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INTERNATIONAL AGYA CONFERENCE
**‘THE PLACE OF HUMANITIES IN RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND SOCIETY: AN ARAB-GERMAN
DIALOGUE’**

8–10 NOVEMBER 2019

VENUE: Freie Universität Berlin, Silberlaube, Hörsaal 1b, Habelschwerdter Allee 45, 14195 Berlin, Germany

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ORGANIZERS: AGYA members Dr. Jenny Oesterle (University of Heidelberg), Jun.-Prof. Dr. Barbara Winckler (University of Münster), Prof. Dr. Nuha Al-Shaar (American University of Sharjah), Dr. Beate La Sala (Freie Universität Berlin)

Digitization and artificial intelligence, globalization, agriculture and sustainable resource production in times of climate change, genome editing and high-tech medicine, are highly topical issues of STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and math). These technological and ecological transformations are increasingly shaping our everyday lives, and they determine how we will live in the future. Hence, new challenges for society arise, requiring philosophers, historians, literary scholars, and artists to provide us the essential knowledge and a variety of perspectives to reflect on social change, our ethical values, and norms: the humanities help us make meaning of the future world and define our place in it.

The international AGYA conference aims at exploring the potential and challenges of the humanities, engaging Arab and German key players in a multilateral dialogue.

In the Arab world and Germany, the humanities face common obstacles such as limited access to financial resources or their very relevance being constantly put in question. Specifically in the Arab world, the lack of prestige and status of the humanities make gifted students rather choose a career path in STEM disciplines. A restricted access to international knowledge production is also an issue in some Arab countries. In Germany, the job market for graduates of the humanities is comparatively precarious. Therefore, it is time to initiate a transregional dialogue about the role of the humanities, their standing in the academic field, and their impact on society.

What are the most challenging issues in the humanities today? How to teach humanities at universities and high schools to the next generation and what does it take to bridge the gap

between sciences and humanities? What is the potential of digital humanities? The AGYA conference invites scholars of the humanities, scientists, and university officials from Arab countries and Germany to exchange ideas and share best practices, explore different strategies and benefits of Arab-German cooperation, and discuss the effects of funding policies. Last but not least, the importance and impact of humanities beyond the academic sphere will be debated together with representatives of cultural institutions, media and funding institutions, policy makers, and creative minds: How to make the knowledge and the skills associated with the humanities accessible to a broader public?

The structure of the conference will be comprised of alternating formats: keynote lectures, panel discussions and workshop sessions. Panel discussions will explore different strategies and benefits of Arab-German cooperation, the practice and allocative function of funding policies as well as opportunities and challenges in the field of digital humanities. While keynotes and panel discussions address the conference attendees and even a broader public, workshops allow for in-depth discussion of topical issues, discussing challenges and presenting examples of best practice. Among the topics addressed during the workshops are questions of, first, how to teach humanities (both at universities and in schools), second, how to 'translate' academic knowledge to a broader public, while the third workshop will be held in five parallel working groups in order to discuss in greater depth issues related to a specific discipline.

AGYA awards a prize to projects with special achievements in communicating humanities to general society. Following an international call for proposals (now closed), ten projects will be invited to take part in a poster presentation during the conference. The two best proposals/posters (one from the Arab world and one from Germany or another European country) will be honored in an award ceremony on the second day of the conference.

The conference is organized by the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) in cooperation with Freie Universität Berlin, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg and the American University of Sharjah. It is funded in the framework of AGYA by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

www.agya.info/humanities-conference2019

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

FRIDAY, 08 NOVEMBER 2019

18:00	Opening: <i>'How to Bridge Sciences and Humanities in the 21st Century?'</i> Prof. Dr. Günter M. Ziegler, President of Freie Universität Berlin Prof. Dr. Abdullatif Abuhijleh, President of Birzeit University, West Bank
19:30	Dinner Reception

SATURDAY, 09 NOVEMBER 2019

08:30-	Registration
09:00-09:30	Welcome Addresses & Introduction
09:30-10:15	Keynote I: <i>'Digital Citizen Media and Emerging Modes of Knowledge Production'</i> Prof. Dr. Randa Aboubakr Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Cairo University; Coordinator, Forum for the Study of Popular Culture (FSPC)
10:15-11:00	Keynote II: <i>'The Design Turn: Bridging the Humanities and Sciences Divide'</i> Prof. Dr. Claudia Mareis Professor of Design Theory and Design Research, FHNW Academy of Art and Design Basel; Deputy Director, Cluster of Excellence "Matters of Activity. Image Space Material", Humboldt Universität zu Berlin
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break / Poster Session
11:30-13:30	Workshop I: Teaching Humanities at Universities and (High) Schools (2 Parallel Workshops) Workshop I A: Teaching Humanities at Universities Workshop I B: Teaching Humanities at (High) Schools
13:30-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:00	Panel Discussion I: Arab-German Cooperation in the Humanities
16:00-16:30	Coffee Break / Poster Session
16:30-18:30	Workshop II: Translating Knowledge to Society ("Public Humanities")
18:30-19:00	Award Ceremony

SUNDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2019

09:00-10:30	Panel Discussion II: Funding Research in the Humanities
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-13:00	Workshop III: Disciplinary Perspectives (5 Parallel Working Group Sessions) Workshop III A: History and Archaeology Workshop III B: Literary and Cultural Studies Workshop III C: Philosophy and Ethics Workshop III C: Philosophy and Ethics Workshop III D: Law Workshop III E: Gender Studies
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:45	Keynote III: <i>'Diversity and Cultural Heritage at Risk'</i>
14:45-15:30	Report of Workshop Results
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break
16:00-17:30	Panel Discussion III: Digital Humanities
17:30-18:00	Closing Words/Final Discussion