

Anis Makdisi Program in Literature
at the American University of Beirut

and

The Institute of Lebanese Thought
at Notre Dame University



The International Conference on

The Philosophy of Ameen Rihani



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, AUB
Institute of Lebanese Thought (*ILT*) Address: **Dr. Salma Abdallah**, Advisory Board member of *ILT*, and Assis. Prof. of Arabic Literature, NDU
- 2:30-4:00 **First Session: Spiritual Runways and Religious Criticism in Rihani's Philosophy**
Moderator: **Prof. Nader El-Bizri**, Prof. of Philosophy, AUB
Participants: **Prof. Wafa Charani**: The Tendency to Liberate the Human Soul: The Literature Philosophers
Prof. Suad Hakim: Ameen Rihani in front of a Sufi Mirror
Dr. Nayla Abi Nader: Manifestations of Critical Thought in Ameen Rihani's work: Critique of Religion as a sample
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**, Advisory Board member of *ILT*, and Prof. of Political Science, NDU
Participants: **Prof. Maria Nikolaeva**: Rihani' Philosophy of East and West
Prof. Batoul Yahfoufi: Rihani's East and West: A Bridge, a dialogue, or Duality of spirit and Material?
Mr. Suheil Matar: Rihani's Philosophy of Freedom and Democracy
Discussion

Introducing the Moderators: **Dr. Nada Saad-Saber**, Director of Public Relations and Cultural Affairs Office, Notre Dame University

**Day Two: Thursday, November 24, 2016, 140th Anniversary of Rihani's Birthday,
Notre Dame University, Zouk Mosbeh, Abu Khater Auditorium**

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. Mohamad Ali El-Oraiby**, President of the Lebanese Association of Philosophy
Participants: **Dr. Chadi Rahme**: Rihani and German Idealism
Dr. Maya El-Hajj: The Philosophy of Idealism based on two texts: "In the Spring of Despair", and "The Most Exalted Prophet"
Prof. Mohammad Chayya: Rihani The Man of Thought and his Philosophic Concept to Poetry

Discussion

10:30-12:00 Forth Session: Session: The Image of Philosophy and the Philosophy of the Land in Rihani's Writings
Moderator: **Prof. Kamal Abou Chedid**, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, NDU
Participants: **Prof. Mohamad Ali El-Oraiby**, The Image of Philosophy in Ameen Rihani's Literature
Dr. Georges Yarack, The earth and the Lebanese Earth in Rihani's thought, in order to clarify the Lebanese earth philosophy

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, 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 A. F. Rihani
Dr. Savo Karam: Ameen Rihani and the Sublime Experience in "The Valley of Freike"

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 Halwanl:** Rihani the Visionary: Our Position of
Modern Civilization
Mr. Todd Fine: Ameen Rihani's "Bulu Land": Primitive Imaginings
and the Critique of Civilization
Dr. Doumit Salameh: Rihani's Criticism of the West
Discussion

4:30-4:50 Coffee Break

4:50-5:50 **Seventh Rationalism and Social Evolution in Rihani's Thought**
Moderator: **Prof. Maan Bou Saber:** Dean of the Faculty of Law and Political
Science, NDU
Participants: **Mr. Antoine Moukarzel:** Rationalism in Ameen Rihani's Philosophy
between the Cartesian Method and the Kantian Critique
Dr. Salma Abdallah: The Philosophy of Social Evolution and
Spiritual Progress in Ameen Rihani's *Zanbaqat al-Ghawr [The
Lily of El-Ghor]*
Dr. Tagharid Beydoun: Reform and Progress in the Philosophy of
Ameen Rihani
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.
- You better carry your Conf. files with you together with your personal tags.

Thank you.

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9:00-9:20 **Opening Session**

AUB Address: **Prof. Fadlo Khuri**, President of AUB

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-Eld Bualuan**, Prof. of Cultural Studies, AUB

Participants: **Prof. Victor El-Kik**: The philosophy of Pantheism and the Unity of
the Cosmos and Religions: Ameen Rihani's Common
Denominators with Religions and the Age of Enlightenment

Prof. Naji Oueljan: Pantheism in Rihani's Nature Poetry

Dr. Nathalie Al-Khoury Gharib: Axis of Pantheism in Rihani
Philosophy: From hard Religiosity to inalienable Ethics, the quest for
an identity between God and the Universe

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 Quest of Arabism in the Philosophy of
Ameen Rihani/A Research through Rihani's Thought made
Contemporary

Dr. Ali Hamyeh: The Nationalist Trend in Rihani's Discourse

Dr. Youssef K. El-Hage: Rihani's Philosophy of Nationalist
Commitment

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 Zeltouni**, Prof. of Modern Arabic Literature, LAU

Participants: **Prof. Khanjar Hamieh**: The "Great City" of Ameen Rihani
Prof. Darejan Gardavadze: Towards a Philosophical Approach to
the City of Beirut based on Ameen Rihani's
Innovation of The Great City

**Prof. Paul Jahshan: A Lebanese Flâneur in Early-Twentieth-Century
New York: Ameen Rihani and 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 Blond 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 in 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, or 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 to 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**.