

The Netherlands Institute for Academic Studies in Damascus (NIASD)
has the pleasure to invite you to the lecture

"When will you finally forget that I am a woman?"
Zenobia in Literary History

by dr. Robbert A.F.L. Woltering

Historical sources present us with two Zenobia's of Palmyra. In the Latin sources she is the leader of a great rebellion against the Roman Empire. That is the most commonly known version. There is however a second historiography of Zenobia. This Arab version presents us with an entirely different tale, in which Zenobia struggles in the context of Arab tribal warfare. The lecture will briefly discuss these two versions, and will subsequently focus on the reception of Zenobia in contemporary Arab literature. The key question will be which version of history was adopted by modern Arab authors, and why. This will involve a close reading that will bring ideology, (anti)colonialism and gender-equality to the surface.



On Thursday, December 16th, 2010, at 7:00 pm, at the NIASD



Dr. Robbert Woltering (Alkmaar, 1977) is Assistant Professor in the department of Arabic Language and Culture at the University of Amsterdam. Among other topics, he lectures in Arab cultural history, Arabic literature and the study of Orientalism/Occidentalism. In 2003, Woltering obtained his MA cum laude in Arabic & Islamic Studies and an MSc. in Political Science. Subsequently he wrote his PhD on contemporary images of “the West” among Egyptian intellectuals and in the Egyptian media. The trade edition of his PhD-thesis will be published later this year by IB Tauris. His current research involves the reception of third-century Arab queen Zenobia in modern Arab literature.

Language: English – with Arabic translation
Location: Bldg 85, Al Farabi St., East Mezzeh, Damascus.
Time: 19H00
Information: Telephone: 6117622, Email: assistant1@ni-damascus.org