

The Queens College Department of Comparative Literature presents

“Protest Contagion”: North Africa and the Middle East Today



Merwan Mekkour

A SYMPOSIUM

Why social and political protests in the Arab world are spreading and having a global impact.

Monday, March 19, 2012 • Dining Hall, Patio Room

3 pm | Reception*

4 pm | Keynote Speaker: Muhsin al-Musawi

MUHSIN AL-MUSAWI

Columbia University

The Unsettling Narrative of the Arab Street



Muhsin al-Musawi is Professor of Arabic & Comparative Studies at Columbia University. A well-known literary critic across the Arab World and the West, he is the editor of the *Journal of Arabic Literature*

(Brill Academic Publishers), and the author of 28 books in English and Arabic. His books include *Scheherazade in England: A Study of 19th-Century Criticism of the Arabian Nights*; *The Postcolonial Arabic Novel*; *Anglo-Orient*; *Arabic Poetry: Trajectories of Modernity and Tradition*; *Reading Iraq*; *The Islamic Context of the Thousand and One Nights*; and *Islam in the Street*. Among his forthcoming books is *Arab Popular Revolutions: Staging Collective Will*. He was the recipient of the 2002 Owais Award in literary criticism.

OTHER PRESENTERS

MALIKA ZEGHAL

Harvard University



Malika Zeghal is Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor in Contemporary Islamic Thought & Life at Harvard University's Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations Department and the Committee on the Study of Religion.

Among her publications are *Gardiens de l'Islam: Les oulémas d'al-Azhar dans l'Egypte contemporaine* (Paris, Presses de Sciences Po, 1996) and *Islamism in Morocco: Religion, Authoritarianism, and Electoral Politics* (Princeton, Markus Wiener, 2008).

JOHN P. ENTELIS

Fordham University



John P. Entelis is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Middle East Studies Program at Fordham University. He is the author or co-author of numerous scholarly publications on the comparative and international politics of the Middle East and North Africa, including *Pluralism and Party Transformation in Lebanon*; *Comparative Politics of North Africa*; *The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa*; *Political Elites in Arab North Africa*; *Algeria: The Revolution Institutionalized*; *Culture and Counterculture in Moroccan Politics*; *State and Society in Algeria*; and *Islam, Democracy, and the State in North Africa*. He is editor-in-chief of the *Journal of North African Studies* and publications officer of the American Institute for Maghrib Studies.

TAREK EL-ARISS

University of Texas, Austin

Tarek El-Ariss is Assistant Professor of Arabic Studies in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the author of *Trials of Arab Modernity: Literary Affects and the New Political* (Fordham University Press) and editor of *The Arab Renaissance: Literature, Culture, Media* (MLA Book Series, *Texts and Translations*), both forthcoming in 2012. His new project examines intersections of digital activism and experimental writing in the Arab world.

RABIA SOUHAIL

Queens College, CUNY

Rabia Souhail is an undergraduate student at Queens College, CUNY.

ABDURRAHMAN ATCIL

Queens College, CUNY | Moderator

Abdurrahman Atcil is Assistant Professor of Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies at Queens College. His research specialization is the bureaucracy of religious scholars and the development of various branches of Islamic religious studies in the Ottoman Empire. His most recent work appears in the *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*.

Conference organized by Queens College Associate Professor Andrea Khalil, Department of Comparative Literature, a specialist in North African studies.

*Kosher/Hallal Food



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