

Oregon State University
June 26—July 14, 2017

Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia: The Voices of Women in Literature, Cinema and Other Arts since Independence

Letter from the Co-Directors
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Dear Colleague:

Many thanks for your interest in the 2017 NEH Summer Institute *Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia: The Voices of Women in Literature, Cinema and Other Arts since Independence*, that we will direct next summer. The Institute will run for three weeks, from June 26 to July 14, 2017 on the campus of Oregon State University in Corvallis, located eighty miles south of Portland and some fifty miles from the Pacific Ocean.

The ambition of this institute is to give tribute to the artistic voices of women (أصوات, النساء) *aswat enisaa* in Arabic) that have been largely eclipsed from both popular culture and political discourse in the Maghreb. To achieve this goal, the institute aims to convene over three weeks at Oregon State University a team of six visiting scholars, all internationally recognized for their contributions to North African cultural studies. From different disciplinary vistas the visiting scholars will examine the works of some of the central North African women artists since the 1960s, principally in the fields of cinema, painting, literature, popular song and photography. Some of these artists have had considerable exposure at home and abroad. Others have, for various reasons, remained clandestine or forced to wait in obscurity. Their works have often revolved around themes of silence and enclosure, of sororal community of rebellion and equity. During this institute, the visiting scholars will address these and other themes, equating them with their own research and field or living experiences.

In approaching these themes the 2017 institute builds concretely on two previous ones that we co-directed at Oregon State University in 2007 and 2014. The first institute focused on Berber North Africa. The second sought to provide some clear overview of North Africa as an artistic region responding to the realities of post-independence from the 1960s to the Tunisian Jasmine Revolution. This third NEH institute was in great part inspired by recommendations made by participants in 2014, namely to dissipate some of the shadows and misunderstandings that have silenced the contribution of women artists as North Africa moved into the 21st century.

The institute intends to present the Maghreb's transformative periods from the perspective of writers, painters, filmmakers and other artists. It will be organized around three themes that have connected politics and the arts since the 1960s: Nationalism, Exile and Revival. Three themes corresponding in overlapping ways to three periods: the post-independence and cold war years

(1960-1990); the years marked by the political and economic instability of globalization (1990-2010); and the recent changes since the Arab Spring. The institute will bring six visiting scholars and twenty-five participants together with the objective of understanding the connections between the work of established and emerging artists who have contributed to social change in North Africa and these periods and themes.

The purpose of this letter is to answer in a synoptic way some of the questions you may have about the goals and salient features of the institute. On the other links that we have assembled for this web site you will find more precise details about the institute's major components: housing, the Corvallis area and procedures to follow if you wish to apply. Should you have additional questions about the institute, please be assured that we will attempt to answer them promptly.

Institute Faculty

The institute faculty have been drawn from a pool of scholars well known for their innovative work to foster a better comprehension of the cultural or artistic significance of women in the Maghreb today.

Julia Clancy-Smith is Professor of History at the University of Arizona. Her publications include *Mediterraneans: North Africa and Europe in an Age of Migration, c. 1800-1900* (California UP, 2010) and *Rebel and Saint: Muslim Notables, Populist Protest, Colonial Encounters: Algeria and Tunisia, 1800-1904* (California UP, 1994). She is currently completing a monograph, *From Household to School Room: Women's Education in Colonial North Africa*, to be published by Cambridge University Press. She has also edited two textbooks: *A History of North Africa in the Modern Era* (Cambridge UP, 2011) and *A History of the Middle East and North Africa in Documents* (Oxford UP, 2011).

Fatima Sadiqi is Senior Professor of Linguistics and Gender Studies at the University of Fez and Founding Director of the Isis Centre for Women and Development. She is also a UN Gender Expert. She has taught courses at Harvard University, Dartmouth College and other institutions. She is the author of *Women, Gender, and Language in Morocco* (Brill, 2003) and *Images of Women in Abdullah Bashrahil's Poetry* (The Beirut Institute, 2004). She edited a number of volumes, including *Migration and Gender in Morocco* (with Moha Ennaji, Red Sea Press, 2008), *Women in the Middle East and North Africa: Agents of Change* (with Moha Ennaji, Routledge, 2010), and *Gender and Violence in the Middle East* (Routledge, 2011).

Moha Ennaji is an author and Senior Professor of Linguistics and Cultural Studies and former Head of the English Department at the University of Fez, Morocco. Ennaji has taught at Rutgers University, Purdue University, College of William and Mary, and Dartmouth College. He has published extensively on language, gender, and cultural studies, often in collaboration with Fatima Sadiqi (see above). He was a Fulbright visiting scholar at the Universities of Arizona, Washington, and Pennsylvania. He is the president of the South North Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Migration Studies and the director of the international journal *Languages and Linguistics*. He is also the director of the Festival of Amazigh Culture at Fez.

Lilia Labidi is Professor of Psychology and Anthropology at the University of Tunis, and co-founder of the Association of Tunisian Women for Research and Development and the Tunisian Association for Health Psychology. She has organized numerous international conferences and documentary exhibitions on women's movements and social issues, and has authored a large number of publications on the Arab world, particularly on gender and feminism in North Africa, the construction of identity, and the consequences of the Arab spring. From January to December

2011, Labidi was Minister for Women's Affairs in the provisional Tunisian government, following the fall of the Ben Ali regime. She is currently a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (2014-2015). She has been a visiting professor at the American University in Cairo, Yale University, and the National University of Singapore, and a fellow at Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study.

Laura Rice is Professor Emerita of English at Oregon State University. She has written on North Africa, gender, literacy, postcolonial literature and sustainable development. Her books include a special tri-lingual *Anthology of Contemporary Tunisian Poetry*, edited and translated for *Pacifica: Poetry International* with Karim Hamdy (forthcoming 2014-15), translations of Malika Mokeddem's memoir *My Men* (University of Nebraska Press, 2009) and her novel *Century of Locusts* (University of Nebraska Press, 2006), literary criticism, *Of Irony and Empire: the Transcultural Invention of Contemporary North Africa* (SUNY Press, 2007 and 2008) and *Departures: Selected Writings of Isabelle Eberhardt, followed by critical essays on Eberhardt's work* (City Lights Press, 1994). Rice has received grants from Fulbright, NEH, the National Council on U.S.-Arab relations, and the Bunting Institute.

Réda Bensmaïa, Professor of French Studies at Brown University, has published and lectured widely on postcolonial Francophone studies, literature and film. He was the director of the Paris Center for Critical Studies. A visiting professor at Harvard University and the recipient of many international awards, Bensmaïa is recognized for his scholarship associating the philosophical school of deconstruction with postcolonialism. His publications on the Maghreb are landmarks in scholarship today. The list includes: *The Year of Passages* (University of Minnesota Press, 1995), *Experimental Nations or The Invention of the Maghreb* (Princeton UP, 2003), and a forthcoming book on North African writers, entitled *Politiques d'écrivain*.

The co-directors will also lend their expertise to the institute in the fields of Francophone studies, North African literature, Film and Photography.

Outline of the Institute's Program

During the three weeks, the institute will approach the themes of nationalism, exile and revival since independence using seminal references and examples in literature, cinema, photography, painting and popular music, with the understanding that overlap between these forms is inherent to modern art and has increased with recent technology. The schedule allocates plenty of time to allow participants to consult individually with the institute faculty, think out curriculum projects and engage in research at the OSU Valley library. A number of other cultural events relating to North African culture will occur in parallel to the institute, sponsored by Oregon State University.

We will meet five days per week, from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, except for Week Two (four days because of the 4th of July holiday). Typically, morning segments will open with a short lecture by guest speakers which will elucidate the weekly themes with reference to the assigned readings. The lecture will then be followed by general discussion so that participants can ask individual questions about the themes or the readings. The second part of the morning will consist of group activities designed by visiting scholars. Afternoons and some evenings will be left free for study and additional meetings with guest scholars to discuss curriculum development and research projects. On some evenings guest scholars will give short keynote addresses on aspects related to the Institute's themes. In preparation for the unit on cinema, there will be screenings, in a couple of evenings, of acclaimed films from the Maghreb. Participants will be sent several of the assigned readings prior to their arrival in order to prepare for the institute. General cultural

background information and specific articles will also be made available through the institute's website.

Oregon State University

Situated 80 miles south of Portland, OSU is one of only two American universities to hold the Land Grant, Sea Grant, Sun Grant, and Space Grant designation and is a Carnegie Doctoral/Research-Extensive university. OSU is located in Corvallis, a community of 55,000 people situated in the Willamette Valley between Portland and Eugene. Ocean beaches, lakes, rivers, forests, high desert, the rugged Cascade and Coast Ranges, and the urban amenities of the Portland metropolitan area are all within a 100-mile drive of Corvallis. Approximately 26,000 students are enrolled in over 200 undergraduate and 80 graduate degree programs at OSU during the regular academic year. Typically there are about 4,000 students enrolled during the summer session at the 400-acre main campus in Corvallis. The Valley library will provide carrels and study space for the participants. Computer facilities will also be available both at the library and in other buildings.

Housing in Brief

A block of individual rooms has been reserved for institute participants in the newly constructed International Living and Learning Center (ILLC) on the north side of campus. The building is close to central campus, to Valley Library and to the Dixon Recreational Center. ILLC rooms are arranged in pairs with both rooms adjoined by a bathroom with toilet and shower. Rooms are provided with linen and blankets. Free laundry and large kitchen facilities are available on each floor. The ILLC is wheel-chair accessible with elevators. The center is not air-conditioned but remains cool thanks to an eco-friendly ventilation system (summers in Corvallis tend to be warm and dry during the day and cool at night). The lobby area contains a small supermarket, a coffee shop and a computer lab. Meal cards will be available to institute participants should they wish to take their meals in one of the cafeterias on campus. Arnold dining hall is adjacent to ILLC and offers an array of well-priced American and international cuisine. There are a good number of eateries on campus and on its perimeter. Downtown Corvallis is about a ten-minute walk from central campus. A full description of housing amenities and dining services can be found on our website, including room and meals card costs, along with a virtual tour of ILLC. Additional options for accommodations (hotels and bed and breakfasts) can also be found using the OSU/Corvallis link on the website. Most Institute activities (morning sessions, keynote talks, film projections) will take place within ILLC.

Stipends

Participants will receive a stipend of **\$2,700** to help cover their expenses during the three weeks of the institute. Please be aware that housing, meals and travel costs are likely to consume most of the stipend. The first installment of the stipend will be paid upon arrival, and a second installment will be paid during the third week of the institute.

How to Apply

Specific information on the institute's eligibility guidelines and application procedures can be downloaded from this site. Simply click the link "Application Instructions". If you would prefer that we mail you a copy of the application materials, please contact us by e-mail or phone. The deadline for submitting the completed application is **March 1, 2017**. We will notify participants by April 3, 2017. Twenty-five applicants will be selected, with consideration given to balance

academic disciplines, geographical regions and types of home institution. Please note that among the qualified applicants we will select at least five tenure track/adjunct faculty members. Each application must include three copies each of the completed NEH cover sheet, an application essay and a vita (not to exceed five pages), along with two letters of recommendation. The most important part of the application is the essay. In four double spaced pages or less it should contain relevant academic and personal information; reasons for applying to the North Africa Institute; professional and intellectual interest in the topic; qualifications to do the work of the institute and contribute to it; teaching and research expectations resulting from the institute; and the relation of the study to teaching.

The completed application should be postmarked **March 1, 2017** and be addressed to:

Joseph Krause and Nabil Boudraa, Co-Directors
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Thank you again for your interest in our institute. We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

Joseph and Nabil