

Workshop

“Visions and Representations of Homeland in Modern Arabic Poetry and Prose Literature”

Organized by
Prof. Dr. Sebastian Günther and Dr. Stephan Milich,
Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Göttingen

In collaboration with the
Lichtenberg-Kolleg (Institute for Advanced Study)
Georg August University, Göttingen
June 30 – July 1, 2011

Program

Thursday, June 30

09:30 – 10:00 Registration

10:00 – 10:10 Opening Address: Prof. Dr. Dagmar Coester-Waltjen,
Director, Lichtenberg-Kolleg

10:10 – 10:25 Word of Welcome: Prof. Dr. Sebastian Günther

10:25 – 11:25 Keynote Address: Prof. Dr. Samar Attar, Sydney

*"A Mother or a Grave?"
Visions of Homeland in Modern Arabic Literature"*

Panel 1:

“Homes in Pre-modern Arabic Literature”

Chair: Sebastian Günther, Göttingen

11:30 – 12:00 Beatrice Gründler, New Haven
*Divided Attitudes on the Homeland:
Classical Arabic Precedents of the Motif*

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch

Panel 2:

“Thinking Home in Egyptian and Lebanese Literatures”

Chair: Stephan Milich, Göttingen

14:00 – 14:30 Nikolay Dyakov, St. Petersburg
"Kitab ar-Rihla" in the "Age of "an-Nahda": Egyptian Scholars on Europe and Russia in the 19th C. (R.Tahtawi, M.Tantawi, A.Zaki)

14:30 – 15:00 Jens Hanssen, Toronto
Butrus al-Bustani's 'wataniyyat'

15:00 – 15:30 Stephan Guth, Oslo
Concepts that Changed the World: al-watan as one of Husayn al-Marsafi's "Eight Words" (al-kalim al-thamân, 1881)

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee Break**

Chair: Katja Niethammer, Hamburg

16:00 – 16:30 Göran Larsson, Gothenburg
Alaa al-Aswany and the concept of Nation in The Yacoubian Building

16:30 – 17:00 Hartmut Fähndrich, Zürich
Out of the Coziness into the Cold? Leaving as loss or life?

18:00 – 19:30 **Dinner**

20:00 Public Screening of the Lebanese Documentary “Waiting for Abu Zayd” and Discussion

Convener: Sebastian Günther, Göttingen

Participants in podium discussion:
Hosn Abboud, Beirut
Jens Hanssen, Toronto
Göran Larsson, Gothenburg
Katja Niethammer, Hamburg

Friday, 1 July

Panel 3:

"Watan in Arabic Literature between Nationalism and Private Dreams"

Chair: Hartmut Fähndrich, Zürich

9:30 – 10:00 Leslie Tramontini, Marburg
Mythologies of Nation Building - The Poetics of Homeland in Modern Iraqi Poetry

10:00 – 10:30 Stephan Milich, Göttingen
*"Heimsuchungen":
Constructing and Deconstructing "watan" in Contemporary Arabic Poetry*

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

Chair: Anja Johannsen, Göttingen

11:00 – 11:30 Lale Behzadi, Bamberg
„Sometimes I can't believe how much I hate it and sometimes I can't believe how lucky I am to live here!" Ambivalence, Sentimentality, Cynicism: Beirut as the setting of contemporary Lebanese texts

11:30 – 12:00 Hosn Abboud, Beirut
Representations of the "Nation" in Arab Women Prison Memoires

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch

Panel 4:

"Prosaic Homelands: Palestine revisited"

Chair: Verena Klemm, Leipzig

14:00 – 14:30 Barbara Michalak-Pikulska, Krakow
A Vision of Homeland on the Basis of Emil Habibi's Novel al-Waqa'i al-ghariba fi ikhtifa Sa'id an-Nakhs al-Mutasha'il

14:30 – 15:00 Anette Mansson, Uppsala
Realizing Home - Changing Literary Strategies in Representing Geography in Contemporary Palestinian Literature in Relation to the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

15:00 – 15:30 Rochelle Davis, Washington, D.C.
Literary expressions of homeland in Palestinian village memorial books

15:30 - 16:00 **Coffee Break**

**Panel 5:
"Translating the Homeland"**

Chair: Stephan Guth, Oslo

16:00 – 16:30 Evgeniy Zelenev, St. Petersburg
Worldview and the vision of Homeland: The Issue of Russian-Arabic translation

16:30 – 17:00 Concluding Remarks:
Stephan Milich

17:20 – 18:00 **Break**

18:00 – 19:30 **Dinner**

20:00 **Literary Reading**
with Alawiyya Sobh and Abbas Khider
in Collaboration with the *Literarisches Zentrum Göttingen*

Word of Welcome: Prof. Dr. Dagmar Coester-Waltjen
Convener: Dr. Stephan Milich, Göttingen
Arabic-German translation: Amal Diab, Göttingen