FACHBEREICH ASIEN-AFRIKA-INSTITUT
ISLAMWISSENSCHAFT

PUBLIC GUEST LECTURE – IN ENGLISH – EVERYONE WELCOME!

WRITING THE SAUDI VILLAGE IN FRENCH

DR. ELAD GILADI

Time, Language, and Belonging in Ahmed Abodehman's *La Ceinture / al-Ḥizām*

La Ceinture / الحزام

Ahmed Abodehman's *La Ceinture / al-Ḥizām* portrays life in a village in southwestern Saudi Arabia during the social transformations of the 1950s and 1960s. The lecture examines how the novel uses changing perceptions of time to represent the encounter between rural society and modern institutions such as the school, the city, and the state. It also explores why Abodehman wrote this deeply Saudi novel in French while living in Paris before rewriting it in Arabic himself. The two versions raise broader questions about language, memory, self-translation, migration, and belonging.

Dr. Elad Giladi is a historian specializing in the social and cultural history of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states at the University of Haifa.

The public guest lecture is part of Judith Zepter's seminar 'Modern Arabic Literature' at the Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Hamburg.

Friday, 13 November 2026
12:15 pm
ESA Ost, R. 118
Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1

Fragen, Feedback, Koordination:
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