



THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FINE
ARTS AND ART HISTORY AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

MAY 5-7, 2016

THURSDAY, MAY 5
AUB, College Hall, B1

- 5:00 pm Introduction: Hala Auji, James Hodapp, Sonja Mejcher-Atassi (AUB)
5:20 pm Welcome: Associate Dean John Meloy, FAS (AUB)
5:30 pm • **KEYNOTE 1: Beatrice Gruendler (Free University of Berlin):
On the Two Dimensional Page /The Book in Abbasid Times**
Discussant: Interim Associate Provost Nadia El Cheikh (AUB)
7:00 pm • **Book Exhibition: Jafet Library Lobby, AUB**
Introduction: Hala Auji (AUB)

FRIDAY, MAY 6
AUB, College Hall, B1

- 9:00 am • **PANEL 1: KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION**
Discussant: Ira Allen (AUB)
— Helen Frederick (George Mason University): Investigating Cultural Literacy
— Stefan Leder (OIB): Scientific Knowledge Production in Arabic Manuscript
Culture (9th to 16th century)
— Elizabeth le Roux (University of Pretoria in South Africa): Religion and
Mobility in African Book History: Contact, Competition and Collaboration
between Islamic and Christian Textual Cultures
11:30 am • **PANEL 2: TRAVEL AND EXCHANGE**
Discussant: James Hodapp (AUB)
— Selamawit Mecca (University of Addis Ababa): Ethiopianizing Foreign
Heroines: The Reception and Adaptation of Female Saints' Hagiographies
to Ethiopic Christian Texts
— Alya Karamé (Edinburgh University): The Travel of a Manuscript from
an Imperial Commission in the 5th/11th Century to a Diplomatic Gift in the
15th/21st Century
— Maher Jarrar (AUB): The Arabian Nights (*Alf layla wa-layla*): A Case Study
in 'Travel' and Reception
3:00 pm • **PANEL 3: MATERIAL TRANSFORMATIONS**
Discussant: Rico Franses (AUB)
— Bilal Orfali (AUB): The *Maqāmāt* of al-Hamādhani: Manuscripts, Collection,
and Early History
— Hala Auji (AUB): Visual Translations: The Shifting Material Dimensions of
19th-Century Printed Editions of Arabic Classics
— Kathryn Schwartz (Harvard): Cultural and Textual Mobility: the Cairene
Professional Printer's Development
5:30 pm • **KEYNOTE 2: Lydia H. Liu (Columbia University):
Jabberwocky in Translation: What Happens When Books Travel?**
Discussant: Sonja Mejcher-Atassi (AUB)

SATURDAY, MAY 7
Orient-Institut Beirut, Max Weber Foundation

- 9:00 am • **PANEL 4: AESTHETICS AND POLITICS**
Discussant: Syrine Hout (AUB)
— Alain George (Edinburgh University): From West Africa to China:
Mapping the History of Calligraphy
— Yuka Kadoi: Page Layout: Space and Composition in the Early Persian Art
of the Book
— James Hodapp (AUB): Surface Reading: Global Calculations in the Cover
Art and Design of the Heinemann African Writers Series
— Sonja Mejcher-Atassi (AUB): Contemporary Book Art in Iraq: Unfolding
Narratives of Survival and Intimate Encounters between East and West
11:30 am • **PANEL 5: DIGITAL REMEDIATION**
Discussant: David Currell (AUB)
— Torsten Wollina (OIB): Working with Books in the Digital Age.
A User's Perspective
— Till Grallert (OIB): *Majallat al-Muqtabas* Between Gray Online Libraries,
Large-Scale Scanning Efforts, and Programming Tools
— David Wrisley (AUB): Beirut Publishes: Digital Spatio-Temporal Narratives
of the Lebanese Publishing Industry (1920-present)
1:30 pm • **Poster presentation by AUB students, Literature and Mapping:
Mapping Beirut Print Culture**
3:00 pm • **Roundtable Discussion: Without You; datum, dust, hacker**
— Walid Sadek (AUB)
— Sara Giannini (Leiden University)
— Vartan Avakian (Arab Image Foundation)

The conference is part of the series of events commemorating the 150th anniversary of the American University of Beirut.

Books in Motion

Exploring Concepts of Mobility in Cross- Cultural Studies of the Book



Design: Jana Traboulsi

The conference is supported by AUB's Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES), the Center for Arts and Humanities (CAH), and the Archives and Special Collections Department (ASC), University Libraries, and produced in collaboration with the Orient-Institut Beirut (OIB), Max Weber Foundation. Funding was generously provided by AUB's Faculty of Arts and Sciences' Office of the Dean, CAMES, and CAH, as well as the OIB.

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