

Call for participation

lecture series:

10 years so-called Arab Spring - a critical perspective

The Critical Students of Islamic and Arabic Studies (KIARA) have decided to organise a series of lectures in 2021 in remembrance of the so-called arabic spring. These lectures are intended to offer a space for critical reflection. The main questions will be the following:

What happened in West Asia and North Africa 10 years ago? Which critical perspectives should be included?

Each Lecture will be taking place online on Wednesdays at 7pm. After the lecture (which is about 45 minutes) there will be extra time for questions and possible discussions.

The lecturer will receive 50€ for the presentation.

Please send us a short presentation of your topic (100-200 words) and the month in which you wish to present your lecture to die_kritischen@posteo.de until the 1st of December 2020.

Ten years after the events in West Asia and North Africa (WANA), we wish to take a critical stance. For this, we decided to offer a space in which activism, expert opinions and scientific aspects (through universities, journalism, educational facilities, NGOs, foundations, etc.) can offer various perspectives and interdisciplinary approaches. The project will be publicly open, in order to question the previous picture of the „Arab spring“ and deconstruct it together.

The lectures can be held in German, Arabic or English, and there will be interpreters, at least for the Arabic lectures. We have chosen this format in order to make way for a wide range of perspectives.

For example, while answering following questions, a wide range of perspectives is especially important:

What happened in country XX before, during and after 2011? Which discourses can be considered in context of the so-called Arab spring? Which connection is there between the name giving „Arab spring“ and eurocentrism? Which role does the media play? Can the „Arab spring“ be seen as an expression of the north-south relationship? Which relationship exists between the national borders and post-colonialism? How are neo-liberalism and the protests connected? Were they protests, revolts – perhaps revolutions? What does activism mean? Which movements were created in 2011 and how do they look back to these days? Which



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parties were involved? How can we understand the events in the WANA region from different perspectives? Which culture of remembrance can be noticed? How is this kind of lecture connected with orientalism? How can the WANA-region's perspectives (socio-political, scientific) turn somehow reachable to the German audience? Which sort of roles does journalism want to play? Are there other existing kinds of (self-)critical questions, thoughts and debates?

The series of lectures will be organized in a further programm, which focuses each month on a specific country. For that it would be useful (however not necessary) if the lectures have this focus, too. However, we are aware that this classification by country borders could possibly be problematic for some topics

We are looking forward to interesting suggestions and lectures!

January 2021	Tunis, Algeria
February	Libya, Egypt
March	Marocco, Mauretania, Western Sahara
April	Jordan, Palestine
May	Syria, Lebanon
June	Iraq, Kurdistan
July	Bahrain, Yemen
August	Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait
September	Qatar, Oman
October	Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, Comoros
November	Turkey, Iran, Israel
December	outlook

The serie of lectures is the outcome of collective dialogs within the KIARA-group (Kritische Islamwissenschaftler*innen und Arabist*innen).

Students from the University of Leipzig established this group in the Summer of 2020. The group is currently pleased to see that many new students, academics and interested persons from Germany and other countries are participating in the current online format. We are hoping to debate topics related to the WANA region, Islam, Critical Theory and Social Science as a joint process.