

PROGRAMME:

The 17th of December , Vilnius university, Institute of Asian and transcultural studies

10 AM to 2 PM Symposium: Orientalism and Post-Orientalism: a Transcultural Perspective
(Institute of Asian and transcultural Studies, Vilnius University, A. Binderio aud.)

The days of naïve realism are definitely gone to never come back. Humanities in general were forced to recon with the deeper critical understanding of the effects that our preconceptions, biases, and naïve notions have on the studies of culture and humanity in general. When thinking of the changes that the discipline of the Middle Eastern studies has undergone in recent decades one can't help but think of Edward Said and the effects that his studies, good or bad, have had on the discipline that has heretofore called itself Oriental studies.

The symposium invites scholars from the Arabic countries as well as local scholars to engage in what will hopefully be a fruitful dialogue on the history of orientalism as a discipline, and on the influence that Saidian critique has had and still has on the regional studies, specifically the Middle Easter and other non-Western regions. The preliminary panel will be comprised of Dr. Hilal al-Hajri from Oman, Dr. Omar Abed Rabo from the University of Bethlehem, as well as scholars from the Vilnius University Fabio Belafatti, Šarūnas Rinkevičius ir Ernestas Jančenkas.

18 PM Dr. Omar Abed Rabo, Architectural heritage during the period of Umayyad and Fatimid dynasties (8th – 10th centuries) in Jerusalem (Bethlehem University) (FSF 209 aud.)

Historian Dr. Omar Abed Rabo from the Bethlehem University invites all interested in the early Islamic civilization in Jerusalem to the lecture, dedicated to review the most important Jerusalem's architectural monuments of the 8th-10th centuries.

The 18th of December, M. Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

1 PM The Opening Ceremony (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania) (*Renginių erdvė*)

The opening ceremony of Arab Language Day will be held on 18 of December, 13.00 at Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania. H.E. Mr. Neris Germanas, Vice-minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, will officially open the Arab Language Day. The event will be attended by prominent guests: H.E. Yacoub Yousef Hassan Al Hosani, Assistant Minister for International Cooperation of the UAE, UAE Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania Yousif Eisa Bin Hassan Al-Sabri. During the opening ceremony, the first Arab-Lithuanian Dictionary will be presented to the public by the author Maritana Larbi. Also, an Omani poet Dr. Hilal al-Hajri will read his poetry in Arabic.

2 PM A Presentation by the *Biblioteca Alexandrina* (Bibliotheca Alexandrina) (*Renginių erdvė*)

Documentary on the Bibliotheca Alexandrina

3 PM What are the Arab youth reading these days? (Milda Petkauskaitė and Deimantė Milerytė, Forum of Arabic Culture) (*Renginių erdvė*)

What are the Arab youths reading? What are their dreams? What challenges do they face? The purpose of the event is to acquaint the young Lithuanian audience with the Arabic literature for teenagers. During the event, students from the department of the Middle Eastern Studies in Vilnius University will read parts of the most popular books for teenagers, written by Arab writers. The stories presented in the books delve into the relevant issues that young people face in the Arab world, they disclose their dreams, and the challenges that they face in their everyday life.

4 PM Event: An Exhibition of Arabic Calligraphy and a Lecture on Arabic Calligraphy (Emirati calligraphist Husain Ali Hashimi, Documents and Archiving Department /Maritana Larbi, Forum of Arabic Culture) (*Meno erdvė*)

Arabic calligraphy is not just the canon of the proportions of the letters, not simply a geometry or an abstraction, it has also been likened to music. Maritana Larbi give a workshop and a lecture on the Arabic calligraphy: its history, significance, and its various styles.

5 PM Event: Literary Reading (Gintarė Sereikaitė, Forum of Arabic Culture) (*Kino salė*)

The event will consist of reading of excerpts from the Lithuanian translations of Arabic literature. Short stories and novellas from Sahar Khalifeh, Yusef Sharif, Mohammed Ben Saif Al-Rahbi will be read aloud by I. Martinaitis and R. Grajauskas.

6 PM Event: Contemporary Arab Cinema (Dr. Deimantas Valančiūnas, Institute of Asian and transcultural Studies) (*Kino salė*)

Even though cinema was born in the West, just in a couple of decades it reached and became established in almost every corner of the World, also in the East. In this lecture we will discuss the specificities of the Arab cinema, its aesthetics and the most common topics.

7:00-8:15 PM Event: Discussion: Modern Arabic Literature (Prof. Dr. Aušra Linartienė, The Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore) (*Konferencijų salė*)

The discussion about the challenges and trends of Modern Arab Literature will be lead by prof. dr Aušra Linartienė. Guests in the discussion: writer and poet from Oman dr. Hilal Al-Hajri)

8:30 PM The Closing Ceremony (Honorary Consul of the Sultanate of Oman in Lithuania)

Translation Contest from Arabic to Lithuanian: (The Lithuanian Association of Literary Translators)

Picture and Book Exhibition: (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates and UAE Embassy in Warsaw)