

Please find below the following announcements: Dear Madame, dear Sir, dear colleague and friend,

CONFERENCES

1. 19th International DAVO–Congress on Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Erlangen/Germany, 4–6 October 2012
2. Conference: “Muslims and Political Participation in Britain”, Edinburgh, 20–21 April 2012
3. Student Conference: “Ninth Beirut Exchange”, Beirut, 10–24 June 2012
4. International Colloquium: “Revolts and Transitions in the Arab World: Towards a New Urban Agenda?” French Center for Research in Cairo (CEDEJ), 7–9 November 2012
5. Workshop: “Roads as Routes to Modernity”, Berlin, ZMO, 5 October 2012
6. Workshop and Colloquium: “Cataloguing of Islamic Manuscripts”, University of Naples “L’Orientale”, 6–7 December 2012
7. Colloquium: “The Middle East and North Africa at Crossroads – Changes in the Past, Present and Future”, Tampere, Finland, 24 – 25 August 2012

POSITIONS

8. Two Ph.D. Positions Studying Jews of Baghdad and Syriac Christians of North Iraq, Leiden University

Best regards,

Guenter Meyer

Centre for Research on the Arab World (CERAW), University of Mainz,
www.ceraw.uni-mainz.de

CONFERENCES

1. 19th International DAVO–Congress on Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Erlangen/Germany, 4–6 October 2012

The German Middle East Studies Association for Contemporary Research and Documentation (DAVO) is calling for papers for its 19th International Congress. The conference will be held at the University of Erlangen–Nuremberg, chaired by Professor Dr. Christoph Schumann (Professur für Politik und Zeitgeschichte des Nahen Ostens) and Dr. Jörn Thielmann (Erlanger Zentrum für Islam und Recht in Europa EZIRE). Amke Dietert, the General Secretary of the Congress, is responsible for the organizational tasks.

We welcome papers on all fields of contemporary Middle East studies and the impact of this region on other parts of the world. Middle East studies are understood to include disciplines relevant to the study of an area comprising all members of the League of Arab States, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, Israel and the Muslim states of the former USSR.

Deadline for the registration of papers and panels including abstract of 300 words before 2 July 2012.

Further information and registration forms are available at
<http://www.davo1.de/tagungen/davo2012.html>

2. Conference: “Muslims and Political Participation in Britain”, Edinburgh, 20–21 April 2012

Registration is now open for this conference which focuses on the involvement of Muslims in all aspects of political life in Britain. The deadline for registration is 19th March 2012.

The conference is organised by the Alwaleed Centre at the University of Edinburgh in partnership with the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge and the Muslims in Britain Research Network (MBRN).

Further information
www.alwaleed.ed.ac.uk

3. Student Conference: "Ninth Beirut Exchange", Beirut, 10–24 June 2012

The Exchange is an effort by Mideastwire.com and its partners to promote engagement and understanding through a variety of city-focused, student conferences in and around the Middle East. So far, over 220 students from 44 different countries have participated, with many going on to work as diplomats in their home countries, for NGOs serving the region and as social entrepreneurs.

The Beirut Exchange program rests on three tracks:

Academic – Participants will attend a series of lectures and colloquia led by leading academics and public intellectuals. Topics will include: The Arab Uprisings; The Special Tribunal for Lebanon; The United Nations as peacekeeper and mediator; Engaging political Islam; Asymmetrical conflict; the July 2006 Lebanon war; Human Rights in the Middle East and other topics.

Language – Participants will have the option of attending approximately 20 hours of Arabic language instruction at the Saifi Arabic Institute for Arabic Language in Beirut. Modules for different levels of Arabic will be available.

Dialogue with Leaders – Participants will have the opportunity to meet, listen and engage social, political and economic leaders from across the spectrum in Lebanon – with a particular (though not exclusive) emphasis on exposure to leading Islamist and opposition currents.

Application deadline 10 April 2012. Information
www.thebeirutexchange.com

4. International Colloquium: "Revolts and Transitions in the Arab World: Towards a New Urban Agenda?" French Center for Research in Cairo (CEDEJ), 7–9 November 2012

This international colloquium aims to discuss the urban dimension of the great changes in the Arab world, from the origins of the 2011 revolutionary episodes to the present experiences of democratisation, along with phases of political transition and socio-economic crisis in which states are still entangled. Our objective is to (re)consider processes of urbanisation and urban practices, by the yardstick of the political, economic and social issues relevant in the region since the beginning of the decade. Researchers in social sciences and experts on Maghreb, Middle-East and Arabian Peninsula will compare their different points of view. Thus, this colloquium aims to contribute to the revitalization of urban studies in the Arab world, as aligned to economic and political analysis.

Five topics structure this call for contributions:

1. The urban dimensions of revolts
2. Living in cities in revolt and transition
3. Legacies of the past: details and questions about urban action of the « former regimes »
4. Elections and new political powers: the urban agenda in question
5. Rethinking sustainable urban development: proposals from civil society and silent partners

This multidisciplinary colloquium is willing to collect communications highlighting recent fieldworks, or experts' reports and critical analyzes. Case studies or comparative analyzes will be welcome, from young researchers, (post)doctoral students and experienced researchers. We strongly encourage proposals (eg feedbacks) from NGOs, associations, national and international experts, etc.

Proposals for papers (5000 signs), and a brief biography or CV, can be sent in French or English to the organizers : Dr Pierre-Arnaud BARTHEL (Université Paris-Est – LATTS-CNRS,

barthelp@enpc.fr
) and Dr Roman STADNICKI (CEDEJ, Cairo,
roman.stadnicki@cedej-eg.com
) . Deadline for submission: May 15, 2012

5. Workshop: "Roads as Routes to Modernity", Berlin, ZMO, 5 October 2012

Retrieving the significance of roads from within the 'family' of modes of transport and infrastructures of mobility is one of the concerns of our workshop. The other significant aim is to produce independent histories of roads that integrate with and explain the social and political processes of state-formation and empire building. Control over communication was and remains an integral part of governance in both colonial and post-colonial periods. In the Ottoman empire, railways were projected and constructed on a larger scale only in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Before, road building was an important project of modernisation. In the background of this understanding, we seek to ask:

1. When and how did roads become important part of processes of control and consolidation of power, either by state or regional powerful elites?
2. What discourses ('opening up the interiors', 'moral and material advancement', 'civilizing mission', 'progress and modernity', for instance) were used to justify such a control and how did they manifest themselves?
3. What was the nature of finance and expenditure? What kinds of labour (forced, free, contracted, and so on) was used to make roads? What was the nature (temporary, seasonal, migrational, level of skill, etc.) of this labour market? What were the disciplining mechanisms applied on the group of workers?
4. How did roads relate to other forms of communication (river navigation and railways)? Is the nature of this interaction conflictual or complementary?

We invite papers that, on the basis of concrete case studies, will examine these or similar themes.

Please send in our abstracts of no more than 500 words to: Nitin Sinha,
sinhanit@hu-berlin.de
and Florian Riedler,

florianriedler@gmx.net
. Deadline 15 April 2012.

Further information
<http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/termine/id=18369>

6. Workshop and Colloquium: "Cataloguing of Islamic Manuscripts", University of Naples "L'Orientale",
6-7 December 2012

Organised within the framework of the research and editorial project Series Catalogorum (by Istituto per l'Oriente Carlo Alfonso Nallino and CNRS Mondes iraniens et indiens).

The Journée d'études (6 December), Cataloguing of Islamic Manuscripts (Work in Progress) is a workshop devoted to some current projects of the Series Catalogorum, the presentation of the manuscript collections under the process of cataloguing, and various case studies, in which both researchers and PhD students are invited to participate.

The Colloquium (7 December) is dedicated to Codex and Text, The use and relevance of codicology, paleography and illumination for textual studies. Its aim is to highlight the relation between text and manuscript support, and focus on interrelations between codicological studies and textual studies in the research on the history of Islamic manuscript tradition.

We invite researchers and advanced PhD students to submit an English or French proposal for the Journée d'études or the Colloquium before 1 April 2012 to the attention of Professor Michele Bernardini (micbernardini@libero.it) and/or Professor Roberto Tottoli (r.tottoli@fastwebnet.it)

Information on the colloquium will be given at
www.unior.it
and
www.ipocan.it

7. Colloquium: "The Middle East and North Africa at Crossroads – Changes in the Past, Present and Future", Tampere, Finland, 24 – 25 August 2012

The 2nd Finnish Colloquium of Middle East Studies is organized jointly by the Finnish Institute in the Middle East (FIME), Tampere Peace Research Institute (TAPRI), the Finnish Egyptological Society, the Finnish Oriental Society and the University of Helsinki.

We welcome papers (20 min + 10 min for discussion) from all fields and disciplines of the Middle East, North African and Mediterranean studies.

Please send the title of your paper and a short abstract (max. 400 words) as well as short biographical information to Ari Kerkkänen (director@fime.fi) by 27 April 2012.

Inquiries about the colloquium: Ari Kerkkänen (director@fime.fi.)

POSITIONS

8. Two Ph.D. Positions Studying Jews of Baghdad and Syriac Christians of North Iraq, Leiden University

The Institute for Religious Studies in Leiden seeks to add two Ph.D. students to the research team of a project on the non-Muslim communities of the Middle East (1920–1950), one studying the Jews of Baghdad, one the Syriac Christians of North Iraq, with an emphasis on how religion and language interact.

For more on the project, see:
http://69422.weblog.leidenuniv.nl/2012/01/20/img_1273-jpg-1
. Deadline for application 1 March 2012.

For more on applying for one of the two Ph.D. positions, see
<http://www.vacatures.leidenuniv.nl/wetenschappelijk/12-012-phd-student-religious-studies.html>

