UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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IISS Event: October 19th paper workshop with Dr. Sascha Crasnow

1 message

Elizabeth Rauh <erauh@umich.edu> Wed, Oct 10, 2018 at 12:13 AM
To: IISSgroup@umich.edu
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Bcc: islamophobiaworkinggroup@umich.edu

LSA ISLAMIC STUDIES PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The Interdisciplinary Islamic Studies Seminar (IISS) warmly invites you next Friday, October 19th for refreshments and a paper workshopping session with Dr. Sascha Crasnow:

Queer Liminality: Gender and Sexuality in Raafat Hattab's "Ho(u)ria"

Sascha Crasnow (Lecturer in Islamic Art, U-M Residential College)
Friday, October 19, 2018 | 12:30 PM-2:00 PM | Weiser Hall 447

Abstract: For LGBTQ individuals in Palestine, issues of gender and sexuality are inherently intertwined with their positions as individuals living under occupation. This is perhaps most notably visible through the eliding of Israel's human rights abuses against Palestinians by Brand Israel (the primary pro-Israel propaganda project) through a portrayal of Israel as the singular gay-friendly, culturally progressive Middle Eastern country—a practice that has been termed "pinkwashing." For Palestinians living within the state of Israel who identify as queer, they may feel caught between two societies into which they do not fit: Israeli society, where they are an outcast because of their Palestinianness, and Palestinian society, where they are an outcast because of their gender expression or sexuality. This leaves some individuals in a state of twofold liminality. In this paper, I utilize this notion of liminality as relates to the trans* experience discussed by Diane Dentice and Michelle Dietert to examine Ho(u)ria (2010), a video work by genderqueer Palestinian artist Raafat Hattab. Haatab's video alternates between three scenes: a mermaid (Hattab) on the beach, Hattab's aunt telling the story of her family's expulsion from their homes during the Nakba (Arabic for "catastrophe" referring to the formation of Israel and expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians), and Hattab getting a tattoo of Arabic calligraphy on his chest. While on the surface appearing disparate, these three scenes all speak to the intrinsically interwoven nature of liminality, the omission of certain voices from the nationalist struggle, and the persistent fight for liberation, as embodied by the work's title—houria, meaning mermaid, and horia, meaning freedom.

To RSVP for food and refreshments, receive a copy of Dr. Crasnow's paper draft, or for any questions, please contact IISS Coordinators by **Monday, October 15th**

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> Event calendar page: https://ii.umich.edu/ii/news-events/all-events.detail.html/56118-13832588.html

Hope to see you there!

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