Mediated Storytelling at Islamic Arab Satellite-television

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Publication date: 2010

Document version
Early version, also known as pre-print

Citation for published version (APA):
After more than two years of preparation, WOCMES Barcelona 2010 brought together in the Catalan capital over 2,200 participants, largely surpassing the participation of the two previous years. Especially notable was the presence of academics from the Anglo-Saxon world, Mediterranean countries and Asian 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**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Country</th>
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**Sessions by Issue**

- Water and the Environment
- Urban and Regional Studies
- Economic Development
- Urban and Regional Studies
- Economic Development
- Environmental
- Geographical
- Environmental
- Geographical
- Contemporary
- Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation
- Children and Youth Studies
- Peaceful Future

**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 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.

**Academic Excellence**

Two committees of reports International and scientifique guaranteed the high academic level of the congress programme and the presence of prestigious guests from the day one until the end.

**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 these regions. Over 230 renowned experts, academics and researchers from 70 countries presented their studies, debated and shared points of view during the intense 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 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 2,200 academics, was accompanied by a notable and intense cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.
WOCMES: in Search of a Route of Ideas

“After the Silk Route, we need a route of ideas.” In this spirit, Prince Massar 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 his commitment 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 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.

Some of the issues addressed in which the academic interest was greater were the analysis of the political situation in the region, the democratisation and the questions linked to social evolution, although youth, the media and Internet, and new forms of artistic expression received the attention of many congress sessions.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 represented for the host country and city an unique opportunity to learn from the best experts and researchers of two regions, the Middle East and North Africa, which have an outstanding world 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, 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 East Technical University and Bilkent University (Turkey), the universities of Nice Sophia-Antipolis and Paris Descartes (France), Freie Universität and Zentrum Moderner Orient (Germany), the universities of Tunis, Meknes and Nantes (France), Cairo University and The American University in Cairo (Egypt), Alcar and Bilkent Tünez (Algeria), the universities of Tehran, Isfahan and Amir Abad (Iran), the Hebrew University and those of Tel Aviv and Haifa Swed (those of Tokyo, Kyoto and Nagoya (Japan); the universities of Tunk and Manisa (Turkey) and the University Mohamed. Philippe Djebel (Morocco), among many others.

A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

Theilliad set out on a long journey of over two years of preparation leading to the WOCMES Barcelona 2010 Congress. The efforts made have been very well worth it. This 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 meeting centre of dialogue and debate on issues related to stability, cooperation and progress in the region.

Our main objective is in the promotion of activities, projects and actions contributing to mutual awareness, exchanges and co-operation between different countries, societies and cultures. Although our undertaken 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.

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

WOCMES has included an intensive cultural programme and several social events

Exhibitions

In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit eight history, sculpture and painting exhibitions. The exhibitions, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, were: “Le Yémen en sérail”; “Français Illustration & Script 18th Century”; “Poèmes de la Méditerranée : poèles arabes contemporains”; “Projecting & Restraining in Khadimia (Baghdad, Iraq)”; “Musique et danse au Sahara, La tradition dans le contemporain”; “Iran: Images From Bessasth & Chador”; “Sculpture 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 and 29th August.
WOCMES: in Search of a Route of Ideas

After the Silk Route, 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 to dialogue with 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 progress of research on an international level in the Middle East and North Africa with a multidisciplinary approach.

Some of the issues addressed at which, above all, interested the audience 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 the attention of many congress sessions.
- WOCMES Barcelona 2010 represented for the host country and city an almost unique opportunity to link first from the vast experts and researchers of two regions, the Middle East and North Africa, which have an outstanding cultural heritage.
- WOCMES Barcelona 2010 for the first time in the history of the Congress, it became possible to visit round twenty publishers as well as university presses, NGOs and other associations from several countries, displayed their publications in the congress venue.

A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

The Washington Monument has been one of the best instruments in which the Mediterranean could have in the past to discuss and exchange views on problems and ideas of the Mediterranean in all areas. Nevertheless, in the midst of the Mediterranean, current, complex, independent, and globalized world, efforts as the need to take into account everything occurring is how it would not affect 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 for more than 2300 participants. An incentive 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 Mediterranean could have in the past to discuss and exchange views on problems and ideas of the Mediterranean in all areas. Nevertheless, in the midst of the Mediterranean, current, complex, independent, and globalized world, efforts as the need to take into account everything occurring is how it would not affect our reality.

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 performance by the Algerian Neila Touibey, who offered a journey through the great classes of popular music in her country. At the Palau de la Musica, within the presentations of the WOCMES 2010 Awards, Folkincats performed Catalan folk music.

Exhibitions
In different venues of the Congress was possible to visit eight history, sculpture and painting exhibitions.

The exhibition, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, were: “Les Trésors de l’Oasis” “Persian Illustration & Script 19th Century”, “Poèmes de la Méditerranée : poètes arabes contemporains”, “Projetant and Benton in Khatibya (Bogotá, Israel)”, “Musique et danse au Sahara, la tradition dans le contemporain”, “Images From Bosnian & Chech”, “Sculpture et politiques 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 on 25th August.

Institutional Support
The congress participants visited Barcelona City Hall 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 Studies Roger Dauè, at Roy Professor of Middle Eastern History at Harvard University (USA) and José Vicente Bas, 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.

Book Fair
Around twenty publishers, as well as university presses, NGOS and other associations from several countries, displayed their publications in the congress venue.
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 region. An issue that could not be ignored this year, when the Congress was held in the city where the Permanent Secretariat of the OSCE for the Mediterranean is based.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 has been a privileged space of exchange and meeting for scientific and academic knowledge for more than 2,700 participants. An invitation 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 this IMED could have been involved 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.

Senén Florea
Director General of the IMED

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

available at www.imed.org/wocmes

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

WOCMES has included an intensive cultural programme and several social events

**Film Festival and Theatre**

-round twenty films from Iran, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, Morocco and France, among other countries, were screened at the WOCMES 2010 Film Festival, organized in collaboration with the International Association of Independent Producers of the Mediterranean (APIED). It enjoyed the presence in two debates of the directors Hamid Rahmanian (Iran), who presented The Glass House, and Najeeb Rajaj (Palestine), who presented Pomodoro and the Wolf. The IMED auditors, coinciding with the congress, also programmed two dance performances.

-**Concerts**

The Orquesta de Arás de Barcelona offered the inaugural concert of WOCMES-Barcelona 2010. The university campus also hosted the performance by the Algerian Nella Benba, who offered a journey through the great classics of popular music in her country. At the Palau de la Música, within the performances of the WOCMES 2010 Awards, Folkloricaz performed Catalan folk music.

-**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, Russia, the United States or Spain, were: “La Frontera en desdoblado”, “Postimpression & Script 19th Century”, “Pouïsnes de la Mediterannée: poètes arabes contemporains”, “Projetants and Bentonists in Kadhafiya (Libya, Iraq)”, “Manos y danzas en Sahara: La tradición en tiempos contemporáneos”, “Imágenes desde la Antigüedad”, “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.

Institutional Support

The congress participants visited Barcelona City Hall in the post-congress 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 studies: Roger Owen, AJ Meyer Professor of Middle Eastern History at Harvard University (USA) and José Inácio Soe Sá, Emeritus Professor of Islamic Studies and Semitic Languages at the University of Toulouse (France). The event took place at the Palau del la Misericòrdia in Barcelona.

**Book Fair**

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

**Exhibitions**

- “Manos y danzas en Sahara: La tradición en tiempos contemporáneos”
- “Imágenes desde la Antigüedad”
- “The Media in the Mediterranean Sea”
- “The Mediterranean of the 20th Century: Realities and Images”
- “La Frontera en desdoblado”
- “Postimpression & Script 19th Century”
- “Pouïsnes de la Mediterannée: poètes arabes contemporains”
- “Projetants and Bentonists in Kadhafiya (Libya, Iraq)”
- “Manos y danzas en Sahara: La tradición en tiempos contemporáneos”
### WOCMES in Figures

#### Academic Excellence

The European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIOM), founded in 1444, is a consortium comprising the Governments of Calabria, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and Barcelona City Council. It incorporates civil society through a Board of Governors and an Advisory Council formed by Mediterranean universities, companies, organisations and personalities of renowned prestige.

In accordance with the principles of the Euro Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona process), and today with the objective of raising the profile of the Mediterranean, EIOM is committed to a better image of the region, to open exchanges and cooperation between the Mediterranean countries, societies and cultures, as well as to promote the protection of a space of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations in the Mediterranean.

Adopting a clear role as a think tank specialized in Mediterranean realities based on a multidisciplinary and networking approach, EIOM encourages analysis, understanding and cooperation through the organisation of seminars, research projects, debates, conferences, exhibitions, cultural programmes and other activities.

European Institute of the Mediterranean
Girona, 20-08010 Barcelona

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### The Congress Goals

**Creating New Approaches to Breaking Down Stereotypes**

The congress debates prompted new points of view and innovative approaches to breaking stereotypes and rigid interpretations, which are often deeply rooted in the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

**Provisioning an Overall View**

WOCMES manages to provide an overall view of the whole of the region in dealing with 129 wide-ranging issues, from water and the environment, to grain planning, politics and the media. It also includes studies on the Mediterranean region, Islam, history, economics, sociology and analysis of conflicts.

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### 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 these regions. Over 270 institutional reports, academic and research papers from 70 countries presented their studies, detailed and shared points of view during the intensive working days.

Organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIOM), 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 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 2,201 academics, was accompanied by a notable and intensive cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.
After more than two years of preparation, 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 academics from the Anglo-American world, Mediterranean countries (especially 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.

### Academic Excellence

Two committees of reports (International and Scientific) guaranteed the high academic level of the congress programme and the presence of international agencies both with a cultural and governmental background.

### Invigorating Research Networks

For the first time research on the Mediterranean in the congress debates.

### Invoking Mutual Awareness

Researchers and experts shared the results of studies and research that may contribute to increasing 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 new research, 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.

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**WOCMES 2010**

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

**Sessions by Issue**

- Water and the Environment
- Urban and Regional Studies
- Economic Culture
- Policies
- Normative Phenomena and Legal Research
- Nationalities / Identity and Ethnic
- Religion
- Education and Training
- Geographic and Environment
- Population
- History
- Cultural"SSS
- Contemporary Arab Country
- Conflict Resolution and Negotiation
- Asian and Islam World
- Polar Regions

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**The Congress Goals**

- Generating New Approaches to Breaking Down Stereotypes
- Encouraging Mutual Awareness
- Integrating Cooperation Research Networks

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**WOCMES in Figures**

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**The European Institute of the Mediterranean**

(formerly: Sabanci Center)

- Sabanci Center, Istanbul, 2004
- Centre International de Recherches et d’Etudes sur la Méditerranée, 2008
- European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIMed), 2012

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**European Institute of the Mediterranean**

- Barcelona, 2010

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**WOCMES Barcelona 2010**

- European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIMed)
- Barcelona, 2010

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**Acknowledgments**

The European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIMed), founded in 1995, is a consortium comprising the Government of Catalonia, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and Barcelona City Council. It incorporates civil society through the Board of Trustees and an Advisory Council formed by Mediterranean universities, companies, organisations and personalities of renowned prestige.

In accordance with the principles of the Euro Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona Process), and today with the objectives of the Lisbon Declaration for the Mediterranean, to further enhance and promote the Mediterranean to a better place and present constructive and conducive understanding, exchange and cooperation between the different Mediterranean countries, societies and cultures, as well as to promote the principles of a space of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations in the Mediterranean.

Adopting a clear role as a think tank specialized in Mediterranean relations based on a multidisciplinary and networking approach, the EIMed encourages analysis, understanding and cooperation through the organisation of seminars, research projects, debates, congresses and meetings focused on mutual cultural programmes.

**European Institute of the Mediterranean**

- Barcelona, 2010

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The large participation of Israeli academic and geographical representatives, and the high scientific level of the working sessions has meant for Barcelona an important step in the consolidation of WOCMES as a congress of international reference after the two previous years (2003 in Germany and 2004 in Jordan). Moreover, the high level of participation also called the expectation following the candidature of Barcelona in 2008 to host the congress, when it was chosen as open space over other candidate cities.

The scientific programme, which was prepared for two years based on the proposals and contributions of 2,500 academics, was accompanied by a notable and intensive cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.