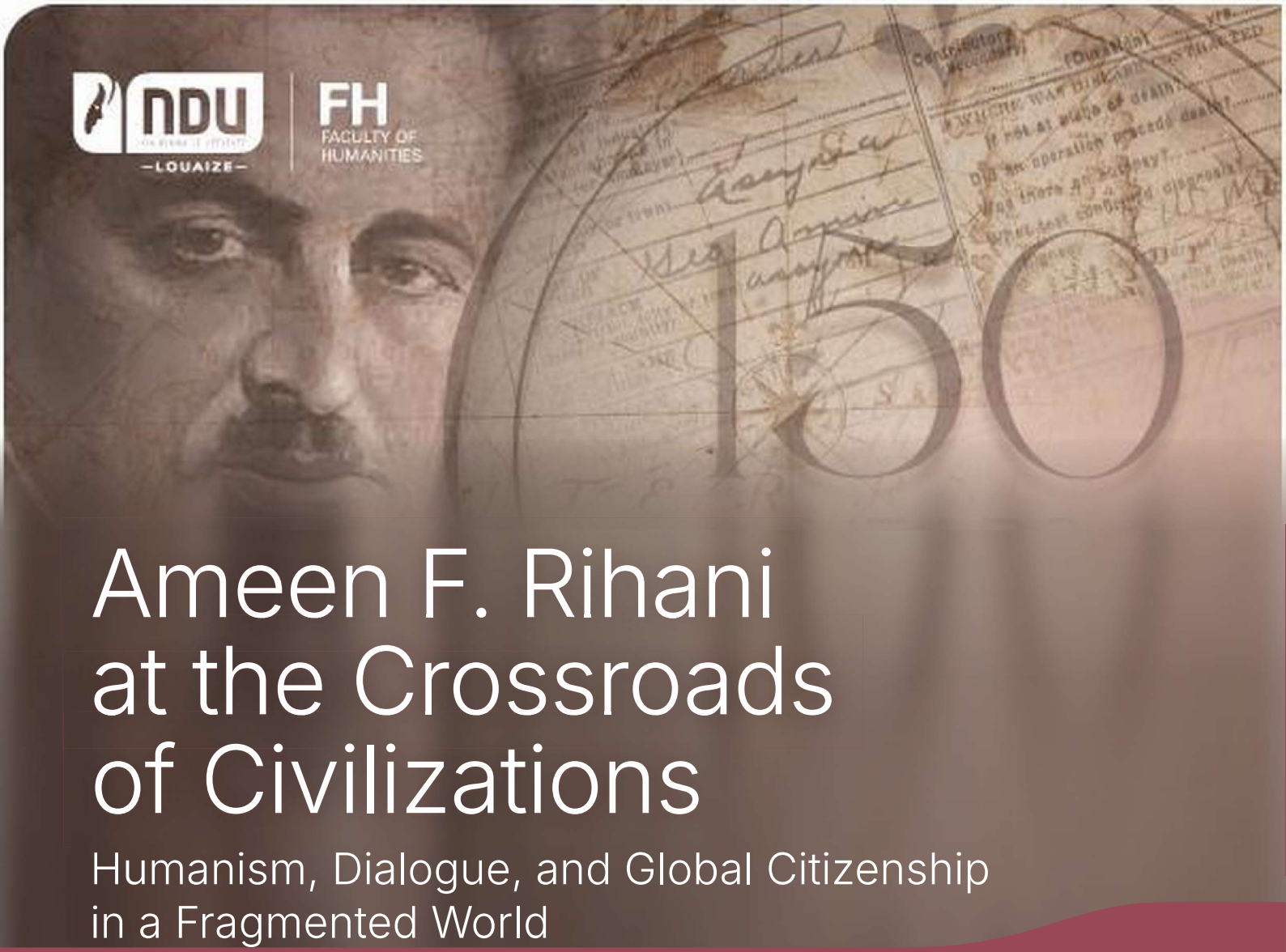


NDU – LOUAIZE

FH FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

Ameen F. Rihani at the Crossroads of Civilizations

Humanism, Dialogue, and Global Citizenship in a Fragmented World

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ameen F. Rihani (1876–1940), the Department of English, Languages and Translation – Faculty of Humanities at Notre Dame University – Louaize, in collaboration with the Ameen Rihani Museum, cordially invites you to participate in this distinguished international conference.

Day 1
Tuesday, November 24, 2026
Issam Fares Conference Hall & Abou Khater Auditorium
NDU Main Campus

Day 2
Wednesday, November 25, 2026
Ameen Rihani Museum
Freike – Mount Lebanon

GARNET EDUCATION

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DAY 1 · NDU MAIN CAMPUS, ZOUK MOSBEH

Tuesday, November 24, 2026

OPENING SESSION

10:00 – 11:45

Issam Fares Hall

Master of Ceremonies: **Mr. Majed Bou Hadir**, Director of Public Affairs, Protocol and Media Relations

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01 Lebanese National Anthem

02 Film about Notre Dame University – Louaize

03 Address by the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, **Dr. Maria Bou Zeid**

04 Ameen F. Rihani's song *"At the Cradle of Spring"*, performed by **Prof. Marlene Younes**, with **Ms. Clara Bou Chebel** on piano

05 Documentary film on Ameen F. Rihani

06 Address by the President of the University, **Rev. Fr. Dr. Naji Khalil**

07 Address by the Minister of Culture, **H.E. Ghassan Salamé**

08 Song *"The Najwa"*, music composed by **Prof. Naji Oueijan**; dance performance by **Ms. Yasmine Smiley**

09 Sculptor **Imad Matar**, creator of the Ameen Rihani sculpture

10 Tribute segment

11 Address by **Mr. Francesco Medici**, Italian researcher and translator

12 Reading of Ameen F. Rihani's text *"My Utmost Wish"*, performed by artist **Jihad El-Atrash**

13 A roundtable on Ameen F. Rihani with **Prof. Ameen Albert Rihani**, former Minister **Ziad Baroud** and **Prof. Imad Mourad**, chaired by **Dr. Maya Tony El-Hajj**

Reception and Break **11:50 – 12:20**



DAY 1 · TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2026

Conference Sessions

KEYNOTE SPEAKER — 12:30 – 1:00

Prof. Geoffrey Nash

University of Sunderland, UK · Abou Khater Auditorium

PANEL ONE — 1:00 – 2:20

Language, Translation and Cultural Mediation

Abou Khater Auditorium

Session Chair: **Dr. Reine Nassar**

Dr. Henri Zoghaib Lebanese American University (LAU), Beirut, Lebanon	*"Rihani's Translations"*
Dr. Nino Surmava Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia	*"Ameen Rihani's Juhan and the Problematics of its Translations"*
Mr. Francesco Medici Italian researcher, Italy	*"Ameen Rihani and Mikhail Naimy on the Biography of Kahlil Gibran"*
Ms. Eliane Marcos Chair, National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, USA	*"From Ameen Rihani to Today's Translator: When the Word Transcends the Boundaries of Language to Reach the Human Being"*

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Lunch Break · University Restaurant — 2:30 – 3:30



DAY 1 · TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2026

Conference Sessions

PANEL TWO

3:30 – 4:50

East Meets West: Rihani and the Dialogue of Cultures

Abou Khater Auditorium

Session Chair: **Dr. Imane Dernaika Kamali**, Saint Joseph University (USJ), Lebanon

Prof. Christopher Hill Canadian University Dubai, UAE	*"Humanism, Dialogue, and Global Citizenship in a Fragmented World"*
Dr. Rabiaa Abi Fadel Lebanese University (LU), Lebanon	*"No Lasting Political Reform Without Religious Reform"*
Prof. Darejan Gardavadze Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia	*"In Search of Happiness Between East and West"*
Dr. Gina Abi Karam Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada	*"Ameen Rihani and the East–West Dialogue: From Difference to Cultural Exchange"*

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

POETRY READING

4:50

Selections from Rihani's poetry, recited by poet **Dr. Elias Zgheib** and **Ms. Reine Rahbany**



DAY 1 · TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2026

Conference Sessions

PANEL THREE

4:55 – 6:15

Humanism and Global Citizenship

Abou Khater Auditorium

Session Chair: **Ms. Victoria Charfane**, Legal Consultant, Lebanon

Prof. Naji Oueijan Notre Dame University – Louaize (NDU), Lebanon	*"Dialogism in Ameen F. Rihani's The Najwa"*
Dr. Nawar Mawlawi Diab Lebanese American University (LAU), Lebanon	*"Rihani's Universal Citizenship"*
Dr. Edward Alam Notre Dame University – Louaize (NDU), Lebanon	*"Ameen F. Rihani: A Voice for Our Times"*
Dr. Salma Abdallah Notre Dame University – Louaize (NDU), Lebanon	*"The Poetics of 'No-Place' in the Final Chapter of The Book of Khalid"*

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Coffee Break

Dinner 7:00

DAY 1 VENUES · NDU MAIN CAMPUS, ZOUK MOSBEH

Opening Session: Issam Fares Hall · Keynote and Panels: Abou Khater Auditorium · Lunch: University Restaurant

DAY 2 · AMEEN RIHANI MUSEUM, FREIKE – MOUNT LEBANON

Wednesday, November 25, 2026

Moderator: **Dr. Salma Abdallah** **10:00 – 1:00**

01 Reading of the poem *"Harf bil-Wadi"* ("A Letter in the Valley"), written and performed by **Dr. Elias Zgheib**

02 Theatrical scene adapted from Ameen F. Rihani's *Wafa' al-Zaman* ("The Fidelity of Time"), performed by artist **Jihad El-Atrash**, **Dr. Salma Abdallah**, and students **Peter Saab**, **Clara Sassine** and **Mia Azar**

PANEL FOUR

Rereading Rihani: Comparisons and Critical Perspectives

Session Chair: **Dr. Mona Raslan**, University Professor, Lebanese University (LU), Lebanon

Dr. Elias Zgheib Head of Kfardebyan Public School, Lebanon	*"Ameen Rihani and the Pioneering of Prose Poetry: A Struggle Between Authenticity and Emancipation"*
Dr. Savo Karam Lebanese University (LU), Lebanon	*"Biophilic Masculinities in The Heart of Lebanon and The Rihani Essays"*
Dr. Asmahan Eid Notre Dame University – Louaize (NDU), Lebanon	*"Rihani's Spirituality and His Philosophy of Tolerance"*
Dr. Imane Dernaika Kamali Saint Joseph University (USJ), Lebanon	*"The Philosophy of Parity in Ameen Rihani's Thought: A Forward-Looking Reading of Contemporary Regional Politics"*

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



DAY 2 · WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2026

Closing

03 Ameen F. Rihani's poem *"Invocation to the Cedars"*, performed by artist **Jihad El-Atrash**

04 Conclusions and Recommendations: **Dr. Maya Tony El-Hajj**, Chairperson of the Department of English, Languages and Translation

Reception and Break

05 Open discussion between **Prof. Ameen Albert Rihani** and the audience

NOTES



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1876 – 2026

150 YEARS · AMEEN F. RIHANI

ORGANIZED BY

Department of English, Languages and Translation
Faculty of Humanities · Notre Dame University – Louaize

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