The 15th Annual International Workshop of the Department of Middle East Studies at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Literature and History: Middle Eastern Perspectives

May 31 – June 2, 2010

Coordinators: Dr. Yair Huri & Dr. Ariel M. Sheerit
Monday, 31.5.2010

Opening Session: - 13:30-14:45

Moshe Justman, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Greetings
Yair Huri, Ben Gurion University, Opening Remarks
Franck Salameh, Boston College, Keynote Address: Reconstituting Levantine Identities

Coffee Break

15:15-16:45

Medieval Biographical Writings: Between Literature and History

Moderator and Discussant, Daniella Talmon-Heller, Ben Gurion University

Ahmed Abd al-Rahim, University of Virginia, Biography as Historical Fiction: An Analysis of the Topoi of Medieval Muslim Biographical Writing

Nimrod Hurvitz, Ben Gurion University, The Cultural Meaning and Social Impact of Biographies: Reading Ahmad Ibn Hanbal's Biography

Coffee Break
17:00-18:30

Re-constructing the Nation: History, Landscape and Memory in Israeli Literature

Moderator and Discussant, Sami S. Chetrit, Queens College, CUNY

Sharon Green, University of Toronto, How History Defines the Self in Modern Israeli Poetry

Gabriel Piterberg, University of California Los Angeles, The Literature of Settler Societies: A Comparative Approach

Kenneth Hart Green, University of Toronto, What Gershom Scholem Learned From Agnon about Modern Jewish History

19:00 Dinner

Tuesday, 1.6.2010

10:00-11:30

In the Eye of the Beholder: Writing the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Moderator and Discussant, Mahmoud Kayyal, Tel Aviv University

John Maher, King’s College, Ili Fat Mat? The Persistence of Memory in the Palestinian and Israeli Novel

Yael Dekel, New York University, "HEY YOU! How am I supposed to talk to you or with you or about you?" - Translation and Reception of Elias Khoury's 'Bab al-Shams'

Dana Hercbergs, University of Pennsylvania, Dialectics of In/stability: Time and space in Palestinian and Israeli childhood narratives about Jerusalem
11:45-13:15

**Contesting Boundaries: Exile, Peripatetic Literature and the Portrayal of the "Other"**

Moderator and Discussant, Franck Salameh, Boston College

Suzanne Schneider Reich, Columbia University, *The Price of Making History: Epic Time and Individual Subjectivity in 'Mawsim alhijra ila alshamal'*

Salih Bicakci, Işık University, *An Egyptian Muslim in Turkey: Minyeli Abdullah (Abdallah from Egypt) and Constructing Islamic Public Space.***

Hakan Karateke, The University of Chicago, *How Distant is Gurbet? Refik Halit’s Representation of the Other in Exile Stories*

**Lunch & Noon Break**

14:45-16:15

**Reading from the Margins: The Politics and the Poetics of Mizrahi Literature**

Moderator and Discussant, Almog Behar, Tel Aviv University

Ramon Stern, University of Michigan, *Narrating the Un-Narratable: Alternatives for Mizrahi History in the Literature of Albert Swissa and Samir Naqqash*

Sami S. Chetrit, Queens College, CUNY, *Revisiting Bialik: A Radical Mizrahi Reading of the Jewish National Poet*

Batya Shimoni, Ben Gurion University,
Coffee Break

16:30-18:00

Reading History through Literature in Turkish, Kurdish and Egyptian Writings

Moderator and Discussant, Iris Agmon, Ben Gurion University

Yoram Meital, Ben Gurion University, Sun'allah Ibrahim: The Writer as a Historian

Fran Hassencahl, Old Dominion University, Looking beyond the Treaty of Sèvres: Pamuk’s Reconciliation of the Bitter and the Sweet

Ozlem Galip, University of Exeter, The Kurdish Historical Novel: The Voice of a Nation

Wednesday, 2.6.2010

10:15-11:45

Post-Colonialism and National Narratives: Reading Literature as Alternative History

Moderator and Discussant, Yoram Meital, Ben Gurion University

Stephan Guth, University of Oslo, 'The Yacoubian Building,' History, and Components Analysis

Sebastian Maisel, Grand Valley State University, Mudun al-Milh (Cities of Salt) and Abd al-Rahman Munif’s Reinterpretation of the Tufrah (oil boom)

Halim Kara, Boğaziçi University, Negotiating the Ottoman Past in Turkey: Imagining Suleiman the Magnificent in Turkish Historical Fiction
Coffee Break

12:00-12:45

A Special Lecture by Iraqi writer Najem Wali

The Invention of Basra

Lunch: 13:00-13:45

13:45-15:15

Interstitial Space: Genre and Gender in Arabic and Iranian Literature

Moderator and Discussant, Dror Ze'evi, Ben Gurion University

Eldad J. Pardo, Hebrew University, Rumi’s Dysfunctional Family and 21 Century Iran: 'Lady Kimya' by Sa'ide Qods

Ariel M. Sheerit, Ben Gurion University, Two Lives Enmeshed: Disentangling Genre and Identity in Hanân al-Shaykh's Hikâyatî Sharhun Yatûl (My Life: An Extended Commentary)

Amidu Sanni, Lagos State University, Gendering Literary Criticism and Praxis: Between Sukayna bint al-Husayn and Fadwa Tuqan