



CONTEMPORARY RESEARCH

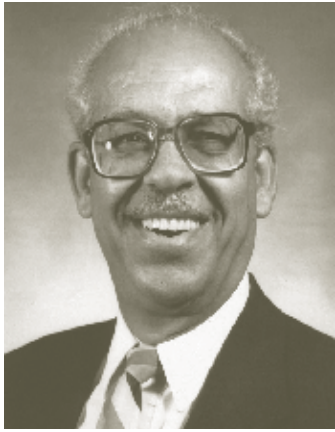
IN ARAB AMERICAN STUDIES:

New Trends & Critical Perspectives

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

Arab American National Museum
Dearborn, Michigan
November 4-6, 2011





“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

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.

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

FROM THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

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

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, November 4, 2011

9-9:45 a.m. • REGISTRATION & COFFEE

Community Courtyard

9:45-11 a.m. • OPENING REMARKS

Lower Level Auditorium

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Anan Ameri, *Arab American National Museum*

MESSAGE FROM ELAINE HAGOPIAN - *Simmons College*

Read by Lisa Suhair Majaj

REMEMBERING MICHAEL SULEIMAN

Penny Suleiman

MICHAEL SULEIMAN'S SCHOLARLY LEGACY

Suad Joseph, *University of California - Davis*

11 A.M.-12:30 p.m. • IMPACTS OF 9/11 ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES: DETROIT, LOS ANGELES, AND THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Lower Level Auditorium

Language and Identity Among a Generation: Arabic Heritage Learners, 9/11, and Racialization

Anne Bennett, *California State University - San Bernardino*

Ten Years After 9/11: Arab American Communities in the Northwest U.S.

Theresa Saliba, *Evergreen State College*

The Flexibility of Christian Arabness in Detroit

Matthew Stiffler, *Arab American National Museum*

Moderator: Candice Haddad, *University of Michigan - Ann Arbor*

12:30-2 p.m. • LUNCH

Community Courtyard

Keynote address by Jack G. Shaheen, *Southern Illinois University*

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

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*

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 5, 2011

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*

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

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

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

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

7 Mile: American-African American Relations: Racial Politics and the Spatial Construction of Difference in Contemporary Detroit
Thomas Abowd, University of Massachusetts - Amherst and Tufts University

Walk with Me: Arab Americans, African Americans, and the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1967-1984
Salim Yaqub, University of California - Santa Barbara

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

Trading between Black and White: Palestinian-American Merchants and the Racial Politics of Neighborhood Belonging in Upstate New York

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

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

(University of Michigan - Ann Arbor), Dunya Mikhail (independent author),
Lisa Suhair Majaj (University of Michigan - Ann Arbor)

(book co-edited by Rabab Abdulhadi, Evelyn Alsultany and Nadine Naber;
Syracuse University Press, 2011)

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 Universitat, 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*

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

*Generations of Difference: Unveiling the Politics of Hijab for First and
Second Generation Iraqi Immigrant Women in Toronto*
Nadia Jones-Gailani, *University of Toronto*

*Arab Communities in Quebec and the Debates over Reasonable
Accommodation*
Rachad Antonius, *Institut d'etudes internationales de Montreal*

*Conceptualizing Immigrant Replenishment: Patterns of Assimilation
among Arab Immigrants in the United States*
Kristine J. Ajrouch, *Eastern Michigan University*, and Abdi Kusow, *Iowa State University*

Moderator: Carol Fadda-Conrey, *Syracuse University*

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 Homsy 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

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

The New Order and Its Forgotten Histories

Andrew Shryock, *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*

Muslims as Moving Targets: External Scrutiny and Internal Critique in Detroit's Mosques

Sally Howell, *University of Michigan - Dearborn*

Arabs Behaving Badly: Damaging Identities in Public Space

Nabeel Abraham, *Henry Ford Community College*

Moderator: Matthew Stiffler, *Arab American National Museum*

12:30-1:30 p.m.

CONCLUDING SESSION: THEMES AND CONTINUITIES HONORING MICHAEL SULEIMAN

Community Courtyard

Lunch served

REGISTRATION

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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This conference is made possible in part by



ARAB AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-ANN ARBOR



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

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