

Northwestern | QATAR

Institute for Advanced Study in the Global South

An aerial night photograph of a densely populated city, likely Beirut, Lebanon, showing a vast expanse of illuminated buildings and streets. The city is situated on a hillside, with the lights reflecting on the water in the foreground. The sky is dark with some clouds.

SHAMS Launch

May 14, 2025

Gefinor Rotana, Beirut, Lebanon

Vision

The Society for Humanistic Arab Media Studies (SHAMS) is established as a scholarly association dedicated to fostering a rigorous, multidisciplinary, humanistic research on Arab media in its socio-cultural and politico-economic contexts. SHAMS embraces humanistic perspectives, which includes but are not limited to theories and methods from literature, history, rhetoric, philosophy, religious studies, film, art theory and criticism, political theory, cultural anthropology and sociology, history of science and technology, and more recent interdisciplinary formations like media studies, cultural studies, postcolonial and decolonial studies, race and ethnicity studies, environmental humanities, digital humanities and related field, established and emergent. SHAMS seeks to entrench these interpretive and critical traditions in scholarship, education, and public discourse in Arabic, English, and French.

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10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	<div>Opening Remarks</div> <div>Marwan M. Kraidy, Northwestern University in Qatar</div>
10:15 – 11:45 a.m.	<div>Panel 1: Humanistic Methods in Arab Media Studies</div> <div><div>Performance Studies</div><div>Leila Tayeb, Northwestern University in Qatar</div><div>History and Memory</div><div>Omar Al-Ghazzi, London School of Economics and Political Science</div><div>Digital Hermeneutics</div><div>Marwan M. Kraidy, Northwestern University in Qatar</div><div>Feminist Arab Media Studies</div><div>Sara Mourad, American University of Beirut</div><div>Infrastructure Studies</div><div>Hatim El-Hibri, George Mason University</div><div>Q&A</div></div>
11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<div>Lunch</div>
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.	<div>Panel 2: Humanistic Themes in Arab Media Studies</div> <div><div>Digital Feminist Archives</div><div>Mariam Karim, Northwestern University in Qatar</div><div>Critical Criminology</div><div>Chafic Najem, Northwestern University in Qatar</div><div>Social Media</div><div>Nermin Elsherif, Utrecht University</div><div>Transnationalism</div><div>Ada Petiwala, American University of Beirut</div><div>Q&A</div></div>
2:30 – 3:00 p.m.	<div>Break</div>
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	<div>SHAMS Launch and Constitutive Assembly</div> <div><div>Discussion of By-Laws</div><div>Election of Founding Officers</div></div>
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	<div>Reception</div>