

Partners

MECAM is a joint initiative of six German and Tunisian universities and research institutions, funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

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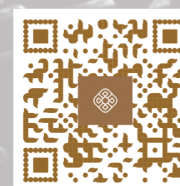
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MECAM
Merian Centre
For Advanced Studies
In The Maghreb

MECAM

Imagining Futures:
Dealing with Disparity



About MECAM

The Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM) is a research centre for interdisciplinary research and academic exchange based in Tunis.

MECAM promotes the internationalization of research in the humanities and social sciences across the Mediterranean. Under its guiding theme "Imagining Futures: Dealing with Disparity", MECAM aims to discuss the (re)negotiation of complex social and political conditions and expectations, norms and legacies in the wake of the "Arab Spring" in the Maghreb, the Middle East, Europe and beyond.

MECAM's Academic Focus

MECAM's guiding theme "Imagining Futures: Dealing with Disparity" addresses the complex processes of the renegotiation of societal experiences into ideas for the future ("imagining futures") in the context of different forms and scales of disparity and unequal conditions ("dealing with disparity"). The centre explores the link between multidimensional disparities and the possibilities of constructing and negotiating future-oriented ideas and models. MECAM's research programme consists of five Interdisciplinary Research Fields (IRF):

- Inequality & Mobility
- Memory & Justice
- Aesthetics & Cultural Practice
- Resources & Sustainability
- Identities & Beliefs

These IRFs are connected through two methodological transversal axes highlighting the fact that ideas about the future are always defined by the perception of history in the present and that digital media impact research and the research processes in a profound way.

MECAM's Working Formats

The working formats operate according to the MECAM principles: intergenerationality, interdisciplinarity and interregionality.

Interdisciplinary Fellowship Programme

Within the framework of the above-mentioned IRFs, MECAM offers individual fellowships of up to 8 months' duration. Eight promising senior and junior fellows per year are invited to work on their individual research projects at MECAM. In addition, MECAM invites up to six promising post-doctoral fellows for a maximum of three years. All fellows present their research designs, progress and results in a MECAM Fellows Seminar ("MECAM Spectrum"), which is accompanied by the scientific expertise of Principal Investigators from Germany and Tunisia.

Rencontres Ibn Khaldun

The public events known as "Rencontres Ibn Khaldun" are mainly held in Tunisia but also in Germany and Europe in order to address a wider audience. The objective of these events is to make the work of the research centre accessible to a wider and non-academic audience and to go beyond established academic formats. Through Rencontres Ibn Khaldun, MECAM creates a platform for dialogue, where the results of scientific research can trigger societal debates and allow the exchange of ideas between researchers and political, cultural and civil society actors.

Traveling Academies & Transregional Workshops

The Traveling Academy and transregional workshops reflect the transregional and dynamic dimension of the centre. Researchers from the Maghreb, Europe and the rest of the world participate in this format as an open space for innovative and comparative research. The Traveling Academies and transregional workshops are organized in different countries of the region, in various contexts and they seek to engage in different research traditions.

Early Career Researcher Programme

As Junior Fellows, post-doctoral fellows assume an intergenerational connecting role in MECAM's academic activities and events. In addition, PhD students from institutions in the Maghreb, Germany and the rest of the world meet during the spring/summer academic term in Algeria and Tunisia.

MECAM's Vision

The vision of MECAM is to bring a different perspective, notably from the Maghreb, on shared questions about disparities and the imagination of the future. Therefore, MECAM aims to implement the following six major objectives:

- To become an international research platform that promotes an innovative approach to current debates in the humanities and social sciences and strengthens Maghrebi perspectives in global academic exchanges.
- To become a social and collaborative framework for researchers from different generations, qualifications and disciplinary backgrounds as well as from various national, regional and international institutions.
- To become a hub for international knowledge exchange, with a special focus on open access research results, and thus contribute to overcoming existing asymmetries between researchers.
- To ensure 'feedback' and visibility of MECAM in Germany.
- To create an institutional framework, which :
 - 1 Fosters the internationalization of research in Tunisia and the Maghreb;
 - 2 Reinforces the exchange of scholars between Germany, Tunisia, the Maghreb and the global South;
 - 3 Strengthens Maghreb studies in Germany;

