SÉMINAIRE LITTÉRATURES CONTEMPORAINES DU MONDE ARABE (SELICMA) 2025-2026

animé par F. Lagrange (SU/CEDEJ), N. Nakhlé-Cerruti (IFPO), M. Rubino (INALCO), R. Sleiman (INALCO)

Séance 9 – Lundi 11 mai 2026

15h30-17h30 (Paris), en ligne et présentiel, IISMM, 54 Blvd Raspail, salle B3-18
16h30-18h30 (Amman), salle Mounif, Ifpo

THE EUROPEAN THEME IN THE ARABIC NOVEL : A NEW EPISTEMOLOGY

Lorenzo CASINI (Università di Messina)

This lecture discusses the main epistemological tenets of Lorenzo Casini's book *Occidentalism and the Egyptian Novel* (IB Tauris 2024) and proposes a novel approach to the study of the European theme in modern Arabic literature by examining how deployment of the European theme unfolds the authors' conceptions of modernity, national identity and political community. This reading of the European theme in the Arabic novel moves away from existing descriptive approaches in the study of 'the East-West encounter' to investigate what lies behind the narrative constructions of these civilisational divides.

Lorenzo Casini is Associate Professor of Arabic Literature at the University of Messina. He is the author of Fuori degli argini (2003), Modernità arabe (co-authored with Maria Elena Paniconi and Lucia Sorbera 2012) and Occidentalism and the Egyptian Novel (2024). He has also co-edited with Antia Mato Bouzas Migration in the Making of the Gulf Space (2022).

Session broadcasted live on zoom on this link / meeting ID : 867 5235 3405 / password : 893551