



THE CENTER FOR
MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

The “Longue Durée” of Arabic Literature in honor of William Granara

November 3-4, 2022 || Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University

Co-sponsored by: Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Department of Comparative Literature

Thursday, November 3, 2022: Belfer Case Study Rm (S020), CGIS South Building
1730 Cambridge St, Cambridge, MA

4:15pm: Address of Welcome: Cemal Kafadar, CMES Director, Vehbi Koç Professor of Turkish Studies, Department of History, Harvard University

4:30 - 5:30 **Panel I** (Chair: Roy Mottahedeh)

Ali Asgar Alibhai, “*Under his Shade: The Fatimid Mizalla (Parasol) in Arabic Literature and Material Culture*”

Haci Osman Gunduz, “*A Two-Horned Worm That Causes Ubnah: Al-Isḥāqī’s (D. C. 1650) Account of a ‘Medical Condition’*”

Daniel Behar, “*Al-iqtirān bi-l-waqt: Notions of Time between the Pre-Islamic qaṣīda and modern Arabic Poetry*”

5:45 Introduction: **Eve M. Troutt Powell**, Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania

My Arabic Rihla: **William Granara**, Research Professor of the Practice of Arabic on the Gordon Gray Endowment, Harvard University

End of Day 1

Friday, November 4, 2022; Belfer Case Study Rm (S020), CGIS South Building

9:30am - 10:30 **Panel II** (Chair: Shady Nasser)

Laila Parsons, "Ghassan Kanafani between Literature and History"

Phoebe Carter, "Rihlah Impossible: Ameen Rihani's Failed Journey to "the Land of the Mayas"

Benjamin Smith, Can We Speak of a *Mahjar* Chronotope in Modern Arabic Literature?"

10:30 Break

10:45 - 11:45 **Panel III** (Chair: Sandra Naddaf)

David DiMeo, "Subverting the Narrative of Egyptian Identity: The Nubian Novels of Idris Ali"

Gregory Halaby, "Mascing Wounds in Hoda Barakat and Etel Adnan's Civil War Fiction"

Allison Blecker, "Ambiguous Belonging and Ecological Otherness in Sabri Musa's *Seeds of Corruption*"

12pm - 1:30: Break for lunch

1:30 - 2:30 **Panel IV** (Chair: Khaled El-Rouayheb)

Eric Calderwood, "In the Time of al-Andalus"

Luke Leafgren, "Arabic Syntax: Problems and Solutions when Translating Literature"

C. Ceyhun Arslan, "Ka'b ibn Zuhayr Cries for Sultan Murad IV: Baghdad, Heritage, and the Ottoman Empire in "Ma'ruf al-Ruṣāfi's" Poetry"

2:30 Break

2:45 - 3:45 **Panel V** (Chair: Himmet Taskomur)

Jonathan Smolin, "*Naksa Erotica*: Arab Emasculation post June 67 Defeat"

Sinan Antoon, "Of Words and Wounds: Muḏaffar al-Nawwāb's "Muḏayif Hail"

4:00 - 5:00: **Round Table Discussion** (Chair: Cemal Kafadar)

End of Day 2

Participants:

Ali Asgar Alibhai (UT Dallas)
Allison Blecker (Geneva Global)
Sinan Antoon (NYU)
C. Ceyhun Arslan (Koç University)
Daniel Behar (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Eric Calderwood (Univ of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)
Phoebe Carter (Harvard PhD candidate)
David DiMeo (Western Kentucky Univ)
Haci Osman Gunduz (Harvard PhD candidate)
Gregory Halaby (Harvard)
Luke Leafgren (Harvard)
Laila Parsons (McGill)
Benjamin Smith (Swarthmore)
Jonathan Smolin (Dartmouth)

Chairs:

Khaled El-Rouayheb, James Richard Jewett Professor of Arabic and of Islamic Intellectual History; Director of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Program; Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; and Harvard College Professor

Roy Mottahedeh, Gurney Professor of History, *Emeritus*

Sandra Naddaff, Senior Lecturer on Literature and Comparative Literature and Dean of Harvard Summer School

Shady Nasser, Associate Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

Himmet Taskomur, Senior Preceptor in Ottoman and Modern Turkish, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations