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2) The increasing significance of diasporic and/or globalised media in capturing the developing character of Arab communities abroad (e.g. cable TV and community based radio stations). As well Web-based social networks should be considered as a vivid extension of daily life leading to new possibilities of social and cultural organization for communities.

3) A transnational perspective considering diasporas in their social field stretched out between their place of residence, the countries of origin and the globally connected communities as the starting point of analysis. But the importance of the nation-state in people’s daily life should be recognised as well.

**Conference summary**

Numerous publications address the Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian migration flows since 1870 in which numerous groups have settled in various countries around the world. Traditionally this body of work discusses the matter primarily on the basis of diasporic flows alone. We think, however, that the modern globalized world and the long term social and cultural networks between the settled in various countries around the world. Traditionally this body of work discusses the matter primarily on the basis of diasporic flows alone. We think, however, that the modern globalized world and the long term social and cultural networks between the Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian global communities challenge this approach and, therefore, we propose to diversify the focus on three aspects:

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**The goals of the conference are**

1. To initiate an international long term research on Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian global communities aiming at reconsidering recent works pertaining to the same topic.

2. To discuss cultural and social theoretical frameworks for interpreting the “living-between-cultures” of migrant communities in times of globalization in light of the key aspects like diaspora, transnationalism, ethnicity and social network.

3. To talk about empirical findings e.g. everyday routines and their changes, historical developments, forms of organizations like NGOs and Web-based social networks, social and political impacts on societies.

**International Conference**

“Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian communities in the world: Theoretical frameworks and empirical studies”

From 19 - 22 May 2011

We would kindly invite you to the conference “Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian communities in the world” from 19 - 22 May 2011. Invited scholars will present their theoretical background and empirical findings. To allow fruitful discussion across institutional and scientific boundaries the conference is open to scholars from different disciplines in social sciences and the public at large.

Organizers:
Prof. Dr. Paul Tabar (Institute for Migration Studies at Lebanese American University, Department of Social Sciences, Beirut, Lebanon)
Prof. Dr. Anton Escher (Department of Geography, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Germany)

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**Preliminary programme**

**Thursday, 19 May 2011**
14:00-14:30 Arrival and Inscription
14:30-15:00 Welcome Address: Vice president of the University of Johannes Gutenberg, Mainz, Paul Tabar and Anton Escher
15:00-19:30 Panels
21:00 Conference Dinner

**Friday, 20 May 2011**
09:00-18:30 Panels

**Saturday, 21 May 2011**
River Tour (10:00-17:00) for invited participants only

**Sunday, 22 May 2011**
09:00-13:00 Panels and Synthesizing Discussion

**Speakers and contributions**

Ala Al-Hamarneh (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität): Virtual Homelands versus Lifestyle Migrant Communities - New Media, Social Networks and Identity of Arab Migrants in Germany.

Jalal Al Hussein (Institut Français du Proche-Orient): The Palestinians: a nation, a state, a Diaspora?

Theresa Alfaro-Velcamp (Sonoma State University): From Middle Eastern Mercantilism to Slimlandia: Carlos Slim Héló and the Promise of Mexico.

Travor Batrouney (RMIT University, Melbourne): Australian-Lebanese Community Organisations in a Modern Globalised World.

Philipp Bruckmayer (IFK Internationales Forschungszentrum): Syria-Lebanese Influence on the Guajira Peninsula: Unexpected Historical Continuities from Economic Dominance to Hezbollah Venezuela?

Christina Civantos (University of Miami): A Syrian-Argentine, the Media, and The 1001 Arabian Nights: The Case of Carlos Menem.

Gebhard Fartacek (Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften): Local Pilgrimage and the Construction of Ethnic Boundaries in present-day Syrian Arab Republic.

Myria Georgiou (London School of Economics and Political Science): Between strategic nostalgia and banal nomadism: Arabic television and diasporic articulations of subjectivity.

Nelia Hyndman-Risk (University of New South Wales): “At Home with Skype”: Collapsing social distance in the virtual and physical space between Lebanese transnational communities and Lebanon.

Maria del Mar Logroño (Florida International University): Historicizing the Mahjar: The Construction of an Arab Diaspora.

Anne Monsour (University of Queensland): “But what are ya?” Identity, belonging and in-betweeness in Lebanese Australian communities.

Gregory Noble (University of Western Sydney): The Torment of the Lebanese: Conceiving the ‘ethnic habitat’.

Camila Pastor de María y Campos (Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas): Property, Patronage, and Race at the Crossroads of Empire: Mashreqi Class Formations in Middle America.

Paulo Pinto (Fluminense Federal University): The Community and its Fragments: The Cultural Dynamics of Arab Identities in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Scott Ponting (Manchester Metropolitan University): Othering ‘Lebs’: Racialised demonisation of Lebanese immigrants in Australia.

Osvaldo Mário Serra Truzzi (Universidade Federal de São Carlos): Sociability and values among Lebanese Muslim families in São Paulo, Brazil.

Eugenia Siapera (Aristotle University Thessaloniki): #Palestine: Twitter and the Palestinian Question.


Khachig Tölölyan (Wesleyan University): Trends and tensions in diaspora studies.