

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 forth CTTC talk Professor Hania Sholkamy (The American University in Cairo) will address the role of women in politics during and after the revolution. Professor Cilja Harders (Freie Universität Berlin) will present the challenges to gender politics in Egypt and Germany.

„ Egyptian Women during the Revolution: Where are they now? “

The images from Tahrir square defined international and local perceptions of the revolution. They were images of jovial, tenacious, carefree solidarity against autocracy. Hundreds if not thousands of women were involved in organizing supplies, medications, banners, marches, and international contacts. There were no distinctions between women who were veiled, face-veiled, non-veiled, women alone, with children, very young and elderly. Such moments of solidarity, equality, of hope and popular mobilizations are ‘liminal’ moments in which hierarchies and structures of distinction are temporarily suspended. But soon after the presidential exit and the entrance of an interim leadership, the square was transformed into a space of contention. The liminal moment came to an end. The 4th CTTC addresses the articulation of gender and national politics by tracing this troubled relationship. What can be the role of women in the new Egypt? Both professors will shed some light on their viewpoint, with Hania Sholkamy suggesting a framework in which women’s rights to freedom, equality and citizenship can inspire the transformation towards a liberated Egypt and Cilja Harders also drawing on German and international perspectives.

Prof. Dr. Cilja Harders holds the Chair of Middle Eastern Politics at Freie Universität Berlin and is Director of the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Politics.

Prof. Dr. Hania Sholkamy is Associate Research Professor at the Social Research Center of the American University in Cairo and affiliated with the Institute for Gender and Women Studies.

**Venue: DAAD premises, 11 Saleh Ayoub, Zamalek, Cairo.
Wednesday, 14 September 2011, 7 pm**



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