The Arab World as Ghurba

Citizenship, Identity and Belonging in Literature and Popular Culture”

21-June-2019, University of Warwick

Conference Programme

(Venue: Social Sciences, Applied Linguistics A0.23 and A0.05)

9:15 Registration, Tea & Coffee (Social Sciences, A0.05)

9:45 Welcome Remarks (Social Sciences, A0.23)

10:00 Keynote Address by Dr. Claire Beaugrand (University of Exeter)

“Identities and the Absurd Injunction Not to Belong”

11:00 Comfort break (15 minutes)

11:15 Panel I: Memory and Identity in the Experience of Ghurba

Chair: Dr. Mariam Aboelezz (Birkbeck, University of London)

- Tamara Barakat (Durham University) – “Ghurba, Memory, and Translation in Leila Abdelrazaq’s Baddawi (2015)
- Alaa Kayali (American University of Beirut) – “Ghurba as a Personal Matter”
- Dr. James White (University of Warwick) – “The Outsider’s Consolation: Poetry, Memory and Identity in the Memoirs of Ibn Ma’sūm”
12:30  Lunch (A0.05)

13:30  Panel II: Cultural Identity and Belonging in Constructions of the Nation

   Chair: Dr. Claire Beaugrand (University of Exeter)

   • Shaimaa Abdelkarim (University of Leicester) – “The Mist of Nationalism: An inquiry into Egyptian Identity and Belonging”
   • Abdullah S. Abolouz (Yarmouk University, Jordan) & Ruba Obied (Independent Researcher) – “The Distorted Identity: The Non Belonging in the Millennial Saudi-Born Palestinians”
   • Aminah Hamad al-Kanderi (University of Pennsylvania) – “Faces of the City by Saba Shiber: Cultural Influences and the Search for a Contemporary Arab Metropolis”

14:45  Tea & Coffee Break (15 minutes)

15:00  Panel III: Otherness, Lack of Belonging and Alienation at Home

   Chair: Shaimaa Abdelkarim (University of Leicester)

   • Dr. Mariam Aboelezz (Birkbeck, University of London) – “‘My ticket is two-way’: Ghurba in contemporary pop songs from Egypt”
   • Dr. Leila Tayeb (Cornell University) – “Bousaadiya's House: Race and Movement in Libyan Cultural Politics”
   • Keye Tersmette (Harvard University) & Dr. Marielle Risse (Dhofar University, Oman) – “Ghurba at home - views from Oman”

16:15  Tea & Coffee Break (15 minutes)
Panel IV: The Arab World as a Site of Exclusion, Immobility and Orientalist Encounters

Chair: Nadeen Dakkak (University of Warwick)

- Suja R. Sawafta (Oxford University) – “To Stand Accused”: Abdulrahman Munif’s Negotiation of an Arab Exile in Amman
- Dr. Tasnim Qutait (SOAS) – “Guarding the Gates: African Titanics as a Narrative of Immobility”
- Ishak Berrebbah (Coventry University) – “Losing the Ties: Representations of Social Exclusion and Belonging of Arab American Woman in the Arab World in Mohja Kahf’s The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf”
- Amatou Allah Soumeya Slimani (University of Northampton) – “Images of Algeria in Four Selected Literary Works”

17:45 Closing Remarks

18:30 Optional Dinner