

# CREATING MYTHS AS NARRATIVES OF EMPOWERMENT AND DISEMPOWERMENT

## Conference Program

### DAY ONE

08.30 – Beginning of Registration

#### Welcoming notes: 9.00 – 9.30

- Mr Hassen Bacha, Rector of the University of Jendouba.
- Mrs Jacqueline Bacha, Director of ISSHJ.
- Mr. Sami Ludwig, partner, Université de Haute-Alsace LSH: Lettres Langues et Sciences Humaines, Mulhouse .
- Mrs. Sihem Arfaoui, Department Chair and Conference Organiser.

#### MORNING SESSIONS:

**9.30 – 10.10: Keynote speech: Jack Adams, Ruskin College, U.K. : Thoughts on a Working Definition of Mythology in our Contemporary World.**

10.10-10.20: Discussion

10.20-10.40: Refreshments

#### Concurrent Sessions: 10.40- 12.00

##### Panel 1: Myth in Post-modern Literature

##### Moderator:

- Giovanni Sorge, University of Zurich, “Between Transhistorical Archetype and Manipulated Narration: Reflections on Myth in Postmodern Society”
- Mourad Romdhani, the University of El Manar, IBLV, Tunisia, “The River Scene in William Faulkner’s *As I Lay Dying*: the Postmodernist Myth of the Center.”
- Kamel Igoudjil, Bard College Clemente, Washington, D.C. “Counter-Hegemonic Discourse as a Counter-Myth of Empowerment in Anita Desai’s *The Zigzag Way*.”

- Asma Dhouioui. , ISLAIB University of Jendouba, Tunisia. "The Significance of the Myth of Flying in Morrison's Song of Solomon".

**Panel 2: Myth and Writing the Feminine:**

- Zeinedb Derbali, Higher Institute of Applied Studies of Sbeitla, Tunisia, "From Fa Mu Lan to Tang Ao: Self and Community Identity Politics between Empowerment and Disempowerment".
- Faten Houioui Gaba, University of CARTHAGE, "ReMythologizing the Asian Americans' Experience."
- Anandayu Suri Ardini and Safrina Arifiani Felayati Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia. "Deconstructing the Myth of Virginity as Portrayed in Ayu Utami's Saman."
- Souhir Zekri, Faculte des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines de Kairouan, Rape as Feminine Resistance in Greek and Biblical Myth.

**12.00-12.15: Discussion:**

**12.15-13.15: Concurrent Session:**

**Panel 1: Identity and the Syndrome of (Cultural) Superiority**

**Moderator: Francis Guinle**

- Aïda Haddad, University of Al-Manar, Tunisia, "The Myth of the American Dream: Willy Loman and the Quest for the (un)failing National Identity."
- Khadija Ghezaiel-Bellagha, University of Manouba, Tunisia, "Rare: Beyond the Myth of Down Syndrome: Empower to Disempower."
- Oumeima Mouelhi, High Institute of Humanities-Le Kef, Tunisia, "The Myth of the Superior Cultural Model in Shakespeare's The Tempest".
- Imen Mzoughi, Higher Institute of Languages and Multimedia of Beja, Tunisia., "Cleopatra: A Travelling Myth."

**Panel 2: Mythe et modernité :**

**Moderator:**

- Lissia AMACH, Trinity College of Dublin, Irlande, « La Reconstruction des mythes chez Claude Cahun. »
- Patrice LECHE, Toulouse, France, « Des origines dans la création d'un mythe moderne : étude de la genèse de Spider-Man dans ses toutes premières aventures.»
- Monjia ABIDLI, ISSH of Jendouba, « Démythification du mythe dans *La Trilogie* d'Emile Zola »
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**13.15-13.25: Discussion**

**13.25-14.30: Lunch**

**AFTERNOON SESSIONS:**

**14.30- 15.10: Keynote speech: Nabil Cherni, Faculty of Arts, Letters and Humanities of Manouba: “the Post-modern Fates of Imperialism’s Grand Narratives & Arab Spring.”**

**15.10-15.20: discussion**

**15.20-16.40 panel: Myth, Creation and History.**

**Moderator:**

- Glen Robert Gill, Montclair State University, New Jersey, “The Mythology of J.R.R. Tolkien: Subcreation, Fantasy and the Recovery of Vision.”
- M’hammed Krifa, *Mythical Dimensions in Exegesis of the Quran: A Descriptive/Comparative Study between the Story of Genesis in the Quran and in the Works of Early and Modern Muslim Exegetes*
- Louis Buff Parry, The Indigenous Media Institute, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada., “The reality of sexual-endocrinal dimorphism vs. the urbanization-generated myth of some ancient bi-lateral gender equality.”
- Geoffrey W. Pritchard, St. Stephen’s College, Edmonton, AB, “James Evans and the Making of A Christian Myth.”

**16.40-17.00 discussion**

**17.00-17.15: refreshments**

**17.30: Departure to hotel. Meeting spot: main gate of ISSHJ**

**DAY TWO**

**08.45- 09.25: Keynote speech: Francis Guinle, ISSHJ, "Art and Power: The Elizabethan Golden Age, Myth or reality"**

**09.25-09.35: discussion**

**09.35-10.55 : Concurrent Sessions 3**

**Panel 1: Art and Myth** (*for revisiting*)

**Moderator:**

- Carolyn Kraus, University of Michigan-Dearborn "David and Goliath in Detroit: The 1001 Voices Project".
- Rebecca LaMarre, independent scholar, Through Europe, a performative lecture about *A Donor Presented by a Saint*.
- Tabitha Morgan: University of Massachusetts, Amherst, "The White Witch': Juanita Guccione and a Re-Mythologizing of the Algerian Landscape and a Feminist Body-scape."
- Vikash Kumar, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, India, "Between Violence and (Non)-violence- A comparative study of The Battle of Algiers (1966) and Gandhi (1982)."
- **Hinda Bahlous**, ISLAIB, Jendouba University, "American Women in the Postwar Period: Myth and Reality".

**Panel 2: Epic and Folk Motifs in Culture**

**Moderator:**

- Jonathan Bishop Highfield, Rhode Island School of Design 2 College Street, Providence, Rhode Island, "Baobab and Healing Qualities in the Sunjata Epic."
- Sihem Arfaoui, high institute of human sciences of jendouba. "Tricksters in contemporary women's writings as mythological figures: A Gender Approach."
- Peggy Bloomer, The European Graduate School in Saas-Fee, Wallis, Switzerland, "Dexter as a Transmedial Nietzschean Hero at the Intersection of Spectacle of Miami and Death."
- Manel Mansour, University of Manouba, Tunisia, "The Evolution of the Oral Tradition and the Emergence of Folk Studies."

**10.55-11.10: Discussion**

**11.10-11.25: Refreshments**

**11.25-12.45 Concurrent Sessions 4:**

**Panel 3: (dis)empowerment and myths in women's writings**

**Moderator:**

- Vittoria Rubino, Iona College in New Rochelle, New York, "Patriarchy, Writing and the Search for Meaning: a Study of Kate Greenstreet's case sensitive."
- Mohamed Raouf Gulemami, "The Myth of the Latin Woman." (Higher Institute of Human Sciences of Jendouba, Tunisia)
- Nadia Konstantini, Faculty of Letters and Humanities, La Manouba, Tunis, Tunisia "Psychic Transmutation in Katherine Mansfield's "The Daughters of the Late Colonel."
- Yasmina Djafri, University of Mostaganem, Algeria, "Spinning in Fadia Faqir's Pillars of Salt: An Instrument of Female Empowerment."

**Panel 4: Revisiting National Myths:**

**Moderator:**

- Mounir Jouini and Najoua Ben Hdia, ISSHJ, Tunisia: *Reinvestigating myths about Arabic.*
- Amel Ben Ahmed, ISEAH Kef, Tunisia, "The American Myth: Adam (Re) gained."
- Aleksandr Ostrovskii, The Russian Ethnographic Museum (Saint Petersburg), "Joseph's Dreams: Mytho-logique in Social Upturn of Nation."
- Elena Langlais. University Paris-X. "Re-writing the myth of a nation"

**12.45-13.00: discussion**

**13.00-14.00: lunch**

**AFTERNOON SESSIONS:**

**14.00-14.40: Keynote speech: Jon MACKLEY, the University of Northampton, U.K:  
"English Foundation Myths as Political Empowerment."**

**14.40-14.50: Discussion**

**14.50-15.10: Refreshments**

**15.10-16.50: Concurrent sessions**

**Panel: Mythe et cultures populaires.**

**Moderator: Jacqueline Bacha**

- Narjess SAIDI, ISSH of Jendouba, Tunisia, Le mythe oriental, « Jules Verne et Edgar Allan Poe »
- Valerie Joelle KOUAM NGOCKA, UNIVERSITE UCAC, YAOUNDE, Cameroun, «Le pouvoir des mythes dans XX Battaglione eritreo d'Indro Montanelli.»
- Rym TAGA GABSI, ISSH of Jendouba, Tunisia, “ La récupération politique de Jeanne d’Arc depuis 1945 à nos jours ou quand le mythe est démystifié. »
- Nadia BACCAR, ISSH of Jendouba, Tunisia, “La fable italienne entre mythe et culture populaire.”
- Elizaveta VOLKOVA, IMAF , école pratique des hautes études Paris, centre d’études es mondes africaines, Ivry-sur-Seine, France, « Les ‘mythes d’origine’ des relations à plaisanterie en Casamance (Sénégal) : tradition, explication, Instrumentalisation. ».

**16.50-17.10: Discussion**

**15.10-17.10: Workshop1: Jack Adams: The Grail Quest, part 1.**

**15.10-17.10: Workshop2 by Julia Ganson, (Syracuse University) and Robert Shetterly (Americans Who Tell the Truth) "The Power of Story: Making and Remaking American History"**

**17.20: departure to hotel, meeting spot: main gate of ISSHJ.**

## DAY 3

### MORNING SESSIONS:

**08.45- 09.25: Keynote speech: Salwa Karoui Ounelli, L'Ecole Normale Supérieure (E.N.S)**

University of Tunis 1, Tunisia, **“Myth-Making in Romantic and Modernist Literature :**

**empowering the individual, the concept, or the institution ?”**

**Discussion: 09.25-09.35**

**09.35-11.15: Concurrent sessions:**

### **Panel 1: Myth Between Appropriation and Resistance**

#### **Moderator:**

- Hanen Baroumi, ESSECT Business School, “Scheherazade Goes West: Another Narrative of Disciplined Femininity.”
- Inès Latiri, Institute of Applied Languages in Nabeul, Tunisia., “The debunking of a unique identity in Khaled Mattawa’s «The History of my Face » and «Tocqueville ».
- Bachar Aloui, University of Nizwa, Sultanate of Oman, “Resisting De/Composition: Mythos and Agency in Solar Storms.”
- Leila Bellour, **Mila University Centre** , Algeria, “Myth, sex, and Violence in T.S. Eliot’s Sweeney Poems.”
- Wassim Jday, University of Monastir, Tunisia, “The Gothic Narrative as an Alternative Mythology of Subversion.”

### **Panel2: Political Uses of Myth:**

#### **Moderator:**

- Kazumi Hasegawa, University of Alabama, U.S.A, “The Minamoto no Yoshitune Fever: Intellectual Controversy over the Survival of the Japanese Historical Hero in the 1920s.”

- Samia Kouki, the Higher Institute of Languages of Tunis, Tunisia, “US Support of Third War Dictators and the Rise of Anti-Americanism: Debunking the Myth of American Moral Greatness.”
- Miranda Iossifidis, Goldsmiths, University of London, “Representations of resistance within the Athens Polytechnic Uprising Memorialisation.”
- Gavin Murray-Miller, Leibniz-Institut für Europäische Geschichte in Mainz, Germany and Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA, “Allowing the Dead to Speak: Memorialization, “Mythistory” and the Politics of Race.”
- Tarak Zraibia, Centre de Formation Professionnelle a Jendouba, « The Bouazizi Myth ».

**11.15-11.30: Discussion**

**11.30-11.50: Refreshments**

**11.50- 13.10: Concurrent sessions:**

**Panel 1: Myth and questions about Race and Colonialism**

**Moderator:**

- Raymond Di Sanza. Farmingdale State College in Farmingdale, NY. “Reclaiming Identity through Rewriting the Epic.”
- Moez Salaani, Faculty of Letters of Manouba, Tunisia, "Myths of Gods, Demigods, and Faustus in South African Fiction: J.M. Coetzee, Sarah Gertrude Millin, and André Brink."
- Sami Azouz, Faculty of Arts, Kairouan University. “History As Myth: From Historiography to Hagiography.”
- Sami Ludwig, Université de Haute-Alsace LSH: Lettres Langues et Sciences Humaines, Mulhouse. “Disempowering Prejudices: Black and White Voices in Cable, Twain, and Chesnutt.

**Panel 2: VARIA**

**Moderator:**



- Imen Saoueb, Institute Supérieur des Etudes Appliquées en Humanités a Zaghouan, Tunisia “The Myth of the “Rich Indian”.
- Zoe Lehman, University of Bern, Switzerland, “‘I’m not playing a part. I am the part.’: Self-Actualisation as Myth-Creation in Lionel Shriver’s *We Need to Talk about Kevin*.”
- Touil Maroua, La Faculté de Manouba, Tunisia, “The Use of Myth: Countering the Emptiness of History in Graham Swift’s *Waterland*.”
- Sylvia Mittler. University of Toronto, Scarborough campus, “Debunking Official Myths, Celebrating Popular Mythology: Revisionist Historiography, Everyday Culture and Greek Humorist Nikos Tsiforos.”

**13.10- 13. 30 Discussion.**

**13.30-14.30: Lunch**

**AFTERNOON:**

**14.30- 16.00: Concurrent workshops**

- **Workshop 1 by Jack Adams: The Grail Quest (part 2)**
- **Workshop 2 by Jon Mackley: Geoffrey of Monmouth's sources and analogues, comparative study**

**16.00-16.20 : Refreshments and farewell notes**

**16.30-18.00: Cultural Program – a guided visit to Bullaregia historical site.**

*Moderators are to be announced soon, upon availability.*