



Dear colleagues and friends of AGYA,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

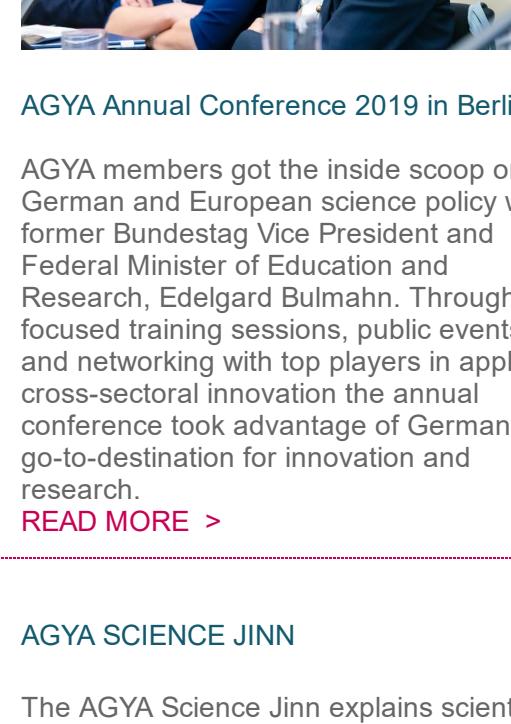
As a leading catalyst of scientific cooperation across disciplines and cultures, AGYA offered its Arab and German members once more in 2019 at the Annual Conference in Berlin the chance to exchange with high-ranking actors involved in German science policy and innovation. Together they tackled topics such as big data and artificial intelligence, European research policies and the entangled history of Arab and German story-telling.

The innovation hub Berlin was also this year's conference venue of the '9th International Symposium on Plant Senescence' organized by AGYA member Dr. Salma Balazadeh and Prof. Dr. Bernd Mueller-Roeber. The biennial symposium gathers more than 100 participants from all over the world to discuss recent advances on different aspects of plant aging. For the first time, young Arab researchers were invited to connect and exchange with specialists from other areas of the world. Crop genomics in the face of climate change is one of the core topics of this newsletter.

We wish you an inspiring read.

The AGYA Team

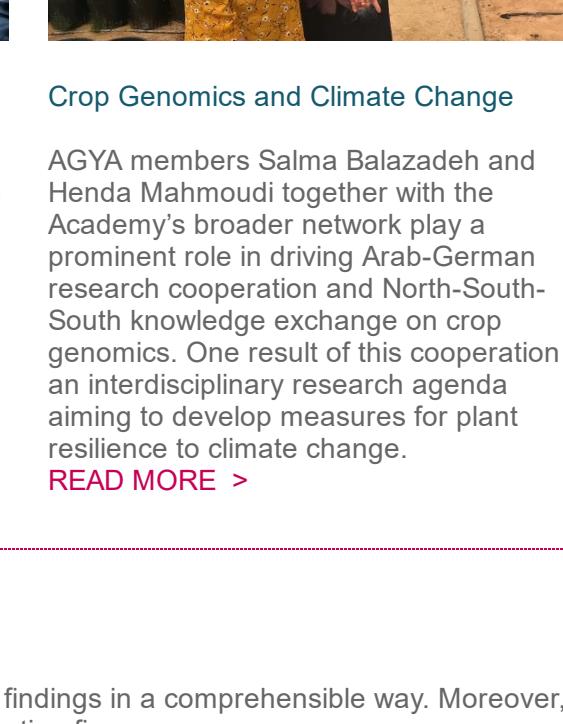
AGYA IN FOCUS



Data Science and Artificial Intelligence: Cutting Through the Hype

Mathematician and BBAW President Martin Grötschel delivered a thought-provoking public keynote on what can be expected from data science today. Artist Christoph Kellner's graphic recording serves as a colorful testament to the main takeaways of this public event at AGYA's Annual Conference 2019 in Berlin.

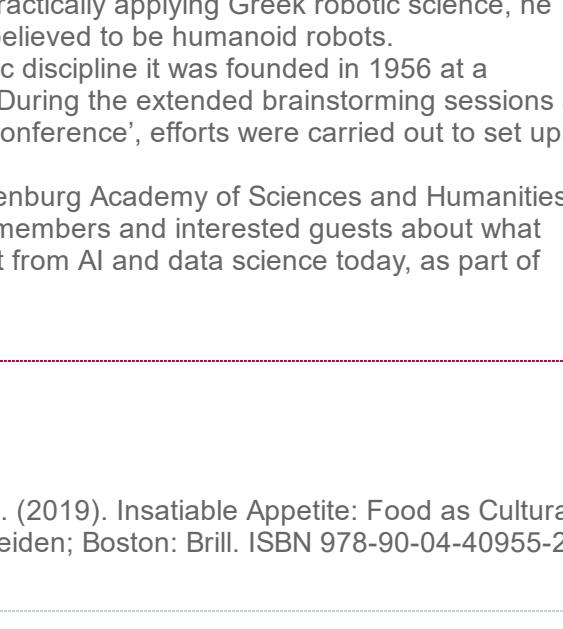
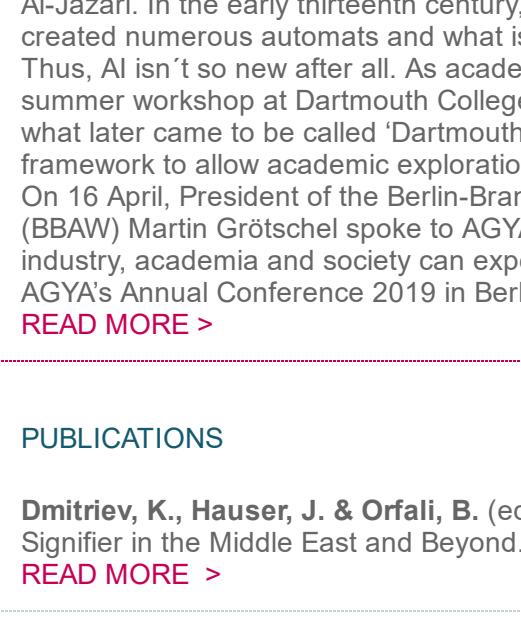
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Exhibition 'Cinderella, Sindbad & Sinuhe: Arab-German Storytelling Traditions'

The festive opening of the joint AGYA and Neues Museum exhibition 'Cinderella, Sindbad & Sinuhe: Arab-German Storytelling Traditions', on narrative commonalities between Ancient Egypt, the Arab world and Germany, was the cultural highlight of the AGYA Annual Conference 2019 in Berlin.

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AGYA Annual Conference 2019 in Berlin

AGYA members got the inside scoop on German and European science policy with former Bundestag Vice President and Federal Minister of Education and Research, Edelgard Bulmahn. Through focused training sessions, public events and networking with top players in applied cross-sectoral innovation the annual conference took advantage of Germany's go-to-destination for innovation and research.

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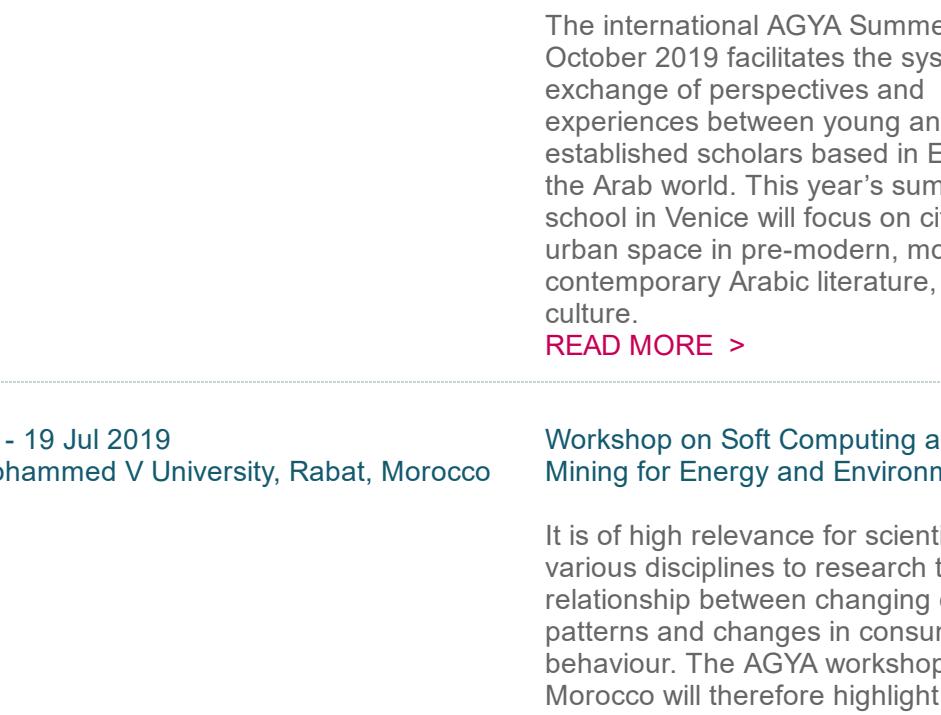
Crop Genomics and Climate Change

AGYA members Salma Balazadeh and Henda Mahmudi together with the Academy's broader network play a prominent role in driving Arab-German research cooperation and North-South knowledge exchange on crop genomics. One result of this cooperation is an interdisciplinary research agenda aiming to develop measures for plant resilience to climate change.

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AGYA SCIENCE JINN

The AGYA Science Jinn explains scientific findings in a comprehensible way. Moreover, he is passionate about fun facts and interesting figures.



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is currently the trending topic in technology, and the driving force behind most of the big technological innovations in the last years. But did you know that you can find its intellectual roots and the concept of intelligent machines, already in Greek mythology. Think for example of Hephaestus, the craftsman of Olympus and his golden mechanical servants.

The person who clearly enhanced the robotic engineering was the Arab polymath Ismail Al-Jazari. In the early thirteenth century, practically applying Greek robotic science, he created numerous automata and what is believed to be humanoid robots.

Thus, AI isn't so new after all. As academic discipline it was founded in 1956 at a summer workshop at Dartmouth College. During the extended brainstorming sessions at what later came to be called 'Dartmouth Conference', efforts were carried out to set up a framework to allow academic exploration.

On 16 April, President of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) Martin Grötschel spoke to AGYA members and interested guests about what industry, academia and society can expect from AI and data science today, as part of AGYA's Annual Conference 2019 in Berlin.

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PUBLICATIONS

Dmitriev, K., Hauser, J. & Orfali, B. (eds). (2019). *Insatiable Appetite: Food as Cultural Signifier in the Middle East and Beyond*. Leiden; Boston: Brill. ISBN 978-90-04-40955-2.

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Korn, O. (ed). (2019). *Social Robots: Technological, Societal and Ethical Aspects of Human-Robot Interaction*. Springer. ISBN 978-3-030-17106-3. [READ MORE >](#)

AGYA (2019). *Higher Education in Tunisia: Challenges and Opportunities*. [READ MORE >](#)

Lepper, V. M. (ed). (2019). 'Cinderella Sindbad & Sinuhe. Arabisch-deutsche Erzähltraditionen. Arab-German Storytelling Traditions.' Kulturverlag Kadmos Berlin. ISBN 978-3-86599-426-4. [READ MORE >](#) (in German)

UPCOMING EVENTS

18 Apr – 18 Aug 2019
Neues Museum, Berlin, Germany

Exhibition 'Cinderella, Sindbad & Sinuhe:
Arab-German Storytelling Traditions'

The exhibition looks into the mutual influences and shared ideas of Arab and German storytelling traditions. It investigates how they were adapted and interpreted through time and space, and points out the shared elements in these storytelling traditions. This exhibition is a collaboration between the Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin and the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA), and received generous funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

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15 Jun 2019
Application Deadline

CfA: International AGYA Summer School
Mapping the Urban: Cities in Arabic Literature, Culture, and Society

The international AGYA Summer School in October 2019 facilitates the systematic exchange of perspectives and experiences between young and established scholars based in Europe and the Arab world. This year's summer school in Venice will focus on cities and urban space in pre-modern, modern, and contemporary Arabic literature, arts and culture.

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18 - 19 Jul 2019
Mohammed V University, Rabat, Morocco

Workshop on Soft Computing and Data Mining for Energy and Environment

It is of high relevance for scientists in various disciplines to research the causal relationship between changing climate patterns and changes in consumer behaviour. The AGYA workshop in Rabat, Morocco will therefore highlight current advances and future trends in environmental, sustainability and energy studies using state of the art methods of soft computing and data mining.

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Ramadan Kareem! The AGYA team in Berlin, Beirut, Cairo and Tunis wishes all who celebrate it a joyous and blessed Ramadan.

Impressum:

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