

# Practicing Philosophy in Lebanon

## Authors, Texts, Trends, Traditions

UNESCO WORLD PHILOSOPHY DAY 2013

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT  
(AUB, College Hall, Auditorium B1)

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013 & Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013



('Socrates'? ca. 13<sup>th</sup> century Arabic manuscript)

**Anis Makdisi Program in Literature (AUB)**

*In association with*

**Centre d'Études Michel Henry (USJ)**  
**Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (NDU)**  
**Forum of the Civilization Sequence Program (AUB)**

## Synopsis

The engagement with modern philosophy in Lebanon in the twentieth century has had an active and distinguished history, not only in the local Levantine context, or the broader region within the Arab world and the Middle East, but also at certain times internationally. The intensity and continuity in practicing philosophy in Lebanon, within academic institutions, learned societies, and centers, fluctuated over the past four decades, albeit, a new generation of active intellectuals and academics emerged during this period, with many amongst them establishing local and global recognition of their contributions to philosophical research and thinking. This proposed colloquium corresponds with the UNESCO ‘World Philosophy Day 2013’, and it aims at gathering academics and intellectuals in Lebanon, who are engaged in philosophical investigations within universities, institutes, and centers, to generate a forum for sharing their *oeuvres*, and debating their research methods and questions, around authors, texts, trends, and traditions within the various schools of philosophy. The papers and discussions will also address the particularities of practicing philosophy in Lebanon, through individual initiatives or teams, while assessing the conditions of rooting thought within a Levantine context that is marked by cultural, linguistic, literary, and confessional hybridity in its lived experiences and histories. The themes could be focused on specific technical issues in philosophizing (whether in ontology, epistemology, theories of value, history of philosophy, philosophy of science, philosophy of religion, etc.), and/or examining the adaptive assimilation of contemporary schools of philosophical thinking within a milieu that is marked by diverse Levantine expressions of thought, knowledge, culture, religion, and society; including the development of certain facets in philosophizing that respond to local and regional intellectual concerns and legacies. Papers may also focus on the potentials and obstacles that face philosophical research when situated between different schools of thought and civilizations, in addition to reflecting on practicing philosophy by way of translation from and into the Arabic language. The colloquium is open to all philosophical orientations and areas of specialism, and papers can be presented in Arabic, English, or French. The colloquium papers will be published in a tri-lingual proceedings volume, and this gathering will be followed by future events and symposia to consolidate the research activities of the participants and generate the basis for collaborations and deliberations over the possibility of structuring the philosophical activities in the Lebanese context. Annual meetings would rotate between the participating institutions (as represented by the participating speakers), and potentially formalizing the gatherings in a registered “Lebanese Philosophical Association” with a secretariat bureau and executive council.

**Wednesday**  
**20<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

**Morning Coffee**

8:30 – 9:00

**Welcome Address**

Nader El-Bizri (American University of Beirut)

9:00 – 9:15

**Opening Remarks**

Nassif Nassar (Lebanese University)

9:15 – 9:30

**Session 1**

9:30 am – 11:00 am

*Moderator: Jad Hatem (Université Saint- Joseph)*

Muta' Safadi (Arab Center for National Development)

لماذا لا نفكر فلسفياً؟ نحو استراتيجيّة جيو-فلسفيّة

Shafik Jaradi (Sapiential Knowledge Institute)

إلهيات المعرفة بين النصّ والتأويل الفلسفي

Mousa Wehbe (Lebanese University)

المصطلح الفلسفي بالعربيّة كمشكلة فلسفيّة

**Coffee Break**

11:00 – 11:30

**Session 2**

11:30 – 13:00

*Moderator: Pascale Lahoud (Université Antonine)*

Jad Hatem (Université Saint- Joseph)

**Le Dieu homme dans le cadre d'une philosophie des religions du Moyen-Orient**

Marlène Kanaan (University of Balamand)

**La Philosophie au rythme du sacré et du profane**

Nicole Hatem (Université Saint-Joseph)

**Un autre visage de Kierkegaard?**

## Lunch

13:00 – 14:30

## Session 3

14:30 – 16:00

*Moderator: Marlène Kanaan (University of Balamand)*

Pascale Lahoud (Université Antonine)  
فلسفة العلوم منظورًا إليها من لبنان القرن العشرين

Mouchir Aoun (Lebanese University)  
الأسس الفلسفية التي تسوّغ التعددية الكونية

Zahida Darwiche-Jabbour (UNESCO)  
الفلسفة والشعر وسؤال المعنى

## Coffee Break

16:00 – 16:30

## Session 4

16:30 – 17:30

*Moderator: George Kattoura (Lebanese University)*

Hussein Abdulsater (American University of Beirut)  
طريق اليقين وعقلانية الخلاص: المتكلمون الأوائل ومهلة النظر

Nader El-Bizri (American University of Beirut)  
قَوْل في المكان

## Committee Meeting *in camera*

17:30 – 18:30

*Convened by invitation*

*Moderator: Nader El-Bizri (American University of Beirut)*

## Dinner

*Venue to be confirmed*

20:00 – 23:00

**Thursday**  
**21<sup>st</sup> November 2013**

**Morning Coffee**

**9:00 – 9:30**

**Session 1**

**9:30 – 11:00**

*Moderator: Peter Bornedal (American University of Beirut)*

Edward Alam (Notre Dame University–Louaizé)

**Cultivating *Resource* Philosophy: Lebanon's Infertile Fertile Soil**

Chady Rahme (Notre Dame University–Louaizé)

**The New Quest for Perpetual Peace:  
Philosophy between Affectivity and Rationality**

Frank Darwiche (University of Balamand)

**Philosophy in Lebanon: The Urgent Question of Origins**

**Coffee Break**

**11:00 – 11:30**

**Session 2**

**11:30 – 12:30**

*Moderator: Mouchir Aoun (Lebanese University)*

George Kattoura (Lebanese University)

**Max Weber et le média**

Charbel El-Amm (Université Saint-Joseph)

**Maître Eckhart : « Le Néant, c'était Dieu »**

**Lunch**

**12:30 – 14:00**

## Session 3

14:00 – 15:30

*Moderator: Edward Alam (Notre Dame University–Louaizé)*

Peter Bornedal (American University of Beirut)

**Ethical and unethical discourse  
On Derrida's difficulties with speech-acts**

Robert Gallagher (American University of Beirut)

**Antiphrasis as a Homonym  
Three significations of 'contradiction' in Aristotle's philosophy**

Hani Hassan (American University of Beirut)

**In the words of al-Kindī**

## Closing Remarks

Nader El-Bizri (American University of Beirut)

<15 minutes>



Queries to be directed to Nader El-Bizri

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