

The Grace of the Social in Writing

A morning for doctoral students and interested parties with Adania Shibli

Call for Participation

Friedrich Dürrenmatt Guest Professorship for World Literature

Workshop of the Graduate School of the Arts and Humanities | GSAH

Guest: Adania Shibli, Author (Palestine) | Friedrich Dürrenmatt Guest Professor

Moderation: Prof. Dr. Oliver Lubrich, Universität Bern

Date: 07 December 2021, 10.15 am – 1.00 pm

Venue: Seminarraum 320, Mittelstrasse 43, 3012 Bern

ECTS: 1 (Wahlpflichtbereich GSAH)

Registration: until November 30 to: toggweiler@wbkolleg.unibe.ch as on KSL:

<https://www.ksl.unibe.ch/> (Login via UniBe-account, search by title)

Content

Seeking to explore the 'together' and 'in common' as a writing methodology, the workshop contemplates the act of writing a singular text by different authors who relinquish their authorship and authority on the text; an act referred to here as 'social writing'. Social writing approaches the writer as a social body, a community rather than an individual.

Adopting social writing as a method also implies a non-linear writing. A text in this instance can be accessed by all contributors, where they interject their own contribution to the text in the place they find most suitable in relation to the rest of contributions.

While individual writing takes place in isolation, social writing demands reorienting the writing process in relation to others and with them as writers, rather than as readers. An underlying question to the experience is: Can social writing locate a corpus of shared morals and strategies for a new form of togetherness and shared, non-hierarchical forms of knowledge?

Guest artists contributing to the workshop are Shahana Rajani & Zahra Malkani, founders of [Karachi LaJama](#); an anti-institution based in Karachi seeking to collectively explore new radical pedagogies and art practices.

Course reading (available upon registration):

al-Ma'arrī, Abū l-'Alā' 2013: The Epistle of Forgiveness. Volume One: A Vision of Heaven and Hell. New York and London: New York University Press (short excerpt).

Barthes, Roland 1977: The Death of the Author. In: Image, music, text. London: Fontana, S. 142-148.

Kilito, Abdelfattah 2016: The Oblivion of Adam. In: The Paris Review (November 1st, 2016). Online: <https://www.theparisreview.org/blog/2016/11/01/the-oblivion-of-adam/>



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Adania Shibli was born in Palestine in 1974. Her first novel, *Misās* (2002, English *Touch*), was awarded the Young Writers Award - Palestine, as was her second, *Kullunā Ba'īd bi-Dāt al-Miqdār 'an al-Ḥubb* (2004, English *We are All Equally Far from Love*). In addition to her novels, which have been translated from the original Arabic into several languages, Shibli has written essays and short stories, as well as a play entitled *The Error* (2005), which was performed in London and San Francisco. Her latest novel, *Tafṣīl Ṭānawī* (2017, English *Minor Detail*), is about the persistent difficulty of piecing together the shards of a narrative concealed by history writing. The work was nominated for the National Book Award and the International Booker Prize.