



Académie Tunisienne des Sciences,
des Lettres et des Arts
Beit al-Hikma



The 2021 Carthage Seminars

An International Conference and School on:

Pluralism in Arab and Muslim Societies

Current Trends in the Arts, Culture and Media under Duress

28 June - 02 July 2021

Online, Via ZOOM

14:00-19:00 (Carthage/Alger/Rabat Time, GMT +1)

15:00-20:00 (Rome, GMT+2)

16:00-21:00 (Baghdad/Beirut, GMT+3)

09:00-14:00 (New York, GMT -5)

06:00-11:00 (San Francisco, GMT -8)

Organized by [Reset Dialogues on Civilizations](#) in Milan and [Reset Dialogues US](#),
in collaboration with [The Tunisian Academy of Sciences, Letters, and Arts \(Beit al-Hikma\)](#).

Background

The challenge of cultural and political pluralism has become a common area in need of improvement for both established and developing democracies. Reset Dialogues will convene a broad range of scholars, researchers and professionals in the virtual home of Beit al-Hikma in Carthage, Tunisia this Summer. After previous successful editions held in Casablanca (2018 and 2019) and Carthage (2020, online), we will create a forum for in-depth and critical analysis on “Pluralism in Arab and Muslim Societies - Current Trends in the Arts, Culture and Media under Duress”, in two parts.

The **Summer School’s** courses and workshops will explore the status of pluralism in the Arab and Muslim world and the communities the world over -- from Beirut to Santiago to Detroit and beyond -- as it is lived and experienced in the arts and humanities.

The **Conference** will explore the theme of cultural pluralism in the Media, both traditional and digital, with particular attention paid to information technologies and how news spreads. What are the principal sources of information in the Arab and Muslim World? Who finances them, who owns them, who controls them culturally? Who is in the position to guarantee or impede freedom of speech and the plurality of public discourse?

The following sub-themes will emerge during the Summer School and International Conference: the growing hegemony of the Turkish cultural and political model in the MENA region; the influence of the Gulf countries on cultural trends in North Africa and the Arab diasporas in both hemispheres; contemporary Islam and its reflections in contemporary Arab culture (television, music, storytelling and cinema); artistic-literary production in Arab / Muslim communities; the impact of living in democratic, pluralist societies vis-a-vis environments with fewer freedoms, on creative production among the Arab diasporas.

The program will bring together top-tier academics and intellectuals, alongside young scholars and an international pool of young professionals and opinion leaders from the fields of education, journalism, and social media who have the abilities and potential to reach and engage with a wide public, to discuss vibrant issues of regional and world-scale importance. The working languages of the Seminars are Arabic and English, with simultaneous translation.

Conference Program (30 June - 1 July)

The following schedule is according to Rome Time (GMT +2)

The entire conference will be livestreamed on the Reset Doc YouTube channel.

Opening Session and Introduction

Day 1 – Wednesday 30 June 2021

15:00-15:45 (Rome Time)

Abdelmajid Charfi, President, Beit el-Hikma; Professor, University of Tunis
Giancarlo Bosetti, Chair, Reset Dialogues on Civilizations (DOC), Milan
Jonathan Laurence, Director, Reset Dialogues US; Professor, Boston College
Federica Zoja, Scientific Coordinator, Reset DOC; Journalist

Session 1

Panel 1 - How is Contemporary Islam reflected in Arab/Muslim Culture in the Great Mediterranean and beyond?

15:45- 17:00

Panelist 1 Mustafa Akyol, *Is there an Islamic Case for Free Speech?*

Panelist 2 Jocelyne Cesari, *Religious tolerance Versus Political toleration*

Panelist 3 Zeineb Toujani, *Islamism in the Tunisian media after 2018: Analytical and critical reading*

Chair: Mohammed Hashas, Reset DOC; Luiss University in Rome

Break 17:00-17:30

Panel 2 - Changing Societal Norms and Freedom of Speech in the Arts: Cinema, Design, Theatre

17:30-18:45

Panelist 1, Peter Limbrick, *New Networks for Arab Film and Video*

Panelist 2, Bahia Shehab, *Art and Resistance*

Panelist 3, Ismail Khalidi, *Thick as Thieves: Settler Colonial Delusions and the Policing of Palestine in Popular American Culture*

Chair: Federica Zoja, Reset DOC

Panel 3 - Restrictions on cultural freedom and strategies of adaptation

18:45-20:00

Panelist 1, Atef Elshaer, *The poetry of Mahmoud Darwish and Adonis, between Freedom and Duress*

Panelist 2, Karima Laachir, *Culture/arts and activism under authoritarian regimes in the MENA*

Panelist 3, Omar Fassatoui, *Acculturation of Rights and Freedoms in the Post Revolutionary Tunisia*

Chair: Mohammed Hashas, Luiss University in Rome

Day 2, Thursday 01 July 2021

Session 2

Panel 1 - No longer caught “between” Islam and the West? Cultural contributions to the construction of democracy

15:00-16:15

Panelist 1, Shady Hamadi, *The impact of living in democratic, pluralist societies vis-a-vis environments with fewer freedoms, on creative production among the Arab diasporas*

Panelist 2, Joshua Carney, *Resur(e)recting a Spectacular Hero: Diriliş Ertuğrul, Necropolitics, and Popular Culture in Turkey*

Panelist 3, Moez Mrabet, *Tunisian Theater from Dictatorship to Democracy*

Chair: Azzurra Meringolo Scarfoglio, RAI

Panel 2 – Pluralism and freedom of expression in traditional and digital media - a method for dialogue in disguise?

16:15-17:30

Panelist 1, Tarek El-Ariss *Digital Subjects: Performing Exposure on Arab Social Media*

Panelist 2, Teresa Pepe, *Arabic Literature and the Web 2.0*

Panelist 3, Abdel Aziz Hali, *The Alternative Media in Tunisia (Nawaat, Inkyfada, al-Qatiba)*

Chair: Jonathan Laurence, Boston College; Reset US

Break 17:30-18:00

Roundtable: Culture and the arts -- the continuation of politics by other means?

18:45-19:45

Lisa Anderson, Mayada Adil, Mustafa Akyol, Amel Boubekeur, Zyed Krichen

Chair: Giancarlo Bosetti, Reset DOC

Concluding remarks

19:45-20:00

Academic Advisory Board

Lisa Anderson (Columbia University)

Giancarlo Bosetti (Reset DOC, Milan)

Abdelmajid Charfi (Tunisian Academy for Sciences, Letters, and Arts “Beit al-Hikma”)

Jonathan Laurence (Boston College)

Federica Zoja (Reset DOC, Avvenire)

With the support of the Henry Luce Foundation



School Program (28 June - 02 July 2021)

Online, Via Zoom

The following schedule is according to Rome Time (GMT +2)

MONDAY 28 JUNE

Opening Lesson and Introduction

3-3:30 pm - **Introduction**

Giancarlo Bosetti / Jonathan Laurence / Federica Zoja

4 pm - **Lesson 1: Francesca Corrao**

Arabic poetry after the riots and beyond

4.50 - 5 pm Break

5 pm - **Lesson 2: Atef Elshaer**

Edward Said's Orientalism

5.50 - 6 pm Break

6 pm - **Lesson 3: Teresa Pepe**

Blogging in Egypt between Literature and Politics

6.50 - 7 pm Break

7 pm - **Lesson 4: Karima Laachir**

The artistic and cultural scene of Australian Muslim Diaspora

TUESDAY 29 JUNE

3 pm - **Lesson 1:**

3.50 - 4 pm Break

4 pm - **Lesson 2: Moez Mrabet**

Acting in contemporary Theater : Constraints of Traditions and Liberties of Transgressions

4.50 - 5 pm Break

5 pm - **Lesson 3: Peter Limbrick**

Pluralism, Duress, and Dissent in Arab Cinema

5.50-6 pm Break

6 pm - **Lesson 4: Tarek El-Ariss**

Ottomania: Turkish Drama and the Politics of Memory

Wed., 30 June -Thurs. 1 July: International Conference (open to the public)

FRIDAY 2 JULY

3 pm - **Lesson 1: Shady Hamadi**

The Arab diaspora in Italy between stereotypes and Literature

3.50 - 4 pm Break

4 pm - **Lesson 2: Bahia Shehab**

Arab Graphic Design and Politics

4.50 - 5 pm Break

5 pm - **Lesson 3: Ismail Khalidi**

Kanafani would have been a Rapper: Cultural Resistance and the Radical Palestinian Imagination

5.50 - 6 pm Break

6 pm - **Lesson 4: Omar Fassatoui**

Citizenship and minorities in North Africa

6.50 - 7 pm **Conclusions**

**The support of the Henry Luce Foundation
is gratefully acknowledged.**

