

Arabic Poetry and Stories in Translation

A series of Workshops at Birkbeck and SOAS

Presented by
Marina Warner and Wen-chin Ouyang

LOSS SINGS

**with James E. Montgomery
and Marlé Hammond**

Friday 18 January 2019:

Workshop 2.30-5.30 pm; Public Event 6-7.30 pm

The Keynes Library, School of Arts, Birkbeck College,
University of London, 43 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PD

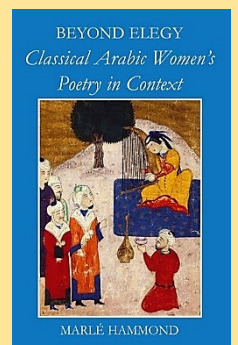
**James E. Montgomery, *Loss Sings*
(Cahier 32, Sylph Editions, Paris, 2018)**

In this deeply personal meditation, part prose memoir, part poetry translation, James E. Montgomery explores memory, grief and the consolatory power of words through the prism of his personal circumstances. *Cahiers* is a series of publications about translation by writer/translators, and in this latest publication, Montgomery refracts his thoughts with renderings of the laments that the 6th-Century poetess al-Khansa' wrote after her two brothers died in battle. The text spans a fortnight, ending on 11 September 2017, 16 years after Montgomery witnessed, from his Greenwich Village window, the haunting and 'strange beauty' of the day's catastrophe. He has commented on the process of making this opuscle: 'Translation is also mourning for what we want to retain, what we value and cherish; it is, equally, mourning for what we know we must lose'.



James E. Montgomery is Sir Thomas Adams's Professor of Arabic at the University of Cambridge and Fellow of Trinity Hall. He is the author of *Al-Jahiz: In Praise of Books*, the editor-translator of Ahmad ibn Fadlan's *Mission to the Volga*, and most recently translator of *War Songs* by Antara; he is also Executive Editor of the Library of Arabic Literature

Marlé Hammond is Senior Lecturer in Arabic Popular Literature & Culture at SOAS University of London. She is the author of *Beyond Elegy: Classical Arabic Women's Poetry in Context*.



Free to attend but booking essential via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/loss-sings-workshop-and-public-event-tickets-53684743513>

