Visibility and Visuality: Reframing Gender in the Middle East, North Africa, and Their Diasporas

Edited by Andrew Mazzaschi

In conjunction with the Fertile Crescent: Gender, Art, and Society project initiated by the Rutgers Institute for Women and Art, Signs presents a special virtual issue addressing the complexity of women’s lives, livelihoods, and circumstances in North Africa, the Middle East, and their diasporas. Drawn from essays published in the journal over the past two decades, this wide-ranging, interdisciplinary collection explores political engagement and protest; sexuality, marriage, and family life; Islamicization and secularism; the politics of resistance in public and private spheres; cultural production and translation; migration and diaspora; labor and class within and across nations; agency and identity; and conflict and postconflict situations. As a compendium of sophisticated feminist scholarship on the Middle East, North Africa, and their diasporas, the issue is a vital teaching tool and scholarly resource.

To view full-sized images in a lightbox, click on the image. Full artwork accompanied by artist statements and biographies is available for all participating artists by clicking the artists’ names. All work is copyrighted and may not be reproduced without permission.

Cultural Production and Translation

- Amal Amir, “Framing Nawal El-Saadawi: Arab Feminism in a Transnational World,” Signs
Migration and Mobility

- Beth Kangas, “Complicating Common Ideas about Medical Tourism: Gender, Class, and Globality in Yemenis’ International Medical Travel,” Signs 36, no. 2 (2011)

Islam and Secularism

- Valentine Moghadam, “Islamic Feminism and Its Discontents: Toward a Resolution of the
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Debate,” Signs 27, no. 4 (2002)

Political Engagement, Citizenship, and the State

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