

International Conference

# Re-Writing Morocco

## Poetics, Politics, Philosophy, and History in Multiple Forms<sup>1</sup>

Rome, November 20-22, 2024

Zoom link: <https://uniroma1.zoom.us/j/84765205435>



### 20 November – Sapienza University of Rome, Piazzale Aldo Moro 5

18.00-19.30 **Welcome aperitif**

📍 Aula di Archeologia, Faculty of “Lettere e Filosofia”

### Day I – 21 November – Sapienza University of Rome, Piazzale Aldo Moro 5

08.00-08.30 **Registration**

📍 Aula Multimediale, Palazzo del Rettorato

08.30-09.00 **Welcome and introduction**

📍 Aula Multimediale, Palazzo del Rettorato

Alessandro Saggiaro, Head of the Department of History, Anthropology, Religion, and Arts, Sapienza University of Rome

Fernanda Fischione, Conference convenor, Sapienza University of Rome

Mohammed Hashas, Conference convenor, Tor Vergata University of Rome

09.00-10.00 **Keynote speech I**

📍 Aula Multimediale, Palazzo del Rettorato

**Brahim El Guabli**, Williams College/Johns Hopkins University

*History and Indigeneity: For an Amazigh Cultural History of Morocco*

**Chair:** Fernanda Fischione, Sapienza University of Rome

10.00-11.30 **Panel 1A. Reclaiming Multiple Identities through Literature**

📍 Aula Multimediale, Palazzo del Rettorato

~ Erragab Eljanhaoui, *Lost in the Desert: Moroccan Hassani Writers' Exploration of Desert Spirituality and Identity in the Modern Hassani Novel*

~ Mohamed Daoudi, *Why Nostalgia to the Homeland Is Omnipresent in Riffian Poetry: Towards a Critique of Ethnographic Discourse on the Rif Region, northern Morocco*

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<sup>1</sup> TRANSECT (<https://www.transect.eu>), the project that led to this conference, has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 101027040.

~ Mohamed Sguenle, *The Metaphors of Suffering and Resistance in Moroccan Engaged literature of Amazigh Expression: An Approach to the Poetry of Sidqui Azaykou*

~ Adeli Block, *Scripting Linguistic Justice: Children's Lifemaps as a Moroccan "Other-Archive"*

**Chair:** Rossana Tufaro, Sapienza University of Rome

10.00-11.30 **Panel 1B. Women Writing, Gender, and the Body – part I**

📍 Aula di Archeologia, Faculty of "Lettere e Filosofia"

~ Rocío Velasco de Castro, *Breaking Taboos about Moroccan Women: Zainab Fasiki and Leila Slimani*

~ Zineb Rabouj, *The 'Trans' in Moroccan Realist Arabic Literature: Transgressing Borders and Genders in Fatiha Mourshid's Lust Unbounded (2019)*

~ Amrita Basu Roy Chowdhury, *Gendering Leila Abouzeid's The Last Chapter through Rights, Religion and Identity Nexus*

**Chair:** Ana González Navarro, Sapienza University of Rome

11.30-12.00 **Coffee Break**

12.00-13:30 **Panel 2A. Capturing Morocco in Motion: Cinema and Visual Arts**

📍 Aula Multimediale, Palazzo del Rettorato

~ Abdellah Sardaoui, *The Role of Cinema in Social and Political Change in Morocco: Between Creative Challenges and Realization Constraints*

~ Claudia Esposito, *From the Halqa to the Wave: Future Memories of Contemporary Morocco*

~ Arianna Jakubowski, *Writing Spaces. Toni Maraini Semantic and Emotional Cartographies*

~ Said Chemlal, *Visual Routes: Negotiating Home in Diasporic Moroccan Cinema*

**Chair:** Fernanda Fischione, Sapienza University of Rome

12.00-13:30 **Panel 2B. Writing Trauma, Resistance, and Reconciliation**

📍 Aula di Archeologia, Faculty of "Lettere e Filosofia"

~ Ahmed Benali, *Archiving the Unarchivable: On the Historical Turn in Contemporary Moroccan Fiction*

~ Ismail Frouini, *Resisting the Epistemic Violence: Writing Trauma, Subalternity, and Postcoloniality in Morocco*

~ Angelika Palmegiani, *Is Reconciliation Possible? Moroccan Prison Narratives and Historical Memory*

~ Ana González Navarro, *Poetry as Testimony: Re-Writing Political and Feminist Memory Through Saida Menebhi's Poèmes, lettres et écrits de prison (1978)*

**Chair:** Arturo Monaco, Sapienza University of Rome

13.30-14.30 **Lunch Break**

14.30-16.00 **Panel 3A. Geographies of Identity Negotiation**

📍 Aula Multimediale, Palazzo del Rettorato

- ~ Ikbale Bouziane, *Engaged Amazigh Poetry in Meteor Airlines' Agdal: Reviving Tradition and Addressing Global Environmental Issues*
- ~ Mokhtar Bouba, *An Indigenous Approach to Image Negotiation in Moroccan Sahara Desert Tourism*
- ~ Vaughn Raspberry, *Between Black Morocco and the Black Atlantic: Leila Lalami's The Moor's Account and the Geography of Diaspora*
- ~ Maryeme Ouchen, *The Representations of Moroccan Imazighen's Identity in Travelers' Narratives*

**Chair:** Michelina Di Cesare, Sapienza University of Rome

14.30-16.00 **Panel 3B. History between Fiction and Memory**

📍 Aula di Archeologia, Faculty of "Lettere e Filosofia"

- ~ Chakib Ararou, *Aly El Hammamy: Fragments of a Forgotten Maghreb*
- ~ Manuela Ceballos, *Abdelfattah Kilito and the Politics of Memory*
- ~ Jonas Elbousty, *Echoes and Erasures: The Politics of Memory in The Game of Forgetting*
- ~ Joanne Brueton, *Abdelkébir Khatibi's Palimpsestic F(r)iction: Re-writing Morocco through Jean Genet*

**Chair:** Ada Barbaro, Sapienza University of Rome

16.00-16.30 **Coffee Break**

16.30-18.30 **Roundtable I<sup>2</sup>**

📍 Aula Multimediale, Palazzo del Rettorato

***Writing Fiction in North Africa Today: Novels, Writers, and Literary Awards***

A Talk with the Novelists Tareq Bakkari (Morocco), Amira Ghenim (Tunisia), Saïd Khatibi (Algeria), and Abdelmajid Sebbata (Morocco)

**Chair:** Fernanda Fischione, Sapienza University of Rome

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<sup>2</sup> This panel is in Arabic; translation to English will be available. The panel is organized with the generous support of the International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF).

## **Day II – 22 November –Tor Vergata University of Rome, via Columbia 1**

08.00-09.00 **Shuttlebus transfer from Sapienza to Tor Vergata University of Rome**

09.00-09.30 **Registration and welcome**

📍 Auditorium

Lucia Ceci, Head of the Department of History, Society, and Culture, Tor Vergata University of Rome

Mohammed Hashas, Conference convenor, Tor Vergata University of Rome

Fernanda Fischione, Conference convenor, Sapienza University of Rome

09.30-10.30 **Keynote Speech II**

📍 Auditorium

**Elizabeth S. Kassab**, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

*Moroccan Thought in the New Arab Critique*

**Chair:** Mohammed Hashas, Tor Vergata University of Rome

10.30-11.00 **Coffee Break**

11.00-12.30 **Panel 4A. Remembering History: Places and Persons**

📍 Auditorium

~ Valentina Sagaria Rossi, *al-Qarawiyyine Library in Fez: History and Manuscripts*

~ Justin Stearns, *Rethinking Moroccan Intellectual History through the Life of al-Hasan al-Yusi (d. 1691)*

~ Gonzalo Fernández Parrilla, *Re-writing Moroccan Literary History: The Empire Does not always Write Back*

~ Ines Peta, *From the Self to the Collectivity: The Role of the Autobiographical Dimension in Aourid's Project of Reshaping Moroccan Identity*

**Chair:** Elisabetta Marino, Tor Vergata University of Rome

11.00-12.30 **Panel 4B. Writing Multiple Identities through Travel Narratives**

📍 Building B, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Meetings Room

~ Mohamed Lazrak, *Moroccan African Religious Diplomacy: Prospects and Challenges*

~ Vedran Obućina, *Ibn Battuta – an Interreligious Traveller?*

~ Hajar Berghabi and Saad Boulahnane, *Re-writing Morocco through Auto-ethnography in two Moroccan Ambassadorial Travel Narratives*

**Chair:** Giovanna Zavettieri, Tor Vergata University of Rome

12.30-14.00 **Lunch Break**

14.00-15.30 **Panel 5A. Identity, Law, and Muslim/a Theology**

📍 Auditorium

- ~ Hamza Salih, *Delimiting the Borders between the Cultural and the Political in Moroccan Nationalism: The Case of the Political Party*
- ~ Serena Fraiese, *Reforming Identity: Nationalism, Sharī'a, and Jurisprudential Innovation in Morocco*
- ~ Mariangela Laviano, *Mohammed 'Abid al-Jabri and Asma Lamrabet Discuss the Women's Issue: A Reading of Certain Concepts from the Qur'ān*
- ~ Sara Borrillo, *Asma Lamrabet's Theology: Navigating Islam, Gender Equality and the Decolonial*

**Chair:** Shamil Jeppie, University of Cape Town

14.00-15.30 **Panel 5B. Transnational and Multilingual Morocco**

📍 Building B, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Meetings Room

- ~ Elisabetta Marino, *Larabi's Ox: Stories of Morocco (1992) by Tony Ardizzone: Negotiating One's Subjectivity*
- ~ Lidia Fernández Fonfría, *Memory and Autobiography of Spanish Travellers in Morocco (1860-1900): Cristóbal Benítez and José María Murga*
- ~ Monika Raič, *Morocco in Argentina: Ethnographical Poetics and International Politics*
- ~ Clara Défachel, *Translating for and from Morocco: Examining Literary Translations from Arabic into French Produced in Morocco in the Past Decade*

**Chair:** Rosanna Maria Sebellin, Tor Vergata University of Rome

15.30-16.00 **Coffee Break**

16.00-17.15 **Panel 6A. Theology, Philosophy and "Other Thought"**

📍 Auditorium

- ~ Azzedine Azzimani, *Reading the Qur'an in Contemporary Morocco: Between the Usuli Paradigm and the Interpretive Turn*
- ~ Francesco Patrone, *Philosophy, but Why? Notes from a Lahbabi's Autobiographical Essay*
- ~ Redouane Khamar, *Tattoos or the Interior Distance: Reading Abdelkébir Khatibi's La Blessure du nom propre*
- ~ Juan A. Macías-Amoretti, *Abdessalam Benabdelali's Approach to Pensée-autre: Deconstructing Metaphysics in Moroccan Thought*

**Chair:** Elisabeth S. Kassab, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

16.00-17.15 **Panel 6B. Women Writing, Gender, and the Body – Part II**

📍 Building B, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Meetings Room

- ~ Jihane Haddouchi, *Navigating Gender and Identity: Moroccan Women Writers' Perspectives*

~ Mimoune Daoudi, *Diasporic Space and Moroccan Women Literature: Revisiting Identity through Self-Writing*

~ Kaouther Karoui, *The Importance of the Feminist Thought of Fatima Mernissi in the (Re-)Writing of the Transcultural Approach to Feminism*

**Chair:** Valentina Sagaria Rossi, Tor Vergata University of Rome

17.15-17.30 **Keynote Speech III (in absentia)**

📍 Auditorium

**Sonja Hegasy**, Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO)

*The Researcher's Patience and the Historian's Neutrality: Rewriting Morocco's History?*

17.30-19.00 **Roundtable II and Book Launch**

📍 Auditorium

***Moroccan Thought in the Arab World and Beyond***

Roundtable and presentation of the volume *Contemporary Moroccan Thought: On Philosophy, Theology, Society, and Culture*, ed. M. Hashas (Brill, 2025, pp. 793)

<https://brill.com/display/title/63015>

With Elizabeth S. Kassab, Shamil Jeppie, Hamza Salih, Juan A. Macías-Amoretti, Sara Borrillo, Brahim El Guabli, the Editor

**Chair:** Francesca M. Corrao, Luiss University of Rome

19.00-19.15 **Concluding Remarks**

19.30 **Shuttlebus departure**

20.30 **Dinner**