The Center for Gulf Studies and the Department of Arabic & Foreign Languages at the American University of Kuwait present a lecture entitled:

**Feminine Geographies: Women (and) Arab Travelers**

Presented by: Valentina Colombo

In this talk, Dr. Valentina Colombo will analyze images of western women in the writings of 19th century Arab travelers such as Rafi’ Rafi’ al-Tahtawi and Faris Shidyak, and in the memoirs of Salama bin Said, princess of Zanzibar, whose autobiography traces a comparison between women in Muslim and European societies.

Valentina Colombo teaches Geopolitics of the Islamic World at the European University, Rome and is Senior Fellow at the European Foundation for Democracy, Brussels. After graduating in Arabic Language and Literature from Cattolica University, Milan, she earned a PhD in Islamic Studies from Istituto Universitario Orientale, Naples. She is a member of Comitato per l’Islam Italiano, Ministry of Interior. She published various studies on Islam, intellectuals, and civil liberties. She has translated many authors of Arab heritage such as Jahiz, Mahfouz, Hamadhani, and Qabbani. Her latest book is *Human Rights and Religious Identity: The Case of Christians in the Middle East* (Milan, 2013).

**DATE:**
Sunday, 16 February 2014

**TIME:**
6:00 pm

**VENUE:**
AUK Auditorium

This lecture will be conducted in English