



COSIMENA

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

**PROGRAMME**

# **OIB-COSIMENA Research Colloquium II on Knowledge Transfers**

“The Contribution of ‘Syrians’ to the Early Stages of the Egyptian  
“Nahḍa” in the Reign of Muḥammad ‘Alī”

**Wednesday, 27th November 2024**



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## Wednesday, 27th November 2024

5.30–6.00 p.m.  
[Entrance]

### Registration

6.00–6.15 p.m.  
[„Kino“]

### Greeting Words

**Dr Carsten-Michael Walbiner** (*Director, DAAD Regional Office Cairo*)

**Lorena Mohr** (*Head of Science & Protocol, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to Egypt*)

6.15–7.00 p.m.

### PRESENTATION

**“The Contribution of ‘Syrians’ to the Early Stages of the Egyptian “Nahḍa” in the Reign of Muḥammad ‘Alī”**

INPUT

**Dr Carsten Walbiner** (*DAAD Regional Office Cairo*)

7.00–7.30 p.m.

### Q & A Session

MODERATION

**Dr Yasmin Amin** (*Orient-Institut Beirut*)

7.30–8.30 p.m.

### JOINT NETWORKING RECEPTION

## Concept Note & Biography of the Speaker

### Concept Note

"The contribution of 'Syrians' to the early stages of the Egyptian "Nahḍa" in the reign of Muḥammad 'Alī"

Muḥammad 'Alī (r. 1805-1848) is generally regarded as the father of modern Egypt, who, through the development of industry and infrastructure and the creation of a modern army, transformed the backward country into a powerful state capable of challenging even the sultans in Istanbul.

The present paper will take a closer look at these processes of change, knowledge transfer and creation in the fields of culture and education, developments that are often referred to as the "Nahda", the cultural, especially literary, reawakening of the Arab world during the 19th and early 20th centuries, which had its main stages in Egypt and Lebanon.

Muḥammad 'Alī's modernisation activities are often associated with the Europeans who served him as advisers, educators and managers. Rarely mentioned is the fact that there was also a south-south transfer of knowledge and expertise by mostly Christian Syrians who had immigrated to Egypt since the 18th century. Their role will be examined in more detail. Special attention will be given to "Don Raphael" (Rūfā'īl Zakhkhūr), an illustrious figure of Syrian origin who was an advisor to Napoleon in Egypt and the only Arab member of the famous Institut d'Égypte. Don Raphael was involved in many of Muḥammad 'Alī's educational and cultural projects, such as the medical school, the printing press and translation activities. Through the portrayal of him and a few others, it will be shown that

'Syrians' already contributed significantly to the early stages of the 'Nahḍa' in Egypt.

### Dr Carsten Michael-Walbiner

Director, DAAD Regional Office Cairo

Carsten Walbiner, director of the DAAD office in Cairo since December 2022, received his doctorate from the University of Leipzig in 1995. A specialist in the history of Arab Christianity in the Ottoman period, he is a member of the Research Centre for the Christian Orient at the Catholic University of Eichstätt and for the past decade has been section editor for Christian Arabic texts in the mega-project "Christian-Muslim relations: a bibliographic history" (CMR), implemented by the University of Birmingham and Brill Publishers. He has published on a wide range of topics, including church history, travel literature, book printing and manuscripts. He is currently preparing two catalogues of the Oriental manuscript collections of Andechs Abbey (Bavaria) and the Custody of the Holy Land in Jerusalem.

## Participants' Feedback

**Scan and share with us your feedback!**



## COSIMENA Network

**If you would like to join our COSIMENA network and receive news about upcoming events, please scan this QR-Code:**



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email us at: [cosimena@daadcairo.org](mailto:cosimena@daadcairo.org)

# OIB-COSIMENA Research Colloquium II

In the first joint colloquium in 2023-2024, the research focus was on new approaches to religious ethics, which was divided into three sections (gender, environmental and biomedical ethics). The 12 lectures were held by Egyptian and German scholars. Attention was paid to the plurality of perspectives: man - woman, Muslim - Christian, Sunni – Shiite, and Catholic - Orthodox - Evangelical. The contributions of the 12 scholars will be published in an anthology in autumn 2024. The success of the colloquium was confirmed by various indicators, in particular the great interest of the audience and the interest of the carefully selected speakers in taking part.

The OIB (Cairo Office) is organizing a new series in cooperation with the DAAD Regional Office Cairo in the period between June 2024 - April 2025 on a new topic, namely “Knowledge transfer, its history and its future in the age of digital humanities” or briefly “Knowledge transfer between history and innovation”.

In the new series, the topic will also be treated in an interdisciplinary manner from different perspectives, namely history, religious studies, sociology, modernity and computer science.

This time also, there will be three clusters of 4 lectures each. The first cluster addresses the question of what knowledge transfer is. The second focuses on the questions of how, why and by whom. The final cluster will address modern times. The following dates are planned for the events:

## 1st Cluster

- Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024
- Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024

## 2nd Cluster

- Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024
- Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024
- Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024
- Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## 3rd Cluster

- Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025
- Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025
- Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025
- Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2025

## Partners

### **Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD)**

It was in 1960 when the DAAD Regional Office was established on the basis of the German-Egyptian Cultural Agreement. Since then, the academic relations between Egypt and Germany have evolved steadily. The close cooperation has unwrapped new horizons for the scientific bonds of both countries to further develop and flourish. Thousands of Egyptian scholars have benefited ever since from these ties. <https://www.daad.eg/>

### **Clusters of Scientific Innovation in the Middle East and North Africa (COSIMENA)**

In the scope of COSIMENA the DAAD Office Cairo realises interdisciplinary events on current issues in science and innovation, such as workshops, conferences, roundtable discussions, the German Science Day, the COSIMENA Science Night and a Summer School. The several activities aim to bring together various stakeholders from science, business, government, and civil society. Especially scientists are promoted and supported through networking opportunities. [www.daad.eg/cosimena](http://www.daad.eg/cosimena)

### **Orient Institut Beirut**

The Orient-Institut Beirut (OIB) is an independent academic research institute, belonging to the Max Weber Foundation. It is mainly funded through the Federal Ministry of Education and Research in Germany. It conducts interdisciplinary research on the Arab world and the region of West Asia and North Africa at large. Its research community comprises long-term research associates from Germany and short-term visiting fellows from all over the world, who represent the major disciplines of the humanities and social sciences, including Islamic and Arab studies, history and anthropology of the Middle East, as well as sociology and political sciences. <https://orient-institut.org>

## IMPRINT

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