



Dear colleagues and friends of AGYA,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are glad to send you this new issue of the AGYA Newsletter. Due to the current COVID-19 crisis the AGYA Team is continuing the work in home office. In order to support the worldwide attempt to reduce the spread of the virus, AGYA has cancelled or postponed all events until the end of April for now. As soon as new dates for the AGYA public events are scheduled, we will inform you accordingly. We would like to deeply thank you for all support and hope you are safe and in good health.

For AGYA, the year 2020 has started with great news: We are pleased to inform you that the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) will be funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) with 15 million euros over the next five years, thus opening a new chapter in Arab-German research cooperation.

As usual, at the beginning of the year, AGYA is seeking new members. Until 29 March 2020, excellent early-career scholars (3-10 years after PhD) from Germany and all Arab countries are kindly invited to apply for membership in AGYA.

Find out more about AGYA's current projects as well as recent project publications in this newsletter: The research topics range from emergent materials and smart cities to contemporary women philosophers.

We wish you an inspiring read.

The AGYA Team

## CALL FOR AGYA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS



Until 29 March, the Call for AGYA Membership Applications 2020 of the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) is open, inviting excellent young scholars (3-10 years after PhD) from Germany and all Arab countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) to apply for membership in AGYA.

Application documents are available at: [www.agya.info/cfm2020](http://www.agya.info/cfm2020)

## AGYA IN FOCUS



### 15 Million Euros in Funding for German-Arab Science Dialogue

AGYA receives 15 million euros in funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) through 2025. With the new funding, AGYA members can now implement long-term research projects across all disciplines and sustainably strengthen North-South-South cooperation.

[READ MORE >](#)



### In the Eyes of the Beholder: The World, the Other and the Self from Arab and German Perspectives.

AGYA contributed a diverse and engaging programme to the annual open doors event 'Salon Sophie Charlotte' at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW). Prof. Dr. Verena Lepper (AGYA Principal Investigator) invited an interested public to critically reflect on the Salon's theme 'Weltbilder' from Arab and German perspectives.

[READ MORE >](#)



### Contemporary Women Philosophers in Arab Countries. Intellectual Portraits

By particularly focusing on the work of women philosophers in the Arab world, the project attempted to contribute to a necessary international debate on the representation of Arabic-speaking women philosophers in global knowledge production and academic discourse. Rather than simply talking about Arab women and their ascribed roles, it created a space in which Arab women philosophers from six countries could have their say and directly engage with German audiences.

[READ MORE >](#)



### Destruction/(Re-)Construction: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Cultural Heritage in Conflict

Ruins have often captured human imagination and, in one way or another, they have been inscribed in a community's history, cultural memory, or local lore. But where does this captivating quality of destroyed or decayed buildings come from? Members of the AGYA Working Group Transformation invited international experts to discuss the cycle of the creation and decay of architectural heritage from a transnational and diachronic perspective.

[READ MORE >](#)



### Emergent Materials & Water-Energy Nexus: Concepts, Methodologies and Future Applications

The demand of water and energy is globally increasing. Both sectors are closely interlinked: All types of energy production consume water either to process the raw materials, constructing and maintaining the plant, or to just generate the electricity itself. The development of new technologies in this area is driven by emergent materials. Therefore, the workshop combined both and was part of a practical training course for Arab and German students.

[READ MORE >](#)



### International Workshop: Advanced Applications of Emergent Materials

Major steps in the evolution of mankind were commonly caused by innovative technological developments. Based on that our daily lives have mainly changed to be easier and safer due to supportive devices, helpful machines and other facilities that have been invented. However, the integration of emergent materials and their advanced applications into that process is a new variable and subject of an international AGYA workshop in Morocco.

[READ MORE >](#)

## AGYA SCIENCE JINN

By 2050, the vast majority of both European and Arab states' populations will live in urban areas. How can scholars, practitioners and urban stakeholders build better, more efficient and sustainable cities in the future? The concept of 'smart cities' aims to tackle urgent environmental, economic and social challenges posed by urban living through the innovative use of information and communications technology (ICT) to link and optimize energy, resource and economic flows in urban areas.

[READ MORE >](#)

The AGYA Science Jinn explains scientific findings in a comprehensible way. Moreover, he is passionate about fun facts and interesting figures. In this edition, the AGYA Science Jinn explains 'Smart & Sustainable Cities'.



## PUBLICATIONS

Al Alawi R., Alhamdani M., Hoheisel J., **Baqi Y.** (2020). 'Antifibrotic and tumor microenvironment modulating effect of date palm fruit (Phoenix dactylifera L.) extracts in pancreatic cancer'. In: Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy, Volume 121.

[READ ARTICLE >](#)

Salih, K.S.M.; **Baqi, Y.** (2020). Microwave-Assisted Palladium-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling Reactions: Generation of Carbon–Carbon Bond. Catalysts 2020, 10, 4.

[READ ARTICLE >](#)

### Impressum:

The Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA)  
at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW)

Jägerstr. 22-23

10117 Berlin/Germany

+49 30 20 370-281

[agya@bbaw.de](mailto:agya@bbaw.de)

Editorial Work: AGYA Office in Berlin

We take privacy very seriously at AGYA. You can unsubscribe from our mailing list at any time by sending a request to [agya@bbaw.de](mailto:agya@bbaw.de). We will delete your contact immediately.

PHOTO CREDITS

AGYA, berbach GmbH, Tyasseta & Siloy, wikicommons