Mediated Storytelling at Islamic Arab Satellite-television

Galal, Ehab

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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 (mainly Spain, Germany, France and Italy) and Asian countries (Japan, in particular). The more than 550 sessions attended by the congress participants addressed a wide range of issues from different approaches and disciplines.

### WOCMES in Figures

- **Sessions by Issues**
  - 50% Economic Studies
  - 20% Political Studies
  - 15% Social Sciences
  - 10% Humanities
  - 5% Natural Sciences

### The Congress Goals

- **Creating New Approaches to Breaking Down Stereotypes**
  - The congress debate promoted new points of view and new ideas. The key to understanding Mediterranean realities is to bridge stereotypes and rigid interpretations, which are often deeply rooted in the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

- **Providing an Overall View**
  - WOCMES manages to provide an overall view of the region by dealing with 18 wide-ranging issues, from war and the environment, to town planning, politics and the media, to migration including studies on the Mediterranean region, Islam, history, economics or analysis and resolution of conflicts.

### Academic Excellence

- **Two committees of experts (International and Scientific) guaranteed the high academic level of the congress programme and the presence of Mediterranean Agency for Excellence with outstanding scholars.**

### WOCMES Barcelona 2010

Barcelona, World Capital of Studies on the Middle East and North Africa

From 19th to 24th June 2010, the World Congress on Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) turned the city of Barcelona into the world capital of studies on these regions. Over 370 renowned experts, academics and researchers from 70 countries presented their studies, debated and shared points of view during the intensive working days.

Organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIMed), WOCMES Barcelona 2010 programmed more than 50 academic sessions, held in blocks of 50 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.

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 event took place at the Palau de la Música in Barcelona. The congress participants visited Barcelona City Hall for the opening and 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 Awards
Barcelona honoured two of the congress participants with the WOCMES 2010 Award for their career and the outstanding academic contribution: the Middle Eastern scholars Roger Daues, A.J. Mayor Professor of Middle Eastern History at Harvard University (USA) and José Víctor Gas, Emeritus Professor of Islamic Studies and Semitic Languages at the University of Talbotie (Germany). The event took place at the Palau de la Música in Barcelona.

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

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

CONFERENCE
In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit eight history, sculpture and painting exhibitions. The exhibition, which came from Yemen, Australia, Russia, the United States or Spain, was: “Le Proche ou l’Orient”; “Petunjuk Ilustrasi & Script 19th Century”; “Poèmes de la Méditerranée : poésies arabes contemporaines”; “Photography and Restoring in Khadijia (Baghda, Iraq)”; “Musique et danse au Sahara. La tradition dans le contemporain”; “Hani, Images de Boshra & Chador”; “Societas et poetics in Pakistan”; “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 on 29th August.

A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

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 Ghir is based.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 has been a privileged space of re-charge and meeting for scientific and academic knowledge for more than 2,000 participants. An initiative both to dialogue and cooperation between people from 35 countries from a wide range of disciplines and fields of study. It has been, therefore, one of the best instruments in which the EMED could have in solved itself to advance in its mission, which is to work for a Mediterranean of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations.

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.

Institutional Support

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WOCMES: in Search of a Route of Ideas

"After the Silk Road, we need a route of ideas." In this spirit, Prince Massen Ben 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 commit to 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 24th July would examine the state and process of research on an international level on the Middle East and North Africa with a multidisciplinary approach.

Some of the issues addressed or which arouse more 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 lot of attention from the congress sessions.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 represented for the host country and city an almost unique opportunity to learn first hand from the main experts and researchers of two regions, the Middle East and North Africa, which have an outstanding worldwide influence on political, social, cultural and economic issues. Moreover, it meant for the participants themselves the opportunity for an academic dissemination of their work in the respect of academics 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, the Lords, Glasgow and Edinburgh, and other universities such as the Middle Technical University and Bilkis University (both in Turkey), the universities of Nice Sophia-Antipolis and Paris Descartes (France), Free University and Zentrif Universiters Oester (Germany), the universities of Tunis, Morn and Naples (Italy), Cairo University and the American University in Cairo (Egypt), Al-Fateh Buhaid Thayran (Kuwait), the universities of Tehran, Isfahan and Amman (Jordan), the Hebrew University and those of Tel Aviv and Haifa (Israel), those of Tokyo, Kyoto and Nagoya (Japan), the universities of Tunis and Monastir (Tunisia) and the University Mohammed Premier Oujda (Morocco), among many others.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 has been a privileged space of dialogue and meeting for scientific and academic knowledge for more than 3,000 participants. An initiative both to dialogue and cooperation between people from 75 countries from a wide range of disciplines and fields of study. It has been, therefore, one of the best instruments in which the EIMed could have involved 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.

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 Secretary of the UN for the Mediterranean is based.

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Senén Florensa Director General of the EIMed

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WOCMES has included an intensive cultural programme and several social events

A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

The EIMed 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 this congress has achieved the highest figures of participation and has again revealed the capital status of city of Barcelona in the Mediterranean as a meeting centre of dialogue and debate on issues related to stability, cooperation and progress in the region.

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

In the 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 Secretary of the UN for the Mediterranean is based.

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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 (ARIPED). It enjoyed the presence in two debates of the directors Hamid Rahmanian (Iran), who presented The Glass House, and Najeeb Hajjar (Palestine), who presented Possessions of the Kibbutz. The UAB auditorium, coinciding with the congress, also programmed two dance performances.

Concerts

The Orquesta Arabe de Barcelona offered the inaugural concert of WOCMES-Barcelona 2010. The university campus also hosted the performance by the Algerian Nella Boucha, 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, Folkclòrque performed Catalan folk music.

Book Fair

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

Institutional Support

The congress participants visited Barcelona City Hall for a lunch and the Palau de la Generalitat de Catalunya, where the Vice-President of the Government of Catalonia, Joaquim Costa, presented an institutional reception.

WOCMES 2010 Awards

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 Queen, AJ Mayer Professor of Middle Eastern History at Harvard University (USA) and José Vin Gas, Emeritus Professor of Islamic Studies and Semitic Languages at the University of Toulouse (France). The event took place at the Palau de la Música in Barcelona.

Exhibitions

In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit eight history, photography, sculpture and painting exhibitions. The exhibition, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, were “Le Théâtre en déroute”, “Période Illustration & Script 18th Century”, “Préhistoire de la Méditerranée : points d’âne contemporains”, “PROJECTING and REINVENTING in Kurdistan (Rugbias, Iraq)”, “Mamut y danse au Sahara, Le tradition dans le contemporain”, “Hayam: Images from Bosnà & Chad”, “Souilme et politique au Pakistan”, “The Media in the Mediterranean Sea” and “The Mediterranean of the 20th Century: Realities and Images”, which could be seen at the Palau Robert Rovira in Barcelona until 25th August.
Some of the issues addressed in which students were interested 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 the Internet, and new forms of artistic expression received a lot of attention in this year's congress sessions.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 represented for the host country and city an almost unique opportunity to learn first-hand from the rich expertise and researches from two regions, the Middle East and North Africa, which have an outstanding world influence in political, social, cultural and economic issues. Moreover, it meant for the participants 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, sharing 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 Technical University and Bilkent University both in Turkey; the universities of Ibn Battuta Al-Quds and Paris Descartes (France); Free University and Zeppelin Friedrichshafen (Germany); the universities of Tunis, Maim and Naples (Italy); Cairo University and The American University in Cairo (Egypt); Al-Azhar Baha ElDin Tehran (Iran); the universities of Tehran, Isfahan and Amir Aba (Iran); the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and those of Tel Aviv and Haifa; the University of Kyoto and Nagoya (Japan); the universities of Tunis and Monastir (Tunisia) and the University Mohammed Premier Oujda (Morocco), among many others.

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Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

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In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit excellent photography exhibitions, sculptures and painting exhibitions. The exhibition, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, were: “La Terre en danse”; “Persian Illustration Script 18th Century”; “Prolines de la Mediterranea: poètiques arabes contemporaines”; “Projetzong and Berzting in Khubra (Raghbat, Iraq)”; “Sonic and dance to Sahara, La tradition dans le contemporain”; “Iran: Images From Bosphor to Chad”: “Societies et politique au Pakistan”; “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 from 25th August.
WOCMES in Figures

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 debate.

Integrating Cooperation Research Networks

With the creation of this platform, 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.

WOCMES 2010

Barcelona, World Capital of Studies on the Middle East and North Africa

From 19th to 24th July 2010, the World Congress on Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) turned the city of Barcelona into the world capital of studies on five regions. Over 2,300 researchers, academics and researchers from 70 countries presented their studies, debates and shared points of view during the intensive working days.

Organized by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIMed), WOCMES Barcelona 2010 programmated more than 150 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.

The scientific programme, which was prepared for two years based on the proposals and contributions of 2,421 academics, was accompanied by a notable and intense cultural agenda, including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.

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After more than two years of preparations, WOCMES Barcelona 2010 brought together in the Catalan capital over 2,500 participants, largely surpassing the participation of the two previous years. Especially notable was the presence of academic from the Anglo-Saxon world-Mediterranean countries (mainly Spain, Germany, France and Italy) and Asian countries (Japan in particular). The more than 550 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 biannual network, 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 increase North-South academic and regional cooperation.

WOCMES in Figures

- Participation:
  - 2,500 participants from 68 countries.
- Sessions:
  - 550 sessions, of which 288 contributed to the academic program.

The Academic Excellence

- Ten committees of reports (international and scientific) guaranteed the high academic level of the congress program and the presence of Mediterranean Agency for the South with participations.
- The Congress also published a publication with the works presented.

The Congress took place from 19th to 24th June 2010 in the city of Barcelona and in collaboration with the world capital of studies on these regions: the University of Barcelona.

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 these regions. Over 270 invited experts, academics and researchers from 70 countries presented their studies, debated and shared points of view during the intensive working days.

Organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIMed), WOCMES Barcelona 2010 programmed more than 500 academic sessions, held in blocks of 10 sessions, on a wide range of disciplines and leaves 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.

The scientific programme, which was prepared for two years based on the proposals and contributions of 2,200 scholars, was accompanied by a notable and intensive cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and musical performances, and a book fair.

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The large participation, of broad academic and geographical representations, and the high scientific level of the working sessions have meant for Barcelona an important step in the consolidation of WOCMES as a congress of international reference after the two previous years (2008 in Germany and 2010 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 open vote over other candidate cities.

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Organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIMed), WOCMES Barcelona 2010 programmed more than 500 academic sessions, held in blocks of 10 sessions, on a wide range of disciplines and leaves 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 broad academic and geographical representations, and the high scientific level of the working sessions have meant for Barcelona an important step in the consolidation of WOCMES as a congress of international reference after the two previous years (2008 in Germany and 2010 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 open vote over other candidate cities.