

NEWSLETTER OF MARCH – JUIN

2022

ميكام
مركز ميريان
للدراستات المتقدمة
في المنطقة المغاربية



MECAM

**Merian Centre
For Advanced Studies
In The Maghreb**



Dear Colleagues, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

MECAM looks back on exciting months (March to July 2022) that have been filled with events, meetings and exchange opportunities. With this newsletter, we would like to give you insights into our work from this period.



04/03/2022

Le hirāk du Rif et la diaspora en Europe : Espaces mentaux enchevêtrés

In "Le hirāk du Rif et la diaspora en Europe: Espaces mentaux enchevêtrés," Dr. Christoph Schwarz (associated scholar of politics, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany) focused on the activists of the Moroccan Hirāk movement based in Europe around 2017. The author discussed the entangled positions of European activists between Europe and their home country, Morocco (specifically the Rif region). He argued that the politicization and mobilization of a Rif diaspora has produced an identification not only with the Rif but also with Europe. These are transnational practices, an example of entangled mobilities in the Maghreb.

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10/03/2022

MECAM's Joint Executive Council and International Advisory Board Meeting in Tunis

From 10 until 14 March, MECAM was pleased to welcome its Joint Executive Council and the International Advisory Board in Tunis: In different meetings, motions were discussed and new perspectives were identified. There was also room for exchange between the partners. MECAM thanks all partners for the dedicated cooperation and the pleasant exchange in Tunis.

La question du multilinguisme au Maghreb: représentations de la langue et postures d'appropriation

Prof. Dr. Samia Kassab-Charfi (professor of French and francophone literature, Université de Tunis, Tunisia) spoke on "La question du multilinguisme au Maghreb: représentations de la langue et postures d'appropriation". The event was moderated by Prof. Dr. Rachid Ouaisa (Professor of politics, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany) and organized in cooperation with the Colombia Global Center in Tunis.

14/03/2022

Sisterly Arab States: UGEMA in Tunis

Organized by MECAM IFG V: Identities & Beliefs this series has discussed "Sisterly Arab States: UGEMA in Tunis". Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth Bishop (associate professor of history, Texas State University, USA) was the guest speaker. The discussion was moderated by Prof. Dr. Rachid Ouaisa (Professor of politics, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany).

10/03/2022

IFG V's Excursion to Sousse/Sfax/Kerkennah

From March 28th to April 1st, IFG V made a scientific excursion to Sousse, Sfax and Kerkennah. Among others, there were exchanges with documentary film-maker Ahmed Jlassi (Institut Supérieur de Beaux Arts de Sousse), Hassan Boubakri (Geography, Sousse), Ramzi Ben Amara (Center for Anthropology, Sousse) and representatives of the ECUMUS Lab (Université de Sfax) and the UGTT Sfax/Kerkennah.

28/03 to 01/04/2022

Of Friends and Foes: Paths to Salafi Politics

05/04/2022

IFG V: Identities & Beliefs organised a Spring Talk entitled "Of Friends and Foes: Paths to Salafi Politics". On this occasion, Dr. Guy Eyre (postdoc in political economy, King's College London, UK) presented his research on Salafi politics and Jihed Haj Salem (independent researcher, Tunisia) moderated the discussion.

Activities of IV "Resources and Sustainability" and IFG V "Identities & Beliefs"

13-14/04/2022

Space for exchange and reflection: In regular seminars, members of IFG IV: Resources & Sustainability and IFG V: Identities & Beliefs discussed and planned sessions for collaborative projects, excursions, and publications. Besides, they went on a guided tour at Bibliothèque nationale de Tunisie & Institut de recherche sur le Maghreb contemporain (IRMC).

MECAM meets Extractivism Project

28/04/2022

MECAM's IFG IV: Resources & Sustainability had the pleasure to welcome representatives of the research network Natural Resource Extractivism in Latin America and the Maghreb to their group meeting. At this meeting, Dr. Hannes Warnecke-Berger (project coordinator & postdoc, Universität Kassel, Germany), presented the joint project of Philipps Universität Marburg and Universität Kassel. With its comparative, cross-regional approach, the project considers itself in an intermediate role, linking two of the Merian Centres, namely the MECAM - Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb in Tunis and the Centro Maria Sibylla Merian de Estudios Latinoamericanos Avanzados (CALAS) in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Agriculture paysanne, accès aux ressources et insécurité alimentaire

16/05/2022

Prof. em. Habib Ayeb (associate professor, Université Paris 8, France) spoke about “Agriculture paysanne, accès aux ressources et insécurité alimentaire”. Prof. Dr. Andreas Thiel (professor of politics, Universität Kassel, Germany) discussed his paper.

Green Transition or People's Green New Deal?

18/05/2022

Dr. Max Aji (postdoc of sociology, Wageningen University & Research, Netherlands) has talked about green transition. Assist. Prof. Alexander Martin (assistant professor in politics, South Mediterranean University, Tunisia) has presented his paper. The event was organized by IFG IV: Resources & Sustainability.

Alexander Martin: A Just Energy Transition for Tunisia

25/05/2022

IFG IV: Resources & Sustainability organized this Spring Talk. Assist. Prof. Alexander Martin (assistant professor in politics, South Mediterranean University, Tunisia) elaborated on “A Just Energy Transition for Tunisia”. Malek Lamine (Climate and Energy program coordinator, Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation, Tunisia office) has discussed his paper.

State–Society Relations and Growth Paths in North Africa

01/06/2022

This talk presented Dr. Mohamed Ismail Sabry's (lecturer, Fresenius University of Applied Sciences & Bremen University of Applied Sciences, Germany) project at MECAM's IFG IV: Resources & Sustainability. The project conducted a comparative analysis of the growth paths that have developed from the existing state–society relations in Tunisia and Morocco.

Les banques vertes en Tunisie: Enjeux et défis

01/06/2022

Dr. Nadia Mansour (senior lecturer, University of Sousse, Tunisia & visiting scholar, University of Salamanca, Spain) has spoken on "Les banques vertes en Tunisie: Enjeux et défis". This work has provided an overview of the importance of sustainable finance in the fight against global warming and environmental protection in Tunisia.

Walking Tour through the old Medina of Tunis

02/06/2022

IFG V embarked on a walking tour of the Tunis medina, guided by the urbanist and historian Dr. Jamila Binous. It was an opportunity to discover the beauty of Tunis's built environment, including visits to treasured locations like Dar Lasram, Zawiyah Sidi Ibrahim al-Riahi, and the Zaytouna mosque.

Order, Progress, Development and Identities in Modern Turkey

03/06/2022

"Order, Progress, Development and Identities in Modern Turkey" was presented by Assist. Prof. Dr. Gökser Gökçay (assistant professor of history, University of Üsküdar, Turkey) and organized by MECAM's IFG V: Identities & Beliefs. The talk was moderated by Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth Bishop (associate professor of history, Texas University, USA).

Disparities, Youth and Socio–spatial Reconfigurations in Morocco and Tunisia

04/06/2022

In cooperation with MECAM's partner institution Université Hassan II de Casablanca, Morocco, the Universität Leipzig has organized a Traveling Academy with a thematic focus on comparative social science perspectives on inequalities and societal transformations in contemporary Morocco and Tunisia. For this purpose, the Traveling Academy invited a group of Moroccan and international researchers to Tunisia.

Nawel Saadaoui, parcours d'une militante

07/06/2022

In this MECAM Spring Talk, Prof. Dr. Hafidha Chekir (professor of politics, Université de Tunis El Manar, Tunisia) focussed on the activist Nawel Saadaoui, whose "struggles for human rights, for women and the working classes mark the global feminist movement". The conference was moderated by Dr. Arbia Selmi (postdoc of sociology, Marc Bloch Center, Germany).

Challenges of Tunisian Land Governance and Everyday Utilisation of Natural Resources

08/06/2022

IFG IV: Resources & Sustainability and Heinrich-Böll-Foundation Tunisia organised a MECAM Spectrum Talk. Prof. Dr. Andreas Thiel (professor, Universität Kassel, Germany) spoke on "Coordination Challenges in Tunisian Soil Governance and Everyday Utilisation of Natural Resources". Then, Lisa M. Sarida Lippert (PhD candidate, Karl Friedrich von Weizsäcker Center for Science and Peace Research ZNF, Germany) presented her paper on "Navigating Scarcity: Everyday Life in the Drylands".

Tunisian Women's Mobilizations for Equality Between National Identity and Beliefs: An Unfinished Revolution?"

09/06/2022

Dr. Arbia Selmi (postdoc of sociology, Marc Bloch Center, Germany) presented "Tunisian Women's Mobilizations for Equality Between National Identity and Beliefs: An Unfinished Revolution?" in the framework of the MECAM Spectrum Talks. Dr. Leyla Dakhli (postdoc of history, Marc Bloch Center, Germany) moderated the discussion.

Can the Tunisian Field be Racialized? Multiple Black Identities and Their Relative Complexity From a Historical and Anthropological Point of View

14/06/2022

In this MECAM Spring Talk, Prof. Dr. Ines Mrad Dali (professor of arts & letters, Université La Manouba, Tunisia) elaborated on her research: While the “Black Tunisian” population today is made up of both descendants of slaves and immigrants, the current social discourse and the discriminatory images conveyed systematically accuse these Tunisians of a slave ancestry. This gives rise to a devaluing image for these populations in a global way.

Extra-financial Rating Agencies: Key Players in Sustainable Finance and Socially Responsible Investment?

15/06/2022

The MECAM Spring Talk with IFG IV: Resources & Sustainability presented Dr. Wissem Ajili Ben Youssef’s (postdoc, ESLSA Paris Business School, France) research on Extra-financial Rating Agencies. Dr. Nadia Mansour (senior lecturer of economics, University of Sousse, Tunisia) presented her paper. The conference was accompanied by Dr. habil. Steffen Wippel (postdoc of economics, Philipps-Universität Marburg).

Entangled Histories: The Black Movement in Tunisia and the Criminalization of Racial Discrimination Through Law 50

16/06/2022

In this Spring Talk, Shreya Parikh (PhD candidate, University of North Carolina, USA) traced the intertwined histories of the Black movement and the development and implementation of Bill 50 to the present day. She described the development of Bill 50 as a project that emerged from conversations in anti-racist organisations led by Black Tunisians. She then presented cases that have made use of Law 50 and the challenges that remain for its implementation. Parikh concluded by reflecting on the implications of this entanglement for the thinking and writing of blackness in Tunisia.

Agriculture et changement climatique : Changement de paradigmes pour un développement durable des zones arides et désertiques tunisiennes

21/06/2022

In this MECAM Spring Talk organized by IFG IV: Resources & Sustainability Prof. Dr. Mohamed Neffati (professor of geography, Institut des Regions Arides, Tunisia) spoke on "Agriculture et changement climatique : Changement de paradigmes pour un développement durable des zones arides et désertiques tunisiennes". Lisa M. Sarida Lippert (PhD candidate, Karl Friedrich von Weizäcker Center for Science and Peace Research ZNF, Germany) opened the Spring Talk and Rym Ben Zid (expert in agricultural development, African Development Bank) discussed Prof. Dr. Mohammed Neffati's paper. The agricultural sector in Tunisia occupies an advanced position in the national economy and plays an important role in social and regional development. In addition to the profound socio-economic changes that have visibly impacted the agricultural sector, the greatest challenges facing this sector are water shortages, recurrent droughts, soil degradation, loss of local genetic resources and the environmental crisis resulting from climate change.

Journée d’Etudes on “Identities and Social Dynamics.” At University of Sfax

24-25/06/2022

On 24-25 June, IFG V joined MECAMs’ partners at ECUMUS Lab at Sfax University for a Journée d’Etudes on the theme of “Identities and Social Dynamics.” This multilingual, two-day conference showcased fellows’ emergent research, fostering rich debates and ideas for a joint publication in the future.

Approaching the Literary 1980s in the Maghreb and Middle East: Connections, Comparisons, Periodizations

29/06/2022

Moderated by Prof. Dr. Friederike Pannewick (professor of Arabic literature, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany), Dr. Anne-Marie McManus (postdoc, Forum für Transregionale Studien, Germany) spoke on “Algiers-Kabul: Re-Mapping Algerian History Between National Revolution and Transnational Islamic Sentiment”, while Assist. Prof. Amir Moosavi (assistant professor, School of Arts & Sciences-Newark, USA) presented his work on “Martyrs and Relation: Reading the 1980s Across the Literatures of Irak and Lebanon”.

Benzine: Film Screening

30/06/2022

IFG V: Identities & Beliefs invited Sarra Abidi (independent filmmaker, Tunisia) to presented her film entitled Benzine. Dr. Alyssa Miller (postdoc, German Institute for Global & Area Studies, Germany) moderated the discussion on the film. Salem and Halima are looking for their only son who disappeared a few months ago. The latter chose to emigrate illegally to Italy a few days after 14 January 2011. The couple leads a relentless and desperate search that disrupts their lives. The film takes place in the South, an arid and austere landscape, a deep Tunisia where smuggling and socio-political tension are mixed

