Mediated Storytelling at Islamic Arab Satellite-television

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Publication date:
2010

Document version
Early version, also known as pre-print

Citation for published version (APA):
After more than two years of preparation, WOCMES Barcelona 2010 brought together in the 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.

**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.

**Deepening Cooperation Research Networks**

With the creative ideas 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.

**WOCMES in Figures**

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**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 these regions. Over 2,500 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 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 2,401 academics, was accompanied by a notable and intensive 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 Road, 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 his pledge to continue to dialogue with the peoples and countries of the Mediterranean.

Listening to the Prince, in a full auditorium, were some of the academics who from that moment and until 29th July would examine the state and prospects of progress on an international level in the Middle East and North Africa with a multidisciplinary approach.

Some of the issues addressed in whichawahim 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 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 vast 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 academia 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 (North in Turkey), the universities of Nice Sophia-Antipolis and Paris Descartes (France), Free University and Zentrum Moderne Orient (Germany), the universities of Tübingen, Milan and Naples (Italy), Cairo University and The American University in Cairo (Egypt), Abu-Sral Al Imam Thamir (Algeria), the universities of Tehran, Israel and Islamic Azad (Iran), 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.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 had the pleasure of bringing together 120 participants with the aim of working on the Mediterranean as a model 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 understandings are formed 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.

A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

The IDM set out on a long journey of over two years of preparation leading to the IDM 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 strategic centre 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 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 IDM 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 2700 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 key instruments by which we IDM could have contributed to the current tension, which in its work for a Mediterranean of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations.

Senén Florensa
Director General of the IDMed

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 (IAIPMED). It enjoyed the presence in two debates of the directors Hamid Rezaiyan (Iran), who presented The Glass House, and Najeeb Rajbar (Palestine), who presented Pomegranates and Myrrh. The UAB auditorium, coinciding with the congress, also programmed two dance performances.

Concerts

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

Exhibitions

In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit high-quality photography, sculpture and painting exhibitions. The exhibition, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, was ‘La Frontera es desnuda’; ‘Persian Illustration & Script 19th Century’; ‘Poèmes de la Méditerranée : poèmes arabes contemporains’; ‘Projektion and Besotismo in Kabylia (Algiers, Iraq)’; ‘Maghreb et danse au Sahara. La tradition dans le contemporain’; ‘‘Images From Besoht The Chador’; ‘Soulima et politique au Pakistan’; ‘The Media in the Mediterranean Sea’; ‘The Mediterranean of the 20th Century: Realities and Images’, which could be seen at the Palau Robert in Barcelona until 29th August.

Book Fair

Around twenty publishers, as well as university presses, NGOs and other associations from several countries, displayed their publications in the congress venue.
A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

The EIMed set out on a long journey of over two years of preparation leading to its second EIMed Barcelona 2010 Congress. The efforts made have been very well worthwhile. This 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 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, 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.

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

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

Concerts

The Orchestra Arab de Barcelona offered the inaugural concert of WOCMES Barcelona 2010. The University campus also hosted the performance by the Algerian Nella Benou, 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, Folkloricata performed Catalan folk music.

Exhibitions

In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit Eighteenth-century photography, sculptures and painting exhibitions. The exhibition, which came from France, Australia, Pakistan, the United States or Spain, was “La Frontera en desarrollos”; “Photostories: 18th Century”; “Fronteras de la Mediterránea: polémicas andinas contemporáneas”; “Projecting and Restoring in Khorshed (Afghans, Iraq)”; “Muçulman and dans au Sahara. Le tradition dans le contemporain”; “Photostories: 18th Century”; “The Mediterranean of the 20th Century: Realities and Images”, which could be seen at the Palau Robert in Barcelona until 25 August.

WOCMES: in Search of a Route of Ideas

“After the Silk Route, we need a route of ideas.” In this spirit, Princess Bassma bint Talal of Jordan opened the WOCMES Barcelona 2010 Congress in an inaugural lecture in which she emphasized the difficult international situation of the region and her bilateral commitment to dialogue with the peoples and countries of the Mediterranean. She is a strong supporter of the Mediterranean idea.

Listening to the Princess in a full auditorium, some of the academics who were at that moment and until 36 hours later would examine the state and progress of research on an international level on the Middle East and North Africa with a multi-disciplinary approach.

Some of the issues addressed to which some more intense interest were the analysis of the political situation in the region, the democratic advances and the problems linked to social evolution, although youth, the media and Internet, and new forms of artistic expression received a great deal of attention.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 represented for the host country and city an almost unique opportunity to learn from the rich 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 this respect, academic and professors from Spanish and Catalan universities, who talk

Pamphlet with the logo of the congress participants

Stop

Bonnie “Your Media Boundaries in the Middle East”

Some images of the congress participants

Institutional Support

The congress participants visited Barcelona City Hall for the reception 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.

WOCMES 2010 Awards

Barcelona honoured two of the congress participants with the WOCMES 2010 Award for their career and the outstanding academic contribution in the Middle Eastern studies: Roger Owen, A. J. Meyer Professor of Middle Eastern History at Harvard University and Josep-Víctor Marco, Emeritus Professor of Islamic Studies and Semitic Languages at the University of Tulane (Germany). The event took place at the Palau de la Mica in Barcelona.

Book Fair

Around twenty publishers, as well as university presses, NGOs and other associations from several countries, displayed their publications in the congress venue.
A Framework Favourable to Dialogue in the Mediterranean

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 area that could not be ignored this year, when the Congress was held in the city where the Permanent Secretary of the Union for the Mediterranean is based.

WOCMES Barcelona 2010 has been a privileged space of interaction and meeting for scientific and academic knowledge for more than 2500 participants. An activity 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 this Edition could have been involved itself to achieve our mission, which is to work for a Mediterranean of peace and stability, shared prosperity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations.

Senin Florea
Director General of the IEMed

WOCMES has included an intensive cultural programme and several social events

Music, Cinema, Theatre and Exhibitions

WOCMES 2010 included an extensive cultural programme and several social events. In different venues of the congress it was also possible to visit night photography, sculpture and painting exhibitions. The exhibition, which came from Yemen, Australia, France, the United States or Spain, was "Le Terroir en d’autres", "Persian Illustration & Script 19th Century", "Poesia de la Mediterranea - poesía andaluza contemporánea", "Proyectar y Bentroting in Khadiya (Baghdad, Iraq)", "Paraísos y desiertos en el Sahara, La tradición en el contemporáneo", "Iran, Images From Boom and Chaos", "Soufisme et politique au Pakistan", "The Media in the Mediterranean Sea" or "The Mediterranean of the 20th Century: Realities and Images", which could be seen at the Palau Robert in Barcelona and 29th August.
After more than two years of preparations, 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.

Academic Excellence
Two committees of reports (international and scientific) guaranteed the high academic level of the congress programme and the presence of prestigious agencies both in depth and breadth.

Invigorating International Research Networks
Debates for the first time research on the Mediterranean in the Congress the Mediterranean and the Middle East, Barcelona introduced for the first time research on the Mediterranean in the Congress.

Integrating Cooperation Research Networks
With the creation of this biennial research congress, the Mediterranean and the Mediterranean region, academic cooperation and research networks were formed.

The academic session programme was prepared for two years in advance, and included the participation of renowned experts, academics and researchers from different approaches and disciplines.

The Congress Goals
Converting Our Approaches to Breaking Down Stereotypes
The Congress Programmes promoted new points of view and new approaches to combating stereotypes and rigid interpretations, which are often deeply rooted in the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

Providing an Overall View
WOCMES managed to provide an overall view of the region by dealing with wide ranging issues on the environment, economy, history, politics, and the media.

Representative by Country

As the World Congress of the Mediterranean and the Middle East and North Africa, WOCMES Barcelona 2010 represented more than 200 academic sessions, held in blocks of 10 sessions, on a wide range of disciplines and issues focusing on the Mediterranean and the Middle East and North Africa, including political and economic aspects, history, culture, religion, town planning, contemporary artistic creation and identities.

The scientific programme, which was prepared for two years in advance, was coordinated by the proposals and contributions of 2,200 academics, who were accompanied by a notable and intense cultural agenda, including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.

From 19th to 29th June 2010, the World Congress of the Mediterranean and the Middle East was attended by the world capital of universities in three regions. Over 2,200 participants, researchers and academics from 70 countries presented their research, debated and shared points of view during the intensive working days.

Organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIMed), WOCMES Barcelona 2010 is expected to mark a turning point in the promotion of Mediterranean cultural cooperation, which is essential for the development of the Mediterranean region and the promotion of a peaceful Mediterranean future.

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 (2008 in Genoa and 2009 in Jordan). Moreover, the high level of participation also reflected the expectations following the candidature of Barcelona in 2008 to host the congress, when it was chosen as open vote over other candidate cities.
WOCMES in Figures

| USA | 342 |
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| Turkey | 140 |
| Morocco | 130 |
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| Italy | 120 |
| Spain | 120 |
| France | 120 |
| Germany | 120 |

Representation by Countries

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

The European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIMed), founded in 1986, is a consortium comprising the Governments of Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Middle East and North Africa Regional Office. EIMed promotes research and education on the Mediterranean region and the Middle East, and collaborates with other organizations and institutions to advance the understanding of the region.

The Congress Goals

- Encouraging Mutual Awareness
- Integrating Cooperation Research Networks
- Representing by Countries

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 these regions. Over 3700 participants, academics and researchers from 70 countries presented their studies, debates and shared points of view during the intensive working days. Organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (EIMed), WOCMES Barcelona 2010 was programmed more than 50 academic sessions, held in blocks of 10 sessions, on a wide range of disciplines and issues. The scientific programme, which was prepared for two years, based on the proposals and contributions of 2421 academics, was accompanied by a notable and intensive cultural agenda including a cinema festival, eight exhibitions, theatre and music performances, and a book fair.