

Press Release

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Of common heroines and intelligent networks – Arab-German research cooperation in the innovation hub Berlin

The Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) will host its annual conference from 14-17 April 2019 in Germany's go-to destination for innovation and research – Berlin

As a leading catalyst of scientific cooperation across disciplines and cultures, AGYA will provide its members at the 2019 Annual Conference in Berlin, with a chance for peer-to-peer exchange on existing and future projects as well as direct insight into the core locations and actors involved in German science policy and innovation in Berlin. In meetings with high-ranking politicians like former Vice-President of the Bundestag and Minister of Education and Research, Dr. h.c. Edelgard Bulmahn, AGYA members will benefit from dialogue and sharing perspectives with defining figures in German science policy, as well as exclusive insight into science-related decision-making processes at the German parliament. In a visit to Berlin's Adlershof Science City, AGYA members will learn about Europe's leading technology park, where high-level networking occurs between top actors from economic, science and research sectors, mirroring AGYA's aim to serve as an innovation hub for excellent early-career researchers across all disciplines. In addition, workshops on Policy Brief Writing and Science Communication through Theatre Practice will allow AGYA members to enhance their ability to proactively communicate the results and relevance of their research for society to diverse audiences.

April 16: AGYA invites the interested public to an evening event on Data Science & Artificial Intelligence

The first public evening event of this year's AGYA Annual Conference in Berlin will be a keynote on Data Science & Artificial Intelligence (AI) by Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Martin Grötschel, President of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences (BBAW) and Co-Chairman of the AGYA Advisory Board. It will take place on 16 April in the BBAW Leibniz Room, where Grötschel will discuss the current hype surrounding Big Data and AI today, and what we can reasonably expect from these fields in the near future. Social expectations and fears regarding the effects of intelligent technologies are incredibly diverse and their relevance for science and research is reflected in the various AGYA projects – on smart cities, social robots and FabLabs – related to this field. The interested public is encouraged to participate in this discussion and can also enjoy the musical contributions of AGYA member Dr. Rami Chahin that will enrich the event. Chahin is a musicologist at the Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg, whose spectral microtonal compositions are based on modifications of tonal colors through which he not only combines math and aesthetics, but also Arab and Western sound concepts.

April 17: Exhibition opening 'Cinderella, Sindbad & Sinuhe: Arab-German Storytelling Traditions'

In the cultural highlight of the 2019 AGYA Annual Conference, enchanting stories about the triumph of the young heroine known variously as Cinderella, Aschenputtel or Hamda, will be among the many examples of commonalities between Arab and German tales featured in the exhibition 'Cinderella, Sindbad & Sinuhe: Arab-German Storytelling Traditions' at Berlin's Neues Museum. The exhibition was created in cooperation with AGYA and includes artifacts ranging from ancient Egyptian papyri to modern pop-up books and comics. At the opening, Prof. Dr. Verena Lepper, AGYA Principal Investigator (PI) and curator at the Egyptian Museum and Papyrus Collection Berlin, will discuss mutual influences and shared motifs of Arab and German narrative traditions.

Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA)

The Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) is based at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) in Germany and at the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) in Egypt. It was established in 2013 and is the first bilateral young academy worldwide. AGYA promotes research cooperation among outstanding early-career researchers from all disciplines who are affiliated with a research institution in Germany or any Arab country. The academy supports the innovative projects of its members in various fields of research as well as in science policy and education. Currently, 60 members – in equal number Arab and German scholars – realize joint projects and initiatives. AGYA is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and various Arab cooperation partners.

AGYA promotes interdisciplinary research projects that are forward-looking and socially relevant

AGYA provides its members with support and funding for innovative projects across disciplines that are relevant for society. Members actively shape the Academy's activities and implement their own ideas and approaches within the framework of Arab-German research cooperation. AGYA connects outstanding scholars and high-ranking decision-makers in a growing Arab-German network of science and innovation, thus opening up potential for cutting-edge research across disciplines and cultures. The Academy also deepens regional collaboration in the Arab world and facilitates new forms of North-South-South cooperation. To date, members of AGYA have developed and carried out more than 100 interdisciplinary projects in more than 60 cities and 30 countries. These diverse projects have dealt with topics relevant to society, such as scarcity of resources, public health, migration, education, and endangered cultural heritage. The Academy also promotes the scientific careers and leadership skills of its members through high-quality, tailor-made trainings.

Further information: www.agya.info

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