

Where are the Intellectuals? Culture, Identity and Community in the Modern Middle East

University of Edinburgh • 7-9 May 2010

DAY ONE

FRIDAY 7 MAY

VENUE: LECTURE THEATRE 175, OLD COLLEGE

9.00-9.30 Coffee and Registration

9.30 – 10.00 Welcome and opening remarks

Ewan Stein, University of Edinburgh
Andrew Newman, Edinburgh Director, CASAW
Marilyn Booth, University of Edinburgh

10.00-12.00 Panel: Intellectuals and Opposition

Chair: Adham Saouli

Elizabeth Suzanne Kassab, Beirut, Lebanon
The contribution of post-colonial Arab intellectuals to critical thinking: a call for recognition and engagement

Shana Cohen, University of Sheffield
Market reform and the decline of the 'critical thinker' in Morocco

Marie Duboc, CEDEJ-EHESS
Egyptian Leftist Intellectuals': Political activism from the margins

12.00-1.00 Lunch

1.00-3.00 Panel: Audiences and Interfaces

Chair: Ellen McLarney

Hatsuki Aishima, University of Oxford
Public intellectuals and their audiences: the status of authorship in Islamic knowledge production of contemporary Egypt

Hoda Baraka, American University in Cairo
Café Riche: the enduring café of downtown Cairo?

Maria Kastrinou, Durham University
Intellectuals and the negotiation of identities: the Syrian case of dance theatre

3.00-3.15 Coffee

3.15-5.00 Panel: Intellectuals, the state and power

Chair: Haggag Ali

Emad Abdul Latif, Cairo University

Faces and masks: intellectuals, presidents and speech-writing in contemporary Egypt

Ewan Stein, University of Edinburgh

Egyptian intellectuals and Israel: society's role in foreign policy

Michelangelo Guida, Fatih University

The founders of Islamism in republican Turkey

6.00-8.00 Drinks reception (cash bar)

DAY TWO

SATURDAY 8 MAY

VENUE: RAEBURN ROOM, OLD COLLEGE

9.00-9.15 Coffee

9.15-11.15 Panel: Intellectuals, revolution and the nation

Chair: Marilyn Booth

Iman Al-Ghafari, Damascus, Syria

The invisibility of minority intellectuals within nation-states

Stephen Milich, Göttingen University

Iraqi intellectuals and the nation: literary criticism on the poetry of 'Abd al-Razzaq Abd al-Walid

Melody Mohebi, London School of Economics

Iranian civil society: the role of reformist intellectuals

Maryam Ghorbankarimi, University of Edinburgh

Exposing the veiled; the effect of Islamic revolution and its ideologies on the representation of women in post-revolutionary Iranian cinema

11.15-11.30 Coffee

11.30-1.30 Panel: Intellectuals and the politics of religion

Chair: Ewan Stein

Itzchak Weismann, Haifa University

Activist religious intellectuals and the Islamic project of Da'wa

Rebecca Gould, Columbia University

The challenge of Ali Dashti's hermeneutics

Ellen McLarney, Duke University

Embodying the Qur'an: revivalist exegesis written on the body

Rachel Kantz Feder, Tel Aviv University

Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr's Fatima in Fadak fi al-Ta'rikh: between traditional Shi'ism and Marxism

1.30-2.30 Lunch

2.30-4.30 Panel: Representation and identity

Chair: Maryam Ghorbankarimi

Combiz Moussavi-Aghdam, University of Manchester

Otherness: from nationalism to the narrations of the body in contemporary Iranian art

Stefanie Van de Peer, Stirling University

At the crossroads of Third Cinema and New Arab Cinema in Algeria: Assia Djebar's La Nouba des Femmes du Mont Chenoua

Shahab Esfandiary, University of Nottingham

Intellectual filmmakers and the consequences of transnationalism: on Makhmalbaf's post-Kandahar adventures

8.00 Participants' Dinner

DAY THREE

SUNDAY 9 MAY

VENUE: RAEBURN ROOM, OLD COLLEGE

9.00-9.15 Coffee

9.15-11.15 Panel: Intellectuals, minorities and nationalism

Chair: Ran Greenstein

Moshe Behar, University of Manchester

Middle Eastern Jewish intellectuals: themes, trends, frameworks

Ahmet Aliş, Bogazici University

Why so divided? An analysis of Kurdish intellectuals beyond nationalism; 1959-1974

Anthony Gorman, University of Edinburgh
Embracing the local: Greek intellectuals in Egypt

Tilde Rosmer, University of Oslo
Israel's Middle Eastern Jewish intellectuals and the reinforcement of Israel's ethnic boundaries

11.15-11.30 Coffee

11.30-1.30 Panel: Thinkers and ideologies

Chair: Suzanne Kassab

Wael Abu Uksa, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Arab political liberalism in the last two decades: the case of Hazem Saghieh

Ran Greenstein, University of the Witwatersrand
Jabra Nicola and the radical left's axis of evil (zionism, imperialism, Arab reaction)

Haggag Ali, Academy of Arts, Cairo
The specter of conservative thought in Egypt: a comparative approach to Abdelwahab Elmessiri and Youssef Ziedan

1.30-2.30 Lunch

2.30-4.30 Panel: Intellectuals and communal identity

Chair: Anthony Gorman

Yair Wallach, Cambridge University
The lost Jews of Palestine: the curious case of Justice Gad Frumkin

Massimo Di Ricco, University of Tarragona
Notes on a literature for reform: Druze intellectuals challenging community's secrecy

Yusri Hazran, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Kamal Junblat and the Lebanese state: from Mediterraneanism to Arabism

4.30-5.00 Concluding Remarks