



The AILC-ICLA Annual Lecture La Conférence annuelle de l'AILC-ICLA

ICLA Arabic Comparative Literature Standing Research Committee
Invites You to Attend AILC-ICLA Annual Lecture 2026 by

Nouri Gana

Professor of Comparative Literature & Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA)

"Mahmoud Darwish and the Predicament of National Allegory"

In *Fi ḥadrat al-ghiyāb* (*In the Presence of Absence*, 2006), Darwish asks: "What does it mean for the Palestinian to be a poet and what does it mean for the poet to be Palestinian?"

This talk takes its cue from this question to reflect on the evolution of Darwish's entanglement with the question of Palestine. While Darwish has often been read through the lens of national allegory, Professor Gana contends that such readings are not merely imposed from without but correspond to a pressure internal to his poetic practice—one that he both inhabits and resists across his oeuvre.



Designed by Lobna Ismail



Thursday
20 August 2026

Event Type

Lecture

Starts

17:00 UTC

Ends

19:00 UTC

Attendance Mode

Online

Chair: Lobna Ismail

To attend the lecture,
please register here:
<https://AILCICLAannuallecture2026.eventbrite.fr>

Press for event details
AILC-ICLA website.

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In addition to *Melancholy Acts: Defeat and Cultural Critique in the Arab World* (Fordham UP, 2023), Professor Gana's most recent book, he is the author of *Signifying Loss: Toward a Poetics of Narrative Mourning* (Bucknell UP, 2011 & paperback 2015), and the editor of *The Making of the Tunisian Revolution: Contexts, Architects, Prospects* (Edinburgh UP, 2013) as well as *The Edinburgh Companion to the Arab Novel in English* (Edinburgh UP, 2013 & paperback 2015). *Mahmoud Darwish and the Predicament of National Allegory* is also the title of his current book project under contract with Cambridge University Press.

If you would like to participate in the post-lecture discussion with an **intervention** (not more than 5 minutes), please, email the chair of the lecture, **Dr Lobna Ismail** at lillyismail@yahoo.co.uk to coordinate your time slot.

Registration for attendance is free

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Check your time zone and get ready for a rich ICLA lecture.



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