

Call for Papers: Brecht in the Middle East

Session sponsored by the International Brecht Society (www.brechtociety.org)

Modern Language Association Convention

New York City, 4-7 January 2018

This panel seeks to examine and discuss the legacy of Bertolt Brecht in the Middle East. What are specificities in the translation, appropriation, and staging of Brecht's work? How did dramatists introduce, implement, adopt and transform Brechtian dramaturgical concepts in relation to existing theatrical practices and traditions? How did dramatists draw on Brecht to develop new theatrical forms while addressing and responding to national issues, politics, and histories? How did Brecht's theory and practice of theater translate into the multi-lingual, multi-ethnic, multi-religious, transcontinental, geo-political region referred to as Middle East, defined by never-ending conflict, upheaval and uprisings? What are differences, divergences, and/or intersections in the interpretation of Brecht within the Middle East? How have Brecht's methods possibly influenced the role of theater in and against oppressive regimes?

Please submit 200-word abstracts by March 10, 2017 to Ela Gezen, egezen@german.umass.edu and Hatem Akil, hatem@akil.org. Presenters whose papers are chosen for the MLA convention must become members by 7 April 2017.