

THE DRUZE STUDIES JOURNAL (DSJ)  
THE DRUZE STUDIES PROJECT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

مجلة الدراسات الدرزية (DSJ)  
مشروع الدراسات الدرزية  
جامعة كانساس

**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

(updated August 23, 2025)

16-17 October 2025  
17-16 تشرين الأول 2025





The Druze Studies Project at the University of Kansas is planned as a multi-year project.

The next significant component is the Druze Studies Reference Portal, which 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 journal is diamond open access, with no fees for authors to publish and no fees or subscriptions needed for the public to read our content.

The journal is supported by the KU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and by the KU Libraries.

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

The Druze Studies Journal and the Druze Studies Project at the University of Kansas are excited to host the international event: a hybrid, bilingual, interdisciplinary conference on Druze Studies, on October 16-17, 2025.

The conference features online and in-person sessions showcasing original research on the Druze in the Levant, a dedicated session on Druze diaspora communities, a roundtable of experts addressing the challenges faced by the Druze in Syria, a keynote speaker, and a book forum

Most sessions will include interpretation in Arabic <> English.

To attend the event in person on KU's Lawrence campus, please join us at Watson Library, room 455 (1425 Jayhawk Blvd, Lawrence, KS 66045, United States).

To attend the event online, please register here: link

The conference website can be found here:  
<https://druze.ku.edu/2025druzeconference>

For any questions, please contact Dr. Rami Zeedan at the University of Kansas ([rzeedan@ku.edu](mailto:rzeedan@ku.edu)).

For general inquiries and for Zoom issues during the event, please email: [druzestudies@ku.edu](mailto:druzestudies@ku.edu)

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

## **The Conference Program**

### **Central Daylight Time in the USA (CDT)**

#### **Day 1: Thursday, October 16, 2025 (CDT 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	Coffee break
12:15-13:45	Session 3: Keynote speaker– Prof. Michael Provence: “Rebellions, Mandates, and Margins: Placing Druze Studies in the Historiography of the Modern Middle East.”
13:45-14:30	Lunch break
14:30-16:00	Session 4: Druze Diaspora: Identity, Migration, and Transnational Connections
16:00-16:05	End of the first day of the conference

#### **Day 2: Friday, October 17, 2025 (CDT 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	Coffee break
12:15-13:45	Session 7: Book forum—“No Water to Quench Her Thirst” (“لا ماء يرويها”) by Dr. Najat Abdel Samad =>Livestream
13:45-14:30	Lunch break
14:30-16:00	Session 8: Graduate Students Workshop
16:00-16:05	Conference closing

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

## برنامج المؤتمر

### التوقيت الصيفي المركزي في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية (CDT)

اليوم الأول: الخميس، ١٦ أكتوبر ٢٠٢٥ (بتوقيت الصيفي المركزي في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية CDT)

8:00-8:15 افتتاح المؤتمر

8:15-9:45 الجلسة الأولى: الدروز في بلاد الشام - تشكيل الهوية، والتعبير الثقافي، والتحديات السياسية

9:45-10:15 استراحة

10:15-11:45 الجلسة الثانية: الدروز في إسرائيل - التعبئة السياسية والتغيير الاجتماعي

11:45-12:15 استراحة

12:15-13:45 الجلسة الثالثة: الكلمة الرئيسية- البروفيسور مايكل بروفانس: "الثورات، الانتدابات، والهوامش: وضع الدراسات الدروزية في تأريخ الشرق الأوسط الحديث"

13:45-14:30 استراحة غداء

14:30-16:00 الجلسة الرابعة: الشتات الدروزي: الهوية، والهجرة، والروابط العابرة للحدود الوطنية

16:00-16:05 نهاية اليوم الأول من المؤتمر

اليوم الثاني: الجمعة، ١٧ أكتوبر/تشرين الأول ٢٠٢٥ (بتوقيت الصيفي المركزي في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية CDT)

7:00-8:00 اجتماع هيئة تحرير مجلة الدراسات الدروزية (DSJ)

8:00-8:15 استراحة

8:15-9:45 الجلسة الخامسة: الفكر الديني والتقاليد الشرعية الدروزية

9:45-10:15 استراحة

10:15-11:45 الجلسة السادسة: طاولة مستديرة بعنوان "الدروز السوريون: من ثورة 1925 إلى تحديات 2025"

11:45-12:15 استراحة

12:15-13:45 الجلسة السابعة: منتدى الكتاب – "لا ماء يرويها" للدكتورة نجات عبد الصمد

13:45-14:30 استراحة غداء

14:30-16:00 الجلسة الثامنة: ورشة عمل لطلاب الدراسات العليا

## Detailed Conference Program

Day 1: October 16, 2025

Central Daylight Time (CDT)

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

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

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

**Sponsor: KU Center for Global and International Studies (CGIS)**

**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]

**9:45-10:15 Coffee break**

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

**Sponsor: KU Political Science Department and KU Jewish Studies Program**

**Chair: Dr. Yusri Hazran, Shalem College**

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] والعشرين في إسرائيل

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]

**11:45-12:15 Coffee break**

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

**Sponsor: KU Hall Center for the Humanities, KU History Department, and KU Center for Global and International Studies**

**Chair: TBA**

In place of the introduction: Mr. Charlie Johnson, Mr. Michael Peper, and Dr. Rami Zeedan, University of Kansas: “Bibliography of Periodical Literature on the Druze in 2024” [Presentation in English]

**Keynote speaker: Prof. Michael Provence**, UC San Diego: "Rebellions, Mandates, and Margins: Placing Druze Studies in the Historiography of the Modern Middle East." [Presentation in English]

Please note the location of this session for in-person attendance: Watson Library, West 3, (1425 Jayhawk Blvd, Lawrence, KS 66045, United States).

**13:45-14:30 Lunch break**

**14:30-16:00 Session 4: Druze Diaspora—Identity, Migration, and Transnational Connections**

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]

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

**Day 2: Friday, October 17, 2025 [CDT 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 Schäßler, 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 Session 5: Druze Religious Thought and Legal Traditions [This session will feature Arabic<>English interpretation]**

**Sponsor: KU Religious Studies**

**Chair: Dr. Jacqueline Brinton, University of Kansas**

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 الدروز 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]

**9:45-10:15 Coffee break**

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

**Sponsor: KU History Department**

**Chairs: Dr. Alaa Aldin Al Chomari, University of Tübingen, and Dr. Rami Zeedan, University of Kansas**

Dr. Michael Provence, University of California, San Diego: “Sultan al-Atrash and Syrian Unity in 1925” [Presentation in English]



Dr. Rami Abou Diab, Université La Sagesse: “The resurgence of the Druze particularism in as-Suwayda” [Presentation in Arabic or English]

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, School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences, Paris (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]

**11:45-12:15 Coffee break**

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

Dr. Najat Abdel Samad, Independent scholar [Presentation in Arabic]

Dr. Ghada al-Atrash, Alberta University of the Arts [Presentation in English]

Dr. Layal Abu Al-Ezz, Damascus University [Presentation in Arabic]

Dr. Khaled Hussein, Independent scholar [Presentation in Arabic]

**13:45-14:30 Lunch break**

**14:00-16:00 Session 8: Graduate Students Workshop (Topic TBA)**

**16:00-16:05 Conference closing- Dr. Rami Zeedan**