

DAVO Congress 2014: Call for Papers for Pre-organized Panels

Für folgende Panels auf dem 21. Internationalen DAVO Kongress am 25.-27. September 2014 in Köln können noch Beiträge angemeldet werden.

Bitte schicken Sie Ihre Vortragsanmeldung mit Zusammenfassung (bis zu ca. 300 Wörter) sowohl an die jeweiligen Panel-KoordinatorInnen, als auch an Amke Dietert, die Generalsekretärin des Kongresses (amke.dietert@googlemail.com)

Call for Papers for Panels at the 21 International DAVO Congress in Cologne, 25 – 27 September 2014

Please send an abstract of your proposed paper to the coordinator of the panel and to Amke Dietert, the general secretary of the congress (amke.dietert@googlemail.com)

List of Panels:

1) Between Neoliberalism and Revolution: Mapping Current Gentrification in the MENA City

Coordinator: Yannick Sudermann (Y.T.Sudermann@sms.ed.ac.uk)

Gentrification, once a sporadic, quaint, and local anomaly in the housing markets of a few Western cities is now a worldwide phenomenon. Wherever gentrification gains momentum, new geographical frontiers emerge and divisions between urban identities – rich and poor, powerful and marginalized, as well as different ethnicities – become central. However, despite noteworthy exceptions, Middle Eastern cities and the experiences of their populations remain off the map. This panel invites contributions that critically assess how gentrification (e.g. in the form of heritage preservation or urban renewal causing displacement) has developed under the influence of authoritarianism, neoliberal globalization and the upheavals in the MENA region.

2) Middle East Conflicts: Backgrounds and Chances for Solutions

Coordinator: Dr. Fawzy Naji, Hannover (f.naji@hotmail.de)

Conflicts of the Middle East can be subdivided into internal, regional and international conflicts. The backgrounds of these conflicts would be highlighted. The core of the conflicts is the Israelis – Arabs conflict. Chances for solutions will be discussed.

In this panel the chance will be given to discuss the following issues:

1. Revolutions and counterrevolutions in the Arab World.
2. The roles of the internal, regional and international political players.
3. Peace chances and challenges.

Answers should be found to the following questions:

1. Who is responsible for the bloodshed in Syria?
2. Who are the winners and the losers of the Arab Spring?

3. What are the targets of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Israel, Turkey, Iran, European Union, Russia and the USA in the Middle East?

Languages: English and German.

3) Issues of Sustainable Economic Development in Iraq

Coordinator: Sefik Alp Bahadir, Erlangen (sefik-alp.bahadir@fau.de)

Central topic of this panel will be the potential and risks of the sustainability of economic growth in Iraq with regard to the doubling of oil revenues till the end of this decade, on the one hand, and the problems of unemployment, lack of social safety nets, and poor reforming public institutions and governmental policies, on the other.

4) Arab Perspectives on Israel

Coordinator: Johannes Becke, Oxford (johannes.becke@area.ox.ac.uk)

The panel investigates representations of the Jewish State in the literary, political and academic discourse in the Arab World. In order to establish a multi-faceted overview of Arab perspectives on Israel, the panel especially welcomes papers exploring the commemorative culture of the lost Mizrahi heritage, the academic discipline of 'Israel Studies' at Arab universities and the location of Zionism in the ideological conception and political practice of contemporary political Islam.

5) Arab Talk Shows in the Wake of the Arab Spring

Coordinator: David Arn, München (david.arn@lmu.de)

From their inception Arab talk shows – such as the famous ash-Sharia wa-l-Hayat or al-Ittijah al-Mu'akis – have been ascribed a crucial role in influencing and changing the Arab public sphere(s). This seems all the more true in the light of the political transformations commonly called the "Arab Spring". In this respect, Arab and international researchers have centered their discussion on normative notions of the media's role in (emerging) democracies and their contributions to the (initial) formation of public sphere(s).

Specific analyses of Arab satellite television in general and Arab talk shows in particular indeed show that producers as well as local elites assume a crucial influence of broadcasting on the legendary Arab Street. Hence their respective efforts to counteract critical discussions and to sponsor reporting suiting their own interests; and hence the exponential growth of Arab satellite channels and talk shows.

Consequently, a tension between hegemonic interests of single states and their media mouthpieces on the one hand and a more inclusive dynamic of the Arab media towards a critical public sphere on the other hand has been inherent to the discussion of Arab media from the start. This applies especially to al-Jazeera, but of course includes other channels such as al-Arabiya or al-Mayadeen; and those tensions arguably have increased since the political upheavals starting in 2011.

This panel seeks to address such tensions inherent to the Arab media altogether as well as to specific channels or talk shows – either in the run-up or in the wake of the Arab Spring. Contributions to the panel should ideally be based on content analysis – since the discussion hitherto has often been based on rather general and superficial observations. They might include the discussion of specific political, social, religious or other topics – such as e.g. the political transformation in particular countries; the

role of the youth in Arab societies and in the Arab Spring; gender issues; the rise of sectarian conflicts; the development of socio-political concepts; etc. They might also cover analyses of a more formal character – such as e.g. specific terminology or linguistic aspects. And they might include Arabic programs of non-Arab countries – such as Iran.

6) Mobilities and Competences in the Middle East Region

Coordinators: Amin Moghadam (amin.moghadam@sciencespo.fr) and Azita Bathaie (bathazi@hotmail.com), Paris

This panel will investigate the issue of mobility within the Middle East region. From a regional entrepreneur crossing the two shores of the Persian Gulf to an Afghan pilgrim travelling between Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq, presentations will focus on skills acquired by those involved through various sequences of their trajectories and networks. This panel will address the following questions: How migrants are able to mobilize their social, cultural and economic capital to enlarge their networks between various territories. All presenters concerned with the nexus between mobility and competences are welcome to submit their proposals.

7) Umwälzungen und Zusammenbruch der staatlichen und gesellschaftlichen Strukturen in Syrien

Coordinator: Huda Zein, Köln (hzein@uni-koeln.de)

Das Panel beleuchtet gesellschaftliche, politische und religiöse Prozesse in Syrien seit 2011. Vorträge zu folgenden Themenkomplexen (aber nicht nur auf diese beschränkt) aus verschiedenen Disziplinen sind willkommen: Auswirkungen der massiven Umwälzungen auf Identitäten und Zugehörigkeiten in Syrien; sozioökonomische Implikationen der Umwälzungen (Gesundheitswesen, Infrastruktur, soziale Strukturen) und der brutalen Repressionen des Assad-Regimes; konfessionelle und ethnische Spannungen und Spaltungen.

8) Psychologies, Politics and Narratives of Trauma: Comparative Perspectives

Coordinator: Stephan Milich, University of Cologne (smilich@uni-koeln.de)

This panel is dedicated to representations and meanings of trauma in Arab societies with an emphasis on comparative approaches that avoid the production of an exceptionalism for one country or region. It aims to explore whether and how individuals, social groups and societies are affected by the current violent conflicts in many countries of MENA. What literary and cultural as well as social psychological and political representations and narratives of trauma can be found, and how can they be linked to each other? What are the potentials as well as the limitations and pitfalls of the trauma concept in its various appropriations not only for the study of Arabic cultural production, but also for contemporary historiography as well as political and social sciences dealing with the 'Arab world'?

The panel welcomes contributions on relevant topics from the following disciplines: Cultural and literary studies, social sciences and politics, psychology/psychiatry, cultural anthropology, and Islamic Studies.

9) Transformation of Religious Discourses in the Contemporary Muslim World

Coordinators: Tim Epkenhans(tim.epkenhans@orient.uni-freiburg.de) and Johanna Pink (johanna.pink@orient.uni-freiburg.de), Freiburg

Religious discourses change constantly. Social, political and economic conditions strongly influence the structure of the religious field and the themes that are negotiated therein. With respect to Muslim discourses, this process seems to have gained a particular dynamic since the 1990s. The catchword „Post-Islamism“ does not adequately capture all the transformations that the Muslim religious field has undergone during the past two decades. Those decades have seen the emergence of transnational religious agents and the development of a strong and visible Salafī trend. Traditional as well as reformist Islamists are searching for a „third way“ between the polar opposites of „Islam“ and „the West“ that shape perceptions of Muslims and non-Muslims across the globe. Phenomena such as these have to be considered in the light of geopolitical changes, specific local conditions and new media and technologies. This panel aims at contributing to the understanding of such processes and interactions by examining case studies from various regions of the Muslim World.

10) Migration, Labour and Religion in the Gulf States

Coordinators: Sabine Damir-Geilsdorf (s.damir-geilsdorf@uni-koeln.de) and Michaela Pelican (mpelican@uni-koeln.de), Köln

The panel aims to explore societal, political, legal, religious and economic impacts of labour migration to the Arab Gulf states. In the six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council migrants account for a substantial part of the population, in some they even comprise almost 90 % of the total workforce.

We welcome papers from different disciplines on the following topics (but not limited to these): policies and practices of sending and receiving countries, legal changes in the sponsorship (Kafala)-system, the role of religious policies and (transnational) religious dynamics for identities and belonging, nationalization policies in the Gulf.

11) Turkey and the "Arab Spring"

Coordinator: Ibrahim Natil (dr.natil59@gmail.com)

The purpose of this panel is to study the role of Turkey in the Arab Spring countries of Tunisia, Egypt and Syria. It will discuss the engagement of Turkey and its impact on the development of events in these countries from different perspectives. The papers presented to this proposed panel will consider a number of social, economic and political factors, circumstances and changes that have influenced the Turkish policies in this context. The panel will examine also the impact of the Arab spring on the Turkish domestic politics and the subsequent developments within Turkey.

12) The International Politics of the Arab Spring

Coordinator: Robert Mason (rdmobile@hotmail.com)

Whilst the Arab Spring is already known to have had a profound effect on the domestic and foreign policy orientation of many Arab states, less research has been conducted on the Arab Spring and its repercussions on foreign policy decision-making in the international system. This panel will therefore include presentations and assessments on continuity and/or changes in the national interests and foreign policies of the global powers and emerging powers such as Brazil, Russia, India and China

(BRIC) towards the Middle East. Studies should include reference to, and account for, policy priorities pre-, during and post-'Arab Spring' where applicable.

13) Transformationsprozess im Jemen – Singularität oder Modell?

Coordinator: Henner Kirchner, Sana'a (henner.kirchner@giz.de)

" We have made Yemen. Now we must make Yemenis." So vor kurzem die Aussage eines Mitglieds des Präsidiums der Nationalen Dialog Konferenz (NDC). Mit Abschluss der NDC tritt der Jemen in eine Phase der Verfassungsgebung ein und die Diskussionen über die Zukunft des Jemen scheinen wieder hinter verschlossenen Türen geführt zu werden. Ist dies wirklich so oder ist weiter ein Prozess der politischen Umformung im Gange, der auch gesellschaftliche Gruppen jenseits der Eliten einbezieht. Auffallend ist auch das Schweigen in der Region über die Fortschritte, welche im Jemen erzielt wurden und werden. Taugt der Transformationsprozess nicht als Modell für die Region oder fehlt dem Jemen schlicht eine Lobby?

14) Towards Post-colonial Palestine Studies – Cross-Disciplinary Approaches

Coordinators: Dr. Detlev Qintern (History), Dr. Ludwig Watzal (Political Science), Dr. Viktoria Waltz (Planning) (viktor.waltz@web.de)

Postcolonial and trans-cultural studies, having Palestine in its focus, find a wide and motivating field of research. Located in-between Africa, Asia, the Mediterranean and Europe, Palestine was at the cross-roads of many cultures and religions, before colonial map-drawing paved the way for the Zionist settlement and the later state building. Pre-colonial and pre-Zionist modes of living in Palestine might bear Utopian visions such as ways of living together that might overcome current boundaries or make them obsolete.

Discussion papers are welcome to history and future scenarios, including technical issues like water, land-use, planning as well as cultural, religious and political issues.

15) Outbound-tourism from GCC-countries: Opportunities and Perspectives for the Tourism Industry outside the Middle East

Coordinator: Nadine Scharfenort, Mainz (n.scharfenort@geo.uni-mainz.de)

The Middle East region is one of the world's smallest, yet fastest growing tourist generating regions with a worldwide market share of 3.8 % in 2010. Outbound-tourism from GCC-states is growing higher than the international average in recent years, reflecting a dynamic growth trend unmatched by any other world region. The largest market outside the Middle East region is Europe with a substantial share of 46 %, ahead of Asia and the Pacific (19 %), the Americas and Africa. The aim of this panel is to present relevant case studies to identify opportunities for and impacts on the travel and tourism industry.