

## FAQ for Applicants for Traveling Academies

### Who is eligible to convene a Traveling Academy?

Current, incoming and former MECAM fellows, and scholars from MECAM's partner institutions in the Maghreb and the Mashreq.

### Can I apply alone or together with team of researchers?

Applying alone or together with one or several colleagues is possible. If you applying alone please express your openness to a conversation with us about who a potential second, third or fourth co-convenor could be. In case you want to apply with a team, please submit the CVs of all team members.

### Are there thematic preferences?

The proposals should address a question that relates to one or more of its five Research Fields (IRFs): Aesthetics & Cultural Practice, Inequality & Mobility, Memory & Justice, Resources & Sustainability, and Identities & Beliefs. It should also relate to MECAM's guiding theme "Imagining Futures: Dealing with Disparity", and to MECAM's principles and orientations in fostering research in, on, and with the Maghreb, provide possibilities for interdisciplinary and transregional cooperation, be potentially interesting also to other fellows, and members of MECAM and of its partner institutes in Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon and Germany.

### How many persons can participate in a Traveling academy?

Traveling Academies should be medium-scale events of about 10 to 20 participants to allow an intensely focused discussion. The academy should take into consideration a significant participation of scholars from the place where they are conducted (ca. more than half of the participants).

### Do I have to name participants in my application?

For the academy, you can name potential participants but do not have to hand in a final list. In fact, a mixture might be good for academies; you can and should name the scholars who you would like to invite, because it gives more profile to your suggestion. This can also be helpful information for us and our selection committee. A certain openness however, for further suggestions of scholars from MECAM and MECAM's members' networks is something we would like to encourage. Nevertheless, since the outcome of the application is not certain, it might be recommendable only to ask your potential co-convenors or persons you closely work with before the decision is taken.

## How long do Academy last?

Traveling Academies generally last between 4 to 6 days.

## What is covered by the financial support?

The administrative and organizational support is provided by us. We have a basic funding for the academy that allows for conducting it with up to 20 participants, provided around half of the participants are residing in the locality of the venue. No fees will be asked for, and no honoraria will be paid for. Matching funding and institutional collaboration are welcome.

## What is the role of Forum and MECAM and which support do they give?

The Forum and MECAM finance the academy. However, we regard our activity not as a funding initiative only, but also take care of the administrative and organizational work and provide for opportunities of communication and collaboration for the participating scholars. Furthermore, we see our mission in an ongoing intellectual engagement with MECAM's guiding theme and Interdisciplinary Research Fields. We want to collaborate closely with the conveners in the preparation and execution of the academy. We therefore look for a combination of innovative ideas and transregional approaches and offer our own expertise in the field. For more information on our academies, please visit our [website](#).

## What is expected from the conveners?

The conveners are responsible for all matters concerning the content of the academy, for choosing the participants, for developing the program and for leading the event academically. They should be interested in peer-to-peer exchange with other scholars from different disciplines and regions, from the Maghreb but also other parts of the Middle East and neighboring regions. Furthermore, they agree to actively support the public documentation of the academy on the digital communication channels provided by the Forum and MECAM. After the event, they have to provide a report of around 1 to 2 pages.

## Where do academies take place and who makes the administrative arrangements?

Traveling Academies will be held in Casablanca. The Forum handles all administrative arrangements (e.g. visa, travel, accommodations).

## When will results of an application be known?

We will inform applicants in mid-December 2024.

## Within what time frame must an academy take place?

The Academy must take place in the calendar year 2025.