

Conference “Arab Revolutions and Beyond: Change and Persistence”

Cairo

19th - 21th October 2013

Call for Papers

Young Researchers Conference in the Framework of the DAAD Project “Challenges and Transformations in the Wake of the Arab Spring”

FU Berlin * Cairo University * GJU Amman * University of Tunis El Manar*

The 2011 upheavals in the Arab World initiated a myriad of transformation processes in most Arab countries, the outcomes of which are open. So far, a broad variety of trajectories can be observed and the Arab revolutions have created both, political openings and growing hope for change as well as uncertainty and instability in the region. In the long term, the Arab Spring could be an opportunity to begin a process of adjustment and reforms. This interdisciplinary conference assesses changes and continuities in the field of economic, political and institutional developments, as well as in the cultural and knowledge-production dimension that have taken place in the course of the two years since. It will tackle economic, political and social questions in three parallel sessions. It invites young researchers - especially from the Arab region - to participate. Proposals dealing with one or more of the following subjects are highly welcomed:

- **Economic transformations**

We welcome papers that assess the main socioeconomic factors that have led to the toppling of the regimes, as well as discuss the main challenges facing these countries in the aftermath of the Arab Spring and the subsequent economic transformations. The sectoral impact on tourism, the financial sector, and investment related aspects should be tackled. We want to address demographic transformations and their impact on the labour market, on migration and remittances. Social and human development indicators (education, health, poverty, know how) should equally be explored. The sustainability of the current transformations in terms of macroeconomic stability, real and financial variables changes will also be addressed. The role of the West in the upcoming period, particularly in the framework of Euro-Mediterranean economic relations (trade, IPR...), will be of particular concern, as the declared goal of the EMP and ENP is to contribute to a more prosperous and thus more stable and peaceful region.

- **Political and institutional transformations**

The papers are invited to address political and institutional transformations from above and from below and to focus on either the domestic or international dimensions of change. On the domestic level, among others, the issue of institutional and legal change – notably in terms of new or persisting modes of governance will be of particular importance. The emergence of new and old social movements, new modes of political participation and contention characterized the upheavals and the ongoing transition processes - how sustainable are these movements and did they impact on the systems? How are class, religion and gender intertwined with issue of resistance, repression, and

restoration? We will also address civil-military relations, security sector reforms, and the politics of securitization. On the international and regional level, we invite papers that address changes and continuities in Euro-Mediterranean relations, or focus on new geopolitics in the light of the re-emergence of regional and supranational actors.

- **Social and cultural transformations**

Taking into account the social and cultural dimensions induced by the “Arab Spring” necessitates questioning the issue of the emergence of the “individual-citizen” and his or her autonomy facing family and community structures as well as the political power. How did the Arab spring change these fundamental relations between the individual and society and the body politic? This includes analysing the processes and technologies, which contributed to a re-definition of public space, the construction and the revival of virtual and real social networks. From a cultural studies perspective, interdisciplinary approaches combining theories, paradigms and methods from the social sciences disciplines (anthropology, political science, sociology, cultural studies, and linguistics amongst others) are invited to focus on issues such as the regulation of interest in terms of culture and identity politics, and the role of its different actors on a local as well as global level. Intertwined with these approaches are modes of interaction and communication, counter hegemonic discourses, and the negotiation of space and state from a gender perspective. Furthermore, the perception, re/presentation as well as the possible translation and negotiation of (nationalistic) symbols and creative outcomes during the upheavals are of interest.

Technical Information:

Papers will undergo review and will be selected according to their academic quality. The conference languages are English and Arabic (translation from Arabic to English only during the conference). Please indicate the language of your presentation in the abstract.

The organizers call on PhD students, Post-Docs and senior researchers, specifically those based in the Arab region, to submit their abstracts by January 25th 2013 to the following address: cairoconf@ymail.com.

Application materials should include an abstract of 300 words in English, as well as the Curriculum vitae of the applicants (maximum two pages). Applicants will be informed about the selection by April 2013. Final papers for the conference have to be submitted by 15 September 2013. The conference proceedings will be published. Papers will be selected according to academic quality.

The travel expenditures will be covered to a large extent by a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) fund. Reimbursement of ticket and accommodation cost will be possible upon receipt in Cairo. Upon acceptance of the paper, applicants will receive further information.

Organizers

Freie Universität Berlin: Prof. Dr. Cilja Harders, Center for Middle Eastern and North African Politics

University of Tunis El Manar: Prof. Dr. Mohamed Kerrou, Department of Political Science

Cairo University: Prof. Dr. Abla el Khawaga, Faculty for Economic and Political Sciences and Prof. Dr. Ola Al-Khawaga, Faculty for Economic and Political Sciences

German- Jordanian University Amman: Prof. Dr. Serena Sandri, School of Management and Logistics Sciences