



"ARABIC LITERATURE TODAY: TEXTS, METHODS, DIRECTIONS"

October 6–7, 2023 | 102 Kern Building

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Friday, Oct. 6

9:30–10:30 a.m. Breakfast

10:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. **Affinity, Affect, and Relation**
Moderator: Hanan Al-Alawi

Anna Ziajka Stanton (Penn State), "The Pain of Palm Trees: Arboreal Ethics in Abdelrahman Munif's *Cities of Salt* and Ismail Fahd Ismail's *The Old Woman and the River*"

Rachel Green (University of Massachusetts Amherst), "Empathy as Symbolic Currency in the Shadow of Settler-Capitalism: Parsing Recognition in Ibtisam Azem's *Book of Disappearance*"

Yasmine Khayyat (Rutgers University), "Creaturely Wars: HumAnimals in Lebanese Wartime Fiction"

12:30–2:00 p.m. Lunch

2:00–3:45 p.m. **Queer Subjects, Chance Romances, Other Narratives**
Moderator: Ege Altan

Linda Istanbulli (Penn State), "Re-inscribing Histories of Dispossession: The Deterritorialized Desiring Body in Contemporary Syrian Women's Writing"

Mejdule Bernard Shomali (University of Maryland, Baltimore County), "Longing in Arabic: Ambivalent Identities in Arabic Novels"

Nesrine Chahine (Texas Tech University), "Global Circuits: Theorizing the Productive Powers of the Nation"

6:00–8:00 p.m. Public reception at the Graduate State College / 125 S. Atherton St



Saturday, Oct. 7

9:30–10:30 a.m. Breakfast

10:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. **Speculative Genres and Imagined Futures**

Moderator: Elena Quiñones

Renée Ragin Randall (University of Michigan), "A Century of Arab Speculative Fiction: Networked Speculation in the Post/Colonial Global South"

Shir Alon (University of Minnesota), "Speculation in the Petro-Economy"

Mona Kareem (Washington University in St. Louis), "Translating *Kindred* into Arabic: Genre-fiction Writing History"

12:30–2:00 p.m. Lunch

2:00–3:45 p.m. **Deprovincializing the Canon**

Moderator: Dina Mahmoud

Benjamin Smith (Swarthmore College), "Writing Amreeka: Literary Encounters with America in Arabic"

Eman Morsi (Dartmouth College), "Gender, Eurocentrism and the Anglophone Academy's 'Arabic Canon'"

Suja Sawafta (University of Miami), "Towards a Mediterranean Novel: Home, Exile, & Language in Walid Nabhan's *Exodus of the Storks*"

7:00–9:00 p.m. Dinner for conference speakers at India Pavilion / 222 E. Calder Way