

**International Study Day**

on

**The MENA in English Literature**

**Thursday, 30 November 2023**  
**At the 30 Laboratories Building**

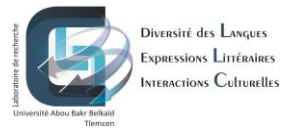
**Chaired by**  
**Dr Souad BAGHLI BERBAR**

**Confirmed Keynote Speakers:**  
**Dr Nat CUTTER**  
**University of Melbourne, Australia**

**Prof. Azzeddine BOUHASSOUN**  
**University of Ain Témouchent**



**Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research  
AbouBekr Belkaid University- Tlemcen  
Faculty of Letters and Languages  
LLC Research Laboratory**



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**Programme**

**9:30 Welcome speech by the president of the event**

Dr Souad BAGHLI BERBAR

**9:40 Official Opening Note**

Prof. Ghouti HADJOUI

Prof. Latefa SARI MOHAMMED

Prof. Wassila HAMZA REGUIG MOURO

**10.00 – 12.00 Plenary session**

chaired by **Prof. Wassila HAMZA REGUIG MOURO**

**10:15 – 10:45 First Keynote**

**Prof. Azzeddine BOUHASSOUN** (University of Ain Temouchent): “Occult Paths and Erotic Encounters: Unveiling the Algerian Woman in 19th Century American Travel Literature: Revisiting *Aicha the Mauresque: An Algerian Fantasy* by D.A. Knights”

**10.45 – 11.00: Dr Souad BAGHLI BERBAR** (University of Tlemcen): “The Algerian Revolution in British and American Novels”

**11.00 – 11.30 Second Keynote**

**Dr Nat CUTTER** (University of Melbourne, Australia) **online**: “The Present State of Algiers: Non-Fiction, News and Community Reception between Britain and the Maghreb in the Late 17th CE/11th Century AH”

**11.45 – 12.00 Coffee Break**

## **12.00 – 13.30 Parallel Workshops**

### **Workshop 1: The MENA in English Novels**

chaired by **Dr Souad BAGHLI BERBAR**

**12.00 – 12.15: Dr. Badra MENOUEER** (University of Tlemcen): “Navigating the Sands of Identity: Paul Bowles's *The Sheltering Sky* and the Western Encounter with the Orient”

**12.15 – 12.30: Houaria Lilya ADLA** (University of Tlemcen): “Between Tradition and Modernity: A Cultural Analysis of *Finding Nouf*”

**12.30 – 12.45: Dr Malika HAMMOUCHE BIRADY** (Ecole Supérieure d’Economie d’Oran) “The Imperialist Eye in Fadia Faqir’s *Pillars of Salt* (1996)”  
**online**

**12.45 – 13.00: Dr Seyf Eddine GUETTAIA** (University of Tlemcen): “Whispers from the East: Revealing Oriental Allure in Agatha Christie's *Death on the Nile*”

**13.00 – 13.15: Lina SERIR** (University of Ain Temouchent) and **Fatima Zohra DEF** (University of Saida): “The Eastern Charm: Exploring the Orient Through Literary Static Conceptions”

**13.15 – 13.30: Debate**

### **Workshop 2: MENA Literature as Neo-Orientalism**

chaired by **Dr Omar RAHMOUN**

**12.00 – 12.15: Dr Zyneb YOUSFI** (University of Tlemcen): “Fiction of counteraction: a Reading of *My Name is Selma* and *Girls of Riyadh*”

**12.15 – 12.30: Dr Youcef Zineddine MOSTEFAOUI** (University of Saida) “The Human Cost of Conflict: MENA through the lens of *Frankenstein in Baghdad*”

**12.30 – 12.45: Dr Souad HAMIDI** (University of Tlemcen): “The Dichotomy in Assia Djebbar's Works, an Algerian Writer Using the Language of the Colonizer “French””

**12.45 – 13.00: Hidaya ATTAR** (University of Tlemcen): “The Body as Means of Resistance and Emancipation in Feminist Writing from North Africa”

**13.00 – 13.15: Debate**

**13.30: Closing Ceremony**

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Call for Papers

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The Middle East and North Africa are part of “the Orient” which is not a mere geographic region but a concept that has been construed as the polar opposite of the Western European world which claims to have hegemony over it for imperialistic purposes. According to Edward Said (1978), “the Orient has helped to define Europe (or the West) as its contrasting image, idea, personality, experience”. Hence, Orientalists are self-imposed specialists of the Orient who have been “dealing with the Orient—dealing with it by making statements about it, authorizing views of it, describing it, by teaching it, settling it, ruling over it” (Said 1978, 3). They claim with Karl Marx that Orientals “cannot represent themselves, they must be represented” (cited by Said 1978).

This International Study Day will therefore propose to examine the image of the MENA in English literature; or the Orient as a whole, including Turkey, as seen by authors writing in English ever since their encounters with the Orient, personally or imaginatively, from the early modern period until the present day. Literature is construed in its broadest sense to include poetry, drama, fiction, travel literature, life writing and even newspapers, treaties or letters as long as they are printed sources (even if accessed in electronic format) but NOT social media, blogs or podcasts.

The earliest reference to a MENA place in English literature occurs in the General Prologue to Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (1400) where he mentions Tlemcen (spelt Tramessine) – the capital of the Zianides since 1235 (Baghli Berbar 2014). In the eyes of the Orientalists, the “Orient” has a number of “inherent characteristics” such as being monolithic, changeless, inferior, simple and irrational, as well as primitive, exotic and mysterious (Taib 2009).

We invite papers addressing issues that can shed new light and provide new interdisciplinary critical readings of any literary production that can be connected with the depiction of the Middle East and North Africa in the Anglosphere, ranging from demonised, biased or stereotypical perception of the other to more positive, even laudatory, visions.

Abstracts of about 250 words should be sent to [berbar.souad@gmail.com](mailto:berbar.souad@gmail.com) no later than 20 November 2023.

### **Scientific Committee**

Dr Souad BAGHLI BERBAR (President)  
Prof. Wassila HAMZA REGUIG-MOURO  
Prof. Ilhem SERIR  
Prof. Ghouti HADJOU  
Prof. Azzeddine BOUHASSOUN  
Dr Omar RAHMOUN  
Dr Meryem MENGOUCHI  
Dr Nat CUTTER

### **Organizing Committee**

Prof. Faiza HADDAM BOUABDALLAH  
Dr Soraya HALFAOUI  
Dr Amel RAHMOUNI  
Dr Zeyneb YOUSFI  
Dr Merwan MESSAOUDI  
Dr Youcef MOSTEFAOUI  
Dr Badra MENOVAR  
Dr Souad HAMIDI  
Ms Khadidja RAHOUI