



AASA
Arab American Studies Association

AASA CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Beyond the Label: Arab American Faces, Places, and Traces

A Conference organized by the Arab American Studies Association at the Arab American National Museum in Honor of Alixa Naff (1919-2013)
Dearborn, Michigan, April 4-6, 2014

Friday, April 4, 2014

Registration: 3:00–5:00pm

4:00–4:45pm

Arab American Stories (optional, open for educators of all levels)

5:00–6:45 pm

**Panel 1: Arab American Feminist Studies:
Formations and Transformations**

Chair: Happy Hyder, Artist (California)

The Theory of Intersectionality and Arab American/Arab-Canadian Feminisms
Joe Kadi, University of Calgary and Mount Royal University, grace.104@hotmail.com

Literary Interventions in the Construction of Arab American Feminist Identities
Lisa Suhair Majaj, University of Cyprus, lmajaj@cytanet.com.cy

From the Arab Revolutions to the Belly of the Beast: Arab and Arab American Feminist Coalitions
Nadine Naber, University of Chicago, Illinois, naber@uic.edu

From “Becoming American” to Transnational Alliances: Feminist Methodologies and Transformations in Arab American Studies
Therese Saliba Evergreen State College, salibat@evergreen.edu

6:45– 7:30pm

Reception

7:30pm

Cultural Event

Saturday, April 5, 2014

8:00–9:00 am

Breakfast and Registration at the Museum:

9:00–10:45am

Panel 2: Two Visions of Arabs in America: Naff and Rihani

Chair: Gigi Awad, University of Texas at Austin

Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Early Arab American History: Naff's Peddling Thesis
Charlotte Karem Albrecht, Denison University, albrechtc@denison.edu

An Arab in New York: The Encounter of Arab and American Modernisms in the Work of Ameen Rihani
Michelle Baroody, University of Minnesota, baroo001@umn.edu

Toward a Genealogy of Arab American Women's Life Writing: A Critical Analysis of Alixa Naff and Evelyn Shakir
Christina Najla LaRose, University of Michigan, clarose@umich.edu

10:45am: Break

11:00 am–12:45pm

Panel 3: Performing Arabs

Chair: Doris Bitar, Artist (California)

Middle Eastern Americans in Reality Television: Narcissists, Patriots, and Muslims
Evelyn Alsultany, University of Michigan, alsultan@umich.edu

Polycentric Palestinianism: Trans/national Cinema and Identity Politics at the Boston Palestine Film Festival
Umayyah Cable, University of Southern California, umayyah.cable@gmail.com

"Playing East": Arabs Perform in Nineteenth Century America
Linda Jacobs, Independent Scholar, ljacobs78@gmail.com

Arab Americans or Arabs-in-America? Manufacturing Identity in Hollywood's Studios
Waleed F. Mahdi, University of Minnesota, mahdi004@umn.edu

1:00–2:00pm

Lunch

2:00–3:45pm

Panel 4: Arabs as Minorities, Arabs as Hegemons

Chair: Ronald Stockton, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Third World Alliances: Arab American Activists at American Universities, 1967-1973

Pamela E. Pennock, University of Michigan-Dearborn, ppennock@umich.edu

Arabs in the Power Elite

Rita Stephan, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University,

rita.stephan@gmail.com

Kurdish America: Working with, Through, and Against Arab America

Stanley Thangaraj, City College of New York, stan.thangaraj18@gmail.com

3:45 pm: Break

4:00–6:00pm

Panel 5: Writing Identity

Chair: Janice Terry, Eastern Michigan University

Beyond the Label “Potpourri”: Tracing the Comic Pulse of Arab American Girlhood and Sexuality in Alicia Erian’s *Towelhead* and Randa Jarrar’s *A Map of Home*

Leila Ben Nasr, Ohio State University, Columbus, ben-nasr.1@osu.edu

Representations of Islam and Embodied Intimacy in Arab American Women’s Poetry

Sirène Harb, American University of Beirut, sh03@aub.edu.lb

Searching for Home: The Role of Language in *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf*

Rachel Norman, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, ranorman@email.unc.edu

Scheherazade as Muse and Metaphor in Contemporary Arab American Writing

Mejdulene B. Shomali, University of Michigan, mejdulene.shomali@gmail.com

Traveling Tales: Storytelling and the Fabrication of Identity in Rabih Alameddine’s *The Hakawati*

Pauline Homsy Vinson, Diablo Valley College (California), pvinson@dvc.edu

6:15–7:25pm

Keynote Dinner

Keynote Speaker: Suad Joseph, University of California, Davis

7:30–8:30pm

Roundtable: Theoretical and Practical Considerations for Arab American Studies and Future Directions of the AASA

Chaired by Akram Khater, North Carolina State University

Sunday, April 6, 2014
Breakfast at the Museum: 8:30 am

9:00–10:45am

Panel 6: Religion, Class, and Race

Chair: Matthew Jaber Stiffler, Arab American National Museum

Class and Color among Arab Americans: The Truly Invisible Arab Americans
Rosina Hassoun, Saginaw Valley State University, rhassoun@svsu.edu

Circumstantial Identities: When Arabness is Not the (Only) Thing
Sally Howell, University of Michigan, Dearborn, sshowell@umich.edu

"Messihi or Muslim?": Assumptions and Negotiations of Arab Christian Identifications in Contemporary America
Randa Kayyali, American University, kayyali@american.edu

10:45am: Break

11:00am–12:45pm

Panel 7: Transnationalism in Arab American Identity

Chair: Lutfi Hussein, Mesa Community College (Arizona)

Homeland Imaginings Among Diasporic Palestinian American Youth
Louise Cainkar, Marquette University, louise.cainkar@marquette.edu

Cross-Racial and Transnational Reformulations of Arab-American Identities
Carol Fadda-Conrey, Syracuse University, cfaddaco@syr.edu

"Sh*t Arabs in Dearborn Do": The Frictions of Arab American Youths' Self-Representational Strategies
Candice Haddad, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, candice.haddad@gmail.com

Overcoming the Divide: Palestine's Role in Crafting Early Arab-American Identity
Suraya Khan, Rice University, surayakhan01@gmail.com

12:45pm: Brown bag lunch & departures