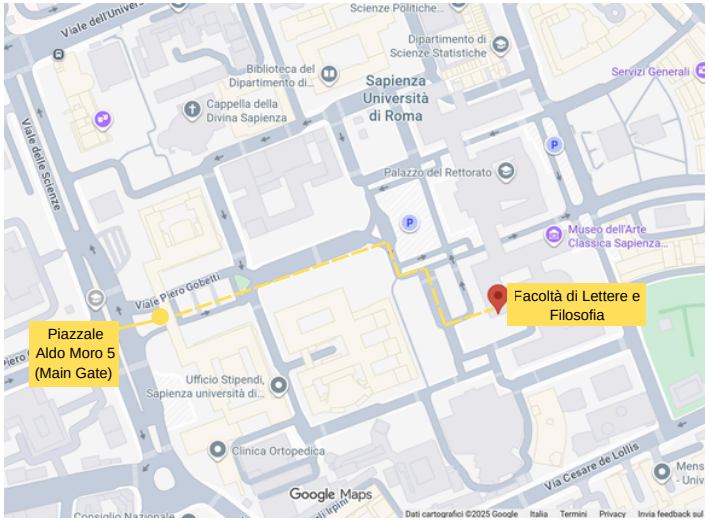
Venue**: Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia,** Sapienza University of Rome, Piazzale Aldo Moro 5



Aula di Archeologia: Ground Floor, Museum of Classic Art (Go downstairs after entering the main building in the picture)

Aula Chabod: Third Floor

Zoom: https://uniroma1.zoom.us/j/88236417050

Full details: https://www.digimyth.eu/upcoming-events/international-workshop-greek-myths-in-arabic-literature/

There are no echoes from Homer here.
When myths are needed they simply knock on our doors.
No Homeric echoes for anything…
only a General digging up a comatose state
under the ruins of an encroaching Troy.

Mahmoud Darwish, *State of Siege*, Translated by Munir Akash and Daniel Abdal-hayy Moore, Jusoor and Syracuse University Press, Syracuse (NY) 2010

Scientific Board:
Maria Avino, University of Naples L'Orientale)
Mirella Cassarino, University of Catania)
Marco Di Branco, Sapienza University of Rome)
Sonja Mejcher-Atassi, American University of Beirut)

Organisers:
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Front image: **Fadi Barrage**, *Ulysses with his treasure trove*. Tempera on paper, 9 April 1983. Courtesy of Nadia von Maltzahn © Artist estate.

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Dipartimento di Storia Antropologia Religioni Arte Spettacolo
Sapienza Università di Roma
unimc Università di Macerata l'umanesimo che innova
Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici lingue, mediazione, storia, lettere, filosofia

GREEK MYTHS IN ARABIC LITERATURE

Reception,Translation,Circulation, Re-Creation

6-8 NOVEMBER 2025

International Workshop
organised by
Mariangela Masullo,University of Macerata
Arturo Monaco, Sapienza University of Rome

Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia
Sapienza University of Rome
Piazzale Aldo Moro 5

Workshop Programme

DAY 1 - 6 November

Venue: Aula di Archeologia

8:30 **Registration**

9:00 **Opening Remarks**
Arianna Punzi, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Sapienza University of Rome
Alessandro Saggioro, Head of the Department of History, Anthropology, Religions, Arts, and Performing Arts, Sapienza University of Rome
Mariangela Masullo, University of Macerata
Arturo Monaco, Sapienza University of Rome

9:30 **Keynote speech 1**
Roberto Nicolai, Sapienza University of Rome
Which Greek Myths?
Discussant: **Roberta Denaro**, University of Naples "L'Orientale"

11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:30 **Panel 1: Mythic Foundations in Arabic Letters**
In collaboration with the Research Committee on Arabic Comparative Literature - ICLA
Mirella Cassarino, University of Catania
Arabic Lapidaries and Greek Myths
Fatiha Taib, Mohammed V University in Rabat - co-founder and co-chair of the Research Committee on Arabic Comparative Literature - ICLA
Modern Arabic Translation of Greek Myths. From a Translation Studies Perspective in Morocco
Elisabetta Benigni, University of Turin
Traces of the Pasts: Greek Mythology and Visions of Antiquity in Arabic Writings in the Long Nineteenth Century
Daniela Potenza, University of Messina
Anything but Classics! Contemporary Arab Theatre Decolonising Greek Myth
Discussant: **Ada Barbaro**, Sapienza University of Rome

13:30 **Lunch**

14:30 **Panel 2: Premodern Encounters in Arabic and Persian Texts**
Marco Di Branco, Sapienza University of Rome
Ancient Greek Myths in Medieval Arabic Tradition
Leonardo Capezzone, Sapienza University of Rome
Medusa in Iran? Iblīs in the First Persian Qur'anic Commentary
Marco Lauri, Università Telematica eCampus
Queens of Brass. Cleopatra, Tadmura, and their sisters
Discussant: **Mario Casari**, Sapienza University of Rome

16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:30 **Panel 3: Re-imagining Myth in the *Nahḍa***
Maria Avino, University of Naples "L'Orientale"
Šiblī Šumayyil and the Arabic translation of Iphigenia in Aulis*: the ancient Greek myth as an antidote to the cruelty and irrationality of the First World War*
Samuel England, University of Wisconsin–Madison
Raising Icarus: Familial Stories and Arab Salon Culture
Yaseen Noorani, The University of Arizona
The Legend of Thaïs and Delusory Sublimation in Arabic Romanticism and Realism
Discussant: **Maria Elena Paniconi**, University of Macerata

DAY 2 - 7 November

Venue: Aula di Archeologia

9:00 **Panel 4: Performing Myths in Modern Arabic Drama**
Mohammed Khalfan, Sultan Qaboos University
The Parodic Simulation of the Greek Myth (Antigone) in Samir Al-Ayadi's Play Antivon
Iman Ezzeldin, Ain Shams University in Cairo
From Tragic Hero to Political Satire: Ali Salem's Kumidiya Udip *in Dialogue with Oedipus Myth, Sophocles and the Arab Oedipal Tradition*
Mahrous Mahmoud Alkolaly, Sultan Qaboos University
and **Mariam Hamed Al-Husaini**, Sultan Qaboos University
The Elasticity of Substitution: The Classical Greek Symbols in Arabian-Gulf Theatre
Discussant: **Monica Ruocco**, University of Naples "L'Orientale"

10:30 **Coffee Break**

11:00 **Keynote speech 2**
Huda Fakhreddine, University of Pennsylvania
Arabic Poetry and the Myth of Myth
Discussant: **Sonja Mejcher-Atassi**, American University of Beirut

12:30 **Lunch**

13:30 **Panel 5: Mythic Re-foundations in Arabic poetry and oral traditions**
Mahmood Heidari, Shiraz University
The Reimagining and Functional Role of the Greek Myths of Sisyphus, Prometheus, and Achilles in Contemporary Arabic Poetry
Fatima Sai, University of Chieti-Pescara "G. D'Annunzio"
Stealing Prometheus - Mythopoiesis and Timework in Modern Arabic Literature
Francesca Rondinelli, Université Grenoble Alpes
Georges Henein: the Myth of Prometheus or « le scandale de l'homme absolu »
Imene Medfouni, Middle East University
Echoes of Olympus: Greek Myths and Chaoui Folktales in Postcolonial Algerian Literature
Discussant: **Mariangela Masullo**, University of Macerata

15:30 **Coffee Break**

16:00 **Panel 6: Homeric Re-configurations in Modern Arabic Poetry and Art**
Simone Sibilio, Ca' Foscari University of Venice
Homer and the Odyssey in Maḥmūd Darwīsh's poetic work
Clarissa Burt, United States Naval Academy
The Trojan Horse in post-Jasmine-Revolution Tunisia
Nadia von Maltzahn, Orient-Institut Beirut
Greek Mythology in the Work of Lebanese artist Fadi Barrage
Discussants: **Franco D'Intino** and **Camilla Miglio**, Sapienza University of Rome

19:30 **Dinner**

DAY 3 - 8 November

Venue: Aula Chabod

8:30 **Panel 7: Tribal Myths in Pre-Islamic and Bedouin Imaginaries**
Aida Gasimova, Baku State University
Echoes of Chronos and the Moirai in Pre-Islamic Arabic Poetry: Transformation and Re-Creation of Greek Myths in the Jāhiliyyah *Imagination*
Yousef Barahmeh, Isra University
Echoes of Homer in the Desert: Greek Influence on Jordanian Literature and Bedouin Folktales
Arianna Tondi, University of Bergamo
Wāw, Atlantis and the Circularity of Myth: The Cultural Heritages of the Mediterranean According to Ibrāhīm al-Kawnī
Discussant: **Arturo Monaco**, Sapienza University of Rome

10:00 **Coffee Break**

10:30 **Panel 8: Contemporary Re-visions in Modern Arabic Literature**
Annamaria Bianco, Aix-Marseille Université
The Labyrinth of Exile: The Metaphor of Ariadne's Thread in The Novel Baḥṯan 'an kurat al-ṣūf *by Rūzā Yāsīn Ḥasan*
Mariam Albadi, University of Nizwa
Myth as Metaphor in the Omani Woman's Novel: The Shadow of Hermaphroditus *by Badriya Al-Badri as a Selected Sample*
Antonio Pacifico, Jean Moulin University of Lyon 3
Echoes of Ancient Greece in the Iraqi Cultural Field
Discussant: **Fernanda Fischione**, Sapienza University of Rome

12:00 **Closing Remarks**

12:15 **Lunch**

14:30 **Guided Tour in Rome**: the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, and the Palatine