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

16-17 October 2025
16-17 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 pleased to host the international event: a hybrid, bilingual, interdisciplinary conference on Druze Studies, scheduled for 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, a book forum, and a workshop for graduate students and early career scholars.

We are committed to open-access scholarship. We publish the Druze Studies Journal in a diamond open access format, providing free and unrestricted access for both authors and readers. This core principle also guides our conference, demonstrating our commitment to accessibility and inclusivity. Thanks to our sponsors at the University of Kansas (see list), we offer free admission to the conference and language interpretation for most sessions. After the event, we will share session recordings and collaborate with presenters to ensure their work is publicly available on the conference website.

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:
https://kansas.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2PKh4XPeQMeNL-WFuctN5g

The conference webpage can be found here:
https://druze.ku.edu/2025druzeconference

For any questions, please contact Dr. Rami Zeedan, Associate Professor at the University of Kansas (rzeedan@ku.edu). For general inquiries and for Zoom issues during the event, please email: druzestudies@ku.edu

2025 Druze Studies Conference Program
Central Daylight Time in the USA (CDT)

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

8:10-8:15	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 and Early Career Scholars’ Workshop in Global Studies and Druze Studies, and Announcement of "2025 Best Graduate Student and Early Career Scholars Paper Award in Druze Studies"
16:00-16:05	Conference closing

برنامج مؤتمر الدراسات الدرزية 2025
التوقيت الصيفي المركزي في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية (CDT)

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

8:15-8:10 افتتاح المؤتمر

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

10:15-9:45 استراحة

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

12:15-11:45 استراحة

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

14:30-13:45 استراحة غداء

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

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

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

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

8:15-8:00 استراحة

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

10:15-9:45 استراحة

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

12:15-11:45 استراحة

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

14:30-13:45 استراحة غداء

16:00-14:30 الجلسة الثامنة: ورشة عمل لطلاب الدراسات العليا والباحثين في بداية مسيرتهم المهنية في الدراسات العالمية والدراسات الدرزية، وإعلان "جائزة أفضل بحث لطلاب الدراسات العليا والباحثين في بداية مسيرتهم المهنية في الدراسات الدرزية لعام

16:05-16:00 اختتام المؤتمر

Detailed Conference Program

Day 1: October 16, 2025

Central Daylight Time (CDT)

<u>Day 1: Thursday, October 16, 2025 [CDT]</u>

8:10-8:15 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: Dr. William F.S. Miles, Northeastern University, Boston

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]

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. 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]

Dr. Salim Brake, Open University of Israel: "The Elections Among the Druze for the 20-25th Knesset in Israel" [لانتخابات لدى الدروز للكنيست العشرين وحتى الخامسة والعشرين في إسرائي] [Presentation in Arabic]

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: Dr. Rami Zeedan, University of Kansas

Introduction: **Mr. Charlie Johnson, Mr. Michael Peper, and Dr. Rami Zeedan**, University of Kansas: "Bibliography of Periodical Literature on the Druze in 2024- A Scoping Review" [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]

Discussant: Dr. Marie Brown, University of Kansas

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

Sponsor: University of Kansas International Affairs (KUIA)

Chair: Dr. Hussam S. Timani, Christopher Newport University

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]

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) (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

8:00-8:15 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. Jacquelene 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 عُقّال "الدّروز 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. Joshua M. Landis, University of Oklahoma: “Quwatli's and Shishakli's policy toward as-Suwayda in Comparison to Sharaa's policy.” [Presentation in English]

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

Mr. Nawras Aziz, Nantes University, and Mr. Mael Baummar, University of Pécs: “The Role of Customary Law in a Context of Legal Vacuum: A Case Study of the Suwayda Governorate, Syria (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]

Sponsor: KU Department of African and African American Studies- Arabic Program

Chair: Dr. Asaad Alsaleh, Indiana University, Bloomington

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

Dr. Ghada al-Atrash, Alberta University of the Arts: "A Thirst Unquenched: Feminist Resistance and Narrative Silence in Najat Abdul Samad’s No Water Quenches Her" [Presentation in English]

Dr. Layal Abu Al-Ezz, Damascus University: "A critical and interpretive reading of the novel "No Water to Quench Her Thirst" by the Syrian novelist Najat Abdul Samad" [قراءة نقدية تأويلية لرواية "لا ماء يرويها للروائية السورية نجاة عبد ٱلصّمد"] [Presentation in Arabic]

Dr. Khaled Hussein, Independent scholar: Narrative Politics in Najat Abdel Samad's Novel "No Water to Quench Her"[سَيَاسَاتُ السَّرد في رواية "لا ماء يرويها" لنجاة عبد الصمد] [Presentation in Arabic]

13:45-14:30 Lunch break

14:30-16:00 Session 8: Graduate Students and Early Career Scholars’ Workshop in Global Studies and Druze Studies, and Announcement of "2025 Best Graduate Student and Early Career Scholars Paper Award in Druze Studies"

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

Chair: Dr. Rami Zeedan, The University of Kansas

Dr. Brian Lagotte, University of Kansas: Graduate Students and Early Career Scholars' Workshop in Global Studies and Druze Studies. (working title)
Druze Studies Award Committee: **Dr. Hussam S. Timani,** Christopher Newport University, **Dr. Samer Traboulsi,** University of North Carolina, Asheville, and **Dr. Rabah Halabi:** "2025 Best Graduate Student and Early Career Scholars Paper Award in Druze Studies"

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

Conference Organizers and Sponsors

The Conference is 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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KU Center for Global and International Studies https://global.ku.edu/

KU Department of Religious Studies https://religiousstudies.ku.edu/

KU Jewish Studies Program https://kujewishstudies.ku.edu/

KU History Department https://history.ku.edu/

KU Political Science Department https://kups.ku.edu/

KU Department of African and African American Studies- Arabic Program https://afs.ku.edu/arabic

Conference Participants:

Presenters, Panel Chairs, DSJ Editorial Board Members

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Support team:

- Subject librarian: Geoffrey Husic, KU Libraries.
- Conference Committee Assistants (KU undergraduate students):
    - Ali Mahdi
    - John Marshall
    - Bo Rinne
    - Ryan Sherry
    - Emilie Thurman
- Language interpreters (Arabic<>English):
    - Ahmad S. Mustafa, KU graduate student.
    - Aya Fayed, KU graduate student.
    - Islam Allosh.
- For Zoom issues during the event, please email: druzestudies@ku.edu