

Recent Publications

- Arasoughly, Alia. *Screens of Life: Critical Film Writing from the Arab World*. Canada: World Heritage Press, 1996.
- Foster, Gwendolyn Audrey. *Women Film Directors: An International Bio-Critical Dictionary*. Westport, Connecticut, 1995.
- Moghaizel, Fadi and Mirella Abdel Sater. *Crimes of Honor: A Legal Study*. Lebanon: Joseph and Laure Moghaizel Foundation, 1999. (In Arabic)
- Stromquist, Nelly P. *Women in the Third World: An Encyclopedia of Contemporary Issues*. New York: Garland Publishing, 1998.
- Unterburger, Amy L. *Women Filmmakers and their Films*. Detroit: St. James Press, 1998.

Call for Papers

"SIGNS" a journal which deals with women in culture and society is preparing a special issue entitled "Globalization and Gender" and is seeking potential contributors. Submissions will have to focus on "the relationship between gender and globalization", "feminist critiques and understandings of globalization", "earlier forms of globalization in comparison and connection to contemporary processes" "the transnationalism of identity politics based on gender and sexuality", etc.

All contributions ought to be submitted to the address below:
 Signs, Globalization and Gender
 Box 354345
 C14 Padelford Hall,
 University of Washington
 Seattle, WA 98195 - 4345
 For more information please go to
<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/Signs/home.html>.

"Orientalism and Cinema" is the title of a panel that sets out to question whether *Orientalism*, Edward Said's book, may be applicable to Middle Eastern film studies and filmmaking. Papers may center around "the power relations existing in representing the 'other' or look at the shadow question of how the East sees itself while coming to terms with the history of colonialism and its effects on the colonized cultures.

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Films

Once Upon a Time: Beirut

This film, directed by Jocelyne Saab, revolves around two young girls, Yasmine and Leila, who set out on a journey in search of their destroyed city's past. In the course of their adventures they come across a reclusive film connoisseur who sets the stage for an extraordinarily comic and memorable cinematic tour through Beirut's past.

The Infidels

In her film "The Infidels," Randa Chahal Sabbag broaches upon controversial issues such as religion, sex, homosexuality, fear, etc. Daring in its theme, the film traces the relationship between two men, a repentant Islamic fundamentalist and a French diplomat who are at first bound together by conflicting obligations. The French man's aim is to secure from the Islamic fundamentalist a list of names of terrorists operating in his country, and in return the latter requests freedom for a friend imprisoned in France. Yet, this obligation soon turns into an overwhelming attraction that develops between the two men and ripens into forbidden desire.

Honey and Ashes

The film highlights the stories of three North African women - Leila, Naima, and Amina - and traces the struggles they face daily. It touches upon patriarchy, sexuality, tradition, modernity, discrimination, double standards, twisted ethics, etc. "Honey and Ashes" is "a passionate statement on the conditions of women in the Arab world. The stories illustrate the way in which men can maintain constricting moral beliefs about women and their given roles, and how love offers no concrete protection from this."

Lebanon: Imprisoned Splendor

Unlike Western media's negative and stereotypical portrayal of Lebanon and its people, Daisy Gedeon, in her multi award-winning documentary film on Lebanon, attempts to project an alternative image. Gedeon embarks on a personal journey and through this documentary the audience "witness her genuine re-discovery of Lebanon - a land she also once considered destructive and dangerous - where she confronts the realities of the nation and the people, guiding the viewers to open their minds and move beyond the negative stereotypes that have dominated Western consciousness for nearly three decades."