

Call for applications for a
**“Workshop on Communication Studies in Interregional Perspectives:
Developments and Challenges in Research and Teaching”**

for Arab Communication Studies scholars

June, 29 – July, 7, 2013 in Berlin/Germany

Communication Studies is a promising academic field due to its strong interdisciplinary character and its social relevance. Globalization and digitalization as well as the current hype on social media and transformations of journalism bring about new challenges for research and teaching. In many parts of the world, scholars find different ways to deal with those challenges. On the international level, especially U.S. American approaches and research is visible. However, this often overshadows the dynamic development of our field in regional and local contexts. Experiences in Germany are as interesting and valuable as the experiences in various Arab countries and need to be reflected on.

Moreover, Communication Studies – which is still a rather young discipline – needs to develop strategies to establish itself sustainably in its respective local context. In particular, during times of structural change in current transforming societies such as Egypt and Tunisia, it is important to sustain the relevance of Communication Studies in teaching and research.

Therefore, we invite mainly senior Arab scholars on post-doctoral level as well as emerging scholars on the doctoral level to take part in a workshop in Berlin/Germany that addresses specific issues regarding the future of Communication Studies.

The workshop

The workshop is meant to enhance the mutual understanding of how Communication Studies can be further developed by reflecting on each others' experiences and concepts. During 7 days, it will bring together 24 scholars from the major communication studies institutes in Egypt, Tunisia and selected other Arab countries to discuss with colleagues from the Institute of Communication and Media Studies at Freie University Berlin and other German scholars.

The workshop will tackle the following subjects in lectures, discussions and visits:

- Current challenges for Communication Studies in interregional comparison
- Teaching Communication Studies: Approaches and methods
- Empirical research in the digital age: Methods, data mining and data securing
- Good governance in academia: Dealing with administration and economization
- Freedom and ethics in communication research
- Strengthening emerging scholars: Strategies and institutions

Moreover, participants will visit German media institutions and get to know the political and media capital Berlin.

Please note that the workshop language will be English.

Your partner: FU Berlin

The Institute of Media and Communication Studies at Freie University Berlin is one of the most relevant institutes in Germany, featuring 9 divisions with subjects ranging from international communication to journalism research, organizational communication, political communication, media economics, media history and method innovation. It has an outstanding reputation regarding its research projects. Thus, the workshop can also be a starting point for issue-based bi- or multilateral co-operations in the future.

Date, Accommodation, Travel

The workshop will take place from June 29, 2013 (Saturday, arrival) to July 7, 2013 (Sunday, departure) on the campus of FU Berlin. High-quality accommodation will be provided by the organizers with halal food available. Participants will also receive a lump sum of 545 Euro to cover their travel costs (visa, flight, health insurance) individually. Visa procedures need to be coordinated with the German embassies.

Application and Selection process

Applicants should send one pdf-file containing (in English)

- 1) a CV
- 2) a statement about the title and current position in the university with a stamp of the dean or head of the institute
- 3) a letter of motivation addressing the particular interest for taking part in the workshop (1-2 pages)

to the following address: CommWorkshop@zedat.fu-berlin.de. **The deadline is February 20, 2013.**

Participants will be selected by a committee in Berlin in close collaboration with the nominating institutes and informed until March 15, 2013. FU Berlin will provide a letter of invitation to start the Visa process.

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