

# THE PLACE OF ISLAM IN CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN LITERATURE

A symposium at McKenna Hall  
16-17 November 2009

KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
**AZOUZ BEGAG**

French Minister for Equal Opportunities (2005),  
Chevalier de L'Ordre National du Mérite, Chevalier de La Légion d'Honneur

The purpose of the symposium is to enrich our understanding of how Muslim and Muslim-born writers in Europe address the place of Islam in their work. What role does it have in the process of writing? Where is it placed geographically, culturally, and in memory? What are its generational dimensions? How large is its role as a shaping force in literature, and what power does this literature have?

16 November, Monday

**09:00** Keynote address, **Azouz Begag**

*"Writing as Children of Illiterate Migrant Workers in Western Europe: The Making of Individuality and Integration."*

**10:00** Islam and the Process of Writing

**13:30** Islam and Geography, Memory, Exile (Francophone)

17 November, Tuesday

**09:00** Islam and the Literature of Generational Identity

**13:30** Islam and Discussions of Literature and Power

**15:00** Closing Roundtable Discussion



Featuring a Special Film Presentation of

*Le Grand Voyage* (2004)

Introduced by the director, Ismaël Ferroukhi

**16 November, Monday at 20:30 pm**

**Eck Visitors' Center Auditorium**

Sponsored by

The Nanovic Institute for European Studies  
The Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies  
The Kellogg Institute for International Studies  
The Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts,  
College of Arts and Letters, University of Notre Dame

**Salim Bachi**, novelist, author  
*Le Chien d'Ulysse* (2001)

**Azouz Begag**, sociologist, statesman, author  
*Le Gone du Chaâba* (1986)

**Ismaël Ferroukhi**, film director and writer  
*Le Grand Voyage* (2004)

**Hafid Gafaïti**, poet, editor, scholar  
*Transnational Spaces and Identities in the Francophone World* (2009)

**Laila Lalami**, novelist  
*Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits* (2005)  
*Secret Son* (2009)

**Malika Mokeddem**, novelist  
*The Forbidden Woman* (1994)  
*Century of Locusts* (2006)

**Zahia Rahmani**, novelist  
*Musulman: roman* (2005)  
*France: récit d'une enfance* (2006)

**Leïla Sebbar**, essayist  
*L'arabe comme un chant secret* (2008)  
*Mon cher fils* (2009)

**Youssef Seddik**, poet, scholar, translator  
*Le Coran* (2002)  
*Nous n'avons jamais lu le Coran* (2004)

**Muneeza Shamsie**, editor  
*An Anthology of Pakistani Writing in English* (1997)  
*Contemporary Stories by Pakistani Women* (2005)

**Alek Baylee Touni**, scholar, playwright  
*Madah-Sartre* (1996)  
*De Beauvoir à beau voile* (2005)

**Robin Yassin-Kassab**, novelist  
*The Road from Damascus* (2008)