

Notes on Contributors

Makram Abbas, an alumnus of the ENS in Fontenay-Saint-Cloud, is currently a lecturer at the ENS in Lyon. He is working on Arab political philosophy, in particular the topics of war and government. He has recently published *Islam et politique à l'âge classique* (Paris, 2009).

Abdenour Bidar (1971) is a French philosopher, alumnus of the ENS-LS, and *agrégé* in philosophy, teaches classes at Sophia-Antipolis preparing for entry to the *grandes écoles*. A member of the editorial committee of the journal *Esprit* (Paris) and a specialist in developments in contemporary Islam and changes in the religious climate, he is the author of several essays on the topic: *Un islam pour notre temps* (Paris, 2004), *Self islam* (Paris, 2006), *L'Islam sans soumission, Pour un existentialisme musulman* (Paris, 2008). He is also the author of many articles, for instance for the journal *Esprit* and the 'Débats' pages of the newspaper *Le Monde*.

Faisal Devji is Reader in Indian History at St. Antony's College, the University of Oxford. Among his recent books are: *Landscapes of the Jihad: militancy, morality, modernity* (Ithaca, 2005) and *The terrorist in search of humanity: militant Islam and global politics* (New York, 2008).

Souleymane Bachir Diagne is a professor at Columbia University (New York) and a former student of the École Normale Supérieure, rue d'Ulm. He is the author of many books in the fields of the history of logic, philosophy and the philosophical traditions of Africa and the Islamic world. He is co-editor of the Senegalese newspaper *Éthiopiennes*, member of the publications committee for the *Revue d'histoire des mathématiques*, the publications committee for *Présence africaine* and the technical committee of *Diogenes*. Among his recent books are: *Islam et société ouverte: la fidélité et le mouvement dans la pensée de Muhammad Iqbal* (Paris, 2001); *Reconstruire le sens. Textes et enjeux de perspectives africaines* (Dakar, 2001); *100 mots pour dire l'Islam* (Paris, 2002); *Léopold Sédar Senghor: l'art africain comme philosophie* (Paris, 2007); *Comment philosopher en islam?* (Paris, 2008).

Abdou Filali-Ansary, a Moroccan philosopher born in 1946 in Meknès, is interested in relations between Islam and democracy and in his writings advocates a historical critique of religious texts and doctrine. He believes it is essential to open a democratic debate. Among his books are: *L'Islam est-il hostile à la laïcité?* (Arles, 2002), in

which he explains that secularization is progressing in Moroccan society and any move backwards seems impossible; and *Réformer l'islam? Une introduction aux débats contemporains* (Paris, 2003). He is responsible for the translation into French of Ali Abderraziq's book *Islam et fondements du pouvoir* (Paris, 1994), in which the author argued in 1925 for recognition of the autonomy of the political vis-à-vis religion. He was director of the King Abdul-Aziz Al Saoud Foundation for Islamic studies and the human sciences (Casablanca), director of the Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilizations in London and co-founder of *Prologues: Revue Maghrébine du Livre*.

Burhan Ghalioun is director of the Centre d'Études sur l'Orient Contemporain and lecturer in political sociology at the university of Sorbonne-Nouvelle Paris III and is the author of several reference works on the sociology and politics of the contemporary Arab world and Islam. He is also one of the leading figures in the debate that for several decades has been questioning Arab societies about the conditions for democratizing them and modernizing their thought and cultures. His chief publications in French are: *Le Malaise arabe: l'État contre la nation* (Paris, 1991), *Islam et politique: la modernité trahie* (Paris, 1997); بيان من أجل الديمقراطية (*Manifeste pour la démocratie*); نقد السياسة: الدولة والدين (*Critique de la politique: État et religion en Islam*); العرب والتحويلات العالمية (*Les Arabes face aux mutations du monde*); النظام السياسي في الإسلام (*Le Système politique en islam*).

Gilbert Grandguillaume is an anthropologist specializing in the Arab world. His research is concerned with the Arabic language and Arab culture, the French-speaking world, Islam, the Maghreb and Algeria in particular. He has analysed the relationships in the Maghreb between the official Arabic, the spoken languages (dialects of Arabic and Berber) and French, as well as the linguistic and sociocultural aspects of that multilingualism. Taking an anthropological and psychoanalytical approach, he has been interested in the issue of the father and cultural transmission based on varied Arab sources, among them the Arabian Nights and the Koran, especially the so-called 'satanic verses' question. He has contributed to several journals, including *Maghreb-Machrek*, *Peuples Méditerranéens*, *Espirit* and *La Quinzaine littéraire*. His publications can be consulted at www.gilbertgrandguillaume.net.

Soumaya Mestiri, professor in the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences in Tunis, specializing in modern and contemporary political philosophy, has published *De l'individu au citoyen. Rawls et le problème de la personne* (Paris, 2008), *Rawls. Justice et équité* (Paris, 2009), as well as a number of articles in international journals of philosophy, in particular on relations between liberalism and republicanism, on justice and on identity.

Fatma Oussedik, lecturer in sociology at the Bouzareah University of Human and Social Sciences in Algiers and the Algiers Ecole Supérieure des Beaux Arts, is associate researcher and team leader at the Centre de Recherches en Économie Appliquée au Développement, Algiers. She is a member of the international advisory board of *Diogenes* as well as of the journal *Intercontinentales*. Her research concerns the study of the Ibadite society from the M'zab valley; political minorities and the construction

of the national state in Algeria; and female identity and women's movements in the Arab and Muslim world. She is the author of several articles and books, among them the recent publication *Relire les Ittifaqat* (Algiers, 2007).

Meryem Sebti, researcher at the CNRS, has written a number of books about Arabo-Muslim philosophy, in particulier about psychology and Avicenna's theory of knowledge. Among her publications are: *Avicenne. L'âme humaine* (Paris, 2000) and *Miroir et savoir. La transmission d'un thème platonicien, des Alexandrins à la philosophie arabomusulmane* (with Daniel De Smet and Godefroid de Callataÿ, eds, Louvain, 2008). She contributed to the *Dictionnaire du Coran* (ed. M. A. Amir-Moezzi, Paris, 2007), and also to *Histoire de l'Islam et des musulmans en France. Du Moyen Age à nos jours* (ed. M. Arkoun, Paris, 2006).

Youssef Seddik is a philosopher and anthropologist who was born in 1943 in Tozeur, Tunisia. He has completed many translations from the classical Arabic heritage, among them *Les dits du prophète Mohamed* (Arles, 1999), *Les dits de l'Imam Ali* (Arles, 2000), *Le Grand livre de l'interprétation des rêves d'Ibn Sîrin* (La Tour d'Aigues, 2005). He is also the author of books directly inspired by reading the Koran: *Le Coran, nouvelle lecture, nouvelle traduction* (Algiers/La Tour d'Aigues), *Nous n'avons jamais lu le Coran* (La Tour d'Aigues, 2004), *L'Arrivant du soir, cet islam de lumière qui peine à devenir* (La Tour d'Aigues, 2007).

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