Mediated Storytelling at Islamic Arab Satellite-television

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WOCMES in Figures

From 1999 to 2011, the World Congresses on Mediterranean Studies (WOCMES) turned the city of Barcelona into the world capital of studies on these regions. Over 2,700 invited experts, academics and researchers from 92 countries presented their studies, debated and shared ideas, both through conferences and sessions held at this event. The conference programme, which was prepared for two years based on the proposals and contributions of 2,401 academics, was accompanied by a notable and intense cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.

The Scientific Programme, curated by the Scientific Committee chaired by Yllis Výprček and Paolo Andrisano, was complemented by the extensive reference list included in the programme and the congress proceedings. Participants could also visit the largest ever exhibition on the Mediterranean, which was held at the CaixaForum. The congresses programme was prepared for two years based on the proposals and contributions of 2,401 scholars. The scientific programme 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.
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 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 the Prince, in a full auditorium, were some of the academics who from that moment and until 26th July would examine the state and progress of research at an international level in the Middle East and North Africa with a multi-disciplinary approach.

Some of the issues addressed or which stirred more interest were the analysis of the political situation in the region, the democratic advances and the questions linked to social evolution, although youth, 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 region’s 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 disentanglement 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 academia 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 Eastern Technical University and Bilkent University (both in Turkey), the universities of Nice Sophia Antipolis and Paris Descartes (France), Free University and Zentral Medien (Germany), the universities of Turin, Milan and Naples (Italy), Cairo University and The American University in Cairo (Egypt), Al-Azhar University (Egypt), the universities of Tlemcen, Isfahan and Maroc Asri (Morocco), the Hebrew University and those of Tel Aviv and Haifa (Israel), those of Tokyo, Kyoto and Nagoya (Japan), the universities of Tunis and Mentoua Tunisia (and the University Mohammed Premier Oujda Morocco), among many others.

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.intes.org/wocmes)

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

WOCMES has included an intensive cultural programme and several social events

A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

The EIMEd set out on a long journey of over two years of preparation leading 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 co-operation between different countries, societies and cultures. Although our activities 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 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 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 2,720 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 the EIMEd could have been involved in order to further our mission, which is to work for a Mediterranean of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations.

Senem Florea
Director General of the EIMEd

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, Russia, the United States or Spain, were: "Le Terrain en déroute"; "Peninsular Illustration & Script 19th Century"; "Voyages de la Méditerranée : poètes arabes contemporains"; "Projetant and Restoring in Khadija" (Baghdad, Iraq); "Musique et danse au Sahara, La tradition dans le contemporain"; "Voyages from Beni myth and Letters"; "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.

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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 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 34th 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 arouse more interest were the analysis of the political situation in the region, the democratic advances and the questions linked to social evolution, although youth, the media and Internet, and new forms of artistic expression received a lot of attention from many congress sessions.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 represented for the host country and city an unique opportunity to leave first in the front the main 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, 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 Technical University and Bosphorus University (Turkey); the universities of Nice Sophia Antipolis and Paris Descartes (France); Free University and Zentral Medien Osnabrück (Germany); the universities of Tunis, Marsel and Naples (Italy); Caro University and The American University in Cairo (Egypt); Al-Quds-Bad Belaft Tlemcen (Algeria); the universities of Tel Aviv and Haifa (Israel); the universities of Paris (France) and those of Tokyo, Kyoto and Nagoya (Japan); the universities of Toulouse and Montpellier (France) and the University Mohammed Harfa (Marrakech), among many others.

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 Group 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 2700 participants. An invitation both to dialogue and cooperation between people from 73 countries from a wide range of disciplines and fields of study. It has been, therefore, one of the best instruments in which this IEMed could have been 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 Florensa Director General of the IEMed

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 have been well worthwhile. The 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 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 globalized world forces us to take into account everything occurring beyond, because in the end it affects our reality.

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.iemed.org/wocmes

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

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

In Film, Theatre and Television, 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 (AIPEMED). It enjoyed the presence in two debates of the directors Hamid Rahmanian (Iran), who presented The Glass House, and Najeeb Maijari (Palestine), who presented Passportos and the Walk. The UAIEF auditorium, coinciding with the congress, also programmed two dance performances.

There were two great festivals at the Auditori de la Barceloneta (Barcelona) which could be seen at the Palau Robert in Barcelona and 29th August.

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 Iraq, were: “Le Témoign de notre temps”; “Pérament Illustration Script 19th Century”; “Prénaux de la Mediterrannée : poètes arabes contemporains” “Projetage and Restoring in Khadimiya (Baghdad, Iraq)”; “Manuscrit et danse au Sahara. La tradition dans le contemporain”; “Iran; Images From Sassan to 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 from 15th to 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 area.

The IEMed is the result of the work of the Barcelona based "Network for research, dialogue and culture in the Mediterranean and the Arab World", of which the Congress was a result. The Congress was an initiative of "The Mediterranean on Tour" project.

Institutional Support

The Congress participants visited Barcelona City Hall for the official and the Palace de la Generalitat de Catalunya, where the Vice President of the Generalitat of Catalonia, Joaquim Gualtella, 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, A.J. Meyer, Professor of Middle Eastern History at Harvard University (USA) and Jozef Van Es, 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.

Image

Exhibitions

Exhibitions "Manuscrit et danse au Sahara. La tradition dans le contemporain"; "Iran: Images From Sassan to 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 from 15th to 29th August.
WOCMES: in Search of a Route of Ideas

"After the Silk Road, we need a route of ideas." In this spirit, Prince Mansur 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 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 or which awoken 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 leave first-hand to 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 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, Oxford, London, 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 Zehrih Miladien Overy (Germany); the universities of Tunis, Milla and Naples (Italy); Cairo University and The American University in Cairo (Egypt); Al-Azhar University (Arabic); the universities of Tehran, Isfahan and Mashhad (Iran); the Hebrew University and those of Tel Aviv and Haifa (Israel); Kyoto and Nagoya (Japan); the universities of Tokyo and Musulmos Tunis (Tunisia) and the University Mohammed Phara Oujda (Morocco), among many others.

A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

The EMD set out on a long journey of over two years of preparation leading to its launching by the WOCMES 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 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 to promote the activation of activities, projects and actions contributing to mutual awareness, exchange and cooperation between different countries, societies and cultures. Although our understandings are framed within the Mediterranean, the current, complex, independent and globalized world – a stage of the future – allows us to take into account everything occurring further beyond, because in the end it affects our reality.

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.inted.org/wocmes

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

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

In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit visual art, photography, sculpture and painting exhibitions. The exhibitions, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, were: "Le Terroir en danger"; "Phenomenal: Illustration & Script 19th Century"; "Poèmes de la Méditerranée: poésie arabe contemporaine"; "Projekcje i wizje w Krajach Bliskiego" (Bashnats, Iraq); "Música en danza al Sahra. La tradición en le contemporânea"; "Hane: Images From Bessath a Chadir"; "Sculptures 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.

Book Fair

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

Institutional Support

The congress participants visited Barcelona City Hall for the official and the Palau de la Generalitat de Catalunya, where the Vice-President of the Government of Catalonia, Joaquim Forn, offered them an institutional reception.

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WOCMES Barcelona 2010 Congress, the first event of its kind held in the Mediterranean, was organized by the International Association of Mediterranean Academics and Researchers (IAMAR) and the Permanent Secretariat of the EMD Mediterranean Dialogue, with the support of the Catalan Government, City of Barcelona, the European Union and University of Barcelona.

The event included a series of cultural events, including the inaugural concert of the Orquestra Aráb de Barcelona, which could be seen at the Palau Robert in Barcelona until 29th August.
WOCMES in Figures

Representation by Countries

The Congress Goals

The Mexican Institute of the Mediterranean (EMID), founded in 1966, is a consortium comprising the governments 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 (Barcelona Process) and today with the objectives of the European Union, the Mexican Institute of the Mediterranean aims at fostering dialogue and cooperation between different Mediterranean countries, societies and cultures, as well as to promote the recognition 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 studies based on a multidisciplinary and networking approach, the EMID encourages analysis, understanding and cooperation through the organization of seminars, research projects, debates, concerts and activities aimed at achieving cultural preservation.

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The Scientific Programme, which was prepared for two years based on the proposals and contributions of 2,000 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 large participation of Israeli academic and geographical representatives, and the high scientific level of the working sessions have meant for Barcelona an important step in the consolidation of WOCMES as a congress of international reference after the two previous years (2002 in Germany and 2004 in Jordan). Moreover, the high level of participation also reflected the expectations following the candidacy of Barcelona in 2008 to host the congress, when it was chosen as one of five other candidate cities.

From 1998 to 2004, the World Congress on Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) turned the city of Barcelona into the world capital of studies on these regions. Over 230 international experts, academics and researchers from 70 countries presented their studies, debated and shared points of view during the intensive working days.

Organized by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (EMID), WOCMES Barcelona 2010 proved to be one of the most important academic sessions in 2010. The wide range of disciplines and topics 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.
Academic Excellence

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