



SRII SPRING LECTURE SERIES 2019

STORYTELLING

June 18, 2019, 18:00

Istiklal Caddesi 247 (Beyoğlu – Tünel)

Mahmut Ağbaht

Uppsala University

The *Fann* – Oral Poetry in the Alawi Community in the Hatay Province

with a film screening and a live performance

The *fann* is a genre of oral poetry attested among the Alawi community in the Turkish province of Hatay (Antioch), which is composed in the vernacular Arabic of the community by people known as *fannāns*. The manner of performance lies somewhere between song and speech, which reminds one of *sprechgesang* or *melodized speech*. Contents of the *fanns* cover a wide variety of themes, often humorous, sometimes tragic, and are rich sources reflecting many aspects of the cultural, daily and social life of the community from the 1930s until recent decades. *Fannāns* were main providers of entertainment in the past and popular in the community: they reported all kinds of events and played the role of expressing public opinion.

This lecture aims to give an overview of the form and the content of the *fann* tradition with its social and historical context. It is preceded by a documentary film screening and followed by a live performance by Nihat Çay.

Admission only after registration to event@sri.org.tr !