Past Sabbagh Lectures

1993 - Professor Talal Asad
City University of New York
“Tradition and Traditions in the Arab World: An Anthropological View”

1994 - Professor Dale F. Eickelman
Dartmouth College
“Muslim Politics: The Prospects for Democracy in the Arab World”

1995 - Associate Professor Lila Abu-Lughod
New York University
“Illusions of Equality: Women and the New Islamic Morality in Egypt”

1996 - Professor Fredrik Barth
Emory University
“Tolerance and Multiculturalism in the Arab Nation of Oman”

1997 - Professor Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad
University of Massachusetts
“The Silk Curtain: The West, Arab Women and the Veil”

1998 - Professor Robert A. Fernea
University of Texas at Austin
“Transformation from Kinship and Subsistence to Accommodation and Resistance: 40 Years of Field Work in the Arab World”

1999 - Professor Brinkley Messick
Columbia University
“Justice in an Arab Court”

2000 - Professor Abdellah Hammoudi
Princeton University
“The Anthropology of Islam: Misunderstandings of the Past, Perils of the Future”

2001 - Professor Clifford Geertz
Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University
“Islam, Identity and Local Culture: A Comparative Case”

2002 - Professor Edmund Burke, III
University of California at Santa Cruz
“Itineraries in the Arab Mediterranean Before Colonialism: The Adventures of Ali bin Uthman, Mamluk of Napoleon”

2003 - Professor Suad Joseph
University of California, Davis
“Self, Homework, and the Other: Representations of the Arab in Media and Scholarship”

2004 - Professor Dimitri Gutas
Yale University
“The Social Contexts of Medieval Arabic Science”

2005 - Professor Zainab Bahrani
Columbia University
“Mesopotamia as Battleground: Iraq’s Cultural Heritage Under Occupation”

2006 - Professor Juan R.I. Cole
University of Michigan
“America and the Iraqi Shi`ites”

2007 - Professor Azizah Y. al-Hibri
University of Richmond
“Gender and the Islamic World View”

2008 - Professor Kanan Makiya
Brandeis University
“Is Iraq Viable?”

2009 - Professor Andrew Shryock
University of Michigan
“Best of Times/Worst of Times: Citizenship and Its Contradictions in Arab Detroit”

2010 - George Packer
The New Yorker
“Journalism as Anthropology: Stories from the Middle East”

2011 – Professor Lawrence Rosen
Princeton University
“The Concept of the Self in Arab Society and Culture”

2012 – Professor Juan R.I. Cole
University of Michigan
“The Arab Spring One Year Later”

2013 – Professor Marcia C. Inhorn
Yale University
“The New Arab Man: Emergent Masculinities, Technologies, and Islam in the Middle East”

2014 – Professor McGuire Gibson
The University of Chicago
“The Neo-Assyrian Queens’ Tombs and What They Tell Us About the Elite, Diplomacy, and Dowries”

2015 – Scheduled and Canceled

2016 – Steven C. Caton
Harvard University
“Oasis, Coast, and Mountain: Land/Waterscapes of Culture and History in the Arabian Gulf”

2017 – Orit Bashkin
The University of Chicago
“The History of Iraqi Jewish Children—In Israel and Iraq”

2018 – Michael Gilsenan
New York University
“Trust(s) in the Family: Entanglements of Capital, Culture, and Kin in the Arab Southeast Asian Diaspora in the 20th Century”

2019 – Charles Hirschkind
University of California, Berkeley
“Flamenco and the Rediscovery of Islamic Spain”

2020 – Sherine Hamdy
The University of Arizona
“Comics, Gender, and Knowledge Production in the Arab World”

Guest Speaker
Professor Sherine Hamdy
February 27, 2020
7:00 PM

The 28th Annual Sabbagh Lecture

The University of Arizona School of Anthropology is proud to present
About the Speaker
Sherine Hamdy, who earned her Ph.D. from New York University, studies medical anthropology, bioethics, and science and technology in the Middle East. She uses comics to bring her research to a wider audience and is co-author, with Coleman Nye, of Lissa: A Story of Friendship, Medical Promise, and Revolution, the debut anthropological graphic novel of the University of Toronto Press’ ethnoGRAPHIC series. Her current research projects include a collaborative project, with Soha Bayoumi, which critically engages with physicians’ roles in the recent political upheavals in the Arab world; and a collaborative project with artist/scholar Myra El-Mir on the production of Feminist and Queer Arab comics.

Professor Hamdy is the author of Our Bodies Belong to God: Organ Transplants, Islam, and the Struggle for Human Dignity in Egypt. She has received numerous fellowships and awards for her work, including the 2009 Rudolph Virchow Award from the Society of Medical Anthropology.

About the Lecture
In the Arab world, particularly with the onset of the popular uprisings, there has also been an explosion in comics production for adult readers. Much of the new comics production critically interrogates social constraints and norms and is able to do so via channels of production and dissemination that lie outside of the mainstream industry.

This talk will focus on a subset of these counter-cultural comics: those representing feminist and queer perspectives in the Arab world and diaspora. Professor Hamdy will also talk about her own experience in using Arab comics for furthering feminist research within the academy, as a co-creator of the graphic book Lissa: A Story of Friendship, Medical Promise, and Revolution. This piece of ethno-fiction is a feminist portrayal of illness and disease amidst the Egyptian revolution, thus highlighting the imbrication of politics and the body, and the revolutionary potential of friendship. She will also speak of her current experiments in genre and translation, as she works to bring Lissa to Arabic-speaking audience.

The Sabbagh Lectures
The School of Anthropology is very pleased to present this series of distinguished speakers in the Sabbagh Lectures. This year the School presents the twenty-eighth annual Sabbagh Lecture. The lectures focus on the Arab cultures of the Middle East from an anthropological perspective.

Through the generosity of Drs. Entisar and Adib Sabbagh, an expert in Arab cultures is brought to campus each year. The guest speaker participates in one public lecture and a master seminar for graduate students.

Dr. Entisar (Vivi) Sabbagh is a Ph.D. graduate of the UA School of Anthropology, and Dr. Adib Sabbagh is a Tucson cardiac surgeon.

The Sabbaghs are sponsoring these lectures to enhance public understanding and appreciation for the complexity and diversity of Arab cultures. The lectures also serve to enrich the curriculum of the School of Anthropology by bringing to it the expertise of eminent scholars.

Questions?
For more information, please call or write:

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