



WATER WAYS: EPISTEMOLOGIES AND AESTHETICS

FEBRUARY 18-20, 2024



WATER WAYS: EPISTEMOLOGIES AND AESTHETICS

FEBRUARY 18-20, 2024



Introduction

Throughout the twentieth century, water has been an object of study by different disciplines, perspectives and cultures, often driven by a variety of ideological positionings. An ever-present subject of political, economic, geographic and cultural debate, water has, in parallel, been used materially and symbolically in a variety of artistic, literary, cinematic, and auditory projects, within creative environments. Fixed units of analysis, previously taken for granted based on concepts such as time, space, nation-state, socio-economic formation, are no longer seen as bound and limited to the 'permanent' imagined site of 'land'. Influx, fluidity, perturbation, liquidity, self-representation, immigration, homelessness, nomadism, statelessness, are but examples of the discursive and aesthetic formations used by researchers and artists who consciously and constantly reposition their epistemic and aesthetic premises across the continuum between the two poles of water and land.

More recently, the intersections between climate change, late stage capitalism and neo-colonialism, a globalized trade system, the advent of the anthropocene, and the deep catastrophic transformations of those junctions, have incited many scholars and artists to search for alternative

understandings of the role of water and its intrinsic relationship to life that explore better futures in the context of humans but also of non-humans and the very fabric of the planet itself.

Such approaches will be the focus of this conference organized by the Doha Institute and Qatar's newest visual arts festival, Rubaiyat Qatar. We seek critical redefinition and approaches to Water Ways. We invited proposals for papers spanning a range of disciplines, including, but not limited to, politics, economics, geography, sociology, anthropology, history, philosophy, cultural studies and the creative arts, that take water as their central theme. We welcomed proposals that consider water as both a site of traditional and emerging knowledge, of regulation and of liberation, of the managed and the unmanaged, and as a site of fluidity and liquidity that might offer a greater understanding of the past, the present and what might be to come.

We believe that by creating such cross-sectional platforms, this conference will boost the relevant communities of researchers and artists to further develop the quantity and quality of water studies and artistic projects, while emphasizing the inter-sectional nature of the epistemic and the aesthetic aspects of water in our times and beyond.

The Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

The Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (DI) was founded in Qatar in 2015 as a Doha-based independent institution of higher education. The Institute offers MA and PhD programs in two schools: the School of Social Sciences and Humanities and the School of Economics, Administration and Public Policy. The Institute adopts a student-centred approach to learning, promotes interdisciplinary research, and uses Arabic as the primary language of instruction, with fluency in English a requirement.



Rubaiyat Qatar

Rubaiyat Qatar is a countrywide quadrennial visual-arts exhibition that will launch its inaugural edition in October 2026. A collaborative project in conjunction with a number of Qatar-based institutions, the programme also incorporates a variety of academic programmes, pop-up exhibitions and workshops that will unfold over the years preceding the opening.



Qatar Museums

Qatar Museums (QM) is the nation's preeminent institution for art and culture, providing authentic and inspiring cultural experiences through a growing network of museums, heritage sites, festivals, public art installations and programmes. QM preserves, restores and expands the nation's cultural offerings and historical sites, sharing art and culture from Qatar, the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) region with the world and enriching the lives of citizens, residents and visitors.



Conference Schedule

First Day: 18 February 2024

9:00-9:30 Reception

9:30-9:40 Welcoming Remarks Abdelwahab El Affendi

9:40-9:50 Opening Remarks Amal Ghazal

9:50-9:55 Opening Remarks Sheikha Reem Al Thani

9:55-10:00 Opening Remarks Mark Rappolt
Tom Eccles
Sheikha Alanood Al Thani

10:00-11:00 Keynote Lecture Fahad Bishara

The Sailing Scribe: Mansur Al-Khariji and the Oceanic Worlds of the Gulf

Moderated by Sheikha Alanood Hamad Al Thani

11:00-11:15 Coffee Break

Session I: Philosophies of Water | 11:15
Moderator: **Ismail Nashef** | 13:15

11:15-11:45	Damien Tissot	Generous Water
11:45-12:15	Amani Zaibi	Water: from Poetics to Phenomenology
12:15-12:45	Faouzia Dhifalaha	Gaston Bachelard and the Constructing of Water: the Case of “Water and Dreams”
12:45-13:15	Discussion	
13:15-14:00	Lunch	

Session II: Literatures of Water | 14:00
Moderator: **Ayman El Dasouky** | 16:00

14:00-14:30	Hiba Ghanem	The Becoming Ocean of the Palestinian Prisoner’s Body in Lena Khalaf Tuffaha’s “Water and Salt”
14:30-15:00	Chafika Ouail Al Baghdadi	The Droplet That Inspired Poetry: Meta-Poetics of Water in Modern Arabic Poetry
15:00-15:30	Wael Salam	The Sea as a Trope of Trauma in Darwish’s Poems “Praise of the High Shadow” and “a Siege to the Sea Eulogies”
15:30-16:00	Discussion	
16:00-16:15	Coffee Break	

Session III: **Cinemas of Water** | 16:15
Moderator: **Jumanah Abbas** | 18:15

16:15-16:45 Faten Mbarek **The Reality of Water in Tunisia Through Cinema: How Does the Cinematic Image Become a Tool for Understanding and Action?**

16:45-17:15 Hosni Militat **The Semantic Transformations of Water in Spanish and Palestinian Cinema: a Comparative Interpretive Perspective**

17:15-17:45 Naiza Khan **A Critical Dialogue: Geography, Memory, and Lived Experience**

17:45-18:15 Discussion

19:00-20:00 Dinner

20:00-22:00 Performance/
Tour

Second Day: 19 February 2024

9:30-10:00 Reception

Keynote
Lecture Laleh Khalili

10:00-11:00 **Living and Drowning on the Shores of Climate Change**

Moderated by Mark Rohan Rappolt

11:00-11:15 Coffee
Break

Session I: Histories of Water | 11:15
Moderator: **Rana Sibli** | 13:15

11:15-11:45	P.K.M. Abdul Jaleel	Boarding Sufi Ships in the Indian Ocean: Aquatic Islam and Epistemic Breaks
11:45-12:15	Tariq Madani	Water Archaeology: An Introduction to the Study of Andalusian History – Methodological Approaches and Interpretative Models
12:15-12:45	Zeinab Al Mansi	The Cultural and Artistic Dimensions of Al-Mahmoudia Canal as a Waterway
12:45-13:15	Discussion	
13:15-14:00	Lunch	

Session II: Politics of Water | 14:00
Moderator: **Nayera Shousha** | 16:00

14:00-14:30	Aya Badr	Hydro-Diplomacy: an Approach to Promote Peace in MENA Region
14:30-15:00	Touria Khannous	Water Rights and the Environmental Justice Movement in Morocco: Nadir Bouhmouh's Documentary "Amussu"
15:00-15:30	Alaa Mitwali	Hidden Waters: Politics and Poetics
15:30-16:00	Discussion	
16:00-16:15	Coffee Break	

Session III: The Sociality of Water | 16:15
Moderator: **Saba Hilaly** | 18:15

16:15-16:45	Iman Er-rami	Local Knowledge and Adaptation Dynamics in Water Management in the Moroccan Arid Zone: A Sociological Approach
16:45-17:15	Mohammed Muharram	Waterways Through the New Critical Approach of Blue Humanities
17:15-17:45	Alexandra Camille Schultz	Social Water Spaces: Privacy, Intimacy, and the Right to Be Alone
19:00-20:00	Dinner	
20:00-22:00	Performance/Tour	

Third Day: 20 February 2024

9:30-10:00 Reception

Session I: **Water in Palestine** | 10:00 Moderator: **Hiba Ghanem** | 12:00

10:00-10:30 Yasmeen Qadan **Stargazed Water: Tracing Life in a Palestinian Colonized Village at the Era of Anthropocene**

10:30-11:00 Mansour Nasasra **Bir Al- Saba' and Its Networking with Palestinian Coastal Cities and Villages**

11:00-11:30 Majd abu Amer **Gates of the Sea of Gaza: An Attempt at a Sociology of Water**

11:30-12:00 Discussion

12:00-12:15 Coffee Break

Session II: **Arabian Gulf Waters** | 12:15 Moderator: **Hamad Al Mulla** | 14:00

12:15-12:45 Ahmed Yaqoub Al Maazmi **Dhows as Magical Infrastructures: Reinscribing the Occult in the Indian Ocean**

12:45-13:15 Amnah Sadiq **The Jarish Years: The Forgotten Economic Transformation in Gulf History**

13:15-13:45 Fawzi Al-Ghwardi **The Sea and the Desert: Rahma Bin Jaber and the Dialectics of Piracy and Maritime Influence**

13:45-14:15 Discussion

14:15-15:15 Lunch

Session III: **Arts of Water** | 16:15 Moderator: **Mark Rohan Rappolt** | 18:15

15:15-15:45 Sneha Parthasarathy **Boalis of Hyderabad: Water Epistemologies and Aesthetics of the Deccan**

15:45-16:15 Shtuni Arlinda **Waterlines: Redrawing Our Relationship with Water**

16:15-16:45 Charles Yi Yong Lim **Sea State**

16:45-17:15 Discussion

17:15-18:15 Lunch

Session IV: **Open Discussion and Closing Remarks** | 17:30 Moderator: **Tom Eccles** | 18:30

End of Conference

