8th International Conference on Popular Cultures of the Middle East and North Africa

POPULAR CULTURES BETWEEN SITE AND FLOW

Tbilisi
September 28-30, 2017

Organizational Committee:

George Sanikidze (Ilia State University, G. Tsereteli Institute of Oriental Studies); Rayya El Zeyn (University of Pennsylvania); Irina Koshoridze (Georgian State Museum of Folk and Applied Arts / Georgian National Museum); Tamar Mosiashvili (Ilia State University, G. Tsereteli Institute of Oriental Studies); Nikoloz Nakhutrisvili (Ilia State University, G. Tsereteli Institute of Oriental Studies); Tea Shurgaia (Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University)

Venue:

Ilia State University
1, Acad. G. Tsereteli Str., Buliding G, #106;
3, Acad. G. Tsereteli Str., Buliding S, #201

Georgian State Museum of Folk and Applied Arts
28, Shalva Dadiani Str.

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Thursday, September 28

Ilia State University, G106

9:00-10:00  Registration

10:30-12:30  Conference Opening
Chaired by: Prof. George SANIKIDZE

Welcome Speeches:

Acad. Thomas V. GAMKRELIDZE, Honorary President of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, Head of the Scientific Council of the G. Tsereteli Institute of Oriental Studies

Prof. Giga ZEDANIA, Rector of the Ilia State University

Prof. George SANIKIDZE, Director of the G. Tsereteli Institute of Oriental Studies, Ilia State University

Keynote speaker: Prof. Finbarr Barry FLOOD, New York University

In Search of Ephemera: Prophetic Sandals, Popular Prints, and Trans-temporal Flows.

12:30-13:30 - Lunch

Ilia State University, G106

13:30 -15.30  Panel 1 - Imagining Communities through Pop Culture
Chaired by: Prof. John SHOUP (al-Akhawayn University)

1. Michal MOCH - Arabic Diaspora Hip-Hop: Chosen Linguistic, Cultural, and Identity-Related Issues
2. Khaled MALAS - The Ruku’ Tree: Nature, the Internet and Prayer
3. Irina KOSHORIDZE - About the Coffee-House Paintings in Georgian Collections
4. Anke REICHENBACH - Between Longing and Belonging: Dancing Argentine Tango in Dubai

Discussion

15:30-16:30  Coffee Break and transfer to the State Museum of Folk and Applied Arts
16:30-18:30
State Museum of Folk and Applied Arts of Georgia

Panel 2 - Religious Motifs in Pop Culture
Chair: Prof. Irina Koshoridze (Georgian State Museum of Folk and Applied Arts / Georgian National Museum)

1. Anastasia Grib - Cultural Codes of the Qur’anic Tablet: Love, Magic, and Schooling
2. Jeffrey John Barnes - Handhala and the Messiah: Christological Images in the Cartoons of Naji al-Ali
4. Hanan Hammad - Layla Murad: Gender, Sexuality, and Religion in Egyptian Popular Culture
5. Narine Grigoryan - Art Festival and Its Role to Preserve Traditional Customs

Discussion

18:30-19:00
Guided tour through the exhibition “Reflections-Georgia”-the works of Modern Uzbek Ceramic Artist Abdulvakhid Bukhariy, followed by a short concert (Georgian folk and Persian traditional music).

19:00 - Reception in the Museum garden

Friday, September 29

Ilia State University, G106

10:00-12:30
Panel 3 - Pop Culture and Resistance
Chair: Dr. Narine Grigoryan (University of Vienna)

1. Tinatin Karosanidze - Language of Social Media during the "Arab Spring" in Egypt and Tunisia
2. Igor Johannsen - Each One Teach One: Universal and Local Knowledge Production in Arabic Hip Hop-Culture
3. Hicham Cham - 'The Road Less Travelled':The Moroccan Malḥūn and the Migration of the Andalusian Muwashshah
4. Tamar Mosiashvili - Mahrajanat: from Weddings to Revolution
5. Meriam Cheikh - Producing and Performing Digital Resistance in Morocco: between Style and Illegalisms, the Tcharmil 2.0 Subculture

Discussion

12:30-13:30 Lunch
Ilia State University, G106

13:30-16:00

Panel 4 - Popular Culture of Everyday Life
Chair: Prof. Hanan Hammad (Texas Christian University)

1. Marina ALEXIDZE - *Sheikh Sana’an in the Folk Culture of Tbilisi*
2. Magdalena NOWACZEK-WALCZAK - *City Life in the Middle East*
3. John SHOUP - *Tea in Tarab al-Bidan*
4. Brad FOX - *From Karagümürük to West Broadway: The 21st Century Urban Dervish Lodge*
5. Tea SHURGAIA - *In Searching Iran outside Iran*

Discussion

16:00-16:30 Coffee Break

16:30-18:30

Ilia State University, S201 (Parallel Session)

Panel 5 - Popular Culture and Ethnicity in Israel/Palestine
Chair: Dr. Uri DORCHIN (Zefat Academic College)

1. Dalit SIMCHAI, Uri DORCHIN - *Between Cosmopolitan and Nationalist Oriented Pioneering: The Case of Israeli Indie Entrepreneurs*
2. Nadeem KARKABI - *Against Ethnicity in Palestine*
3. Regev NATHANSON - *The Story of a Film Never Completed: Challenges of Scriptwriting and Visualizing Ethnic Categories in a Mixed Neighborhood*
4. Avihu SHOSHANA - *Ethnography of Waiting in Line for Night Clubs in Tel-Aviv: Time, Ethnicity, and Inequality*

Discussion

Ilia State University, G106 (Parallel Session)

Panel 6- Globalizing Pop Cultures
Chair: Prof. Sebastian MAISEL (Grand Valley State University)

1. Kaim Agnieszka AYSEN - *The Phenomenon of Modern Turkish Dramas or ‘the Neo-Ottomans Conquer the Middle East?’*
2. Marie-Anne KOHL - *Casting Shows and Globalization. Performances at Arabs Got Talent and Arab Idol between Adaptation and Appropriation*
3. Fatemeh HOSSEINI - *Representing the Prostitute in Iranian Popular Cinema of the 1970s*

Discussion

18:30-19:00 Pardekhani (storyteller from Iran)

19:00 - Reception

Saturday, September 30
Ilia State University, G106

10:00-12:00
Panel 7- Pop Culture in Motion and Encountering Popular Cultures of the MENA and Beyond
Chair: Prof. Tea SHURGAIA (IV. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University)

1. Darejan GARDAVADZE - “Magic Lamps and Caps and Rings”... “The Thousand and One Nights” in the Focus of Western-Eastern Interest (The Lore of the Arabian Nights by Ameen Rihani)

2. Sarit COFMAN-SIMHON - Tongues on the Israeli Stage: Theatre in Maghrebi, Aramaic, Juhuri, Kivruli, and Bukhori

3. Alzahraa K. AHMED - Ephemeral Sculpture: Vessels of Memory, Wonder, and (e)Motion in the Medieval Mediterranean

4. Marine BERIDZE, Lia BAKURADZE, & Nikoloz NAKHUTSRISHVILI - Georgians in Iran – the Aspects of Cultural and Linguistic Reintegration

Discussion and final remarks

20 minutes for presentation,
30 minutes for discussion at the end of the panel

12.00-13.00 Lunch
13.30 Trip to Mtskheta
17.00 -19.00 Dinner in Mtskheta