

## Workshop

# “Visions and Representations of Homeland in Modern Arabic Poetry and Prose Literature”

Organized by  
Prof. Dr. Sebastian Günther and Dr. Stephan Milich,  
Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Göttingen

In collaboration with the  
**Lichtenberg-Kolleg (Institute for Advanced Study)**  
**Georg August University, Göttingen**  
**June 30 – July 1, 2011**

## Program

**Thursday, June 30**

**09:30 – 10:00 Registration**

**10:00 – 10:10** Opening Address: Prof. Dr. Dagmar Coester-Waltjen,  
Director, Lichtenberg-Kolleg

**10:10 – 10:25** Word of Welcome: Prof. Dr. Sebastian Günther

**10:25 – 11:25 Keynote Address: Prof. Dr. Samar Attar, Sydney**

*"A Mother or a Grave?"  
Visions of Homeland in Modern Arabic Literature"*

### **Panel 1:**

#### **“Homes in Pre-modern Arabic Literature”**

Chair: Sebastian Günther, Göttingen

**11:30 – 12:00** Beatrice Gründler, New Haven  
*Divided Attitudes on the Homeland:  
Classical Arabic Precedents of the Motif*

**12:00 – 14:00 Lunch**

## **Panel 2:**

### **“Thinking Home in Egyptian and Lebanese Literatures”**

Chair: Stephan Milich, Göttingen

**14:00 – 14:30**     Nikolay Dyakov, St. Petersburg  
*"Kitab ar-Rihla" in the "Age of "an-Nahda": Egyptian Scholars on Europe and Russia in the 19th C. (R.Tahtawi, M.Tantawi, A.Zaki)*

**14:30 – 15:00**     Jens Hanssen, Toronto  
*Butrus al-Bustani's 'wataniyyat'*

**15:00 – 15:30**     Stephan Guth, Oslo  
*Concepts that Changed the World: al-watan as one of Husayn al-Marsafi's "Eight Words" (al-kalim al-thamân, 1881)*

### **15:30 – 16:00     **Coffee Break****

Chair: Katja Niethammer, Hamburg

**16:00 – 16:30**     Göran Larsson, Gothenburg  
*Alaa al-Aswany and the concept of Nation in The Yacoubian Building*

**16:30 – 17:00**     Hartmut Fähndrich, Zürich  
*Out of the Coziness into the Cold? Leaving as loss or life?*

**18:00 – 19:30**     **Dinner**

### **20:00                    Public Screening of the Lebanese Documentary “Waiting for Abu Zayd” and Discussion**

Convener:             Sebastian Günther, Göttingen

Participants in podium discussion:  
Hosn Abboud, Beirut  
Jens Hanssen, Toronto  
Göran Larsson, Gothenburg  
Katja Niethammer, Hamburg

**Friday, 1 July**

**Panel 3:**

**"Watan in Arabic Literature between Nationalism and Private Dreams"**

Chair: Hartmut Fähndrich, Zürich

**9:30 – 10:00** Leslie Tramontini, Marburg  
*Mythologies of Nation Building - The Poetics of Homeland in Modern Iraqi Poetry*

**10:00 – 10:30** Stephan Milich, Göttingen  
*"Heimsuchungen":  
Constructing and Deconstructing "watan" in Contemporary Arabic Poetry*

**10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break**

Chair: Anja Johannsen, Göttingen

**11:00 – 11:30** Lale Behzadi, Bamberg  
*„Sometimes I can't believe how much I hate it and sometimes I can't believe how lucky I am to live here!" Ambivalence, Sentimentality, Cynicism: Beirut as the setting of contemporary Lebanese texts*

**11:30 – 12:00** Hosn Abboud, Beirut  
*Representations of the "Nation" in Arab Women Prison Memoires*

**12:00 – 14:00 Lunch**

**Panel 4:**

**"Prosaic Homelands: Palestine revisited"**

Chair: Verena Klemm, Leipzig

**14:00 – 14:30** Barbara Michalak-Pikulska, Krakow  
*A Vision of Homeland on the Basis of Emil Habibi's Novel al-Waqa'i al-ghariba fi ikhtifa Sa'id an-Nakhs al-Mutasha'il*

**14:30 – 15:00** Anette Mansson, Uppsala  
*Realizing Home - Changing Literary Strategies in Representing Geography in Contemporary Palestinian Literature in Relation to the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict*

**15:00 – 15:30** Rochelle Davis, Washington, D.C.  
*Literary expressions of homeland in Palestinian village memorial books*

**15:30 - 16:00** **Coffee Break**

**Panel 5:  
"Translating the Homeland"**

Chair: Stephan Guth, Oslo

**16:00 – 16:30** Evgeniy Zelenev, St. Petersburg  
*Worldview and the vision of Homeland: The Issue of Russian-Arabic translation*

**16:30 – 17:00** Concluding Remarks:  
Stephan Milich

**17:20 – 18:00** **Break**

**18:00 – 19:30** **Dinner**

**20:00** **Literary Reading**  
**with Alawiyya Sobh and Abbas Khider**  
**in Collaboration with the *Literarisches Zentrum Göttingen***

Word of Welcome: Prof. Dr. Dagmar Coester-Waltjen  
Convener: Dr. Stephan Milich, Göttingen  
Arabic-German translation: Amal Diab, Göttingen