

December 2011

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Dear Reader,

The AUC Press offices, located on the AUC Tahrir Campus, have been temporarily closed over the past couple of weeks, but we hope to resume business as usual



in the coming days. However, we have decided to postpone the planned Tahrir Holiday Book Fair until early in 2012. In the meantime, we will hold a [Zamalek Holiday Book Fair](#) from December 9 to 12 at the AUC Zamalek Hostel (located at 16 Mohamed Thakeb Street). It will feature many of the new AUC Press publications, including latest editions of the Tahrir Studies publications, bestsellers, bargains, and discounts.

This month also brings the annual [Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature award](#) ceremony, held every year on December 11, [the birthday of Naguib Mahfouz](#), Egypt's iconic Nobel laureate. This year the AUC Press marks the celebration of the centenary of the great writer's birth with the special publication of the limited-edition 20-volume [Naguib Mahfouz Centennial Library](#), containing all the published English translations of his work. In this milestone year, the [Mahfouz award event will be held at the El Sawy Cultural Wheel in Zamalek](#), beginning at 5pm with the announcement of this year's award, followed by a round table discussion with leading Egyptian writers and literary critics on the topic of "Naguib Mahfouz and Revolutionary Literature."

Meanwhile, we have recently published some wonderful new books: Miral al-Tahawy's acclaimed [Brooklyn Heights](#), winner of the 2010 Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature; Mourid Barghouti's [I Was Born There, I Was Born Here](#), the long-awaited follow-up to the Palestinian's poet's first memoir, [I Saw Ramallah](#) (AUC Press, 2003); Hassouna Mosbahi's [A Tunisian Tale](#), an unconventional

## AUC Press Events

**December 9 - 12**

### [Zamalek Holiday Book Fair](#)

AUC Zamalek Hostel  
16 Mohamed Thakeb Street  
(off al-Maraashli Street)  
Zamalek  
10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Photo ID required  
To download the flyer, [click here](#).

**Sunday, December 11**

### [The AUC Press 2011 Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature Award and Round Table Discussion](#)

El Sawi Cultural Wheel (River Hall), 26th of July, Zamalek  
5:00 pm  
To download the invitation, [click here](#).

**Until December 31** (the AUC Tahrir Campus is temporarily closed)

### [Exhibition: Naguib Mahfouz: His Life & Work](#)

Features foreign editions of his novels, newspaper articles, photographs, movie posters, and personal belongings  
The AUC Future Gallery  
AUC Tahrir Campus  
10:00 - 6:00 pm from Sunday - Thursday

[More](#)



novel that explores the darker side of modern Tunisian society; and [Judgment Day](#) by Lebanese author Rasha al Ameer, who writes about the conflicts between love and religious ideals.

Last but perhaps not least, I would like to let you know that I will be retiring from my position as Director of the AUC Press at the end of our 50th anniversary and my 50th publishing year later this month, and I sincerely hope that a new Director will be appointed soon. I will continue working at AUC as an Advisor to President Anderson during the next few years, and I look forward also to expressing my personal gratitude and hope for the important publishing work of the AUC Press past, present, and future to all the wonderful authors, customers, and friends of our publishing community here in Egypt and abroad.

**Mark Linz**

**Director**

**The American University in Cairo Press  
Cairo - New York**

**Book of the Month** – Available at the [AUC Press Bookstores](#)



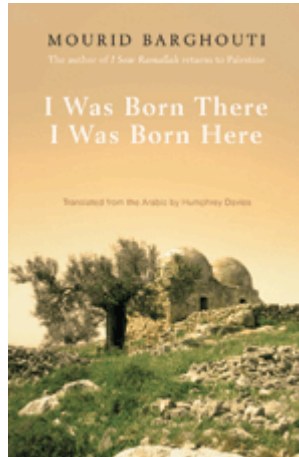
### [Brooklyn Heights](#)

Miral al-Tahawy, translated by Samah Selim

Egyptian author Miral al-Tahawy is the winner of the 2010 Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature. The English translation of her latest modern Arabic novel, [Brooklyn Heights](#), which was also shortlisted also for the 2011 "Arab Booker" prize, comes just in time for this year's Naguib Mahfouz Centennial celebrations.

In this novel, the protagonist Hind, newly arrived in New York with her eight-year-old son, several suitcases of unfinished manuscripts, and hardly any English, finds a room in a Brooklyn teeming with people like her who dream of becoming writers. As she discovers the various corners of her new home, they conjure up parallel memories from her childhood and her small Bedouin village in the Nile Delta. Through a kaleidoscopic spectrum of disadvantaged characters we encounter unique but familiar life histories in this intensely moving novel of displacement and exile. [More >>](#)

**New AUC Press Books** – Available at the [AUC Press Bookstores](#)



**[I Was Born There, I Was Born Here](#)**

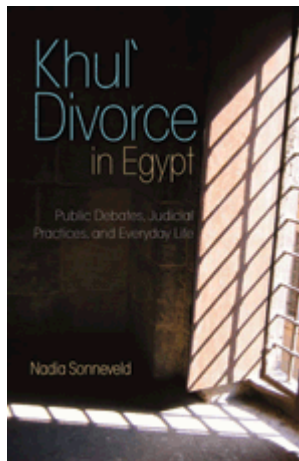
Mourid Barghouthi, translated by  
Humphrey Davies

In 1996 Palestinian poet Mourid Barghouthi went back to his home for the first time since exile following the Six-Day War in 1967, and wrote a poignant and incisive account of the exile's lot in the acclaimed memoir [I Saw Ramallah](#). In 2003 he returned to Ramallah to introduce his Cairo-born son, Tamim Barghouthi, to his

Palestinian family. [I Was Born There, I Was Born Here](#) traces Barghouthi's own life in recent years and in the past—his early life in Palestine, his expulsion from Cairo and exile to Budapest, marriage and the birth of his son, Tamim, and then the young man's own expulsion from Cairo—and tells the story of the Palestinian journey of father and son. "Barghouthi renders the world with rare exactitude. He checks statement with humility and attempts to resist an Occupation that 'imprisons time inside space' by writing about the place itself," comments The Independent's Guy Mannes-Abbott. "It's an honest confrontation with Israeli violence and impunity, an unflinching description of the Palestinian Authority's compromising failures, and a plea for joy." [More >>](#)

**Quick Links**

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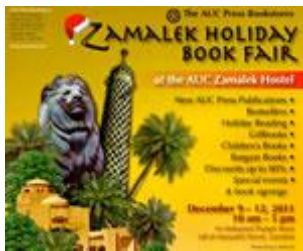
**[Khul' Divorce in Egypt: Public Debates, Judicial Practices, and Everyday Life](#)**

Nadia Sonneveld

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, Egyptian women gained the unique right to divorce their husbands unilaterally through a procedure called *khul'*. This has been a controversial application; notwithstanding attempts to present the law as being grounded in Islamic law,

opponents claim that *khul'* is a privileged women's law, and a western conspiracy aimed at destroying Egyptian family life and, by extension, Egyptian society. In this ethnographic study, Sonneveld explores the nature of the public debate where in films and cartoons, women and the institution of *khul'* are ridiculed. The author, in her concluding remarks, writes about her findings that "the main consumers of *khul'* in the study were women from the lower and lower-middle classes" as they often come from small families and do not have male relatives to defend their marital claims. [More](#)

[>>](#)



The AUC Press is hosting the [Zamalek Holiday Book Fair](#) on December 9 - 12 at the AUC Zamalek Hostel.

## [More new AUC Press books](#)



## **AUC Press Books & Authors in the News**

[Book review](#) of Naguib Mahfouz, [In The Time of Love](#) (AUC Press, 2010)

<http://marywhiplereviews.com>, Mary Whipple, November 25

### [AUC Press offices and Tahrir Square](#)

TheBookseller.com, November 22

### ["Sims is one of Cairo's sharpest observers"](#)

Book review of David Sims's [Understanding Cairo: The Logic of a City Out of Control](#) (AUC Press, 2011)

*Los Angeles Review of Books*, Frederick Deknatel, November 16

### [Colloquial Egyptian culture at the turn of the century](#)

Book review of [Ordinary Egyptians: Creating the Modern Nation through Popular Culture, 1870–1919](#) by Ziad Fahmy (AUC Press, forthcoming)

*Daily News Egypt*, Maurice Chammah, November 14

### [Arab arts in focus at London's Nour Festival](#)

Karima Khalil, editor of [Messages from Tahrir](#), participated in the showcase of arts at the Leighton House Museum in London after the Arab Spring

*Ahram Online*, November 14

### ["Viewpoint: I'm Palestinian - but where am I from?"—Mourid Barghouti](#)

[Barghouti](#) is the author of [I Was Born There, I was Born Here](#) (AUC Press, 2011) and [I Saw Ramallah](#) (AUC Press, 2003)

BBC News Magazine, November 12

Two book reviews of Mourid Barghouti's [I Was Born There, I Was Born Here](#):

- Scent of dreams: The impotence at the heart of the Palestinian occupation

*The Economist*, November 19

- I Was Born... is that collection of 'questions,' voiced in the place and beyond, from many angles of vision or time and delivered in



Barghouti's inimitable style.  
*The Independent*, November 4

Book review of [Mia Gröndahl, \*Tahrir Square: The Heart of the Egyptian Revolution\*](#) (AUC Press, 2011)  
Cairo 360, Salma Tantawi, November 6

[University Press Scholarship Online](#)  
LibraryJournal.com, Cheryl LaGuardia, November 1

[Centenaire de Naguib Mahfouz](#)  
*Al-Ahram Hebdo*, Alban de Ménonville, October 26 – 1  
November

[Egypt: does the revolution include the Copts?](#)  
Co-author of [The Emergence of the Modern Coptic Papacy: The Popes of Egypt](#), Volume 3  
(AUC Press, 2011)  
[www.opendemocracy.net](#), Nelly van Doorn-Harder, 10 October  
2011

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