ميكام
مركز الملك عبدالعزيز للحوار الوطني
King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue

MECAM
Marsa Center for Academic Freedom in the Maghreb

Dear Colleagues, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

MECAM looks back on exciting months (September to December 2024) that have been filled with many interesting events and exchanges about Tunisia. With this newsletter, we would like to give you insights into our work from the period.

MECAM's introduction week for its new Fellow' cohort 2024-2025

9 – 11 / 9 / 2024

The Marsa Center hosted a short-term fellows bumpering 13 fellows from five different countries to attend its Tunisia Hub Conference. The conference was held in the Tunisian capital Tunis from September 9 to 11, 2024. The fellows had the opportunity to meet and exchange with their fellowship program colleagues, an opportunity for international scholars to familiarize themselves with research in the Maghreb and Africa region, but also on understanding and addressing culture, economic, political and social challenges in the Maghreb and Tunisia in particular. The fellows also visited MECAM's headquarter to exchange with the executive director and interdisciplinary Research Fields (RFs): Karamata & Cultural Practice, Inequality, & Mobility, Memory & Justice, Resources & Sustainability, and Governance & Leadership.

Erasmus+ staff mobility from Philipps-Universität Marburg to Université de Tunis

23 – 27/09/2024

Erasmus+ staff mobility from Philipps-Universität Marburg to Université de Tunis. The mobility program provides a platform for promoting cooperation between universities and institutions in Europe and Tunisia. One of the most important conferences on Middle Eastern studies in German-speaking countries. Several hundred participants attended the conference, which was held at Freie Universität Berlin. The DAVO Congress has a long tradition and is the most important conference for Oriental studies in German-speaking countries. The event provides a platform for scientific exchange and is a key platform for Middle Eastern studies in German-speaking countries.

MECAM at the 30th DAVO Congress in Göttingen

26-28/09/2024

MECAM was represented at the 30th DAVO Congress in Tübingen in Ancient Law, Culture, and Politics in the Middle East' with two papers in different panels. The annual DAVO congress provides a platform for presenting current research and for discussion and networking. The DAVO congress is one of the most important conferences on Middle Eastern studies in German-speaking countries. Several hundred participants attended the conference, which was held at Freie Universität Berlin. The DAVO Congress has a long tradition and is the most important conference for Oriental studies in German-speaking countries. The event provides a platform for scientific exchange and is a key platform for Middle Eastern studies in German-speaking countries.

MECAM – MIASA Roundtable on "Academic Freedom and Research Ethics: Exploring Dynamics in Ghana, Tunisia & Germany"

10 / 10/ 2024

MECAM organized a joint roundtable discussion with the African Institute for Advanced Studies in Accra (Ghana) on "Academic Freedom and Research Ethics: Exploring Dynamics in Ghana, Tunisia & Germany" on October 10, 2024. The roundtable was held and organized as part of the Research Ethics Week of the Institute. Bringing together distinguished scholars from MECAM and MIASA to address the evolving landscape of academic freedom and research ethics in Ghana, Tunisia, and Germany, the roundtable aimed to foster a dynamic exchange of perspectives and insights. The roundtable brought together distinguished scholars from MECAM and MIASA to address the evolving landscape of academic freedom and research ethics in Ghana, Tunisia, and Germany. The event explored key issues surrounding the ethical frameworks, institutional pressures, and challenges faced by researchers in these three distinct contexts. The roundtable resulted in launching several blog articles on the MIASA Blog by Professor Kwamena Dunyo, Dr. Ibrahim Kanalan, Professor Ali Madanat, Dr. Hubert Zimmermann and Dr. Knowledge Poncho.

Research Workshop: Perceptions of State-Society Relations: Historical Perspectives on Communication and Control in the Maghreb

23-24/10/2024

This internal workshop looked the question of state-society relations in the Maghreb from various perspectives focusing on the mechanisms of control and of dissent. At the workshop investigate the interrelationship of communication and control in the Maghreb from the 19th century to the 21st. Contributions from various disciplines and methods for bring research of these issues under conditions of limited access to sources. In addition, the role of diverse actors on the national, international, and local levels in shaping state-society relations in the Maghreb. The workshop will focus on the interrelationship between the national findings from Tunisia into the bigger picture of developments in North Africa and the Middle East more broadly. Representatives of the media, social media, and civil society discussed the implications of this research, which are vital for the future of the region. The workshop was a collaboration between MECAM and Sam Ben Honin Institute in Tunis. The workshop was organized by Dr. Mona Abaza, Research Fellow at SBHI, and Publication Manager for MECAM.

International Conference "A Decolonial Mediterranean? Disputes, Imaginaries, Power Relations"

9 – 7 / 11 / 2024

MECAM held its international conference "A Decolonial Mediterranean? Disputes, Imaginaries, Power Relations" The conference aimed to bring together scholars from the humanities and social sciences across the Mediterranean-South, North, and East seeking critical perspectives on the Mediterranean through a decolonial lens, with a particular focus on the Maghreb. The conference explored the region's rich cultural heritage and discussions that challenged traditional narratives and colonial legacies, centering locales of Western European colonialism. The conference emphasized interdisciplinary dialogue and critical reflection on the complex interplay between colonialism, modernity, and contemporary challenges in the Mediterranean. The conference was a platform for participants to engage with the rich tapestry of MECAM's ongoing initiative projects, which include a wide range of research topics and methodologies. The conference provided an opportunity for academic experts to foster meaningful collaboration and exchange.

Keynotes series: Perspectives on the Mediterranean

9 – 7 / 11 / 2024

As part of the International Conference "A Decolonial Mediterranean? Disputes, Imaginaries, Power Relations" held from November 9 – 11 in Tunis, MECAM hosted a series of keynotes by Prof. Dr. Mounir Saidani, Prof. Dr. Mounir Sraieb, Prof. Dr. Hedi Sraieb, Prof. Dr. Hedi Sraieb. The keynotes covered diverse approaches, viewpoints and angles for the discussion in these keynotes, scholars from the European Mediterranean shared their perspectives on cities, suburbs and developmental movements across the Mediterranean and beyond, the role of the Mediterranean in the formation of the Arab-Muslim Bourgeoisie, the Mediterranean and Nuremberg Laws, and the Mediterranean Sea as a Space of Transit. The keynotes offered an opportunity for the participants to engage with the rich tapestry of MECAM's ongoing initiative projects, which include a wide range of research topics and methodologies. The keynotes provided an opportunity for academic experts to foster meaningful collaboration and exchange.

MECAM Short Visit: Prof. Dr. Moncef Kouki

2-10/11/2024

Prof. Dr. Moncef Kouki (University de Sfax, Tunisia) kindly presented a research on "Colonial Mediterranean in Late Antiquity: The Struggle Between Orpheus and Dionysus" with members and fellows of MECAM's Karamata & Decolonial Mediterranean? Disputes, Imaginaries, Power Relations. Prof. Dr. Moncef Kouki's research focuses on the Late Antique Mediterranean, the Roman Empire, Late Antique Christianity, Late Antique Judaism, Late Antique Islam and Late Antique Mediterranean