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ABOUT AGYA

The Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) is based at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) and at the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) in Egypt. It was established in 2013 as the first bilateral young academy worldwide.

AGYA promotes sustainable research cooperation between outstanding Arab and German scholars (3 - 10 years after PhD) from all disciplines. The academy offers its members the unique opportunity to develop and implement their ideas and visions through research projects and joint initiatives at the interface of science and society. AGYA members share an inter- and transdisciplinary approach to scientific enquiry, with the intention of seeking solutions to societal challenges. Together, they realise innovative research on topics such as Arab and German Education; Common Heritage and Common Challenges; Dynamics of Transformation; Energy, Water and Environment; Health and Society; and Innovation.

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AGYA Reflective Workshop at the Fletcher School

Conflict and Conviviality around the Mediterranean and Beyond: Exploring Entanglements

17 April 2026

The Murrow Room, The Fletcher School and online

In cooperation with



This is a project by

Claire Bullen

AGYA Member, University of Tübingen

Tamirace Fakhoury

AGYA Alumna & The Fletcher School,
Tufts University, Medford

Setting the context

Conflict and conviviality are often depicted as a binary in the literature. Moving beyond this juxtaposition, we examine how the two intermesh, contest, and build on one another across diverse case studies and situational contexts. It draws on the Mediterranean as a conceptual terrain for understanding how spaces of conflict and conviviality intermingle in ways that challenge a dualistic approach.

As a political geography situated at the crossroads of multiple crises and challenges, the Mediterranean has often been shaped by clichés, imaginaries, and stereotypes that obscure its daily realities and the microhistories of conflict and coexistence. Mediterranean cities function as complex sites of encounter or spaces in which overlapping historical legacies, intricate governance regimes, and patterns of (im)mobility converge.

Our Workshop

This reflective workshop will focus on the concepts of conflict and conviviality as generative tools for exploring the entangled histories that link Europe with the Middle East and North Africa. While conflict has been studied extensively in the Mediterranean, conviviality and everyday coexistence have received far less attention with few notable exceptions. In the literature, conviviality can be understood as a way of bridging distance and engaging with 'the other', but it can also function as a coping mechanism or a form of superficial coexistence that obscures persistent and lingering tensions. It can also render certain intersectional identities and grievances (in)visible.

The workshop will provide an opportunity to share some preliminary findings from a project that Tamirace Fakhoury and Claire Bullen carried out as alumna and member of the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA). While the workshop draws on Mediterranean cities as sites of encounter shaped by legacies of conflict and conviviality, our aim is to broaden these reflections and explore the transferability of some of the project's ideas to other regions and cities as well.

All times refer to ET Daylight Time (PDT) / UTC -7.

9:15 AM – 9:30 AM

Registration with Coffee

9:30 AM – 9:35 AM

Welcoming Remarks

Tamirace Fakhoury

AGYA Alumna & The Fletcher School, Medford

9:35 AM – 11:00 AM

Research Presentations

Claire Bullen

AGYA Member, University of Tübingen

Nicholas Dines

University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan

Gülce Özdemir

Harvard University, Cambridge

Aija Lulle

University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio

Sana Benbelli

University of Hassan II, Casablanca

Tamirace Fakhoury

AGYA Alumna & The Fletcher School, Medford

11:00 AM – 11:50 AM

Open Discussion 1

Studying Conflict and Conviviality in Diverse Contexts: Theory, Definitional Dilemmas and Conceptual Framing

Christelle Barakat

Lebanese Center for Policy Studies, Beirut

Hannah Samuels

The Fletcher School, Medford

Moderator

Tamirace Fakhoury

AGYA Alumna & The Fletcher School, Medford

11:50 AM – 12:25 PM

Open Discussion 2

Methodological Reflections and Transferability of Findings: Insights from Comparative Contexts

Juliana Gallindo Villareal

The Fletcher School, Medford

Moderator

Tamirace Fakhoury

AGYA Alumna & The Fletcher School, Medford

12:25 PM – 12:30 PM

Closing Remarks

12:30 PM – 13:30 PM

Lunch