

ReadRespond

LITERATURE/HISTORY/HUMAN RIGHTS



Image by: Mary Farrell

THIS MONTH'S BOOK

***Death Is Hard Work* (2016) - Khaled Khalifa**

In *Death is Hard Work* (2016), Khaled Khalifa depicts Syria at war with itself, where even the most ordinary activities are immensely time-consuming. Bolbol, Hussein, and Fatima, the three children of a recently-deceased rebel leader, travel across the country to fulfil their father's wish of being buried in his hometown. Along the way, old family conflicts and traumas resurface as the siblings navigate through a country ravaged by bombings where death is just around the corner.

THIS MONTH'S EVENT



Brigitte Herremans on *Death Is Hard Work*

July 2nd 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m Norway Time/CEST/GMT+2.

[\(Click the image to go to Zoom-meeting\)](#)

About the Scholar



Brigitte Herremans (1979) is a research fellow in the Justice Visions project at the Human Rights Centre of Ghent University. She studied Eastern Languages and Cultures (Arabic and Biblical Hebrew) at Ghent University and International Relations at l'Université Libre de Bruxelles. She also studied at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the Flemish-Dutch Institute in Cairo.

Her work focuses on how artistic contributions can contribute to justice for Syrians.

From 2002 to 2018, Brigitte worked as a Middle East policy officer for the development organisation Broederlijk Delen and the peace movement Pax Christi Flanders. She conducted advocacy at Belgian and European level on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, from a rights-based perspective. Since the start of the Arab revolutions in 2011 she has monitored the situation in Syria. In 2016, she co-published a book on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict:

'Israël en Palestina. De kaarten op tafel.'

From 2017 to 2019, Brigitte also worked as a policy officer on the Middle East and North Africa at BOZAR, the centre of fine arts in Brussels, where she coordinated the Mahmoud Darwish Chair. In February 2019, she published an essay on how stories feed human rights.

NEW ON THE WEBSITE

- The book site for *Death Is Hard Work* is up and running. Click [here](#) to read Brigitte Herremans' literary piece on the novel, as well as some information about its historical background and the human rights issues.
- A response to our June event, written by Janet Handley will be up on the website soon.
- We're arranging a Zoom event on *Death Is Hard Work* featuring Brigitte Herremans, which will take place on **July 2nd at 5 p.m (Oslo time) CEST/GMT+2**. You can join the meeting by clicking [here!](#)

Still not part of our Goodreads group? Click on the link below, and join us in hearty discussions!

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