

WORKSHOP LEADERS AND SPEAKERS

Arabic to English group:



Jonathan Wright

Jonathan Wright is a British journalist and literary translator. He joined Reuters news agency in 1980 as a correspondent, and has been based in the Middle East for most of the last three decades. He has served as Reuters' Cairo bureau chief, and he has lived and worked throughout the region, including in Egypt, Sudan, Lebanon, Tunisia and the Gulf. From 1998 to 2003, he was based in Washington, DC, covering U.S. foreign policy for Reuters. For two years until the fall of 2011 Wright was editor of the Arab Media & Society Journal, published by the Kamal Adham Center for Journalism Training and Research at the American University in Cairo.



Elisabeth Jaquette

Elisabeth Jaquette is a translator from the Arabic and Executive Director of the American Literary Translators Association (ALTA). Her work has been shortlisted for the TA First Translation Prize, longlisted for the Best Translated Book Award, and supported by several English PEN Translates Awards, a Jan Michalski Foundation residency, and the PEN/Heim Translation Fund. She has also served as a judge for numerous translation prizes, including most recently the National Book Award for Translated Literature. Elisabeth's book-length translations include *The Queue* by Basma Abdel Aziz (Melville House), *Thirteen Months of Sunrise* by Rania Mamoun (Comma Press), and *The Apartment in Bab el-Louk* by Donia

Maher (Darf Publishers). Forthcoming in 2020 are *The Frightened Ones* by Dima Wannous (Harvill Secker/Knopf) and *Minor Detail* by Adania Shibli (Fitzcarraldo/New Directions).

English to Arabic group:



Boutheina Khaldi

Boutheina Khaldi is Associate professor of Arabic and translation studies at the American University of Sharjah. She has published a monograph in English: *Egypt Awakening in the Early Twentieth Century: Mayy Ziyādah's Intellectual Circles* (Palgrave, 2012), a book in Arabic: *Al-Muḍmar fī al-Tarassul al-Niswī al-'Arabī* (2015) (*The Implicit in Arab Women's Epistolary Writing*), a novel titled "Ikhtāl", and co-edited three books: *Al-Adab al-'Arabī al-Ḥadīth: Mukhtārāt*, *Al-Wafī fī Turāth al-'Arab al-Thaqāfī*, and *Turāth al-'Arab al-Ma'rifī* , in addition to a number of peer-reviewed articles.



Ahmed Al Ali

Ahmed Al Ali is a Saudi poet, editor and translator. He earned his MS degree in Publishing from Pace University in NYC, and was a trainee at Knopf (Penguin Random House) under the supervision of its editor-in-chief Sonny Mehta. He is author of four books including *Lavender*, *Hotel California* and *As Bob Marley Sings*. He has translated many international titles into Arabic, including Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, Paul Auster's *The Invention of Solitude*, and Elif Shafak's *Black Milk*. As Managing Editor at Kalimat Group's fiction imprint, he introduced to the Arab world James Baldwin, Raymond Carver, Julian Barnes, Ian McEwan, Margaret Atwood, John Ashbery, Ali Smith, Michael Ondaatje, John Banville, and many more. He was appointed Managing Editor of Sharjah World Book

Capital Publications in 2019–2020.

Guest Speakers:



Ailah Ahmed

Ailah Ahmed is publishing director at Little, Brown and Virago Press. Her authors include Chigozie Obioma, shortlisted for the Booker Prize 2019 and Andrew Sean Greer, winner of the Pulitzer prize 2018. She publishes works in translation from a range of languages, including Greenlandic and Korean. She has worked in publishing for over a decade at Tindal Street Press, Canongate Books and Simon & Schuster.



Sarah Harvey

Sarah Harvey has worked as a Rights Agent at Curtis Brown since 2018, handling translation rights in a wide-ranging list of fiction and non-fiction authors, including Haruki Murakami, Toni Morrison, Walter Isaacson, Naomi Klein, Anthony Horowitz, Marian Keyes, Renee Knight, and Jilly Cooper. Prior to that, she spent ten years working in translation rights at a number of the UK's largest publishing houses, including HarperCollins, Hachette, and Pan Macmillan. She has a degree in English Literature from The University of Manchester and an MA in Modern and Contemporary Literature from Birkbeck College. She is also the author of *KAIZEN*, published by Bluebird Books in 2019, and translated into twelve languages.



Iman Ben Chaibah

Iman Ben Chaibah started Sail Magazine 10 years ago to document the social debates and discussions in the community. She then expanded Sail into a publishing house to grow the local content. Iman was recently appointed as the Vice President of the Emiratis Publishers Association Board.

Iman received the UAE's Young Digital Publisher Entrepreneur Award by The British Council, was chosen as a Delegate to the International Achievement Summit in San Francisco, received the Young Entrepreneur Award from Startup Businesses magazine, and received the Arab Woman Award in Literature. Iman has also completed the Magazine Publishing Course in Yale University. She was a fellow in the Rosalynn Carter Journalism Fellowship in Mental Health to spread the knowledge about the issues in this domain through her magazine's platform.

Iman was also part of the UAE official delegations to different book fairs and publishing conferences across the globe such as London, Paris, Sao Paulo, New Delhi, and Casa Blanca.



Tamer Said

Tamer Said brings over 15 years of local publishing expertise to his role as the Managing Director at Kalimat Group. During his tenure at Kalimat Group, Tamer has managed the publisher's bold expansion strategies, resulting in the successful development of four imprints under the mother company – Kalimat, Horouf, Rewayat, and Comics. He managed the facilitation of Kalimat Group's strategic partnerships with international publishers and has played a key role in expanding the publisher's distribution network into 15 countries.

Previously, Tamer has taken up diverse publishing functions, starting his career at Dubai-based Jerboa Books and then served Kitab, the organizers of the prestigious Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF) as Sales Manager.

Pursuing his passion in publishing, Tamer has been part of key cultural initiatives during his years working with the Emirates Publishers Association (EPA) and the UAE Board on Books for Young People (UAEBBY). He has also featured on the juries of prestigious regional awards like the Etisalat Award for Arabic Children's Literature and the Arab Children's Book Publishes Forum Award.