# CfA Workshop: Post-2011 Arab Diaspora and Home-Making in Berlin

# 12-17 March 2019 Werkstatt der Kulturen

The Arab revolutions were set in motion by hopes and dreams for a better home. However, defeat, repression, war, and economic perils forced people to leave their hopes, dreams and homes behind, and try to survive elsewhere. This current wave of migration - another in a long history of human movement fleeing repression and war - raises one more time the question of what is home among the newly forming diaspora.

Home cannot be just defined as a space where one is secure and comfortable.

Home is also a feeling, a sensory experience of familiar smells and sounds.

Home is often constructed as a collective memory.

Through the movement of migrants, home is deconstructed, questioned and recreated.

In this interactive workshop, we seek to examine the various ways leaving home can represent a disruption in one's life but also possibilities for new connections and practices for home-making. We aim to investigate home-making practices among post-2011 diaspora in Berlin.

Through a collaboration between scholars and artists, we aim to collectively understand and discuss the politics, dreams and emotions engendered in the journey of leaving home, and in the negotiations in host societies for home-making.

The workshop aims at creating a space for expressing artistically the reflections on home and post-2011 migrations to reach a wider public.

The main questions we ask:

- Why is the concept of Home important in understanding post-2011 migrant experiences?
- How can we define Home in all its entanglements? Is it a space, a time, a feeling, a political concept?
- How do dreams and aspirations about a 'new home' take shape? How are they expressed?
- How can we understand the processes of home-making? Are they attempts of isolation or a necessary byproduct of migration that is imbued with nostalgia and romanticization?

# WHO CAN APPLY?

Artists and BA, MA students and researchers in social sciences, humanities and arts who are interested in the recent waves of migration, eager to reflect on the concept of home and to share their knowledge and expertise in relation to the topic.

# HOW TO APPLY?

Fill the following form by **10 February 2019** Link to the form: <u>https://goo.gl/forms/fuSVUYjTg4URx6VY2</u> If you have any inquiries, please send to info@mayadinaltahrir.org

# WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

The first three days will include workshops, lectures, and roundtables offered by artists and scholars such as Yassin Al Haj Saleh and Samuli Schielke.

In the last two days, participants are encouraged to create artistic productions reflecting the discussions that took place throughout the workshop. Three art mentors, Hanaa Al Dagham (Visual Artist), Roba Road (Storytelling Trainer) and Ahmed Iskander (Podcast Trainer) will be present to work with the participants to create a performance, podcasts and art installations. But other artistic productions are welcomed based on participants' expertise.

The last day will be a public event where the participants will have the chance to display their artistic productions.

# WHO ARE WE?

We are two Egyptian academics residing currently in Berlin; interested in decolonizing academia through building an alternative research agenda based on our own realities and our own priorities.

The workshop is organized in a cooperation between Mayadin Al Tahrir and Europe in the Middle East – The Middle East in Europe (EUME), a research program at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

### **ORGANIZERS**

## Dina Wahba

Dina Wahba is currently pursuing her PhD at the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Politics at Free University, Berlin, in "Politics, Emotion and Affect within the dynamics of Tahrir square". She completed her Master's Degree in Gender Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Her published thesis topic is "Gendering the Egyptian Revolution."

# Nayera A. Soliman

Nayera Abdelrahman Soliman is currently PhD fellow at Berlin Graduate School for Muslim Societies and Cultures, Freie Universitat Berlin. Her research project is questioning the concept of home through studying the 1967 forced migration in Suez Canal cities in Egypt. Graduate from the Political Science Department, Cairo University in 2012, she had her Master's degree in political sociology from Sorbonne University in 2013.

#### SPEAKERS AND TRAINERS

## Yassin Al Haj Saleh

Syrian writer and thinker. He currently is a fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, and from March 2019 onwards will be a Senior EUME Fellow of the Gerda Henkel Foundation.

# Samuli Schielke

Social and cultural anthropologist who is working mainly on contemporary Egypt. Since 2009, he works as a research fellow at Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin, Germany. In 2017, he received the title of a docent in social anthropology from the University of Tampere, Finland.

# Ahmed Iskandar Abdallah

Iskander is PhD fellow at the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies. He is currently co-initiating a podcast platform, *Ya Makan*. It aims to focus on stories of displaced and migrants to create a platform for remembering places and telling stories about them..

### Hanaa Al Dagham

Hanaa is a visual artist and researcher in cultural art heritage. She use painting, drawing, collage and mixed media in order to express her art in form of installations. She studied painting and art history at Fine Arts Cairo College.

# Roba Riad

Currently based in Berlin, Roba was involved in the art scene in Egypt since 2003. She started her journey in storytelling, through collecting stories from people during the 2011 Egyptian revolution, editing and performing them with *Tahrir Monologues*.

# ORGANIZATIONS

# **Mayadin Al Tahrir**

Mayadin Al-Tahrir e.V. is a German-Egyptian, non-profit association based in Berlin and created in 2011. It aims to promote political awareness and cultural activities in Egypt, as well as among the Egyptian diaspora in Berlin.

# EUME

EUME is a research program at the Berlin-based Forum Transregionale Studien. EUME seeks to rethink key concepts and premises that link and divide Europe and the Middle East. EUME builds upon the previous work of the Working Group Modernity and Islam (1996-2006), the idea of "learning communities", and the principle of "research with, rather than research on". So far more than 200 scholars have been <u>EUME</u> fellows.