

Archives of Memory and Forgetting in the Middle East
Spring 2022, Amy Fallas

Course Flow

Week 1: Introductions

We will also be answering the following questions: What is an archive? What is historical memory? What responsibility do colonial and postcolonial states have in what we remember?

Reading: Caroline Elkins, "Looking beyond Mau Mau: Archiving Violence in the Era of Decolonization," *American Historical Review* 120, no. 3 (2015), 852–868.

Week 2: What is a Silence? History and Erasure

Reading: Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*, (Boston: Beacon Press, 1995), selections.

Week 3: Archive Wars: The Struggle over Knowledge Production

Reading: Omnia El Shakry, "History without Documents," *American Historical Review* 120, no. 3 (2015), 920-934.

Rosie Bsheer, *Archive Wars: The Politics of History in Saudi Arabia*, (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2020), selections.

Week 4: You Have Not Yet Been Defeated: Despair and Hope in Modern Egypt

Reading: WHNYBD, excerpts

Photo Essays:– Karim el Hayawan, "Forgotten Rooms" (Photobook Egypt) and Heba Khalifa, "Homemade" (Photobook Egypt).

Week 5: Collective Memory and Social Justice

Reading: "Ten Years On Project: Roundtable on Archives, Revolution, Historical Thinking," *Jadaliyya*, selections from Sherene Seikaly, Pascale Ghazaleh, and others.

Week 6: Recollecting Intimacies: Love and Family

Watching: Aho da Elly Sar (episode TBD)

Reading: Sherene Seikaly, "The Matter of Time," *American Historical Review* 124, no. 5 (2019), 1681–1688.

Photo Essay: Amina Kadous, "Answers to my Grandfather," *Mada Masr*.

Week 7: Recollecting Intimacies, pt. 2: Nostalgia and Romanticizing the Past

Reading: Amy Malek, "Clickbait Orientalism and Vintage Iranian Snapshots," *International Journal of Cultural Studies* 2021, Vol. 24(2) 266–289.

Week 8: Reconstructing Forgotten Histories: Race and Religion

Reading: Massoud Hayoun, *When We Were Arabs: A Jewish Family's Forgotten History*, selections.

Photo essay: Nour el Refai, *The Nubians*

Week 9: Historic Preservation and Destruction

Reading: Sharif Abdel Kouddous, "City Limits of the Dead," *Mada Masr*

Yasmine El Rashidi, "Pharaonic Ambition in Ferro-Concrete," *New York Review*

Week 10: What have we gained in learning what we have lost?

Reading: Saidiya Hartman, *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate Histories of Social Upheaval*, (New York: W.W. Norton and Company), selections.

Lyz Lenz, "Writing in An Age of Despair"