

Recent Publications

Cooke, Miriam. *Hayati, my Life: A Novel*. New York: Syracuse University Press, 2000.

Guthrie, Shirley. *Arab Women in the Middle Ages: Private Lives and Public Roles*. London: Saqi, 2001

Lessa, Christina. *A New Plan for Success and Well Being from Today's most Celebrated Women*. New York: Universe, 2000.

O'Brien, Patricia. *Making it in the "Free World": Women in Transition from Prison*. New York: State University of New York Press, 2001.

Unger, RhodaK. *Handbook of the Psychology of Women and Gender*. New York: Wiley, 2001.

Wosk, Julie. *Women and the Machine: Representations from the Spinning Wheel to the Electronic Age*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001.

Call for Papers

The School of Historical Studies, Monash University (Australia) is organizing a conference entitled "Frontlines: Gender, Identity and War" on the 12th - 13th of July 2002. The multi-disciplinary conference will bring together researchers with an interest in the social and cultural aspects of war. Among the areas to be addressed are: literary representations of war; war in film; indigenous experiences of war; outsiders at home: migrants and the war experience; women and war; war and masculinity; war commemoration; war, peace treaties and enforced national identity; clinical war-contagious diseases, army hospitals, psychoanalysis and war neuroses, as well as war as metaphor.

Papers from all disciplines are welcomed including Humanities, Law, Science, Medicine and Nursing. Moreover, postgraduate students who wish to present their research

in an international forum are also encouraged to participate.

Abstracts of no more than 200 words should be sent to:
The Organizing Committee,
Frontlines: Gender, Identity and War
School of Historical Studies,
Monash University,
Clayton Vic 3800
Australia

Or by email to
genidwar@arts.monash.edu.au
Website:
<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/history/events/genidwar.html>

Films

Days of Democracy
Directed by Ateyyat El-Abnoudy
1996, 60 minutes

In this landmark documentary, filmmaker Ateyyat El-Abnoudy records the successes and failures of the female candidates in the 1995 elections of the People's Assembly in Egypt. Because of the lack of coverage for female politicians and the difficulties encountered contacting them, El-Abnoudy was forced to shoot for 20 consecutive days, crisscrossing the entire country in her search for interviews. Despite the disappointing election results, this documentary is optimistic in the way it portrays Egyptian women and the role they are struggling to play in shaping their nation's future.

A Door to the Sky
Directed by Farida Ben Lyzaid
1989, 107 minutes

Nadia, a young Moroccan emigre, returns from Paris to Fez to visit her dying father. At his funeral, she is overcome by the voice of Karina chanting the Koran. A powerful friendship develops between the two women as they decide to turn the father's palace into a Muslim women's shelter. A Door to the Sky

is a Sufi tale told in a metaphoric language. It is also the first North African film to address the social and economic changes as proposed by a spiritual Muslim woman on a quest to preserve her cultural and religious identity.

The Perfumed Garden
Directed by Yamina Benguigui
2000, 52 minutes

The Perfumed Garden, winner of three International Awards, is a documentary about sensuality and sexuality in Arab society. It discusses the theme of pre-marital sex, courtship, marriage, familial pressures, social taboos and the desire to break them, as well as private/public spaces. Through interviews with men and women of all ages, classes, and sexual orientation, the film lifts part of the veil that usually shrouds discussion of this subject in the Arab world. It examines the personal issues raised by the desire for pleasure, amidst societal pressures for chastity and virginity.

Iraqi Women:
Voices from Exile
Directed by Maysoon Pachachi
1994, 54 minutes

Iraqi Women - Voices from Exile 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. The Arab world usually speaks to the outside with a male voice and Arab women's voices are rarely heard. This documentary features moving interviews with women about life in Iraq before Saddam Hussein came to power, during the years of repression under his regime and throughout the Gulf War in 1991. As well as providing a forum for Iraqis to tell their own stories to a western audience, Iraqi Women - Voices from Exile also contributes to a process of Iraqi self-criticism.