



# UCD Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland

**Seminar Series 2019-20**

**5pm Thursday 24 October 2019**  
**Room K114, School of History, UCD**



**Professor Khaled Fahmy (University of Cambridge)**

**‘Opening up a Few Corpses:  
Islam, Dissection and Modernity’**

**(in partnership with UCD Global History Seminar Series)**

## **Abstract:**

This lecture describes the process of the introduction of modern medicine in early nineteenth-century Egypt. It describes how dissection was instituted as a central practice in the Qasr al-'Aini School of Medicine, Egypt's first institution of modern medicine founded in 1827. It charts how different segments of Egyptian society understood and reacted to this disturbing practice. It also follows the increasing reliance of a budding legal system on autopsies as a prime means to establish legal proof in criminal cases. As such, the lecture suggests how forensic medicine can be a lens through which a Muslim society's encounter with modern science can be understood.

## **Short bio:**

Khaled Fahmy is Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id Professor of Modern Arabic Studies at the University of Cambridge. His research interests lie in the social and cultural history of the modern Middle East. He has written on military history, history of law (shari'a), history of medicine and of public hygiene – all with an emphasis on 19th-century Egypt. He is also a frequent contributor to Arab and Western media on current Middle Eastern affairs.