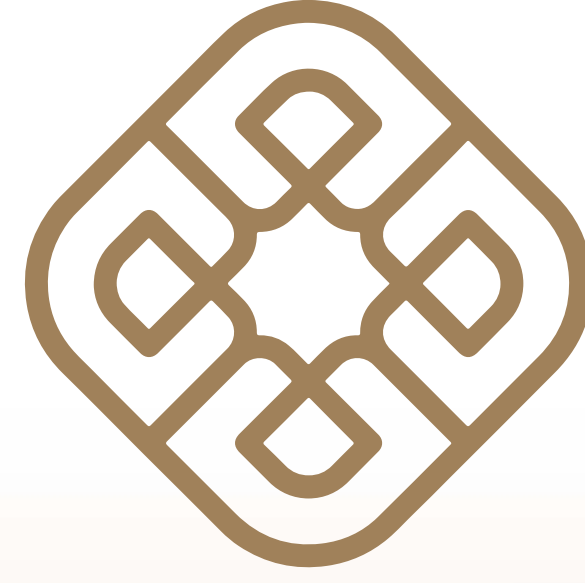


NEWSLETTER OF APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2023

ميكام

مركز ميريان
للدراسات 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 (April to September 2023) 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.



The Fifth Lecture of the Hichem Djaït Chair : Histories and Cultures of Islam Entitled “Le Coran vu d’ailleurs : la place paradoxale du livre sacré de l’islam dans l’histoire culturelle de l’Europe”

28/04/2023

On the occasion of the launch of the "Hichem Djaït Chair: Histories and Cultures of Islam" at the University of Tunis – inaugurated in March 2022 in honor of the great Tunisian Islamologist and historian – the University of Tunis, in partnership with the Institute of Research on the Contemporary Maghreb (IRMC), the National Library of Tunisia and the MECAM, decided to begin a cycle of lectures dedicated to him. In this framework Prof. Dr. John Tolan, Professor of History at the Université de Nantes, was invited on Friday 28 April 2023 at 3:30pm at the Biliothèque Nationale for the fifth lecture of the Hichem Djaït Chair: Histories and Cultures of Islam “Le Coran vu d’ailleurs : la place paradoxale du livre sacré de l’islam dans l’histoire culturelle de l’Europe”.

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

03-06/05/2023

MECAM was pleased to welcome to Tunis the members of the International Advisory Board and the Executive Board as well as the MECAM Directors, Prof. Khaled Kchir and Prof. Rachid Ouaisa. During this meeting the two directors of MECAM had the opportunity to present the start of the main phase of MECAM and the achievements of MECAM in its preliminary phase. The meeting continued around the main lines of the "Future Programme" of the main phase, with an in-depth dialogue concerning the ambitions of this centre and future cooperation. There was also room for exchange between the partners. MECAM thanks all partners for the dedicated cooperation and the pleasant exchange in Tunis.

Presentation and Debate on the Book “Les raisins de la domination. Une histoire sociale de l’alcool en Tunisie à l’époque du Protectorat (1881-1956)”.

04/05/2023

MECAM, in collaboration with the Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain (IRMC / Tunisia), organised a presentation and debate on the book "Les raisins de la domination. Une histoire sociale de l’alcool en Tunisie à l’époque du Protectorat (1881-1956)", in the presence of the author Nessim Znaïen, Associate Professor for the History of the Colonial and Postcolonial Maghreb at the Philipps-Universität Marburg (Germany), historian and associate researcher at the IRMC, and member of the MECAM Executive Board.

Guided Tour of the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art for the Executive Council and International Advisory Board

05 /05/ 2023

On the occasion of the Joint Executive Council and International Advisory Board Meeting, the MECAM organised for the members of the two organs as well as for the MECAM Directors a guided tour of Musée National D'Art Moderne Et Contemporain (MACAM / Tunisia), at the Cité de la Culture de Tunis.

The Electoral Politics of Erdoğanism

23/05/2023

The Rencontre Ibn Khaldoun "The Electoral Politics of Erdoğanism" addressed and discussed to the dynamics of electoral politics in Turkey in May 2023. Drawing on the results of the parliamentary elections and the first round of the presidential elections (May 14), Roy Karadag (University of Bremen / Germany) and Hakkı Taş (GIGA / Germany) presented their ideas on the specifics of Turkey's competitive authoritarianism. Thus, the conference began with the role of institutional advantages for ruling elites in electoral contexts and activists' and opposition's strategies for contestation. Finally, the two researchers outlined the meaning of the election for Turkey's place in contemporary MENA politics.

Falling Walls Lab Tunisia

24/05/2023

The German Academic Exchange Service DAAD Tunisia in collaboration with MECAM organised the Falling Walls Lab Tunisia. Twelve participants pitched their innovative idea within the timeframe of three minutes, highlighting which breakthrough impact their project will have on science and society. MECAM's Academic Coordinator, Dr. Julius Dihstelhoff, was one of the jury members.

FOR CREATORS,
INNOVATORS,
TRAILBLAZERS,
AND VISIONARIES

فريقيا والشرق الأوسط والمغرب العربي: المجتمع، الدولة، والتضامن

ISA International Conference 2023 in Ifrane

21-23/06/2023

The conference was organized under the motto "Africa, Middle East and Maghreb: Society, State and Solidarity". Dr. Julius Dihstellhoff, MECAM's Academic Coordinator, took part in the conference. He presented the results of his research on "Transnational Authoritarianism, the Terrorist Threat and Public Opinion on Anti-Terrorist Cooperation between Germany and the Arab World".

Proposal deadline: January 31, 2023

La date limite de soumission est le 31 janvier 2023.

الموعد النهائي لتقديم الطلبات هو 31 كانون الثاني- يناير 2023

Introduction Week for the new MECAM Fellows

MECAM welcomed 9 researchers from a variety of backgrounds, thanks to its 8-month Individual Fellowships and its 3 Long-Term Fellowships dedicated to in-depth research. During the introduction week, MECAM organized visits, meetings and academic exchanges: a welcome at the Institut Supérieur des Etudes Appliquées en Humanités de Tunis (ISEAHT) and at the MECAM Center itself, a visit to Université de Tunis, a guided tour of the Faculté des Sciences Humaines et Sciences Sociales, the Archive Nationale and the Bibliothèque Nationale. A meeting with members of MECAM's Executive Council and International Advisory Board took place as well.

4-7/ 09/2023

Climate Security in West Asia and North Africa: Investigating Risks of Weaponization and Prospects of De-Weaponization

Using critical security studies as a theoretical framework, this research project aims to explore the relationship between climate resilience, climate security, green recovery and conflict prevention in region of West Asia and North Africa, with a focus on case studies from Iraq, Lebanon, and Tunisia. Dr. Amjed Rasheed conducted a closed interactive discussion focused on a collaborative research initiative, involving MECAM, that focuses on climate resilience, climate security and green recovery.

Dr. Amjed is a Senior Lecturer in West Asian and North African (WANA) Politics in the Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion at Lancaster University. He also is Associate Fellow of Durham University.

7/ 09/2023

MECAM participation at the DAVO-Congress 2023

MECAM took part in the 29th International Congress of the German Association for Middle East Studies (DAVO) and the Fourth European Convention on Turkological, Ottoman and Turkish Studies (Turkologentag) at der Universität Wien (Austria). Dr. André Bank and Dr. Steffen Wippel organized a captivating panel entitled "Resources and Sustainability in Tunisia: Imagining the Future - Managing Disparities". Three of MECAM's former Fellows presented their work carried out at MECAM during their stay in Tunisia from March to June 2022. Lisa Sarida Lippert, Dr. Nadia Mansour, and Dr. Mohamed Ismail Sabry shared exciting research on topics ranging from climate change to green finance and economic development in Tunisia. In this meeting, former Fellow Prof. Elizabeth Bishop presented her work on "Algerians at the VI Youth Festival in Moscow (1957)" during a workshop on "Arab/Soviet Relations".

21-23 /09/2023

MECAM's Participation at the CEBRAP International Congress

29/09/2023

MECAM participates in the CEBRAP International Congress, São Paulo (Brasil), in form of the round table "MECAM-MECILA: Asymmetries of International Knowledge Production and Circulation, Experiences, Best Practices and Challenges" to which Prof. Rachid Ouaisa, MECAM Co-Director, and Dr. Julius Dihstellhoff, MECAM Academic Coordinator contributed.

The roundtable aims at offering an open space for representatives of MECILA and MECAM, the Merian Centres located in São Paulo and Tunis, to share their experiences in mediating research processes between different institutional logics, epistemological gaps, but also urgent wishes of horizontal exchange and cooperation, in a global context of asymmetrical opportunities