

Cairo Talks on Transformation and Change – CTTC

Since popular protest has ousted former President Hosni Mubarak from his office on February 11, Egypt is witnessing a profound transformation process that affects all aspects of society. 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 month renowned scholars from Egypt and Germany will address key topics of this transition period. 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 Institute Beirut. CTTC are open to students, researchers, activists and the wider public. Light refreshments will be served after the talks to continue the debate in a more convivial setting.

In the third CTTC talk Dr. Manar el-Shorbagy, Associate Professor at the American University in Cairo, will speak about the current debate on Egypt's next parliamentary and presidential elections. Dr. Florian Kohstall, Head of Freie Universität Berlin Cairo Office will analyze the present challenges to electoral rule in the light of past experiences.

„Towards parliamentary elections: The new-old rules of the game“

The parliamentary elections scheduled for next September may be a litmus test for Egypt's transition process. New political parties covering the whole ideological spectrum have yet been created. The March constitutional referendum was proof of an important increase in voter turn-out. Still, the role of the newly elected Parliament has yet to be defined and uncertainty prevails over the rules and procedures of the next “run to the ballot box”. How do political parties and candidates prepare for their campaign? What is really at stake for the voters? Will Egypt's first election after Mubarak provide equal opportunities for all competitors?

Dr. Manar el-Shorbagy is Associate Professor and was Academic Director of Prince Al-Waleed Bin Talal Bin al-Saud Center for American Studies and Research.

Dr. Florian Kohstall is head of Freie Universität Berlin Cairo Office and a former Research Fellow at CEDEJ. He taught political science at IEP Aix-en-Provence.

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

Tuesday, 14 June 2011, 7 pm

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