Mediated Storytelling at Islamic Arab Satellite-television

Galal, Ehab

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 Catalán 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 (indeed 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.

**Representation by Countries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sessions by Issue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History, Economics or Analysis of Conflicts</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion, Town Planning, Contemporary Artistic Creation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Performances and the Book Fair</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Development and Governance</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Excellence: The European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIOM)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Large Participation of Broad Academic and Geographical Representation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Congress Goals**

- Promoting the Mediterranean as a region of peace and stability, sharing prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations in the Mediterranean.
- Encouraging the Mediterranean as a region of peace and stability, sharing prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations in the Mediterranean.
- Providing an Overall View WOCMES 2010 to provide an overall view of the region by dealing with 18 wide-ranging issues, four axes and the environment, town planning, politics and the media, migrations including studies on the Mediterranean region, Islam, history, economics or analysis and resolution of conflicts.

**Academic Excellence**

Two committees of reports (International and Scientific) have guaranteed the high academic level of the congress programme.

The first committee, comprising 18 experts on Mediterranean studies, was in charge of evaluating the proposals for the scientific programme. The scientific committee reviewed the 250 papers submitted and selected the 180 papers for the congress programme.

The second committee, comprising 60 experts in the Mediterranean region, was responsible for examining the papers presented at the congress. The scientific committee reviewed the 250 papers submitted and selected the 180 papers for the congress programme.

**Research Objectives**

- The congress programme is divided into five sessions: History, Economics or Analysis of Conflicts; Religion, Town Planning, Contemporary Artistic Creation; Music Performances and the Book Fair; International Development and Governance; and PCs.

**The Scientific Programme**

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 intense cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.
Some of the issues addressed or which aroused most 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 the new forms of artistic expression received a lot of attention through dialogue and cooperation between different countries, scientists and cultures. Our main objective is the promotion of activities, projects and actions contributing to mutual awareness, exchanges and co-operation between different countries, scientists and cultures. Although our understandings are framed 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 our reality.

A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

In this respect, WOMES 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.

WOMES Barcelona 2010 has been a privileged space of reflection and meeting for scientific and academic knowledge for more than 2500 participants. An invitation both to dialogue and cooperation between people from 18 countries from a wide range of disciplines and fields of study. It has been, therefore, one of the best ingredients in which the EIMed could have been involved to advance in our mission, which is to work for a Mediterranean of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations.

Serena Fioreni
Director General of the EIMed

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

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

WOMES has included an extensive 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 WOMES Film Festival, organized in collaboration with the International Association of Independent Producers of the Mediterranean (IAPMED). It included the presence in two debates of the directors Roberto Ramonino (Iran), who presented The Glass House, and Najeeb Rajab (Palestine), who presented Pomegranates and Myrrh. The UK authorities, coinciding with the congress, also programmed two dance performances. 

Concerts

The Orquesta Arab de Barcelona offered the inaugural concert of WOMES Barcelona 2010. The university campus also hosted the performance by the algérien Nace Benou, who offered a journey through the great classics of popular music in his country.

At the Palau de la Música, within the presentations of the WOMES 2010 Awards, Folkloricte performed Catalan folk music.

Exhibitions

In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit eight art history, sculpture and painting exhibitions.

The exhibition, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, were: “La Femme en dervish”, “Préfets Illustration & Script 19th Century”, “Poèmes de la Méditerranée : poètes arabes contemporains”, “Projetant en Béotieותו en Khorâsân (Raqshart, Iran)”, “Musique et danse au Sahara, La tradition dans le contemporain”, “Iran: Images de Bessoth a Chador”, “Souliers 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 25th August.

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 the Palau de la Generalitat de Catalunya, where the Vice-President of the Government of Catalonia, Josep Bassas Carriófice, referred them an institutional reception.

WOMES 2010 Awards

Barcelona honoured two of the congress participants with the WOMES 2010 Award for their career and the outstanding academic contribution: the Middle Eastern studies Roger Owen, Aja Myers 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 Talabique (Germany). The event took place at the Palau de la Música in Barcelona.
**A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean**

The EMED 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 very well worthwhile. The third year of the congress has achieved the highest figures of participation and has once again revealed the capital status of city Barcelona in the Mediterranean as a meeting point 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, exchange and cooperation between different countries, societies and cultures. Although our activities are confined within the Mediterranean, the current, complex, independent and globalized world forces us to take into account everything occurring both beyond, because in the end it affects us.

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 Permanent Secretariat of the UN for the Mediterranean is based.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 has been a privileged space of interdisciplinary and interdisciplinary meeting for scientific and academic knowledge for more than 2,500 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 most important steps in which this EMED could have been able to advance towards our mission, which is work for a Mediterranean of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations.

Senén Florea
Director General of the EMED

**Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions**

**WOCMES has included an intense 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 (AIEMED). It enjoyed the presence in two debates of the directors Hamid Reza Ataie (Iran), who presented the Glitter House, and Najee Najjar (Palestine), who presented Promises of the Wind. The UNESCO, coinciding 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 Nella Benbou, 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, Folklórica performed Catalan folk music.

**Exhibitions**

In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit eight photography, sculptures and painting exhibitions. The exhibitions, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, were: “Los Órdenes en derrumbe”; “Frenetic Illustration & Script 19th Century”; “Primaire de la Méditerranée: points arabe contemporaine”; “Itinerant and Becoming in Khartoum (Sudan, Iraq)” “Manifes et danses au Sahara, La tradition dans le contemporain”; “Iran: Images From Beshah 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 for the official visit to 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 honours two of the congress participants with the WOCMES 2010 Awards for their career and the outstanding academic contribution: the Middle Eastern Studies Roger Owen, Al-Medior Professor of Middle Eastern History at Harvard University (USA) and José Víns Dás, 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**

A special mention to the ‘Evolva’ Book Fair, which took place between 30th July and 20th August at the University of Barcelona. It aimed at linking literature, culture, and research, promoting the works of authors from all the Mediterranean countries. Attendees at the Fair were able to purchase more than 250 works in 19 different languages, from Arabic to English or Spanish.

**Exhibitions**


**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 his 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 28th July would examine the state and progress of research at an international level for the Middle East and North Africa with a multidisciplinary approach.

Some of the issues addressed, which aroused 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 the attention of many congress sessions.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 represented for the host country and city an almost unique opportunity to learn first hand from the most 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 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 distinguished experts from prestigious Anglo-Saxon universities such as Harvard, Stanford, UC Berkeley, Georgetown, Cambridge, Cornell, Glasgow and Edinburgh, and other universities such as the Middle Technical University and Bosphorus University (both in Turkey); the universities of Nice Sophia-Antipolis and Paris Descartes (France); Free University and Zuid-Holland Midden-Oosten (Germany); the universities of Tunis, Milan and Naples (Italy); Cairo University and The American University in Cairo (Egypt); Abu Dhabi University (United Arab Emirates); the universities of Tel Aviv and Haifa Schools; those of Tokyo, Kyoto and Nagoya (Japan); the universities of Tunis and Menoua (Tunisia) and the University Mohammed Premier Oujda (Morocco), among many others.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 was attended by participants from over 100 countries, with the opening took place to a full auditorium. The programme, published in English and French, was an updated guide to experts and issues of interest to the study of the Middle East and North Africa, available at www.iemed.org/wocmes.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 also included a special mention to the ‘Evolva’ Book Fair, which took place between 30th July and 20th August at the University of Barcelona. It aimed at linking literature, culture, and research, promoting the works of authors from all the Mediterranean countries. Attendees at the Fair were able to purchase more than 250 works in 19 different languages, from Arabic to English or Spanish.

In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit eight photography, sculptures and painting exhibitions. The exhibitions, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, were: “Los Órdenes en derrumbe”; “Frenetic Illustration & Script 19th Century”; “Primaire de la Méditerranée: points arabe contemporaine”; “Itinerant and Becoming in Khartoum (Sudan, Iraq)” “Manifes et danses au Sahara, La tradition dans le contemporain”; “Iran: Images From Beshah to Chador”; “Societies and Politics in Pakistan”; “The Media in the Mediterranean Sea” and “The Mediterranean of the 20th Century: Realities and Images.”

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 was attended by participants from over 100 countries, with the opening took place to a full auditorium. The programme, published in English and French, was an updated guide to experts and issues of interest to the study of the Middle East and North Africa, available at www.iemed.org/wocmes.
WOCMES: in Search of a Route of Ideas

“After the Silk Road, we need a route of ideas.” In this spirit, Prince Massen Bin Talel 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 to unite the peoples and countries of the Mediterranean.

Listening to Prince, in a full auditorium, were some of the academics who from that moment and until 24th July would examine the state and prospects of research at an international level on the Middle East and North Africa with a multidisciplinary approach.

Some of the issues addressed by which we are now interested were the analysis of the political situation in the region, the democratic advances and the links made to social evolution, although youth, the media and Internet, and new forms of artistic expression received a lot of attention this Congress.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 represented for the host country and city an almost unique opportunity to learn from the fruitful experiences and researches 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 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 Stanford, UC Berkeley, Georgetown, Cambridge, the London, Glasgow and Edinburgh, and other universities such as the Middle Technical University and Bilkent University both in Turkey, the universities of Nice Sophia Antipolis and Paris Descartes, France; Free University and Zentrums für Middelrecht (Germany); the universities of Tunis, Marrakech and Naples (Italy); Cari University and The American University in Cairo (Egypt); Abu Rebi Bokhthi (Tunisia); the universities of Tel Aviv, and Halle-Wittenberg; those of Tokyo, Kyoto and Nagoya (Japan); the universities of Tokyo and Mah Bắc (Vietnam); and the University Ministry Phénomènes Oubliés (Monaco), among many others.

A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

The IEMed set out on a long journey over two years of preparation leading up to the WOCMES Barcelona 2010 Congress. The efforts made have been well worthwhile. The third year of this congress has achieved the highest figures of participation and has again revitalized the capital status of city of Barcelona in the Mediterranean as a manage 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 undertakings are framed within the Mediterranean, the current, complex, interdependent and globalized world obliges us to think in a global and mutual awareness, exchanges and co-operation between different countries, societies and cultures. Although our undertakings are framed within the Mediterranean, the current, complex, interdependent and globalized world obliges us to think in a global and international environment, in which new opportunities are being exploited.

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 area in general. 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 encounter and meeting for scientific and academic knowledge for more than 2,000 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 which the IEMed could have in order to facilitate the advancement of our mission, which is to work for a Mediterranean of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations.

Semir Finanaz Director General of the IEMed

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

WOCMES has included an intensive cultural programme and several social events

Film Festival and Theater

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 (AFIPED). It enjoyed the presence in two debates of the directors Hamid Rezaian (Iran), who presented “Ghas House”, and Najim Hajar (Palestine), who presented “Partitipantes in Crux”. The IEMed authorities, coordinating 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 Wadi Benbou, who offered a journey through the great classics of popular music in his country. At the Palau de la Música, within the presentation of the WOCMES 2010 Awards, Folklorica performed Catalan folk music.

Exhibitions

In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit eight photography, sculpture and painting exhibitions. The exhibitions, which come from Turkey, Austria, France, the United States or Spain, were: “La Femen en el desierto”, “Visites Illustration & Script 19th Century”, “Poémes de la Méditerranée : poètes arabes contemporains”, “Projecting and Restoring in Khadimiya (Baghdad, Iraq)”, “Mandolin dans au Sahara. Un tradition dans le contemporain”, “Iran: Images From Sassoth & Chador”, “Soufism 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 and at 29th August.
After more than two years of preparation, WOCMES Barcelona 2010 brought together in the Catalán 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 (led 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 addressed a wide range of issues from different approaches and disciplines.

**WOCMES in Figures**

**Academic Excellence**

Two committees of experts (international and scientific) guaranteed the high academic level of the congress programme and in keeping with the principles of the Euro Mediterranean Partnership and Barcelona's experience, the conference 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.

**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 bi-annual research, 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 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 three regions. Over 2,300 renowned experts, academics and researchers from 22 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 80 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 2,451 academics, was accompanied by a Institute and Internet 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 2,300 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.

**Academic Excellence**

Two committees of reports (International and Scientific) guaranteed the high academic level of the congress programme and the presence of renowned names from the world of research.

**International Advisory Council**