

# Arab Feminisms: A Critical Perspective

October 4-7, 2009

American University of Beirut

Program

Issam Fares Hall

<b>Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009</b>	
<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Conference Opening:</b> <b>Noha Bayoumi</b> – Secretary General, Lebanese Association of Women Researchers (Bahithat) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Opening Speech</li></ul> <b>Jean Said Makdisi</b> – Conference Organizing Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Welcome</li></ul> <b>Rafif Rida Sidawi</b> – Conference Organizing Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Introducing Dr. Mervat Hatem</li></ul>
	<b>Keynote Address:</b> <b>Mervat Hatem</b> - Department of Political Science, Howard University, Washington D.C., President of the Middle East Studies Association, Women and Memory <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ What do Women Want? A Critical Mapping of the Future Direction for Arab Feminisms</li></ul>
<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Reception</b>

## College Hall - B1

<b>Monday, October 5, 2009</b>	
<b>09:00-09:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>09.30-11.30 a.m.</b>	<b>PANEL 1</b> <b>New Directions for Arab Feminist Thought (I)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Chair: Maher Jarrar</b> – American University of Beirut</li></ul> <b>Hoda El-Sadda</b> - University of Manchester, Manchester, UK., Women and Memory <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Feminism in the Arab World: Challenging Discourses and Definitions</li></ul> <b>Kaltham Al-Ghanim</b> - Qatar University, Doha, Qatar <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The Limits of Arab Feminist Thought and Its Cultural Framework</li></ul> <b>Najla Hemadeh</b> - Lebanese American University, Bahithat <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ No Comparison: Women Evolved Progressively Away from Men</li></ul> <b>Suaad Zayed Al-Oraimi</b> - The United Arab Emirates University, Al-Ain <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The Emergence of Arab Feminism: Possibilities and Challenges</li></ul> <b>Zeina Zaatari</b> - Global Fund for Women, San Francisco, CA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ An Arab Feminist Renaissance: Possibilities and Requirements</li></ul>
<b>11:30-12:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>12:00-02:00 p.m.</b>	<b>PANEL 2</b> <b>New Directions for Arab Feminist Thought (II)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Chair: Rafif Rida Sidawi</b> - Bahithat</li></ul>

<b>Amira Y. Badri</b> - Ahfad University for Women, Umdurman, Sudan	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Role of Sudanese Women's Movements in Peacemaking and Well-being</li> </ul>	
<b>Noha Bayoumi</b> - Lebanese University, Bahithat	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Feminist Studies and the Feminine Self</li> </ul>	
<b>Hatoon Ajwad Al-Fassi</b> - King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is There a Saudi Feminism?</li> </ul>	
<b>Mai Al-Nakib*</b> - Kuwait University, Kuwait	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Accounting for Affect: Kuwaiti Women Between Freedom and Apathy</li> </ul>	
<b>02:00-05:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>05:00-07:00 p.m.</b>	<b>ROUND-TABLE 1</b> <b>Feminism and the Arts</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Chair: Nada Sehnaoui</b> - Bahithat</li> </ul>	
<b>Fowziyah Abu-Khalid</b> - King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Question of Freedom and the Feminist Perspective in the Work of an Arab Creative Artist</li> </ul>	
<b>Dina Georgis*</b> - University of Toronto, Canada	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Injured Masculinities and Violent Reactions: A Feminist Response (cinema)</li> </ul>	
<b>Watfa Hemadi</b> - Lebanese University, Bahithat	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Feminist Features in Dramaturgical Discourse</li> </ul>	
<b>05:00-05:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>Dalia Said Moustafa</b> - University of Manchester, UK	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A Young Girl's Identity: War and Adulthood in Daniel Arbid's Film "In the Battle Fields"</li> </ul>	
<b>Anastasia Valassopoulos*</b> - University of Manchester, UK	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Representation of Women in the Early Films of the "New Cinema Collective"</li> </ul>	

<b>Tuesday, October 6, 2009</b>	
<b>09.30-11.30 a.m.</b>	<b>PANEL 3</b> <b>Feminist Studies and Social Transformation</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Chair: Carmen Bustani</b> - Bahithat</li> </ul>	
<b>Hala Kamal</b> - Cairo University, Egypt, Women and Memory	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Aesthetics of the Feminist Writing in the Works of Sahar al Mougi</li> </ul>	
<b>Mouza Ghubash</b> - Association of Humanities Studies, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social Impediments to the Education of Women</li> </ul>	
<b>Amina El-Bendary</b> - American University in Cairo, Egypt, Women and Memory	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Arab Feminist Historiography</li> </ul>	
<b>Huda Ali Alawi Hussein</b> - University of Aden, Yemen	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Experience in Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Aden</li> </ul>	
<b>Nahwand Al-Kaderi</b> - Lebanese University, Bahithat	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Feminist Thought and Masculine Traps</li> </ul>	
<b>11:30-12:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>

<b>12:00-02:00</b> <b>p.m.</b>	<b>PANEL 4</b> <b>Feminism and Islam</b> ▪ <b>Chair: Ahmad Dallal</b> – American University of Beirut
	<b>Omaima Abu Bakr</b> - Cairo University, Egypt, Women and Memory ▪ Themes and Directions in Muslim Feminist Thought
	<b>Amel Grami</b> - University of Manouba, Tunis ▪ A New Feminist Movement or a Feminist Strategy to Gain Rights
	<b>Hosn Abboud</b> - Independent Researcher, Bahithat ▪ Feminist, Modernizing Koranic Exigesis: The Work of Aisha Abdel Rahman and Amina Woudoud
	<b>Hoda El-Saadi</b> - American University of Cairo, Egypt, Women and Memory ▪ Islamic Feminism in the Arab World: Acceptance or Rejection
	<b>Elora Shehabuddin*</b> - Rice University, Houston, Texas ▪ Rokeya in the world: The experience of 20th Century Bengal
<b>02:00-04:00</b> <b>p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>04:00-06:00</b> <b>p.m.</b>	<b>ROUND-TABLE 2</b> <b>Globalization and Colonial Feminism</b> ▪ <b>Chair: Nayla Kaedbey</b>
	<b>Amina El-Annan*</b> - Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut ▪ The American Relationship with the Middle East: Globalization, Art, Religion and Gender
	<b>Laleh Khalili*</b> - SOAS, University of London, UK ▪ Gendered Practices of Counterinsurgency
	<b>Eileen Kuttab</b> - Bir Zeit University, Palestine ▪ Arab Feminist Thought: Where is it Going?
<b>05:00-05:15</b> <b>p.m.</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
	<b>Jean Said Makdisi</b> - Independent Writer and Researcher, Bahithat ▪ “Women’s Rights” and Feminist Thought
	<b>Shahrazad Mojab*</b> - University of Toronto, Canada ▪ Tracing Dollars, Mapping Colonial Feminism
	<b>Vron Ware*</b> - The Open University, Milton Keynes, UK ▪ Reading to Change the World: Sexual Politics and Publishing in the Age of Public Diplomacy

<b>Wednesday, October 7, 2009</b>	
<b>09.30-11.30</b> <b>a.m.</b>	<b>PANEL 5</b> <b>Feminism, Islamism and Secularism</b> ▪ <b>Chair: Huda Zreik</b> - Bahithat
	<b>Islah Jad</b> - Bir Zeit Univeristy, Palestine ▪ The Palestinian Women's Movements Between Secularism and Islamism:
	<b>Marnia Lazreg*</b> - Hunter College, CUNY ▪ Postmodern Theory and Muslim Women

	<p><b>Azza Charara Baydoun</b> - Lebanese University, Bahithat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Feminist Approaches to the Study of Arab Masculinity: The Example of Nawal al Saadawi</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Saba Mahmood*</b> - University of California at Berkeley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Secular Feminism and Religious Reform: Politics of an Imperial Imaginary?</li> </ul>
<b>11:30-12:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>12:00-02:00</b> <b>p.m.</b>	<p><b>PANEL 6</b> <b>War, Occupation and Arab Feminism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Chair: Rosemary Sayegh</b> - American University of Beirut</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Amal Amireh</b> - George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Disappearing Act of Palestinian Women:</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Haifa Zangana</b> - Iraq</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Iraqi Feminist Movement: From Resistance to Acceptance</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Nadera Shalhoub Kevorkian</b> - Arab Center For Applied Social Research, Palestine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Palestinian Women: Between Racist Theology and the Physics of World Power</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Anisseh al Amine-Merhi</b> - Psychoanalyst, Bahithat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ War and Conflict: The Clandestine Discourse of Women</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Elaheh Rostamy-Povey*</b> - SOAS, University of London, UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Afghan Women Resistance and Struggle in Afghanistan and Diasporic Communities</li> </ul>
<b>02:00-04:00</b> <b>p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>04:00-06:00</b> <b>p.m.</b>	<p><b>ROUND-TABLE 3</b> <b>Feminism in the World</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Chair: Fadia Kiwan</b> – St. Joseph University</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Zainah Anwar*</b> - Sisters in Islam, Malaysia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Working on Women’s Rights within Religion: Successes and Challenges</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Hazel Carby*</b> - Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut</p>
	<p><b>Deniz Kandiyoti*</b> - SOAS, University of London, UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Between Feminism and Social Engineering: The Troubled Trajectory of International Gender Activism</li> </ul>
<b>05:00-05:15</b> <b>p.m.</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
	<p><b>Mari Oka*</b> - Kyoto University, Japan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Unfinished Project of Decolonizing National Memories in Japan: Narratives of Korean Women Residents in Utoro, Japan</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Kumkum Sangari*</b> - University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, Wisconsin</p>
	<p><b>Joan Scott*</b> - Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Feminism’s Difference Problem</li> </ul>

Guest Participant:

- **Nivedita Menon** – University of Delhi, New Delhi, India
- **Rosemary Sayegh** – American University of Beirut
- **Suad Joseph** – University of California

\* English presentation