Welcome remarks and Introduction :

Georges Khalil (Forum Transregionale Studien / EUME, Berlin)

Samia Mehrez (director, Center for Translation Studies, AUC)

Venue: Oriental Hall, AUC Tahrir Square

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Tuesday, September 18

9.30am - 11am **Project Presentations 2**

Group A / (Smart Room 120 Main):

Nancy Demerdash (Princeton University):

Of Political Prerogatives and Artistic Praxis

Chair: Peter Snowdon

Group B / (Marriott Room 109):

Laura Gribbon (SOAS, University of London):

Narratives of Martyrdom throughout the Egyptian Revolution, 2011-12

Chair: Helena Nassif

Group C / (Armenian Room 119):

Nora Parr (SOAS, University of London):

Nationalism, Subjectivity, Intertextuality: Palestinian Literature Re-Framing the Paradigm

Chair: Joseph Farag

11am - 11.30am Coffee Break

11.30am - 1pm **Thematic Discussions:**

Group 1 / (Marriott Room 109)

'Arab Spring' - a Social Nonmovement?

introduced by Friederike Pannewick & Rachid Ouassa (both Phillips University Marburg)

Text: Bayat, Asef, "Life as Politics: How Ordinary People Change the Middle East", Introduction

Group 2 / (Armenian Room 119)

The Body Politic: Senses, Embodiment and Aesthetics in the Internet Age

introduced by Michael Allan (University of Oregon)

Texts: Charles Hirschkind, "The Ethics of Listening"

Recommended: Richard Shusterman, "Somaesthetics: A Disciplinary Proposal"

Charles Hirschkind, "Experiments in Devotion Online: The Youtube Khutba"

1pm - 2pm Lunch

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2pm – 3.30pm ***The Role of Intellectuals in the Arab Revolutions: Panel discussion*** (in English)

Introduction: **Elias Khoury** (writer)

Venue: Oriental Hall, AUC Tahrir Square

7pm ***Lecture*** (in English)

Huda Lutfi (visual artist and cultural historian)

The Artist and the Historical Moment: A Testimony

Introduction: Samia Mehrez (director, Center for Translation Studies, AUC)

Venue: Oriental Hall, AUC Tahrir Square

Wednesday, September 19

9.30am - 11am **Project Presentations 3**

Group A / (Smart Room 120 Main):

Nadia Radwan (Geneva University):

Arts and Politics in Egyptian Uprisings: A Cultural Awakening?

Chair: Georgina Nicoarea

Group B / (Marriott Room 109):

Mark Westmoreland (American University in Cairo):

Political Evidence: Documentary Aesthetics in Lebanon and Egypt

Chair: Sina Birkholz

Group C / (Armenian Room 119):

Hanan Badr (Erfurt University / Cairo University):

Internet Activism and Aesthetics in Egypt's Online Political Communication

Chair: Doa'a Embabi

11am – 11.30am Coffee Break

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11.30am -
1pm

Thematic Discussions:

Group 1 / (Marriott Room 109)

Hip Hop as Rebellious and Religiously Inspired Counter-Narrative

introduced by Igor Gatzsche

Texts: Pinn, Anthony B. "Introduction. Making a World with a Beat: Musical Expressions's Relationship to Religious Identity and Experience" in *Noise and Spirit: The religious and Spiritual Sensibilities of Rap Music*.

Taylor, Mark Lewis "Bringing Noise, Conjuring Spirit: Rap as Spiritual Practice" in *Noise and Spirit: The religious and Spiritual Sensibilities of Rap Music*.

Abrams, Nathan D. "Antonio's B-Boys: Rap, Rappers, and Gramsci's Intellectuals", *Popular Music and Society*

Group 2 / (Armenian Room 119)

Political Change in the City

introduced by Mohammed Elshahed

Texts: Pyla, Panayiota. "Baghdad's urban restructuring" in: *Aesthetics and the politics of nation building*, 1958

Fahmy, Ziad. "Political Centralization" in: *Ordinary Egyptians: Creating the modern national Through popular culture*

7pm

Literature, Revolution and Politics: Panel discussion (in Arabic)

الأدب و الثورة و السياسة

Introduction: Elias Khoury (writer)

Welcome remarks: Randa Aboubakr (Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Cairo University)

Discussant: Samia Mehrez (director, Center of Translation Studies, AUC)

Panellist:

Ezzedine Choukri Fishere (writer and academic)

Mona Prince (writer, academic, and activist)

Mohammad Rabie (writer)

Ahmed Sultan (journalist and activist)

Venue: Cairo University, Faculty of Arts, Conference Room (First Floor-History Building)

Recommended Readings: Ezzedine Choukri Fishere, *Baab al-Khuruuj*; Mona Prince, *Ismi Thawra*; Mohammed Rabie, *'aam al-Tinniin*; Ahmed Sultan, *Ajindat al-Thawra*,

<http://www.aucegypt.edu/gapp/cairoreview/Pages/articleDetails.aspx?aid=232>

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Thursday, September 20

- 9.30am – 11am **Project Presentations 4**
- Group A / (Smart Room 120 Main):
Yvonne Albers (Philipps-University Marburg):
The Artist and his Public – Theoretical and Artistic Self-Reflection in Contemporary Lebanese Art
Chair: Nancy Demerdash
- Group B / (Marriott Room 109):
Yakein Abdelmagid (Duke University):
Artists and Art of Living: Labor, Aesthetics and Politics
Chair: Laura Gribbon
- Group C / (Armenian Room 119):
Hania Sobhy (SOAS, University of London/EUME-Fellow 2012/13):
Passionate Politics in the Aftermath of the 'Egyptian Revolution': Salafi and Revolutionary Mobilization in the 2012 Presidential Elections
Chair: Ali Sonay
- 11am - 11.30am Coffee Break
- 11.30am – 1pm **Project Presentations 5**
- Group A / (Smart Room 120 Main):
Georgiana Nicoarea (University of Bucharest):
Graffiti in the Arab World – Youth Identity between Tradition and Modernity
Chair: Judith Bihl
- Group B / (Marriott Room 109):
Lewis IV Sanders (American University in Cairo):
Curating an Uprising: The Dynamics of Art and Revolution on the Egyptian Street
Chair: Igor Gatzsche
- Group C / (Armenian Room 119):
Ghada Al-Akhdar (Modern Sciences and Arts University):
Promoting Cultural Diversity Online
Chair: Walid El Houry
- 1pm -2pm Lunch

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2pm –
3.30pm

Thematic Discussion

Group 1 / (Marriott Room 109)

Censorship and Aesthetic Transgression

introduced by Julia Clauß

Texts: Valabrega, Jean-Paul “Fondement psycho-politique de la censure”, in:
Communications 9:114-212.

Group 2 / (Armenian Room 119)

The Positionality of the Researcher in regard to Culture and Political Practice

introduced by Helena Nassif

Texts: Sabry, Tarik. “Arab Cultural Studies: Between 'Reterritorialisation' and 'Deterritorialisation'” in Sabry, T. (ed.) *Arab Cultural Studies: Mapping the Field*. London: I.B.Tauris, 2011: p.1-21.

Crossa, Veronica. “Relational Positionality: Conceptualizing Research, Power and the Everyday Politics of Neoliberalization in Mexico City. *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies*. 2012, 11(1): 110-132.

Friday, September 21

Free

Saturday, September 22

Free

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Sunday, September 23

- 9.30am - 11am **Project Presentations 6**
- Group A / (Smart Room 120 Main):
Ilka-Susanna Eickhof (Otto-Suhr-Institut für Politikwissenschaft, Berlin):
Pretty Interventions – A Critical Analysis of the Regulation of Contemporary Art and Cultural Politics in Amman and Cairo (and Damascus)
Chair: Nadia Radwan
- Group B / (Marriott Room 109):
Helena Nassif (Arab Council for the Social Sciences, Beirut):
Who Crosses the Patriotic Border? Fiction, Protest and Stardom. The Case of Muna Wassef
Chair: Yakein Abdelmagid
- Group C / (Armenian Room 119):
Joseph R. Farag (University of London):
Write of Return: The Palestinian Short Story in Exile
Chair: Julia Clauß
- 11am – 11.30am Coffee Break
- 11.30am- 1pm **Project Presentations 7**
- Group A / (Smart Room 120 Main):
Peter Snowdon (University of Hasselt):
The Possibility of a Community: Documentary Film Practice after the Arab Spring
Chair: Yvonne Albers
- Group B / (Marriott Room 109):
Igor Gatzsche (Hamburg University):
Hip Hop in Egypt. Rebellion and Religion in North-African Popular Culture
Chair: Lewis IV Sanders
- Group C / (Armenian Room 119):
Ali Sonay (Philipps-University Marburg):
Becoming Political and Global in Egyptian Youth Movements
Chair: Hanan Badr
- 1pm - 2pm Lunch

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2pm -
3.30pm

Thematic Discussions:

Group 1 / (Marriott Room 109)

Artistic Expressions and Cultural Policy in Post-Revolutionary Egypt

introduced by Judith Bihr.

Texts: Allam, Yasmine. "Khaled Hafez and the art of Revolution – from Premonition to Stockholm Syndrome."

Winegar, Jessica Winegar. "Creative Reckonings. The Politics of Art and Culture in Contemporary Egypt."

Group 2 / (Armenian Room 119)

Curating Resistance: Gallery Practices and Responses to the Arab Spring

introduced by Nancy Demerdash

Texts: Hoskote, Ranjit. "Biennials of Resistance: Reflections on the Seventh Gwangju Biennial."

Enwezor, Okwui. "Modernity and Postcolonial Ambivalence"

7pm

Cultural Policies: Panel discussion (in Arabic)

الثورة وروى في السياسات الثقافية

Chair and Moderation: Sayed Mahmoud (journalist and cultural critic)

Panellist:

Sayed Mahmoud (journalist and cultural critic), ***Visions of Cultural Policies /***

روى في السياسات : الثقافية

Karima Mansour (dancer, choreographer, and Artistic Director for the Cairo Contemporary Dance Center), ***Challenges and Obstacles /*** التحديات والمعوقات

Fayrouz Karawya (performer and cultural anthropologist), ***The Cultural Policies Initiative: Context and Significance /*** السياق والأهمية مبادرة السياسات الثقافية

Yasser Allam (academic, cultural critic and drama writer), ***Summary of the***

Cultural Policies Initiative / ملخص مبادرة السياسات الثقافية

Tamer El Said (documentary filmmaker and activist), ***Implementation:***

Aspirations and Risks

آليات تفعيل المبادرة بين آمال والمخاطر

Venue: Cairo University, Faculty of Arts, Conference Room (First Floor-History Building)

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Monday, September 24

9.30am - **Project Presentations 8**

11am

Group A / (Smart Room 120 Main):

t.b.a.

Group B / (Marriott Room 109):

Amal Equeiq (University of Washington):

The Ghetto Intellectual: Voicing Dissent from the Margins

Chair: Mark Westmoreland

Group C / (Armenian Room 119):

Julia Clauß (Berlin Graduate School of Muslim Cultures and Society):

Cultural Change in 21st Century Saudi Arabia

Chair: Hania Sobhy

11am –

11.30am

Coffee Break

11.30am -

1pm

Panel discussion (Oriental Hall)

The Positionality of Critical Discourse: Knowledge Production and the Need for Connective Agency

Samah Selim and Ayman El-Desouky

Texts: Ghali Shukri, Egypt: Portrait of a President: Sadat's Road to Jerusalem, Zed Press, 1981, "Introduction: Towards a Sociology of Counter-Revolution", pp.5-27.

Timothy Brennan, Wars of Position: The Cultural Politics of Left and Right, Columbia UP, 2006, "Introduction: Cultures of Belief" pp.1-38.

1pm - 2pm

Lunch

2pm –

3.30pm

Skype Conference (Oriental Hall)

Amal Equeiq

With Hip-Hop Artists from Egypt, Libya and Egypt

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7pm **Archiving the Revolution: Panel discussion** (in Arabic and English)
Chair: Khaled Fahmy (Professor of History, AUC)
Moderation: Emad Abou Ghazi (historian, former minister of culture)
Mosireen Group,
AUC Student Pilot Project: Wiki Biographical Dictionary of the Revolution
Welcome remarks: Samia Mehrez (director, Center for Translation Studies, AUC)
Venue: Oriental Hall, AUC Tahrir Square

Tuesday, September 25

9.30am - 11am **Project Presentations 9**
Group A / (Smart Room 120 Main):
 Judith Bihr (Köln University):
 'Ornamental Breakthroughs'. Contemporary Egyptian Art within an Intercultural Discourse
 Chair: Ilka Eickhof

Group B / (Marriott Room 109):
 t.b.a.

Group C / (Armenian Room 119):
 Walid El Hour (University of Amsterdam):
 Resistance as Hegemony: Space and People in the Arab Uprisings
 Chair: Ghada Al-Akhdar

11am – 11.30am Coffee Break

11.30am - 1pm **Thematic Discussions**
Group 1 / (Marriott Room 109)
 Thinking with a Camera During Revolutionary Times: Generative Documentary Aesthetics
 Introduced by Mark Westmoreland & Peter Snowdon

Group 2 / (Armenian Room 119)

1pm - 2pm Lunch

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2pm – 3.30pm **Popular Culture and Revolution: Panel discussion** (in Arabic and English)

الثورة والثقافة الدارجة

Introduction: Randa Aboubakr (Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Cairo University)

Venue: Oriental Hall, AUC Tahrir Square

7pm **Lecture** (in English)

Michael Allan (Assistant professor of comparative literature, University of Oregon)

Old Media/New Futures: Fanonian Reflections on the Arab Uprisings

Introduction: Ayman El-Desouky (School of Oriental and African Studies, London)

Venue: Oriental Hall, AUC Tahrir Square

Wednesday, September 26

9.30am - 11am **Thematic Discussion:**

(Marriott Room 109)

On Civil Spaces, Murals and the Art of Narrating the Revolution

introduced by Mona Abaza

11am– 11.30am Coffee Break

11.30am - 1pm **Final Discussion** (Oriental Hall)

7pm **Premiere of the documentary film**

“Nafas Tawii” (A Deep, Long Breath) by Tahani Rached

Introductory and closing remarks: Lisa Anderson (President, AUC), Friederike Pannewick (Professor of Arabic Studies, Phillips University Marburg / EUME, Berlin) and Samia Mehrez (director, Center for Translation Studies, AUC)

Presentation: Tahani Rached (documentary filmmaker)

Discussion: Film Cast and Crew

Venue: Ewart Hall, AUC Tahrir Square

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Thursday, September 27

Departure

September 11, 2012

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SEPTEMBER 16 – 27, 2012 AT THE AUC
CTS / EUME / CNMS**

Schedule

TIME	SUN, Sept 16	MON, Sept 17	TUE, Sept 18	WED, Sept 19	THU, Sept 20	FRI, Sept 21
9.30 am - 11 am	A R R I V A L	Introduction Oriental Hall	Project Presentations 2 3 parallel	Project Presentations 3 3 parallel	Project Presentations 4 3 parallel	
11 am - 11.30 am						
11.30 am – 1 pm		Project Presentations 1 3 parallel	Thematic Discussion 2 parallel groups	Thematic Discussion 2 parallel groups	Project Presentations 5 3 parallel	
1 pm - 2 pm						
2 pm – 3.30 pm		Thematic Discussion 2 groups	Panel Discussion Oriental Hall		Thematic Discussion 2 parallel groups	
7 pm		6.30 pm Reception	Lecture AUC Oriental Hall	Lecture AUC Oriental Hall	Panel Discussion Cairo University	

TIME	SAT, Sept 22	SUN, Sept 23	MON, Sept 24	TUE, Sept 25	WED, Sept 26	THU, Sept 27
9.30 am - 11 am	F R E E	Project Presentations 6 3 parallel	Project Presentations 8 3 parallel	Project Presentations 9 3 parallel	Thematic Discussions 2 parallel groups	D E P A R T U R E
11 am - 11.30 am						
11.30 am – 1 pm		Project Presentations 7 3 parallel	Panel Discussion Oriental Hall	Thematic Discussions 2 parallel groups	Final Discussion Oriental Hall	
1 pm - 2 pm						
2 pm - 3.30 pm		Thematic Discussions 2 parallel groups	Skype Conference Oriental Hall	Panel Discussion Oriental Hall		
7 pm		Panel Discussion Cairo University	Panel Discussion Oriental Hall	Lecture Oriental Hall	Film Screening Ewart Hall	