

Call for Visiting Fellowship Applications

The Dahrendorf research projects and Symposia, a joint initiative by the Hertie School of Governance, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and Stiftung Mercator, are an on-going project that brings together leading academics from Germany, the UK and beyond to discuss global issues from an inter-disciplinary and European perspective. The results are presented to a broader audience in bi-annual symposia and to an expert audience in a variety of additional events (workshops, lectures and seminars).

The next Dahrendorf Symposium will be held in Berlin from May 25-27, 2016 and focuses on “Changing the European debate: Europe and the World”. Five working groups are encouraged to reflect, discuss and critically question the relations between Europe and the core regions of the world economy (North America and China) and its ‘near abroad’ regions (Russia and Ukraine, Turkey and the MENA region). The working group which addresses the relationship between Europe and its Southern Neighborhood, the MENA region, is based at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin and will be chaired by Cilja Harders (Free University Berlin) and Claus Offe (Hertie School).

The Euro-Mediterranean space has been undergoing rapid, complex and contentious processes of change the consequences of which are not yet fully known. Political transformations on the Southern and Eastern shores of the Mediterranean led to political pluralization and polarization as well as to violent conflict. While these changes have brought about greater freedom from some, the growing influence of non-state actors, the ongoing involvement of external actors and the erosion of state structures in the MENA region have exacerbated intra- and inter-regional security problems.

The European Union is evidently ill-equipped to cope with both the humanitarian and the security dimensions of these regional transformations and conflicts. On the institutional level, the Euro-Mediterranean relations suffer from overtly complex organizational structures and weak performances. The political reactions to the uprisings of 2011 have been limited both in scope and depth. They reflect rather pluri- and bilateral approaches (EU and individual ENP/Barcelona states) than a coherent European approach to the region. Moreover, the EU and its member states have great difficulties to exert their political leverage in the context of the presence of other external actors such as the US and GCC member states.

European countries themselves, in turn, are caught in their own protracted economic, political

and social crises with lasting impacts on their welfare states. European societies are witnessing a rise in racist and xenophobic attitudes – including Islamophobia – that might translate into stricter anti-migration policies. These dynamics are further intensified by an influx of refugees from Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Libya, Iraq, Somalia and South Sudan – all countries which suffer from conditions of precarious statehood. At the same time, political violence by Islamists in Europe is fueling the anxieties and prejudices of Europeans.

Probably more than ever, the social, political and economic dynamics on both shores of the Mediterranean seem to be linked. The precise nature and effects of these links are, however, far from clear. They require more careful and critical analyses. How was the political economy of the MENA region and Europe re-structured during recent years and have these transformation affected the inter-regional relations?

The Dahrendorf Working Group EUROPE AND THE MENA REGION invites junior and senior scholar to provide critical analyses, explanations, policy options and prognostic assessments of these transformations and related challenges; it also invites practitioners and policy experts to develop and evaluate remedial strategies concerning, but not limited to, some of the following aspects:

- Current European and Arab approaches to intra- and inter-state conflicts and security issues;
- Migration related topics including but not limited to (anti-) migration policies, political economy of migration and the rise of Islamophobia and racism;
- The modes and forms of the Euro-Med cooperation and the role of private-sector, non-state, and municipal/local-government actors in the context of Euro-Med relations
- Critical assessments of Europe’s classical “democracy-versus-stability” dilemma in light of the Arab uprisings;
- Cooperation amongst increasingly transnational grassroots activists and social movements as a counterforce to regime violence and instability;
- Rival strategies of European and non-European external actors (US, GCC member states, others) in the MENA region;
- Human capital assistance, training missions, circular migration as European policy options.

Participation in the Dahrendorf Working Group EUROPE AND THE MENA REGION as a Visiting Fellow may take place between July 2015 and the end of 2016 and includes:

1. Attendance and organisation of one of four Dahrendorf Workshops in Berlin or other capitals in the regions (workshops, seminars and lectures) and/or the Dahrendorf

Symposium in Berlin in May 2016

2. Writing and presentation of an original research or policy paper at this event
3. Author or co-authoring either a research paper (about 15 pages), blog contribution (about 1 page) or policy paper (about 2 pages)
4. Liaising with other working group members on a regular basis via email or skype.

Travel costs to the workshops and other related expenses will be covered up to 3500 Euros.

To apply for a “Visiting Fellowship” in the Dahrendorf Working Group EUROPE AND THE MENA region please send your CV, list of publications and a preliminary abstract of the proposed paper by April 30, 2015 to Nikolas Scherer (scherer@hertie-school.org).

