



COSIMENA

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

PROGRAMME

OIB-COSIMENA Research Colloquium III on History as Concepts, Conflicts & Solutions

“Fault Lines in the Conflicting Views of Early Islam”

Wednesday, 8th October 2025



ORIENT INSTITUT
BEIRUT
المعهد الألماني
للأبحاث الشرقية

Content

Programme	
Wednesday, 8 th October 2025	3
Concept Note & Biography of the Speaker	4
Partners	5
OIB-COSIMENA Research Colloquium III	6
IMPRINT	8

Wednesday, 8th October 2025

5:15– 6:00 p.m.

Registration

6:00–6:15 p.m.

Greeting Words

Fatma Soliman (*Deputy Director, DAAD Regional Office Cairo*)

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

6:15–7:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION

“Fault Lines in the Conflicting Views of Early Islam”

INPUT

Prof. Dr Andreas Görcke (*University of Edinburgh*)

7:00–7:30 p.m.

Q & A Session

MODERATION

Dr Yasmin Amin (*Orient-Institut Beirut*)

7:30–7:40 p.m.

WRAP-Up & Feedback

7:40 – 8:30 p.m.

JOINT NETWORKING RECEPTION

Concept Note & Biography of the Speaker

Concept Note

“Fault Lines in Conflicting Views of Early Islam”

The early Islamic period can be easily said to be the most contested period in Islamic history. Conflicting views of what happened during the first and a half centuries after the Prophet Muhammad’s mission have informed disputes over centuries and continue to do so until today: Did the Prophet Muhammad appoint a successor? What can we know about the character of the Prophet? How and when did the Qur’an emerge and reach its final form? Are the hadiths reliable records of what the Prophet Muhammad said and did? We will look into some of the conflicting answers to these and other questions and enquire where the different views come from and whether they can be reconciled.

Prof. Dr Andreas Görke

Senior Lecturer in Islamic Studies,
University of Edinburgh

Andreas Görke is Senior Lecturer in Islamic Studies at the University of Edinburgh. He received his PhD from the University of Hamburg in 2001 and his Habilitation from the University of Basel in 2010. He has published widely on the biography of the Prophet Muhammad, Hadith and Qur’anic exegesis.



Participants’ Feedback

Scan and share your feedback with us!



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

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

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>

OIB-COSIMENA Research Colloquium III

Following the success of the OIB-COSIMENA Colloquium I on New Islamic Ethics & the OIB-COSIMENA Colloquium II on Knowledge Transfer, the Orient Institut Beirut (Cairo Office) is organizing a new series in cooperation with the DAAD Regional Office Cairo in the period between September 2025 to December 2025 on History as Concepts, Conflicts and Solutions.

As is well known, History is the systematic study and documentation of the past that enables the study of continuity and change over time. Historians use all forms and types of evidence to examine, interpret, revisit, and reinterpret the past. These include not just written documents, but also oral communication and objects such as buildings, artifacts, photographs, and paintings to understand the past and also make sense of the present, thereby forming a bridge to other disciplines. The different interpretations of the past allow us to see the present differently and therefore imagine - and work towards - different futures.

Much has been said about history and how it is written. Winston Churchill is quoted as saying that "History will be kind to me, for I intend to write it." In his view, our understanding of history isn't complete or objective but tends to privilege the version of events of those in power. Though Napoleon Bonaparte was in power and was many times victorious; he is quoted as saying, "History is a set of lies, agreed upon." To counter the historical versions of the powerful and victorious, several concepts were developed to include the minorities, vanquished, and marginalized, like for example history from below or history from within. Feminists have also made it a point to argue that history was mainly written by men, which is apparent in the name his-story and have called for her-story as well. Yet most have agreed that ignoring history also affects the future, as the philosopher Santayana said, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Many problems we face in the present have their roots in the distant past and cannot be solved or eradicated unless we study the reasons for their existence. The German-American historian Hajo Holborn said that "History gives answers only to those who know how to ask questions." Therefore, if we want to understand our today, we have to search for answers in yesterday. This lecture series will present eight lectures on history from different perspectives, divided into three interdisciplinary clusters. The first cluster will discuss history as concepts, meaning history and historiography as such, as well as from below and from within, and the different ways to study history. The second cluster will discuss conflicts in history, as in conflicting narratives, narratives leading to conflict, deconstruction and reconstruction and different ways to deal with smoothing over such conflicts. The final cluster will provide the positive end, namely, solutions in various ways. Solutions to historical problems, solutions to conflicts in historical views, and solutions to mining history's secrets.

The following dates are planned for the events:

1st Cluster: History as Concepts

- Wednesday, 3rd September 2025
- Wednesday, 24th September 2025

2nd Cluster: History as Conflicts

- Wednesday, 8th October 2025
- Wednesday, 22nd October 2025
- Tuesday, 5th November 2025

3rd Cluster: History as Solutions

- Wednesday, 26th November 2025
- Wednesday, 3rd December 2025
- Wednesday, 17th December 2025

IMPRINT

Publisher

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst e.V.
Kennedyallee 50
D – 53175 Bonn



The DAAD is an association of German universities and their student bodies.
It is institutionally funded by the German Federal Foreign Office.

DAAD Außenstelle Kairo
DAAD Regional Office Cairo
11 El-Saleh Ayoub St.
off 26th July, Zamalek,
11211, Cairo

Project Coordination

Dr Yasmin Amin, OIB
Nermine Abdelaty, DAAD

09/2025

© DAAD

SUPPORTED BY



Federal Foreign Office