



FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

Arabic Literature in Catastrophic Times

Organized by Ada Barbaro (ISO, Sapienza) and Tarek El-Ariss (Dartmouth College)
Co-sponsored by Sapienza University of Rome and Dartmouth College

h 10.00-10:15
Arrival

h 10:15-10:30
Welcome by Franco D'Agostino, Istituto Italiano di Studi Orientali (ISO) Dean
Welcome by Organizers Tarek El-Ariss and Ada Barbaro

h 10.30-11.00
From Ghurba to Tawahhush
Hoda Barakat in Conversation with Tarek El-Ariss

h 11.00-11.30
Scifi, Utopia, and Distopia
Ezzedine Fishere in Conversation with Ada Barbaro

h 11.30-12.00
Arabic Literature in Translation
Hoda Barakat in Conversation with Samuela Pagani

h 12.00-12.30
Q&A

Sala riunioni 1, 3rd floor, Marco Polo Building
(Circonvallazione Tiburtina 4, scalo San Lorenzo)



Tarek El-Ariss is the James Wright Professor and Chair of Middle Eastern Studies at Dartmouth College. He is the author of *Water on Fire: A Memoir of War* (2024), *Leaks, Hacks, and Scandals: Arab Culture in the Digital Age* (2019), and *Trials of Arab Modernity: Literary Affects and the New Political* (2013) and editor of *The Arab Renaissance: A Bilingual Anthology of the Nahda* (2018).

Hoda Barakat is a Lebanese author residing in Paris. Her novels include *Stone of Laughter* (1990), *Disciples of Passion* (1993), *Voices of the Lost* (2017), and most recently, *Hind or the Most Beautiful Woman in the World* (2024). Published in over twenty languages, Barakat's work earned her great critical acclaim and many honors and awards including the Ordre du Mérite from the French Presidency (2008) and The Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature (2001). In 2019, her novel *The Night Mail* won the International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF) and, like several of her other works, was translated into Italian by Samuela Pagani (*Corriere di notte*, La Nave di Teseo). Barakat was a fellow at the Wissenschaft College in Berlin (2008), the Institute for Advanced Study at Central European University in Budapest (2017), and Dartmouth's Montgomery Fellows Program (2023). She has taught at the University of Texas at Austin (2013) and the University of Virginia (2014), and regularly teaches at Dartmouth College.

Ada Barbaro is Associate Professor of Arabic language and literature at Dipartimento Istituto Italiano di Studi Orientali (ISO), Sapienza University of Rome. She is the author of *La fantascienza nella letteratura araba* (2013). Among her recent contributions: *I will tell you my history: Rewriting to revolt in the process of al-Tārīkh al-badīl (Allohistory)* (*Journal of Arabic Literature*, 2021); *De-composing "human" bodies in the mirror of Iraqi "Monsters": How to manipulate the present and re-compose the future* (*RIVISTA DEGLI STUDI ORIENTALI*, 2021).

André Bouzid is a senior at Dartmouth College studying Economics and Middle Eastern Studies. He is currently writing an honors thesis on the differential effects of the Morocco-Algeria border closure in 1994 and has received research grants from Dartmouth's Office of Undergraduate Research, the Leslie Center for the Humanities, and the Mozel Fund. Furthermore, during his time at Dartmouth, he has served as a teaching assistant to two of the Arab world's preeminent authors, Hoda Barakat and Alaa Al-Aswany.

Ezzedine Fishere is a Distinguished Fellow at Dartmouth College, where he has taught Middle Eastern politics since 2016. Before coming to Dartmouth, he was an associate professor at the American University in Cairo (2008-2016). Ambassador and a career diplomat, he also worked for the United Nations as a senior political adviser to many of its political missions, including Jerusalem, Beirut, Damascus, and Sudan (2001-2004). In addition, he worked for International Crisis Group (2007-2008) as a director for its Arab-Israeli conflict project. Fishere published numerous books and articles. His most recent book, in Arabic, *Jarīma fī-l-Jāmi'a* (2023), deals with the social origins of authoritarianism and state fragility in Egypt. He also published nine novels, depicting social and political conditions in Egypt as well as the questions of identity construction and transformation. Many of these were translated to English, French, Italian and Hebrew.

Samuela Pagani is Associate Professor of Arabic Language and Literature at the University of Salento (Lecce, Italy). Among her recent contributions are "The Reality and Image of the Prophet according to the Theologian and Poet 'Abd al-Ghanī al-Nābulusī", in *The Presence of the Prophet in Early Modern and Contemporary Islam*, vol. 1, ed. by D. Gril, S. Reichmuth and D. Sarmis, Leiden-Boston: Brill, 2022, pp. 501-534; *Antologia della letteratura araba. Dalle origini al XVIII secolo*, (co-authors: M. Cassarino, A. Ghersetti, L. Osti), Roma, Carocci, 2024.