

Everyday Writers in the Middle East and Asia

Whether an Uzbek author living during the time of Soviet collapse or a poetess in today's Egypt, everyday experiences loom large over the oeuvre of writers, shaping their perceptions, prospects for work, and reception in society. In this series, we meet writers from the Middle East and Asia to discover how the social, economic, and political conditions of everyday life came to not only shape their literary outlook but their own hopes, desires, fears, and worries as well as that of society at-large.

SPRING SCHEDULE

Thursday April 28 (7PM):

Author Roundtable: Being a Writer in Kabul 2020/2021

Born in Afghanistan in 1986, Taqi Akhlaqi spent his childhood and youth as a refugee in Iran. He returned to Kabul in the early 2000s and has been writing ever since.
Host: Thomas Loy, Research Fellow at the Oriental Institute. (In English)

Wednesday May 25 (7PM):

Book Talk: *Sayyid Qutb: An Intellectual Biography*

The figure of Sayyid Qutb (d. 1966) looms large over understandings of political Islam, especially since 9/11, but much of Qutb's life and legacy remains misunderstood. Giedre Šabaseviute of the Oriental Institute explores Qutb's aesthetics and its connections to his Islamist project in her recent book *Sayyid Qutb: An Intellectual Biography*.
Host: Kevin L. Schwartz, Deputy Director of the Oriental Institute. (In English)

Wednesday June 1 (7PM):

Author Roundtable: Poetry Reading in Arabic and Czech

Nada Elshabrawy (b. 1995) is an Egyptian poet and famous book-tuber. Her poetry- written in colloquial Egyptian- focuses on love, loss, and travel. She will be reading her work in Arabic, followed by a Czech translation. Host: Giedre Šabaseviute, Research Fellow at the Oriental Institute. (In Arabic, Czech, and English)

Wednesday June 8 (7PM):

Author Roundtable: Polyphony in Contemporary Taiwanese Literature

Taiwanese authors Liao Hongji, Salizan Takisvilainan, and Kate Dargaw all rely on poetic language and multilingualism to layer their literary works with expression and complexity. The authors will discuss the role of poetry and language in Taiwanese literature today.
Host: Pavlína Krámská. (In Chinese and Czech).

Everyday Writers in the Middle East and Asia