



Conference

# **The Crisis of the Human Sciences:** False Objectivity and the Decline of Creativity

**Gulf University for Science and Technology, Kuwait  
Conference Center**

Auditorium W6-14, Room W6-18, Room W6-20,

**March 6-8, 2011**

## **Program**

النظم العربية المتطورة  
Arabian Advanced Systems



## Sunday, March 6

8h00 – 10h00  
**Registration**  
Conference Center, Hall

10h00 – 10h50  
Auditorium W6-014

### OPENING CEREMONY

Dr. Robert Cook, Vice President for Academic Affairs, GUST

**Thorsten Botz-Bornstein (GUST): "The Crisis of the Humanities"**

### Book Fair Opening Ceremony

10h50 - 11h20  
Conference Center

### Session 1

11h20 - 12h55

**Auditorium W6-014**

Title: *Finance in Academia*

Chair: Yunus Kathawala (GUST)

1. David Lea (American University of Sharja):

The Future of the University in Today's  
Financial Markets

2. Janet Testerman (GUST):

Accountability, Homogeneity and the Surplus  
of Humanities Professors

3. Ralph Palliam, Robert Ankli & Rawda Awwad  
(American University of Kuwait):

Comprehending False Objectivity in the  
Economic Sciences through the Human  
Sciences

4. Mark Olson (GUST):

The Role of Prestige Markers and the Human  
Sciences in the Marketing of Private GCC  
Universities

*Lunch*

12h55 – 13h55

13h55-15h00  
Auditorium W6-014

**Keynote:**

**Khaldoun Al-Naqeeb** (Kuwait University):

“The Crisis of Globalization”

<b>Session 2A</b>	15h00-16h40	W6-18	W6-20	15h00-16h40	<b>Session 2B</b>
<b>Title: <i>False Objectivity 1</i></b> Chair: Kenneth Pak (GUST)			<b>Title: <i>The Crisis in the Arab World: A Vision from Inside (Session in Arabic)</i></b> Chair: Ayman Bakr (GUST)		
1. <b>Paolo Bonari</b> (University of Florence): The Limited Intellectual: How to Escape from our Iron Cage			1. <b>Al-Zahrani Mojeb</b> (King Saud University, Saudi Arabia): The Crisis of Human Sciences in the Universities of the Gulf Area		
2. <b>Paul DiRado</b> (University of Kentucky): The Ethical Foundations of Logic.			2. <b>Mohammad Habibi</b> (Jazan University): The Future Crisis of Arab poetry at times of digital communication.		
3. <b>Anders Herlitz</b> (European University Institute, Florence): Normative Biases and Creativity in Dilemmas			3. <b>Fatma Drouche</b> University of M’sila, Algeria): A Methodological Synthesis of Social Science		
4. <b>Volker Schneider</b> : (Ernst Bloch Association, Germany): New Open Science: Rationality 2.0?					

16h40 - 17h45  
Auditorium W6-14

**Keynote:**

**Lewis Gordon** (Temple University):

“Decolonizing the Human Sciences: Teleological Suspensions of Disciplinary Decadence”

## Monday, March 7

Session 3A	9h00 – 11h05	W6-18	W6-20	9h00 – 11h05	Session 3B
<b>Title:</b> <i>Education and the Postcolonial Situation</i> <b>Chair:</b> Ray Weisenborn (GUST)			<b>Title:</b> <i>The Idea of the University in the Gulf</i> <b>Chair:</b> Mark Olson (GUST)		
<b>1. Noreen Abdullah Khan</b> (GUST): A Continuing Crisis in the Social Sciences: The Gap between Postmodern Ideology and Social Justice (Britain as a case of example)			<b>1. Kevin Gray</b> (American University of Sharja): Reading Karl Jaspers in the Gulf.		
<b>2. Samar Al-Shishkali</b> (Damascus): The Crisis of Translation in the Light of Post-Colonization Theory.			<b>2. Stephen Keck</b> (American University of Sharja): Ruskin, the Challenges facing Victorian Universities and the Current Crisis in the Humanities		
<b>3. Ghanshyam</b> (Shukla College, Bilaspur): Bapsi Sidhwa: The Mouthpiece of the Subaltern			<b>3. Hassan Bashir</b> (Texas A&M at Qatar): Awaking up the phoenix bird: Social sciences and Rebirth of the University in the Middle East.		
<b>4. Jane Gordon</b> (Temple University): Creolizing Political Theory: Between Comparative Political Theory and Disavowal			<b>4. Abdulla Alajmi</b> (Arab Open University, Kuwait): Ethics vs. Practicality: Towards the code of practice in social science research in Kuwait.		

11h05 – 12h20  
Auditorium W6-14

### Keynote:

**Garrett Albert Duncan** (Washington University in St. Louis ):

"Title to be announced"

### *Lunch*

12h20-13h20

Session 4A	14h25 – 16h05	W6-18	W6-20	14h25 – 16h05	Session 4B
<b>Title:</b> <i>Education and the Postmodern Situation II</i> <b>Chair:</b> Noreen Abdullah-Khan (GUST)			<b>Title:</b> <i>Politics of Teaching</i> <b>Chair:</b> Piers Smith (GUST)		
<b>L. Amani Albedah</b> (Kuwait University): The Collapse of Bivalence and Necessity of Critical Thinking: Replacing Skills for Rules in Science Education			<b>1. Carl Nestor</b> (GUST): Barbarians at the Gate: How Visual Designers Need to Save Rigor		

2. <b>Sjoerd-Jeroen Moendar</b> (University of Groningen): Academic Ghettos	2. <b>Piers Smith</b> (GUST): Zombie sciences and living dead curricula
3. <b>Robert Ankli &amp; Ralph Palliam</b> (American University of Kuwait): Centralization and Decentralization: Motivation in the Social Sciences	3. <b>Gholam R. Vatandoust</b> (American University of Kuwait): Reinventing the Human Sciences in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
4. <b>Ilene Winokur Alzaid</b> (GUST): Cultural and Historical Context, Principal Leadership and Reform in Kuwait Public High Schools	4. <b>Ann Newman</b> (GUST): Crisis in the English Department: Relevance, Reaction, and Revolution.

**30 minutes round table discussion:**

Auditorium W6-14

16h00

“When was for you the day when the humanities died?”

Chair: **Steven Koehn** (GUST)

**Session 5**

16h30 – 18h10

Auditorium W6-14

“Teaching and Media”

Chair: **Jane Gordon** (Temple University)

1. **Christopher Gottschalk** (American University of Kuwait): Pulling teeth – Inspiring Student Creativity in the Twentieth Century.

2. **Ray Weisenborn** (GUST): The Social Crisis of my Minding What Your Media

3. **Mohammad Akbar & Mohammad Satti** (American University of Kuwait): The Impact of Television Translations on Kuwait.

4. **Steven Koehn** (GUST): 1. “I rated my humanities professor as a straight F:” Digital students’ evaluation of “analog” humanities professor on websites. 2. I received my humanities degree from YouTube.

*Reception Dinner*

Conference Center, Hall

18h10

## Tuesday, March 8

Session 6A	9h – 10h40	W6-18	W6-20	9h00 – 10h40	Session 6B
<b>Title: <i>The Future of Philosophy</i></b> Chair: Thorsten Botz-Bornstein (GUST)			<b>Title: <i>Language and Criticism</i></b> Chair: Janet Testerman (GUST)		
1. <b>Kenneth Pak</b> (GUST): Is Philosophy Useless or Threatening			1. <b>Inas Mahfouz</b> (Cairo ASU): Linguistics is no longer boring.		
2. <b>Andrei Zavaliy</b> (American University of Kuwait): How to Make Philosophy Relevant Again.			2. <b>Jessica Draper</b> (Konan Educational Corporation, USA): Impossible Lettered Fences: How academic jargon stands between casual readers and literature discourse.		
3. <b>Donald Poochigan</b> (University of North Dakota): On the Unreality of the Distinction between the Hard Natural Sciences and Soft Social Sciences			3. <b>Hussein Al-Sharoufi</b> (GUST): An interdisciplinary approach to understanding ideological manipulation in Arab mass media.		
			4. <b>Ayman Bakr</b> (GUST): Platinum Criticism: The Crisis of Literary Criticism in Arabic Culture		

10h45 – 12h45  
**Podium Discussion**  
 Auditorium W6-14

**Lewis Gordon**  
**Garrett Albert Duncan**  
**Khaldoun Al-Naqeeb**

**Closing Speech:**  
**Ayman Bakr (GUST)**

*An Evening in the Desert*