



Dear colleagues and friends of AGYA,

'Patterns and Structures in Sciences and Humanities' was the topic of the AGYA Annual Spring Conference, held online from 22–25 March 2021. Come and follow AGYA members as they broach fresh perspectives that broaden the paths of interdisciplinary discourse.

This newsletter also invites you to discover the current exhibition 'From Cinderella to Sindbad: German and Arab Timeless Tales' in Abu Dhabi. Until 20 September, you can explore the rich shared cultural heritage of narrative traditions from ancient Egypt, the Arab world, and Germany.

Moreover, we kindly invite you to watch two video presentations of AGYA research projects: Voices of Climate Change & Climate Justice and Contemporary Reading Cultures in Egypt.

We are further delighted to announce the latest AGYA publications, including a study on long-term COVID-19 immune response and the thrilling science comic on social robots.

We wish you an insightful read!

The AGYA Team

RESEARCH OF AGYA MEMBER ATTESTS COVID-19 ANTIBODIES FOR LONG-TERM IMMUNITY IN EUROPEAN COHORTS



It is assumed that recovered COVID-19 patients show signs of long-term immunity after infection. This assumption was now confirmed for a cohort of convalescent patients in Europe by the research team around AGYA member Mohamed Abou El-Enein at the Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin. They studied this immune response by analysing the formation of specific T- and B-memory cells. Their research contributes to the published data from Australia and the USA and accordingly confirms and extends knowledge on the B cell response to the virus.

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AGYA IN FOCUS



From Lists in Literature to Chaos Theory: AGYA explores patterns and structures in interdisciplinary research

Patterns and structures crucially impact our understanding of reality. As fundamental categories, they help us analyse, order, and compare complex phenomena in our material and immaterial environment. AGYA members have therefore chosen 'Patterns and Structures in Sciences and Humanities' as the topic of the online Annual Spring Conference 2021, aiming to broaden the paths of interdisciplinary discourse.

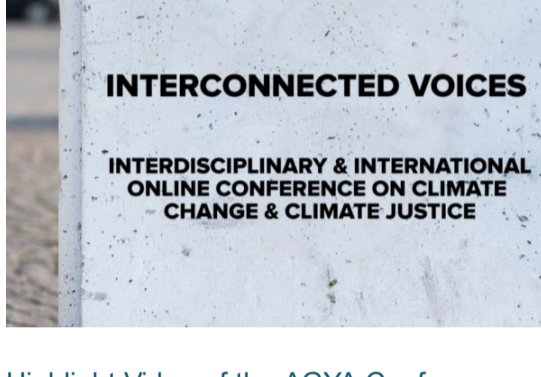
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From Cinderella to Sindbad - German and Arab Timeless Tales: Exhibition Opening in Abu Dhabi

The folk tale Cinderella is told in hundreds of variants around the globe: the young heroine known as Cinderella, Aschenputtel, or Hamda can be found in tales in Germany and the Arab Peninsula. The exhibition is dedicated to the rich shared cultural heritage of narrative traditions from the Arab world and Germany. 'From Cinderella to Sindbad: German and Arab Timeless Tales' is open until 20 September 2021.

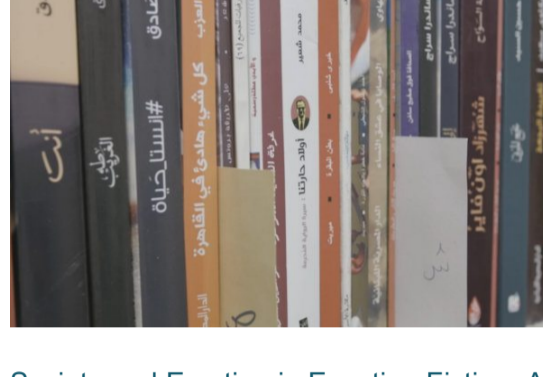
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Highlight Video of the AGYA Conference 'Interconnected Voices - Climate Change and Climate Justice'

The interdisciplinary conference discussed underrepresented topics, including islands and most impacted by climate change and their innovative mechanisms for adaptation, gender aspects of climate justice as well as the necessary development of civic narratives of climate protection in the Arab world. Get inspired by selected voices of climate justice in the highlight video of the conference.

[WATCH NOW >](#)



Society and Emotion in Egyptian Fiction: A Video on Reading Cultures

AGYA member Christian Junge seeks to understand the relationship between literature and society through the lens of emotional affect. He analysed social practices both in and of contemporary Egyptian literature. Catch a snapshot of Christian's research on digital reading communities.

[WATCH NOW >](#)

AGYA SCIENCE COMIC

SOCIAL ROBOTS
will influence humanity and society in the upcoming years.

Let us know what you think.



Out now! The new science comic on social robots has just been released. What are the current technological advances in the field of artificial intelligence? How do these affect health, education, and the labour market? Learn more about these questions in this thrilling crime story!

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PODCAST 'AGYA GOES VIRAL'



Welcome to the podcast 'AGYA goes viral!' The Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) invites you to explore the diverse implications of COVID-19 for science and society at large. In the newly released podcast episode #7, AGYA Co-President Professor Maha Nasr from Egypt and AGYA Steering Committee member Professor Marc Ringel from Germany talk about the current Coronavirus vaccines and how to stay healthy during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

[TUNE IN >](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Thieme, C.J., **Abou El-Enein, M.**, Fritsche, E., Anft, M., Paniskaki, K., Skrzypczyk, S., Doevelaar, A., Elsallab, M., Brindle, N., Blazquez-Navarro, A., Seibert, F.S., Meister, T.L., Pfaender, S., Steinmann, E., Witzke, O., Westhoff, T.H., Stervbo, U., Heine, G., Roch, T., Babel, N. (2021). Detection of SARS-CoV-2-specific memory B cells to delineate long-term COVID-19 immunity. In: *Allergy*, 1-5.

[READ ARTICLE >](#)

Richter, C. & Kozman, C. (eds.) (2021). *Arab Media Systems*. Cambridge, UK: Open Book Publishers.

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Korn, O.; Akalin, N. & Gouveia, R. (2021). Understanding Cultural Preferences for Social Robots: A Study in German and Arab Communities. In: *ACM Transactions on Human-Robot Interaction* 10(2):12:1-12:19.

[READ ARTICLE >](#)

Ringel, M. (2021). Smart City Design Differences: Insights from Decision-Makers in Germany and the Middle East/North-Africa Region. In: *Sustainability* 2021, 13, 2143.

[READ ARTICLE >](#)

Bank, A. & **Busse, J.** (2021). MENA political science research a decade after the Arab uprisings: Facing the facts on tremulous grounds. In: *Mediterranean Politics*, Volume 26

[READ ARTICLE >](#)

Weipert-Fenner, I. (2021). Go local, go global: Studying popular protests in the MENA post-2011. In: *Mediterranean Politics*, Volume 26.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

12 May 2021
Online

Alumni Lecture Series: Reporting the Beirut Blast in German Media

For the second session of the Alumni Lecture Series, AGYA is pleased to welcome Christoph Reuter, a prominent journalist for the German news magazine DER SPIEGEL and long-term correspondent in the Middle East. He will give insights into his journalistic work and reports on the reasons and responsibilities for the Beirut explosion.

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22 - 29 May 2021
Abu Dhabi

AGYA@Abu Dhabi Book Fair

Storytelling, science comics, and culinary traditions: AGYA takes part in the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair 2021. This year, Germany kicks off its two years as 'guest of honor'. AGYA joins the German exhibition stand and is very much looking forward to presenting publications on topics such as storytelling, science communication, and food as a cultural signifier.

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16 - 20 August 2021
Online

AGYA Summer School 'In Search of the Reader'

The summer school brings together young scholars on Ph.D. and postdoc level from Germany, Europe, and the Arab countries who are interested in theoretical approaches on reading, readership, and reading practices in Arabic philology, literature, and culture. In addition, the summer schools want to foster the active use of Arabic as an academic language among German and European scholars and English among scholars at Arab universities.

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