

# Open Panels for the 25th International Congress of DAVO

## 1) Amazigh Renaissance in Post-Arab Spring Maghreb

Organizer: Houssine Soussi, University of Ibn Zohr, Agadir

'The Maghreb' has long been mistakenly defined in academic as well as diplomatic discourses as a part of the 'Arab world' and was more recently referred to as 'Al Maghreb Al Arabi', literally 'The Arab Maghreb'. Consequently, the Amazigh identity, culture, and languages were totally ignored and the indigenous Amazigh people were actively silenced and marginalized in post-independent Maghrebian countries. The first constitutions of sovereign Morocco and Algeria for example, established Arabic as the sole official language and Islam the official religion of the state so as to assert these countries' Arabo-Islamic identity. More, a policy of Arabization which aimed to assert the Maghrebian states' adherence to the pan-Arab project *Al-umma Al-Aarabiyya (the Arab Nation)*, and which totally ignored the multi-cultural reality of these countries was initiated by the authoritarian regimes with the complicity of nationalists' parties and religious conservatives. Arabic was then presented as the language of unity, tradition, and 'authenticity'. This post-colonial national mythmaking based on *Arab Nationalism* and its ideology, intentionally disregarded the socio-cultural plurality of all Maghrebian societies.

Since 2010, the events and aftermaths of the social revolts across Maghrebian countries have again been misinterpreted and mistakenly labeled as an "Arab spring" in a move that totally ignores the large and active participation of Amazigh population and their claims for identity, cultural, linguistic and political rights.

Against this background, this panel intends to question the expressions 'Arab Spring' in relation to the Maghrebian context, and invites contributions and studies that investigate the impact of these events on the 'Amazigh renaissance' in Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and Morocco.

Please send your abstract (not more than 200 words) to Houssine Soussi, [h.soussi@uiz.ac.ma](mailto:h.soussi@uiz.ac.ma) until 9 June 2018.

## 2) Arab-Israeli Relations: Between Confrontation and Rapprochement

Organizers: Johannes Becke, Heidelberg Center for Jewish Studies / Elie Podeh, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

In contrast to the growing conflict between Israel and Iran over Syria's political future, Arab-Israeli relations have grown increasingly close throughout the last years, culminating in the statement of Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman that "Israelis have a right to their own land". The panel seeks to explore this tension between confrontation and rapprochement by inviting papers which deal with Arab-Israeli relations from a perspective of politics, culture or society.

Please send your abstract (not more than 200 words) to Johannes Becke ([johannes.becke@hfjs.eu](mailto:johannes.becke@hfjs.eu)) until 9 June 2018.

## 3) Interreligious Dialogue in the Middle East, Past and Present

Organizer: Stefan Maneval, Europe University, Flensburg

Although interreligious dialogue – in the sense of an organized encounter between adherents of different faiths – is considered to be a concept developed in the twentieth century in the West, there has been dialogue between Muslims and representatives of other religious communities in the Middle East ever since the rise of Islam. This panel aims to foster exchange between researchers working on interfaith conversations, agreements or controversies throughout the history of the Middle East until the present. Of particular interest are papers discussing how religious differences are debated and dealt with, reflecting upon the theological premises of such debates as well as on how social coexistence is imagined by those who partake in them.

Please send your abstract (not more than 200 words) to Stefan Maneval, [stefan.maneval@uni-flensburg.de](mailto:stefan.maneval@uni-flensburg.de) until 9 June 2018.

#### **4) Reforming Economic and Social Policies in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**

Organizers: Markus Loewe, Sabine Hofmann and Juliane Brach

Seven years ago, angry crowds have gathered in the streets of most MENA countries calling for political, economic and social reforms. But to date, most of their demands have not been met. In a sense, Tunisia is an exception, as it has gone through profound political reforms. However, even Tunisia has not much progress in reforming economic and social policy.

The intention of this panel is on the one side to take stock of and discuss economic, social and industrial policies (and their implementation) in MENA since 2011.

On the other hand we would like to address three key questions:

(i) What can/should MENA governments do to revive economic development and make it more inclusive, reduce poverty, inequality and vulnerability, and encourage investment in physical, human and social capital?

(ii) Can such necessary economic and social policy reforms be implemented at all under the current institutional and power structures, respectively what structural reforms are needed to restart the recommended policy adjustments?

(iii) And finally, what is the key for the success of reforms: Regional versus local integration, investment into infrastructure, market reforms, improved accountability of government, administration and justice, more redistribution, higher spending on education and health, better social protection?

The panel organizers welcome participants from all academic fields and professional background.

Please send a 200 word abstract until 3 June 2018, to Markus Loewe ([markus.loewe@die-gdi.de](mailto:markus.loewe@die-gdi.de)), Sabine Hofmann ([shofmann@zedat.fu-berlin.de](mailto:shofmann@zedat.fu-berlin.de)) and Juliane Brach ([juliane.brach@hs-bremen.de](mailto:juliane.brach@hs-bremen.de)).

#### **5) The Emergence of Islamic Studies in the Muslim World**

Panel Organizers: Sarah Holz, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan / Maria-Magdalena Fuchs , Princeton University, USA

Islamic Studies and Islamic History as academic disciplines and fields of higher education took shape in South Asia, the Near East and North Africa in the 19th century as the result of the efforts of diverse institutions and personalities who contributed to the study of Islam and the Muslim world. While religious seminaries have received ample attention in the secondary literature, efforts to streamline the study of Islam in “western”-type universities and colleges have remained underexplored so far.

The aim of this panel is to examine the emergence of Islamic Studies as a scholarly discipline and its shifting trajectories in colonial and post-colonial South Asia, the Near East and North Africa. Focusing mostly on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, we invite contributions that analyze the institutional history of universities and research institutions in South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, as well as the personalities affiliated with these institutions in order to trace their impact on Islamic Studies and discourses regarding the study of Islam.

We want to give particular attention to the conceptualization of curricula, responses to government policies, and transnational connections between these different regions. With this panel, we hope to initiate an interdisciplinary discussion about the entangled nature of these institutions and their importance for writing a global history of the Muslim world.

Please send your abstract (not more than 200 words) to Maria-Magdalena Fuchs, [mf14@princeton.edu](mailto:mf14@princeton.edu) until 9 June 2018

#### **6) The Muslim Brotherhood – Examining a Complex Phenomenon**

**Organizer:** Lennart Biskup, Frankfurt University

Since its creation in 1928 in Egypt, the Muslim Brotherhood (MB), one of the most famous Islamist Movements of modern times, spread to every state of the Arab World and even beyond. Its particular offshoots took different forms in each case, but were able to attract many followers and to become significant political and societal actors that shape the face of the Middle East until the present age. In this context, the panel aims to examine the development of MB-affiliated organizations in the region through specific case studies, focusing on different aspects like ideology, political goals and strategies.

Please send your abstract (not more than 200 words) to Lennart Biskup, [L.Biskup@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:L.Biskup@em.uni-frankfurt.de) until 9 June 2018.

## **7) Tourism to and from the Arab World: Challenges, Potentials, and Risks**

**Organised** by the German Tourism Research Group (Arbeitskreis Tourismusforschung in der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Geographie e.V., AKTF)

**Chaired** by Nadine Scharfenort (Passau University/Germany) and Hans Hopfinger (Catholic University Eichstaett-Ingolstadt/Germany)

The Arab World still remains in a particularly difficult situation of change and crisis with fundamental consequences for destinations, especially those attracting Western tourists. At the same time, the perception of Islam in Western countries is changing due to the afflux of refugees as well as terrorist attacks, thus influencing the outgoing tourism from Arab countries to Europe and North America.

Tourist destinations in the Arab World, on one hand, are trying to face the challenges in quite different ways, including different product and branding strategies or the role of specific target groups – especially a dynamic inner-Arab tourism mobility. Destinations outside the Arab World, on the other hand, are challenged, too, to position themselves in addressing tourists from Arab source markets, preserving and improving an attracting and hospitable welcoming environment.

The panel investigates on challenges faced by destinations in the Arab World but also invites studies focusing on the role of Arab tourists in destinations outside Arab countries. Colleagues interested in presenting their research results or works in progress are welcome to contact the organizers of the session. Contributors are asked to submit a title, a short abstract and information about their institutional affiliation and contact. Please clearly indicate the research question, concepts and empirical material your research is or will be based on. Papers will be accepted in English and German.

Please send your abstract (not more than 200 words) to Prof. Dr. Nadine Scharfenort, [nadine.scharfenort@uni-passau.de](mailto:nadine.scharfenort@uni-passau.de) and Prof. Dr. Hans Hopfinger, [hans.hopfinger@ku.de](mailto:hans.hopfinger@ku.de) until 9 June 2018.