

“Tunisia in Transition” – German-Arab Research Group Call for Contributions 2015

“Tunisia in Transition” is a German-Tunisian research project created in 2013. It analyses the transformation processes in Tunisia and the Arab world as well as the German and European policies towards North Africa and the Middle East. The project includes an interdisciplinary research group of young academics coming from both shores of the Mediterranean. It provides a platform for collaborative research and offers additional academic training. “Tunisia in Transition” is supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and involves Political, Legal, Social, Communication and Cultural Sciences from the Universities of Carthage, La Manouba, Munich, Tunis-el Manar, Passau and Sousse. It runs a permanent project office at La Manouba University (IPSI) since 2013 and another one at the University of Sousse since 2014.

In 2014, “Tunisia in Transition” launched a book project (provisional title: “The new Tunisia in International Relations”), providing young academics from Tunisia and Germany the opportunity to work together on both the internal and the international dimension of the transition in the Arab world and in particular in Tunisia. Working languages are French and English (at least good passive knowledge of both languages is required for Group members).

In order to gain some further contributions and complete our book project this year, we announce a thematic “call for contributions.”

What we offer all Fellows

- to become part of a vibrant German-Tunisian network of young scholars working in the human and social sciences
- to gain experience in working in an international and interdisciplinary environment
- to present your research in a high quality publication
- to participate in several academic trainings (research methodology, teaching) and academic support for your research

What your participation requires

- candidates should be enrolled as MA or PhD students in a German or Tunisian university
- you may work and also apply as a team of maximum of three students
- the final draft of the book chapter (15-20 pages) must be delivered until November 2015

- The chapter must focus on one of the “open” topics as shown in the book structure below. As the topics are rather vague so far, you are welcome to choose an own focus.
- The articles have to be based on own empirical research.
- Intermediate results have to be presented in April and September 2015.
- You may also choose to supply a chapter in French if you feel more comfortable with it. Chapters in French would be translated in the end and all chapters will also be submitted to a language-editing process.
- Research Fellows must be willing to engage in a several-step review-process of their draft throughout the year.

Please note: The book’s major focus is on the evolutions in and around Tunisia since 2011. We want to provide an overview of the current state of affairs in Tunisian foreign policy and Tunisia in interregional/international issues. We are thus *not* looking for historic accounts, but it may sometimes be necessary in order to generate new data and information.

Selection of candidates

Please send the documents (CV with your contact details + abstract of about 200 words) until 1 February 2015 to the e-mail addresses indicated below. Selection will take place in the two following weeks. Do not hesitate to contact us via email or phone (prior to your application) to receive more information, also in French or Arabic if needed!

How to apply: send your CV + abstract of the chapter you would like to write. Please note that the topics for the chapters are pre-determined and that you may only apply for one of the topics listed below. In the abstract, please state your main research question, possible methodologies (where to look for information, what information to use and how to analyse it) and preliminary expected results.

Please send your applications to:

katharina.mclarren@uni-passau.de and laura-theresa.krueger@uni-passau.de

Preliminary book structure for “The new Tunisia in International Relations”

(You may opt for all that is **black and bold**.
Chapters marked grey are already being worked on)

1. Introduction
2. Tunisian foreign policy actors and their foreign policy orientation
 - 2.1. Constitutional provisions

- 2.2. Governing political parties:
 - 2.2.1. Ennahdha
 - 2.2.2. Technocrats (Essebsi / Jomaa gov)**
 - 2.3. Labour unions: UGTT
 - 2.4. Civil Society Organisations**
 - 2.5. Think Tanks / consulting groups**
3. External actors in Tunisia
- 2.1. The European Union and the ENP
 - 2.2. France
 - 2.3. Germany
 - 2.4. USA
 - 2.5. Qatar**
 - 2.6. Turkey**
 - 2.7. Perception of the US policy towards Tunisia
 - 2.8. External influence on the constitutional process
4. Tunisia's activism in IOs
- 2.1. Tunisia in the United Nations
 - 2.2. Tunisia and the Maghreb Union**
 - 2.3. Tunisia in the Arab League**
5. Tunisia in transnational issues
- 2.1. The security challenge**
 - 2.2. Cultural foreign policy towards Tunisia**
 - 2.3. Tunisia as a country of (trans-)migration**
 - 2.4. Religion in international relations**
 - 2.5. Inter-regional trade and economy issues**
 - 2.6. Ecological challenges in the MENA region**

Project coordinators Tunisia

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