



ندوة دولية  
حول  
المرأة والأدب العربي

## One-Day International Seminar on Women and Arabic Literature



**Date: 25.04.2019**

**Time: 10:00 a.m.**

**Venue: Najeeb Mahfuz Hall**

Department of Arabic, UGB

### Call for Papers

Papers are invited from Academicians and Research Scholars for the above mentioned topic. They are earnestly requested to send an **Abstract** (maximum 200 words) & the **Full Paper** in *Arabic/English* only, latest by **3<sup>rd</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2019** respectively to the mail address mentioned at the end. Late entries will not be entertained.

#### Registration Fee:

Teacher: Rs. 500/-

Research Scholar: Rs. 300/-

**N.B.:** Due to paucity of funds, the organizers will not be able to provide T. A, D.A to the delegates. However, Local transport and food facilities will be provided on the seminar day i.e. 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 only.

#### Important Dates:

Abstract Submission Deadline: **03.04.2019**

Notification of Accepted Abstracts: **05.04.2019**

Full Paper Submission Deadline: **20.04.2019**

Seminar: **25.04.2019**

E-mail for communication: [arabic.ugb@gmail.com](mailto:arabic.ugb@gmail.com)

Prof. Saifuddin  
Director

Dr. Mohammed Najmul Haque  
Organizing Secretary  
&  
Co-ordinator, Dept. of Arabic

Dr. Md. Mehedi Hasan  
Convener

ينظمها  
قسم اللغة العربية  
جامعة غور بنغا، مالده، بنغال الغربية، الهند

Organized by

**Department of Arabic,**

University of Gour Banga,  
Malda, West Bengal, India

# DEPARTMENT OF ARABIC

قسم اللغة العربية وآدابها، جامعة غور بنغا، مالده، بنغال الغربية

University of Gour Banga



Malda, W.B -732103

E-mail: arabic.ugb@gmail.com

Ref. No:

Date: 14 / 03 / 2019

## Invitation for One-Day International Seminar on “Women & Arabic Literature”

To

Mr./Dr./Prof.....

Department: .....

University/College: .....

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Department of Arabic, University of Gour Banga is going to organize **One-day International Seminar** on “*Women & Arabic Literature*”, scheduled to be held on **25<sup>th</sup> April, 2019**.

You are earnestly requested to send an *Abstract* (maximum 200 words) & the *Full Paper* in *Arabic/English/Bengali* only, latest by **03<sup>rd</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2019** respectively to the mail address mentioned at the end. Late entries will not be entertained. A concept note is enclosed for your ready reference to choose a relevant topic of the seminar.

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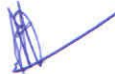
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## Concept Note

Women have played a very significant role in enriching Arabic literature throughout the ages. Numerous female poets and writers have contributed vastly in the field of poetry, drama, novel, short stories, tafsir, literary criticism etc. Specially, women poets' writing in Arabic have made tremendous strides since the dawn of the twentieth century in presenting their poetic offerings in mainstream cultural forums, and contributing to a plethora of new and modern poetic currents in literary cultural throughout the Arab world.

Pre-Islamic women's literature seems to have been limited to the genre of 'marathiya' (elegy). The earliest poetesses were al-Khansa and Layla al-Akhyaliyyah of the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Their concentration on the ritha or elegy suggests that this was a form deemed acceptable for women to work with. However, the love lyric was also an important genre of women's poetry. The Umayyad and 'Abbasid periods saw professional singing slave girls (qiyān) who sang love songs and accompanied these with music; alongside panegyric and competitive verse-capping, qiyān also sang love-poetry (ghazal). In his Risalat al-Qiyān (Epistle of the Singing-Girls), al-Jahiz (d. 868) reckoned that an accomplished singer might have a repertoire of 4,000 songs. Pre-eminent 'Abbasid singing-girls included: 'Inan, Arib al-Ma'muniyya and FadlAshsha'ira. Meanwhile, Harun al-Rashid's half-sister 'Ulayya bint al-Mahdi was also known for her poetic skills, as was the mystic and poet of Basra Rabi'a al-'Adawiyya. Women also had an important role in pre-modern periods as patrons of the arts.

Writings from medieval Moorish Spain attest to several important female writers, pre-eminently Wallada bint al-Mustakfi, an Umawi princess of al-Andalus, who wrote Sufi poetry and was the lover of fellow poet Ibn Zaydun; the Granadan poet Hafsa Bint al-Hajj al-Rukuniyya and Nazhun al-Garnatiya bint al-Qulai'iya. These and other women writers suggest a hidden world of literature by women.

Despite their lack of prominence among the literary elite, women still played an important part as characters in Arabic literature. Sirat al-amirah Dhat al-Himmah, for example, is an Arabic epic with a female warrior, Fatima Dhat al-Himma, as protagonist and Scheherazade is famous for cunningly telling stories in the One Thousand and One Nights to save her life. The Mamluk period saw the flourishing of the Sufi master and poet 'A'isha al-Ba'uniyya who was probably the Arabic-speaking world's most prolific female author before the twentieth century.

The earliest prominent female Arabic writer of the modern period during which the Arab cultural renaissance (Al-Nahda) took place is Tahiri. Women's literary salons and societies in the Arab world were also pioneered during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. MaryanaMarrash, May Ziade and Mary 'Ajami started salons.

Alongside them, pioneering figures in women's writing in Arabic during this time period are ZaynabFawwaz, who arguably wrote the first novel in Arabic and was the first woman to write a play in that language as well; Aisha Taymur, Malak Hifni Nasif, Anbara Salam Khalidy and Salma al-Kadhimiyya.

Since the Second World War, Arabic women's poetry has become markedly more prominent. Nazik Al-Malaika considered the initiator of the Free Verse Movement in Arabic poetry. She also wrote The Case of Contemporary Poets which is considered a major contribution to Arab literary criticism. Aisha Abd al-Rahman (Bint al-Shati) was another prominent Egyptian author who wrote fiction, biographies, literary criticism, Qur'anic exegesis etc.

Other major post-war poetic voices include FadwaTouqan (Palestine), Rabâb al-Kâ'imî (Iraq), JalîlaRî'a (Egypt), Salma Jayyusi (Palestine), Lami'a 'Abbas 'Amara (Iraq), Saniya Salih's (Syria), ZubaydaBashîr (Tunis), Su'ad al-Sabah (Kuwait) and Hamda Khamis (Bahrain).

More recent Arabic literature has seen an even greater number of female writers' works published: Suhayr al-Qalamawi, UlfatIdlibi, Layla Ba'albakki, Zuhra Mattummal, Hoda Barakat and Alifa Rifaat are just some of the novelists and prose writers. There has also been a number of significant female authors who also wrote non-fiction work mainly exploring the female condition in Muslim Societies, which includes authors such as Zaynab al-Ghazali, Nawal el-Saadawi and Sociologist Fatema Mernissi etc.

More current Arab female writers include Hanan al-Sheikh, Salwa al-Neimi (writer, poet and journalist), Joumana Haddad (journalist and poet), Assia Djebar. Ahdaf Soueif and Yasmine El-Rashidi amongst others who confront less-talked about topics such as sex, prostitution, homosexuality and political censorship and prosecution within the Arab diaspora and also internationally in relation to Arab emigration.

In the light of the above, the Department of Arabic has decided to organize one day international seminar on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 on "Women and Arabic Literature".

The Department of Arabic hopes that the seminar will successfully highlight the various fields of the topic.

## العناوين المقترحة

المرأة في الأدب الجاهلي

صورة المرأة في ضوء الشعر الجاهلي

المرأة في القرآن الكريم

المرأة والحديث النبوي

المرأة في الأدب الإسلامي

المرأة في الأدب الأموي

المرأة في الأدب العباسي

المرأة في الأدب الحديث

المرأة في النقد الأدب العربي

صورة المرأة في مؤلفات أدباء العصر الحاضر

صورة المرأة في ضوء الروايات الحديثة

صورة المرأة في ضوء المسرحيات الحديثة

صورة المرأة في ضوء القصة القصيرة الحديثة

إسهامات النساء في الشعر العربي

إسهامات النساء في مجال التفسير

إسهامات النساء في الفنون المستحدثة المختلفة

وأي موضوع آخر يتعلق بالعنوان