

## Abstract

In the sixth year of the revolution/war in Syria, stating that the field of Syrian cultural production has changed amounts to stating the obvious. Academic discourse and the media alike have constructed the Syrian revolution/war as a 'turning point' in social, cultural, economic, historical and psychological terms, with a variety of 'moments' posited as thresholds, ranging from how the conflict questions the colonial partitioning of the Middle East in the Sykes-Picot Agreement (1916) through to it signalling the collapse of the 'wall of fear' in the minds of Syrian citizens. The discursive consolidation of such turning points tends to blur relations of causality however. As any war, - or revolution, for that matter -, the "war in Syria" consists of a complex array of social, political, economic and psychological processes which each have a history of their own. Attributing causality to "the war" as such clearly falls short of the aims any analysis should have which seeks to elucidate the recent changes witnessed in the field of Syrian cultural production, and so too the form and content of the works created in it. This workshop is intended to reflect on the changes and innovations that have occurred in Syrian film, theatre, music and literary production, in both mediated and academic discourses, since 2011.

## Contact

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[www.uni-marburg.de/cnms/  
research/turning-points](http://www.uni-marburg.de/cnms/research/turning-points)

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# **,'Because of the War...' Tracing Transformations in/of the Syrian Field of Cultural Production**

**International Workshop at the  
Center for Near and Middle  
Eastern Studies,  
University of Marburg**

**26-27 July 2017**

**TURNING  
POINTS**

**Wednesday, 26 July 2017**

**Room 01A09**

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**15:00**

**Coffee**

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**15:30 – 16:00**

**Welcome and Introduction**

**Friederike Pannewick / Felix Lang**

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**16:00 – 16:45**

**Lauren Pyott (SOAS)**

**„What’s in it for the Dead and the Living? A Critical Examination of the Discourses Around Syrian Art During Conflict and the Power Dynamics of Knowledge Production“**

Chair: Friederike Pannewick (University of Marburg)

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**16:45 – 17:30**

**Charlotte Bank (University of Geneva)**

**„Turning a Page? Artistic Production in Syria and its Diaspora after 2011“**

Chair: Felix Lang (University of Marburg)

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**18:30**

**Dinner**

**„Edlunds“, Markt 15, 35037 Marburg**

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**Thursday, 27 July 2017**

**Room 01A09**

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**09:15**

**Coffee**

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**09:30 – 10:30**

**Felix Lang (University of Marburg)**

**„Bourdieu, Latour, and Rasha Abbas. A Methodological Experiment on the Transformation of Networks.“**

Chair: Simon Dubois (AMU, IREMAM)

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**10:15 – 11:00**

**Adelie Chevé (SOAS)**

**„Thinking the ‘Intellectual Dispute’: Perspectives from the Syrian Case“**

Chair: Yvonne Albers (University of Marburg)

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**Coffee break**

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**11:30 – 12:15**

**Simon Dubois (AMU, IREMAM)**

**„Settling Down in Berlin: Opportunities and Challenges for Syrian Artists“**

Chair: Yvonne Albers (University of Marburg)

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**12:15 – 13:00**

**Sonja Mejcher-Atassi (American University Beirut)**

**“The Syrian Exile as Writer”**

Chair: Amir Moosavi (EUME, Forum Transregionale Studien)

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**Lunch**

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**14:00 – 14:45**

**Eylaf Bader Eddin (University of Marburg / AMU, IREMAM),  
“Syrian Revolutionary Language (1970 - 2011) - A Rupture or  
an Extension?”**

Chair: Amir Moosavi (EUME, Forum Transregionale Studien)

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**Coffee break**

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**15:15 – 16:30**

**Final Discussion**

Chair: Friederike Pannewick /Felix Lang

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**17:30**

**Dinner**

**„Bottega“, Biegenstraße 15, 35037 Marburg**

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