

## SPEAKERS

JANANNE AL-ANI

Artist, London

MARILYN BOOTH

Departments of Comparative & World Literature  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

ZEYNEP CELIK

School of Architecture  
New Jersey Institute of Technology

RANDI DEGUILHEM

Institut de Recherche et d'Etudes sur le Monde Arabe et Musulman (IREMAM)  
Aix-en-Provence

JATEEN LAD

Architect, London

REINA LEWIS

School of Cultural & Innovation Studies  
University of East London

SHAUN E. MARMON

Department of Religion  
Princeton University

NANCY MICKLEWRIGHT

Getty Grant Program, Los Angeles

LESLIE PEIRCE

Departments of History and Near Eastern Studies  
UC Berkeley

KISHWAR RIZVI

Department of Art History  
Barnard College, Columbia University

IRVIN C. SCHICK

Researcher, MIT

HEGHNAR WATENPAUGH

Department of Architecture, MIT

## DISCUSSANTS

CAROLINE JONES

Department of Architecture, MIT

ERIKA NAGINSKI

Department of Architecture, MIT

EVERETT ROWSON

Department of Middle Eastern Studies, NYU

SUSAN SLYOMOVICS

Anthropology Program, MIT

CHRISTINE WALLEY

Anthropology Program, MIT

This two-day symposium offers an opportunity to debate the harem as an institution, an actual space, and a literary and artistic trope, and through these themes to critically review the spaces of women in Islamic cultures, both real and imagined and both in the past and present. Papers will deal with specific examples of historical (or contemporary?) harems, with legal and politicized debates about harems, and with representations of the Harem in art, literature, and present-day media in the east and west, with all associated theoretical and political implications.

Symposium organized by Nasser Rabbat, Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Architecture MIT

# HAREM IN HISTORY & IMAGINATION

a symposium sponsored by the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at MIT



**Friday May 7**

**5:30-7:45**

**Saturday May 8**

**9:30-1:15 & 2:30-6:00**

**MIT room 6-120**

## FRIDAY, MAY 7TH

### INTRODUCTION

5:30-5:40

#### Welcome

DEAN ADELE NAUDÉ SANTOS Department of Architecture, MIT

5:40-5:45

#### Introductory Remarks

NASSER RABBAT Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Architecture, MIT

### 1ST SESSION: REPRESENTING THE HAREM

5:45-6:15

#### "Scenes and Types"

JANANNE AL-ANI Artist, London

6:15-6:45

#### "Whose Harem? Harem Photographs from the Late Ottoman World"

NANCY MICKLEWRIGHT Getty Grant Program, Los Angeles

6:45-7:15

#### "The Harem and the Houseboat: Writing against Respectability in 1920s Egypt"

MARILYN BOOTH Dept. of Comparative & World Lit., Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

7:15-7:45

#### Discussant:

CAROLINE JONES Department of Architecture, MIT

## SATURDAY, MAY 8TH

### 2ND SESSION: POWER PLAYS

9:30-10:00

#### "Panoptic Bodies: Black Eunuchs in the Topkapi Palace"

JATEEN LAD Architect, London

10:00-10:30

#### "Transformative Thresholds and Gendered Harems in the Ottoman Sultanate"

LESLIE PEIRCE Depts. of History and Near Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley

10:30-11:00

#### "The Harem as Biography: Domestic Architecture, Gender and Nostalgia in Modern Syria"

HEGHNAR WATENPAUGH Department of Architecture, MIT

11:00-11:30

#### Discussant:

SUSAN SLYOMOVICS Anthropology Program, MIT

11:30-12:00

#### Coffee Break

### 3RD SESSION: HOUSES AND HAREMS

12:00-12:30

#### "Colonial Visions, Civilizing Missions, and the Algerian House"

ZEYNEP CELIK School of Architecture, New Jersey Institute of Technology

12:30-1:00

#### "Capture and Catharsis: A Woman's Space in Contemporary Pakistan"

KISHWAR RIZVI Department of Art History, Barnard College, Columbia University

1:00-1:15

#### Discussant:

CHRISTINE WALLEY Anthropology Program, MIT

1:15-2:30

#### Lunch

### 4TH SESSION: STRATEGIES OF IDENTITY

2:30-3:00

#### "Sons and Mothers: Lineage, Polemic and Filial Bonds among Fifteenth Century 'Ulama'"

SHAUN E. MARMON Department of Religion, Princeton University

3:00-3:30

#### "Education in the Harem: A Means of Individuation of the Person?"

RANDI DEGUILHEM IREMAM, Aix-en-Provence

3:30-3:45

#### Discussant:

EVERETT ROWSON Department of Middle Eastern Studies, NYU

3:45-4:00

#### Coffe Break

### 5TH SESSION: HAREM AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER

4:00-4:30

#### "Harem as Gendered Space and the Spatial Reproduction of Gender"

IRVIN C. SCHICK Researcher, MIT

4:30-5:00

#### "The Pull of the Harem: The Socializing Effects of Segregated Spatiality"

REINA LEWIS School of Cultural & Innovation Studies, University of East London

5:00-5:15

#### Discussant:

ERIKA NAGINSKI Department of Architecture, MIT

5:15-6:00

#### General Discussion and Closing Remarks

#### Moderator:

NASSER RABBAT Department of Architecture, MIT

6:00-7:00

#### Refreshments