Marilyn Booth: EWIC Online Editor



Marilyn Booth holds the Iraq Chair in Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Edinburgh, where she is head of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies and Director of the Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World (CASAW). She was Associate Professor, Program in Comparative and World Literature, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2004-2008, and Director of the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. She had taught previously at Brown University and American University in Cairo. She earned her DPhil at University of Oxford (St Antony's College). She is on the editorial board of the Journal of Middle East Women's Studies and served as Book Review Editor for the Journal of Women's History, 2004-10. She is a Trustee, British Council for Research in the Levant and has been on the Board of MESA as well as other organizations. She is a panel member on the UK Research Excellence Framework 2014, has served as a Mentor for the British Centre for Literary Translation, is an Advisory Board Member, American University in Cairo Center for Translation Studies, and has served on the judging committee for several translation prizes as well as the Albert Hourani Book Prize (twice). She has held postdoctoral research fellowships from Mellon, Fulbright, American Research Center in Egypt, NEH, and ACLS as well as the Joanna Randall-McIver Junior Research Fellowship at Oxford (St. Hugh's College, 1983-85). She is an active literary translator, having published 13 translations of novels, short story collections and memoir, some of which have been prize-winning. She is currently writing two books, a monograph on Zaynab Fawwaz (c1850-1914) as a multifaceted commentator on the politics of gender and nation in late-nineteenth-century Egypt, and a monograph on autobiographical practices amongst Arab women, 1880s-1930s.

Booth's areas of research interest include early feminisms and nationalist/Islamic discourses in the Arab world, Iran, and Turkey; the emergence of Arabic fiction in the 19th century and its relation to gender activisms as well as, more generally, feminisms and Arabic fiction; auto/biography in the Middle East/North Africa; literature and politics of Arabic colloquials;

literary translation—theory and practice; the history of Arabic periodicals, especially the satirical press and the women's press; visual and written caricature in Arabic periodicals; and book and publishing history, the formation of readerships and discourses on reading. Avocations include spinning (and cleaning fleeces), knitting, cycling, walking and reading.

Selected research publications:

Harem Histories: Envisioning Places and Living Spaces. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2010. (editor and contributor)

May Her Likes Be Multiplied: Biography and Gender Politics in Egypt. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2001.

Bayram al-Tunisi's Egypt: Social Criticism and Narrative Strategies. Exeter: Ithaca Press (St. Antony's Middle East Monographs no. 22), 1990.

Islamic Politics, Street Literature and John Stuart Mill: Composing gendered ideals in 1990s Egypt. Feminist Studies, 2013.

Before Qasim Amin: Writing histories of gender politics in 1890s Egypt. In The Long 1890s in Egypt: Colonial Quiescence, Subterranean Resistance, edited by Marilyn Booth and Anthony Gorman (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, forthcoming 2013).

Locating women's autobiographical writing in colonial Egypt. Women's Autobiography in South Asia and the Middle East: Defining a Genre. Special Issue of the Journal of Women's History, ed. Marilyn Booth, 2013.

House as novel, novel as house: The global, the intimate, and the terrifying in contemporary Egyptian literature. Journal of Postcolonial Writing 47: 4 (Sept. 2011): 377-90.

Constructions of Syrian Identity in the Women's Press in Egypt. In The Origins of Syrian Nationhood: Histories, pioneers and identity, edited by Adel Beshara. London: Routledge, 2011. Pp. 223-52.

The Muslim Woman as celebrity author and the politics of translating Arabic: Girls of Riyadh go on the road. Journal of Middle East Women's Studies 6:3 (Fall 2010): 149-82.

Between the Harem and the Houseboat: Fallenness, Gendered Spaces and the Female National Subject in 1920s Egypt. In Harem Histories: Envisioning Places and Living Spaces, edited by Marilyn Booth. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2010. Pp. 342-73.

'A'isha 'Ismat bint Isma'il Taymur. Essays in Arabic Literary Biography 1850-1950, edited by Roger Allen. Weisbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2010. Pp. 366-76.

Zaynab Fawwaz al-'Amili. Essays in Arabic Literary Biography 1850-1950, edited by Roger Allen. Weisbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2010. Pp. 93-98.

Translator v. author (2007): Girls of Riyadh go to New York. Translation Studies 1:2 (July 2008): 197-211.

Exploding into the Seventies: Ahmad Fu'ad Nigm, Shaykh Imam, and the Aesthetics of a New Youth Politics. Cairo Papers in Social Science. Special Issue: Political and Social Protest in Egypt. 29: 2/3 (Summer/Fall 2006; published Cairo, 2009): 19-44.

From the Horse's Rump and the Whorehouse Keyhole: Ventriloquized Memoirs as Political Voice in 1920s Egypt. Maghreb Review 32:2-3 (2007): 233-61.

Un/safe/ly at Home: Narratives of Sexual Coercion in 1920s Egypt. Gender and History 16:3 (November 2004): 744-68. Violence, Vulnerability and Embodiment, ed. Shani D'Cruze and Anupama Rao. Volume also published as Violence, Vulnerability and Embodiment: Gender and History (London: Blackwell, 2005).

Middle East Women's and Gender History: State of a Field. Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History (e-journal) 4:1 (2003). http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/cch New Directions in Women's History.

'She Herself was the Ultimate Rule': Arab Women's Biographies of their Missionary Teachers, Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations 13:4 (October 2002): 427-48. Missionary Transformations, ed. Eleanor Doumato.