



## CEFREPA Newsletter May/June 2025

### EU-Kuwait Culture Forum



### “Celebrating Kuwait as the Arab Capital of Culture and Media for 2025”

**19 May 2025 – Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyya, Amricani Cultural Centre**

The CEFREPA participated in the first EU-Kuwait Culture Forum, to celebrate Kuwait as the Arab Capital of Culture and Media for 2025. CEFREPA associated researchers’ Anahi Alviso-Marino, Marianne Cotty & Hassan Ashkanani contributed in this

interesting cultural event. The discussions touched upon a wide range of topics, including initiatives such as the European Capitals of Culture, best European and Kuwaiti practices in preserving cultural heritage and building partnerships, as well as innovation and audiovisual practices, or the role of museums in raising awareness and engaging the local communities in cultural heritage practices.

## LES MARDIS DU CEFREPA



### "140 years of the Ancient Near East Department of the Louvre Museum"

**Tuesday 20 May 2025 at CEFREPA**

CEFREPA had the pleasure of organizing a conference by Marianne COTTY: "140 years of the Ancient Near East Department of the Louvre Museum" on May 20, 2025 at CEFREPA.

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The Ancient Near East Department of the Louvre Museum hosts collections from the Middle East and the Mediterranean, particularly North Africa, covering some 8,000 years of history, from prehistory to the early Islamic period. Over 150,000 archaeological works and objects, most of them donated by the countries of origin under excavation-sharing agreements. The presentation explored the long history of this department of the Louvre and its recent development on the Gulf area thanks to the deposit of the Bahrain Museum for five years.

Marianne Cotty is curator in charge of the Arabian Peninsula in the Ancient Near East Department of the Louvre Museum, Paris. As exhibitions curator, she prepared, amongst others, "Roads of Arabia" (Paris 2010) and «From Dilmun to Tylos» (Paris 2022), and she is currently preparing an exhibition on South Arabian antiquities (Marseille 2025).

Archaeologist, member of the CEFREPA and the French National Research Agency ARABIANCAIRNS, she is member of extensive fieldwork in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Oman.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



### **Classical Arab Thought in Recent International Research**

**Dâr al-Athâr al-Islâmiyah,  
Yarmouk. Kuwait City**

**26, 27 & 28 May 2025**

From May 26 to 28, 2025, the French Research Center of the Arabian Peninsula (CEFREPA), in partnership with the French Institute for Islamic Studies, the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), and the Dar Al-Athar al-Islamiyah, organized an international Conference entitled “Classical Arab Thought in Recent International Research” at the Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyah in Yarmouk.

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Researchers from universities and research centers in European Union countries (France, Spain, Italy, and Germany), as well as in Kuwait, Switzerland, Turkey, Lebanon, Morocco, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States, participated in this important scientific meeting.

The conference aimed to highlight current shifts in the study of ancient Arab thought by engaging researchers with ancient Arabic manuscripts in literature, philosophy, kalam, mysticism, and politics. The conference included identifying new interpretive paths for many texts and presenting the approaches that scholars are currently taking in their study of Arabic thought, as well as the recent achievements of research centers in several countries. The conference offered a unique opportunity to bring together leading specialists in the history of ancient Arab thought from around the world and contribute to the celebration of Kuwait as the Arab Capital of Culture.



## EXPO & FILM



### “Monumenting” A film by Anahi Alviso-Marino

May 28, 2025 at CAP gallery

CEFREPA had the pleasure to be a collaborator of an exhibition *And then, they start to matter* and the screening of the documentary film *Monumenting* that was presented on May 28th 2025 at CAP Gallery by researcher and scholar associated to CEFREPA Anahi Alviso-Marino, curator and film director.

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As monuments continue to be toppled, relocated and reassessed all over the world, this documentary main goal was to takes us to Kuwait City, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sanaa, questioning what a monument is and asking what a monument could be.

Anahi Alviso-Marino is a researcher and scholar working at the intersection of social sciences, art and film practices. Trained in Political Science (U. Paris 1-Sorbonne and Lausanne) and in Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Cultures (Columbia University), she has conducted extensive research on the sociological lives of objects made by artists, focusing more recently on the biographical trajectories of monuments across several cities of the Arabian Peninsula. She is an associate researcher at CEFREPA and currently based in Amman, Jordan.

## SEMINAR



### Villa Hegra's Research Project in Social Sciences in AIUla

**June 30, 2025 at Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne - Paris**

The French Research Center of the Arabian Peninsula (CEFREPA) in partnership with the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) & the institute for the Study of Islam and Societies of the Muslim World (IISMM) with the support of the Royal Commission for AlUla (RCU) and the French Agency for AIUla development (AFALULA) participated in the closing seminar of the Villa Hégra social sciences research program on June 30 at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University.

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This was all about the first humanities research initiative of this magnitude dedicated to AIUla. Its ambition is to document and understand the developments shaping this rich ecosystem, through the prism of history, linguistics, and anthropology.

This closing seminar involved different activities:

- A presentation of the results of the four teams of researchers.
- Film screenings, interactive presentation of research tools, discussions with researchers.
- Roundtable discussion on "Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences at AIUla" with the directors of the four projects, Dr. Abdurrahmane AISuhaibani and Dr. Hanadi Abokadejah.

The closing seminar of the Villa Hégra social sciences research program was held in the presence of many participants: Feriel Fodil, Makram Abbes, Philippe Petriat, Ulrike Freitag,

Abd al-Rahman al-Shuqayr, Agit Kadino, Stefano Manfredi, Aljawharah Ibrahim Alzamil, Fabio Gasparini, Ana Iriarte Dfez, Stanley Kochem et Stephan Prochazka, Sophie Branes et Michela de Giacometti, Amin Moghadam, Anahi Alviso Marino et Nevine Zeineldin, Louis Blin, Leo Marty, and Camille Bougault.

## ANNOUNCEMENT



### **Signing a memorandum of understanding with the French Institute of Islamic Studies.**

CEFREPA is pleased to announce the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the French Institute of Islamic Studies.

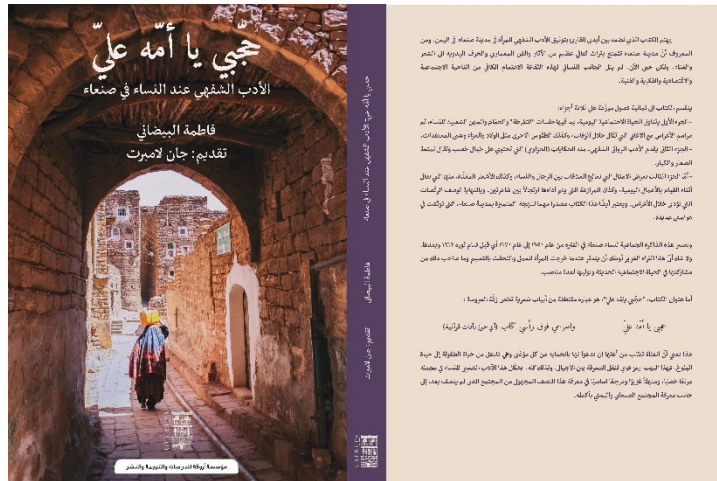
This MOU builds on the collaboration initiated some time ago, notably with hosting Dr. Pierre Caye, Director of the Institute, for a tour of the Gulf (Kuwait, Riyadh, and Jeddah), where he gave a series of lectures and met numerous academic figures.

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The MOU also culminates a collaboration in the form of a symposium organized by the two institutions at the end of May on classical Arabic thought in contemporary global research, carried out in cooperation with the NCCAL and Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah.

It should be noted that over the past four years, CEFREPA has established two transversal disciplinary themes dedicated to Islamic Studies, and this agreement aims to activate all channels of scientific and cultural cooperation between the two institutions in this field.

## BOOK PUBLICATION

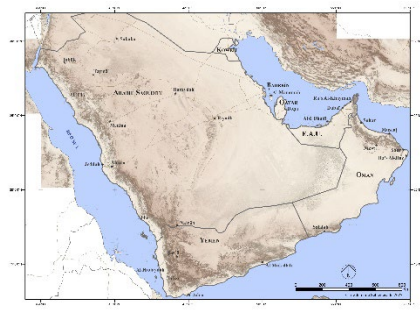


### Publication of the book “Surround me with your prayers, O my mother” by Fatima al-Baydani.

The French Research Center of the Arabian Peninsula is pleased to announce the publication of the book “Surround me with your prayers, O my mother” by Fatima al-Baydani and presented by Jean Lambert. This book was published by CEFREPA and Arwika for Studies, Translation and Publishing.

### READ MORE

This is the first book entirely devoted to the oral culture of the women of Sana'a, who, it must be admitted, had been overlooked in the early efforts to preserve the cultural heritage of this historic city. This book is documenting many aspects of life in the social, literary and cultural fields. As is well known, the Old City of Sana'a was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986. This gave rise to several landmark publications, including the book by Serjeant and Lewcock (1983), which covered many aspects of the city's social history, but hardly addressed the role of women.



## **The French Research Center of the Arabian Peninsula**

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