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TOMidEast SUMMER SCHOOL, 2nd edition
"Understanding the Middle East. The Transformation of Contentious Politics"
29th June - 3rd July 2015

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

1. Promoting institutions and scientific committee

The TOMidEast Summer School is promoted by the **Department of Culture, Politics and Society** of the **University of Torino** in the frame of its **TOMidEast** working unit which deals especially with contemporary Middle Eastern affairs. The School is organized as a part of the cooperation activities and agreements between the **Bilgi University (Istanbul)** and the **St. Joseph University (Beirut)**. The scientific coordinator of TOMidEast is Professor Rosita Di Peri.

The scientific committee of the TOMidEast Summer School is composed of:

Prof. Rosita DI PERI – University of Torino
Prof. Gilbert ACHCAR – SOAS University of London
Prof. Francesco CAVATORTA – Laval University
Prof. Raymond HINNEBUSCH – St. Andrews University
Prof. Fadia KIWAN – St. Joseph University
Prof. Ilter TURAN – Bilgi University

2. Contents and objectives of the program

The Summer School **Understanding the Middle East** aims to provide a toolbox to help understanding the Middle East and its current transformations. The Summer

School favors a political science approach offering interpretations that are useful to better comprehend the main critical issues at the regional level and, at the same time, to pay attention to the dynamics going on in some of the countries where the revolts of the 'Arab Spring' were generated. Specific methodological sessions are foreseen. Each summer school edition focuses on a specific issue.

The profound changes that have occurred across the Middle East over the past four years have challenged the geographical and also political notion of borders and boundaries.

With regard to geographical borders, the Arab uprisings have undoubtedly helped make them more porous showing that they can be easily criss-crossed by transnational groups offering new unifying ideologies.

With respect to the political order, the revolts have produced major changes in the organization of the citizens' claims, challenging the boundaries between state and society. From this point of view, the most visible element is the demand for dignity springing from workers' movements, trade unions, minority associations, and all sorts of other local citizens' groups. "Street politics" has re-emerged forcefully contributing to change in how politics is and should be conducted in at least some countries of the region.

Both challenges to traditional borders and boundaries have led to the emergence of new actors employing discourses and practices that are destabilising. This destabilisation can have positive effects – the introduction of the language of rights for instance in political discourse – or negative ones- the rise of sectarian violence. In any case both challenges need further examination and the second edition of the summer school "Understanding the Middle East" focuses precisely on them.

In-class activities run from Monday to Friday, from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm, featuring lectures, roundtables, video projections and interdisciplinary joint sessions with the TOIndia Summer Schools. All the TOMidEast Summer School sessions will take place at the "Luigi Einaudi" Campus of the University of Torino, room 3D233, 3rd floor.

The program is suitable for undergraduate, graduate and Phd students, as well as for professionals that are willing to critically explore the evolving dynamics of the Middle East and to gain useful analytical tools in order to understand and explain the complexity of the region.

Details on the instructors and the contents of the program may be found in the website page <http://www.to-asia.it/to-mideast/instructors/>. For any enquiry concerning the program the TOMidEast Secretary, Ms. Violetta UBERTALLI, may be reached at middleeast.to@gmail.com.

3. Applications and selections criteria

Up to 30 participants will be admitted to the 2015 TOMidEast Summer School. Competition to secure a place to this program can be intense: early applications are strongly recommended.

There are two admission cycles:

applications submitted between March 15th and May 10th will be reviewed by May 18th;
applications submitted between May 11th and May 28th will be reviewed by June 1st.
No applications will be accepted beyond May 28th, 2015.

Online applications open on Sunday March 15th, 2015.

Applicants are requested to provide the following documents:

1. application form that can be found on the website page <http://www.to-asia.it/to-mideast/how-to-apply/>;
2. updated CV or résumé;
3. official enrolment letter/certification testifying their current student status (for students only);
4. academic transcript: this can be produced as a single document together with the enrolment certification, see previous point (for students only);
5. declaration of residence outside the Torino area (only for students applying for a FREETORINO scholarship).

The PDF or JPEG documents need to be sent by email to the TOMidEast Secretary (middleeast.to@gmail.com) that will verify that compulsory requirements are met and pass the application package on to the Admissions Committee, which will be appointed by the Director of the Department of Culture, Politics and Society of the University of Torino, where the TOMidEast working unit is based.

Successful applicants receiving an offer must formally accept it and send proof of fees payment (direct bank transfer) via email to the TOMidEast Secretary by the set deadline (see below, and the "Key Dates" section of the website). Upon receiving these, the applicant will be officially enrolled in the program.

Applicants who should fail to send such confirmation and proof of fees of payment by the set deadline will have their offer withdrawn. Any newly-available place will be offered to the highest-ranking applicants not selected in the first round.

Tuition fees range between EUR 350.00 and EUR 450.00, depending on the type of applicant (student or professional). Please see the Fees and Scholarship section of the program website for further information. All successful applicants must pay their full fees.

Public notice will be given of the outcome of the admission process: an official ranking will be posted on the website of the Department of Culture, Politics and Society (<http://www.didatticacps.unito.it> > Programmi Internazionali > Summer Schools > TOMidEast Summer School).

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application at the earliest possible.

The TOMidEast summer school is designed to suit the needs of **highly motivated students and professionals** who wish to engage with an **intensive set of courses**

focusing on contemporary Middle East political development.

The Admissions Committee focuses on the following factors in reaching its decisions:

- ⤴ the applicant's capacity to make a credible claim for a proficient research/professional career with the Middle East;
- ⤴ sound academic credentials and fluency in English;
- ⤴ individual potential as expressed by the applicant's CV;
- ⤴ the candidate's motivation as articulated in the personal statement (300 words, within the application form).

We welcome applications from any professional or student who is in possession of the required qualifications. These are a **Bachelor honours degree at 1st or 2nd level (or an equivalent European title, such as the *laurea triennale* for Italian students with a minimum grade of 100/110)** and **good command of the English language.**

Undergraduate students (i.e. students who will not yet have a degree at the start of the School) who are enrolled in an area-studies university course focusing on Middle East are also welcome, provided that they have completed at least one year of course.

Special attention will be devoted to those applicants who can demonstrate their proficiency in English by means of an international qualification. Though this is **not** a mandatory requirement, an ideal proof would be a minimum TOEFL score of 620 (paper-based test) or 250 (computer-based test), or 100 (Internet test), or IELTS 7.0 or their equivalent (e.g. the Cambridge Advanced or CPE Certificate). Previous studying experience abroad will also be taken into consideration.

4. Key dates

- ⤴ **15th March** – The TOMidEast Summer School office begins accepting applications.
- ⤴ **10th May**– First selection process begins: all complete applications reaching the TOMidEast office by this date (5 pm Rome time) are examined by a committee of scholars affiliated to the School.
- ⤴ **18th May** – The TOMidEast office communicates the results of the first selection process individually to applicants and offers a place to those of them who have been successful.
- ⤴ **25th May** – By this date successful applicants receiving an offer must formally accept it and send proof of fees payment (direct bank transfer) via email. Upon receiving these, the TOMidEast office will confirm the allocation of the place. Applicants who should fail to meet this deadline will have their offer withdrawn.
- ⤴ **28th May** – Applications for the second selection process are accepted until 5 pm (Rome time). No late application will be considered. The second selection process begins.
- ⤴ **1st June** – The TOMidEast office communicates the results of the second selection process individually to applicants and offers a place to those of them who have been successful.

- ⤴ **8th June** – By this date successful applicants (second selection) receiving an offer must formally accept it and send proof of fees payment (direct bank transfer) via email. Upon receiving these, the ToMidEast office will confirm the allocation of the place. Applicants who should fail to meet this deadline will have their offer withdrawn.
- ⤴ **29th June** – The Summer School begins.
- ⤴ **3rd July** – The Summer School terminates.

5. Tuition fees and scholarships

Tuition fees depend on the status of the participant: EUR 350.00 for students, EUR 450.00 for professionals.

These amounts cover tuition fees only. All other expenses – i.e. transport, accommodation, visa issuance, insurance policies, etc. - are to be covered by each individual participant.

The only accepted means of payment is a direct bank transfer for the appropriate amount, depending on the participant's status. **Bank transfer costs MUST be borne in full by the participants. Should wire transfers be received in which transfer costs are either shared by payer and payee, or imposed on the payee only, they will be rejected and the place in the program consequently revoked.**

Payee: **Dipartimento di Culture, Politica e Società**

IBAN: **IT37A0306909217100000460184**

BIC: **BCITITMM**

Bank name: **Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A.**

Bank address: **Agenzia di Via Monte di Pietà, 32 – 10122 Torino – Italy**

It is absolutely essential that the stated reason for payment is the following:

“Name and Surname, CDR 203 – Summer School TOMidEast 2015”

Students only may apply for the **FREETORINO scholarship covering living expenses in Torino**. Those who are awarded a FREETORINO scholarship will be lodging at one of Torino's student halls from 28th June to 3rd July (included). A single or double (depending on availability) en-suite room will be provided. These scholarships may be applied for by all School participants who are currently students (i.e. undergraduates who will not have yet completed their degree at the time of the School, or applicants who either are studying at the postgraduate level or will be doing so in the 2015-16 academic year). These scholarships may be applied also to applicants who graduated in December 2014 or later and who are not currently employed full-time. **Applicants must not be resident in the Province of Torino (IT).**

6. Program certificate and University credits

Participants who successfully complete the program (i.e. participate to a minimum of 18 out of the 23 hours of lectures/seminars and pass the final exam) are awarded an official transcript by the Department of Culture, Politics and Society of the University of Torino. Such transcript will indicate the title of Summer School, the sessions attended and the grade obtained at the finale exam.

The TOMidEast Summer School transcript may be used to claim a minimum of 3 CFU: the TOMidEast Secretary will be send all necessary documents to other universities for the credits to be awarded according to each institution's regulations.

Torino, 13th March 2015



Prof. Franco GARELLI
Director
Department of Culture, Politics and Society
University of Torino