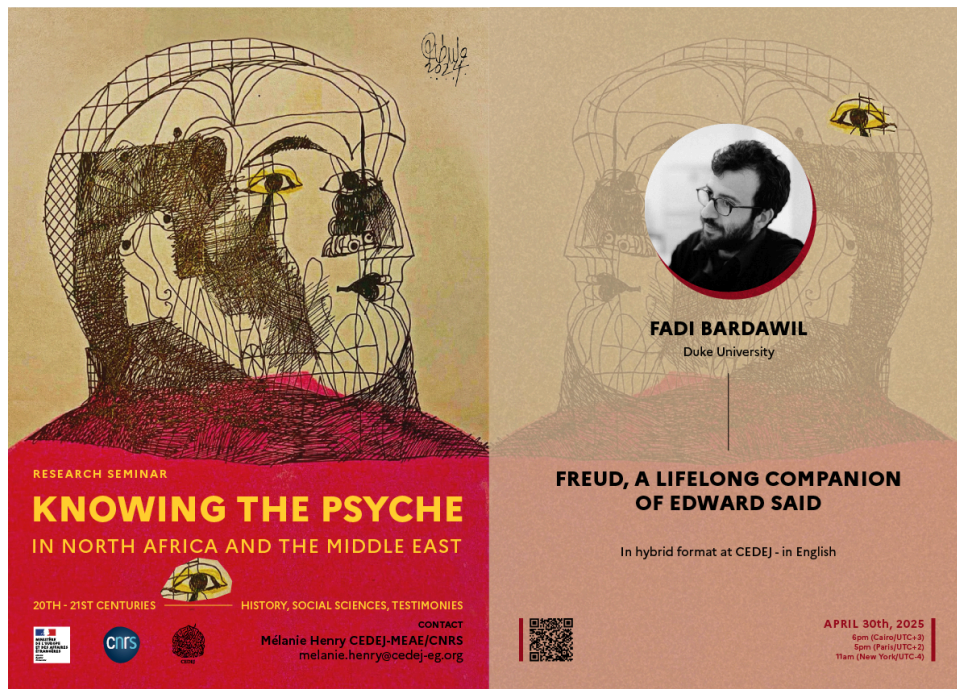




CEDEJ

Centre d'études et de documentation
économiques, juridiques et sociales



Freud, a lifelong companion of Edward Said

Date: April 30, 2025

Time: 6pm (Cairo/UTC+3) - 5pm (Paris/UTC+2) - 11am (New York/UTC-4)

Speaker:

Fadi A. Bardawil's work investigates the traditions of intellectual inquiry, and modalities of political engagement of contemporary Arab thinkers at home and in the diaspora, and their friction with the different genealogies of critical theory. In doing so, his research explores how the various relationships cultural production (creating and thinking), political practice (acting) and generational dwelling (living) entertain in different sites (Global North/South), can help us reckon with questions of power, emancipation and solidarity in an increasingly interconnected, yet fragmented world.

His recent Arabic and English writings have appeared in *American Ethnologist*, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*; *The Journal for Palestine Studies* (Arabic

edition); al-Jumhuriya; The Immanent Frame; Megaphone; Political and Legal Anthropology Review Online; South Atlantic Quarterly; and World Records Journal.

He is the author of *Revolution and Disenchantment: Arab Marxism and the Bonds of Emancipation* (Duke UP, 2020) and teaches in the department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at Duke University.

Abstract

Freud was a lifelong intellectual companion of Edward Said. *Beginnings: Intention and Method* (1975), Said's major early work, which laid the conceptual groundwork for many of the themes he will explore in the decades to come, includes a close reading of Freud's *Interpretation of Dreams*. Said's final work, *Freud and the Non-European* (2003), an exemplar of Said's own late style, returns once more to Freud. In the nearly three-decades separating the two works, Said also drew on Freud's oeuvre his other works, namely in *Orientalism* (1978). I propose to sketch the contours of this relationship, by asking how did Said draw on Freud? And to what ends? What I am concerned with is the kinds of interventions Said makes by drawing on Freudian concepts, in particular vis-à-vis his longstanding theoretical preoccupation with the question of mediation between culture and power, and his political-intellectual engagement in favor of Palestinian emancipation.

Register now to attend online:

<https://cnrs.zoom.us/meeting/register/1V7j2I7VQ3Wb50c5OKnmyg>

Research Seminar

Knowing the Psyche in the Middle East and North Africa (20th and 21st century)

History, Social Science, Testimonies

This seminar reflects on new scholarship about the psyche as object of knowledge and care in the Middle East and North Africa. It aims to highlight a polycentric approach to the history of psychiatry, psychology, and psychoanalysis. Thus, by focusing on the 20th and 21st centuries, it looks at these dynamics in post-independence states in their historical depth. It also fosters a conversation between studies of what is usually known as medicine, religion and popular knowledge.

Sessions with social science researchers and mental health professionals will explore such subject matters as knowledge production, actors' trajectories, health policies, practices of care, and representations – all elements of a regional history of norms that relate to interiority and mental health.

Seminars take place on the last Wednesday of each month starting in April 2024, between 6 and 7:30pm (Cairo time). The working languages will be English and French.

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