11:30 am – 1 pm Session III
Cultural and epistemic perspectives on refugee knowledge transfers
Chair: Marwan Rowayheb
Byblos/Beirut

Presentations
Leslie TramontiniMarburg • Writing as Strategy of Survival – The Contribution of the German-Iraqi Writer Hussein al-Mozany to German Culture

Florian KohstallBerlin/Cairo (AGYA Member) • Current Examples of Integrating Refugees into the University: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Transnational Student Exchange

Carola RichterBerlin (AGYA Member) • Refugees’ Use of the Media and Knowledge of their Destination Country, Germany, Before, During and After the Process of Flight

1 – 2:30 pm Lunch

2:30 – 4:30 pm Session IV
Tying Challenges with new perspectives ans opportunities: Success stories, drawbacks ans policy reflections
Moderator: Chiara Butti

13th of April
Departure Day

About AGYA:

The Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) has been established in 2013 at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities as the first bilateral young academy worldwide. AGYA promotes research cooperation among outstanding early-career researchers (3 – 10 years post-PhD) from all disciplines who are affiliated with a research institution in Germany or any Arab country. The academy provides partnership-building opportunities and funding to support the innovative projects of its members in various fields of research as well as in science policy and education.

Organizers
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International Workshop of the Arab German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA)

Refugee transfers in the Euro-Arab Mediterranean zone: Tying the past with the present
Towards a transregional and transhistorical understanding in times of crises

10 – 12 April 2017
Lebanese American University, Byblos, Lebanon

The workshop is a project of the AGYA Working Group Transformation.

In cooperation with
GENERAL INTRODUCTION

In collaboration with the Lebanese American University and the University of Heidelberg, the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities and its working Group ‘Transformation’ are organizing an international and interdisciplinary workshop that will problematize from both historical and contemporary perspectives the theme of ‘refugee transfers in the Euro-Arab Mediterranean zone’. The workshop will take place from 10 until 12 of April 2017 at the Lebanese American University (Byblos Campus).

In the wake of the Arab uprisings and ensuing upheavals, displacement and refugee crises have been mainly tackled through the prism of securitized policies, practices and speech acts. Migration scholars and social scientists have reflected on the shortcomings and pitfalls of international cooperation in burden sharing and have deplored the ‘securitization’ of the so-called refugee crises in Europe, the Middle East and beyond.

The workshop seeks to contribute to the literature on the transnational diffusion of norms through the prism of migration, asylum and flight. It draws on a joint trans-regional and trans-historical approach, with a view to investigating the nature and contents of sociocultural, political and religious transfers that refugees have channelled within the Euro-Arab Mediterranean zone.

While taking into account challenges that refugee flows pose for policy making and local communities, the workshop will discuss theory guided contributions and case study analyses. Overarching themes include but are not restricted to:

- Historicizing refugee knowledge transfers from the Middle Ages until the 21st century;
- Shining a light on various economic, cultural and political contributions that refugees have circulated;
- Inquiring into methodological tools of transregionality, transnationality, and transculturality that allow us to capture both quantitatively and qualitatively refugee norm diffusion in historical perspective;
- Generating insights and cross-comparative lessons that could inform policy-making approaches and international organizations’ programmatic strategies in the Euro-Mediterranean zone.

PROGRAM

10th of April
Arrival of Participants

6 pm: Opening session and public keynote lecture
Venue: FREM Center 201 (Multipurpose Room)
Ibrahim Awad Cairo • The Current Displacement Crises in Regional and International Perspectives

7:30 pm: Welcome Dinner

11th of April
9 am Greeting by LAU’s president Joseph Jabbra

11:00 – 11:30 am Coffee break

10:00 – 11:00 am Session I
Historical perspectives on refugee knowledge transfers
Chair: John Meloy Beirut

Presentations
Nicholas Terpstra Toronto • Mass Migrations in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Mediterranean
Dawn Chatty Oxford • Syria and Its Refugees: A Historical Perspective

11:00 – 11:30 am Coffee break

11:30 am – 1 pm Session I
Historical perspectives on refugee knowledge transfers
Chair: John Meloy Beirut

Presentations
Ammar Abdulrahman (AGYA Member) • Deportation in the Ancient Near East
Jenny Oesterle Heidelberg (AGYA Member) • Protection for Refugees in the First Decades of Islamic History
Theresa Jackh Heidelberg • The Ruler as Refugee. Peril and Protection in the Medieval Mediterranean.

1 – 2:30 pm Lunch