



Dear colleagues and friends of AGYA,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is our great pleasure to send you the first edition of the digital newsletter of the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA).  
At the close of another year, we gratefully pause to wish you a warm and happy holiday season.

The AGYA Team

## AGYA IN FOCUS



### AGYA Opens New Office in Cairo: Arab-German Research Cooperation in Action

On 25 October 2018, the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) celebrated the official opening of its new Regional Office located within the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) in Cairo. On the occasion of the opening festivities in Cairo the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) announced the award of an additional 3.3 million euro in funding to AGYA.

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### AGYA Annual Conference 2018 in Egypt

This year's AGYA Annual Conference took place in Egypt from 26 to 28 October 2018. During the conference, AGYA members warmly welcomed 14 new members. The members convened in the General Assembly to discuss the recent, current and upcoming activities of the academy, in addition to holding elections for the 2019 AGYA Steering Committee and Co-Presidents.

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### Smart Cities: Identifying Key Components for Green Transformation

The growing urbanisation trends in Arab countries and Germany call for a core strategy to transform cities into so-called 'smart cities'. We are looking at concepts, their implementation and potential for future solutions from an interdisciplinary perspective.

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### Learning Lessons on Reconciliation from Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Working Group *Transformation* explored opportunities and pitfalls of reconciliation politics in post-conflict countries in Bosnia and Herzegovina in September 2018 together with guests from the Arab world and Europe.

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## AGYA SCIENCE JINN

It is the task of the AGYA Science Jinn is to translate the latest scientific findings into words that are easily understood by everyone. The Science Jinn was invented for the **first AGYA Science Comic** whose authors later won the **Science Outreach Slam** in Kuwait. The graphic novel introduces the next botanic superhero of our time—the powerful Halophyte.



Halophytes can survive salinities 1000 mM NaCl (4 tea-spoons of salt in a glass of water). 150mM are typically used to cook spaghetti.

Halophytes are plants that are able to survive and flourish in environments with high salinity levels. They grow in many regions of the Arab world and Germany, but they are rarely utilized. AGYA members Ahmed Debez, Carsten Montzka, Skander Elleuche, and Jan Friesen investigated on an interdisciplinary level how halophytes could play a role in the field of sustainable energy production in their paper 'Facing the challenge of sustainable bioenergy production: Could halophytes be part of the solution?'.  
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## OUT NOW

### 'Arab and German Tales—Transcending Cultures'

The exhibition 'Arab and German Tales—Transcending Cultures' is based on a joint research project. A catalogue accompanying the exhibition provides precious insights into the history of Arab and German fairy and folk tales, and how the two cultures influenced each other. To promote the idea of a shared cultural heritage, the catalogue is published as one book in Arabic, German and English. Find more information on the project [here](#).

edited by Verena M. Lepper in collaboration with Sara Aisha Sabea  
'Arab and German Tales—Transcending Cultures'  
Kulturverlag Kadmos Berlin. Wolfram Burckhardt, 2018  
ISBN 978-3-86599-392-2  
Order the book [here](#).

### 'Academia in Transformation. Scholars Facing the Arab Uprisings'

The book provides an insightful and illuminating view of the transformation of the academic landscape in the aftermath of the popular uprisings in the MENA region. It analyses how the academic discourse in and on this region has changed and reflects on how the transformation processes, which are still ongoing, are shaping lines of inquiry in different disciplines. The book's authors are members of the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA). Find more information on the project [here](#).

Kohstall / Richter / Dhoub / Kastner  
'Academia in Transformation. Scholars Facing the Arab Uprisings'  
Nomos, 2018  
ISBN 978-3-8487-2829-9  
Order the book [here](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

21 Dec 2018  
Kuwait

### Understanding Construction Law & Its Implementation

The workshop will focus on understanding construction law & its implementation in order to create a platform for knowledge sharing on topics posing challenges in the application of contractual and legal frameworks faced in the construction industry in GCC countries. In addition to this, it will discuss and analyses the role of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in resolving the disputes arising between the parties to the contract of FIDIC, and the uniqueness of arbitration in such disputes.

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19 Jan 2019  
BBAW, Berlin, Germany

### Salon Sophie Charlotte 2019

On 19 January 2019, the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) will hold its annual 'Salon Sophie Charlotte'. The Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) will participate in this prestigious event with a rich program of discussions, lectures and art performances.

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14 - 17 Apr 2019  
Berlin, Germany

The next AGYA Annual Conference will take place in Berlin from 14 - 17 April 2019. AGYA members will assemble and develop their project ideas in Working Group and Task Force Meetings. Part of the conference are scientific excursions to Berlin's state of the art science centers and technology parks. The conference will close with the public opening of the exhibition 'Arab-German Tales: Transcending Cultures' at the Neue Museum on the world famous Museum Island on 17 April.

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### Impressum:

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