



# MECAM Publication Workshop

German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA)

Hamburg, 17–19 June 2026

Organiser: Dr. Maria Josua

**Venue: Neuer Jungfernstieg 21, 20354 Hamburg (room 550)**

## Overview

MECAM's mission is to enable and conduct international research in the humanities and social sciences and to disseminate the emerging findings in three key fields: namely, the academic, policy, and wider public. The Centre aims to produce highly visible, international publications based on the original research conducted by its fellows, members, and collaborators. MECAM's publications offer well-founded and concise analyses and allow authors to engage in dialogue with a broader audience beyond restricted specialised circles. Accordingly, they address an interested public including the media, political foundations, NGOs, academia, and policymakers. Wherever possible, publications will be made available through Open Access. Overall, MECAM's publication strategy is oriented towards multilingualism through translation, transfer, collaboration, and outreach, and addresses multiple audiences in Tunisia, Germany, the Middle East and North Africa, and worldwide.

MECAM's Publication Workshop Series seeks to train the next generation of authors, reviewers, and editors among MECAM fellows, partners, and collaborators. Under the responsibility of the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) in Hamburg, one of the main consortium partners of the MECAM, publishing workshops will be held every two years: i.e., two in Tunis (2024, 2028) and one in Hamburg (2026). These workshops will focus on how to write and publish academic texts, policy papers, and blog entries. Through the participation of members of the wider MECAM network and other leading international experts, in-depth practical insights into the drafting and writing of these different formats, the peer-review process with academic journals and publishers, as well as the targeting of specific policy communities will be provided. The workshops will address current publishing processes and encourage participants to discuss and rethink imbalances in academic knowledge production. Eventually, participants will be better equipped to succeed in finding an adequate "home" for their research in internationally visible academic outlets.

This workshop focuses on academic writing. The main language of the workshop is English, but contributions can also be made in French; especially discussions may be held in both languages.

With funding from the:



Federal Ministry  
of Research, Technology  
and Space

# Programme

(as of 4 June 2026)

## Tuesday, 16 June

19:00	<b>Networking Dinner at Abaton Bistro, Grindelhof 14A</b>
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## Wednesday, 17 June

10:00	Possibility to attend Jour Fixe of GIGA's Institute for Middle East Studies
10.30-11:00	<b>Arrival of participants and coffee</b>
11:00-11:30	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> Eckart Woertz, Emna Beltaief, Maria Josua
11:30-12:45	<b>Session I. MECAM's Publication Formats</b> Chair: André Bank <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Benjamin Heidrich, seconded by Maria Josua: MECAM Overall Publication Strategy</li><li>- Maria Josua, seconded by Josef Peter Jeschke: MECAM Paper Series</li><li>- Thomas Richter, seconded by Maria Josua: MECAM Book Series</li><li>- Diana Abbani, seconded by Clara Süß: MECAM Blog Series</li></ul>
12:45-13:45	<b>Lunch Break</b>
13:45-14:45	<b>Session II. Writing fundamentals – ask your copyeditors</b> Chair: Clara Süß Meenakshi Preisser & James Powell (GIGA)
14:45-15:15	<b>Coffee Break</b>
15:15-17:00	<b>Session III. Writing Session (in small groups)</b> <i>incl. feedback from senior participants</i>
17:00-17:15	<b>Coffee Break</b>
17:15-18:15	<b>Session IV. How to publish an academic book: MECAM's book series "Perspectives on the Maghreb"</b> Chair: Josef Peter Jeschke <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Katharina Nicolai: Publishing the first "Perspectives on the Maghreb" book</li><li>- Maria Josua &amp; Thomas Richter: The view from the editors</li></ul>
19:00	<b>Joint dinner at Helo do Brasil Restaurant, Colonnaden 104</b>

**Thursday, 18 June**

<b>9:00-11:00</b>	<b>Session V. Understanding the Whole Life Cycle of Academic Publishing – From Journal Targeting to Decision Letters and Response Memos</b> Julia Grauvogel
<b>11:00-11:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>11:30-13:00</b>	<b>Session VI. Writing Session</b> <i>incl. feedback from peers</i>
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>14:00-15.30</b>	<b>Session VII. How to publish in an academic journal</b> Chair: Emna Beltaief <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- André Bank: Digest of Middle East Studies, Jordanian Politics and Society Journal</li> <li>- Maxine Rubin: Africa Spectrum, South African Journal of International Affairs</li> <li>- Riadh Ben Khalifa: Cahiers de Tunisie, Tunisian Review of Social Sciences</li> </ul>
<b>15:30-16:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>16:00-17:30</b>	<b>Session VIII. GIGA-Public Roundtable: Diversifying Publication Languages – Bridging Academic Traditions (Room 243)</b> Moderator: Maria Josua <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diana Abbani (Forum Transregionale Studien / MECAM Science Communication Coordinator)</li> <li>- Souhir Zekri Masson (University of Tunis / MECAM Alumna Fellow, MECAM Paper translator)</li> <li>- Maxine Rubin (GIGA Institute for African Affairs / Editor Africa Spectrum)</li> <li>- Andreas Ufen (GIGA Institute for Asian Studies / Editor Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs)</li> </ul>
<b>18:00</b>	<b>Joint walk to Elbphilharmonie, visit to Plaza</b>
<b>19:30</b>	<b>Dinner at Stricker’s Kehrwiederspitz, Am Sandtorkai 77</b>

**Friday, 19 June**

<b>9:00-10:30</b>	<b>Session IX. Writing session</b>
<b>10:30-11:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>11.00-11.30</b>	<b>Session X: Reflecting on writing progress in small groups</b>
<b>11.30-12.30</b>	<b>Session XI. Joint reflection on results and feedback in the Plenary</b> Chair: Diana Abbani
<b>12.30-13.30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13:30-14:30</b>	<b>Session XII. Wrap-up and takeaways, future outlook, farewell</b> Chair: Maria Josua

## Participants

**Dr. Abbani, Diana:** MECAM Science Communication Coordinator, MECAM Blog editor, Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin

**Dr. Abbassi, Nessrine:** MECAM Fellow 2024-25, University of Gabès

**Dr. Bank, André:** Senior Research Fellow, GIGA Institute for Middle East Studies; Editorial Board Member *Digest of Middle East Studies*; MECAM Executive Council member.

**Prof. Dr. Beltaïef, Emna:** MECAM Director Tunisia, Vice-President and Professor of French language, literature and civilisation, University of Tunis

**Prof. Dr. Ben Khalifa, Riadh:** MECAM Fellow 2024-25, Associate Professor of Contemporary History, University of Tunis, editor-in-chief of the *Tunisian Review of Social Sciences*.

**Dr. Ekpo, Omotolani Ebenezer:** MECAM Fellow 2025-26, Lecturer in English and Literary Studies, Federal University Wukari, Nigeria

**Dr. Gannouni Khemiri, Imene:** MECAM Fellow 2025-26, Assistant Professor in the English Department, University of Manouba

**Prof. Dr. Grauvogel, Julia:** Lead Research Fellow, GIGA Institute for African Affairs; Professor of Global Interventions and Conflicts at Leuphana University Lüneburg; former Co-Editor-in-Chief *Africa Spectrum*

**Heidrich, Benjamin:** MECAM Coordinator Germany, University of Marburg

**Dr. Jeschke, Josef Peter:** Specialised Information Service (FID) Middle East, North Africa and Islamic Studies, Branch Library Middle East/Ethnology, University and State Library Saxony-Anhalt, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg; long-term repository of the *MECAM Papers*

**Dr. Josua, Maria:** Research Fellow, GIGA Institute for Middle East Studies, MECAM Publication Manager, Editor of *MECAM Papers*, Managing Editor MECAM Book series

**Dr. Kortas, Cyrine:** MECAM Long-term Fellow 2023-2026, Lecturer of English literature, University of Gabès

**Dr. Nicolai, Katharina:** MECAM PI, Assistant Professor in Middle East Politics and Society, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg

**Dr. Powell, James:** Editor, German Institute for Global and Area Studies, Copyeditor for MECAM Paper series

**Preisser, Meenakshi:** Editor, German Institute for Global and Area Studies, Copyeditor for MECAM Paper series

**Prof. Dr. Richter, Thomas:** Lead Research Fellow, Head of Research Programme *Accountability and Participation*, GIGA Institute for Middle East Studies; Editor MECAM book series; former Editor *MECAM Papers*

**Dr. Rubin, Maxine:** Research Fellow, GIGA Institute for African Affairs; co-Editor-in-Chief *Africa Spectrum*; former Assistant Editor *South African Journal of International Affairs*

**PD Dr. Ufen, Andreas:** Senior Research Fellow, GIGA Institute for Asian Studies, Editor *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs*

**Dr. Sabry, Mohamed Ismail:** MECAM Fellow 2024-25, Lecturer, University of Applied Sciences Europe, Amsterdam

**Dr. Süß, Clara-Auguste:** Research Fellow, GIGA Institute for Middle East Studies, MECAM Outreach & Transfer Manager

**Talebian, Hamid:** Doctoral Research Fellow, GIGA Institute for Middle East Studies

**Winther, Nicoline Julie:** Visiting Researcher, GIGA Institute for Middle East Studies, Doctoral Researcher, Aarhus University

**Prof. Dr. Woertz, Eckart:** Director, GIGA Institute for Middle East Studies, Professor for contemporary history and politics of the Middle East, University of Hamburg

**Dr. Zekri Masson, Souhir:** MECAM Fellow 2025-26, Assistant Professor of English Literature, University of Tunis