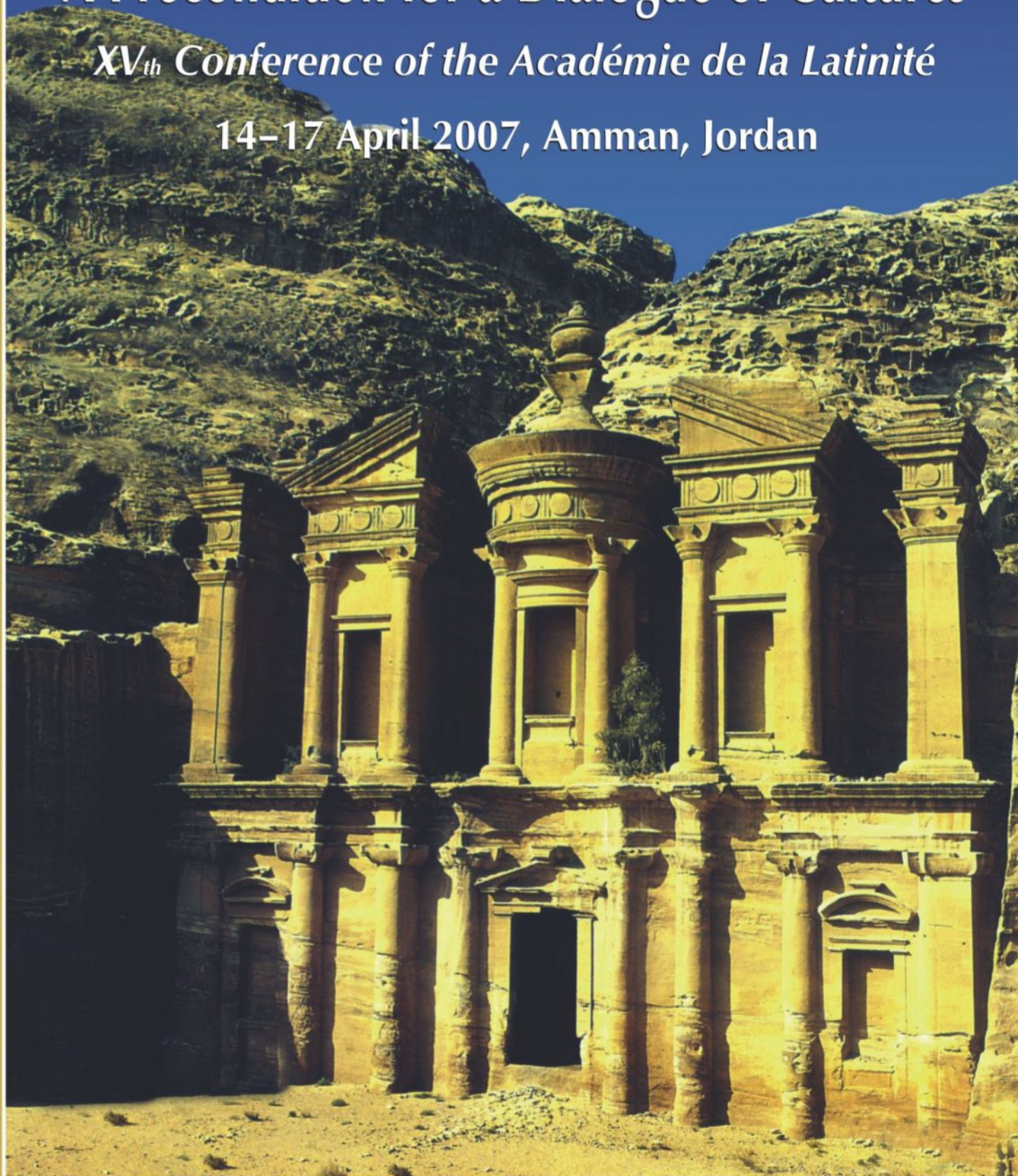


The 'Universal' in Human Rights: A Precondition for a Dialogue of Cultures

XVth Conference of the Académie de la Latinité

14–17 April 2007, Amman, Jordan

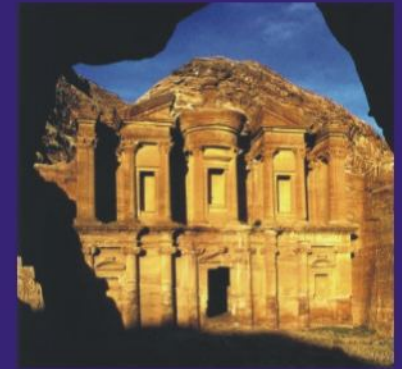


ACADÉMIE DE LA LATINITÉ

IN COLLABORATION WITH

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTER-FAITH STUDIES, AMMAN

XVth International Conference



The 'Universal' in Human Rights:

A Precondition for a Dialogue of Cultures

14–17 April 2007, Amman, Jordan

XVth Conference of the Académie de la Latinité

The Amman conference, in the continuous dialogue with the Islamic world, is focusing on a fundamental precondition for the meeting of cultures nowadays: the quest for difference in a universe on the verge of hegemony. The whole thematic of the threat to collective subjectivities emerges in the present global process exposed to virtuality, and the yielding of representation to the *simulacra* and reductionism of the imaginary and its social logic.

History as a consciousness-taking process faces a civilization of fear and anomic terrorisms, of no return. In such a context, where can a minimum understanding be raised for the humanism of our times, and an effective universal, for such a purpose? Human rights stand as the first necessary disclosure of a world veiled after September 11. How can we succeed in overcoming a stumbling *otherness*, if not by a common platform in the acknowledgement of the person? No other is the aim of Latinity, as the flexible West, *vis-à-vis* the stern hegemony, impermeable to a pluralistic and multicultural future.

Program

▶ Saturday, 14th April – 11:00 am – Opening Ceremony

- El Hassan bin Talal – *Chairman of the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies*
- Federico Mayor – *President of the Académie de la Latinité*
- Mario Soares – *Vice-President of the Académie de la Latinité*
- Bernardino León – *Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Spain*
- Enrique Iglesias – *Secretary-General of the Ibero-American Secretariat*
- Candido Mendes – *Secretary-General of the Académie de la Latinité*

▶ 1:00 pm – Lunch

▶ Saturday, 14th April – 3:00 pm – Introductory Session

- *Human Rights: The Last 'Universal'* – Alain Touraine
- *Human Rights and Political Manipulation in a Non-Democratic World Order* – Hassan Nafaa

▶ Saturday, 14th April – 4:00 pm – 1st Session – Human Rights and the Cultural Context

- *Human Rights and the Contemporaneity of Islam: A Matter of Dialogue?* – Aziz Al-Azmeh
- *The Dilemma of Islamic Rights Schemes* – Ebrahim Moosa
- *On the Nomadism of Certain Concepts* – François L'Yvonnet

▶ 5:30 p.m.: Coffee-Break

▶ Saturday, 14th April – 5:45 pm – 2nd Session – Human Rights and Historical Consensus

- *Secular Islam: Oxymoron or Open Challenge?* – Giuliana Turrone
- *Universality and Occidental Reason* – Helio Jaguaribe

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Program

▶ **Sunday, 15th April – 10:00 am – 3rd Session – Representation, Collective Will and Democracy**

- *The Universal as a Challenge to Globalization* – **Abdesselam Cheddadi**
- *The Many Faces of Cosmo-Polis: Border Thinking and Critical Cosmopolitanism* – **Walter D. Mignolo**

▶ **11:00 am – Coffee-Break**

- *Global Convergence* – **Cristovam Buarque**
- *The Russian Paradigm of Lacking Freedoms in the Context of the Global 'Inversion' of Human Rights* – **Madina Tlostanova**
- *Islam and Tolerance* – **Cesario Melantonio Neto**

▶ **1:00 pm – Lunch**

▶ **Sunday, 15th April – 3:00 pm – 4th Session – Citizenship and the Rule of Law**

- *Coptic Marginality* – **Alain Roussillon**
- *Metaphor or Catachresis: A Rhetorical Reading of Decolonization in Bolivia* – **Javier Sanjinés**
- *Islam, Embodied Morality and the Public Sphere in Syria* – **Paulo Hilu Pinto**

▶ **Sunday, 15th April – 5:00 pm – 5th Session – Multiculturalism and Hegemony**

- *Globalization, Hegemony and Sovereignty* – **Susan Buck-Morss**
- *The Multicultural Interdict* – **Gianni Vattimo**
- *Islam and Historical and Sociological Dialectics* – **Mohammed Arkoun**

▶ **Monday, 16th April – 10:00 am – 6th Session – The Simulacrum and the Universal**

- *No Religious Constraint: Mystical Islam and Freedom* – **Christian Jambet**
- *Islam and Terror: at the Origins of a Representation* – **Souâd Ayada**
- *Paradigm and Critical Conscience* – **Bernard Bosredon**

▶ **Monday, 16th April – 3:00 pm – 7th Session – Hegemony and the Civilization of Fear**

- *War of Shadows: Terror and Torture in the Global Age* – **Enrique Larreta**
- *Hegemony, Difference, and the Right to Rights* – **Candido Mendes**
- *Cosmopolitising Globalization: A World Without Surroundings* – **Daniel Innerarity**

▶ **Tuesday, 17th April – 10:00 am – Debate and Conclusions**

Participants

Abdesselam Cheddadi — Professor of Research of the Institut Universitaire de la Recherche Scientifique, Université Mohammed V, Rabat; associate member of CNRS; member of the Research Group for the Arab World (EHSS); member of the Société Internationale d'Histoire des Sciences et de la Philosophie Arabes et Islamiques; and member of the Association Marocaine de la Recherche Historique. Among his works, *Les Arabes et l'appropriation de l'histoire* (2004), *Actualité d'Ibn Khaldûn. Conférences et entretiens* (2006), and *Ibn Khaldûn. L'homme et le théoricien de la civilisation* (2006).

Alain Roussillon — Director of CEDEJ (Centre d'Etudes et de Documentation Economiques, Juridiques et Sociales); director of research of CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique); vice-president of AFEMAM (L'Association Française pour l'Etude du Monde Arabe et Musulman); member of the Publishing Committee of the magazine *Maghreb-Machrek*. Author of *Identité et modernité. Voyageurs égyptiens au Japon* (2005), *La pensée islamique contemporaine. Acteurs et enjeux* (2005), and *Etre femme en Egypte, au Maroc et en Jordanie* (2006).

Alain Touraine — Research director et the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHSS); Director of the Centre d'Analyse et d'Intervention Sociologiques (CADIS), Paris. Author of *Sociologie de l'action* (1965), *Production de la société* (1973), *La voix et le regard* (1978), *Le retour de l'acteur* (1984), *Critique de la modernité* (1992), *Qu'est-ce que la démocratie?* (1994), *Pourrons-nous vivre ensemble? Egaux et différents* (1997), *Comment sortir du libéralisme?* (1999), *La recherche de soi. Dialogue sur le sujet*, with Farhad Khosrokhavar (2000), *Un nouveau paradigme pour comprendre le monde d'aujourd'hui* (2005) and *Un débat sur la laïcité*, with Alain Renaut (2005).

Aziz Al-Azmeh — Professor of the Department of Medieval Studies, School of History and Interdisciplinary Historical Studies, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary. He has written about the Arab and Islamic societies and cultures. His edited works include a volume on Islamic law and anthologies of the works of Ahmad Faris al-Shidyayq, Ibn Taimiyya, Al-Mawardi, Muhammad Ibn 'Abd al-Wahhab, and Ibn Khaldûn. Author of *Islams and Modernities* (1993), *Arabic Thought and Islamic Societies* (1986), *Ibn Khaldun: An Essay in Reinterpretation* (1990), *Muslim Kingship: Power and the Sacred in Muslim, Christian, and Pagan Politics* (2000), and *Postmodern Obscurantism* (2004).

Bernard Bosredon — Linguist, president of Sorbonne Nouvelle (Paris III); member of the Board of the Paris Universit  Association; former 2nd president of CPU (French Universities Conference), Foreign Relations Commission; president of the Higher Education and Research Commission of HCCI (*Haut Conseil de la Coop ration Internationale*); former president of the *Association des Sciences du Langage*; president of the Strategic Committee for Research and Development (IRD — *Institut pour la recherche et le d veloppement*). He wrote and published specialized papers and books in the language sciences. Main interests are: semantics, semantics of discourse, and research on reference, naming and image/text relations: *Le Franais   l' cole* (1998); *Les Titres de tableaux: une pragmatique de l'identification* (1997); *Le Th me* (with M. Galmiche), *L'Information grammaticale* (1992).

Bernardino Le n — Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Spain.

Candido Mendes — Rector of Candido Mendes University; president of the Rio de Janeiro Forum of Rectors, and secretary-general of the Academy of Latinity. Also secretary-general of the Brazilian Justice and Peace Commission; president of the International Social Sciences Council; member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters. Jurist, sociologist, philosopher, political science researcher. Some of his works are: *Nacionalismo e Desenvolvimento* (1963); *Justice, faim de l'Eglise* (1972); *A Democracia Desperdiada* (1992), *Collor — Anos-Luz, Ano-Zero* (1994), *A Presid ncia Afortunada* (1999), *O Pa s da Pac ncia* (2000), *Lula: a Op o mais que o Voto* (2002), *Lula: une gauche qui s' veille* (2004), *Lula: entre a Impaci ncia e a Esperana* (2004) and *Lula Depois de Lula* (2005).

Cesario Melantonio Neto — Brazilian Ambassador in Ankara.

Christian Jambet — Professor of Philosophy in Paris and has translated numerous works of major Islamic philosophers and poets. Author of *La logique des Orientaux: Henry Corbin et la science des formes* (1983), *La grande r surrection d'Alam t: Les formes de la libert  dans le sh isme isma lien* (1990), *Qu'est-ce que le sh isme?* with Mohammad-Ali Amir-Moezzi (2004), *The Act of Being: The Philosophy of Revelation in Mulla Sadra* (2006), and *La Conf rence de Ratisbonne. Enjeux et controverses* (2007).

Cristovam Buarque — Professor of University of Brasilia. Former Federal District governor; former minister of Education in President Lula's government; current senator for the Labor Democratic Party (PDT); and member of the UNESCO Education Institute. He published 21 books and participated as co-author of several others, among which are *A Desordem do Progresso — O Fim da Era dos Economistas e a Constru o do Futuro* (1990), *A Revolu o nas Prioridades* (1994), *A Segunda Aboli o* (1999), *Os Inrangeiros* (2002), and *O Bero da Desigualdade*, with Sebastiao Salgado (2005).

Daniel Innerarity — Professor of Philosophy, University of Zaragoza; guest lecturer at the Institut of Political Studies, University of Bordeaux IV. Author of books and articles (some of which have been translated from Spanish - and published - into other languages) such as: * tica de la hospitalidad* (2001), *La transformaci n de la pol tica* (2002), *La sociedad invisible* (2004), and *El nuevo espacio p blico* (2006).

Ebrahim Moosa — Associate professor of Islamic Studies, Department of Religion, and director of the Center for the Study of Muslim Networks, Duke University. Currently directing a Ford Foundation-funded project titled 'Mapping Knowledge, Shaping Muslim Ethics', at the Center for the Study of Muslim Networks, which he directs. Author of *Chazali and the Poetics of Imagination* (2005) and editor of the last manuscript of Professor Fazlur Rahman's *Revival and Reform in Islam: A Study of Islamic Fundamentalism* (2000).

El Hassan bin Talal — Chairman and Patron of the Royal Institute for inter-Faith Studies, a founding member of the Parliament of Cultures, President of the Club of Rome and President Emeritus of the World Conference on Religion and Peace. His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal is a pluralist, believing in consensus and respect for the other in societies in which all peoples can live, work and function in freedom and with dignity. This goal has been the moving force behind his interest and involvement in humanitarian and interfaith issues, with particular stress on the human dimension of conflicts. His Royal Highness has initiated, founded and is actively involved in a number of Jordanian and international institutes and committees. Prince El Hassan is the author of seven books: *A Study on Jerusalem* (1979); *Palestinian Self-Determination* (1981); *Search for Peace* (1984); *Christianity in the Arab World* (1994); *Essere Musulmano* – co-author (2001); *Continuity, Innovation and Change: Selected Essays* (2001) and *In Memory of Faisal I: The Iraqi Question* (2003).

Enrique Iglesias — Secretario General de la Secretar a General Iberoamericana. Expresidente del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID). Ha escrito numerosos art culos y textos sobre temas econ micos de Uruguay y Am rica Latina, mercados de capital, financiamiento externo y multilateralismo.

Enrique Larreta — Director of the Cultural Pluralism Institute, Candido Mendes University. He published *Gold is Illusion* (2003), *Gilberto Freyre e a Sociologia Cr tica* (2001), *Collective Imagination Limits and Beyond* (2001), *Identity and Difference in the Global Era* (2002), *Reality / Simulacra / Artificial Ontologies of Postmodernity* (2006), and *Subjectivity at the Threshold of the Digital Culture: the Self in Network* (2007).

Participants

Federico Mayor — President of the Academy of Latinity; director-general of UNESCO (1987-1999); co-chair of the High Level Group of the Alliance of Civilizations, appointed by the UN Secretary General (2005-2006); member of the Honorary Board of the International Coalition for the Decade — for the Culture of Peace and Nonviolence. He published four books of poetry: *A contraviento* (1985), *Aguafuertes* (1991), *El fuego y la esperanza* (1996) and *Terral* (1997), and several collections of essays: *Tomorrow is Always Late* (1987), *The New Page* (1994), *Memory of the Future* (1994), *La Paix Demain?* (1995), *Science and Power* (1995) and *UNESCO: un idéal en acción* (1996), *The World Ahead: Our Future Making* (1999), and *Los nudos gordianos* (1999).

François L'Yvonnet — Professor of Philosophy in Paris. Dedicated his work *Cahier de l'Herne* to Jean Baudrillard (2005) and published at the Albin Michel publishing house the following books: *D'un fragment l'autre* (with Jean Baudrillard, 2001); *L'avenir de l'Esprit* (with Thierry Gaudin, 2001); *Le Défi de la différence* (with Candido Mendes); and *Simone Weil, le Grand passage*, ed. (2006).

Gianni Vattimo — Professor of Aesthetic and Theoretical Philosophy, Torino University; vice-president of the Academy of Latinity; deputy of the Group of European Socialists - European Parliament; and member of scientific committees of a number of Italian and foreign magazines. Author of the following works, among others: *Crede di Crede* (1996), *Nichilismo ed Emancipazione: Etica, Politica Diritto* (2003), and *Il futuro della religione. Carità, ironia, solidarietà* (2005).

Giuliana Turrone — Researcher at the Faculty of Political Sciences of Turin (Italy). Her research field comprises classic and contemporary Arab-Muslim thought, as well as relations between religion and politics of the contemporary societies. She published *Il mondo della storia secondo Ibn Khaldun* (2002) and directed *Islam laico: un paradosso possibile* (2007).

Hasan Abu Nimah — Ambassador Hasan Abu Nimah is currently the Director of the Royal Institute for inter-Faith Studies in Amman, Jordan. Born in Batir, Palestine, in 1935. Most recently He served as the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations (1995-2000), Mr Abu Nimah began his diplomatic career in 1965 and served as ambassador in Belgium, The Netherlands, The European Community, Luxembourg, Portugal, Italy and San Marino. He was a member of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks between Jordan and Israel, which took place in Washington, DC. Mr Abu Nimah has regularly contributed articles and commentary in both English and Arabic to a number of local and international newspapers, he also lectures on international relations, diplomatic practice and international law at the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy in Amman.

Hassan Nafaa — He is currently the Secretariat General of Arab Thought Forum. His last previous position was Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science at Cairo University (Egypt). He earned his Ph.D in Political Science from the University of Paris I (Sorbonne), holds an M.A. degree from the same University (Sorbonne) and a Diploma in International Relations from l'Institut d'Études Politique de Paris. He has published extensively on Middle East Politics as well as on International Organizations. Among his recent books are: *The European Union: an Arab Perspective*, *The Reform of the United Nations*, *The United Nations in Fifty Years*. He is a regular contributor to several Egyptian and Arab newspaper such as: *Ahram Weekly*, *Almasry Alyoum* and *Alhayat*.

Helio Jaguaribe — Political sciences researcher; Dean of the Brazilian Institute for Political and Social Studies; member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters; former minister of Science and Technology of Brazil. Author of *Political Development* (1968), *O Nacionalismo na Atualidade Brasileira* (1959), *Um Estudo Crítico da História* (2001) and *Brasil: Alternativas e Saídas* (2002).

Javier Sanjinés — Associate professor of the Department of Romance Languages & Literatures, University of Michigan, and visiting professor of cultural studies to the *Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar*, Quito, Ecuador. He published *Estética y Carnaval. Ensayos de Sociología de la Cultura* (1984), *Literatura contemporánea y grotesco social en Bolivia* (1992), and *Mestizaje Upside Down: Aesthetic Politics in Modern Bolivia* (2004).

Madina Tlostanova — Full-time professor of the Department of Theory and History of Culture, Peoples' Friendship, University of Russia. Her scholarly interests include the globalization effect on contemporary culture; post-national and transcultural subjectivity and aesthetics, the post-Soviet cultural imaginary. She published *The Multicultural Debate and American Fiction of the Late 20th Century* (2000, in Russian), *A Janus Faced Empire: Notes on the Russian Empire in Modernity Written from the Border* (2003) *Living Never, Writing from Nowhere: Post-Soviet Fiction and the Aesthetics of Transculturation* (2004, in Russian), and *The Sublime of Globalization? Sketches on Transcultural Subjectivity and Aesthetics* (2005)

Mario Soares — Former minister of Foreign Affairs, prime minister and president of Portugal. He was deputy to the European Parliament; vice-president of the Academy of Latinity. Currently, dedicated his work to the Mario Soares Foundation and to interventions at several congresses and debates. Author of the following, among others, *Portugal Amordaçado* (1972), *Democratização e Descolonização* (1975) and *Resposta Socialista para o Mundo em Crise* (1983).

Mohammed Arkoun — Emeritus professor of the History of the Islamic Thought, Sorbonne (Paris III), and visiting professor to several universities in the United States, Europe and the Muslim world. Associated with several European projects to rethink and reshape the relationship between Europe, Islam, and the Mediterranean world. Author of numerous publications, including *The Unthought in Contemporary Islamic Thought* (2002), *De Manhattan à Bagdad: Au-delà du Bien et du Mal* (2003), *Humanisme et Islam. Combats et propositions* (2006), and *L'Islam et les musulmans en France du Moyen Âge à nos jours* (2006).

Paulo Hilu Pinto — Professor of Anthropology and director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (NEOM), Fluminense Federal University (UFF), Brazil. Author of numerous articles and papers on Islamic philosophy; author of *Práticas Acadêmicas e o Ensino Universitário: uma Etnografia das Formas de Consagração e Transmissão do Saber na Universidade* (1999).

Souâd Ayada — Philosophy Professor. Graduated in Western and Islamic Cultures, her research work has taken two main paths: the study of the systems of thought, originated from Islamic philosophy, and the history of Islamic perception within European thought, mainly after the end of the 18th century. In 2002, she published a presentation of the greatest Islamic philosopher, Avicenne (*Avicenne*, 2002). Collaborator of the magazine *Esprit* (please see her last article 'L'Islam: de la religion politique à la religion esthétique', March/April, 2007).

Susan Buck-Morss — Professor of Political Philosophy and Social Theory, Department of Government, Cornell University. Her books include *Thinking Past Terror: Islamism and Critical Theory on the Left* (2003); *Dreamworld and Catastrophe: The Passing of Mass Utopia in East and West* (2000); *The Dialectics of Seeing: Walter Benjamin and the Arcades Project* (1989); and *The Origin of Negative Dialectics: Theodor W. Adorno, Walter Benjamin, and the Critical Theory of the Frankfurt School* (1977 and 2002).

Walter D. Mignolo — Professor of Literature and Romance Studies and Cultural Anthropology. Director of the Center for Global Studies and Humanities, Cornell University. His current research focuses on global coloniality and the history of capitalism. Author of *The Darker Side of the Renaissance: Literacy, Territoriality and Colonization* (1995), *Local Histories/Global Designs: Coloniality, Subaltern Knowledges and Border Thinking* (2004), and *The Idea of Latin America* (2005).



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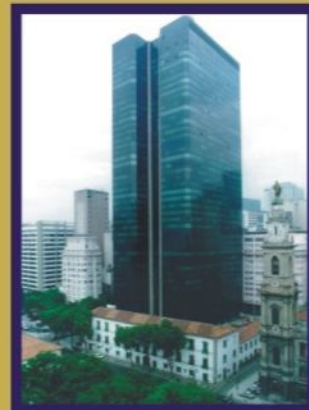
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