

**Lebanese American University
Humanities Division
&
Orient-Institut Beirut**

Beirut, Lebanon

International Conference

Discrimination and Tolerance in the Middle East

May 2-4, 2007

Program

Wednesday May 2

09:30 Opening at Irwin Hall Auditorium, Lebanese American University

Welcoming statement by

Layla Harmoush, Chairperson of the Humanities Division

Welcoming speeches by

Joseph Jabbra, President of the Lebanese American University

Manfred Kropp, Director of the Orient-Institut Beirut

Samira Aghacy, Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences

Keynote address by

Geir Pedersen, Personal Representative for Lebanon of the UN Secretary General

Opening lecture by

Salwa Saniora Baassiri, Secretary General of the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO

10:40 Coffee break

10:40-11:30 Conference registration at Irwin Hall Conference Room (6th Floor). All sessions take place in Irwin Hall Conference Room. Concurrently, a photo exhibit by LAU faculty member **Bassam Lahoud** will be on display near the Conference Room area.

11:30 SESSION 1: LEBANON: A LAND OF DIVERSITY

Moderator: **Paul Tabar**

The Sound of Dialogue: Exploring a Contextual Theology of Dialogue in Lebanon
Mahmoud Natout (University of Oxford)

Discrimination and Tolerance in Lebanon
Evelyne Accad (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

"I am not sectarian; they are." Sectarianism and Intolerance in Modern Lebanon
Sami Ofeish (University of Balamand)

13:00-13:30 Discussion

13:30-15:00 Lunch break

15:00 SESSION 2: THE MIDDLE EAST AND GENDER ISSUES

Moderator: **Arnim Heinemann**

Masculinity and War, East and West
Kathleen Barry (Pennsylvania State University)

A Rhetoric of Intercultural Understanding in Rashid al-Daif's "The German Comes Back to His Senses"
Ken Seigneurie (Lebanese American University)

Gender and Sexuality in Saadawi's "Two Women in One"
Luma Balaa (Lebanese American University)

16:30-17:00 Discussion

19:30 Dinner

Thursday May 3

09:30 SESSION 3: INTOLERANCE IN RELIGIOUS CONTEXT

Moderator: **Gabriel Reynolds**

Roots of Intolerance in Religious Discourse

Nasr Abu Zeid (Leiden University)

Zandaqa: Anathema in the Shadow of the Abbasids

Vahid Behmardi (Lebanese American University)

The Conflict between Shiite Factions in Iran during the qâjâr Period (in French)

Denis Hermann (University of Paris - Sorbonne)

11:00-11:30 Discussion

11:30-11:45 Coffee break

11:45 SESSION 4: CHRISTIANS UNDER OTTOMAN RULE I

Moderator: **Naila Kaidbey**

A Rare Revelation: An Arab Christian of the 17th Century Reflects on the Influence of Islam Exercised over the Course of Time on the Development of his Community

Carsten Walbiner (Catholic Academic Exchange Service – Bonn, Germany)

Churches Oriented Towards Mecca: Tolerance among Shiites and Maronites in 17th - Century Mount-Lebanon

Ray Mouawad (Lebanese American University)

12:45-13:15 Discussion

13:30 Lunch break

15:00 SESSION 5: CHRISTIANS UNDER OTTOMAN RULE II

Moderator: **Ray Mouawad**

The Giziya in Lebanon during the Ottoman Period (in Arabic)

Suad Slim (University of Balamand)

Copts, Religion and the Question of Identity in the Ottoman Period

Magdi Guiguis (Cairo University)

The Christians under Ottoman Rule as Viewed by 18th-Century Historians of Bilad al-Sham

Hayat Bualuan (American University of Beirut)

16:30-17:00 Discussion

17:30-19:30 Documentary Short-Films Screening (LRC 21) by Umam Documentation & Research, Lebanese Association for Cultural & Artistic Exchange

20:00 Dinner

Friday May 4

9:30 SESSION 6: ONGOING WORRIES I

Moderator: **Vahid Behmardi**

Patterns of Discrimination in the Allocation of Public Resources among the 1948 Palestinian Population

Ghazi Falah (University of Akron, Ohio)

Writing the Self: Addressing a Culture of Tolerance through Literature (Palestinian and Israeli)

Ibrahim el-Hussari (Lebanese American University)

Ahl Al-Dhimma in Hizbullah's Islamic State: Acceptance and Tolerance

Joseph Alagha (Lebanese American University)

11:00-11:30 Discussion

11:30 Coffee break

11:45 SESSION 7: ONGOING WORRIES II

Moderator: **Latif Zeitouni**

الاسلام المهاجر واكتشاف العنصرية العربية في سياق العولم

Mona Fayyad (Lebanese University)

هل تحتم الحداثة التخلي عن التنظيم الذميّ أو المليّ؟

Mahmud Haddad (University of Balamand)

12:45-13:15 Discussion

13:30 Lunch

15:00 SESSION 8: ONGOING WORRIES III

Moderator: **Ken Seigneurie**

Iraqi and Syrian Fiction: The Arab Individual and the Authoritarian Discourse
Samira Aghacy (Lebanese American University)

Rights of Citizenship and Rites of Neighborliness: Mediations of Difference in Recent Egyptian Fiction
Hala Halim (New York University)

Is Tolerance Rational?
Jay Gupta (Lebanese American University)

Towards a Stronger Foundation for Tolerance and Pluralism: Religion without Absolutism and Exclusivism
Richard K. Khuri (Lebanese American University)

17:00-17:30 Discussion

19:30 Farewell Dinner