



Dear colleagues and friends of AGYA,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

AGYA is looking back to a successful year: With manifold interdisciplinary research projects realized in 2019, the AGYA members and alumni addressed highly relevant societal topics, such as migration, resource scarcity, public health, education and endangered cultural heritage.

Over the course of AGYA's Annual Conference in October 2019 in Beirut, AGYA members and alumni participated in a wide-ranging program comprising the AGYA book launch event 'Insatiable Appetite', the award ceremony of the 'Re:Levant' AGYA Photography Competition and the public panel discussion on 'Preparing for the Future: Innovative Concepts in Higher Education Systems'. During the Annual Conference, 14 new members were inaugurated and a new Steering Committee was elected.

At the close of 2019, a year full of inspiring events, we gratefully pause to wish you all a warm and happy holiday season!

We wish you an enjoyable read.

The AGYA Team

## AGYA IN FOCUS



### 'Preparing for the Future: Innovative Concepts in Higher Education Systems'

Under the patronage of H.E. Akram Chehayeb, Minister of Education and Higher Education of the Lebanese Republic, AGYA festively opened its first Annual Conference in Beirut, Lebanon, on 11 October 2019, with a panel discussion on 'Preparing for the Future: Innovative Concepts in Higher Education Systems'.

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### New Steering Committee and New Co-Presidents Elected

During the General Assembly in Beirut in October 2019, the Academy members elected a new AGYA Steering Committee as well as two co-presidents for a one-year term. The Steering Committee members decided to focus on quality management, inclusion and diversity as well as internal communication processes.

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### AGYA Photography Competition and Award Ceremony

With the first of a kind 'Re:Levant' AGYA Photography Competition, AGYA aimed at gaining new perspectives on the Levant as a region, a social construct and a geographical location through photography.

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### AGYA Book Launch Event 'Insatiable Appetite'

The book launch of 'Insatiable Appetite: Food as Cultural Signifier in the Middle East and Beyond' on 14 October at the American University of Beirut was the public closing highlight of AGYA's Annual Conference in Beirut 2019.

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### Exhibition 'Cinderella, Sindbad & Sinuhe' in Berlin: A Story of Success

More than 300.000 visitors came to visit the exhibition 'Cinderella, Sindbad & Sinuhe: Arab-German Storytelling Traditions' in Berlin. A diverse accompanying program turned the exhibition for young and old into an experience for all senses.

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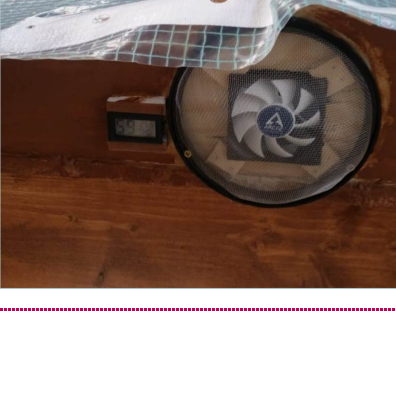
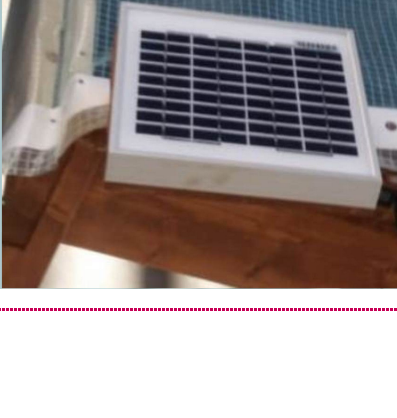
### Destruction/(Re-)Construction: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Cultural Heritage in Conflict

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?

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## GUESS WHAT

Guess what AGYA members Amro Babiker Hassan Eltayeb (Environmental Studies) and Philipp Blechinger (Engineering) have constructed! Any idea? If you want to know, [CLICK HERE >](#)



## 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. [READ MORE >](#)

**Oesterle J., Bashar I.** (2019). 'Geschichtswissenschaften an irakischen Universitäten - eine Bestandsaufnahme 2018/19'. *Journal des Verbandes der Historikerinnen und Historiker Deutschlands* Nr. 8/2019. ISSN 2197-6317. [READ ARTICLE >](#)

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 >](#)

**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

**22 - 23 December 2019**  
Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman

### Natural Product Chemistry: Medicinal plants, traditional medicine and state-of-the-art drug development

Since ancient times, natural products have been used and prescribed as traditional medicine in form of remedies, potions and oils for treatment of many diseases and illnesses. In fact, most of modern clinical drugs, which are currently in use, are inspired from a natural product origin. This workshop, organised by AGYA Alumnus Younis Baqi at Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat, Oman, gathers scientists from Germany and the Arab World, who pursue research in the field of natural product chemistry.

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**08 Jan 2020**  
Submission Deadline

### Call for Papers for the International Workshop 'Media Representations of Law and Justice: Middle Eastern Perspectives'

The Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) in cooperation with the Institute of Oriental Studies, University of Leipzig is pleased to announce the Call for Papers for the international and interdisciplinary Workshop 'Media Representations of Law and Justice: Middle Eastern Perspectives' in Germany at the Institute of Oriental Studies, University of Leipzig, 12 - 13 March 2020.

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**16 Jan 2020**

### The AGYA Call for Membership Opens

Become part of a community of the best and brightest early-career researchers (3-10 years post PhD) from Germany and the Arab world!

More information coming soon.

**18 Jan 2020**  
BBAW, Berlin

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

AGYA is contributing a rich and inspiring program entitled 'In the Eyes of the Beholder: The World, the Other and the Self from Arab and German Perspectives' as part of the annual open doors event 'Salon Sophie Charlotte' at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW). The AGYA contribution to the event is hosted by Principal Investigator Prof. Dr. Verena Lepper. It provides a diverse program including a panel discussion on 'Critical Reflections on Knowledge Production', a book launch with a tasting of different Hummus recipes, a poetry slam on 'Me, Myself and I in Future Worlds' and a photo exhibition reflecting on 'Images of the Self and the Other in the Levant'.

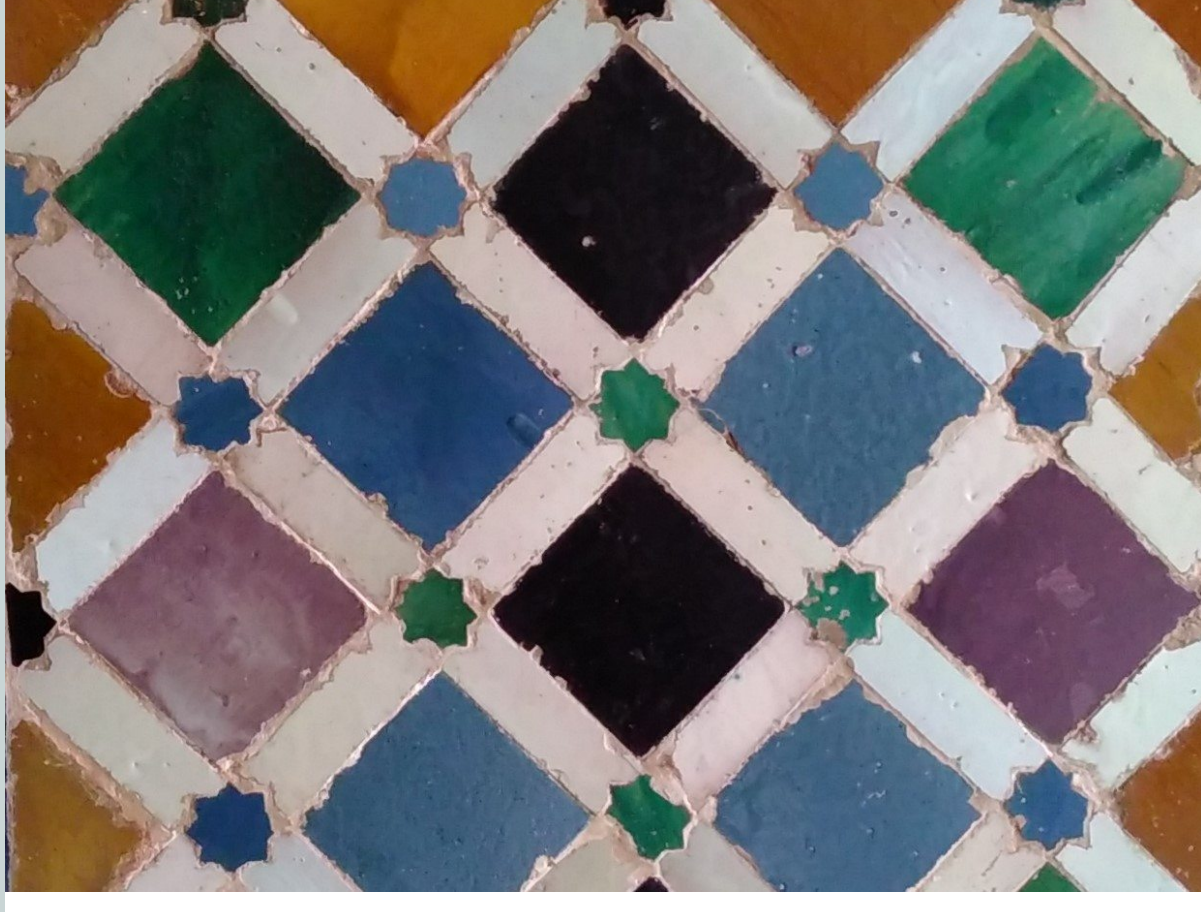
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**30 - 31 January 2020**  
GIGA Institute of Middle East Studies, Hamburg, Germany

### Authors' Workshop 'Facing the Facts on Tremulous Grounds'

On 30 and 31 January 2020, scholars from Europe, the United States and the Arab World will hold an authors' workshop at the GIGA Institute of Middle East Studies in Hamburg. The manuscripts to be discussed at the workshop are prepared for publication as a special issue in the renowned peer-reviewed journal *Mediterranean Politics*.

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## Impressum:

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## PHOTO CREDITS

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