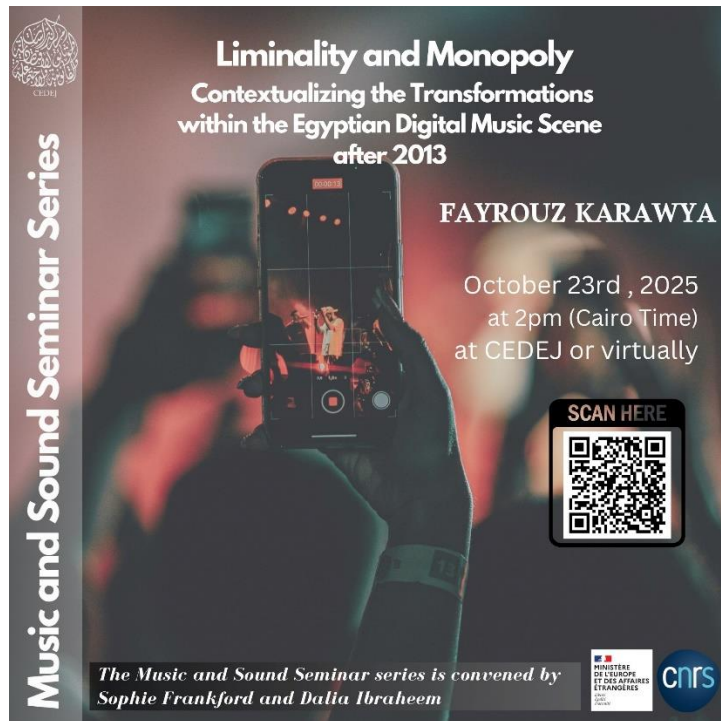


Music and Sound Seminar Series

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, at 2pm

**Liminality and Monopoly: Contextualizing the Transformations  
within the Egyptian Digital Music Scene after 2013**



This presentation explores how contemporary Egyptian music scenes— particularly within the indie, electroshaabi, and Egyptian trap genres —have adapted to the profound transformations that followed 2013. It examines how digital streaming platforms (DSPs), regional satellite channels, and social media platforms operate within what can be described as a supra-monopolistic ecosystem. Within this ecosystem, media exposure and aesthetic choices are shaped by a constellation of factors that extend beyond platform guidelines and monetization algorithms. Within this environment,

musicians are increasingly compelled to reposition themselves—and, by extension, their digital identities—within ideologically demanding cultural economies, where artistic visibility is entangled with broader political, commercial, and sharply polarized operative logics."

**Fayrouz Karawya** is an Egyptian indie singer, songwriter, writer, and researcher. Since her debut in 2006, she has released six albums and 120 singles, collaborating across music, theater, and film. In 2009, she earned a master's degree in cultural anthropology from the American University in Cairo, focusing on Egyptian cinema and its socio-political contexts. She has led research projects on gender, musicology, and Arab popular culture. As a cultural researcher and critic, she has authored two books: *Constructions of Chaos* (2010) and *Kol Da Kan Leih* (2022). Her second book explores the cultural history of Egyptian mainstream music, spanning from the late 19th century to the present. In 2024, she completed a PhD in cultural studies at Sorbonne University (Paris 4), focusing on the evolution and transformations of Egypt's digital memosphere post-2013 within its socio-political and post-revolutionary contexts.

Registration link for online participation:

<https://cnrs.zoom.us/meeting/register/8SctwV9pSTmfCeswo3ftXA>