

Press Release

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The Place of Humanities in Research, Education and Society: An Arab-German Dialogue

The Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) holds an international conference on the future of the humanities from 8–10 November 2019 at Freie Universität Berlin.

Digitization and artificial intelligence, globalization and sustainable resource production in times of climate change are highly topical issues. These technological and ecological transformations are increasingly shaping our everyday lives, and they determine how we will live in the future. Hence, new challenges for society arise, requiring philosophers, historians, literary scholars, and artists to provide us the essential knowledge and a variety of perspectives to reflect on social change, our ethical values, and norms.

What are the potentials and challenges of the humanities—today and in the near future?

The conference brings together Arab and German key players, such as scholars from various academic disciplines, university officials, policymakers, outreach professionals, educators and other creative minds, who will explore the potentials and challenges of the humanities by engaging in a multilateral dialogue. The goal of the conference is to raise awareness about the relevance of the humanities, discuss examples of best practice in research, teaching and outreach to society, and explore new formats of collaboration in both research and teaching between the two regions.

Kick-off event on 8 November as part of Berlin Science Week

The conference will start with a kick-off event on 8 November, as part of [Berlin Science Week](#). Prof. Dr. Günter M. Ziegler, President of Freie Universität Berlin, and Prof. Dr. Abdullatif Abuhijleh, President of Birzeit University, West Bank, will discuss how to bridge Sciences and Humanities in the 21st century. The evening will conclude with a dinner reception providing the opportunity to meet and network with esteemed international guests.

Further keynotes on 9 and 10 November

On 9 and 10 November, the conference offers invigorating interdisciplinary workshops, panel discussions, a poster presentation and inspiring keynotes by Prof. Dr. Randa Aboubakr, Cairo University, on 'Digital Citizen Media and Emerging Modes of Knowledge Production', Prof. Dr. Claudia Mareis, FHNW Academy of Art and Design, Basel, on 'The Design Turn: Bridging the Humanities and Sciences Divide', and Dr. Jamila Al-Daily, National Museum Sanaa, on 'Cultural Heritage at Risk'.

Further information and preliminary conference program: agya.info/humanities-conference2019

Organizers

The conference is organized by AGYA members Dr. Jenny Oesterle (History, University of Heidelberg), Jun.-Prof. Dr. Barbara Winckler (Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Münster), Prof. Dr. Nuha Al-Shaar (Arabic and Islamic Studies, American University of Sharjah), and Dr. Beate La Sala (Philosophy, Freie Universität Berlin).

Contact

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Pictures

The photo from our website can be downloaded here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/s65865r5esvnn6/AAAleyZphluLFo5J1rCCITQja?dl=0>

Interview partners

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Barbara Winckler, Universität Münster, [barbara.winckler\[at\]uni-muenster.de](mailto:barbara.winckler[at]uni-muenster.de)

Dr. Jenny Rahel Oesterle, Universität Heidelberg, [oesterle\[at\]uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:oesterle[at]uni-heidelberg.de)

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Further information

agya.info/humanities-conference2019

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/agya.info

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.

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