

Open Panels for the 25th International Congress of DAVO

1) Amazigh Renaissance in Post-Arab Spring Maghreb

Panel organized by 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 until 29 June 2018.

2) Arab-Israeli Relations: Between Confrontation and Rapprochement

Panel organized by 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) until 29 June 2018.

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

Panel organized by 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 until 29 June 2018.

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

Panel organized by 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 29 June 2018, to Markus Loewe (markus.loewe@die-gdi.de), Sabine Hofmann (shofmann@zedat.fu-berlin.de) and Juliane Brach (juliane.brach@hs-bremen.de).

5) The Emergence of Islamic Studies in the Muslim World

Panel organized by 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 until 29 June 2018

6) The Muslim Brotherhood – Examining a Complex Phenomenon

Panel organized by 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 until 9 June 2018.

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

Organized 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 organisers 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 language.

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

8) The Syrian Conflict – The Role of Foreignism and Interventionism

Organized by Hakim Khatib – Goethe University Frankfurt

The conflict in Syria involves not only the Syrian regime of Bashar Al-Assad, but also several regional and international actors. There are increasing tensions amongst the different countries with a stake in the Syrian quagmire, which poses a real threat to the region in West Asia and North Africa. In addition to the interventionism by different external actors, Syria remains torn on the internal level with a high number of foreign fighters and Jihadists, who have flocked into the Syrian territory from all corners of the world to not only support opposition elements but also the Syrian regime.

This panel not only aims to investigate these developments and the emerging dynamics thereof but also to suggest plausible scenarios and solution of the current impasse.

Please send your abstract (not more than 200 words) to Hakim Khatib at hakim.khatib@normativeorders.net until 9 June 2018.

9) Women and the Public Sphere – Transformation of Gender Orders

Organized by Alwetina Schuckmann, Goethe University Frankfurt, schuckmann@em.uni-frankfurt.de

The last decades were affected by profound political, social and economic transformation in the MENA countries. Modern legal reforms featured a tremendous scope for changes concerning the legal and social status of women in their societies. Since the struggle for independence, women started to actively participate in political movements and debates. Despite those reforms and state efforts to implement women's rights, women in the MENA-region were denied full civic rights. National and international NGOs report on a regular base violations of human rights in the region. Nevertheless are women challenging the patriarchal structures on a daily basis through their appearance in the public sphere, be it by their presence in the labor market, universities or by their engagement in civil society.

This panel aims to discuss one or several of the following topics:
- the agency of Muslim women in the MENA

- the role of NGOs in contesting patriarchal structures
- the role of media (in promoting gender equality and human rights)
- gender based discrimination
- gender and sexuality

Please send your abstract (not more than 200 words) until 29 June 2018 to Alwetina Schuckmann, schuckmann@em.uni-frankfurt.de

10) Re-Examining the State in the Middle East

Organized by Oliver Schlumberger, University of Tübingen, schlumberger@uni-tuebingen.de

While a large literature exists on authoritarianism with regard to MENA countries, little recent literature on statehood has been produced lately. Also, there are open questions regarding the range of political phenomena and concepts that are tied to the concept of the state. Little consensus exists as to what the state is, whether we can speak of different types of states, and which dependent and independent variables should be examined in studying the state (as op-posed to the more “mature” literatures on social movements or political regimes). Are neo-patrimonialism, legitimacy, and autocracy also features of the state? Can we speak of political actors capturing the state? How can we understand the increasing phenomenon of state collapse? This panel invites contributions that might include suggestions for answers to some of (but not restricted to) these questions.

Please send your abstract (not more than 200 words) until 29 June 2018 to Oliver Schlumberger, schlumberger@uni-tuebingen.de

11) Being Young and being Muslim in Oman: Contemporary Reforms around Childhood, Piety, and Education in the Sultanate

Organized by Franziska Fay, Cluster of Excellence “Normative Orders”, Frankfurt Research Centre for Global Islam (FFGI), Frankfurt University

In response to the limited existence of scholarship on young people’s lives in Oman, this panel invites contributions that explore the intersections of being young, being Muslim, and secular and religious education in the Sultanate. Hoping to bring together researchers of different disciplines who work on childhood, Islam and education in Oman, the panel aims to engage with matters that are relevant to young Omanis today in the broader context of piety and schooling/socialization.

Please send your abstract (not more than 200 words) to Franziska Fay, fay@normativeorders.net until 29 June 2018.

12) Women and Sport in the Gulf Region

Organized by Amani Awad El Jack and Mahfoud Amara, Gulf Studies Center, Qatar University

Women in the Arabian Gulf region have often been portrayed in the Western media as passive, oppressed and submissive. These depictions conceptualize non-Western cultural identities as static and ahistorical and only served to reinforce the illusion that Gulf patriarchal institutions are unchanging and untiring. The proposed panel seeks to bring together scholars in the field of sports and produce new knowledge on the question of women and sport in the Gulf generally and in Qatar more specifically by exploring how women’s participation in national and international sports has been constructed and framed within GCC national discourses.

The panel aims to examine how women have strived to play an active role in sport activities in the region, as well as to examine how GCC states have developed women’s sport as part of their 2030 national visions strategic plans over the past decade. One focus will be how the Women Sport Committee in Qatar, which is the umbrella organization for women’s sport has been promoting and lobbying for women sport participation in Qatar at both the grassroots and elite levels. Power relations such as gender, culture, religion, age, ability and nationality inform the roles that women play.

We ask for papers engaging with power relations such as gender, culture, religion, age, ability and nationality influencing women’s role in sport in the Gulf region and with the perception of national and religious values and international women’s rights and their role in women’s participation in sport. The aim is to develop a nuanced gender sensitive analysis that enables us to better understand women’s engagement in sports as

well as the tension between authenticity and modernity as it relates to Gulf female athletes in the context of both local and global perspectives.

Please send your abstracts of up to 200 words until 29 June 2018 to Amani Awad El Jack, eljack@qu.edu.qa

13) Looking South: New Insights into Trans-regional Connections between MENA Countries and Sub-Saharan Africa

Organized by Steffen Wippel, University of Marburg

During the last years, for various geostrategic reasons, MENA countries, like Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey, showed an intensified and renewed policy focus on sub-Saharan Africa, including in the fields of economic, cultural, and military cooperation. Simultaneously, informal exchange and mobility across the Sahara continued and deepened. These (re-)orientations are not only acknowledged internationally, but are also heavily debated inside the respective countries. All this asks for comprehensive and comparative research on patterns and challenges of such trans-regional links, relations, and entanglements. Therefore, the panel invites papers in this field which are demonstrating a clear research question, conceptual background, and methodological approach.

Please send your abstracts (max. 300 words) until 29 June 2018 to Dr. Steffen Wippel, steffen.wippel@uni-marburg.de.

14) The Effect of Environmental Disasters on the Human - Nature Relationship

Organized by Sophie Roche, Ruprecht Karls University of Heidelberg, Karl Jaspers Centre

In this panel we suggest to bring together presentations that deal with the challenges that climate change and geological hazards cause. While desertification or nuclear pollution have been slow and creeping forms of pollution over decades, earthquakes, tsunamis or landslides are sudden events that can have disastrous effects on populations. Whether slow or fast, environmental disasters affect societies as a whole and implement social, cultural and political changes at various levels. The panel is interdisciplinary and invites presentations that reflect about the changing relation between people and their environment due to disasters.

Please send your abstract (not more than 200 words) until 29 June 2018 to Sophie Roche, sophie.roche@asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de.

15) Charities and the Transformation of Politics, Religion, and Society in the Muslim World and the Diaspora

Organizer: Katja Rieck, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Goethe University Frankfurt and Frobenius Institute for Research in Cultural Anthropology

The 1990s and 2000s witnessed a boom in the establishment of charities and philanthropic organizations in the Muslim world, and established organizations underwent a process of "NGO-ization". These developments came in the wake of a global trend to trim down the welfare state and encourage "civil society" initiatives to provide services formerly provided by the state. Moreover, Muslims living in the European or North American diasporas, for example, came to establish their own organizations. This panel invites papers to discuss: How have they been affected by shifting political landscapes? How have they themselves contributed to religious, political or social transformations?

Please send your abstract (not more than 200 words) until 29 June 2018 to Katja Rieck, k.rieck@em.uni-frankfurt.de

16) Narrative Fault Lines and Discursive mirroring – the Middle East in Europe

Panel organized by Kawthar El Qasem, Düsseldorf and Iman Attia, Berlin

The „orient“ as the "occident's" other is not limited to the idea of a faraway and alien place but likewise discursively produced in the encounter with those emerging as others in the same discourse and happening to live in the "occident " or "the West". Historical narratives and current discourses surrounding relevant conflicts, such as the Mideast conflict and the ongoing wars in the Middle East at large, as well as regarding

refugees from Arab or (majority) Muslim countries and Arabs and Muslims already living in Europe, testify to the power and impact of the “oriental” framework.

While the “orient” is represented in narratives and commemorative cultures of European societies it is mirrored in alternative or counter constructs and narratives of “Arabs” and (those perceived as) “Muslims” living in these societies as its designated others.

The respective narratives and discursivizations can be attributed to various motivations:

They function as means of exclusion, demarcation and inclusion or to negotiate belonging , but also to unburden the own group while replying to past, present and sometimes even imagined future addressings and exigencies.

This panel seeks to address narrative overlaps and discursive mirrorings, inward and outward emarcations and their effects, im/possible syntheses and synergies as well as trends and transformative potentials. Particular attention is paid to the moment when narratives “tip over”: Moments in which exceptions or irritations are discursively and performatively produced, so that allegedly universal ethical standards and norms are or seem to become invalid for the designated others.

Within which discursive figurations and strategies are these narrative fault lines produced and how are they legitimized? Which historical (dis)continuities can be reconstructed and what effects do they have on society as a whole, on a collective and individual level for the respective addressees? How are narrative and discursive inconsistencies perceived and how do they affect the credibility and integrity of the different protagonists and their relationships with the designated and imagined “other”?

Please send your abstract (200 words) to kawthar.elqasem@hs-duesseldorf.de until 29 June 2018.