Mediated Storytelling at Islamic Arab Satellite-television

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The Mediterranean University of Barcelona (UAB) has assumed the stages of the 2010 Congress of the World Council of Mediterranean Studies (WOCMES). The event attracted numerous participants, including renowned experts and academics from across the Mediterranean region, as well as international figures from various fields.

**WOCMES in Figures**

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**The Congress Goals**

- **Encouraging Mutual Awareness**: Researchers and experts shared the results of studies and research that may contribute to improving mutual awareness in the Mediterranean and the Middle East. Barcelona introduced the first time research on the Mediterranean in the congress debates.
- **Integrating Cooperation Research Networks**: With the creation of this platform between researchers, the congress promoted a participatory and shared historical vision. Moreover, it was the opportunity to publicize research carried out in the South – often of difficult access – and increased North-South academic and regional cooperation.

**Academic Excellence**

Two committees of experts (international and scientific) guaranteed the high academic level of the congress programme and the presence of Mediterranean Agenda for the South and South-Atlantic.

- **International Advisory Council**: Adelheid Mersch, Aliou Souma; Abderrahmane Haddad, Alba Smith, Buenaventura García, Carles Puigdemont
- **Scientific Advisory Council**: Roberto de la Serna, Ricard de Guzman, Xosé Luisllo, Yvon Le Bihan, Zehra Duman

The European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIEM), founded in 1996, is an international university to promote the study of the Mediterranean region. It is the first and only university of its kind in the world to offer degrees, diplomas, and certificates in Mediterranean studies.

The Congress was organized by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIEM) and was held from 19th to 23rd June 2010. The event attracted numerous participants, including renowned experts and academics from across the Mediterranean region, as well as international figures from various fields.

The programme ran from 19th to 23rd June 2010, with a wide range of topics and issues focusing on the Middle East and North Africa, including political, economic, social, and cultural aspects. The congress included keynote speeches, panel discussions, workshops, and exhibitions.

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A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

The Emmael set out on a long journey of over two years of preparation leading in July to the WOCMES Barcelona 2010 Congress. The efforts made have been very well worth it. The third year of the congress has achieved the highest figures of participation and has again revealed the capital status of city Barcelona in the Mediterranean as a region centre of dialogue and debate on issues related to stability, cooperation and progress in the region.

Our main objective is the promotion of activities, projects and actions contributing to mutual awareness, exchanges and cooperation between different countries, societies and cultures. Although our aspirations are rooted within the Mediterranean, the current, complex, independent and globalized world, obliges us to take into account everything occurring further beyond, because in the end it affects us all.

The programme, published in English and French is an updated guide to experts and issues of interest to the study of the Middle East and North Africa. Available at www.wocmes.org/wocmes

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

WOCMES has included an intensive cultural programme and several social events.

Concerts

The Orquesta Arab de Barcelona offered the inaugural concert of WOCMES-Barcelona 2010. The University campus also hosted the performances by the Algerian Nella Bouba, who offered a journey through the great classics of popular music in her country. At the Palau de la Música, within the presentations of the WOCMES 2010 Awards, Folkloric performed Catalan folk music. Following

Exhibitions

In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit eight history, photography and painting exhibitions. The exhibitions, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, were: “Le Frères en désordre”; “Denésk Ilustration & Script 19th Century”; “Poèmes de la Mediterranée : poètes arabes contemporains”; “Proyectando y Becoming in Kurdistan (Raghebat, Iraq)”; “Musique et danse au Sahara. La tradition dans le contemporain”; “Franz: Images From Bessah & Chad”; “Soullam et politique au Peshmerga”; “The Media in the Mediterranean Sea” and “The Mediterranean of the 20th Century: Realities and Images”, which could be seen at the Palau Robert in Barcelona until 29th August.
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The IMEID set out on a long journey of over two years of preparation leading up to the WOCMES Barcelona 2010 Congress. The efforts made have been well worth it. The third year of the congress has achieved the highest figures of participation and has again revealed the capital status of the city of Barcelona in the Mediterranean as a reference centre of dialogue and debate on issues related to stability, cooperation and progress in the region.

Our main objective is the promotion of activities, projects and actions contributing to mutual awareness, exchanges and cooperation between different countries, continents and cultures. Although our objectives are framed within the Mediterranean, the current, complex, independent and globalised world, obliges us to take into account everything occurring further beyond, because in the end it affects our reality.

In this respect, WOCMES Barcelona 2010 has incorporated for the first time, along with research on the Middle East and North Africa and the Asian Muslim States, studies on the Mediterranean as a region. An issue that could not be ignored this year, when the Congress was held in the city where the Permanent Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean is based.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 has been a privileged space of exchange and meeting for scientific and academic knowledge to more than 2,500 participants. An innovation both to dialogue and cooperation between people from 73 countries from a wide range of disciplines and fields of study. It has been, therefore, one of the best instruments in which the IMEID could have in solved itself to advance in our mission, which is to work for a Mediterranean of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations.

SenénFlorea
Director General of the IMEID

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Exhibitions

Book Fair

Around twenty publishers, as well as university presses, NGOs and other associations from several countries, displayed their publications in the congress area.

Institutional Support

The congress participants visited Barcelona City Hall for the plenary and at the Palau de la Generalitat de Catalunya, where the Vice President of the Government of Catalonia, Joaquim Forn, offered them an institutional reception.

WOCMES 2010 Award

Barcelona honoured two of the congress participants with the WOCMES 2010 Award for their career and the outstanding academic contribution: the Middle Eastern studies Roger Owen, A.J. Meyer-Professor of Middle Eastern History at Harvard University (USA) and José Vin Sáez, Emeritus Professor of Islamic Studies and Semitic Languages at the University of Toulouse (France). The event took place at the Palau de la Misericòrdia in Barcelona.

WOCMES: in Search of a Route of Ideas

“After the Silk Road, we need a route of ideas.” In this spirit, Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan opened the WOCMES Barcelona 2010 Congress in an inaugural lecture in which he emphasized the difficult international situation of the region and his pledge to continue with dialogue to unite the peoples and countries of the Mediterranean.

Listening to the Prince, in a full auditorium, were some of the academics who from that moment and until 30th July would examine the state and progress of research at an international level on the Middle East and North Africa with a multidisciplinary approach.

The Congress of the WOCMES Barcelona 2010 met in a city that has achieved the highest figures of participation this year. The efforts made have been very well worth it.

Mr. Sergei Stanislas, of the Council of Europe, emphasized the difficult international situation of the region and the importance of cooperation between people from 73 countries from a wide range of disciplines and fields of study. It has been, therefore, one of the best instruments in which the IMEID could have in solved itself to advance in our mission, which is to work for a Mediterranean of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations.
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Listening to the Prince, in a full auditorium, were some of the academics who from that moment and until 30th July would examine the state and progress of research at an international level in the Middle East and North Africa with a multidisciplinary approach.

Some of the issues addressed in which academic interest were the analysis of the political situation in the region, the democratic advances and the questions linked to social evolution, although youth, the media and Internet, and new forms of artistic expression received a strong mention in various congress sessions.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 represented for the host country and city an almost unique opportunity to learn from the rich experts and researchers of two regions, the Middle East and North Africa, who have an outstanding world influence in political, social, cultural and economic issues. Moreover, it meant for the participants themselves the opportunity for an academic dissemination of their work in the region, academic and professors from Spanish and Catalan universities, who took advantage of the event to participate in the congress in greater numbers than in previous years, shared working sessions with academics from prestigious Anglo-Saxon universities such as Harvard, Stanford, UC Berkeley, Georgetown, Cambridge, Oxford, London, Glasgow and Edinburgh, and other universities such as the Middle Eastern Technical University and Basgica University (both in Turkey), the universities of Nice Sophia-Antipolis and Paris Descartes (France), Free University and Zentral Medizinische Ihnen (Germany), the universities of Tuscany, Milan and Naples (Italy), Caro University and The American University in Cairo (Egypt), Ahs Bibe Rekaheim (Kenya), the universities of Tehran, Isfahan and Maris Azad (Iran), the Hebrew University and those of Tel Aviv and Halle-Supliv (those of Tokyo), Kyoto and Nagoya (Japan), the universities of Tuna and Marbella (Turkey) and the University Mohamed Pheen Oujda (Morocco), among many others.

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

WOCMES has included an intensive cultural programme and several social events.

Film Festival and Theatre

Around twenty films from Iran, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, Morocco and France, among other countries, were screened at the WOCMES Film Festival, organized in collaboration with the International Association of Independent Producers of the Mediterranean (AIRMED). It enjoyed the presence in two debates of the directors Hamid Bakhshian (Iran), who presented The Glass House, and Najeeb Rajaa (Palestine), who presented Pomegranates and Myrrh. In addition, the UA University, coinciding with the congress, also programmed two dance performances.

Concerts

The Orquestra Arab de Barcelona offered the inaugural concert of WOCMES-Balears 2010. The university campus also hosted the performance by the Algerian Nela Benkaci, who offered a journey through the great classics of popular music in her country. At the Palau de la Música, within the presentation of the WOCMES 2010 Awards, Folkloricca performed Catalan folk music.

In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit eight-hundred history, sculpture and painting exhibitions. The exhibitions, which came from Yemen, Australia, Russia, the United States or Spain, were: “Le Fonds en doute”, “Péregrin Illustration & Script 19th Century”, “Porles de la Mediterranià – poesies arabs contemporaries”, “Proyectar y Restaurar en Khartoum (Sudan, Iraq)”, “Le Néerlandais en Sahara, Le tradition dans le contemporain”, “Iran: Images From Beshah A Chador”, “Sciences et politique au Pakistan”, “The Media in the Mediterranean Sea” and “The Mediterrane of the 20th Century: Realities and Images”, which could be seen at the Palau Robert in Barcelona until 29th August.
After more than two years of preparation, WOCMES Barcelona 2010 brought together in the Catalan capital over 2,300 participants, largely surpassing the participation of the two previous years. Especially notable was the presence of academics from the Anglo-Saxon world, Mediterranean countries (headed by Turkey), European countries (mainly Spain, Germany, France and Italy) and Asian countries (Japan, in particular). The more than 350 sessions attended by the congress participants addressed a wide range of issues from different approaches and disciplines.

The Congress Goals

- Encouraging Mutual Awareness:
  Researchers and experts shared the results of studies and research that may contribute to improving mutual awareness in the Mediterranean and the Middle East. Barcelona introduced for the first time research on the Mediterranean in the congress debates.

- Integrating Cooperation Research Networks:
  With the creation of this bridge between researchers, the congress promoted a participatory and shared historical vision. Moreover, it was the opportunity to publish research carried out in the South – often of difficult access – and increased North-South academic and regional cooperation.

WOCMES in Figures

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The Scientific Programme

- The European Institute of the Mediterranean (EI Med), founded in 1989, is a consortium comprising the Governments of Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain and the countries of the Southern Mediterranean. The institute was created to promote closer cultural, economic and social relations between the development of the Mediterranean and the Mediterranean region and the Mediterranean.

- The congress participants addressed a wide range of issues from different approaches and disciplines.

WOCMES 2010 Barcelona

From 19th to 24th June 2010, the World Congress on Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) convened the city of Barcelona in the world capital of studies on these regions. Over 2,300 renowned experts, academics and researchers from 79 countries presented their studies, debated and shared ideas during the five intensive working days.

Organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (EI Med), WOCMES Barcelona 2010 programmed more than 50 academic sessions, held in blocks of 10 sessions, on a wide range of disciplines and issues focusing on the Middle East and North Africa, including political and economic aspects, the environment, literature, history, gender issues, religion, town planning, contemporary artistic creation and identities.

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The large participation of Israeli academic and geographical representations, and the high scientific level of the working sessions have meant for Barcelona an important step in the coordination of WOCMES as a congress of international reference after the previous two years (2003 in Germany and 2006 in Jordan). Moreover, the high level of participation also called the expectations following the candidature of Barcelona in 2008 to host the congress, when it was chosen in opposition to other candidate cities.

The scientific programme, which was prepared for two years based on the proposals and contributions of 1,600 scholars, was accompanied by a notable and intensive cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.

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WOCMES in Figures

The large participation of scholars and the high international level of the congress programme, the presence of international agencies for the field, and theWorkshops, Panels and Debates organized, enabled the organisation to provide an overview of the whole Mediterranean area at all levels. It was the chance for the Mediterranean countries, and especially Southern ones, to present their work, in an attempt to integrate developed countries and Mediterranean countries. The scientific programme, which was prepared for two years, based on the proposals and contributions of 2,401 academics, was accompanied by a notable and intense cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.

The Congress Goals

From 19th to 24th June 2010, the World Congress on Mediterranean Studies (WOCMES) turned the city of Barcelona into the world capital of studies on three regions. Over 2,300 researchers, academics and researchers from 76 countries presented their studies, debated and shared points of view during the intensive working days.

Organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), WOCMES Barcelona 2010 programmed more than 500 academic sessions, held in blocks of 10 sessions, on a wide range of disciplines and issues focusing on the Mediterranean East and Africa including political and economic aspects, the environment, literature, history, gender issues, religion, town planning, contemporary artistic creation and identities.

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