

**The Arab Social Sciences (ASS)
Bibliographic Database
Milestones for an Egyptian Heritage in
Zotero**

Antoinette Ferrand

The Egyptian social sciences have regularly been the subject of critical reviews of their subjects, methods and development (see Zayed & Amin 1995; Zayed 2001; Roussillon 1999; Hopkins 2010; Elshakry 2007). However, it has not always been easy to embrace their scope and diversity. In the current era of digital humanities, even the most rudimentary

utilisation of certain software can unquestionably contribute to a renewed and collaborative treatment of Egypt's social science heritage. In this seminar session, I will be presenting the work that I have initiated in Zotero for the collection and indexing of social science works produced by Egyptian researchers between the 1920s and 1970s. This project, still in its early stages, is part of an approach to making the production of knowledge in Arabic in contemporary Egypt part of our heritage. Its aim is twofold: firstly, to provide an account of the gradual development of the social sciences in Arabic; and secondly, to set out the methods and issues involved in a synthetic and flexible way, so that the database itself could be used as a research tool.

The present session will provide an opportunity to present to the audience the methodological and scientific challenges of a participatory approach to science, to present the initial results of this approach and to explore its possible extension to the whole of the Arab world.

Antoinette Ferrand is a scientific member at the French Institute of Oriental Archaeology in Cairo. She holds a doctorate in Modern History from the Sorbonne, specialising in the concept of "middle class" in Nasser's Egypt, which gradually became a socio-statistical indicator of national development. She is currently working on the place of India in Egypt's scientific and diplomatic horizon in the 19th and 20th centuries, as a distorting mirror of a national identity under construction.

