

CALL FOR PAPERS

HUMAN ARCHITECTURE:

Journal of the Sociology of Self-Knowledge

Special Issue, Volume VII, 2009

DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2009

THEME:

“If I touch the depths of your heart”:

Mahmoud Darwish and the Human Promise of Poetry in Comparative Perspective

Mahmoud Darwish (1941-2008), one of the greatest contemporary Arab poets, was widely known and revered throughout the world. Born in Palestine in 1941, his family fled in 1948 when Israeli forces attacked his village. He lived in Israel and Lebanon, studied in Moscow and worked in Paris as editor in chief of the literary journal *Al-Karmel*. He published more than thirty volumes of poetry and eight books of prose and was regarded as Palestine’s Poet Laureate.

“I thought poetry could change everything, could change history and could humanize,” Darwish said in an interview with *The Progressive* in 2002, “and I think that the illusion is very necessary to push poets to be involved and to believe... but now I think that poetry changes only the poet” (<http://www.progressive.org/node/1575>; article by Nathalie Handal). Yet, it is not difficult to find millions around the world who have been deeply touched by the power and promise of his poetry. *Common Ground News* featured a mourning for Darwish on August 14, 2008, where his words, “I had enough yesterdays; what I need is a tomorrow” are remembered. Recalled also are the following words expressed by Darwish during his last performance in July 2008 in Ramallah, words that convey the depth of Darwish’s heart and the sociological imagination inspiring his poetry:

As you prepare your breakfast – think of others. Don’t forget to feed the pigeons. As you conduct your wars – think of others. Don’t forget those who want peace. As you pay your water bill – think of others. Think of those who only have clouds to drink from. As you go home, your own home – think of others – don’t forget those who live in tents. As you sleep and count the planets, think of others – there are people who have no place to sleep. As you liberate yourself with metaphors think of others – those who have lost their right to speak. And as you think of distant others – think of yourself and say “I wish I were a candle in the darkness.”

(<http://www.commongroundnews.org/article.php?id=23736&lan=en&sid=0&sp=0>; translated and included in an article by Ibtisam Barakat)

A special issue of the upcoming volume VII (2009) of *Human Architecture: Journal of the Sociology of Self-Knowledge* will be dedicated to the theme “If I touch the depths of your heart”: Mahmoud Darwish and the Human Promise of Poetry in Comparative Perspective.” The editor and guest co-editors of the special journal issue invite those interested to submit full-length papers or shorter term essays, commentaries, and pieces of writing, including original prose or poetry, for peer review by the editors. Preference will be given to those submissions that

rigorously and imaginatively explore the role poetry and creative writing does and can play in favor of personally and globally transformative outcomes in favor of a just global society. Of particular interest will be studies of Darwish's transformative poetry and writing in comparative perspective, i.e., in relation to other regional and world-historical instances where poets and poetry have contributed to the human promise of hope and change.

Those interested should submit their complete and final papers and essays by **Wednesday, April 1, 2009**. Do not send any abstracts or proposals earlier, as consideration will be given only to final and complete papers and writings submitted by the above deadline. Inquiries regarding submissions may be made to the journal editor prior to the submission deadline. Submissions can adopt a variety of styles depending on content, including original prose or poetry, and papers of flexible length (such as 5 page commentaries, 10-15 page essays and writings, or 20-30 page full-length papers). Obtaining copyright permissions for any quotations or passages used is the responsibility of the author(s) and must be obtained by the time of submission.

Submissions should be complete and final, fully proofread with accurate bibliographic information, and ready for publication consideration since scheduling constraints will not allow time for a revision/resubmission step. Each submission should include a 100-200 word concisely written abstract and a 50-100 word bio of the author(s) including institutional affiliation, background and publications. Submissions must be sent to the editor, mohammad.tamdgidi@umb.edu as attached Microsoft Word files (please save file as Rich Text Format, or RTF). Contributors will receive a complimentary copy of the issue in which their papers appear.

Human Architecture is a core sociology journal published in both hard copy and freely online, and is regularly compiled in Illumina's Sociological Abstracts, Ebsco's SocINDEX with Full-Text, and ProQuest's Social Science Journals full-text database. For further information about the journal, its perspective, and previous online issues, please visit <http://www.okcir.com> and/or contact the journal editor, mohammad.tamdgidi@umb.edu.

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