



# ARAB COMICS:

90 YEARS  
OF POPULAR  
VISUAL  
CULTURE



# MIDDLE EAST STUDIES | BROWN

Box 1970  
Watson Institute for International Studies  
111 Thayer Street, Providence, RI 02912

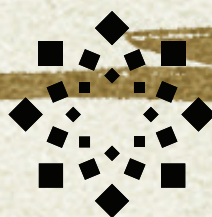
[www.middleeastbrown.org](http://www.middleeastbrown.org)  
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**ALL ARTWORK COURTESY OF FOUAD MEZHER**

[fouadmezher.blogspot.com](http://fouadmezher.blogspot.com)



**WATSON INSTITUTE**  
FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
BROWN UNIVERSITY



**MIDDLE EAST  
STUDIES**  
BROWN



# PROGRAM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

JOUKOWSKY FORUM, WATSON INSTITUTE

12:00 p.m.

## **PARTICIPANTS' LUNCH**

HOSTED BY MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

1:30 p.m.

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

**BESHARA DOUMANI**, *Director of Middle East Studies and Joukowsky Family  
Distinguished Professor of Modern Middle East History, Brown University*

**MONA DAMLUJI**, *Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Visual Culture,  
Wheaton College*

2:00 p.m.

## **COMICS HISTORIES**

**MICHAEL ALLAN**, *Assistant Professor in Comparative Literature,  
University of Oregon, "Drawing Lines in the Sand: Comics and Caricature Beyond  
East/West"*

**NADIM DAMLUJI**, *Independent Scholar,  
"The Violence of Localizing Western Comics for Arab Children"*

**LINA GHAIBEH**, *Animation Artist and Associate Professor of Animation,  
American University of Beirut, "Propaganda in Comics in the Arab World:  
From Nationalism To Religious Radicalism"*

**DISCUSSANT: ELIAS MUHANNA**, *Manning Assistant Professor of  
Comparative Literature and Director of the Digital Islamic Humanities Project,  
Brown University*

3:40 p.m.

## **COFFEE BREAK**

4:00 p.m.

## **COMICS PRACTICES**

**FOUAD MEZHER**, *Comics Artist and Writer, "Educated Between Panels,"*

**FADI BAKI**, *Comics Writer and Editor, co-founder of Samandal,  
"Violence as Language: The Inarticulate Medium of Comics"*

**DISCUSSANT: ANNA MUDD**, *Comics Artist, Harvard University*

7:00 p.m.

## **PARTICIPANTS' DINNER**

HOSTED BY MIDDLE EAST STUDIES



## **MICHAEL ALLAN**

*ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE, UNIVERSITY OF OREGON*

Michael Allan is an Assistant Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in Comparative Literature at the University of Oregon. He is on the Program Faculty in Cinema Studies as well as the Arabic and Comic Studies Minors.

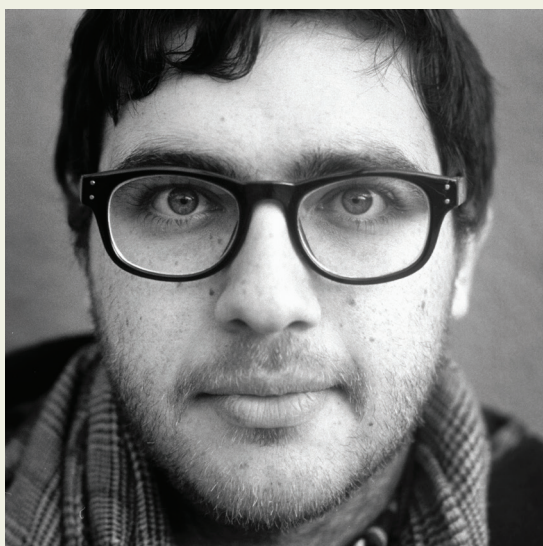
<http://complit.uoregon.edu/faculty/mallan.html>

## **NADIM DAMLUJI**

*INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR*

Nadim Damluji researches and writes about the history of Arab comics. As a Thomas J. Watson Fellow, he traced the colonial impact of Hergé's *The Adventures of Tintin* by retracing Tintin's footsteps through the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. Nadim has lectured at the University of Berkeley, University of Washington, the Institut Francais du Proche-Orient, DePauw University, and at the Arab American National Museum. He has published articles on Arab comics in *Kalimat*, *The Comic's Journal*, and *Culture Magazine*. Currently, Nadim is completing a Juris Doctorate at the University of Washington with a focus on international business and human rights.

<http://www.nadimdamluji.com>



## **LINA GHAIBEH**

*ANIMATION ARTIST AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ANIMATION, AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT*

Lina Ghaibeh is a half Syrian half Danish animation and comics artist living in Lebanon. She is a full time associate professor teaching animation, interactive media design and comics at the American University of Beirut. Coming from the practice to academia, she continues to make animation shorts, comics and illustrated books. Lina has participated in several international film and animation festivals and has exhibited at local and International comics salons and exhibitions. Her research includes the study and analysis of Comics in the Arab world, investigating the manifestations of the Comics as part of contemporary and popular Arab cultural production.

[http://feaapps.aub.edu.lb/fea\\_faculty/profile.aspx?id=lg00](http://feaapps.aub.edu.lb/fea_faculty/profile.aspx?id=lg00)



## **FADI BAKI**

*WRITER, COMIC BOOK EDITOR, AND FOUNDER OF SAMANDAL COMICS*

In 2007, Fadi Baki (aka the fdz) co-founded and edited *Samandal Comics*, a quarterly comics publication in Lebanon, writing and drawing for the magazine as well until 2011. In 2009, he co-founded and coordinated *Beirut Animated*, the first animation festival in Lebanon. The fdz currently divides his time between writing comics and working as a motion graphics artist as well as an independent film director.



## **FOUAD MEZHER**

*ILLUSTRATOR AND WRITER*

Fouad Mezher is a freelance illustrator and writer in Beirut. He earned his BFA in Graphic Design from the American University of Beirut in 2009. Mezher's first published comic *The Educator* ran in *Samandal Comics Magazine* from 2007 to 2010. His most recent work, published through *Risha Project*, is the silent short *Fragile*. His work was exhibited at the 2010 *Lucca Comics and Games Festival*. Mezher has worked as an organizer for the 5th International Festival of Comics - Beirut 2012, primarily as co-instructor for the *Let's Comics Workshops*.

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