



RELIGION AND IDEAS ROUNDTABLE

MODERN THINKING IN ISLAM SERIES 2019



SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES
& COMMUNICATION ARTS

Religion and Society Research Cluster,
School of Social Sciences & Psychology,

By Dr Milad Milani (WSU)
& Dr Vassilis Adrahtas (Macquarie)

Presenter: Dr Lucia Sorbera

TITLE

*Beyond the Modernity – Tradition
Binary: For a Women’s Intellectual
History of Islam*

ACADEMIC PROFILE

Lucia Sorbera is Senior Lecturer and Chair of Arabic Language and Cultures at the University of Sydney, where she is also a Fellow researcher in the Laureate program in International History. Her research focuses on the study of narratives and political agency in the context of Egyptian feminism. She has published on Arab women’s autobiography and political leadership, as well as contemporary Iraqi cinema. She is the co-author of *Modernita Arabe: Nazione, narrazione e nuovi soggetti nel romanzo egiziano* (2013).

ABSTRACT

The idea of modernity is generally associated with notions of progress and individual freedom that developed in Europe beginning in the 14th century, with an acceleration everywhere due to

geographical discoveries and industrialisation. Postcolonial scholarship has challenged this Eurocentric narrative, suggesting that modernity is the product of trans-cultural contacts and exchanges and, can’t be understood in the singular. More recently, decolonial scholars have pushed this argument further, arguing that modernity is not just ‘multiple’ but also intrinsically linked to colonialism and Western domination over what became the Global South. In this seminar I will illustrate a selection of texts produced by Arab and Muslim feminist intellectuals who over the 20th and 21st centuries challenged the episteme of modernity by fashioning an indigenous episteme of freedom.

LOCATION AND TIME

Western Sydney University
Parramatta South Campus, The Female
Orphan School, PS-EZ.1.57 (Geoffrey
Roberson Boardroom)
Friday 6 September, 10.00am – 12.00pm

