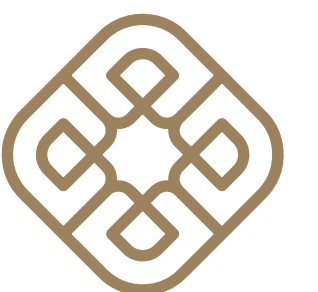


MECAM Newsletter – January to May 2025: *Imagining Futures – Dealing with Disparity*

This edition of the MECAM Newsletter offers a retrospective on our activities from January to May 2025. From compelling lectures and insightful roundtables to publications and interdisciplinary collaborations, we are proud to share key moments that reflect MECAM's ongoing commitment to academic excellence and public engagement across the Maghreb and beyond.



MECAM SPECTRUM Event Week:

Voices and Encounters: From the Margins Inwards

Apr 15–17, Tunis

MECAM fellows hosted an Event Week exploring the Maghreb through presentations on food, economics, literature, and the arts. The sessions highlighted critical issues of inequality, intellectual legacies, and marginalized voices.

Among the many standout moments of the Event Week were the panel “The Politics of Hauntology between Postcolonialism and Post-Spring,” which delved into hauntings in literature and film across Tunisia and Egypt. The panel “Questions Urbaines: Réflexions entre l’Algérie et la Tunisie” stood out for its comparative exploration of masculinities in Maghrebi public spaces, using photo-documentary and interviews to unpack gendered dynamics, spatial inequalities, and urban appropriation in Algiers and Tunis.



To view all events, visit: [Link](#)

Book Talk and Workshop on Doing Research as a Native:

A Guide for Fieldwork in Illiberal and Repressive States by Kira Jumet and Merouan Mekouar

Apr 17, Tunis

The authors Kira Jumet and Merouan Mekouar offered reflections on fieldwork in repressive contexts, drawing on insights from their newly edited volume *Doing Research as a Native: A Guide for Fieldwork in Illiberal and Repressive States* (Oxford University Press, 2025).



ENIS Spring School 2025

May 27–30, Tunis

What does the future look like from the margins? MECAM teamed up with the European Network for Islamic Studies (ENIS) for a dynamic Spring School on “Imagining Futures: Dealing with Disparity,” opening up space for conversations on inequality, imagination, and change in Muslim societies.



Lectures



Feb 3 – Critical Approaches to Migrant Smuggling and Irregular Migration | Lecture by Andrew Fallone



Feb 13 – The Transformation of the Image of the Palestinian Revolutionary | Lecture by Sanabel Abdelrahman



Feb 28 – Frantz Fanon et la violence coloniale en Algérie | Lecture by Muriam Haleh Davis



Syria at a Crossroads – Lecture Series

This open lecture series is a joint initiative by CNMS (Philipps-Universität Marburg), MECAM (Tunis), and EUME (Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin).



Jan 27 – Political Transition in Syria: The End of the Assad Regime and the Perspectives for the Future | Talk by André Bank



Jan 29 – Beginnings: Documentation, Justice, and History for Syrians After Assad's Prison Regime | Roundtable with Annsar Shahhoud, Mohammad Al Attar, and Hadi al-Khatib



Apr 2 – After Prison and Exile | Conversation with Yassin Al Haj Saleh & Rasha Abbas



May 7 – Syrian Challenges and Hi/Stories of Citizenship | Conversation between Guevara Namer & Munir Fakher Eldin



May 15 – Lessons from Tunisia: Navigating Syria's Post-War Transition and the Role of Transitional Justice| Talk by Laura Ruiz de Elvira

Conferences and Roundtables

Recently, MECAM has been proud to collaborate with esteemed international partners on the following events



Jan 27-29– Roundtable : Voices, Communities, and Digital Archives Organized by ERC-SYRASP and EUME, in partnership with MECAM, the Lab for the Study of Violence, and UMAM Documentation & Research



Feb 10-12 – Conference : Facing Crises. Perspectives from Latin America Organized by the Maria Sibylla Merian Center for Advanced Latin American Studies (CALAS)



Feb 18 – Roundtable: Multilingualism and Knowledge Exchange in Academia Co-organized by MECAM, MIASA (Ghana), and ICAS:MP (India)



Apr 15-17 – Roundtable: International Cooperation – Tawasol Project Organized by DAAD

To view all events, visit: [Link](#)

Rencontre Ibn Khaldoun (RIK)



Feb 12 – Screening of Bord à Bord, followed by a moderated discussion with Cyrine Kortas and Sanabel Abdelrahman



Apr 8 – Book Talk: Development at Work by André Weißenfels, with commentary by Béatrice Hibou, moderated by Clara-Auguste Süß

To view all events, visit: [Link](#)

Visiting Scholars

From January to May 2025, MECAM hosted three distinguished scholars as part of its Visiting Scholars program, contributing to ongoing interdisciplinary exchange:



Jan 23– Tomaz Amorim delivered a public lecture titled Aesthetics of Extractivism: When Dead Rivers Speak, addressing the environmental and cultural legacies of extractive industries.



Apr 11 – Mamadou Diawara conducted a strategic visit and delivered a keynote at Beit El Hikma: African Studies and the Challenges of the Third Millennium.



May 29– Asma Hilali presented a lecture during the ENIS Spring School entitled Towards a New Approach to Islamic Sources: From the Canon to the Margin and from the Text to the Paratext, offering new perspectives on Islamic textual traditions.

To view all events, visit: [Link](#)

Publications

Blog Series on TRAFO

MECAM Fellows continue to contribute cutting-edge reflections to the TRAFO Blog for Transregional Research, offering insights on memory, development, energy, and citizenship across the Maghreb and beyond:

- **Nessrine Abbassi** – *Regional Disparities and Inclusive Territorial Development in Tunisia*
- **Cyrine Kortas** – *Akouda 1943: A Voice from the Margins*
- **Samir Bellal** – *La rente et le changement institutionnel en Algérie*
- **Philipp Wagner** – *Tensions Over Participation: How Inclusive are Renewable Energy Partnerships Between the EU and Maghreb Countries?*
- **Nora Lafi** – *Female Agency and Colonial Repression: Memory and Archives in Tunisia*
- **Thomas Serres** – *The Political Activities of Dual Citizens in the Western Mediterranean*
- **Khadidja Boussaïd** – *Reading Public Space through Masculinities in a Maghrebian Context*
- **Fabrizio Leonardo Cuccu** – *Navigating Inequalities: Locating Agency in the Margins and International Aid*

To view all publications, visit : [Link](#)

MECAM Papers

The MECAM Papers series offers concise and well-founded analyses of the social, cultural, and political realities of the contemporary Maghreb :

MECAM Paper 12 – Dina Zabaneh – *The Effects of Imitative Capitalism on Integrating Women and Youth in Maghreb Labour Markets*

MECAM Paper 13 – Alessia Carnevale – *Reclaiming Walls and Imaginaries: Palestine Solidarity and Anti-Colonial Aesthetic Practices in Tunisia*

MECAM Paper 14 – Ilyas Saliba– *Declining Academic Freedom in the Maghreb*

MECAM Paper 15 – Mohamed Amara– *Migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa in Tunisia: A storm in a Teacup?*

MECAM Paper 16 – Sofiane Jaballah – *Freedom and Subjection in Islam through the Prism of Salafism in Tunisia*

To view all publications, visit : [Link](#)

Coming Soon

Stay tuned for our upcoming summer and fall activities, featuring a new fellows' cohort, roundtables, and public talks, all centered around our guiding theme: "Imagining Futures, Dealing with Disparity."

