Mediated Storytelling at Islamic Arab Satellite-television

Galal, Ehab

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WOCMES in Figures

The Congress Goals

Academic Excellence

In the framework of the Euro Mediterranean Partnership, the Barcelona Congress on the Mediterranean was an initiative designed to strengthen the cultural, scientific and economic cooperation between the Mediterranean countries. The Congress aimed at promoting a better understanding and appreciation of the Mediterranean region, its history, art, culture, and contemporary issues.

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 the Mediterranean. Over 270 renowned experts and researchers from 78 countries presented these studies, debated and shared points of view during the intensive working days.

Organized by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (EI Med), WOCMES Barcelona 2010 programs more than 50 academic sessions, held in blocks of 10 sessions, on a wide range of disciplines and leaving a focus 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 2,400 academics, was accompanied by a notable and intensive cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.

The European Institute of the Mediterranean (EI Med), founded in 1996, 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, organizations and personalities of renowned prestige.

In accordance with the principles of the Euro Mediterranean Partnership of Barcelona Process, and with the objective of making the Mediterranean region an area of peace, the Congress was designed to promote a better understanding and appreciation of the Mediterranean region, its history, art, culture, and contemporary issues.

Adopting a clear role as a think tank specialized in Mediterranean relations based on a multidisciplinary and networking approach, the WOCMES encourages analysis, understanding and cooperation through the organization of seminars, research projects, debates, conferences and cultural programs to achieve cultural goals.

European Institute of the Mediterranean
Girona, 20- 08010 Barcelona
www.ei-med.org
WOCMES: in Search of a Route of Ideas

“After the Silk Road, we need a route of ideas.” In this spirit, Prince Massar bin Talal of Jordan opened the WOCMES Barcelona 2010 Congress as an inaugural lecture in which he emphasized the difficult international situation of the region and he pledged his commitment 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 30th July would examine the state and progress of research at an international level on the Middle East and North Africa with a multi-disciplinary approach.

Some of the issues addressed or which draw 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 many 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 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 the 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 East Technical University and Bogazici University (both in Turkey), the universities of Nice Sophia Antipolis and Paris Descartes (France), Freie University and Zentrum Moderner Orient (Germany), the universities of Tübingen, Münster and Naples (Italy), Cairo University and The American University in Cairo (Egipt), Al-Azhar University (Egypt), the universities of Tunisia, Lebanon and Anadolu (Turkey), the universities of Cairo (Egypt), Meclete (Morocco), the universities of Jerusalem (Palestine) and Al-Quds (Jerusalem, the universities of Damascus and Ecole Normale Superieure of Paris, among many others.

In this respect, WOCMES Barcelona 2010 has incorporated the first time, along with research on the Middle East and North Africa and the Asian Muslim states, studies on the Mediterranean region itself. 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 reflection and meeting for scientific and academic knowledge for more than 2,500 participants. An initiative both to dialogue and cooperation between people from 70 countries from a wide range of disciplines and fields of study. It has been, therefore, one of the best instruments in which this 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.

Senén Flores
Director General of the IEMed

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

WOCMES has included an intensive cultural programme and several social events

The IEMed set out on an agonizing journey of over two years of preparation leading to this goal. The efforts made have been well worth it. The third year of the congress has achieved the highest figures of participation and has once again revealed the capital status 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 the promotion of activities, projects and actions contributing to mutual awareness, exchanges and cooperation between different countries, societies and cultures. Although our undertakings are framed within the Mediterranean, the current, complex, interdependent and globalized world challenges us to take into account everything occurring further beyond, because in the end it affects us really.

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

A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

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 “La Freeman se desvanez”; “Photogénie Illustration Script 19th Century”; “Prisna de la Mediterranée : poêlons arabes contemporains”; “Projektion und Bestooning in Kurdistan (Baghdad, Iraq)”; “Musique et danses du Sahara, La tradition dans le contemporain”; “From Images to Chador”; “Societies and politics 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 until 29th August.

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 in the presence of the President of the Government of Catalonia, Joaquim Capmany, who offered them an institutional reception.

WOCMES 2010 Awards

Barcelona honours 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 Moyer 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 Tübingen (Germany). The event took place at the Palau de la Música in Barcelona.

Roger Owen accepts the WOCMES 2010 Award from Senén Flores, Director General of the IEMed. Assistant Coordinator of the congress.

Exhibition "Musique et danses du Sahara, La tradition dans le contemporain".
**WOCMES: in Search of a Route Ideas**

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

Listening to the Prince, in a full auditorium, 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 or in which others expressed 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 attention of many congress sessions.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 represented for the host country and city an unique opportunity to learn first-hand from the main experts and researchers of the region, multilingual and bilateral, and in an academic and collaborative way, the role that the Mediterranean can play in the world.

In 2010, for the first time, the WOCMES Barcelona 2010 Congress 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 the promotion of activities, projects and actions contributing to mutual awareness, exchanges and cooperation between different countries, continents, and cultures. Although our endeavours are shared within the Mediterranean, the current, complex, independent, and globalised world obliges us to take into account everything occurring 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.inters.org/wocmes.

**Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions**

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

**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 in the city 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 (US) and José Víz Gómez, Emeritus Professor of Islamic Studies and Semitic Languages at the University of Tübingen (Germany). The event took place at the Palau de la Música in Barcelona.

**Concerts**

The Orquestra Arab de Barcelona offered the inaugural concert of WOCMES Barcelona 2010. The university campus also hosted the performances by the Algerian Neda Benou, 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, Folkincats performed Catalan folk music.

**Exhibitions**

In different venues of the congress was also possible to visit eight history, photography, sculpture and painting exhibitions. The exhibitions, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, were: “La Frenésie en decò”; “Persian Illustration & Script 18th Century”; “Poèmes de la Méditerranée : poêmes arabes contemporains”; “Projecting and Restoring in Khadimya (Baghdad, Iraq)”; “Musique et danses au Sahara. La tradition dans les contemporains”; “Iran: Images From Bensoth a Chador”; “Sciences 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 until 29th August.

**A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean**

The IEMED 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 reached 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 the promotion of activities, projects and actions contributing to mutual awareness, exchanges and cooperation between different countries, continents, and cultures. Although our endeavours are shared within the Mediterranean, the current, complex, independent, and globalised world obliges us to take into account everything occurring 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.inters.org/wocmes.

**Stop**

The 2010 IEMED Award was presented to two remarkable individuals who have contributed to the advancement of cultural dialogue and cooperation: Neila éenbeyi, who presented “Art et science de la méditerranée”, and Senén Florensa, Director General of the IEMED, who presented “The Mediterranean of the 20th Century: Realities and Images”, which could be seen at the Palau Robert in Barcelona until 29th August.

**Music in Cats**

The 2010 IEMED Award was presented to two remarkable individuals who have contributed to the advancement of cultural dialogue and cooperation: Neila éenbeyi, who presented “Art et science de la méditerranée”, and Senén Florensa, Director General of the IEMED, who presented “The Mediterranean of the 20th Century: Realities and Images”, which could be seen at the Palau Robert in Barcelona until 29th August.

**Folkincats**

The 2010 IEMED Award was presented to two remarkable individuals who have contributed to the advancement of cultural dialogue and cooperation: Neila éenbeyi, who presented “Art et science de la méditerranée”, and Senén Florensa, Director General of the IEMED, who presented “The Mediterranean of the 20th Century: Realities and Images”, which could be seen at the Palau Robert in Barcelona until 29th August.
A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

Music

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 (AIPEMD). It enjoyed the presence in two debates of the directors Hamid Reza Taheri (Iran), who presented The Glass House, and Najwa Najjar (Palestine), who presented Pomegranates and Myrrh. The UNESCO auditorium, coinhabited with the congress, also programmed two dance performances.

Concerts

The Orquesta Arab de Barcelona offered the inaugural concert of WOCMES-Barcelona 2010. The university campus also hosted the performance by the Algerian Néila Éenbeyi, 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, Folklorica 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 exhibitions, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, were: “Le Yemen en détour”; “Pentax Illustration & Script 19th Century”; “Poèmes de la Méditerranée : poésies arabes contemporaines”; “Projection and Becoming in Khartoum (Sudan, Iraq)”; “Manifest and danses au Sahara. La tradition dans le contemporain”; “Iran: Images From Sassan to Chaos”; “Sciences 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 until 29th August.

Institutional Support

The congress participants visited Barcelona City Hall to the podium and to the Palau de la Generalitat de Catalunya, where the Vice-President of the Government of Catalonia, Josep Lluís Carod-Rovira, offered them an institutional reception.

WOCMES 2010 Awards

Barcelona honours 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.M. Mayor-Professor of Middle Eastern History at Harvard University (USA) and José Vicent García, 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.

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 he pledged his commitment to dialogue in order 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 progress of research at an international level on the Middle East and North Africa with a multisciplinary approach.

Some of the issues addressed or which awoken more interest were the analysis of the political situation in the region, the political debates 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 learn from the vast experts and researchers of two regions, the Middle East and North Africa, which have an outstanding world influence in geopolitical, social, cultural and economic issues. Moreover, it meant for the participants themselves the opportunity for an academic dissemination of their work in this respect, 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 London, Glasgow and Edinburgh, and other universities such as the Middle Eastern Technical University and Bogazici University (both in Turkey), the universities of Nice Sophia Antipolis and Paris Descartes (France), Freie University and Zentrums Migrationsforschung (Germany), the universities of Tunis, Mena and Naples (Italy), Cairo University and the American University in Cairo (Egypt), Al-Quds University (Jerusalem), the universities of Tehran, Isfahan and Imam Ali (Iran), the University of Meknes (Morocco), the universities of Tunis and Manouba (Tunisia) and the University Mohammed Premier Oujda (Morocco), among many others.

The IEmed 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, very 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 the promotion of activities, projects and actions contributing to mutual awareness, exchanges and cooperation between different countries, societies and cultures. Although our activities are aimed 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.

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 as a region. An issue that could not be ignored this year, when the Congress was held in the city where the Parliament Secretary of the Union for the Mediterranean is based.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 has been a privileged space of interchange and meeting for scientific and academic knowledge for more than 2,500 participants. An invitation both to dialogue and cooperation between people from 19 countries from a wide range of disciplines and fields of study. It has been, therefore, one of the best instruments in which the IEmed could have continued to advance in our mission, which is to work for a Mediterranean of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations.

Senin Florea
Director General of the IEmed

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.iemed.org/wocmes
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 and cultural institutions 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 550 sessions attended by the congress participants address a wide range of issues from different approaches and disciplines.

**Academic Excellence**

Two committees of experts (international and scientific) guaranteed the high academic level of the congress programme and the presence of 2562 experts and 1310 participants. The scientific programme, which was prepared for two years based on the proposals and contributions by 3241 academics, 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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**WOCEMES in Figures**

**The Congress Goals**

- Encouraging Mutual Awareness: Researches 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, researchers and 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.

**Sessions by Issue**

- Water and the Environment
- Urban and Regional Studies
- Economic Culture
- Political Culture
- Nomadic Phenomena and Local Resources
- Security in the Middle East
- Religious Studies
- Language and Literature
- Book Fair
- Music Performances
- Theatre
- Eight Exhibitions
- Book Fair
- Cinema Festival

**From 19th to 24th July 2010, the World Congress on Middle East Studies (WOCMES) turned the city of Barcelona into the world capital of studies on three regions. Over 2300 researchers, 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 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.

From 19th to 24th July 2010, the World Congress on Middle East Studies (WOCMES) turned the city of Barcelona into the world capital of studies on three regions. Over 2300 researchers, academics and researchers from 70 countries presented their studies, debated and shared points of view during the intense working days. From 19th to 24th July 2010, the World Congress on Middle East Studies (WOCMES) turned the city of Barcelona into the world capital of studies on three regions. Over 2300 researchers, academics and researchers from 70 countries presented their studies, debated and shared points of view during the intense working days.

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The large participation of Israeli academic and geographical representations, 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 (2008 in Germany and 2009 in Jordan). Moreover, the high level of participation also ratified the expectations following the candidature of Barcelona in 2008 to host the congress, when it was chosen as open venue over other candidate cities.

The Scientific programme, which was prepared for two years based on the proposals and contributions by 3241 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-Saxon world, Mediterranean countries (mainly Spain, Germany, France and Italy), and Asian countries (Japan, in particular). The more than 500 sessions attended by the congress participants addressed a wide range of issues from different approaches and disciplines.

### Academic Excellence

Two committees of experts (international and scientific) guaranteed the high academic level of the congress programme and the presence of distinguished figures from all world regions.

### 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**
  - The creation of this bridge 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.

- **WOCMES in Figures**

  - 2,500 participants
  - 500 sessions
  - 300 researchers, academics, and researchers from 72 countries

- **WOCMES 2010**

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

- **The Congress Goals**

  - **Generating New Approaches to Breaking Stereotypes**
    - The congress debate correctly placed new points of view and innovative approaches towards breaking stereotypical and rigid interpretations, which are often deep-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 all wide-ranging issues, from war and the environment, to social planning, politics, and the media in migration including studies on the Mediterranean region, Islam, history, economics, or analysis and resolution of conflicts.

- **European Institute of the Mediterranean**

  - Euro Med

- **From 1998 to 2010**

  - The World Congress on Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) turned the city of Barcelona into the world capital of studies on three regions. Over 700 international experts, academics, and researchers from 72 countries presented their studies, debated, and shared points of view during the five intensive working days.

  - Organized by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (Euro Med), WOCMES Barcelona 2010 participated in more than 50 scientific 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 242 academics, was accompanied by a number of cultural events including cinema, theater, exhibitions, and music performances.