

Voices, Communities, and Digital Archives: Producing Knowledge in and of the Diasporic Present

January 27th-29th 2025

Forum Transregionale Studien

Wallotstr 14, 14193 Berlin

A workshop organized in the framework of the ERC-project SYRASP (The Prison Narratives of Assad's Syria: Voices, Texts, Publics), and Europe in the Middle East – The Middle East in Europe (EUME), in cooperation with the Lab for the Study of Violence, UMAM Documentation & Research, and the Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM)

The workshop takes place in a hybrid format if not mentioned otherwise.

Monday, January 27th

13:00-13:15: Welcoming remarks and introductions

Georges Khalil, director of Forum Transregionale Studien

Anne-Marie McManus, PI of SYRASP (The Prison Narratives of Assad's Syria: Voices, Texts, Publics)

13:15-14:45: "Whose Knowledge? Infrastructures and Methods for Archives Today"

Majd al-Shihabi (University of Toronto): "Pathways Towards Digital Sovereignty"

Anne-Marie McManus (SYRASP / Forum): "On Data Ontologies as Common Sense"

Zoya Masoud (BEYONDREST / Forum): "Host(ag)ed by the Institution: Europe-based Archives of Rebuilding Syria after the Fall of Assad Regime"

Mina Ibrahim (Marburg University / Shubra Archive): "Shubra's Archive: Egypt's First Community Neighborhood-Based Archive"

Moderator: **Diana Abbani** (MECAM / Forum)

14:45-15:15: Coffee break

15:15-16:45: "Community Knowledge and Engagement in the Building of a Data Platform"

In cooperation with

The Lab for the Study of Violence

Members of the Lab for the Study of Violence: **Fadi Adleh, Jaber Baker, Annsar Shahhoud, Hanane Yazigi, Marianna al-Tabaa, Taha al-Mohammad**

Moderator: **Anne-Marie McManus** (SYRASP / Forum)

17:00-18:30: “Archives In Practice: Lives and Afterlives of Documentation”

Sune Haugbolle (Roskilde University): “Collecting the Transnational Archive of Palestine Solidarity”

Stella Peisch (UMAM D&R): “UMAM D&R and the MENA Prison Forum: Overview and Ways Forward in Syria”

Amer Matar, Dagmar Hovestädt (both ISIS Prisons Museum, IPM): “Documenting Crimes for 3D-Memory Discourses. The ISIS Prisons Museum”

Moderator: **Yvonne Albers** (EUME / FU Berlin)

19:00: Dinner

Tuesday, January 28th

11:00-12:30: Technical Session 1 (on-site only)

Ahmad Mekkawi (Spirula): “The Technical Infrastructure of the Mosaic Archive”

Moderator: **Ahmad Gharbeia** (Forum / y.a.d.e.r)

12:30-13:30: Lunch

13:30-15:00: “Archival Publics and the Curation of Memory”

Nermin Elsherif (Utrecht University): “The Intimate Publics of Egypt’s “Good Old Days”: Nostalgia, Conspiracy theories and Populist Grievances on Post-revolutionary Facebook”

Diana Abbani (MECAM / Forum): “Songs of Satire: Navigating Memory and Resistance in Mandate Bilad al-Sham”

Alia Mossallam (EUME / Helmholtz Zentrum für Kulturtechnik), **Michael Willenbücher** (Humboldt University): “When the Subaltern is Forced to Speak: a Critical Archeology of Colonial Knowledge Production in the North African Lautarchiv Recordings”

Moderator: **Zoya Masoud** (BEYONDREST / Forum)

15:15-16:30: Roundtable: “Funders, Communication, and Infrastructures” (on-site only)

Participants: **Fadi Adleh** (Lab), **Nermin ElSherif** (Utrecht University), **Ahmad Gharbeia** (Forum / y.a.d.e.r), **Nisrin Habib** (Women Now for Development)

Moderator: **Enrico De Angelis** (UntoldStories / UntoldMag)

Wednesday, January 29th

13:00-14:30: Technical Session 2 (on-site only)

Ahmad Gharbeia (Forum / y.a.d.e.r): “Between Known Knowns and Unknown Unknowns”

Moderator: **Anne-Marie McManus** (SYRASP / Forum)

14:30-14:45: Coffee break

14:45-16:15: “Knowledge Production and Justice After 2011 – After 2024”

Yasmine Kherfi (LSE): “Revolutionary Entanglements and Epistemic Struggles: Experiences of SWANA Knowledge Production and Cultural Labor from Berlin”

Nisrin Habib (Women Now for Development): “Feminist Knowledge Production in Conflict and Post-Conflict Times”

Mina Ibrahim (Marburg University / Shubra): “Family Archives, Artistic Initiatives, and Syrian (Diasporic) Justice”

Moderator: **Veronica Ferreri** (KWI Essen / Ca’Foscari University)

17:00-18:30: EUME Berliner Seminar, “Beginnings: Documentation, Justice, and History for Syrians After Assad’s Prison Regime”

Panelists: **Mohammad Al Attar** (Berlin), **Annsar Shahhoud** (Trinity College / Lab), **Hadi al-Khatib** (Mnemonic)

Moderators: **Clara Abai** (SYRASP / Forum / FU Berlin) and **Anne-Marie McManus** (SYRASP / Forum)