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 3rd & 20th April, 2019 respectively to the mail address mentioned at the end. Late entries will not be entertained.

Registration Fee:
Teachers: Rs. 500/-
Research Scholars: 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. 25th 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

Prof. Safuddin
Director

Dr. Mohammed Najmul Haque
Dr. Md. Mehedi Hasan
Organizing Secretary
Convener
&
Co-ordinator, Dept. of Arabic

Date: 25.04.2019
Time: 10:00 a.m.

Venue: Najeeb Mahfuz Hall
Department of Arabic, UGB
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 25th April, 2019.

You are earnestly requested to send an Abstract (maximum 200 words) & the Full Paper in Arabic/English/Bengali only, latest by 03rd & 20th 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.

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. 25th April, 2019 only.

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Prof. Saifuddin
Director

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

Dr. Md. Mehedi Hasan
Convener
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. Specifically, women poets’ writing in Arabic have made tremendous strides since the dawn of the twenty 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 7th century. Their concentration on the rihla 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 (qiyam) who sang love songs and accompanied these with music; alongside panegyric and competitive verse-capping, qiyam also sang love-poetry (ghaza). In his Risalat al-Qiyam (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-Mu’aminyya and Fadl Ashsha’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 Rabia 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-emminently Wallada bint al-Mustakfi, an Umayri 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-Garnatiyya bint al-Qula’iyya. 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-Himmah, 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 ‘Aisha 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. Maryama Marrash, May Zaide and Mary ‘Ajami started salons.

Alongside them, pioneering figures in women’s writing in Arabic during this time period are Zaynah Fawwaz, who arguably wrote the first novel in Arabic and was also the first woman to write a play in that language as well, Aisha Taymur, Madak Hithi Nasif, Anbara Salam Khaledy 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 Fadwa Touqan (Palestine), Rabib al-Khatim (Iraq), Jallal R’i’a (Egypt), Salma Jayyusi (Palestine), Lam’a ‘Abbas ‘Aman (Iraq), Saniya Salih’s (Syria), Zubayda Bashir (Tunis), Su’ad al-Sabah (Kuwait) and Hamaa Khairis (Bahrain).

More recent Arabic literature has seen an even greater number of female writers’ works published: Sahayr al-Qalamawi, Ulfatidilbi, Layla Ba’albaki, Zuhraa Matmunal, Hera Barakat and Alifa Rifat 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 exploring the female condition in Muslim Societies, which includes authors such as Zaynab al-Ghazali, Nawal al-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 Yasmin 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 25th April, 2019 on “Women and Arabic Literature”.

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