

Program of the Panel Discussions at the  
International & Interdisciplinary Conference of the  
Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA)

# “Arab-German Research Cooperation: New Chances and Challenges in International Academia”

Abu Dhabi, 24 October 2015

Venue: Convention Center, Zayed University, Madinat Khalifa C, Abu Dhabi

Please register for your participation in the panel discussions before 20 October at [agya@bbaw.de](mailto:agya@bbaw.de)

## Panel 1: Math and Science Outreach Program

9:30am - 11:00am

How can we involve Arab and German youth in up-to-date scientific knowledge and empower them to embark on the road of scientific research? We will discuss new approaches to build “vertical” networks between students, school teachers and scientists, as well as “horizontal” networks across disciplines, institutes and countries. One specific focus will lie on international competitions such as the International Math Olympiad and the benefits it provides to its participants, schools and universities.

### Panelists:

**Dr Abdulla Al Kamali**,  
Special Programs Manager, Qatar  
National Research Fund  
**Dr Asmaa Al Muhannadi**,  
Head of Scientific Research, Supreme  
Education Council, Doha (tbc.)  
**Prof Robin Dada**,  
Dean of the College of Education,  
Zayed University  
**Dr Ahmad El-Guindy** (AGYA),  
Assistant Professor at the Department  
of Mathematics, Texas A & M Univer-  
sity, Doha

**Prof Kalman Graffi** (AGYA),  
Head of the Lab for Technology of  
Social Networks, Institute of Computer  
Science, Heinrich Heine University  
Düsseldorf

**Prof Jürgen Prestin**,  
Director of the Department of Mathe-  
matics, University of Lübeck, Head of  
the German Delegation of Internation-  
al Math Olympiads

### Moderation:

**Dr Vanessa Lux** (AGYA), Research Fel-  
low at the Faculty of Psychology, Ruhr  
University Bochum

## Panel 2: “Translating” Heritage in Contemporary Transnational Contexts

11:30am - 1:00pm

If we interpret the notion of “translation” as explaining one’s own cultural heritage to members of other cultural backgrounds understanding and shared knowledge is produced. In this panel we will tackle characteristics and problems of such “translations” in museology with a focus on antique heritage and sports as a global medium.

### Panelists:

**Prof Ammar Abdulrahman** (AGYA),  
Professor at the Department of History,  
University of Konstanz  
**Prof Jane Bristol-Rhys**,  
Associate Professor at the Department  
of Humanities and Social Sciences,  
Zayed University  
**Prof Verena Lepper** (AGYA),  
Curator for Egyptian and Oriental Pa-  
pyri, Egyptian Museum & Papyrus Col-  
lection, Prussian Heritage Foundation

**Dr Tarek Tawfik** (AGYA),  
Director-General Grand Egyptian Mu-  
seum Project

**Dr Christian Wacker**,  
Academic Project Director at the Muse-  
um Academy, University of Freiburg

### Moderation:

**Dr Norman Domeier** (AGYA), Assistant  
Professor at the Faculty of History,  
University of Stuttgart

## Panel 3: Disputed Technologies: Ethical Perspectives

2:00pm - 3:30pm

In the past four decades technologies have significantly changed our lives. Many of the new emerging technologies raise controversies, and many spark intense debates that polarize in the scientific point of view. The panel will open the floor to Arab and German perspectives on disputed technologies. A special focus will be on the assessment of individual country perspectives.

### Panelists:

**Dr Nuha Al-Shaar** (AGYA),  
Assistant Professor at the Department of Arabic and Translation Studies, American University of Sharjah

**Prof Fayçal Djeflal** (AGYA),  
Professor at the Department of Technology, University of Batna

**Dr Jan Friesen** (AGYA),  
Scientist at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Leipzig

**Prof Bashshar Haydar**,  
Professor at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, American University of Beirut

### Prof Nicole Karafyllis,

Chair of Philosophy, Braunschweig Institute of Technology

### Dr Martin von Broock,

Chairman of the Management Board Wittenberg Center for Global Ethics, Lutherstadt Wittenberg

### Moderation:

tbc.

## Panel 4: Issues and Challenges in Higher Education

4:00pm - 5:30pm

Higher education institutions are expected to operate, compete, be creative and innovative, and provide intellectual leadership in a rapidly changing world. Has higher education succeeded in fulfilling such aspirations? In this panel discussion, we will address questions such as: What is the role of higher education in the 21st century? What are the major issues and challenges now and in the future? Where are we placing teaching and learning in higher education compared to research?

### Panelists:

**Prof Yaser Amouri**,  
Dean at the Faculty of Law, Birzeit University

**Dr Nafez al-Dakkak**,  
Director of Edraak, Queen Rania Foundation, Jordan

**Dr Maha Al-Hendawi** (AGYA),  
Director of Core Curriculum and Foundation Program, Qatar University

**Dr Sabine Behrenbeck**,  
Head of the Higher Education Department and Project Excellence Initiative, German Council of Science and Humanities

### Prof Sari Hanafi,

Chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Media Studies, American University of Beirut

### Prof Rana Tamim,

Assistant Professor at the College of Education, Zayed University

### Moderation:

**Dr Vanessa Lux** (AGYA), Research Fellow at the Faculty of Psychology, Ruhr University Bochum

## Panel 5: Innovation and Young Talents

7:00pm - 8:30pm

Innovation is a key driver for the future industry. Startups and spinoffs from universities are one promising way to transfer the world-leading research and education to novel solutions and ideas that might initiate long lasting industrial development. Thus it is a key question how countries and universities support the development of ideas, the transfer of knowledge from university to industry and the founding of new startups.

### Panelists:

**Dr Dalia Abu Samra-Rothe**,  
Director of the Abu Dhabi Office, German Emirati Joint Council of Industry and Commerce

**Dr Andreas Fischer** (AGYA),  
Freelance Scientific and Technical Consultant, Wissenschaftlich-technische Beratung, Chemnitz

**Dr Thomas Heck**,  
Managing Director of the Düsseldorf Innovation and Science Agency

### Jan Marcel Sander,

Co-Founder of the Startup Actidoo, Paderborn

### Dr Martin von Broock,

Chairman of the Management Board Wittenberg Center for Global Ethics, Lutherstadt Wittenberg

### Moderation:

**Prof Kalman Graffi** (AGYA),  
Head of the Lab for Technology of Social Networks, Institute of Computer Science, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf