**27th DAVO Congress**

**International Conference of the German Middle East Studies Association for Contemporary Research and Documentation (DAVO) in Cooperation with the Institute of Islamic Theology at the University of Osnabrück**

**16–18 September 2021 University of Osnabrück**

**Program**

**Thursday, 16 September 2021**

**11.00 – 13.00: General Meeting of DAVO Members**

**13.00 – 14.00: Lunchbreak**

**14.00 – 16.00: Panel Slot A**

**A.1.**

**Authoritarianisms in Search of Consolidation and Challenges to the Liberal Order: Remilitarisations, Dynamics of Adaptations and Political Phobias, Part I**

Chair: Maria Gloria Polimeno (Exeter)

1. Omar Bortolazzi (Dubai): Rethinking Rentierism: Nation Branding, Economic Diversification and Authoritarian Rule in the UAE

2. Ferdinand Arslanian (St. Andrews): Authoritarian Resilience during the Syrian Conflict: The Role of the Reconfiguration of Syria’s System of Political Economy

3. Davide Grasso (Torino): International Repression through Joint and Competitive Militarization: The Case of North and East Syria

**A.2.**

**COVID-19 and Political Dynamics in and beyond the Middle East**

Chair: André Bank (Hamburg)/Thomas Demmelhuber (Erlangen)

1. Yannick Deepen (Hamburg): Armed (Non-)State Actors in the MENA Before and During COVID-19

2. Selman Almohamad (Hamburg): Violence Dynamics in Syria During COVID-19: Preliminary Insights from Damascus and Darʾa

3. Tobias Zumbrägel (Bonn): Global Autocratic Collaboration in Times of the Pandemic: Sino-Gulf Relations

4. Julia Gurol (Freiburg): Words Matter! Reproduction and Contestation of Narratives of Supremacy in Sino-Gulf Relations

**A.3.**

**Workshop for Young Scholars I**

Chair: Nadine Scharfenort (Trier)

1. Meriem Ben Ammar (Cagliari): The Medinas and Cities in the Middle Ages: Urban Heritage, Jurisprudence, Traditions and Built Form

2. Elena Fellner (Freiburg): Insta Fame and Twitter Storms: Heroized Activism on Social Media in Algeria and Iran

3. Lara Christmann (Mainz): Hochzeitspraktiken von jungen städtischen Omanis

4. Mohaddeseh Ziyachi (Belfast): Iranian Motherhood: A Cognitive Approach

**A.4.**

**Shared Images and Conceptions in the Qurʾān and Pre-Islamic Religious Traditions**

Chair: Ana Davitashvili (Tübingen)

1. Nadja Abuhussein (Tübingen): “The God of Mecca and the Cross”. God in Pre-Islamic Arabic Poetry and in the Qurʾān

2. Mohammad Ali Tabatabaʾi (Tehran): The Ethnic Identity of the Prophet Muḥammad through the Lens of the Qurʾān and the Bible

3. Ana Davitashvili (Tübingen): Clothing Metaphors in the Qurʾān and Syriac Christian Literature

**16.00 – 16.30: Coffee Break**

**16.30 – 18.00: Panel Slot B**

**B.1.**

**Authoritarianisms in Search of Consolidation and Challenges to the Liberal Order: Remilitarisations, Dynamics of Adaptations and Political Phobias, Part II**

Chair: Maria Gloria Polimeno (Exeter)

1. Christopher Cox (Exeter): Kicking the Can down the Road: Morocco’s Continued Youth Inclusivity Problems and the Long-Term Implications for Autocratic Governance

2. Bruno Schmidt-Feuerheerd (Cambridge): Changing Threat Perceptions? Neo-Ottoman Phobia in the Saudi Policy Discourse

**B.2.**

**Comparing Jewish, Kurdish and Amazigh Nationalism**

Chair: Johannes Becke (Heidelberg)

1. Johannes Becke (Heidelberg): Gathering the Dispersed: State Evasion and State-Making in Modern Jewish, Kurdish and Berber History

2. Alessia Colonnelli (Heidelberg): The Berber Academy – Notes on the Invention of Modern Amazigh Nationalism

3. Bareez Majid (Heidelberg): Nation-Building and the Politics of Memory – Comparing the Kurdish and the Israeli Case

**B.3.**

**Workshop for Young Scholars II**

Chair: Jörn Thielmann (Erlangen)

1. Mohammedreza Nemati (Mashad): Principles of Understanding the Qurʾan and Philosophical Hermeneutics

2. Muhammed Shahin Machinchery (Erfurt): Takhrij as a Tool for Historicity of Hadīth: A Case Study of Harald Motzki’s *Isnad cum matn* Analysis

3. Rıdvan Talha Yücedağ (Istanbul): Madīnan Ḥadīth Circles in the Second/Eighth Century

**B.4.**

**Higher Islamic Education and a New Generation of Muslim Religious Leaders in Europe**

Chair: Simon Stjernholm (Copenhagen)

## 1. Maximilian Lasa (Copenhagen): Paths to Islamic Theology: German Students at the International Theology Program in Turkey

2. Simon Stjernholm (Copenhagen): Uses of Experiences of Higher Islamic Education in the Danish Public Sphere

3. Amna Mahmood (Oslo): Representation and leadership among Ahmadiyya communities in Scandinavia

**18.30: Evening Program (Aula, Osnabrück Castle)**

**18.30 – 19.00: Welcome Addresses:**

**Prof. Dr. Martina Blasberg-Kuhnke, Vice President of Osnabrück University**

**Prof. Dr. Bülent Uçar, Osnabrück University, Institute of Islamic Theology**

 **Prof. Dr. Günter Meyer, Chairman of DAVO**

**19.00 – 19.15: Prize Ceremony of the “DAVO Dissertation Award 2021” (Laudatio: Prof. Dr. Günter Meyer)**

**19.15 – 19.30: Prize Ceremony of the “WGIT 2020 Award” to Prof. Dr. Mathias Rohe (Laudatio: Dr. Hatem Elliesie)**

**19.30: Official Speech by Prof. Dr. Serdar Kurnaz: "Quo vadis (Uṣūl) al-fiqh in der islamischen Theologie?"**

**Friday, 17 September 2021**

**9.00 - 11.00: Panel Slot C**

**C.1**

**Internal and External Conflicts in Turkish Politics**

Chair: Markus Koller (Bochum)

1. Efrat Aviv (Ramat Gan): İsmailağa Community and its Relation with the AK Party

2. Iralia Kotsakidou (Corfu): The Turkish-American Relations in Arab Press – A Corpus Based Study Comparing Newspaper Articles from 2017 and 2019

3. Eka Tchkoidze (Tbilisi): The Move of Greeks from the Ottoman Empire to Batumi in the Early 20th c. and Back to Greece in the 1990s

**C.2.**

**Workshop for Young Scholars III**

Chair: Günter Meyer (Mainz)

1. Aref Bijan (St. Petersburg): Role and Foreign Policy of Russia and Iran as Global Actors on the Middle East Arena (since 2011 until now)

2. Thomas McGee (Melbourne): Syria’s Changing Statelessness Landscape: Protracted Situations and “Ticking Time Bombs”

3. Bruno Schmidt-Feuerheerd (Cambridge): Nationalism as a Tool of Autocratic Legitimation? Evidence from Saudi Arabia

4. Mustafa Karahamad (Frankfurt): Sunni Muslim Clerics Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism Discourses in post-2011 Arab Monarchies

**C.3.**

**New Perspectives on Sufism, Modern Sunni Reform Thinking and Activism, Part I**

Chairs: Stephan Kokew (Münster)/Sebastian Elsässer (Kiel)

1. Stephan Kokew (Münster): Integrating Sufism into the Salafīya: Jamāl ad-Dīn al-Qāsimī’s Adaption of Al-Ghazālī’s ‘Revival of the Religious Sciences’

2. Soraya Khodamoradi (Erfurt): Indo-Muslim Interactions in Mujaddidi Tradition: Observations on *Nāla-i ʿAndalīb* (“Lamentation of Nightingale”)

3. Philipp Bruckmayr (Vienna): *Iṣlāḥ* and *ṭarīq*: The Transnational Dynamics of Islamic Reform and its Suppression in Kelantan (Malaysia)

4. Sebastian Elsässer (Kiel): The Muslim Brotherhood and the Sufi Heritage

**11.00 – 11.30: Coffee Break**

**11.30 – 13.30: Panel Slot D**

**D.1.**

**Intelligence Agencies in the Middle East: Understanding Surveillance & Violence**

Chair: Noura Chalati (Berlin)

1. Ali Doğan (Berlin): The Ba’ath Party’s Transnational Hand of the Revolution – Iraq’s Intelligence Operations in Europe During the Cold War

2. Noura Chalati (Berlin): The Syrian Mukhabarat and the Stasi – Practices of Surveillance and Social Control during the Cold War

3. Ugur Üngör (Amsterdam):Shabbiha and Mukhabarat Violence in Homs, 2011-2019

**D.2.**

**Palestine in Post- and Decolonial Contexts**

Chair: Detlev Quintern (Istanbul)

1. Detlev Quintern (Istanbul): Entinnerung (Dememorization) und Vergessen-Machen.

Lebendiges palästinensisches Kulturerbe vor dem Hintergrund der Achille Mbembe Debatte

2. Bashar Shammout (Paderborn):Rezeption der ersten Palästina-Bilder und Fotografien des 19. und frühen 20. Jh. in Europa – Ihre Wahrnehmung und Auswirkungen auf die Anfänge der politischen Veränderungen im Nahen Osten

3. Anna Haesen (Heidelberg): “What’s Past is Prologue”: The Impact of Cultural Heritage on Conflict, Illustrated by the Heritage in the Palestinian Territories

4. Nagla Abed (Oldenburg): Palästinensische Frauen - Bewahrerinnen von Geschichte, Kultur und Identität durch Tatreez

**D.3.**

**Workshop for Young Scholars IV**

Chair: Philipp Bruckmayr (Vienna)

1. Benedikt Römer (Bayreuth): Elam in Exile: Nationalism and Diasporic Religion Among Iranian Christians

2. Henriette Raddatz (Berlin): Yezids in Siberia Social-economic Development. History Legacy of the Soviet Union

3. Ihsan Altıntaş (Münster): Attitudes towards Religious Diversity in Germany: A Comparative Study of the Nur Community and the Ramakrishna Mission

4. Wen-Yu Wu (Birmingham): Syrian Refugees Experiences in Higher Education in Lebanon and Jordan: Waiting, Hopes and Futures

**D.4.**

**Islamic Social Politics**

Chair: N.N.

1. Fabio Coriolano (Warsaw): Islamic Welfare after the Collapse of the “Authoritarian Bargain”

2. Christiane Paulus (Cairo): „Rekonstruktion koranischer Lebenswelten“, Text – Umwelt – Zugang zur Genderthematik

3. Mounir Saidani (Tunis): Tunisian Women’s Religiosities in a Context of Gender Transition-related Crisis

**13.30 – 14.30: Lunchbreak**

**14.30 – 16.30: Panel Slot E**

**E.1.**

**The Political Consolidation of the Islamic State Movement. Between Baathists, Islamists, and the Taliban**

Chair: Craig Whiteside (Monterey, CA)

1. Samuel Helfont (Monterey): The Geopolitics of Relations Between Iraqi Ba‘thists and Islamists before 2003

2. Nadeem Khan (Münster): The Rise of the Islamic State of Iraq during the Sunni Insurgency

3. Craig Whiteside (Monterey): State Accompli: Islamic State’s Political Consolidation in Pre-Caliphate Iraq

4. Cole Bunzel (Stanford): The Islamic State and the Taliban

**E.2.**

**Modernizing al-Watan: Arab Experiences of Nation Building in the Early-20th Century**

Chair: Sebastian Żbik (Warsaw)/ Marianne Dhenin (Mainz)

1. Sebastian Żbik (Warsaw): “Entrusted by Allah in the Hands of Its Sultan and Leaders”: The Perception of Oman by the Arab Elite of Zanzibar in the Early-20th Century

2. Marianne Dhenin (Mainz): Rearing Modern Egypt: Child Welfare and the State in the Early-20th Century

3. Nadi Abusaada (Cambridge): “From Jerusalem the Light Shines on the Rest of the Arab World”: The 1933 Arab Exhibition in Jerusalem

4: Abdel Qader Amer (Amman): A King from Abroad: Iraqi Elites’ Attitudes Towards the Coronation of King Faisal 1921

**E.3.**

**Violence and Legitimacy in the Middle East and North Africa: The Consequences of Repression and Conflict**

Chairs: Maria Josua (Hamburg)/Jannis Julien Grimm (Berlin)

1. Maria Josua (Hamburg): How Autocrats Legitimize Repression: Insights from the Maghreb

2. Jannis Julien Grimm (Berlin): When Violence is not the Answer – The Rabaa Massacre and the Muslim Brotherhood’s Struggle for Legitimacy in Post-coup Egypt

3. Eckart Woertz (Hamburg)/Daniela Huber (Rom): Resilience, Conflict and Areas of Limited Statehood in Iraq, Lebanon and Syria

4. Faouzia Zeraoulia (Marburg/Jijel): Counter Narrative Mobilization, Civil War Memory, and the Political Change in Algeria

**E.4.**

**European Transcultural History in Diachronic and Synchronous Perspectives, Part I**

Chair: Ildar Kharissov (Berlin)

1. Stephan Theilig (Berlin): “German-Tatar” History. Insights into an Encyclopedic Research Project.

2. Ismail Kerimov (Simferopol): Crimean Tatar Documents in Archives and Libraries of Europe

3. Marat Gibatdinov (Kazan): Intercultural Contacts and Communications as Part of Tatar History

**16.30 – 17.00: Coffee Break**

**17.00 – 18.30: Panel Slot F**

**F.1.**

**Political Discourses and Cultural Entanglements**

Chair: Claudia Preckel (Osnabrück)

1. Kurstin Gatt (Msida): Linguistic Tenets of Propaganda in Modern Arabic Political Discourse

2. Onn Winckler (Haifa): The Mystery of the Israeli-Druze Fertility Decline

**F.2.**

**The Construction of Islamic Normativity through Devotional Piety**

Chair: Dženita Karić (Berlin)

1. Dženita Karić (Berlin): Beyond the Pure Obedience: Ottoman Khalwati Regulation of Ritual and Devotional Practices

2. Mohammad Gharaibeh (Berlin): Interaction Rituals and Normativity: The Hanbalī “Charismatic Leaders” of Damascus in the 12th and 13th Century

3. Eyad Abuali (Berlin): Figurations of the Body and Cosmos: Diagrams and Visual Practice in 12th and 13th Century Sufism

**F.3.**

**Workshop for Young Scholars V**

Chair: N.N.

1. Hamed Reza Karimi Malayer (Kashan): A Study on the Evolution of Religion System in Northern Iranian Plateau from the Neolithic to the First Millennium BC: An Archaeological and Religious-Studies Approach

2. Ali Hassany (Tehran): Iran and Germany: An Attempt to Build Strategic Relationship (1870-1945)

3. Benjamin Heidrich (Erlangen): The Imaginary Dimension of Fragile Statehood: Syria and the Struggle for the “Rightful” Polity

**F.4.**

**European Transcultural History in Diachronic and Synchronous Perspectives, Part II**

Chair: Ildar Kharissov (Berlin)

1. Mieste Hotopp-Riecke (Magdeburg): “Methode Pascha”. Transcultural Crossroads of Tatar-Ottoman-German History as a Tool in Interdisciplinary Youth Education

2. Temur Kurshutov (Simferopol): Documents in the German Archives Regarding the Activities of Jaffer Seydamet as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Crimean Regional Government (1918)

**19.00 – 21.30: Evening Program**

**Film Presentation in the Aula of Osnabrück University (Castle):**

***Karlstraße 10: In Search for Muslims throughout Interwar Europe***

**by** **Prof.** **Umar Ryad** (Prof. Ryad will be present for questions and discussion)

**Saturday, 18 September 2021**

**9.00 – 11.00: Panel Slot G**

**G.1.**

**The Formation of the Concepts of Secularity/Secularism in the Arab/Islamicate Worlds, Part I**

Chair: Housamedden Darwish (Leipzig)

1. Sima Baidya (New Dehli): Polemics between Secularity/Secularism and Islam: Why Secularity Never Dies Down?

2. Housamedden Darwish (Leipzig): The Pioneer Formation of the Concept of Secularism in Butrus al-Bustani’s Text “The Clarion of Syria”: Secularism as a Thick Normative Concept

3. Amany Abdelrazik (Berlin): Dressing the Feminine Body, the State and the Formation of the Concept of Secularity in Modern Egypt

4. Rafique Wassan (Bern): Progressive Political Sufi Polemic of G.M Syed and the Reconstruction of Secular Civil Islam in postcolonial Pakistan

**G.2.**

**Online Databases Instead of History Books? Potentials of Digital Humanities Databases in Historical Research on the MENA Region and Ottoman World, Part I**

Chairs: Vivian Strotmann/Johann Büssow (Bochum)

1. Yusuf Çelik/Christian Lange (Utrecht): Digitizing the Study of Islamic Legal History: Footprinting the Qur’an in the Muslim *fiqh*

2. Ursula Bsees, Michail Hradek & Team (München): The Arabic Papyrology Database (APD): Background and Features

3. Ursula Bsees/Michail Hradek (München): Tracing Corpora Through Connections in Medieval Arabic Documents: EGIPTOS

4. Hülya Çelik/Marco Jusman (Bochum): Die digitale „orientalische” Privatbibliothek Sebastian Tengnagels (gest. 1636): Wissensvermittlung durch frühmodernen Manuskripttransfer

**G.3.**

**The MENA Region and COVID-19: Impact, Implications and Future Prospects, Part I**

Chair: Lena Maria Möller (Hamburg)

1. Jan Claudius Völkel (Freiburg): Authoritarian Responses to COVID-19: Risk Governance in the Middle East & North Africa

2. Carola Richter (Berlin): ‘American Corona’ vs. ‘The Chinese Virus’: Blaming and Othering in Arab Media

3. Noël van den Heuvel (Berlin): Religion and Pandemic: State, Islam and Society in Saudi Arabia and Iran during the Coronavirus Crisis

**G.4.**

**Intellectual Entanglements and Literature in Middle Eastern History**

Chair: Ahmed Sheir (Marburg)

1. Ahmed Sheir (Marburg): Transcultural Memory and Entangled History: The Development of the Historiography of the Crusading Studies vs Jihād in the Modern Egyptian Academia

2. Khaled Sheykholeslami (Tehran): The Intellectual and Cultural Interconnections between Islamic and Jewish Medieval Ages: The Case of Maimonides and Farabi

3. Anis Vahid and Javad Bashari (Tehran): Ebn-e Talhe and New Documents from Persian Quatrains of the Saljuq Era

**11.00 – 11.30: Coffee Break**

**11.30 – 13.30: Panel Slot H**

**H.1.**

**The Formation of the Concepts of Secularity/Secularism in the Arab/Islamicate Worlds, Part II**

Chair: Housamedden Darwish (Leipzig)

1. Rahaf Aldoughli (Lancaster): Departing ‘Secularism’: Boundary Appropriation and Extension of the Syrian State in the Religious Domain since 2011

2. Reza Hosseini (Tehran): The Religious Secularity and the Shariatization in the Iranian Decision-Making Process

3. Maher Massoud (Berlin): Dismantling Secularism in the Arab World Context

4. Hussein Alwaday (…): The Role of Al-Azhar Scholars in the Formation of the Concept of Secularity in the Arab World. A Study of the Contribution of Taha Hussein and Khaled M. Khaled

**H.2.**

**Online Databases Instead of History Books? Potentials of Digital Humanities Databases in Historical Research on the MENA Region and Ottoman World, Part II**

Chairs: Michaela Hoffmann-Ruf/Markus Koller (Bochum)

1. Adrien de Jarmy (Paris/Bochum): Divergent Narratives of Early Islamic History: A Case Study of the Kutub al-Maġāzī Preserved in the Muṣannafs of ʿAbd al-Razzāq (d. 811/826-27) and Ibn Abī Šayba (d. 235/849)

2. Markus Koller/Vivian Strotmann (Bochum): Synergy in DH: The “Historiography in Ottoman Europe“ Database Project

3. Yuval Ben-Bassat (Haifa)/Johann Büssow (Bochum): The Gaza Historical Database: A Study of a Late Ottoman City in a Comparative Approach

4. Michaela Hoffmann-Ruf/Johann Büssow (Bochum): The Abriyin Database: Political and Economic Transformations in the Indian Ocean World as Reflected in the Letters to a Shaykhly Family in Oman, c. 1790-1920

**H.3.**

**The MENA Region and COVID-19: Impact, Implications and Future Prospects, Part II**

Chair: Zeina Hobaika (Beirut)

1. Giulia Cimini (Bologna) / Beatriz Tomé Alonso (Madrid): Securitisation Dynamics and COVID-19 Politics in Morocco: Old Wine in New Bottles?

2. Nassim Abi Ghanem (Vienna): The Reverse Impact of Politics on the COVID-19 Response: How Hezbollah Determined the Choices of the Lebanese Government

3. Thomas Demmelhuber (Erlangen)/Julia Gurol (Freiburg), Tobias Zumbrägel (Bonn): The COVID-19 Temptation? Sino–Gulf Relations and Autocratic Linkages in Times of a Global Pandemic

**13.30 End of the Congress**