

Recent Publications

- *Tarīkh al-Ṣahafah al-Nisawīyya*, by George Callas. Beirut: Dar Al-Jil, 1996. (Arabic)
- *Sūrat al-Mar'ah bayn al-Manzur al-Sha'bī wa al-Ilmānī*, by Ali Afarfar. Beirut: Dar Al-Ṭālīha, 1996. (Arabic)
- *Jirāhah li-tajmīl al-Zaman*, by Daisy El-Amir. Beirut: al-Mu'assasah al-'Arabīyyah lil-Dirāsāt waal-Nashr, 1996. (Arabic)
- *Zilāl al-Kalimāt al-Maḥkīyyah*, by Fadwa Toukan. Cairo: Dar Al-Fatā al-'Arabi, 1996. (Arabic)
- *Al-ʿAlsunīyyāt wa al-Shi'r*, by Najwa Nasr. Beirut: Lebanese University, 1996. (Arabic)
- *Wardat al-Matāha*, by Maha Sultan. Beirut: Dar al-Jadid, 1997. (Arabic)
- *Bukā' al-Nakhīl*, by Hayat Abu Zaid. Damascus: Dar al-Ṭālīha al-Jadida, 1996. (Arabic)
- *Towards a Non-Sexist Language*, by Zuleikha Abu Risha. Amman: The Women's Studies Center, 1996. (Arabic)
- *Faith and Freedom: Women's Human Rights in Islam*, by Mahnaz Afkhami (ed.). London: Al-Saqi Bookshop, 1995. (English)
- *Women's Rebellion and Islamic Memory*, by Fatima Mernissi. London: Al-Saqi Bookshop, 1996. (English)

An Innovative Documentary

Arab Women Speak Out is an innovative documentary, training and advocacy project expected to be distributed in Spring, 1997. The project features a full-length composite documentary video, country profiles on video, a discussion guide, case studies, a training module, and a checklist for the gender-sensitive portrayal of women in the media.

For copies and additional information, kindly write or call:
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New Releases from "Women Make Movies"

The Veiled Hope: Women of Palestine (Norma Marcos) explores the personal and political challenges facing Palestinian women through a series of wonderful portraits of women living on the Gaza and West Bank.

Lebanon: Bits and Pieces (Olga Nakkas) is an exquisitely beautiful and profoundly moving exploration of the myths and realities of present-day Lebanon, as reflected through the voices of women.

Algeria: Women at War (Parminder Vir) examines the key role Algerian women played in liberating their country from French control thirty years ago and their equally important place in today's politics. Produced for Britain's Channel Four Television.

Conversations Across the Bosphorous (Jeanne C. Finley) connects the stories of two Muslim women from Istanbul who have different approaches to their faith, and provides a deeper understanding of Turkish society and the current tensions between fundamentalist and secular forces.

Iraqi Women: Voices From Exile (Maysoon Parchachi) provides a fascinating and rare look at the recent history of Iraq through the eyes and experiences of Iraqi women living in exile in Britain.

Send all orders to:
Women Make Movies
462 Broadway, Suite 500-L, New York, NY 10013
Telephone (212) 925-0606 Fax (212) 925-2052
E-Mail orders@wmm.com

Conferences

The VIII Pacific Science Intercongress has been scheduled to take place from 13-19 July 1997 in Suva, Fiji. The conference has two principal themes: Women, Science, and Indigenous

Knowledge (which will include such topics as women's traditional knowledge, indigenous and Western science, and the integration of women's knowledge into development planning) and Women and New Information Technologies (which will focus on the gender dimensions of information and communication technologies).

Call for Papers

The *Asian Journal Of Women's Studies* (AJWS) is an international, interdisciplinary journal that publishes articles pertaining to women's issues in Asia and to the international context from a feminist perspective.

The journal welcomes articles, book reviews, and commentaries with regard to all aspects of women's issues, including sexuality, labor, cultural and political issues, especially in the Asian context.

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Research Abstracts

Kraydieh, Kamal. "Family Breakup and the Effect it has on the Aggressive Behavior of Juvenile Delinquents."
Lebanese University, M.A Thesis, Social Sciences Department 1995-1996.

Kraydieh studies the massive effect of the family on juvenile delinquency. He attempts to define delinquency and depict its psychological causes.

His sample consisted of 50 young delinquents, seven of whom were girls. Kraydieh worked with three groups, ranging between 10 and 18 years of age: 25 subjects from Roumieh prison, 17 from Beit Al Fanar, and 8 from *Ittiḥād Ḥimayāt al-Aḥdāth fī Lubnān, Ba'aṣīr*. Several nationalities were represented.

Kraydieh found that most delinquents came from large families of low socio-economic status; a substantial

number of parents do not work, or are street vendors. The age gap between these children and their parents is significant (the average age of fathers was 53/54, of mothers 32/33). The author also found that 72% of the delinquents' parents are divorced, separated, or deceased. Moreover, all subjects studied suffer from psychological problems, such as stress, fear, depression, and aggressive behavior. Most of them live in over-crowded homes where they lack space; they are forced to leave the house and roam the streets. Eighty - five percent involved in robbery, vagrancy, and beggary. Seventy percent said that they committed their felonies because of family problems. Most of them suffered from demographic changes resulting in periods of homelessness and life in temporary shelters.

Sfeir, Myriam. "Hymenophobia: Virginity and Family Honour in Lebanon." *Department of Interdisciplinary Women's Studies, University of Warwick 1996.*

This study examines the concept of virginity and family honor in Lebanon. It addresses the experiences of Lebanese women in dealing with the prevalent ideologies with regard to the nature of sexuality in the Arab World, and it portrays the double moral standard whereby women and men subscribe to different rules and regulations with regard to their sexuality. It explains Lebanese views towards virginity, especially regarding family honor, which is respected or destroyed through the control of women's sexuality.

Sfeir also examines the socialization process whereby the family imposes the external as well as internal restrictions that a girl must absorb while she is growing out of childhood and into adulthood. The author recounts how young women are brainwashed to view sex as dirty and impure, and how they are made to understand that a very high price is exacted from those who dare deviate from the sexual norms.

Sfeir attempts to lift the veil of silence that surrounds female sexuality in Lebanon, her body, her sexual identity, and her relationships. In profound interviews, a number of Lebanese women share their experience and make their muted voices heard. The author detects that virginity is one of the constituting identity components of the Lebanese woman. Virginity is not merely perceived as a physical reality but also as a social and psychological factor that involves a woman's definition of her social identity. Moreover, Sfeir asserts the gossip functions as an important tool to control the sexuality of women. Although pre-marital sex takes place in Lebanon, women refrain from talking about such experiences, for they are concerned with the effect of their conduct on their families. Moreover, although women are dissatisfied with the way things are, they are not willing to rebel. The study suggests how important a militant and active women's movement is to challenge the dominant discourse.