



AIMS Oversees Research Centers: Spring 2015 Highlight



It has been a dynamic spring at AIMS' Oversees Research Centers (ORCs). Old partnerships have been reinforced and new ones developed, a stimulating academic agenda continues to be implemented, and an unprecedented

level of civil society, community and cultural involvement achieved.

ORC agendas have included academic conferences, lecture series, symposia, skill and capacity building workshops, book signings, film projections, art exhibitions and dance performances.



Academic Programming



Dr. Mietek Boduszynski, Chairperson of the AIMS Libya Committee, presenting findings on Libya.
AIMS Annual Conference, Tunis May 2015

The 28th edition of AIMS' flagship Annual Conference "[Linking Public Opinion and Political Action](#)," was hosted by CEMAT in Tunis. CEMAT continued its academic agenda related to Tunisia's political transition with its established Political Transitions Lecture Series

since 2011, and a new International Relations in the Middle East lecture series resulting from its collaboration with the London School of Economics-Middle East Centre and the Tunis Business School. As part of the Thomas Jefferson Scholarship program,



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CEMAT has also facilitated the selection process and the pre-departure orientation of 103 young Tunisian scholars embarking on an academic year in various U.S. universities and community colleges. Most recently, CEMAT signed a convention of partnership

with the Centre d'Études et de Recherche Économique et Sociales (CERES), the social science research wing of the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and began working on a joint scholarly and conference agenda for 2016.



Dr. Tayeb Boutboqalt lectures on “Reception Theory.”
Tangier, February 2015

TALIM’s lecture series engaged academic disciplines ranging from linguistics and history to architecture and musicology, covering subjects as diverse as

architectural patrimony, hip hop in Morocco, oral histories of Moroccan embroiderers, and Islam and governance in the post-Arab Spring context.





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In Algeria, CEMA continues to expand its thematic lecture series portfolio, organizing ten lectures and a symposium on cinema and memory. In addition to CEMA’s regular lecture series, which highlights the research of American, Maghrebi, and International scholars, CEMA continues to develop its specialized lecture series in partnership with local research institutions. Current special lecture

series include “Language(s) and Societ(y/ies) in the Maghrib,” co-organized with the University of Mostaghanem; “Testimonies of the War of National Liberation,” and “Saharan Studies”, co-organized with the Centre de Recherche en Anthropologie Sociale et Culturelle (CRASC); “Public Health,” co-organized with the Unité de Recherche en Anthropologie de la Santé.

Civil Society and Community Engagement

This year, AIMS’ ORCs deepened their local community ties and civil society involvement conceiving and implementing various programs and activities contributing to the enrichment of their respective local cultural and civic scenes.



MEPI Alumni at the Sister Initiative Conference. Algiers, June 2015



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Imene Sahir's musical interval at TEDxAudinSquareWomen..
Algiers, May 2015

In Algeria, CEMA's agenda has been exciting. In addition to three book signings and two movie projections in Oran, CEMA organized a very successful TEDx event and the MEPI Alumni Chapter Sister Initiative Conference in Algiers.

The [TEDxAudinSquareWomen](#) event focused on the role of women

in Algerian economic, political, and social development. Nine prominent Algerian women from different backgrounds participated and put forward their visions for more meaningful inclusion and participation of Algerian women in cultural, economic, and political decision-making processes (Click [here](#) for photos).



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Lila Messaoudi's "Reflections on Equity" TEDxAudinSquareWomen..
Algiers, May 2015

The MEPI Algeria Alumni Chapter hosted their colleagues from the Tunisia Chapter at the third annual Sister Initiative Conference, held in Algiers from 5-7 June. The Sister Initiative brought together 80 MEPI

alumni from Algeria and Tunisia to discuss and debate "The Role of Social Entrepreneurship in the Development of the MENA Region".



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MEPI Alumni at the Sister Initiative Thematic Workshops.
Algiers, June 2015

In Tunisia, CEMAT successfully completed the implementation of a United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)-funded project designed to empower civil society, evaluate government performance, ensure accountability, and facilitate constructive public debate based on findings from a nation-wide [public opinion survey](#) implemented before the 2014 legislative and Presidential elections. The overall project

included two training workshops for the benefit of 6 Tunisian civil society organizations on communication with political decision-makers, nine (9) one-on-one political party consultations on election-related citizen perceptions, and two media skill-building workshops for 21 journalists on accurate public opinion survey reporting.



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UNDEF-Sponsored workshop
Former Deputy Constituent Assembly president responsible for relations with civil society, Badreddine Abdelkafi helps refine partner CSOs' proposals to parliamentarians.
Tunis, April 2015

During the spring of 2015, TALIM organized three dance performances, a poetry recital, and two movie screenings involving choreographers, songwriters, as well as actors from Morocco, the United States, Norway, Brazil, and Lebanon. This was in addition to TALIM's on going Female literacy, sewing, and cooking programs; which produced a combined 59 graduates this year.

More details? Stay tuned for this year's edition of the AIMS annual report.



Ruby Smith and Natalia Fernandes perform "The Oldest Thing in the World."
Tangier, May 2015



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