



Tuesday Seminar
November 18, 2025 at 2pm

**The Moral Lives of Coptic Activists in Post-Revolutionary
Egypt**

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Post-Revolutionary Egypt**

آه... ما أفسى الجدار
عندما نهض في وجه الشرور.
ربما نطق كل العدم... كي تنقب ثغر
ليمر النور للأجيال... مره
عندما
ربما نطق كـ

Fouad Halbouni
Discussant: Sixtine Deroure

November 18, 2025
2pm (Cairo Time) - at CEDEJ
23 Gamal Eldin Abou El Mahassen St- Garden City, Cairo

CEDEJ
TUESDAY SEMINAR

MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCOLOGIE
ET DES AFFAIRES
ÉTRANGÈRES
cnrs

This lecture explores Coptic activists' narratives of moral striving—how they sought to repair their moral universe after the defeat of the Egyptian revolution and in response to a

Church they felt was too closely aligned with the state. It investigates how these responses evolved into different pathways of moral self-refashioning. Some activists' responses took the form of moral disenchantment, reflecting a sense of betrayal that pushed them to doubt some of the virtues that had previously underpinned and sustained their moral worlds before the revolution. Other activists, meanwhile, criticized the ways their Church elders failed to live up to the virtues they preached—virtues whose limits were tested during the revolution. Drawing on the life narratives of three activists who were politically active in youth movements during the Egyptian revolution, such as the Maspero Youth Union (MYU) and the Mina Daniel Movement (MDM), the lecture not only traces a detailed account of political struggle but also captures the deeply personal moral work of sustaining hope and integrity in times of loss and state repression.

SPEAKER

Fouad Halbouni (b. 1980) is an adjunct lecturer in the department of Anthropology and Sociology at the American University in Cairo (AUC). His research focuses on the anthropology of revolution and sectarianism in the Middle East. He received his doctoral degree in cultural anthropology from Johns Hopkins University (2019) and a master's degree in anthropology from the American University in Cairo (2009). Born and raised in Cairo, Egypt, he has taught a range of courses and seminars at Johns

Hopkins University (JHU), the Cairo Institute for Liberal Arts and Sciences (CILAS), and the American University in Cairo (AUC). His research has been supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Social Research Council (SSRC) and Forum Transregionale Studien (Berlin, Germany). Outside of academia, he co-founded the History and Cultural Memory Forum with Egyptian art critic, Ismail Fayed – a series of public seminars that explore significant themes in Arab cultural history such as Egyptian avant-garde artistic movements, the cultural legacy of Egyptian Jews, and the reception of Walter Benjamin in Arab intellectual history.

Discussant

Sixtine Deroure

Sixtine Deroure is a PhD candidate in political sociology at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University and a teaching and research fellow (ATER) at the University of Avignon. Her doctoral research focuses on the various categories of martyrs officially recognized by the Egyptian state since 2011. She studies the institutionalization of these categories of martyrs and the mechanisms through which the state provides care and support to their families, as well as how public mourning is constructed around these deaths. Her work has been published in *Middle East Critique*, *L'Année du Maghreb*, *Critique internationale*, and *Égypte Soudan*

Mondes Arabes (ESMA). Sixtine Deroure is affiliated with UMR 201 Développement et Société, and CEDEJ.