

SEX AND THE CITADEL



INTIMATE LIFE IN A
CHANGING ARAB WORLD

Shereen El Feki

BRUNEL LAW SCHOOL
'Law, religion & sexuality'
workshop

**Dr Shereen
El Feki**
'Sex in the
Citadel';
intimate life
in a changing
Arab world'

Wed 19 June 2013
12pm - 2pm

**Public event.
Lunch & refreshments
provided.**

Elliot Jacques 110
Brunel University Campus
Kingston Lane, Uxbridge

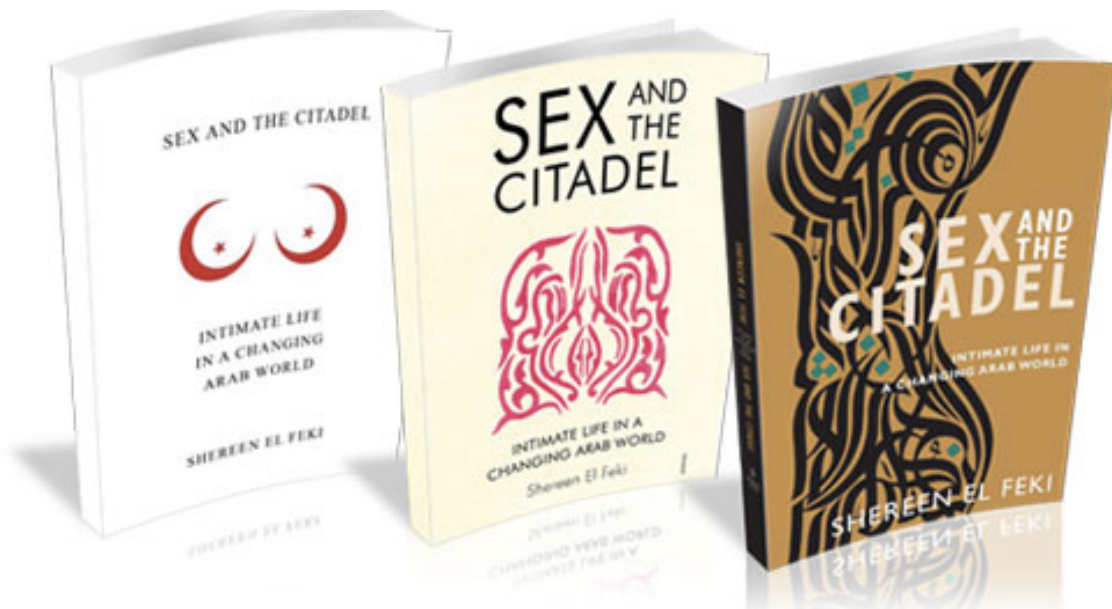


Organised by the Brunel Law School and the URC
Security, Human Rights & the Media, in
collaboration with the Brunel Human Rights Centre

For information & registration:
eleni.polymenopoulou@brunel.ac.uk

along with
**Prof Javid Rehman
& Dr Eleni
Polymenopoulou**

Brunel
UNIVERSITY
L O N D O N



www.sexandthecitadel.com

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‘I have spent the past five years travelling across the Arab region asking people about sex: what they do, what they don’t, what they think and why. Depending on your perspective, this might sound like a dream job or a highly dubious occupation. For me, it is something else altogether: sex is the lens through which I investigate the past and present of a part of the world about which so much is written and still so little is understood.’

Shereen El Feki

If you really want to know a people, start by looking inside their bedrooms.

As political change sweeps the streets and squares, parliaments and presidential palaces of the Arab world, Shereen El Feki has been looking at upheaval a little closer to home – in the sexual lives of men and women in Egypt and across the region. The result is an extraordinary, informative and engaging account of an aspect of Arab society that is still largely hidden from view.

Sex is entwined in religion and tradition, politics and economics, gender and generations, making it the perfect lens for examining the region's complex social landscape. *Sex and the Citadel* takes a fresh look at the sexual history of the Arab region, and brings new voices to the debate over its future. With a look back at changing sexual attitudes in the Middle East, and West, El Feki examines what has been driving a shift towards today’s anxieties in the Arab region, and how this plays out in everyday lives: from the taboo of premarital sex to trouble in the conjugal bed; from sexed-up writing to censored movies; from debates over sexual education and abortion to the incendiary topic of unwed motherhood; from the booming business of sex work to the struggles of those who break the heterosexual mould.

This is not another book about what’s wrong in the Arab world. It’s about what’s right: from national policies to community projects to individual choices, *Sex and the Citadel* explores how people are finding solutions to their problems, while staying true to their religion and culture, and what this means for the future of democracy across the region

Praise for *Sex and the Citadel*:

“‘Sex and the Citadel’ a fascinating survey of sex that is rich in detail.”—[The Economist](#)

“This survey of sexual habits across the Arab world is as serious-minded as it is entertaining.”—[The Independent](#)

“A cogent account of sexual liberty in the Arab world.”—[The Sunday Telegraph](#)

“An original portrait of the region’s youth”—[FT](#)

Sex and the Citadel has been published in English and German. French, Dutch, Polish and Indonesian translations are forthcoming; an Arabic edition is under discussion.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Shereen El Feki ([@shereenelfeki](https://twitter.com/shereenelfeki)) is the author of *Sex and the Citadel: Intimate Life in a Changing Arab World* (Random House, 2013). Shereen started her career in medical science, with a doctorate in immunology from the University of Cambridge, before going on to become an award-winning healthcare correspondent with *The Economist* and a presenter with *Al Jazeera English*. She is the former vice-chair of the UN's Global Commission on HIV and the Law, as well as a TED Global Fellow. Shereen sits on the board of a number of civil society groups working in the Arab region, among them Meedan and the Arab Forum for Freedoms and Equality. She also contributes to a number of publications, among them *The Huffington Post*, *International Affairs* and has written and spoken widely on women, sexuality and HIV in the Arab region. With roots in Egypt and Wales, Shereen grew up in Canada; she now divides her time between London and Cairo. For more information, please visit sexandthecitadel.com.

See Shereen's TED talks here:

<http://bit.ly/K2LBOA>

<http://bit.ly/spk81t>