



Course Description: OSL/NISIS Workshop 2021



Title	Muslim Worlds/World Literatures
Academic year	2020-2021
EC	2-3
Level	600
Language	English
Keynote Speakers	Dr. Petra de Bruijn, Dr. Hiyem Chuerfa, Dr. Richard van Leeuwen, Dr. Liesbeth Minnaard
Hosted by	Dr. Alberto Godioli (OSL) and Prof. Christian Lange (NISIS)

Admission requirements

PhD candidates and research master students active in the field of Islamic Studies may apply for admission via www.nisis.nl.

NISIS junior members qualify automatically and do not need to apply for participation. However, they are required to register for the Seminar via www.nisis.nl.

In order to gain ECs participants should prepare readings and actively engage in the discussion (both during the seminar and in preparation in Perusall).

Description

The NISIS/OSL Workshop will be held on 12 February 2021. It will take place online.

As suggested by the plurals in the title, the event aims to question univocal views of both Muslim culture and world literature. On the one hand, we will consider Muslim worlds in their diversity, as opposed to representations of Islam as a dominant, stable essence. On the other,



we will problematize the notion of world literature by way of interrogating its multiple definitions and socio-political implications. From *One Thousand and One Nights* to the latest novel by Jokha Alharthi, we will explore the different ways in which Muslim cultures have shaped (and have been shaped by) the world's literary landscape.

The workshop provides an excellent opportunity for PhD candidates and research master students to acquaint themselves with the newest developments in their field of study and to exchange information and experiences with colleagues and specialists. PhD candidates and research master students within the field of Islamic Studies will be given the opportunity to network with other students and professors from other universities in the Netherlands.

Course objectives

- Enlarging and deepening the already existing knowledge of Islam and Muslim societies
- Providing insight and participation in the current academic debate
- Introducing the candidates to an international network of scholars in the field
- Creating an academic community in which research in the field of Islam and Muslim societies can be optimally pursued
- Mediating between a new generation of researchers and innovative disciplinary and interdisciplinary developments, theoretical and methodological initiatives and explorations in the field

Time Table

The workshop will consist of three online sessions led by international experts in Islamic and/or literary studies and will take place from 12.00 to 18.00.

12:00-14:00: Seminar led by Dr Richard van Leeuwen and Dr Hiyem Cheurfa (on the reception and contemporary influence of *One Thousand and One Nights*)

15:00-17:00: Seminar led by Dr Petra de Bruijn and Dr Liesbeth Minnaard (on religion and secularism in 20th- and 21st-century literature)

17:15-17:45: Wrap-up activity and final remarks

Please make sure to be informed about programme details and updates via our website: www.nisis.nl.



Mode of instruction

- Lecture
- Workshops
- Assignment

Course load

For 2 EC

- Attendance workshop: 6 hours
- Readings and Perusall assignment: 50 hours (150-200 pages; annotating and discussion in Perusall. Deadline: 5 February 2021, end of day.

For 1 extra EC

- Finding and reading additional material relevant to the assignment: 20 hours (at least two extra readings);
- Writing: 8 hours

Assessment method

The examination of PhD candidates and research master students is based on:

- attendance of the meeting and participation in the discussion
- written assignment (pass or fail)

Written Assignment

For 1 extra EC, participants can write a short reflection on one of the workshop sessions (750-1000 words). Your reflection should include references to the session, as well as two relevant secondary sources. If applicable, you are welcome to reflect on how the insights derived from the workshop might be relevant for your own research. The deadline for the critical reflection is Friday 5 March 2021, end of day.



Reading list

- Almond, Ian. "Islam, Melancholy, and Sad, Concrete Minarets: The Futility of Narratives in Orhan Pamuk's *The Black Book*," *New Literary History* 34, no. 1 (2003): 75-90.
- Al-Samman, Hanadi. "Introduction: *Al-Maw'udah/Shahrazad*, Icons of Erasure and Revolutionary Resurrection." In *Anxiety of Erasure: Trauma, Authorship, and the Diaspora in Arab Women's Writings*, 1-21. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2015.
- Borges, Jorge Luis. "The South." In *Collected Fictions*, edited By Andrew Hurley. New York: Viking, 1998.
- Bouazza, Hafid. "Abdullah's Feet." In *Abdullah's Feet*, translated by Ina Rilke, 19-31. London: Review, 2000.
- Djebar, Assia. "The Woman in Pieces." In *The Tongue's Blood Does Not Run Dry: Algerian Stories*, translated by Tegan Raleigh, 97-125. New York: Seven Stories Press, 2006.
- Van Leeuwen, Richard. "Shahrazad in Twentieth-Century Fiction: Approaches and Considerations," In *Endless Inspiration: One Thousand and One Nights in Comparative Perspective*, edited by Orhan Elmaz, 13-34. Piscataway: Gorgias Press, 2020.
- Morey, Peter. "Introduction: Islamophobia: The Word and the World." In *Islamophobia and the Novel*, 1-29. New York: Columbia University Press, 2018.
- Pamuk, Orhan. *The Black Book*, translated by Güneli Gün. London & Boston, Faber and Faber, 1995.
- Burton, Richard F., trans. "The Tale of the Three Apples." *The Book of the Thousand Nights and a Night*, volume 1, 186-192. Burton Club for Private Subscribers Only.

Application

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Website

www.nisis.nl