Mediated Storytelling at Islamic Arab Satellite-television

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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 (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.

The congress debates for the first time research on the Mediterranean in the congress agenda. Search that may contribute to improving mutual awareness and encouraging Mediterranean academics from the world to meet, to interact, to present, to debate and to cooperate.

The Congress Goals

Encouraging Mutual Awareness

Researchers and experts shared the results of studies and a search 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 agenda.

Integrating Cooperation Research Networks

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

WOCMES in Figures

In encouraging mutual awareness, the congress debates prompted new points of view and new approaches to contributing to building a future Mediterranean, and to space awareness and solidarities, stereotypes and the relation between culture and celebrations in the Mediterranean.

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

European Institute of the Mediterranean

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 2,500 international 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 issues. With three main areas of focus: 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 academic excellence was accompanied by a notable and international cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and live ban.

The large participation, of broad academic and geographical representation, 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 (2003 in Germany and 2008 in Jordan). Moreover, the high level of participation also called the expectation following the candidature of Barcelona in 2008 to host the congress, when it was chosen in open vote over other candidate cities.

EIMed scientific programme, which was prepared for two years based on the proposals and contributions of 2,401 academics, was accompanied by a notable and international cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.

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

Its mission is to stimulate, encourage and support the academic cooperation and understanding between Mediterranean and the Middle East, as well as to encourage and promote the scientific research, cultural and other activities that contribute to building a common future based on shared values and concerns.

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WOCMES: in Search of a Route of Ideas

“A new Silk Route, we need a route of ideas.” In this spirit, Prince Massin Al-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 24th 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 whichowed 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 among congresses sessions.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 represented for the host country and city an almost unique opportunity to learn from the most experts and researchers of regions, the Middle East and North Africa, which have an outstanding world influence in political, social and cultural and economic issues. Moreover, it meant for the participants themselves their 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 Lords, Glasgow and Edinburgh, and other universities such as the Middle East Technical University and Bogazici University, both in Turkey; the universities of Nice Sophia-Antipolis and Paris Descartes in France; Free University and Zayed University in Dubai; and the universities of Cairo (Egypt), Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates; Algeria), the universities of Tehran, Irelad and Maria Ande(Australia); the Hebrew University and those of Tel Aviv and Halle(Switzerland); those of Tokyo, Kyoto and Nagoya (Japan); the universities of Tokyo and Meneses (Turkey); and the University Mohamed Phare Doula (Morocco), among many others.

A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

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

Our main objective is the promotion of activities, projects and actions contributing to mutual awareness, exchanges and cooperation between different countries, continents and cultures. Although our understandings are framed within the Mediterranean, the current, complex, independent and globalized world obliges us to take into account everything occurring 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 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 2,700 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 IDEMed could have solved 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 Florens
Director General of the IDEMed

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

WOCMES has included an intensive cultural programme and several social events

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

WOCMES Film Festival and Theatre
Around twenty films from Iran, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, Morocco andFrance, among other countries, were screened at the WOCMES Film Festival, organized in collaboration with the International Association of Independent Producers of the Mediterranean (AIIPMED). It enjoyed the presence in two debates of the directors Hamid Rezaei (Iran), who presented The Glass House, and Najwa Hijazi (Palestine), who presented Pomegranates and Myrrh.

The IDEMed council, coinciding with the congress, also programmed two dance performances.

Consells
The Orquestra Arab de Barcelona offered the inaugural concert of WOCMES-Barcelona 2010. The university campus also hosted the performance of the Algargun Neba Benbou, 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, FolkIncites performed Catalan folk music.

WOCMES Book Fair
Around twenty publishers, as well as university presses, NGOs and other associations from several countries, displayed their publications in the congress area.

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 Owens, Al-Mayar Professor of Middle Eastern History at Harvard Univer- sity (USA) and José Vínceta Sá, Director Professor of Islamic Studies and Semitic Languages at the University of Talbingo (Germany). The event took place at the Palau de la Música in Barcelona.

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

Exhibitions
In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit eight history, sculpture and painting exhibitions. The exhibitions, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, were “La Femen en destierro”, “Persian Illustration & Script 19th Century”, “Poémes de la Méditerranée – poètes arabes contemporains”, “Piracy and Restoring in Khadiya (Bahrain, Iraq), “Manrique y danza a Sahara. La tradición en la contemporaneidad”, “Iran: Images From Bessoth a Chador”, “Scuole e politiche al Pakistan”, “The Media in the Mediterranean Sea” and “The Mediterrane- an of the 20th Century: Realities and Images”, which could be seen at the Palau Robert in Barcelona and 25th August.

Exhibition “Manrique y danza a Sahara. La tradición en la contemporaneidad”
WOCMES: in Search of a Route of Ideas

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

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

Some of the issues addressed, or which received 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 are fundamental aspects of life in the Mediterranean.

Although our understandings are framed within the Mediterranean, the current, complex, independent and globalized world enables us to take into account everything occurring farther away, because in the end it affects us daily.


A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

The IDEMed 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 once 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 understandings are framed within the Mediterranean, the current, complex, independent and globalized world enables us to take into account everything occurring farther away, because in the end it affects us daily.

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.

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Semin Florensa
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Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

WOCMES has included an intensive cultural programme and several social events


Exhibitions

In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit eight history, photography, sculpture and painting exhibitions. The exhibitions, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, were: “La Francia en el Oriente”, “Paesaggi Illustrazione & Script 18th Century”, “Pratiques de la Méditerranée : poètes arabes contemporains”, “Projecting and Resisting in Kurdistan (Iraq)”, “Musique et danse au Sahara, La tradition dans le contemporain”, “Hani: Images From Bosnian and Chad”, “Souleim 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 24th August.
WOCMES: in Search of a Route of Ideas

"After the Silk Route, we need a route of ideas." In this spirit, Prince Massa Ben 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 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 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, which also aroused 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 sessions.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 represented for the host country and city an almost unique opportunity to learn first hand from the main experts and researchers of two regions, the Middle East and North Africa, which have an outstanding world influence in political, social, cultural and economic issues. Moreover it meant for the participants themselves the opportunity for an academic dissemination of their work in 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, the Lords, Glasgow and Edinburgh, and other universities such as the Middle Eastern Technical University and Bosphorus University both in Turkey, the universities of Nice Sophia-Antipolis and Paris Descartes, France. Free University and Zrenjanin Medieval World (Germany), the universities of Tunis, Maimonides and Naples (Italy), Cairo University and The American University in Cairo (Egypt), Abu Dhabi University (UAE) and the universities of Tehran, Isfahan and Monastir (Tunisia), 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 Orkifa (Morocco), among many others.

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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 Film Festival, organized in collaboration with the International Association of Independent Producers of the Mediterranean (APIED). It enjoyed the presence in two debates of the directors Hamid Rehmanfar (Iran), who presented The Glass House, and Najeeb Rajaee (Palestine), who presented Provincetown of the Sun. The APIs members, coinciding with the congress, also programmed two dance performances.

Concerts

The Orquesta Arab de Barcelona offered the inaugural concert of the WOCMES Barcelona 2010. The university campus also hosted the performance by the Algerian Nella奋战, 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, Forkilcance performed Catalan folk music.

Exhibitions

In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit sight, history, photography and painting exhibitions. The exhibitions, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, were: "La Tunisie en danse"; "Persian Illustration & Script 19th Century"; "Philippe de la Mediterraence : poètes arabes contemporains"; "Projecting and Restoring in Khadimia (Beirut, Iraq)"; "Musique et danse au Sahara, La tradition dans le contemporain"; "Iran: Images From Bombay a Chadar"; "Souilums 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.
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 scholars 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 500 sessions attended by the congress participants addressed a wide range of issues from different approaches and disciplines.

**The Congress Goals**

**Generating New Approaches to Breaking Down Stereotypes**

The congress debates prioritized new points of view and innovative approaches to breaking preconceived and rigid viewpoints, 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 the wide-ranging issues, topics, and perspectives involved in the Mediterranean region, including history, economics, or analysis and resolution of conflicts.

**Academic Excellence**

Two committees of experts (international and scientific) ensured the high academic level of the congress programme and the presence of distinguished guest speakers in each session.

**International Advisory Council**

Encouraging Mutual Awareness

Researchers and experts shared the results of studies and research that may contribute to improving mutual awareness between 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 links between researchers, the congress promoted a participatory and shared historical vision. Moreover, it was the opportunity to publicize research carried out in the South – often of difficult access – and increased North-South academic and regional cooperation.

WOCMES in Figures

After more than two years of preparation, WOCMES Barcelona 2010 brought together in the Catalan capital over 2,500 participants, largely surpassing the participation of the two previous events. Especially notable was the presence of researchers from the Anglo-Saxon world, Mediterranean countries, notably 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
- Integrating Cooperation Research Networks
- Offering an Overall View

WOCMES Barcelona 2010

The European Institute of the Mediterranean (EI Med), founded in 1946, is a forum comprising the Governments of the Mediterranean, 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, organisations and personalities of renowned prestige.

In accordance with the principles of the Euro Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona Process), and today with the objective of bringing together all the Mediterranean countries in a better future, and to continue to contribute to cultural understanding, exchange and cooperation between the different Mediterranean countries, sciences and cultures, as well as to foster the promotion 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 relations based on a multidisciplinary and networking approach, the EI Med encourages analysis, understanding and cooperation through the organization of seminars, research projects, debates, conferences and other activities related to cultural cooperation.

European Institute of the Mediterranean

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With the collaboration of:

WOCMES 2010
Barcelona, World Capital of Studies on the Middle East and North Africa

From 19th to 29th June 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 students 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 (EI Med), WOCMES Barcelona 2010 programmed more than 100 academic sessions, held in blocks of 10 sessions, on a wide range of disciplines and interests 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 2,401 academics, was accompanied by a notable and intense cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.