Mediated Storytelling at Islamic Arab Satellite-television

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After more than two years of preparation, WOCMES Barcelona 2010 brought together in the Catalanian capital over 2,300 participants, largely surpassing the participation of the two previous events. Especially notable was the presence of academics from the Anglo-Saxon world, Mediterranean countries (headed by Turkey), European countries (mostly 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 biennial congress, researchers connected to congresses that have been held elsewhere in the Mediterranean and the Middle East, Barcelona introduced new networks for the first time research on the Mediterranean in the congress debates.

**Representation by Countries**

European countries (mostly Spain, Germany, France, and Italy) and Asian countries (Japan, in particular) as well as countries beyond Europe attending the congress. The total number of countries addressed at the congress was 113.

**Sessions by Issue**

1. Water and the Environment
2. Urban and Regional Studies
3. Science, Culture, Politics
4. Nomadic Phenomena and Local Research
5. Identity, Gender and Ethnicity
6. Religion and Interactions
7. Economic and Social Studies
8. Environmental and Economic Studies
9. Cultural Education
10. Current Events and Historical Research
11. Conflict Resolution and Evolution
12. History and Intellectual Studies
13. Across the Mediterranean

**WOcmes in Figures**

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**Academic Excellence**

Ten committees of reports (International and scientific) guaranteed the high academic level of the congress programme and the presence of outstanding figures from the world of arts and sciences.

**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 three regions. Over 2,300 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 500 academic sessions, held in blocks of 30 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 2,416 academics, was accompanied by a notable and intensive cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.
Some of the issues addressed, which also drew much interest from 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 a lot of attention. The opening event of the conference was held in the city of Barcelona, which has been a privileged space of dialogue and debate on issues related to stability, cooperation and progress in the region.

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 regional and multilevel event. 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, was the political situation in the Middle East and North Africa and the tsian Muslim states, studies on the region 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, was the political situation in the Middle East and North Africa.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 has been a privileged space of dialogue and meeting for scientific and academic knowledge for more than 2300 participants. An innovation 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 events in which the IEIMed could have been an opportunity to advance in our mission, which is to work for a Mediterranean of peace and stability, shared prosperity, dialogue and debate on issues related to stability, cooperation and progress in the region.

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.iemediterraneo.org/wocmes)

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

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

The IEIMed 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 worth it. The third year of the congress has achieved the highest figures of participation and has once again revealed the capital status of the 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, exchange and cooperation between different countries, societies and cultures. Although our activities are framed within the Mediterranean region, the current, complex, independent and globalised world makes it necessary to take into account everything occurring further beyond, because in the end it affects us all.

The exhibition "The New Mediterranean" was held at the same time as WOCMES Barcelona 2010. It was an opportunity to learn first-hand from the people and places of the Mediterranean, to discover the richness and adventure of the region, and to be inspired by its vision of a shared future. The exhibition featured works from artists and cultural institutions from the Mediterranean region, as well as contributions from academic institutions, museums, and cultural organizations.

The programme included a series of lectures, workshops, and interactive activities that were designed to engage participants and allow them to explore the themes of the exhibition in depth. These activities included a series of seminars, which provided opportunities for participants to discuss and exchange ideas with experts in the field.

In addition, the exhibition featured a range of multimedia resources, including videos, images, and sound recordings, which were made available online and through mobile devices. These resources were designed to provide a more immersive and engaging experience for participants, allowing them to explore the exhibition in a way that was tailored to their individual interests and preferences.

The exhibition was a collaborative effort between the IEMed and a number of cultural institutions and organizations from the Mediterranean region. These partners provided valuable support and assistance throughout the planning and implementation phases of the project.

The exhibition was a success, attracting a large number of visitors and generating a significant amount of interest and engagement. The responses of the visitors were positive, and many expressed a desire to learn more about the Mediterranean region and its cultural heritage.
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 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 29th 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 which arose from 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 foms of artistic expression received a lot of attention during this congress.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 represented for the host country and city an almost unique opportunity to learn 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 the opportunity for an academic dissemination of their work in the region, 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, Oslo, London, Glasgow and Edinburgh, and other universities such as the Middle East Technical University and Bogazici University (Istanbul in Turkey), the universities of Nice Sophia Antipolis and Paris Descartes (France), Free University and Zentral Medien Dreher (Germany), the universities of Tucum, Milan and Naples (Italy), Cairo University and The American University in Cairo (Egypt), Aho Beti Behdet (Mauritania), the universities of Tehran, Irbid and Malaysia (Bangkok), 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.

A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

The WOCMES 2010 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. The third year of this 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 the promotion 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 globalized world, obliges us to take into account everything occurring further beyond, because in the end it affects us really.

The programmes, 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)

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 2010 Film Festival, organized in collaboration with the International Association of Independent Producers of the Mediterranean (APIEMED). It enjoyed the presence in two debates of the directors Hamid Reza Hayati (Iran), who presented The Glass House, and Najeeb Majid (Pakistan), who presented The Promise of the Pharaoh. The UAB auditorium, coinciding with the congress, also programmed two dance performances.

Concerts

The Orquesta de Arabs de Barcelona offered the inaugural concert of WOCMES Barcelona 2010. The university campus also hosted the performance by the Algérien Nella Benrez, 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, Folkkaleide performed Catalan folk music.

Exhibitions

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, France, the United States or Spain, were “Le Yémen en son daret”, “Premières Illustrations & Script 18ème Siècle”, “Primates de la Méditerranée : photos anciennes contemporaines”, “Projets et Realisatios en Khorâşân (Baghseth, Iran)”, “Musique et danse au Sahara, La tradition dans le contemporain”, “Hiam: Images From Bosnian & Chechen”, “Souliers et politiques au Pakistan”, “The Media in the Mediterranean Sea” and “The Mediterranea 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.

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, A.J. Meyer Professor of Middle Eastern History at Harvard University (USA) and José Vicente Gómez Beñaña, Emeritus Professor of Islamic Studies and Semitic Languages at the University of Talbridge (Germany). The event took place at the Palau de la Música in Barcelona.
WOMCES: in Search of a Route of Ideas

**“After the Silk Road, we need a route of ideas.”** In this spirit, Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan opened the WOMCES 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 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 on an international level on the Middle East and North Africa with a multidisciplinary approach.

Some of the issues addressed in which we were more 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 Internet, and new forms of artistic expression received the attention of many congress sessions.

WOMCES Barcelona 2010 represented for the host country and city an almost unique opportunity to learn from the most expert researchers of two regions, the Middle East and North Africa, who have an outstanding world influence in political, social, cultural and economic issues. Moreover, it meant for the participants themselves the opportunity for an academic dissemination of their work in the 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 School of Economics, and other universities such as the Middle Eastern Technical University and Bogazici University (both in Turkey), the universities of Nicosia (Cyprus), Athens (Greece), Tunis (Tunisia), Tripoli (Libya), Cairo University and the American University in Cairo (Egypt); the universities of Cadi Ayyad (Morocco); the universities of Tlemcen (Algeria); the universities of Tunis and Manouba (Tunisia); the University Mohamed Premier Oujda (Morocco), among many others.

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

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

Our main objective in the promotion of activities, projects and actions contributing to mutual awareness, exchanges and cooperation between different countries, societies and cultures, although our activities are framed within the Mediterranean, the current, complex, independent and globalised world, urges us to take into account everything occurring not only here but anywhere, because it affects our reality.

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

Available on the internet: (www.iemed.org/wocmes)

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

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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 academics from the Anglo-Saxon world, Mediterranean countries (headed by Turkey), European countries (mainly Spain, Germany, France and Italy) and Asian countries (Japan, in particular). The more than 550 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 in the presence of prestigious agencies from the world of culture and science.


Scientific Advisory Council: Núria Maria Pons, Carmen Fernández, Ana María Pons, Antonia Zubiaga, María Pons, Margarita García, María Pons, Marta Sánchez, María Pons, and María Pons.

**WOCMES in Figures**

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**The Congress Goals**

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

- Integrating Cooperation Research Networks
  - With the creation of this network of researchers, the congress promoted a participatory and shared historical vision. Moreover, it was the opportunity to publicise 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 11th to 16th July 2010, the World Congress of Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) turned the city of Barcelona into the world capital of studies on these regions. Over 3,000 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 500 academic sessions, held in blocks of 10 sessions, on a wide range of disciplines and focused 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.
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 (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 addressed a wide range of issues from different approaches and disciplines.

### WOCMES in Figures

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#### Academic Excellence

Two committees of experts (international and national) guaranteed the high academic level of the congress programme and the presence of distinguished guests from all over the world.

#### The Congress Goals

**Encouraging Mutual Awareness**

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

**Integrating Cooperation Research Networks**

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

**Grounding New Approaches to Breaking Down Stereotypes**

The congress debate prompted new points of view and new approaches to breaking down stereotypes and light 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, town planning, politics and the media to migrations, including studies on the Mediterranean region, Islam, history, economics or analysis and resolution of conflicts.

### WOCMES 2010

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

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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.

**With the collaboration of**

[Image of collaboration partners]