

# Networking Platforms as a Pathway for Partnership & Cooperation

**A Public Lecture followed by a panel discussion in the framework of COSIMENA**



<b>Realization</b>	On-site Event; DAAD Regional Office Cairo
<b>Date</b>	Monday, May 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (Cairo Local Time)
<b>Guests</b>	Researchers and Scientists working in the fields of all science fields, esp. humanities and social sciences from Egypt
<b>Duration</b>	3 h
<b>General Moderation and Contact Person</b>	Nermine Abdelaty
<b>Organizer</b>	DAAD Regional Office Cairo German Academic Exchange Service 11 El Saleh Ayoub St. Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt URL: <a href="http://www.daad.eg">www.daad.eg</a>

## Introduction

### **The European Association for Middle Eastern Studies (EURAMES) and the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) as platforms for closer cooperation between the MENA region and partners in Europe and elsewhere**

Building sustainable networks has become imperative for success in science. They support the exchange of information, facilitate access to resources and allow for the development of personal relations among scholars which are a core element for successful cooperation.

Important components of these networks are scholarly associations and conference activities. With the internationalization of science, it became necessary to regionalize and partly even globalize these instruments. The lecture by **Professor Dr. Guenter Meyer**, Director of Centre for Research on the Arab World (CERAW) at the University of Mainz, Chairman of the German Middle East Studies Association (DAVO) and President of EURAMES, will exemplify the benefits of institutionalized networking opportunities by introducing two initiatives from the field of Middle Eastern studies, The European Association for Middle Eastern Studies (EURAMES) and the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES).

**EURAMES** is an association of national scholarly societies and university institutes for studies on the Middle Eastern and North Africa. These institutions are located in 28 European countries and each one carries out extensive networking and research-related activities. The association, consisting of more than 6,000 members, is the organizer of the European Network of Middle Eastern Studies, an academic exchange and information platform for research on the Middle East. The weekly distributed “EURAMES Info Service” is worldwide the most important information source for scholars from the social sciences and humanities interested in the MENA region regarding academic cooperation opportunities. It includes a large variety of announcements of conferences, jobs, grants, research projects and institutions related to the Middle East and North Africa and the Muslim world as a whole. The “Info Service” is distributed free of charge.

**WOCMES** is a gathering of scholars, researchers, students and professionals drawn from a broad range of educational and other institutions, organizations and associations from around the world. What brings this global community together, is a common interest in the study of the Middle East, North Africa and the Muslim states of Central Asia, in addition to those areas of the world directly or indirectly affected by developments in these regions.

WOCMES is intended to provide Middle Eastern specialists from all branches of humanities and social sciences with the opportunity to meet and exchange research results, experiences and ideas, and to address – and attempt to reconcile – some of the challenges that arise when methodology meets theory and praxis meets politics. It involves numerous academic panels and roundtable discussions approved, in advance, by an academic committee, as well as keynote addresses by prominent scholars, scholarly exhibitions, and cultural and other events relevant to the field.

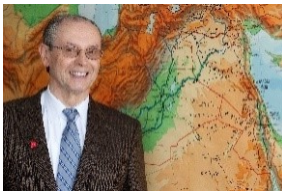
One of the principal long-term goals of WOCMES is to build and strengthen regional and global networks for joint research and the dissemination of findings and interpretations. As a major international academic congress, WOCMES also gives the far-flung members of various academic associations a place where they can meet and discuss organizational business in executive meetings and plenary sessions.

So far, five WOCMES events have taken place. For the last one, which was assembled in 2018 in Seville, 3,184 participants registered, and 1,785 individual papers and 405 panels were proposed. This opened new venues for exchange and cooperation.

The next WOCMES is planned to take place in 2025 in Abu Dhabi and Egyptian scholars are explicitly invited to participate in this event.

The presentation of Professor Meyer will be followed by a **panel discussion on funding opportunities for regional and international cooperation** with a focus on social sciences and humanities. Representatives of funding institutions as well as scholars will discuss the availability, accessibility, and effectiveness of existing funding instruments.

## Bio of The Speakers



Günter Meyer was born in 1946. He studied geography and English literature at the Universities of Erlangen and Londonderry. In 1993 he was appointed as a professor of social and economic geography at the University of Mainz, where he established and chaired the Center for Research on the Arab World (CERAW). Since 2014, he has also been teaching at the University of Sharjah/UAE. In his research, Meyer focused mainly on the social, economic and political development of the Middle East.

Since the mid-1990s, he has organized the cooperation of institutes and scholars of Middle Eastern studies on a national, European and global level: He founded and is still heading the German Middle East Studies Association (DAVO) with more than 1300 academic members, the European Association of Middle Eastern Studies (EURAMES) with about 3000 scholars, and the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES).



Yasser Elshayeb is a Professor of Engineering at the American University in Cairo.

He is a graduate of Cairo University in 1990 with a degree in Mining Engineering and had a PhD in 1999 from "Nancy School of Mines" in France on the Contribution of Fuzzy Logic to Geotechnical Risk Assessment of some Ancient Tombs at the Valley of the Kings in Egypt.

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During the period of 2006-2013, Prof. Elshayeb acted as an assistant to the Minister of Higher Education for International Cooperation and was highly involved in the setting up of Euro-Mediterranean policies and dialogues on Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Culture. He also acted as the focal point of many Euro-Mediterranean programs in Egypt (TEMPUS, ERASMUS MUNDUS, ERASMUS+ and FP7).

In 2007-2008, Dr Elshayeb was the main interlocutor for Egyptian-German agreements and schemes on Higher Education mobility and Research in close cooperation with the DAAD.



Hoda El Mahgoub joined the Freie Universität Berlin in January 2018. As head of their Cairo Liaison Office, her duties include promoting study and research programmes at the university as well as recruiting top-class junior researchers. Furthermore, her tasks include establishing and supporting collaborations and keeping track of scientific developments in the region. While assisting researchers from Freie Universität Berlin in Egypt, she also is responsible for strengthening the international alumni network in Egypt. Before joining Freie Universität Berlin, Hoda El Mahgoub worked as Deputy Head of the EU Projects and Event Management Department at the German-Arab Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Cairo. Hoda El Mahgoub was born in Germany, raised in Egypt, and is a graduate of the German School in Cairo and studied Pharmacy at the Cairo University.



Heba Gaber is currently the research and innovation regional officer at the European Union Delegation to Egypt. She contributes to the conception, elaboration and implementation of relevant EU-MED Region research and innovation cooperation agreements, strategies and programs. She has more than 10 years of international operational and academic experience across multiple sectors. The first part of her career was in Chemonics Egypt, a leading consulting firm that provides engineering and environmental management services. She led several consulting contracts spanning multiple sectors. As a senior consultant, she joined Innovety (2010-2012) a non-traditional consulting firm, where she provided consulting services in the areas of innovation management and entrepreneurship. She holds a Chemical Engineering Degree from Cairo University (1999), a Master's degree in Local Economic Development from the University of Waterloo in Canada (2006), and a PhD in Management Sciences from the

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University of Waterloo with a focus on Management of Technology and International Entrepreneurship (2013).

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Nahla Tawfik is a professor of German Language and Translation and Head of the German Department at Ain-Shams University. She is a DAAD-Alumna with close contacts to the Johannes-Gutenberg University in Mainz, the University of Wuppertal and the University of Leipzig.

Her research work focuses on intercultural questions, the history of translation and the phenomena of language encounters between German and Arabic.

She also led a DAAD-funded project from 2013 until 2016 entitled “Intercultural Studies in German-Arabic Context” in cooperation with the University of Wuppertal. The findings were published in the year 2017 in the volume „Texts in Intercultural German Studies in Research and Teaching”. In the year 2014, she was awarded the “Jacob and Wilhelm Prize” by the DAAD for young researchers. And in 2022 she was received a scholarship by the Alexander von Humboldt Association for renowned scientists at the Herder-Institut at the University of Leipzig.

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## Programme

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**5.15 p.m. – 5.45 p.m. Registration**

**Greeting Words**

Dr Carsten-Michael Walbiner  
Director of the DAAD Regional Office Cairo

**5.45 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.**

Lorena Mohr  
Head of Science and Protocol at the Embassy of the Federal  
Republic of Germany in Cairo

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**6.00 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. Presentation: “Global Networking and Academic Cooperation in Middle Eastern Studies”**

Prof. Dr Guenter Meyer  
University of Mainz

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**6.30 p.m. – 6.45 p.m. Q & A session**

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**Panel Discussion: “Funding Opportunities for Regional and International Cooperation”**

Prof. Dr Guenter Meyer  
University of Mainz

Heba Gaber  
Delegation of the European Union to Egypt

**6.45 p.m. – 7.45 p.m.**

Dr Yasser Elshayeb  
American University in Cairo

Hoda El Mahgoub  
Freie Universität Berlin

Prof. Dr Nahla Tawfik  
Ain-Schams-University

Moderated by: Dr Carsten-Michael Walbiner

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**7.45 p.m. – 8.00 p.m. Q & A session**

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**8.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. Joint Networking Reception**

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