CONTEMPORARY RESEARCH IN ARAB AMERICAN STUDIES:
New Trends & Critical Perspectives

A Conference In Honor of
Dr. Michael Suleiman (1934-2010)

Arab American National Museum
Dearborn, Michigan
November 4-6, 2011
Dr. Michael W. Suleiman (1934–2010) was one of the first and most prolific scholars of Arab American studies. Born in Palestine in 1934, he immigrated to the United States in 1956. After receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1965, Dr. Suleiman taught at Kansas State University, where he was later awarded the title of University Distinguished Professor. Through his groundbreaking research on Arab Americans, Dr. Suleiman became the recognized authority in the field of Arab American studies.

From his dozens of publications to his service with important organizations like the Association of Arab-American University Graduates (AAUG) and the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Dr. Suleiman was involved in every aspect of the development of the field. Among his numerous publications is one of the first book-length monographs to tackle representations of Arabs in U.S. popular and political discourses, *The Arabs in the Mind of Americans* (1988), and the definitive annotated bibliography on Arab Americans, *The Arab-American Experience* (2006).

Dr. Suleiman was also a great collaborator, able to unite diverse groups of scholars to produce enduring edited volumes including *Arab Americans Continuity and Change* (1989) and *Arabs in America: Building a New Future* (1999). Dr. Suleiman also played an integral role in the creation of the Arab American National Museum.

“Michael was a kind and loving husband and father, a talented teacher, a persuasive speaker, and a thorough researcher. He was also a dreamer—he dreamed and worked for a better Arab World and an America where Arab Americans would know and take pride in their ancestry, and non-Arab Americans would respect them for that.”

-Penny Suleiman

FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Arab American National Museum (AANM), its staff and Board, I want to welcome every one of you and thank you for participating in this conference. We gather here, at the AANM, a place that was dear to the heart of the man we are honoring, Dr. Michael Suleiman. He loved this place. He understood the need for it, and was able to envision the role this institution could play in documenting, preserving, and presenting Arab American history and culture.

I am so honored and humbled by the trust the late Dr. Michael Suleiman had in this institution. It was one of my saddest, and proudest, moments, when Dr. Suleiman called me, only a few days before he left us, and asked me to host this conference at the Museum.

Dr. Suleiman was involved in this Museum since its inception. And we will forever be indebted for all that he has given to this institution. His mark is felt on every corner, especially in the Museum’s permanent exhibits and the Library & Resource Center.

Dr. Suleiman embraced this place from the moment it was just a floating idea. His generosity with his time and resources knew no limit. He came to every meeting during the planning period of this museum, and after it opened he served on our National Advisory Board. He took every call we placed, responded to every letter and e-mail we sent, reviewed all of the exhibit text, and answered any question we had. Nothing was asked of him in the last ten years that was too bothersome, too tedious, or too time consuming.

Among the many valuable gifts Dr. Suleiman gave us is his personal collection of books, articles, archival materials, and personal interviews. This collection, the fruit of over thirty years of a labor of love, is now housed at the Museum’s Library & Resource Center. The Museum is also indebted to his loving wife Penny who spent hours sorting, packing, and shipping this valuable collection to the Museum.

To me personally, Dr. Suleiman was a mentor, a colleague and friend. With his humility, kindness and great sense of humor he made me and every staff member at the Museum feel a sense of pride. Thank you, Dr. Suleiman, for all you did for this institution, for the Arab American national community, and for Arab American studies.

Anan Ameri, Ph.D.
Founding Director
Arab American National Museum
In the weeks before Dr. Michael Suleiman passed, many of us, who cherished all that he had given to us personally and to the fields of Arab American studies and Middle East studies, were discussing how to honor him. Michael, in his good wisdom, guided us towards a project that would have more enduring value than momentary expressions. Michael asked Elaine Hagopian, Suad Joseph and Lisa Suhair Majaj to organize a cutting-edge conference on Arab American studies in his memory. We immediately said yes. We asked Nadine Naber to join the planning committee and began collaborating with the Arab American National Museum.

Michael Suleiman is one of the founding figures of Arab American studies. He scoured for every piece of work, no matter how remotely published, or unpublished, on Arab Americans. He mentored young scholars and nudged his senior colleagues to address the pressing issues. He was never content with how much he knew about the field or how rapidly the field had grown. He insisted we research meticulously, that we theorize with sophistication, and that we write to reach a broad audience.

Those values of cutting edge research carried out rigorously, theorized thoughtfully and composed for the wider social communities in which we live guided the vision of the planning committee. We advertised broadly to solicit across disciplines and fields. We tried to accommodate as many applicants as possible to represent the broadest possible range of current research, especially papers opening new terrains of research. And we formulated the panels and conference to ring true to the issues and to alert us to the new ways in which scholarship is being formulated.

We welcome you to this moment in which we work together to advance the field to which Dr. Michael Suleiman devoted so much of his life.

— Elaine Hagopian, Suad Joseph, Lisa Suhair Majaj, and Nadine Naber, with the Arab American National Museum
2-3:30 p.m.  
ARAB AMERICANS AND POST-9/11 REPRESENTATIONS  
Lower Level Auditorium

Structures of Feeling for Muslim Men and Women Post 9/11  
Evelyn Alsultany, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

Contrapuntality and Reconfigured Spaces:  
Rewriting the Trauma of September 11  
Sirene Harb, American University of Beirut

The Arab Detroit Industry  
William Youmans, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

Moderator: Mejdulene Shomali, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

3:30-3:45 p.m. • COFFEE BREAK  
Community Courtyard

3:45-5:15 p.m. • COMMUNITY FORUM  
Lower Level Auditorium

Ten Years Later:  
The Arab American and Muslim Experience across Michigan  
Moderator: Noel Saleh, ACCESS

5:30-6 p.m.  
OPENING OF THE MICHAEL W. SULEIMAN COLLECTION  
ON THE ARAB AMERICAN COMMUNITY  
AANM Library & Resource Center

6-7 p.m. RECEPTION  
Community Courtyard
Remarks by Juanita Moore, president, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History

8:30-9 a.m. REGISTRATION AND COFFEE  
Community Courtyard

9-10:30 a.m.  
HISTORICAL CONTEXTS:  
ARAB AMERICANS 19TH–20TH CENTURIES  
Lower Level Auditorium

Americans’ Awareness of Arabs and Muslims Throughout History  
Mysara Abu-Hashem, American University, Washington, D.C.

Peddling Encounters: Syrian Migrants and the  
Intimacies of Race in Early Arab American History, 1880–1948  
Charlotte Karem Albrecht, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

Undesirable, Exotic and Respectable:  
Popular and Elite Conceptions of the Arab/Syrian Other in Quebec  
and Canada at the Beginning of the 20th Century  
Brian Aboud, Vanier College, Montreal

Whither Arab American Studies? Heeding Michael Suleiman’s Call to  
Write a Comprehensive History of Arab and Arab American Experiences  
Hani Bawardi, University of Michigan - Dearborn  
Moderator: Yasmeen Hanoosh, Portland State University

9-10:30 a.m.  
ARAB AMERICANS AND CENSUS: CONTROVERSIES OR HARMONY?  
Lower Level Classroom

Trends in Arab American Identity and Demographics:  
A View from Census Surveys  
Helen Samhan, Arab American Institute Foundation

Classifications and Constructions of Identity:  
Arab Americans in the Census  
Randa Kayyali, George Mason University
Comparing Arab-Americans and Non-Hispanic Whites in the American Community Survey  
Rita Stephan, U.S. Census Bureau and Merarys Rios, U.S. Census Bureau

Looking Beyond the Label: Diversity among Arab Americans  
Sarah Salman, City University of New York and Daniel Douglas, City University of New York

Moderator: Randa Kayyali, George Mason University

10:30-10:45 a.m. • COFFEE BREAK

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
RECALIBRATING THE PAST-PRESENT OF ARAB AMERICAN LITERARY AND CULTURAL STUDIES  
Lower Level Auditorium

Periodizing Arab American Studies  
Salah D. Hassan, Michigan State University

Critical Comparativity in Arab American Cultural Studies  
Keith P. Feldman, University of California - Berkeley

What about Arab Men? Representations of the Male Figure in Contemporary Arab-American Literary Texts  
Carol Fadda-Conrey, Syracuse University

Whose Future Is It Anyway?  
Dueling Ideologies of Queer and Arab in Contemporary U.S. Fiction  
Marc Boucai, University of California - Berkeley

Moderator: Evelyn Alsultany, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
MOBILIZING ARAB AMERICANS: POLITICAL/SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS  
Lower Level Classroom

The Influence of Arab Democratization Movements on Arab American Political Activism  
Dalia Abdel-Hady, Southern Methodist University

History of Arab Political Mobilizations in Canada: From the First Actions in Support of the Palestinian Cause to the Beginnings of the Canadian Arab Federation (1945–1975)  
Houda Asal, l’Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France

Cultural Identities in Discourse: Arab American Organizations on the WWW  
Lutfi Hussein, Mesa Community College

The Limits of Civil Rights: Arab American Advocacy Since 1980  
Erik Love, Dickinson College

Moderator: William Youmans, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

12:15-12:30 p.m.  
HONORING EVELYN SHAKIR: POETRY READING BY GEORGE ELLENBOGEN  
Community Courtyard

12:30-1:30 p.m. • LUNCH  
Community Courtyard

1:30-3 p.m.  
INVENTING RELATIONS ACROSS BOUNDARIES: RACE, ETHNICITY, AND DIFFERENCE  
Lower Level Auditorium

Thomas Abowd, University of Massachusetts - Amherst and Tufts University

Salim Yaqub, University of California - Santa Barbara

Fighting Our Own Battles: Iraqi Chaldeans and the War On Terror  
Yasmeen Hanoosh, Portland State University

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

John Tofik Karam, DePaul University

Moderator: Ummayah Eleanor Cable, University of Southern California

1:30-3 p.m.
CURRICULAR INTERVENTIONS: PEDAGOGIES OF IDENTITIES
Lower Level Classroom

Restructuring the Arab American Narrative and Teaching on Arab Americans Post 9/11 and the Jasmine Intifada
Rosina Hassoun, Michigan State University

Production of Anti-Arabophobia Curriculum, Detroit
Jamal Abuattiyeh, Miami University, Ohio

Education and Identity in Arab New York
Emily Regan Wills, The New School, New York

Islam as a Framework for Literary Interpretation: Critical Questions Applied to Postmodern and Millennial Texts
Layla Azmi Goushey, Saint Louis Community College and University of Missouri

Moderator: Rita Stephan, U.S. Census Bureau

3-3:30 p.m. • COFFEE BREAK
Community Courtyard

3:30-5 p.m.
IT’S NOT JUST ABOUT “WOMEN”:
ARAB AMERICAN GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES
Lower Level Classroom

White-Hot Desire: Whiteness, Sexuality and Orientalist Representations Of Queerness
Ummayah Eleanor Cable, University of Southern California

Sexual and Ethnic Identity Development Among Arab American Lesbians
Khadeja Mousa, Fairfax County Mental Health Services

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Arab Masculinities in Contemporary Arab American Literature Written by Women: Affirmation and Resistance
Marta Bosch Vilarrubias, Universitat de Barcelona

Toward a Diasporic Arab Feminist Critique
Nadine Naber, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

Moderator: Amira Jarmakani, Georgia State University

3:30-5 p.m.
ACROSS BORDERS:
TRANSNATIONAL IDEAS, TRANSNATIONAL PEOPLE
Lower Level Auditorium

The Moorish Atlantic: Orientalism between the Middle East and the Americas
Ella Habiba Shohat, New York University

Arab-American Teens and Facebook
Inas Abou Youssef, Cairo University

Arab-American Teenagers Leading Transnational Lives
Louise Cainkar, Marquette University

Nationalism in the New York Syrian Colony 1908-1920: Arab American Writers and their Role at the Versailles Peace Conference
Tanyss Ludescher, University of Connecticut

Moderator: Thomas Abowd, University of Massachusetts - Amherst and Tufts University

5- 5:15 p.m. • BREAK

5:15-6:15 p.m.
BOOK READING: ARAB AND ARAB AMERICAN FEMINISMS:
GENDER, VIOLENCE AND BELONGING
Lower Level Auditorium

Readers: Joe Kadi (University of Calgary and Mount Royal University), Ella Habiba Shohat (New York University), Therese Saliba (Evergreen State College), Amira Jarmakani (Georgia State University), Dena Al-Adeeb (New York University), Anan Ameri (Arab American National Museum), Amal Fadlallah
Sunday, November 6, 2011

9:30-11 a.m.
LITERARY VOICES: IDENTITY, AGENCY AND CRITIQUE IN ARAB AMERICAN POETRY, FICTION AND MEMOIR
Lower Level Auditorium

The Other Side of the Hyphen: Americanness in the Poetry of Lawrence Joseph and Khaled Mattawa
Imen Bennani, Arts of Sousse, Tunisia

Water as Fragmentation: The Construction of Identity in Suheir Hammad’s “Drops Of This Story”
Lena M. Zaghmouri, Fresno State University

Survival Strategies in Randa Jarrar’s “A Map of Home”
Nancy El Gendy, University of Oklahoma

And It Don’t Stop - Hip Hop as a Means of Criticism of Global Marginalization in Suheir Hammad’s “Breaking Poems”
Katharina Motyl, Freie Universität, Berlin

Moderator: Charlotte Karem Albrecht, University of Minnesota - Minneapolis

9:30-11 a.m.
SO MANY WAYS TO DIVIDE: ASSIMILATION, MULTICULTURALISM, ACCOMMODATION, PLURALISM
Lower Level Classroom

American Multiculturalism vs. French Ethno-Pluralism: The Debate over Arab and Muslim Assimilation
Lanouar Ben Hafsa, University of Tunis

11-11:15 a.m. • BREAK

11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
REPRESENTATION ACTS: NARRATION, ART AND CINEMA
Lower Level Classroom

Just More of the Same Orientalist Feminism? Economic Framing in “Sex and the City 2”
Silke Schmidt, Philipps University, Germany

Tall, Dark, and Primal: Race and Representation in Desert Romances
Amira Jarmakani, Georgia State University

Transnational and Transdisciplinary Turns in Arab and Arab American Art Studies
Dena Al-Adeeb, New York University

Revisiting Scheherazade: Storytelling and Transnational Belonging in Alia Yunis’s “The Night Counter”
Pauline Homsi Vinson, Independent scholar and online instructor

Moderator: Therese Saliba, Michigan State University

11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
IN THE EYE OF THE STORM: ARAB DETROIT AND ARAB AMERICAN STUDIES
Lower Level Auditorium
The registration fee for the conference is $20, $10 for students. Registration fee includes admission to all panels, lunch all three days, and the Friday evening reception.

Register online at: www.accesscommunity.org/suleimanconference
Walk-ups welcome.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**
A discounted conference rate of **$85 per night** (taxes not included) is available at the DoubleTree Hotel – Dearborn/Detroit, 5801 Southfield Expressway, Detroit, MI 48228; 313.336.3340. Ask for rooms being held for “Racial-Healing conference – Michael Suleiman.” Transportation between the hotel and the Arab American National Museum will be provided.

**OPTIONAL ENTERTAINMENT**
Global Thursdays: Arab American Comedy + Music
7:30 p.m. Thursday, November 3, 2011
Lower Level Auditorium

Talent abounds in the Arab American community and this new wave of young creatives will leave you begging for more. Director/producer Mike Mosallam and producer/actor Sarah Bazzi bring you a night of hilarious sketch and stand-up comedy from several local talented performers AND special surprise appearance by some local Internet sensations. Rounding out the bill is the music of Hana Malhas, who is inspired by the contrast of her childhood home in Jordan and current base in Ann Arbor, while staying true to her brand of borderless indie folk. Malhas’ music is lyrically driven and showcases an expressive vocal delivery that fluctuates between soft soulful intensity and bold clarity.

Tickets $10/Museum Members $9, are available online at www.arabamericanmuseum.org or by calling 313.624.0215. Tickets also available at the door.

The conference organizers thank the following for their support:
Mr. Noel J. Saleh and Dr. Anan Ameri, Drs. Adnan and Barbara Aswad, Dr. Anny Bakalian, Ms. Elizabeth Boosahda, Ms. Susan Darraj, Dr. Yvonne Haddad, Dr. Elaine Hagopian, Dr. Mohja Kahf, Ms. Randa Kayyali, Dr. Shajih and Mrs. Ghada Muhanna, Dr. Isis Nusair, Mrs. Helen H. Samhan, Dr. Janice J. Terry
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The Arab American National Museum is part of America Healing, an initiative of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, working to improve life outcomes for vulnerable children by promoting racial equity and eliminating barriers to opportunity. Please join in America Healing by visiting us at www.americahealing.org.

Arab American National Museum
13624 Michigan Ave. • Dearborn, MI 48126
www.arabamericanmuseum.org