Anis El-Makdisi Program for Literature at the American University of Beirut and The Institute of Lebanese Thought at Notre Dame University

Present

The International Conference on

The Philosophy of Ameen Rihani

Ameen Rihani by Moustapha Farroukh, 1938, watercolor on beige paper, 14 x 20 cm, Rihani Museum, Freike
Conference Program

Day One: Wednesday, November 23, 2016
Notre Dame University, Zouk Mosbeh, Abu Khater Auditorium

1:30-2:00: Conference Registration

2:00-2:30: Opening Session
- NDU Address: Reverend Father Walid Moussa, President
- AUB Address: Prof. Nader El-Bizri, Director of the Anis Makdisi Program in Literature, and Prof. of Philosophy at AUB
- Institute of Lebanese Thought (ILT) Address:
  - Dr. Salma Abdallah, member of the ILT Advisory Board, and Assoc. Prof. of Arabic Literature at NDU

2:30-4:00 First Session:
**Spiritual Runways & Religious Criticism in Rihani’s Philosophy**
- Moderator: Prof. Nader El-Bizri, Prof. of Philosophy, AUB
- Participants:
  - Prof. Wafa’ Cha’ranı: The Tendency to Liberate the Human Spirit
  - Prof. Suad Hakim: Ameen Rihani Before a Sufi Mirror
  - Dr. Naila Abi Nader: Manifestations of Critical Thought: The Model of Religious Criticism Discussion

4:00-4:20 Coffee Break

4:20-5:20 Second Session:
**Rihani the Visionary: East-West Dimensions and the Philosophy of Freedom and Democracy in Rihani’s Thought**
- Moderator: Prof. George Labaki, member of the ILT Advisory Board, and Prof. of Political Science at NDU
- Participants:
  - Prof. Maria Nikolaeva: Philosophy of East & West in Rihani’s Juhan
  - Prof. Batoul Yahfoufi: Philosophical Configuration in The Book of Khalid and the Question of the Relationship between East and West
  - Mr. Suheil Matar: Rihani’s Philosophy of Freedom and Democracy

Discussion

Presenting Moderator: Dr. Nada Saad Saber, Director of the Public Relations Office and Cultural Affairs, Notre Dame University.
9:00-10:30 **Third Session:**
**The Philosophy of Idealism and the Relationship Between the Poet and the Philosopher According to Ameen Rihani**

**Moderator:** Prof. Moh. Ali El-Oraiby, President of the Lebanese Association of Philosophy

**Participants:**
- **Dr. Chadi Rahme:** Rihani and the German Philosophy of Idealism
- **Dr. Maya El-Hage:** The Philosophy of Idealism in two texts: “In the Spring of Despair” and “The Most Exalted Prophet”
- **Prof. Moh. Chayya:** Poetry and Philosophy According to Rihani

Discussion

10:30-12:00 **Fourth Session:**
**The Image of Philosophy & the Philosophy of the Land in Rihani’s Writings**

**Moderator:** Prof. Kamal Abou Chedid, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities Notre Dame University (NDU)

**Participants:**
- **Prof. Moh. Ali El-Oraiby**, Image of Philosophy in Rihani’s Writings
- **Dr. George Yaraq**, Land and the Lebanese Land in Rihani’s Thought,
  In Order to Clarify the Lebanese Landmarks

Discussion

12:00-12:20 **Coffee Break**

12:20-1:50 **Fifth Session: Ameen Rihani – Philosophical and Spiritual Perspectives**

**Moderator:** Prof. Edward Alam, Chairholder, Benedict XVI Endowed Chair of Religious, Cultural, and Philosophical Studies Faculty of Humanities, Notre Dame University Louaize, NDU

**Participants:**
- **Prof. Jad Hatem:** La Composition du Nom de Dieu dans *Le Livre de Khaled*
- **Dr. Joe Yaacoub:** Metamorphoses: a Philosophical-Spiritual Perspective on Ameen F. Rihani
- **Dr. Savo Karam:** Rihani’s Animism

Discussion

1:50-3:00 **Lunch Break**
3:00-4:30  **Sixth Session:**  
**Modern Civilization: A Vision, a Point of View, and a Criticism**  
Moderator: **Prof. Mouchir Aoun**: Prof. of Philosophy at the Lebanese University  
Participants:  
**Prof. Asma Chamli Halwani**: Rihani, the Visionary: Modern Civilization and Where Do We Stand  
**Mr. Todd Fine**: Ameen Rihani’s "Bulu Land": Primitive Imaginings and the Critique of Civilization  
**Dr. Doumit Salameh**: Rihani’s Criticism of the West Revisited  

Discussion

4:30-4:50  Coffee Break

4:50-5:50  **Seventh Session:**  
**Rationalism and Social Evolution in Rihani’s Thought**  
Moderator: **Prof. Ma’an Bou Saber**: Dean of the Faculty of Law and Political Science, NDU  
Participants:  
**Mr. Antoine Moukarzel**: Rationalism in Rihani’s Philosophy and the influence of Descartes’ System and Kant’s Criticism  
**Dr. Salma Abdallah**: The Philosophy of Social Evolution and Spiritual Progress in Rihani’s novel: *The Lily of El-Ghor*  
**Dr. Tagharide Baydoun**: Reform and Progress in Rihani’s Philosophy  

Discussion

Reminder:  
- Please be reminded that the Opening Session at AUB will start at 9:00 am sharp.  
- Make sure to arrive and park your car ahead of time.  
- Please bring your Conference files with you together with your personal tags.

Thank you.
Day Three: Friday, November 25, 2016
American University of Beirut, College Hall, Conference Room B1

9:00-9:20: Opening Session
AUB Address: Prof. Nader El-Bizri
Address of the Institute of Lebanese Thought: Prof. George Labaki, Advisory Board member of ILT, and Prof. of Political Science, NDU

9:20-10:50 Eighth Session:
Pantheism in Rihani’s Philosophy
Moderator: Dr. Hayat El Eid Bualwan, Prof. of Cultural Studies, AUB
Participants: Prof. Victor El-Kik: Pantheism in Rihani’s Thought
Prof. Naji Oueijan: Pantheism in Rihani’s Nature Poetry
Dr. Natalie Khouri Gharibe: Axis of Pantheism in Rihani’s Philosophy

Discussion

10:50-11:10 Coffee Break

11:10-12:40 Ninth Session:
The Philosophy of National Commitment
Moderator: Prof. Wajih Fanous, Prof. of Comparative Literature, the Lebanese University and the Islamic University
Participants: Prof. Nassif ‘Azzi: The Question of Arabism in Rihani’s Philosophy
A Study in His Contemporary Thought
Dr. Ali Hamiye: The Nationalist Trend in the Rihani Discourse
Dr. Youssef K. El-Hage: The Philosophy of National Commitment
According to Rihani

Discussion

12:40-1:30 Lunch Break

1:30-3:00 Tenth Session:
The Philosophy of the Great City and Western Civilization
Moderator: Prof. Latif Zaitouni, Prof. of Modern Arabic Literature, the Lebanese American University (LAU)
Participants: Prof. Khanjar Hamiye: Rihani’s Great City in Comparison with Al-Farabi’s Virtual City and Plato’s Republic
Prof. Darejan Gardavadze: Towards a Philosophic Approach to the City of Beirut based on Ameen Rihani’s Innovation of The Great City
Prof. Paul Jahshan: Ameen Rihani & the Physiognomies of Capitalism

Discussion
3:00-3:20  Coffee Break

3:20-4:50  Eleventh Session: Rihani Between the National Tendency and the Humanitarian Inclination

Moderator: Prof. Waddah Nasr: Prof. of Philosophy, AUB
Participants: Mr. Francesco Medici: Juhan’s Jihad and the Blonde Beast
Ameen Rihani between Islamic Doctrine and Nietzschean Perspective
Prof. Nijmeh Hajjar: A Pioneering Philosophy of Modern Arab Humanism: Rihani’s Vision of Universal Peace and Human Rights
Prof. Ahmad Shboul: The Question of "Identity" in Rihani’s Thought

Discussion

4:50-5:45  Closure:

- Conclusion of presented papers:
  Dr. Hayat El-Eid Bualuan, Prof. of History and Historical Thought, AUB
- Closing questions and remarks from the audience.

Acknowledgment
The Institute of Lebanese Thought and the Department of Philosophy, Religious and Civilization Studies at NDU, in collaboration with the Anis Makdisi Program for Literature at AUB, would like to extend their utmost gratitude for all participants in The International Conference on The Philosophy of Ameen Rihani coming from Australia, The Republic of Georgia, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar, Russia, and U.S.A., to give their presentations either in Arabic, in English, or French during the Conference days and events. The Conference organizers are also ardent in recognizing the efforts of every participating scholar to review his/her final paper and get it ready for publication within the conference proceedings that shall be out of the printing press in the spring of 2017. Special thanks go simultaneously to all those who gave their time and effort, during a whole year, to make this Conference a real successful experience. Among those are Ms. Pauline Nohra, the Coordinator of ILT, and members of the Organizing Committee, namely: Prof. George Labaki, Dr. Salma Abdallah, Dr. Chadi Rahme, Mr. Antoine Moukarzel and Mr. Tony Nasrallah.