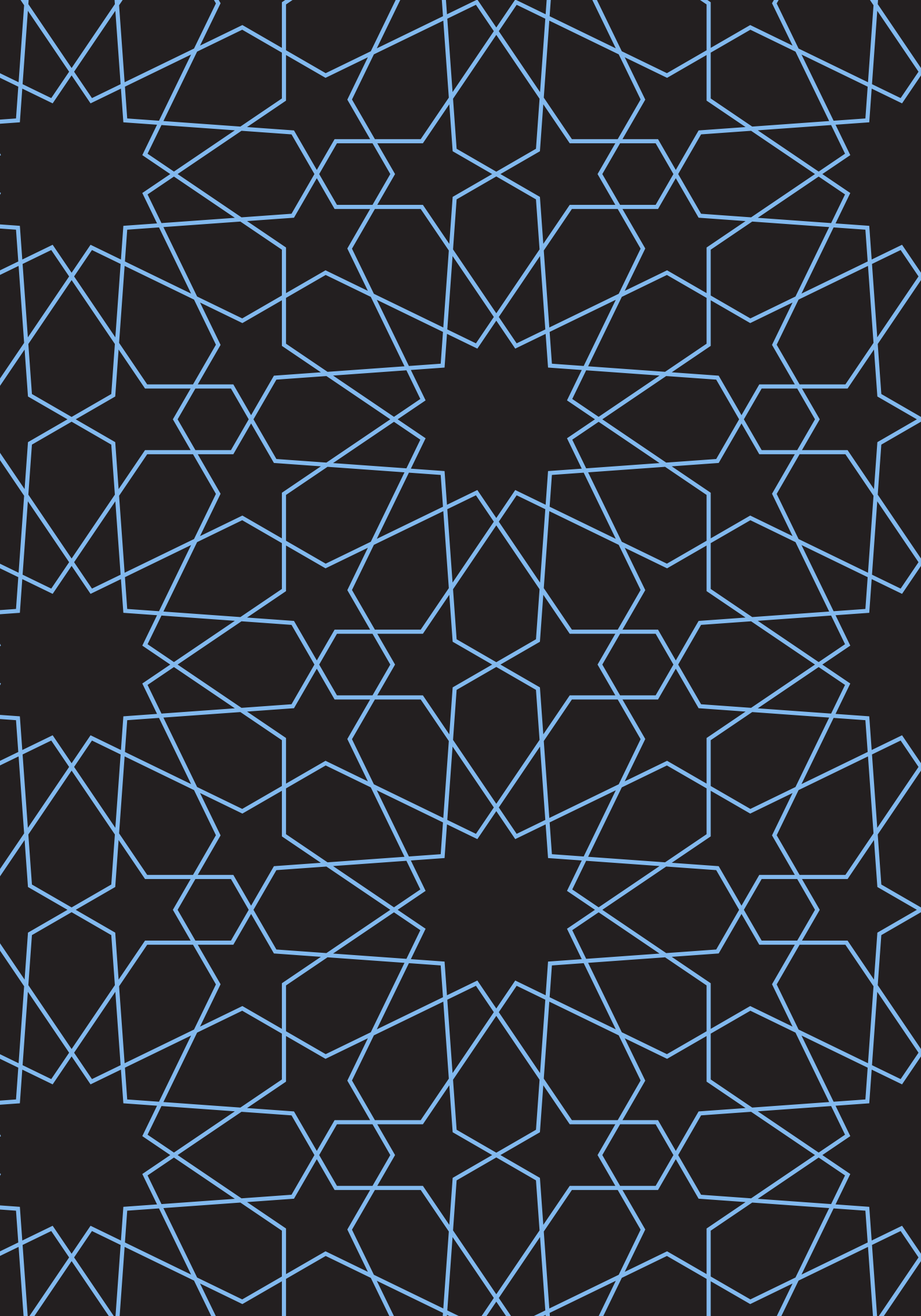


Middle
East
Mediterranean



Summer Summit 2019 Seminar

Seminar Programme
15–23 August 2019
Università della
Svizzera italiana
Lugano Campus



MEM Summer Summit 2019 Seminar

**The Seminar
15–23 August
USI Lugano Campus**





MEM Summer Summit Seminar

General Programme

Horizontal Stream - Working groups

Middle East Mediterranean voices in dialogue

Course Directors

Prof Jolanta Drzewiecka, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland

Prof Liisa Välikangas, Hanken School of Economics, Helsinki, Finland

Dr Souhaïl Belhadj, Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland

Dr Ibrahim Saïd, Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland

Working groups with workshop on argumentation

Thursday 15 August

Horizontal Stream Course Directors

Andrea Rocci, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland

Sara Greco, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland

Dima Mohammed, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal

Working groups

Friday 16 August

Saturday 17 August

Monday 19 August

Tuesday 20 August

Wednesday 21 August

Thursday 22 August

Friday 23 August

Working groups

Special workshop

Sunday 18 August – Workshop – 9.00 -15.00

Introduction by Pierluigi Zanchi (Tigusto)

Marinella and Wanda Ribolzi

“Resilient gardening and harvesting conversations”

In collaboration with Cronoparty and A Fior di Gusto

Friday 23 August – Workshop – 14.30-16.30

“Meet Swiss Ambassadors in the MENA region”



New dynamics of the Middle East Mediterranean region

Course Directors

Prof Gilles Kepel, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland ; PSL Paris Sciences et Lettres-École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France

Prof Hela Ouardi, Université de Tunis, Tunisia

Dr Federica Frediani, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland

Plenary Sessions

Thursday 15 August – Plenary session 1 – 14.30-16.30

“An enduring struggle? Middle East and North Africa crisis and challenges to the West”

Gilles Kepel, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland; PSL Paris Sciences et Lettres-École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France

This session aims to give an overview of the complex geopolitical situation and the challenges facing the Middle East Mediterranean region, focusing more particularly on the Levant. Restoring the Levant has become a high-stakes necessity. Further, with the opposing forces exhausted by the ravages of war, the Levant can regain its role as linchpin between Europe and the Middle East, which is key to the survival of both sides. A successful outcome would help avert a cultural showdown, which can only perpetuate the turmoil of the past decades.

Monday 19 August – Plenary session 2 – 9.00-11.00

“North Africa between Algerian uprising and Libyan chaos”

Gilles Kepel, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland ; PSL Paris Sciences et Lettres-École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France

Hela Ouardi, Université de Tunis, Tunisia

The so-called Arab Spring had different outcomes in the different countries of the Middle East Mediterranean region. Today, North Africa is witnessing the depletion of the political systems of some of the countries affected by the 2011 uprisings and the emergence of new ones. Algeria, where the protests are ongoing, is still waiting for the election of a new president. Libya faces perpetual chaos in the wake of an eight-year-long war.

Workshops

Friday 16 August – Workshop 1

“Mapping the MENA crises”

Fabrice Balanche, Université de Lyon, France

This workshop aims to introduce participants to the geography of the Middle East Mediterranean region conflicts. How do we represent them? The very process of identifying the areas of contention, according to variable criteria (ethnicity, religious denomination, poverty level, age groups, income, etc.) can be either relevant or biased factors. It very often precludes our understanding of the issues we debate. The workshop deals with the mapping process: we shall build maps together under the guidance of one of the world's best experts in Middle East Mediterranean geography and geopolitics.

Saturday 17 August – Workshop 2

“Is democracy an option for Arab countries?”

Hela Ouardi, Université de Tunis, Tunisia

The quest for, and the spread of, democratic institutions in the Middle East Mediterranean region raise new questions and major challenges for the future of democracy, indeed for a democracy that works and is sustainable. What fundamental democratic principles do citizens aspire to in countries where political reforms are being called for? Given the uncertainties of transitions to new political configurations, what are the possible outcomes? Is the Arab world ready for democracy? Is Islam compatible with democracy, or are such expectations doomed to fail? Is democracy sustainable only in countries with a certain level of economic development or is it used as a flywheel for fast economic growth in the poorest countries? These are the hard questions and challenges to be discussed with the participants in the workshop.

Monday 19 August – Workshop 3

“Political geography and sociology of the Persian Gulf, 1971-2019”

Alexandre Kazerooni, ENS - Chaire Moyen-Orient Méditerranée, Paris, France

Since 1971, the economic, political and cultural centre of gravity of the contemporary Muslim world has shifted from the Eastern Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf. While seeking to describe and analyse this process, the workshop aims to show how, despite their asserted differences and the conflicts that keep them apart, the States on the edges of the Persian Gulf have come to share one political-economic regime of cultural superabundance, and so replace the old powers in the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt and Turkey, in the process of shaping the Muslim world of today.

Tuesday 20 August – Workshop 4

“Is oil still the name of the game in the MENA region at large, from the Gulf to North Africa?”

Ishac Diwan, PSL Paris Sciences et Lettres-École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France

EI Mouhoub Mouhoud, Université Paris Dauphine, France

After more than a decade of high prices, oil prices collapsed in 2014, and they are expected to remain low in the medium term. Economic adjustment has proved difficult everywhere, and many countries have nearly no fiscal space left. This has also made fragile political situations worse, both in countries that have resisted change, and in countries in transition to democracy. In all oil producing countries, the challenge of economic diversification is now firmly on the table, but here too, political economy challenges loom large. The session will discuss how the dynamics of oil prices is affecting all countries of the region, but with special focus on Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Lebanon.

Wednesday 21 August – Workshop 5

“Trans-Mediterranean migrations: what is at stake for Europe and MENA?”

Ishac Diwan, PSL Paris Sciences et Lettres-École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France

EI Mouhoub Mouhoud, Université Paris Dauphine, France

The desire to migrate is driven by the poor economic and political situation in the MENA countries. In turn, brain-drain taxes growth and social progress in these countries. Because of tight entry restrictions in Europe, migrant flows are becoming more irregular and illegal, and are moving into more diversified locations, especially for those with higher education. These restrictions are however placed for the wrong reasons, with poor economic rationality, and driven instead by populist political responses to rising xenophobia, itself the result of a poorly managed system of political asylum in Europe. The session will discuss the entry points for better policies in sending and receiving countries that can improve the current situation.

Middle East Mediterranean region governance, administration, and policy making

Course Directors

Prof Jean-Patrick Villeneuve, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland

Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Switzerland

Plenary Sessions

Saturday 17 August – Plenary session 1 – 9.00-11.00

“Political system and foreign policy agenda of Switzerland”

Jean-Patrick Villeneuve, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland

Gabriele Derighetti, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Switzerland

Julian Höttinger, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Switzerland

This plenary will introduce participants to the Swiss Political System and the Swiss foreign policy agenda, programs and activities. The presentation is embedded in a general introduction to the specificities of the Swiss system; i.e. federalism, consensus democracy, semi-direct democracy, as well its foreign policy agenda. The objective of this presentation is to familiarise all Summit participants with Switzerland as a regional partner and educating them on some of the constructs underpinning Switzerland's national dynamism and international effectiveness. Participants will be familiarised with the structure and maintenance of 'Good Offices', one of the key contributions of the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs to the functioning of the international system.

Wednesday 21 August – Plenary session 2 – 9.00-11.00

“Sharing experiences, learning from mistakes and best practices”

Jean-Patrick Villeneuve, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland

Marlene Heide, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland

Mark Thatcher, Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali (LUISS) Guido Carli, Rome, Italy

This plenary will introduce participants to the field of policy studies from a comparative perspective. The first part of the session familiarises participants with diverse administrative traditions and political cultures, providing an overview of analytical patterns and practical dynamics. The second part of the session illustrates such differences through the example of cultural heritage preservation across different countries, asking how States deal with public goods and discussing the impact of these choices on issues of citizenship and national identity

Workshops

Friday 16 August – Workshop 1

“Strengthening compliance with democratic norms”

Federica De Rossa, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland

Jean-Jacques Hible, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Paris, France

Juanita Olaya, UNCAC Coalition, Berlin, Germany

This workshop addresses a variety of democratic standards, notably those around the logics of better governance, transparency and anti-corruption. International standards will be presented to allow for a discussion on their impact on public organizations and policies in general.

Saturday 17 August – Workshop 2

“Information society and government”

Tomasz Janowski, Gdańsk University of Technology, Gdańsk, Poland; Danube University Krems, Krems, Austria

Costa Vayenas, Pro Civis, Zurich, Switzerland

This workshop proposes a general introduction to the rationales and cutting-edge practices in e-government and the use of ICTs on the part of civil-society. Specifically it will address topics such as blockchains and their impacts on e-government and the dangers and pitfalls of the continued development of 'better' and more extensive technological solutions at the State level.

Monday 19 August – Workshop 3

“The role of civil society in peacebuilding: the case of Syria”

Anna Antonios, Swisspeace, Bern, Switzerland

Abir Hajibrahim, Mobaderoon Network, Lebanon/Syria

Ibrahim Olabi, Syrian Legal Development Programme, London, UK

Luca Urech, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Switzerland

This workshop explores how civil society can influence peace processes and impact the course of events in the Syrian conflict. What is the role and ability of citizens to shape and guide the development of policies and institutions? What tools and mechanisms have Syrian civil society used throughout the course of the conflict to affect change and influence the situation?

Tuesday 20 August – Workshop 4

“The impact of the refugee crisis on political behavior and anti-immigrant attitudes”

Giovanni Pica, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland

Dimitrios Xefteris, University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus

The workshop will present and discuss causal evidence regarding the effect of the refugee crisis on natives political behaviour -- in particular, on the increase of the far right vote -- and attitudes towards asylum seekers, immigrants and Muslims.

Wednesday 21 August – Workshop 5

“Health issues in the Levant”

Emiliano Albanese, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland

Marta Fadda, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland

Rabih El Chamay, Saint Joseph University Beirut, Lebanon

This workshop is interactive and aims to formulate some pending, relevant questions on the implications of the social determinants of health in the region. The participants will be asked to nurture this debate and to highly interact with each other.

Middle East Mediterranean region: cultural narratives

Course Directors

Dr Federica Frediani, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland

Prof Riccardo Bocco, Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland

Prof Silvia Naef, Université de Genève, Switzerland

Plenary Sessions

Friday 16 August – Plenary session 1 – 9.00-11.00

“Cultural narratives of the Middle East Mediterranean region”

Federica Frediani, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland

Riccardo Bocco, Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland

Silvia Naef, Université de Genève, Switzerland

This plenary session, which primarily involves Riccardo Bocco, Silvia Naef and Federica Frediani in conversation, introduces and provides the framework for the whole of Stream C. It explores the role of narratives in capturing reality in the Middle East Mediterranean region as well as the emergence of new expressions in the figurative arts, cinema, and literature, and analyses the increased attention paid to exhibitions and heritage conservation, and their growing impact in this regional context. It also focuses on the paradigm of “mobilities” applied to people, the arts, and ideas. The session will be introduced by Federica Frediani, who will define the role of narratives and the ‘mobilities’ paradigm. Silvia Naef will then introduce how the visual arts developed in the region and how mobility (of artists, of works, of themes and trends) plays a fundamental role in this field.

Tuesday 20 August – Plenary session 2 – 9.00-11.00

“Mobilities in the Middle East Mediterranean region”

Riccardo Bocco, Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland

Caroline Abu Sa'Da, SOS Méditerranée Suisse, Geneva, Switzerland

Adham Darawsha, Assessor for Cultures and Democratic Participation of the Municipality of Palermo, Italy

Francesca Piana, Université de Genève, Switzerland

Migrants, asylum-seekers and different forms of mobilities are the rule rather than the exception in the Mare Nostrum area. After an introduction on forced displacements during the 20th century, the session will focus on the events of the past ten years, to shed light on the renewed dramas experienced by migrants trying to reach ‘Fortress Europe’ and the work of civil society organizations helping to save lives and welcome the migrants in their new host countries. How is it that societies of the Northern shores of the Mediterranean have deleted their own memories of migration? Can we rethink an inter-Mediterranean ‘social pact’? Why is it that migrants are too often perceived as a security threat? Is there a right to mobility?

Workshops

Friday 16 August – Workshop 1

“Preservation of heritage and memory in the MEM region: institutional approaches, virtual contributions”

Silvia Naef, Université de Genève, Switzerland

Marc-André Haldimann, Universität Bern, Switzerland

Yves Ubelmann, ICONEM, Paris, France

Heritage survives in precarious conditions in the MEM region, having been in parts damaged by wars, political troubles, looting or neglect. This has serious consequences for collective memories and nation-building. Starting from two concrete initiatives – the preservation in Geneva of the Gaza archaeological collection, and the Iconem project, which aims at virtually reconstructing sites and cities that lie in ruins – this workshop will discuss ways of preserving or rebuilding a rich heritage threatened by extinction.

Saturday 17 August – Workshop 2

“Narratives of human rights and political change in North Africa and the Near East”

Riccardo Bocco, Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland

Souhaïl Belhadj, Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland

Ibrahim Said, Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland

Deeply affected by the failure of the ‘Arab Springs’ to guarantee human dignity, by ongoing armed conflicts and civil wars, and worsening economic conditions, the MENA societies are facing multiple challenges. One such challenge is the ‘migration option’ chosen by a growing number of people who cannot see a future in their own country, and therefore look at Europe as a mythical El Dorado. The restoration of authoritarian, military, and/or populist regimes, and their contempt for international law and human rights, adds to the reasons for leaving, if possible... This session will focus on case-studies from the Near East and North Africa while exploring official and local narratives.

Monday 19 August – Workshop 3

“Maison de l’Image: a successful project”

Nadia Redissi, Maison de l’Image, Tunis, Tunisia

Fyras Mawazini, Drosos Foundation, Zurich, Switzerland

This workshop aims to present the Vision Solidaire project, developed by La Maison de l’Image de Tunis and supported by the Drosos Foundation, where young people, aged between 18 and 28 years, from poor neighbourhoods of “Greater Tunis”, are trained in the audio-visual professions. Regarding professional integration, it is worth mentioning that a guidebook is being prepared that theorises this approach and process, with the aim to provide guidance for other organisations. This manual, which explains and highlights the value of training, will be a significant support for the workshop.

Tuesday 20 August – Workshop 4

“Exhibiting art from and in the MEM region”

Saleh Barakat, Gallery Agial / Saleh Barakat, Beirut, Lebanon

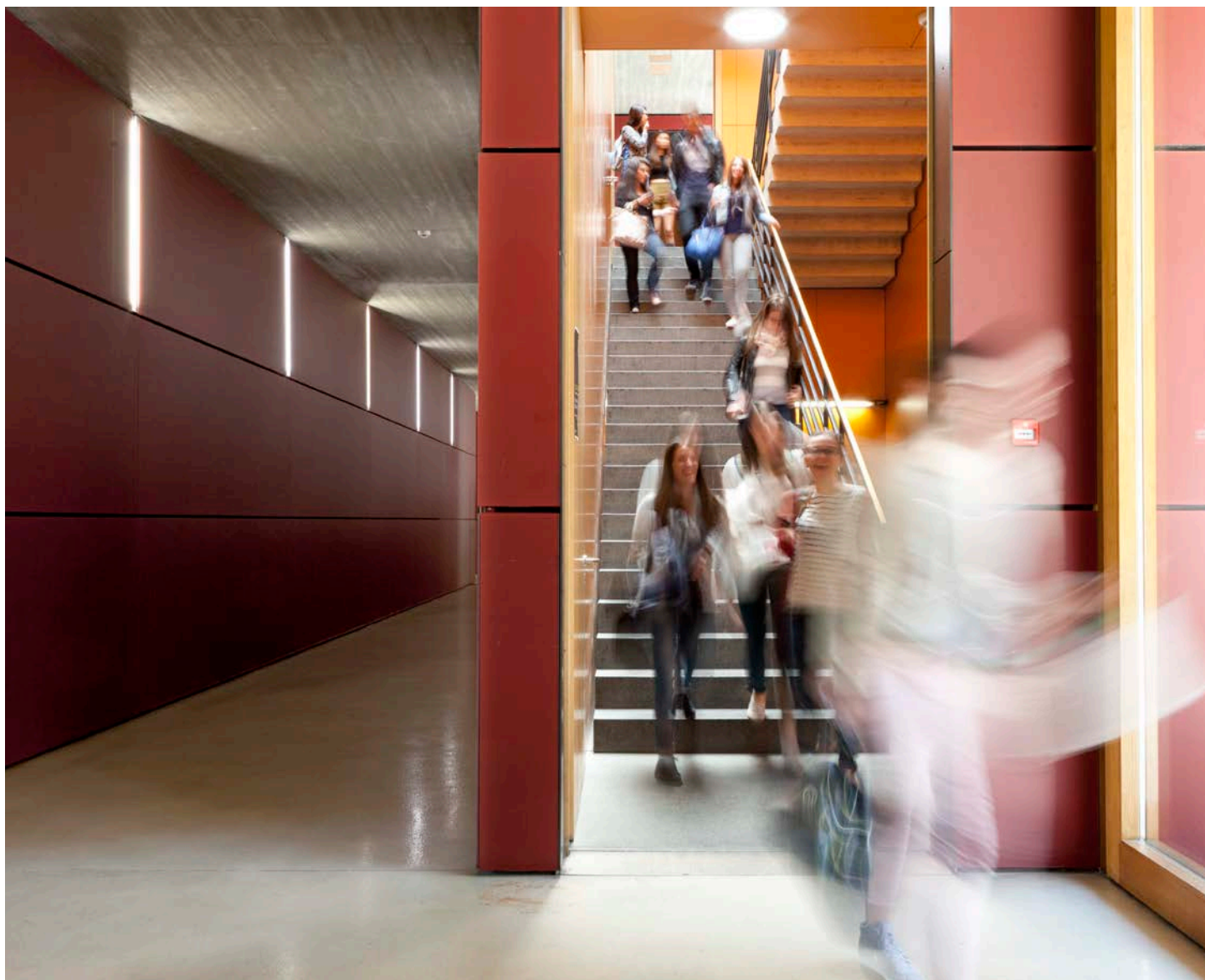
Eline van der Vlist, Darat al-Funun Amman, Jordan

The last two decades have witnessed an incredible boom in museum building, in the art market, and an increasing number of exhibitions in the MEM region, from the Gulf to the Maghreb. On this panel, two of the region’s leading players will speak about how they started to work in the field of modern and contemporary Arab art, how they contributed to the development of the regional art scene, and the impact of recent changes on these contexts and on existing initiatives.

"Identities, memories, migrations, and diaspora"

Samir, Iraqi-Swiss Film Director, Zurich, Switzerland

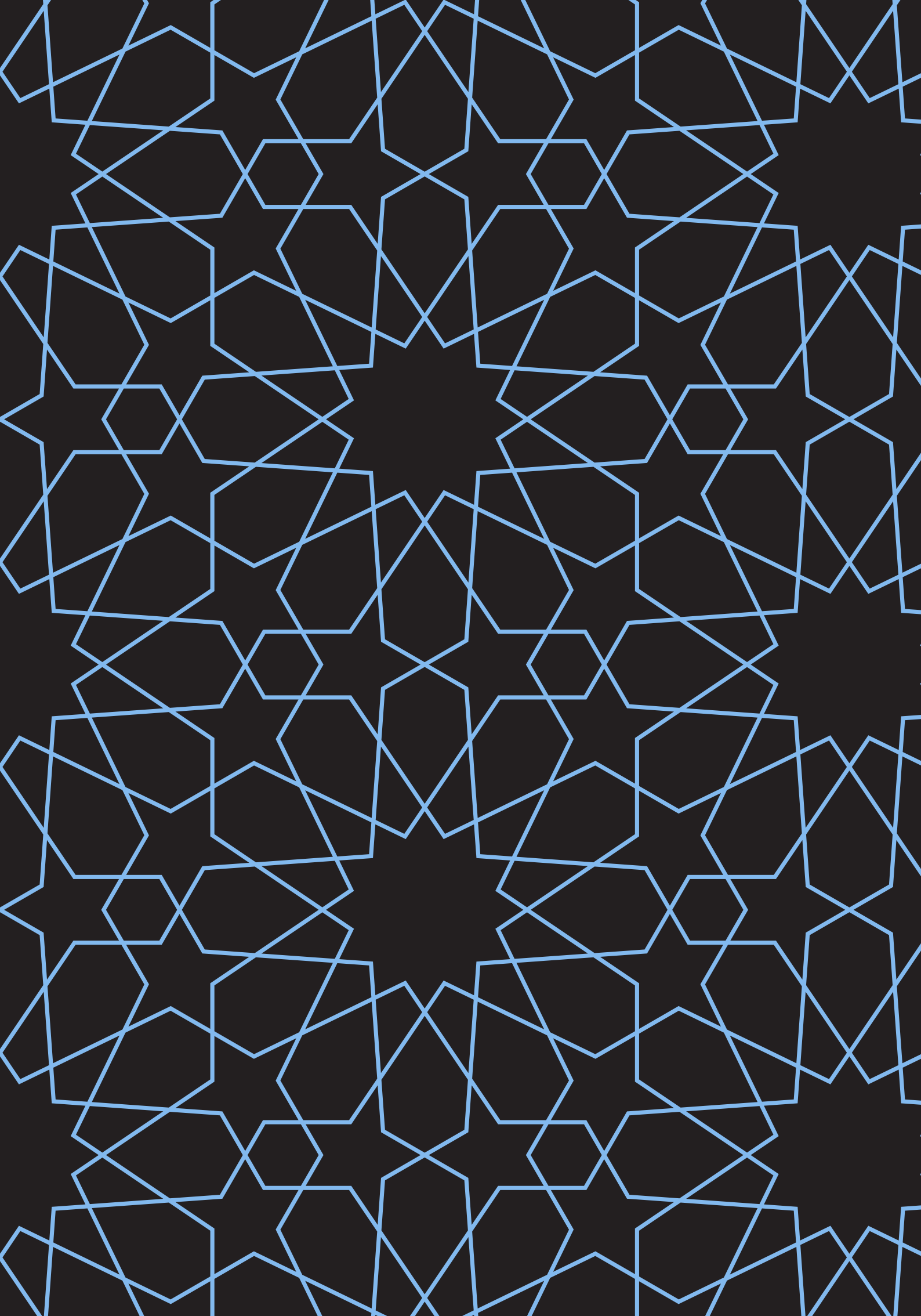
Migration is an age-old, enduring phenomenon in the MEM region, due to economic hardships, political insecurity or war situations. MEM-diasporas are found all over the world, often interacting with their families back home. Samir, himself a diaspora artist, has dealt with this situation in *Iraqi Odyssey* (2014), a docufilm that retraces the life stories of his family members, and in his latest fiction film *Baghdad in My Shadow* (2019). Samir will share his experience of conveying the diasporic experience to larger audiences through the medium of cinema.











Middle
East
Mediterranean
MEM
Summer
Summit

2019