



Celebrating twenty years of the Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation

SGBP translators and authors participating in the Emirates Literature Festival 2026

21 January 2026

12 noon to 12.45pm : The Translator as A Narrator

[Luke Leafgren](#) (2025 Shortlisted; 2018 and 2023 SGBP Prizewinner)

With [Faisal Al Swuaidi](#) and [Nada Abdulaziz](#) as *Moderator*

<https://litfesttickets.emirateslitfest.com/addtocart/the-translator-as-a-narrator?locale=en>

<https://litfesttickets.emirateslitfest.com/author-details/luke-leafgren?locale=en>

1.00pm to 1.45pm : Arabic Literature in Global Context

[Kay Heikkinen](#) (2025 SGBP Runner-up, 2024 shortlisted, and 2020 Prizewinner)

[Sarah Enany](#) (2021 SSGB Prizewinner)

[Shahla Ujayli](#) (2021 shortlisted author of *A Bed for the King's Daughter*)

With [Hazem Ibrahim](#) as *Moderator*

<https://litfesttickets.emirateslitfest.com/addtocart/arabic-literature-in-global-context?locale=en>

4.00pm to 4.45pm: The Future of Arabic-English Translation

Prof. [Marilyn Booth](#) (2025 SGBP Prizewinner)

Prof. [Yasir Suleiman](#) (Banipal Trustee)

[Marwa Melhem](#) as *Moderator*

<https://litfesttickets.emirateslitfest.com/addtocart/the-future-of-arabic-english-translation?locale=en>

<https://litfesttickets.emirateslitfest.com/author-details/prof-marilyn-booth?locale=en>

<https://litfesttickets.emirateslitfest.com/author-details/yasir-suleiman?locale=en>

23 and 24 January 2026

23 January 2026, 6pm – 7pm : Chronicles of the Mud City

Saud Alsanousi (author of 2016 winning novel *The Bamboo Stalk*, translated by Jonathan Wright)

Parween Habib (moderator)

<https://litfesttickets.emirateslitfest.com/addtocart/chronicles-of-the-mud-city?locale=en>

24 January 2026, 12noon – 1pm : Sheikh Zayed Book Award

Margaret Obank one of 4 panellists, moderated by Bilal Orfali

<https://litfesttickets.emirateslitfest.com/addtocart/sheikh-zayed-book-award?locale=en>