

DRUZE STUDIES: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

BILINGUAL, INTERDISCIPLINARY, AND VIRTUAL
SYMPOSIUM

الأبحاث الدرزية: الماضي والحاضر والمستقبل

ندوة إلكترونية ثنائية اللغة ومتعددة التخصصات



NOVEMBER 15TH & 16TH, 2023
The University of Kansas

16-15 تشرين الثاني 2023
جامعة كانزاس



The multi-year project Druze Studies Project at the University of Kansas has two major components: the Druze Studies Journal and the Druze Studies Reference Portal. In the initial stages of development and pending major external grants, the Druze Studies Reference Portal hosts a digital humanities project for studying Druze culture, literature, and history. The project will delve into the rich and diverse aspects of the Druze Middle Eastern and global diasporic communities.

Visit [The Druze Studies Project](#) to learn more.



The Druze Studies Journal (DSJ) is an open-access interdisciplinary journal advancing the scholarly understanding of the Druze communities, their history, society, and faith. The journal provides a platform for exchanging knowledge, scholarship, and ideas among Druze scholars and to encourage the expansion of scholarly publications on the Druze, specifically comparative projects between global and diasporic communities. The journal will publish discipline specific research projects and foster interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research. This coordinated and coherent effort will analyze and synthesize the links between disciplines to document the history of the Druze, their present, and their future.

Druze Studies Journal is a new initiative and will publish its first issue in 2024. The Druze Studies Journal website can be found here: <https://journals.ku.edu/druze>

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الأبحاث الدرزية: الماضي والحاضر والمستقبل

BILINGUAL INTERDISCIPLINARY
VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

ندوة الكترونية ثنائية اللغة
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November 15th & 16, 2023
تشرين الثاني 15 - 16, 2023

The Druze Studies Journal and the Druze Studies Project at the University of Kansas are pleased to present an international, bilingual, interdisciplinary, and virtual symposium on Druze Studies.

The symposium will host an online panel of original research on the Druze and a round table discussion of scholars will speak to the status of Druze Studies. The keynote speaker will provide insight on publishing in English medium journals by multilingual scholars, and a film screening with discussion will complete the event.

Arabic and English interpretation will be provided.

To attend the event in person on November 15th, please join us in room 455, Watson Library, 1425 Jayhawk Blvd, Lawrence, KS and November, 16th, at the Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center, 1299 Oread Ave, Lawrence, KS. Please see the program for details.

Register [here](#) to attend the event online.

For questions contact [Dr. Rami Zeedan](#), The University of Kansas.

Visit the [symposium website](#) to learn more.

Should you encounter technical issues accessing the virtual event please email: druzestudies@ku.edu

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

CENTRAL STANDARD TIME (CST)

DAY 1

Wednesday, November 15, 8:00 – 14:00

8:00 – 8:15

Symposium opening

8:15 – 9:45

Panel 1 : **Druze Identity & Social Integration in Israel & the Golan Heights: Gender, Art, Language, Education, & Politics**

9:45 – 10:15

Coffee break

10:15 – 11:45

Panel 2: **Resilience and Resistance: Druze Communities under the Ottomans and the French Mandate**

11:45 – 12:30

Lunch break

12:30 – 14:00

Keynote: **Publishing in English Medium Journals by Multilingual Scholars: From Research Findings to Strategies for Access**

DAY 2

Thursday, November 16th, 7:00 – 16:15

7:00 – 8:00

Druze Studies Journal (DSJ) Editorial Board meeting (for board members only)

8:00 – 8:15

Coffee break

8:15 – 9:45

Panel 3: **Druze Identity and Politics in the Levant and the Diaspora: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives**

9:45 – 10:15

Coffee break

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

CENTRAL STANDARD TIME (CST)

DAY 2

Continued

10:15 - 11:45

Roundtable: **The Status of Druze Studies and Launching the Druze Studies Journal (DSJ)**

11:45 - 12:15

Lunch break

12:15 - 14:15

Conversation and Film Screening:
The Druze Community in the Golan Heights

14:15 - 14:30

Coffee break

14:30 - 16:00

Panel 4: **The Druze at the Intersection of Religion, Faith, Theology, and Philosophy**

16:00 - 16:15

Symposium Closing

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

DETAILED GUIDE

DAY 1

Wednesday, November 15, 8:00 – 14:00

Interpretation provided in Arabic & English

8:00 – 8:15

Symposium opening

8:15–9:45

Panel 1: Druze Identity and Social Integration in Israel and the Golan Heights: Gender, Art, Language, Education, and Politics

(Hybrid: online & in person at Watson Library, room 455)

Panel chair: **Dr. Lindsey Pullum, Georgetown University**

Participants:

Dr. Ebtessam Barakat, Zefat academic college and Bar-Ilan University, and Dr. Shahar Marnin-Distelfeld, Zefat Academic College and Oranim College: “Druze women artists in Israel: shaping a gendered and a socio-political identity.” (Presentation in Arabic and English)

Ms. Markéta Odlová, Trinity College Dublin: “The Effects of Gendered and Ethnicized Conscriptation on Political and Civic Life: The Case of Israeli Circassian and Druze Citizens.” (Presentation in English)

Dr. Afifa (Eve) Kheir, The University of Adelaide: “Religious Unification, Regional Divergence: Exploring Multifaceted Linguistic Practices and Identities among the Israeli Druze and the Druze Community in the Golan Heights.” (Presentation in English)

Dr. Fadia Nasser-Abu Alhija, and Ms. Reema Sgaier, Tel-Aviv University: “Factors Influencing Mathematics Achievement in High School Students: A Study of the Druze Population in Israel” (Presentation in English)

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

DETAILED GUIDE

DAY 1

Continued

9:45 – 10:15

Coffee break

10:15 – 11:45

Panel 2: **Resilience and Resistance: Druze Communities under the Ottomans and the French Mandate** (Hybrid: online & in person at Watson Library, room 455)

Panel chair: **Dr. Mike Wuthrich**, The University of Kansas.

Participants:

Dr. Omri Eilat, The Druze Heritage Center and the University of Haifa: "Was there a "Druze Problem" in Late Ottoman Syria? War and Containment in the 1896 Hauran Rebellion." (Presentation in English)

Ms. Aurore Kamichetty, University of Montreal (Université de Montréal) – University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne): "Appearing out of thin air: Rumors of poison gas use under French mandate in Syria during the Druze revolt". (Presentation in English)

Dr. Tuba Yildiz, Istanbul University: "The Druze Sub- Governor who Left the Ottoman Empire in a Dilemma: The Political Identity of Nasib Beik Jumblatt and the State's Approach." (Presentation in English)

11:45 – 12:30

Lunch break

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

DETAILED GUIDE

DAY 1

Continued

12:30 - 14:00

Publishing in English-medium journals by multilingual scholars: From research findings to strategies for access (Hybrid: online & in person at Watson Library, room 455)

Keynote: **Dr. MJ Curry**, Warner Graduate School of Education, University of Rochester, New York. (Virtual presentation)

Response: **Mr. Geoffrey Husic**, The University of Kansas Libraries (in person)

Moderator: **Dr. Rami Zeedan**, The University of Kansas (in person)

DAY 2

Thursday, November 16th, 7:00 - 16:15

Interpretation provided in Arabic & English

7:00 - 8:00

Editorial Board meeting of the Druze Studies Journal (DSJ) (online; for board members only):

Participants:

Dr. Eduardo Wassim Aboultaif, Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK)

Dr. Gebhard Fartacek, Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW)

Dr. Rabah Halabi, Oranim - Academic College of Education

Dr. Yusri Hazran, Shalem College

Dr. William F.S. Miles, Northeastern University

Dr. Makram Rabah, American University of Beirut

The Druze Studies Journal: email druzestudies@ku.edu

Submission information: <https://journals.ku.edu/druze>

The Druze Studies Project at the University of Kansas: <https://druze.ku.edu/>

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

DETAILED GUIDE

DAY 2

Continued

Participants continued:

Dr. Birgit Schäbler, University of Erfurt

Dr. Hussam Timani, Christopher Newport University

Dr. Samer Traboulsi, University of North Carolina, Asheville

Dr. Rami Zeedan, University of Kansas

8:00 – 8:15

Coffee break

8:15 – 9:45

Panel 3: **Druze Identity and Politics in the Levant and the Diaspora: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives** (Hybrid: online & in person at Watson Library, room 455)

Panel chair: **Dr. Eduardo Wassim Aboultaif**, Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK)

Participants:

Dr. Maria Kastrinou, Brunel University London: “Still there: Reverberations of War in Jaramana and the Golan Heights” (Presentation in English)

Mr. Malek Rasamny, Universite Paris Nanterre: “Memories of the Flesh, Kinships of the Soul: Reincarnation, Sectarian Identity and the Lebanese Civil War (1975–1990).” (Presentation in English)

Mr. Said Abou Zaki, Lebanese American University: “The Behavior of Druze ‘Uqqal and their Political Role: A Historical Study.” (Presentation in Arabic)

Ms. Natalie El-Eid, Syracuse University: “Reincarnation and (Re)Connection: Testimonies from Transnational Druze Women” (Presentation in English)

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

DETAILED GUIDE

DAY 2

Continued

9:45 -10:15

Coffee break

10:15 - 11:45

Roundtable: **The Status of the Druze Studies and Launching the Druze Studies Journal (DSJ)** (Hybrid: online and in person at the Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center)

Roundtable chair: Dr. **Rami Zeedan**, The University of Kansas

Participants:

Ms. Marianne Reed, The University of Kansas Libraries: "Launching the Druze Studies Journal (DSJ) in the Age of Digital Publishing and Open-Access"

Dr. Birgit Schäbler, the University of Erfurt.

Dr. Hussam Timani, Christopher Newport University, "Rethinking Druze Studies"

Dr. Yusri Hazran, Shalem College.

11:45 - 12:15

Lunch break

12:15 - 14:15

Conversation and Film Screening: **The Druze Community in the Golan Heights** (Hybrid: online and in person at the Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center).

12:15 - 13:35

Film Screening:

Apples of the Golan, 2012 (Film in Arabic, subtitles provided in English).

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

DETAILED GUIDE

DAY 2

Continued

13:35 - 14:15

Conversation with the directors: **Jill Beardsworth** and **Keith Walsh**
(online)

Response and moderator: **Dr. Lindsey Pullum, Georgetown University**

14:15 - 14:30

Coffee break

14:30 - 16:00

Panel 4: **The Druze at the Intersection of Religion, Faith, Theology, and Philosophy** (Hybrid: online and in person at Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center)

Panel chair: **Dr. Samer Traboulsi**, University of North Carolina, Asheville

Participants:

Dr. Randy Ramal, Mt San Antonio College: "Surmounting Philosophical Obstacles to Studying and Understanding the Druze Faith." (Presentation in English)

Dr. Lorenz Nigst, Aga Khan University (AKU): "Some Thoughts on Askariyyat Poems" (Presentation in English)

16:00 - 16:15

Symposium Closing - **Dr. Rami Zeedan**, The University of Kansas

SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZERS AND SPONSORS

This symposium was organized by the Druze Studies Journal: <https://journals.ku.edu/druze>
and the Druze Studies Project at the University of Kansas: <https://druze.ku.edu/>.

This event is made possible thanks to the support of our sponsors at the University of Kansas:

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The Druze Studies Journal: email druzestudies@ku.edu
Submission information: <https://journals.ku.edu/druze>
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