

Dialogues on Social Innovation

February 23, 2016, 7:00 pm

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

Cross Cultural Perceptions on scientific objects: Considering the examples of “water” and “human body”

Internationalization of sciences doesn't automatically lead to a uniformity of academic thinking – it reveals, on the contrary, cultural differences in the perception of scientific issues and helps to understand the variety of conceptions of the world. For example: Water as an object of scientific discourse implies economic, cultural, social and epistemological aspects. Consequently, the knowledge of water is embedded in local, regional and global contexts. Different cultural perspectives on the scientific object „water“ reveal broader concepts of ecology, that cross the boundaries of scientific knowledge. Dr. Markus Steinmayr will shed some light on these aspects based on his experience with the DAAD-Program „University Dialogue with the Islamic world“. On another front, Prof. Dr. Abdel Meguid Kassem will highlight the different cultural perspectives with regards to the human body. Although human beings are anatomically and physiologically similar, yet their perception of different parts of the body may differ with time and throughout history, across different cultures and according to socioeconomic status. The same also applies to health, including different indicators and parameters of health and disease. These different perceptions may reflect themselves in behavior and outfit. The understanding of these aspects is a great advantage in the practice of medicine, which will be discussed during the talk.

Dr. Markus Steinmayr is a research staff member at the Centre for Higher Education Development and Quality Enhancement (CHEDQE) and the faculty of humanities at Duisburg Essen University. He is a senior expert in higher education development and policy. Coming from the humanities by training, he has been involved in various international projects. As a Head of International Affairs at CHEDQE he is responsible for the internationalization of higher education management.

Prof. Dr. Abdel Meguid Kassem is the Chief of the Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Department, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University and a member of the Medical Research Council in the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology. He is the Secretary General of the Arab African Economic Council and the Editor in Chief of the Arab Journal of Gastroenterology. He received several awards, such as the Award for outstanding achievements in the German-Egyptian scientific cooperation, and was bestowed the German Order of Merit in 2015.

The Dialogue on Social Innovation is jointly organized by the Cairo offices of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Freie Universität Berlin, and the Orient-Institut Beirut (OIB).