



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Unearthing Literature: The Case of Hussein Barghouti

Omari, H.

Citation

Omari, H. (2019, October 29). *Unearthing Literature: The Case of Hussein Barghouti*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/79998>

Version: Publisher's Version

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/79998>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/79998> holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation.

Author: Omari, H.

Title: Unearthing Literature: The Case of Hussein Barghouti

Issue Date: 2019-10-29

Unearthing Literature: The Case of Hussein Barghouti

Unearthing Literature: The Case of Hussein Barghouti

Cover photo of Kobar by Haneen Omari

Thesis cover design by Sireen Musallam

© Haneen Omari, 2019, Leiden, The Netherlands
All rights reserved.

Unearthing Literature:
The Case of Hussein Barghouti

PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van
de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus prof. mr. C.J.J.M. Stolker,
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties
ter verdediging op dinsdag 29 oktober 2019
klokke 13:45 uur

door

Haneen Omari
geboren te Jeruzalem
in 1989

Promotor

Prof. dr. Petra Sijpesteijn

Co-promotor

Prof. dr. Ziad Elmarsafy King's College London

Promotiecommissie

Prof. dr. Ernst van Alphen

Prof. dr. Wen-chin Ouyang SOAS

Dr. Richard van Leeuwen University of Amsterdam

Dr. Peter Webb

Table of Contents

Note on translation and transliteration.....	iii
List of figures.....	iv
Introduction.....	1
Modern Palestinian literature: The general context.....	5
Hussein Barghouti's life, work, and influences.....	12
Barghouti as subject of study.....	17
Barghouti and prior research.....	22
Methodology.....	26
Theoretical and analytical frameworks.....	35
Chapter 1: Criticism – Creativity.....	43
1.1 Introduction.....	43
1.2 Tashrīḥ – Anatomy and criticism.....	51
1.3 Saṭḥ – 'Umq: Land and literature.....	55
1.4 Materiality of living – Literary creativity.....	62
1.5 Reforming commitment – Hazza as engagement.....	69
1.6 Taṭrīz – The embroidered space and time.....	76
1.7 al-Dhawq – Taste, land, and literature.....	80
1.8 Conclusion.....	85
Chapter 2: Childhood – Beginnings and language.....	89
2.1 Introduction.....	89
2.2 Beginnings and autobiographical writings.....	97
2.3 Language – Memory.....	99
2.4 Reader – Writer: From 'pact' to 'act'.....	104
2.5 Pre-language.....	110
2.6 Language.....	115
2.7 Post-language.....	125
2.8 Conclusion.....	129
Chapter 3: Death – Space and land.....	136
3.1 Introduction.....	136
3.2 Theoretical framework.....	140
3.3 Barghouti and space.....	141
3.4 Illness and pain.....	148
3.5 Movements.....	150
3.6 Geographic movements.....	153
3.7 Literary movements.....	164
3.8 Conclusion.....	183
Chapter 4: Myth – Rituals as technique.....	185
4.1 Introduction.....	185
4.2 Myths and rituals.....	188
4.3 Barghouti and myth.....	192
4.4 Myth and body.....	196
4.5 First ritual – Reversal.....	199
4.6 Second ritual – Transgression.....	207
4.7 Third ritual – Metamorphosis.....	222
4.8 Conclusion.....	234
Conclusion.....	238
Bibliography.....	246

Primary sources.....	246
Secondary sources.....	248
Summary	264
Samenvatting.....	266
Acknowledgments.....	268
Curriculum Vitae	271

Note on translation and transliteration

All translations from Arabic to English in this dissertation are mine, with the help of some colleagues, except when otherwise indicated. I have followed the guidelines of the *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* (IJMES) for the transliteration from Arabic and Persian to English. I have only used internal vocalization (*bayn* and not *bayna*, for example). Known names of modern Arab authors and thinkers are not transliterated, contrary to the names of pre-modern Arab authors.

There are multiple ways of writing the name of the main author who is studied in this dissertation. In Arabic and English, his last name is sometimes preceded by *-al*. In English, the first name is sometimes written as Hussein, or Husain, while his last name is either written with a *t* or a *th* (Bargouti, Bargouthi), a *g* or a *gh* (Bargouti, Barghouti). In this dissertation, I have adopted this spelling: Hussein Barghouti. In the citations, however, I have kept the different spellings of his name in English sources that mention him.

After providing the complete titles of Barghouti's books in Arabic and in English, I have subsequently used the short titles in Arabic. Arabic quotes by Barghouti have been copied exactly as they appear in the printed texts, including typographical mistakes.

List of figures

Figure 1: Barghouti's grave in Kobar (Source: by author, Palestine, March 2019)	13
Figure 2: The area of <i>al-dayr al-juwwānī</i> (Source: by author, Palestine, March 2019)	176
Figure 3: Paul Klee's <i>In the Magic Mirror</i> (Source: Art Institute, Chicago, 2018)	231