

**THE DRUZE STUDIES JOURNAL (DSJ)**

**THE DRUZE STUDIES PROJECT**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS**

**Initial Program as of June 2, 2025**

**2025 Hybrid, Bilingual, and  
Interdisciplinary Conference: “Druze in the  
Levant and the Diaspora - Discourses of  
Tradition and Modernity”**

**مؤتمر ثنائي اللغة ومتعدد التخصصات 2025: الدروز في المشرق  
والمهجر – خطابات التقليد والحداثة**

**The University of Kansas**

**جامعة كانساس**

**16-17 October 2025**

**17-16 تشرين الأول 2023**



The Druze Studies Project at the University of Kansas is planned as a multi-year project. It has two major components: the Druze Studies Journal and the Druze Studies Reference Portal.

The Druze Studies Reference Portal aims to become a digital humanities project for the study of Druze culture, literature, and history. The project will explore the rich and diverse aspects of the Druze, considering their communities in the Middle East and global diasporic communities.

The Druze Studies Project website can be found here: <https://druze.ku.edu/>.



The *Druze Studies Journal (DSJ)* is a peer-reviewed, open-access, interdisciplinary journal that aims to advance scholarly understanding of the Druze communities, encompassing their history, society, and faith.

The journal provides a platform for exchanging knowledge, scholarship, and ideas among scholars producing research on the Druze. Its aim is to increase scholarly publications on the Druze, particularly comparative projects between communities in various countries, including diasporic communities. The journal will publish discipline-specific research and will encourage interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary studies on the Druze, analyzing and synthesizing connections between fields to create a coordinated and coherent understanding of the Druze's history, present, and future.

The journal is published in English. Scholars can also choose to publish an Arabic version of their accepted articles. The Druze Studies Journal website can be found here: <https://journals.ku.edu/druze>

**2025 Hybrid Bilingual Interdisciplinary Conference: “Druze in the Levant and the Diaspora - Discourses of Tradition and Modernity”**

**مؤتمر ثنائي اللغة ومتعدد التخصصات 2025: الدروز في المشرق والمهجر – خطابات التقليد والحداثة**

**The Conference Program  
Central Daylight Time (CDT)**

**Initial Program as of June 2, 2025**

**Day 1: Thursday, October 16, 2025 (CST time)**

8:00-8:15	Conference Opening
8:15-9:45	Session 1: Druze in the Levant–Identity Formation, Cultural Expression, and Political Challenges
9:45-10:15	Coffee break
10:15-11:45	Session 2: Druze in Israel – Political Mobilization and Social Change
11:45-12:15	Lunch break
12:15-13:45	Session 3: Keynote speaker (TBA)
13:45-14:15	Coffee break
14:15-15:45	Session 4: Druze Diaspora: Identity, Migration, and Transnational Connections

**Day 2: Friday, October 17, 2025 (CST time)**

7:00-8:00	Editorial Board meeting of the Druze Studies Journal (DSJ)
8:00-8:15	Coffee break
8:15-9:45	Session 5: Druze Religious Thought and Legal Traditions
9:45-10:15	Coffee break
10:15-11:45	Session 6: Roundtable “The Syrian Druze–From the 1925 Revolt to 2025 Challenges”
11:45-12:15	Lunch break
12:15-13:45	Session 7: Book forum– “No Water to Quench Her Thirst” ("لا ماء يرويها") by Dr. Najat Abdel Samad
13:45-14:15	Coffee break
14:15-15:45	Session 8: Graduate Students Workshop
15:45-16:15	Conference closing

# Detailed Conference Program

## Initial Program as of June 2, 2025

### Day 1: Thursday, October 16, 2025 (CST time)

**8:00-8:15 Conference Opening**

**8:15-9:45 Session 1: Druze in the Levant— Identity Formation, Cultural Expression, and Political Challenges**

**Chair: TBA**

Ms. Anna Filipi, Charles University: “Minority Behavior during Popular Uprisings and Civil War: Syrian Druze” [Presentation in English]

Ms. Rima Barakat, Lebanese American University: “Druze Public Sculptures in Lebanon: An Analysis and a Comparison with Muslim and Christian Lebanese Monuments” [Presentation in English]

Dr. Yusuf Dinçel, Turkish National Police Academy: “Druze Political Dynamics: A Comparative Study of Political Engagement in Lebanon and Israel” [Presentation in English]

Dr. Rami Zeedan, University of Kansas: “Generational Shifts in Language and Identity: Exploring Arabic, Hebrew, and Self-Identification Among Druze Youth and Adults in Israel” [Presentation in English]

**10:15-11:45 Session 2: Druze in Israel – Political Mobilization and Social Change [This session will feature Arabic<>English interpretation]**

**Chair: TBA**

Dr. Dina Siegel, Utrecht University: “Organized crime and normalization of violence in the Druze villages in the Galilee” [Presentation in English]

Dr. Salim Brake, Open University of Israel: “The Elections Among the Druze for the 20-25th Knesset in Israel” (الانتخابات لدى الدروز للكنيست العشرين وحتى الخامسة) [Presentation in Arabic]

Dr. William F.S. Miles, Northeastern University, Boston: “‘Modernization’ Discourse in the Israeli Druze Context, 1975-2021: From Egon Mayer to Abbas & Court” [Presentation in English]

Dr. Eve Afifa Kheir, The University of Adelaide: “New Druze Recruits in the Golan Heights: Shifting Identities and Military Integration” [Presentation in English]

**12:15-13:45 Session 3: Keynote – TBD [This session will feature Arabic<>English interpretation]**

**Chair: Dr. Rami Zeedan, University of Kansas**

In lieu of an introduction: Charlie Johnson, Michel Peper, and Rami Zeedan, University of Kansas: “Bibliography of Periodical Literature on the Druze in 2024” [Presentation in English]

**Keynote speaker: TBA**

**14:15-15:45 Session 4: Druze Diaspora—Identity, Migration, and Transnational Connections**

**Chair: TBA**

Dr. Eric Lob, Florida International University: “The Role of the Syrian Druze Diaspora Community in Strengthening Relations between Venezuela and its Middle East Allies” [Presentation in English]

Mr. Mohamad AlAshmar, University of St Andrews: “The Syrian Druze Diaspora: Advocacy, Humanitarian Support, and Historical Continuity in Times of Conflict” [Presentation in English]

Dr. Nina Maadad and Dr. Minerva Nasser-eddine, The University of Adelaide: “In their own voices: Druze Migration to Australia” [Presentation in English]

**Day 2: Friday, October 17, 2025 [CST time]**

**7:00-8:00 Editorial Board meeting of the Druze Studies Journal (DSJ) (open only to board members)**

**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. 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

**8:15-9:45 Session 5: Druze Religious Thought and Legal Traditions [This session will feature Arabic<>English interpretation]**

**Chair: TBA**

Mr. Said Abou Zaki, Lebanese American University (LAU): "Intellectual Living: A Study of the Foundations and Goals of the Religious Conduct of Druze 'Uqqal in Light of the Homiletic Heritage" ("العيش العقلي: بحث في أسس مسلك" ("عُقَّال الدَّروز الديني وغاياته في ضوء الموروث الوعظي" [Presentation in Arabic]  
Ms. Maren Hoeppner, Freie University Berlin: "Druze Family Law in the Context of Lebanon's Legal Pluralism" [Presentation in English]  
Dr. Gebhard Fartacek, Austrian Academy of Sciences: "Druze Identity: On the function of reincarnation cases" [Presentation in English]

**10:15-11:45 Session 6: Roundtable "The Syrian Druze: From the 1925 Revolt to 2025 Challenges" [This session will feature Arabic<>English interpretation]**

**Chair: Dr. Alaa al-Din al-Shomari, University of Tübingen and Dr. Rami Zeedan, University of Kansas**

Dr. Michael Provence, University of California, San Diego: "Title- TBA" [Presentation in English]  
Dr. Rami Abou Diab, Université La Sagesse: "The resurgence of the Druze particularism in as-Suwayda" [Presentation in Arabic]  
Dr. Joshua M. Landis, University of Oklahoma: "Shishakli's policy toward Sweida and the Sharaa's policy and regime." [Presentation in English]

Mr. Mazen Ezzi, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS):  
“Governance and Resilience in the Absence of the State: The Druze of as-Suwayda from the 2011 Uprising to the Fall of the Regime in 2024”  
[Presentation in Arabic]

Mr. Nawras Aziz, Nantes University, and Mr. Mael Baummar, University of Pécs: “Traditional Druze Leadership and Customary Law in as-Suwayda: Governance in the Absence of the State (1925–2025)” [Presentation in Arabic]

**12:15-13:45 Session 7: Book forum– “No Water to Quench Her Thirst ” "لا ماء " (يروئها) by Dr. Najat Abdel Samad [This session will feature Arabic<>English**

**interpretation]**

**Chair: TBA**

Dr. Najat Abdel Samad, independent scholar

Dr. Ghada al-Atrash, Alberta University of the Arts

Dr. Layal Abu Al-Ezz, Damascus University

Dr. Khaled Hussein, Independent scholar

**14:15-15:45 Session 8: Graduate Students Workshop**

Details TBA.

**15:45-16:15 Conference closing- Dr. Rami Zeedan**