

International Conference (Virtual)

Being Out of Place: Deconstructing Travel Narratives in Postcolonial Arab Literature

March 1st -3rd, 2022

Full name / name of organization:

Department of Letters and Foreign Languages / University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

Venue: conference room + Zoom

Submission Deadline: 30th June, 2021

Fees: No fees

Conference Director

Dr. Soumaya Bouacida, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

Keynote Speakers

-Dr. Robert Clarke is a senior lecturer in English studies, and Head of Discipline, English, in the school of Humanities at the University of Tasmania. He is the editor of several books and issues such as *Celebrity Colonialism: Fame, Power and Representation in Colonial and Postcolonial Cultures*(2009), “Travel and Celebrity Culture”(special issue in *Postcolonial Studies*), and *The Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Travel Writing* (2018)

-Dr.Nouri Gana is professor of Comparative Literature & Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He is the author of *Signifying Loss: Toward a Poetics of Narrative Mourning*, and the editor of *The Making of the Tunisian Revolution: Contexts, Architects, Prospects* and of *The Edinburgh Companion to the Arab Novel in English*.

The Head of the Conference Organizing Committee

Mr. Toufik Laachouri, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

Members of the Conference Organizing Committee

Dr.Soumaya Bouacida, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

Dr.Zeyneb Benhenda, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

Dr. Roumeissa Silini, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

Dr. Naima Harbi, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

Dr. Bochra Bouteraa, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

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Mr. Malek Benkhalaf

Dr. Mounir Karek

Dr. Djihed Messikh University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

Ms. Imen Bouchagour, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

Ms.Fatima Zohra Laidi, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

Ms. Fatima Bouglouf, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

Ms.Imen Chraita, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

Ms. Imen Achouri ,University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

Ms. Selwa Hadibi, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

Msr. Nabila Dendani, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

Ms. Nour Elhouda Boudrouma, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

Mr. Zin El-din, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

The Head of Conference Reading Committee

Dr. Zeyneb Benhenda, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

Members of the Conference Reading Committee

-Dr.Soumaya Bouacida, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

-Dr. Roumeissa Silini, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

Dr. Hayette Harbi

-Dr. Hichem Souhali, University of Batna 02, Batna, Algeria

-Dr. Moufida Zaidi, University of Mentouri, Costantine, Algeria

- Prof. Nadir Kaouli, University of Batna 02, Batna, Algeria

-Dr. Leila Djaafri, University of Batna 02, Batna, Algeria

-Dr. Farida Lebbal, University of Batna 02, Batna, Algeria

-Dr. Mohamed Seghir Halimi, Ourgla University, Ouargla, Algeria

-Dr. Ahmed Bashar, Biskra University, Biskra, Algeria

-Dr. Nadir Idri, Bejaia University

-Dr. Youcef Awad, University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan

-Dr. Tahrir Hamdi, Open Arab University, Amman, Jordan

-Dr.Lina Saleh, Al Balqa Applied University, Salt, Jordan

-Dr.Samira Al-Khawaldeh, University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan

-Dr. Aba-Carina Parlog, West University of Timisoara, Roumania

-Dr. Mariam F. Alkazemi, Virginia Commonwealth University, USA

- Dr. Mounir Karek, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

-Dr.Salim Sista, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

-Dr. Camilia Bechiri, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

-Mr. Abdelmalek Ben khalef, University of 20th August 1955, Skikda, Algeria

Call for Papers

I occasionally experience myself as a cluster of flowing currents. I prefer this to the idea of a solid self, the identity to which so many attach so much significance. These currents, like the themes of one's life, flow during the waking hours, and at their best they require no reconciling, no harmonizing. They are "off" and may be out of place, but at least they are always in motion, in time, in place, in the form of all kinds of strange combinations moving about, not necessarily forward, sometimes against each other, contrapuntally yet without one central theme. **Edward Said**

In this passage that is taken from *Out of Place*(1999), a text that dovetails memoir with the travel narrative, Edward Said reads himself as an embodied form of diversity and as a celebration of a heterogeneous identity since he is 'a cluster flowing currents': he is Arab and Christian, Palestinian and American, the Anglophone "Edward" and the Arabic "Said". Such complex identification comes as a result of his geographical mobility and continuous travel between Cairo and New York, Beirut and London, Jerusalem and Boston, Dhour and Paris. More pointedly, travel is a vehicle through which one can explore how his relationship to a place can shape his own experiences and, thus, his own identity. Travel is not only limited to human beings, but also diseases can travel the globe. Travelling diseases become embriated with the history of different cultures and play a central role in travel writing. In the ongoing wake of COVID-19, the normative modes of travel have witnessed some interruptions, which leads to the mounting of paranoia among people who have been displaced from their homes like migrants,

refugees and asylum seekers. Regulations on travel have left this category of people stranded; they face intense deprivations in their right to economic welfare, limited access to school, poor health care, and threats to their safety and protection.

Travel narratives were vital for Said's Orientalist project because they include accounts of 'other' places and peoples that construct distinctions between "the Orient" and "the Occident" and that depict the "East" as inferior and uncivilized. The description produced by the imperial eye is considered as a justification for colonial projects and imperial expansionism. However, for postcolonial writers and mainly Arab ones, travel texts can convey accounts that defy colonial discourses by deconstructing the binary oppositions of the colonial travel writings, decentering the Western eye and reconceptualizing the relationship between centre and periphery through creating contact zones. This conference, therefore, attempts to examine these debates by exploring the major scholarly works on travel writing by postcolonial Arab writers. This conference fosters a creative dialogue between leading academic researchers and scholars who are willing to exchange and share their experiences and results on all aspects of travel in postcolonial Arab writings and in case of serious situations such as the spread of pandemics (Corona virus is a case in point). It also provides a premier interdisciplinary platform for researchers to discuss the most recent trends and concerns in the field of travel writing. We would like to take stock of the scholarship concerning travel in Postcolonial Arab literature and we kindly invite prospective authors to contribute to the conference through the submissions of their original research abstracts, papers and e-posters. The topics that could be explored in the conference include but are not limited to:

-Travel and constructions of race, class, and gender

- Constitutions of 'self' ad 'other' in travel writing
- Travel and diaspora
- Travel and transculturation
- Travel and displacement
- Travel and politics of exile
- Travel and gastronomic culture
- Travel and Topophilia
- Nostalgia/ Solastalgia ,Memory and Trauma in travel writing
- Travel and language
- Contact zones and the relationship between travelers and travelees
- Travel and Pandemics

Paper proposals of up to **250** words in English and **a brief biographical note** should be sent by **30th June 2021** to travelconference2021@gmail.com. The contributors will be asked to send their full papers by **January, 15th** in order to submit them as a special issue in **Quraterly Arab journal** after undergoing a reviewing process.