

ECHOES OF ORIENTALISM

Arab-Islamic Sexuality through European Eyes: Burton and Beyond

DR FERAS ALKABANI (SUSSEX)

DeCol Collective Seminar Series - University of Brighton Wednesday, 4 May 2022, at 13.00-14.00

In this lecture, Dr Feras Alkabani (Sussex) traces Orientalist depictions of Arab-Islamic sexuality in European art and literature since Antoine Galland's first (French) translation of the Arabian Nights (1704-1711) through to Sir Richard Burton's late nineteenth-century edition (1885-1886), the first European rendition of the Oriental classic to include the entire set of tales with a special emphasis on sexuality. Burton - aka 'Hajji Abdullah' - concluded his 10-volume edition with a 'Terminal Essay', in which he developed his theory of the 'Sotadic Zone', a climatically-defined region of the world, where the spread of 'le vice' was allegedly 'endemic'. Other and more recent Orientalist representations of the East's 'sexual Otherness' will also be explored in modern and contemporary art, literature, cinema and popular culture.

Room A501, Checkland Building, University of Brighton, Falmer Campus, BN1 9PH. All Welcome!