

Cairo Talks on Transformation and Change – CTTC

The Cairo Talks on Transformation and Change (CTTC) aim to provide a platform to analyse the ongoing changes and assess the perspectives of political transition in Egypt. Each talk will be animated by contributions from two scholars and will leave sufficient time for debate. CTTC are jointly organised by the Cairo Offices of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Freie Universität Berlin, and the German Orient-Institut Beirut.

In the 10th CTTC talk Prof. Dr. Kai Hafez (Universität Erfurt) will discuss with Prof. Dr. Rasha Abdullah (American University Cairo) on:

From "liberal autocracy" to "illiberal democracy"? Why Egypt needs a reform of the media

Although criticized for its alleged Islamist hegemony, the Egyptian Constitution guarantees individual human rights and establishes a republican democracy. But specific constitutional regulations on media are vague and open to manipulation by the state. Like all other institutions, the media institution has a fierce battle to fight for its transition to democracy. How much freedom is Egypt's media currently enjoying under Morsi? What are the short term and long term solutions that need to be implemented to have a robust media system in Egypt?

This CTTC session will focus on necessary changes in the course of democratic consolidation such as the reform of media laws, the licencing system, and the system of journalistic self-regulation and trade unions. Moreover, the future of state TV and radio is an open question, and while other young democracies have decided for radical privatization the idea of a public but independent broadcasting system may have many advantages.

Prof. Dr. Kai Hafez is the chair for International and Comparative Communication Studies at the University of Erfurt. Prior to his current position, he was a Visiting Fellow at AUC and a Guest Professor at the Institute of Sociology at University Bern in Switzerland. His areas of expertise include media coverage, cross-cultural media ethics, and mass media and political transformation in the Arab World.

Prof. Dr. Rasha Abdullah is an Associate Professor and chair of Journalism and Mass Communication at AUC in Cairo. In 2011 she was awarded with the AUC Excellence in Research and Creative Endeavours. She is specialized in mass media, new media, development of communication and education through entertainment, freedom of expression, as well as music and music videos as communication media.



Venue: DAAD premises, 11 Saleh Ayoub, Zamalek, Cairo

Wednesday, 8 May 2013, 7 pm

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