

המחלקה ללימודי המזרח התיכון
Department of Middle East Studies

قسم دراسات الشرق الأوسط

אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev



جامعة بن غوريون في النقب



ISRAEL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

**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. Sheetrit

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**

Keren Abbou-HersHKovitz & Zohar Hadromi-Allouche, McGill University & Ben Gurion University, **Divine Doctors: The Construction of the Image of Greek Physicians in Islamic Biographical Dictionaries**

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. Sheetrit, Ben Gurion University, *Two Lives Enmeshed: Disentangling Genre and Identity in Hanān al-Shaykh's Hikāyatī Sharhun Yatūl (My Life: An Extended Commentary)*

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