Mediated Storytelling at Islamic Arab Satellite-television

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WOCMES in Figures

Representations by Countries

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

From 19th to 24th July 2010, the World Congress on Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) turned the city of Barcelona into the world capital of studies on these regions. Over 2,700 researchers, academics and researchers from 72 countries presented their studies, debated and shared points of view during the intensive working days.

Organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (EMED), WOCMES Barcelona 2010 programmed more than 50 academic sessions, held in blocks of 10 sessions, on a wide range of disciplines and leaving 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 342 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 large participation of Israeli academic and geographical representations, 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 (2009 in Germany and 2010 in Jordan). Moreover, the high level of participation also rattled the expectation following the candidate of Barcelona in 2008 to host the congress, when it was chosen as open competition over other candidate cities.

The European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIMed), founded in 1996, is a consortium comprising the Governments of Catalunya, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and Barcelona City Council. It incorporates civil society through the Board of Honour and an Advisory Council formed by Mediterranean universities, companies, organisations and personalities of renowned prestige.

In accordance with the principles of the European Mediterranean Partnership Barcelona Process, and with today's objective of the Mediterranean as a space of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilisations in the Mediterranean.

Academic Excellence

Two committees of experts (international and scientific) guaranteed the high academic level of the congress programme and the presence of the highlight papers. The main aspects:

- Adaptable hall and audio-visual facilities
- Scientific programme prepared for this occasion
- Participation of acknowledged experts and academicians
- High quality of the congress papers
- High academic level of the congress programme
- International Advisory Council
- Strong media presence
- Publication of congress proceedings

The winning of the bidding process for hosting the World Congress on Middle Eastern Studies WOCMES Barcelona 2010 demonstrated the city’s desire to focus on the Mediterranean and the Middle East as main research areas.

The scientific programme, which was prepared for two years based on the proposals and contributions of 342 academics, was accompanied by a notable and intense cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances.
WOCMES: 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 WOCMES Barcelona 2010 Congress, which aimed to address the challenges and opportunities for dialogue between the peoples and countries of the Mediterranean. The Congress was attended by participants from over 20 countries.

Listening to the Prince, in full auditorium, was the academic who, from that moment and until 31st July, would examine the state and progress of research at an international level on the Middle East and North Africa with a multilateral approach.

Some of the issues addressed at which saw much 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 the congress sessions.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 represented for the host country and city an 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 this respect, academic and professors from Spanish and Catalan universities, who took advantage of the event to participate in the congress in greater numbers than in previous years, shared working sessions with academics from prestigious Anglo-Saxon universities such as Harvard, Stanford, UC Berkeley, Georgetown, Cambridge, Oxford, London, Galway and Edinburgh, and other universities such as the Middle Technical University and Bilkent University in Turkey; the universities of Nice Sophia Antipolis and Paris Descartes in France; Free University and Zeniarch Mediterranean Orient in Germany; the universities of Tarragona, Málaga and Naples (Italy), Caro University and The American University in Cairo (Egypt); Al-Azhar University (Egypt); the universities of Tehran, Isfahan and Mashhad (Iran); the Hebrew University and those of Tel Aviv and Haifa (Israel); those of Tokyo, Kyoto and Nagoya (Japan); the universities of Tarragona and Murcia (Spain) and the University Mohammed Premier Oujda (Morocco), 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 Union for the Mediterranean is based.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 has been a privileged place of reference and meeting for scientific and academic knowledge for more than 2300 participants. An institution both to dialogue and cooperation between people from 15 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 come to solve 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 EIMed

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.wocmes.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 up to the WOCMES Barcelona 2010 Congress. The efforts made have been well worth it. 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 co-operation between different countries, societies and cultures. Although our undertakings are focused within the Mediterranean and the current, complex, independent and globalized world, it is necessary to take into account everything occurring further beyond, because in the end it affects our reality.

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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 (ARIMED). It enjoyed the presence in two debates of the directors Hamid Bahrani and Nahid Hajjar (Iran), who presented "The Glass House" and "Kajjalar" (Palestine), which presented "The Grass' Shadow" and "The Black Cloud" (Palestine), and were programmed two dance performances.

Concerts

The Orquesta Aráb de Barcelona offered the inaugural concert of WOCMES Barcelona 2010. The university campus also hosted the performances by the Algerian Mezbel Bouzar, 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, Folklórica 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 came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, were: “Le Fören en de denar” “Pictorial Illustration & Script 19th Century”, “Promises de la Mediterrancé : poèmes arabes contemporains”, “Projecting and Restoring in Khadimiyah (Baghdad, Iraq)”, “Music and dance in Sahara Le tradition dans le continent”, “Iran: Images From Borsaht a Chador”, “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.

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WOCMES Barcelona 2010 Congress was attended by participants from over 20 countries, displayed their publications in the congress venue.
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 in 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 24th July would examine the state and prospects of research on an international level of the Middle East and North Africa with a multi-disciplinary approach.

Some of the issues’ addressed, which seem to come from the need or interest for some on the future of the region, the political situation in the region, the connection of the two regions, the role played by dialogue and cooperation in the region, and even the research on the different countries, societies and cultures.

The opening took place to a full auditorium, although our undertakings are framed within the Mediterranean context, the current, complex, independent and globalized world, obliges us to take into account everything occurring further beyond, because in the end it affects us.

The programme, published in English and French, is an updated guide to events 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.

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 Benbouz, 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, Folkloric performed Catalan folk music.

Book Fair

Around twenty publishers, as well as university press, 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 opening 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 to the Middle Eastern studies: Roger Owen, full professor of Middle Eastern history at Harvard University (USA) and José Vicent Gómez, Emeritus Professor of Islamic Studies and Semitic Languages at the University of Tubingen (Germany). The event took place at the Palau de la Música in Barcelona.

Exhibitions

In different venues of the congress was also possible to visit art, history, photography and painting exhibitions. The exhibition, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, was: “La Yemen en su decoro”; “Plenitud Ilustración & Script XIX Century”; “The Middle East: politics and culture contemporaneous”; “Projecting and Restoring in Kuwait (Baghdad, Iraq)”; “Music and dance at Sahara: La tradition dans le contemporain”; “Images From Benin to Chad”; “Souille 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 25th August.
WOMCES: 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 WOMCES 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 prospects of research at an international level in the Middle East and North Africa with a multidisciplinary approach.

Some of the issues addressed in which the region is 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 much attention during congress sessions.

WOMCES Barcelona 2010 represented for the host country and city an almost unique opportunity to learn first-hand from the most expert 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 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 academic 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 Technical University of Istanbul and Bosphorus University (both in Turkey), the universities of Nice Sophia Antipolis and Paris Descartes (France), Free University and Zhejiang University (China), the universities of Tokyo, Milan and Naples (Italy), Cairo University and The American University in Cairo (Egypt), Moscow State University (Russia), the universities 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.

In the 2nd year of the congress, the WOMCES Barcelona 2010 Congress aimed to achieve the highest figures of participation and has again revealed the capital status of city Barcelona in the Mediterranean as a micro-national 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 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 our reality.

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Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

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

In this respect, WOMCES 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 in 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.

WOMCES Barcelona 2010 has been a privileged space of exchange and meeting for scientific and academic knowledge for more than 300 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 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.

The event took place at the Palau de la Música in Barcelona.

Institutional Support

The congress participants visited Barcelona City Hall in the plenary and the Palau de la Generalitat de Catalunya, where the Vice-President of the Government of Catalonia, Josep Montilla, offered them an institutional reception.

WOMCES 2010 Awards

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Exhibitions

In different venues of the Congress it was also possible to visit eight historic photography, sculpture and painting exhibitions. The exhibitions, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, were: “La fé sur le sable”; “Peninsular Illustration & Script 19th Century”; “Poussin de la Mediterrancé – poèmes arabes contemporains”; “Projetage and Ressources en Kabylie (Algèrta, Iraq)”; “Musique et danse au Sahara. La tradition dans le contemporain”; “Iran: Images From Sasan et Chador”; “Sculpture et politiques au Pakistan”; “The Media in the Mediterranean Sea” and “The Mediterra-

WOMCES Barcelona 2010 Congress was attended by participants from over 50 countries, (among them 250 participants) and 500 invited speakers, experts and researchers from Anglo-Saxon universities. The Congress was divided into four main areas of research: 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 much attention in the congress.

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The event took place at the Palau de la Música in Barcelona.
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 cooperation is a chance to publicise research carried out in the Mediterranean region and the promotion of a participatory and shared historical vision. 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
- Researching New Approaches to Breaking Down Stereotypes
- Integrating Cooperation Research Networks

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

**The Scientific Programme**

The European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIMed), founded in 1996, is a consortium comprising the Governments of Malta, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and Barcelona City Council. It incorporates civil society through the Board of Deputies and the Advisory Council formed by Mediterranean universities, companies, organisations and personalities of renowned prestige.

In accordance with the principles of the Euro Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona Process) and today with the objectives of the Convention for the Mediterranean, the EIMed aims to foster science and promote contributions to fundamental understanding, exchange and cooperation between the different Mediterranean countries, sciences and cultures, as well as to promote the prosperity of the region through 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 specialised in Mediterranean studies based on a multidisciplinary and networking approach, the EIMed encourages analysis, understanding and cooperation through the organisation of seminars, research projects, debates, concerts and collaborative exchanges around cultural programmes.

**European Institute of the Mediterranean**

Girona, 08010 Barcelona


The large participation of Arab and 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 relevance after the two previous years (2005 in Germany and 2006 in Jordan). Moreover, the high level of participation has also ratified the expectations of the congress in 2005 in Jordan. The high level of participation also ratified the expectations of the congress in 2005 in Jordan.

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 focusing on the Mediterranean, East and North Africa including political and economic aspects, the environment, literature, history, gender issues, religion, town planning, contemporary artistic creation and identifications.

The scientific programme, which was prepared for two years based on the proposals and contributions of 2,500 academics, was accompanied by a notable and intense cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.
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 link between researchers, the congress promoted a participatory and shared historical vision. Moreover, it was the opportunity to publish research carried out in the South – often of difficult access – and increased North-South academic and regional cooperation.

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**WOCMES in Figures**

After more than two years of preparations, 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 experts (international and scientific) guaranteed the high academic level of the congress programme and the presence of GroepenOndertekening van het beefvlees in de Vlaamse regio.

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**The Congress Goals**

**Globalizing New Approaches to Breaking Down Stereotypes**

The congress debates prompted new points of view and new approaches to bridging 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 issues of the region by dealing with 18 wide-ranging themes: history, economy, culture, politics and the media in relation to the conference. The Mediterranean region, Islam, history, economics, and analysis and resolution of conflicts.

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**WOCMES 2010**

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

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