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# Arabic Literature Postmodern Perspectives

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## ELLIANA OLSON

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*The Lebanese Post-Civil War Novel* Saqi

This history of literary Arabic describes the evolution of Arabic poetry and prose in the context of music, ritual performance, the arts and architecture. The thousands-of-years-old language is perhaps more highly developed and refined than any other on earth. This book focuses on what is unique about Arabic compared to other major languages of the world (Greek, Latin, Hebrew, English and Spanish) and how the distinct characteristics of Arabic took shape at various points in its history. The book provides a cultural background for understanding social and political institutions and religious beliefs--more influenced by the rhythms and depths of poetic language than other cultures--in the Middle East today.

**Modern Arabic Literature** Berghahn Books

Traces the development of the modern Arabic novel from the 1960s to the present.

*A Brief Introduction to Modern Arabic Literature* Cambridge University Press

This volume aims at confronting the image of the Middle East as a region that is fraught with totalitarian ideologies, authoritarianism and conflict. It gives voice and space to other, more liberal and adaptive narratives and discourses that endorse the right to dissent, question the status quo, and offer alternative visions for society.

*Libyan Novel* Springer

Understanding the complexities of Arab politics, history, and culture has never been more important for North American readers. Yet even as Arabic literature is increasingly being translated into English, the modern Arabic literary tradition is still often treated as other--controversial, dangerous, difficult, esoteric, or exotic. This volume examines modern Arabic literature in context and introduces creative teaching methods

that reveal the literature's richness, relevance, and power to anglophone students. Addressing the complications of translation head on, the volume interweaves such important issues such as gender, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and the status of Arabic literature in world literature. Essays cover writers from the recent past, like Emile Habiby and Tayeb Salih; contemporary Palestinian, Egyptian, and Syrian literatures; and the literature of the nineteenth-century Nahda.

**A Bibliography for the Study of French Literature and Culture Since 1885** Routledge

During the 2000's, online literature in Arabic language was popular among a larger readership. Writings on subjects dealing with politics, globalization, and social matters gained are well-received. While mapping the genre, this monograph shows literary developments in print and digital during these peak years to provide a historical context for the material. Online literary culture is linked to social, economic, and political developments within the last two decades. This book presents the differences between online and print literature as it relates to writer-readership interaction, literary quality, language and style, critical reception, and circulation. The geographic location of the analysis focuses on Gulf countries featuring a comparative study of Egypt and Lebanon.

**Le Corps dans le roman des écrivaines syriennes contemporaines** Bloomsbury Publishing

This thematic encyclopedia examines contemporary and historical Saudi Arabia, with entries that fall under themes such as Geography, History, Government and Politics, Religion and Thought, Food, Etiquette, Media, and much more. The Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia, known for its petroleum reserves and leadership role in the Middle East, is explored in this latest addition to the Understanding Modern Nations series. Organized into thematic chapters, Modern Saudi Arabia covers both history and contemporary daily life. Chapter topics include: Geography; History; Government and Politics; Economy; Religion and Thought; Social Classes and Ethnicity; Gender, Marriage, and Sexuality; Education; Language; Etiquette; Literature and Drama; Art and Architecture; Music and Dance; Food; Leisure and Sports; and Media and Popular Culture. Each chapter contains an overview of the topic and alphabetized entries on examples of each theme. A detailed historical timelinespans from prehistoric times to the present. Special appendices are also included, offering profiles of a typical day in the life of representative members of Saudi society, a glossary, key facts and figures about Saudi Arabia, and a holiday chart. This volume will be useful for readers looking for specific topical information and for those who want to read entire chapters to gain a deeper perspective on aspects of modern Saudi Arabia. • Includes "Day in the Life" features that portray the specific daily activities of various people in Saudi Arabia, from teenagers to working adults in different fields, thereby providing readers with insight into daily life in the country • Defines key terms related to the reading in a glossary appendix • Provides at-a-glance information about Saudi Arabia's important religious and secular holidays in a chart of National Holidays • Illuminates the text through photos and sidebars helping to illustrate key topics and allowing students to dive more deeply into ideas • Provides fun facts and anecdotal information in sidebars that help to engage readers

**Women and the Egyptian Revolution** Cambridge Scholars Publishing

A multi-disciplinary exploration of how masculinity in the MENA region is constructed in film, literature, and nationalist discourse. Constructions of masculinity are constantly evolving and being resisted in the Middle East and North Africa. There is no "before" that was a stable gendered environment. This edited collection examines constructions of both hegemonic and marginalized masculinities in the MENA region, through literary criticism, film studies, discourse analysis, anthropological accounts, and studies of military culture. Bringing together contributors from the disciplines of linguistics, comparative literature, sociology, cultural studies, queer and gender studies, film studies, and history, *Constructions of Masculinity in the Middle East and North Africa* spans the colonial to the postcolonial eras with emphasis on the late twentieth century to the present day. This collective study is a diverse and exciting addition to the literature on gender and societal organization at a time when masculinities in the Middle East and North Africa are often essentialized and misunderstood. Contributors: Jedidiah Anderson, Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina, USA Amal Amireh, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, USA Kaveh Bassiri, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, USA Oyman Basran, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, USA Alessandro Columbu, University of Manchester, England Nicole Fares, independent scholar Robert James Farley, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, USA Andrea Fischer-Tahir, independent scholar Nouri Gana, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, USA Kifah Hanna, Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, USA Sarah Hudson, Connors State College, Warner, Oklahoma, USA Mohja

Kahf, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, USA John Tofik Karam, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA Kathryn Kalemkerian, McGill University, Montreal, Canada Ebtihal Mahadeen, University of Edinburgh, Scotland Matthew Parnell, American University in Cairo, Egypt Nadine Sinno, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA

*Approaches to Arabic Popular Culture* University of Notre Dame Press

Challenging prevalent conceptualizations of modernity—which treat it either as a Western ideology imposed by colonialism or as a universal narrative of progress and innovation—this study instead offers close readings of the simultaneous performances and contestations of modernity staged in works by authors such as Rifa'a al-Tahtawi, Ahmad Faris al-Shidyaq, Tayeb Salih, Hanan al-Shaykh, Hamdi Abu Golayyel, and Ahmad Alaidy. In dialogue with affect theory, deconstruction, and psychoanalysis, the book reveals these trials to be a violent and ongoing confrontation with and within modernity. In pointed and witty prose, El-Ariss bridges the gap between Nahda (the so-called Arab project of Enlightenment) and postcolonial and postmodern fiction.

*Arabic Disclosures* BRILL

Writing in response to war and national crisis, al-Samm?n, Khal?feh, Barak?t, and others introduced into the Arabic literary canon aesthetic forms capable of carrying Levantine women's experiences. By assessing their feminism in such a way, this book aims to revive a critical emphasis on aesthetics in Arab women's writing.

*Zakariyya Tamir and the Politics of the Syrian Short Story* Reichert Verlag

This book investigates a shared experience of time and space in the post-civil-war city of Beirut: “the suspended now”. Based on the close analysis of a large corpus of cultural objects; including visual art, literature, architecture and cinema; the book argues that last decades have witnessed a gradual shift in understanding this temporality from being a transitional phase to a more durable experience of precariousness. The theoretically rich analyses take us on a journey through Beirut’s real and imagined geographies, from garbage dumps to real estate advertisements, and from subterranean spaces to martyr’s posters. For scholars of cultural analysis, urban studies, cultural geography and critical theory, the case of post-1990 Beirut offers a fascinating case of neoliberal urban renewal, which challenges existing theories. For scholars of Lebanon and Beirut, this study complements existing work on post-civil-war Lebanese cultural production rooted in trauma studies by its focus on the city’s continual exposure to violence.

Constructions of Masculinity in the Middle East and North Africa  
McFarland

What can novels tell us about masculinity in Syria? In this book, Lovisa Berg explores over 20 Syrian novels covering the last 50 years of the 20th century. Uniquely, she examines only female writers in order to gauge the changing ways in which Syrian women perceived the function of masculinity, and the impact certain attitudes towards masculinity have on men, women, children and Syrian society, from a female perspective. The works of writers from Kulit Khuri to Usayma Darwish are analysed to explore changing attitudes to gender in Syria and the Middle East, as well as the political upheavals within the country and

region. We see the idealistically portrayed men in the novels of female authors in the 1950s give way in time to a more critical depictions of patriarchy. Above all, we see through the use of novels a plethora of critiques of masculine hegemony in Syrian society, the authors of which are able with the use of fiction to reorganise and question maleness in a way denied to them in reality. This book will be of interest to scholars of Contemporary Syrian and Arabic Literature, Masculinity Studies and Women's Studies.

Narratives of Mediterranean Spaces Oxford University Press

An examination of women’s political participation and engagement during and after the 2011 uprising in Egypt.

Blogging from Egypt Cambridge University Press

Narratives of Mediterranean Space: Literature and Art across Land and Sea presents a comparative analysis of contemporary literary and visual narratives of movement and migration produced in Italian, Arabic and French. It analyzes how these works create a dialogue across the Mediterranean Sea. By paying attention to the multiple ways in which the Mediterranean is being narrated by contemporary writers and artists, Silvia Caserta aims to propose a reconceptualization of the Mediterranean as a polyphonic space of movement and resistance. The Mediterranean space that emerges from this study is a space that, by virtue of the instability and porosity of its geographical and cultural borders, is able to overcome normative dichotomies between north and south, east and west, local and global. This book proposes the Mediterranean is a fruitful area from which to investigate the wider contradictions of the contemporary global world while avoiding the traps of

“Mediterraneanism”. For this reason, the book highlights the contradictions and dissonances that emerge from reading Mediterranean works, opening up multiple perspectives on the Sea and on the different lands that surround it.

**Migration in the Making of the Gulf Space** Edinburgh University Press

Interrelations of literature and art, word and image, are manifold. However, they have remained largely unexplored when it comes to literature and art in the Arab world. This book aims at introducing interarts studies to Middle Eastern studies and, at the same time, hopes to widen the horizon of interarts studies, which has primarily dealt with Western literary and artistic traditions and represents an interdisciplinary field of research in comparative literature. After methodological considerations and preliminary thoughts on changing notions of literature and art in the modern Arab world, the book focuses on three case studies, examining the rapport of Arab writers with art, be it as an art critic, an art lover, or an artist in his/her own right. It in particular looks at Jabra Ibrahim Jabra, Abd al-Rahman Munif and Etel Adnan who contributed profoundly to modern Arabic literature in the second half of the twentieth century. In correspondence with their life trajectories - spanning the Arab world from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, Baghdad, Amman, Beirut, Cairo, and Damascus, and beyond the Arab world from Cambridge to London, Belgrade, Paris, and California - it does not focus on one country but gives testimony to the transnational as well as transcultural character of cultural production in the Arab world. It then sets out to read selected literary texts relationally, across the fields of literature and art, breaking with conventional ways of reading and seeing.

In reading across modern Arabic literature and art the book sets out to study artistic practices, be they word or image oriented, in context and thus contributes to a better understanding of modern Arabic literature and art beyond the confines of the single disciplines. Its interdisciplinary approach opens new perspectives on modern Arabic literature and art alike. The book is addressed at scholars and students in Middle Eastern studies, comparative literature, art history, and cultural history, as well as at a general public interested in literature and art beyond the Western canon.

**Masculinity and Syrian Fiction** Syracuse University Press

The Dictionary of Arabic Literary Terms covers the most important literary terms relevant to classical and modern Arabic literature. Its 300+ entries include technical terms and rhetorical devices, themes and motifs, concepts, historical eras, literary schools and movements, forms and genres, figures and institutions. Defining terms such as 'root-play', highlighting schools such as the Mahjar poets, and exploring concepts such as 'imaginary evocation', the dictionary introduces its readers to the specificities of the Arabic literary tradition. The dictionary is intended to meet the needs of the growing number of students studying Arabic in the English-speaking world, whose studies include Arabic literature from an early stage. This reference resource equips them to understand the nuances and complexities of the texts they encounter. It is an invaluable reference work for students of Arabic literature.

*Feminism and Avant-Garde Aesthetics in the Levantine Novel* Bloomsbury Publishing

After the Lebanese Civil War, many Lebanese novelists committed themselves to building a "memory for the future."

What resulted was a vital contribution to the legacy of contemporary Arabic literature. Through interviews, literary analysis, and the lens of trauma studies, Lang sheds light on what it means to remember through post-war literature.

**Representations and Visions of Homeland in Modern Arabic Literature** Springer

*Le Corps dans le roman des écrivaines syriennes contemporaines*, de Martina Censi, explore les représentations du corps dans un corpus de romans en arabe publiés (entre 2004 et 2011) par six écrivaines syriennes. In *Le Corps dans le roman des écrivaines syriennes contemporaines*, Martina Censi explores the representations of the body in a selection of Arabic novels published (between 2004 - 2011) by six Syrian women authors.

*Bildungsroman and the Arab Novel* Columbia University Press

Through a close-reading of a corpus of novels featuring young protagonists in their path toward adulthood, the book shows how Bildungsroman impacted the formation of the Egyptian narrative. On a larger scale, the book helps the reader to understand the key role played by the coming of age novel in the definition and perception of modern Arab subjectivity. Exploring the role of Bildungsroman in shaping the canonical Egyptian novel, the book discusses the case of *Zaynab* by Muhammad Husayn Haykal (1913) as an example of early Arab Bildungsroman. It focuses on Latifa Zayyat's masterpiece *The Open Door* and the novels of the 90es Generation, offering a gender-based analysis of the Egyptian Bildungsroman. It provides insightful readings about the function of the novel in women's re-negotiation of social boundaries. The study shows how the stories of youth present universal themes such as the thwarted quest for love, the

struggle for personal fulfilment, the desire to achieve a cultural modernity often felt as "other than self". The book is a journey in the Twentieth Century Egyptian Novel, seen through the lens of the transnational form of Bildungsroman. It is a key resource to students and academics interested in Arabic literature, comparative literature and cultural studies.

*Reading Across Modern Arabic Literature and Art* University of Bamberg Press

In this groundbreaking book, leading Arab and Jewish intellectuals examine how and why the Holocaust and the Nakba are interlinked without blurring fundamental differences between them. While these two foundational tragedies are often discussed separately and in abstraction from the constitutive historical global contexts of nationalism and colonialism, *The Holocaust and the Nakba* explores the historical, political, and cultural intersections between them. The majority of the contributors argue that these intersections are embedded in cultural imaginations, colonial and asymmetrical power relations, realities, and structures. Focusing on them paves the way for a new political, historical, and moral grammar that enables a joint Arab-Jewish dwelling and supports historical reconciliation in Israel/Palestine. This book does not seek to draw a parallel or comparison between the Holocaust and Nakba or to merely inaugurate a "dialogue" between them. Instead, it searches for a new historical and political grammar for relating and narrating their complicated intersections. The book features prominent international contributors, including a foreword by Lebanese novelist Elias Khoury on the centrality of the Holocaust and Nakba in the essential struggle of humanity against racism, and

an afterword by literary scholar Jacqueline Rose on the challenges and contributions of the linkage between the Holocaust and Nakba for power to shift and a world of justice and equality to be created between the two peoples. The Holocaust and the Nakba is the first extended and collective scholarly treatment in English of these two constitutive traumas together.

The Theatre of Sa'dallah Wannous Springer

Over recent years, Arabic popular culture has become a focal point of West Asian and North African studies. Most of the new research dealing with it concentrates on the 'popular' as opposed to an intellectual 'high' culture far from the harsh and hierarchically organized reality many Arabic-speaking societies face today. Popular cultural practices are thus seen as a rejection of the elite and a stance against those who have 'something to

loose?' within paralyzed and conservative communities. Albeit not denying the subversive political potential associated with these practices, this volume intends to take a more nuanced and broader perspective. Arabic popular culture might engage with emancipatory claims, but it might as easily follow the capitalist rulebook of global marketing. It might fight against oppressive authorities, yet it can equally become their symbol. Approaches to Arabic Popular Culture therefore closely looks at the aesthetic implications of a topic ranging from Lebanese hip hop over Algerian pop novels to jihadi chants in the 'Islamic State' as well as from Egyptian mahraganat music over sarcastic stories about hash dens and time travel in downtown Cairo to Saudi-Arabian YouTube-influencers. Thus, the theoretical scope widens and the reader is taken on a delightful journey to the unsettling pleasures of contemporary Arabic art and culture.