

Arabic Magical Realisms

Foundations, Concepts and Manifestations



Workshop
22–23 May
2025

Thursday, 22 May 2025

13:45

Welcoming Words

Beatrice Gründler (Freie Universität Berlin, EXC 2020)

Keynote Speech

Moderation & Response: Susanne Klengel (Freie Universität Berlin, EXC 2020)

14:00

Interwar, Intermedium, In-Translation, Transatlantic, International, and Post-colonial: How magical realism became, became subversive, popped and fizzled, and then went beyond

Kenneth Reeds (Salem State University, USA)

15:15 Coffee Break

**PANEL I
Pre-Figurations of Magical Realisms Across the Global South**

Moderation: Ruben Schenzle (Freie Universität Berlin)

15:30

The Reluctant Heirs of Latin American Magical Realism

Hernán D. Caro (freelance author and editor, Berlin)

16:15

Food for Thought? Hunger and Fantasy in Arabic Literature

Asmaa Essakouti (University of Münster, Germany)

17:00 Coffee Break

17:15

Postclassical Literary Experimentations: The Case of Fourteen Anonymous Stories of an Escorial Manuscript

Enass Khansa (American University of Beirut, Lebanon)

Further Information: To take part in the workshop, please register with Alexander Hong, alexandeh98@zedat.fu-berlin.de. No prior knowledge is required. Online participation via Webex will be possible.

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Friday, 23 May 2025

**PANEL II
Manifestations of Magical Realisms in Arabic Literature in the 20th and 21st Centuries**

Moderation: Alexander Hong (Freie Universität Berlin, EXC 2020)

10:00 online

Haunting Energies and Unseen Ecologies (Sudan, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Syria)

Charis Olszok (University of Cambridge, UK)

10:45

Excess, Illusions and the End of Time – Grotesque Magical Realisms in Fadhil Al-Azzawi's »The Last of the Angels« (Iraq)

Sophie Schmid (Freie Universität Berlin, EXC 2020)

11:30 Coffee Break

Moderation: Yvonne Albers (Freie Universität Berlin, EXC 2020)

11:45 online

The Fantastic in Arab Diasporic Writing

Tarek El-Ariss (Dartmouth College, USA)

12:30

Magical Realism and Violence in Abdelaziz Baraka Sakin's Works (Sudan)

Xavier Luffin (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium)

13:15 Lunch Break

**PANEL III
Between Foundations and Futures of Magical Realism in Contexts of Destruction, Displacement and Trauma**

Moderation: Hanan Natour (Freie Universität Berlin, EXC 2020)

14:30

Magical Realism in the 21st Century: From Visual Art to Writing Style, Ekphrastic Medium, and A.I. Art Form

Eugene Arva (independent scholar, formerly University of Miami, USA)

15:15 Coffee Break

15:30 online

Magical Realism in Mazen Maarouf's »Jokes for the Gunmen«: Transcendent Realms beyond the Map (Palestine)

Sumaya Haj (Birzeit University, Palestine)

16:15 online

The Empire Bites Back? Ahmad Khalid Tawfiq's »Clean Horror« (Egypt)

Alexandra Shraytekh (Tufts University, USA)

17:00

Closing Remarks

Beatrice Gründler (Freie Universität Berlin, EXC 2020)

Organisation: Beatrice Gründler, Sophie Schmid and Hanan Natour, Cluster of Excellence »Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective«, Project: »Magical Realisms and Speculative Literature«, Research Area 3: »Future Perfect«

Location: Freie Universität Berlin, Room 00.05 and 00.07, Otto-von-Simson-Straße 15, 14195 Berlin