



The **Centre of excellence Altiero Spinelli (CeAS)** jointly with the **Euro-Arab Institute for the Dialogue between Cultures** is pleased to announce the seminars' cycle

“Reflections on Issues of the Arab Spring” (March-June 2014)

The Arab Spring has been changing not only the political but also the social and cultural structures and features of the Arab countries involved in this process. In order to better understand such process in the wide range of its far-reaching implications, the **Euro-Arab Institute** jointly with the **Centre of excellence “Altiero Spinelli”** organize a seminars' cycle as a free course integrating the activity of the II level master courses in **“European citizenship and Euro-Mediterranean integration”** and **“Peace keeping and Security studies”**, open to the participation of post-graduate students.

The course, titled **“Reflections on Issues of the Arab Spring”**, is divided in a series of three sessions aiming to investigate various and intertwined aspects of theoretical nature and substantive relevance, on the basis of a multifocal approach.

The course initiates with a characterization of the context in which the Arab Revolutions started, analysing the reasons and specificities of these social movements. The aspects of social integration and public opinion are examined in depth, by facing the new communication paradigms and use of social media.

In the second session, the course tackles the main issues emerging during the processes of democratic transition in Egypt and Tunisia. It proposes to *rethink* democracy in this new context exploring through a critical approach the modern democratic principles and instruments and how they may be adopted in this particular context. Hence, the course will explore how the new political culture is related to the emerging civil society widely developed after the uprising events.

The third session evaluates the Arab Spring implications highlighting two crucial phenomena. On the one side, how the public violence and the terrorism may be considered as social and political parasitism during the democratic transition process. On the other side, how women are conquering decisive roles during the construction of the new democratic Arab societies.

Program

Session 1: Context, Tools and Mechanisms

Prof. Touhami Abdouli

“Definitions, reasons, specificities and social integration in the Arab Spring”

7 March 2014: 15,00 – 17,00

8 March 2014: 11,00-13,00

Dr. Ouejdane Mejri

“Social media and new communication paradigms in the Arab Spring”

13 May 2014: 15,00-17,00 (Room 3B)

14 May 2014: 11,00-13,00 (Room B)

Session 2: Process of Democratic Transition

Prof. Touhami Abdouli

“Rethinking democracy in the context of the Arab Spring”

20 May 2014: 15,00-17,00 (Room 3B)

Dr. Ouejdane Mejri

“Civil society and the construction of democracy”

21 May 2014: 11,00-13,00 (Room B)

Session 3: Constructive and destructive implications

Touhami Abdouli

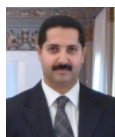
“Social and political parasitism: violence and terrorism”

3 June 2014: 15,00-17,00 (Room 3B)

Dr. Ouejdane Mejri

“Women self-empowerment in the democratic transition”

4 June 2014: 11,00-13,00 (Room B)



Prof. Touhami Abdouli is a Full Professor of Civilization and Cultural Anthropology at the Emuni University in Slovenia and at the University of Sousse in Tunisia. He has been a visiting professor at the Institute of the Study of Muslim Cultures in London and taught at the Link campus university in Rome (Italy), at the Sophia University in Tokyo (Japan) and at the University of Nice (France).

His main research activities addressed Higher Education reforms, quality and interactivity, with a particular interest to managing the UFM transition through Higher Education systems. Within his Euro-Med expertise, Touhami Abdouli is director of the program “Arabic as a language for intercultural dialogue” and founder of the ‘Mediterranology’ as a science for the Mediterranean Region. He is author of four books in the Arab and Islamic Civilization fields.

Abdouli is also a politician in Tunisia and was Secretary of State of European Affairs in the first elected government in the post-revolutionary era.



Dr. Ouejdane Mejri is lecturer and researcher in Computer Science at the Politecnico of Milan, in Information System Technologies with particular orientation to data management in business, risk assessment and emergency management contexts. She has taught and teaches courses on Foundations of Computer Science, Databases and Business processes management.

Mejri is also founder member of the “PONTES” association of Tunisian in Italy of which she is currently the President. This association has an important cultural print for narrowing gap between the South and the North of the Mediterranean: through the development of a net of acquaintances between agencies, institutions and companies, the association aims to promote economic-social cooperation in scientific, technological, social and artistic fields. She is co-author of the recently published book “La rivolta dei dittatoriati” (Ed. Mesogea) facing the Tunisian revolution and the role of social media and author of various papers facing the themes of immigration and recently on Arab spring and its influence on immigrants in Europe.

N.B. Post-graduate students who are not enrolled with the Masters courses in “Cittadinanza europea e integrazione euromediterranea” and “Peace keeping and security studies” are required to communicate in writing their participation to: centrospinelli@uniroma3.it.