



Centre d'Études Maghrébines à Tunis

2013 Newsletter



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Letter from CEMAT Director, Dr. Laryssa Chomiak

Over the past twelve months, Tunisia has undergone moments of extreme difficulty, which have fundamentally changed debates about the country's political transition both in Tunisia and abroad. The U.S. Embassy attacks on September 14, 2012, the assassinations of leftist political opposition leaders Chokri Belaid and Mohamed Brahmi, discoveries of illegal arms caches, terrorist activity in the Chaambi Mountain region in addition to slowed economic growth and widespread dissatisfaction with the government, have threatened to derail the democratic transition. Despite these destabilizing events, Tunisia has made extraordinary advances in producing a final draft of the country's new Constitution, developing a more robust and independent civil society and looking for viable solutions to problems of unemployment and economic growth.

The deteriorating security situation has significantly affected research and study in Tunisia. Many programs, including Fulbright, have been put on hold following the September 2012 attacks on the U.S. Embassy. Despite these constraints, we have been able to host dozens of scholars of all disciplines, continue a regular lecture series, significantly expand our programmatic scope, strengthen our relationship with a number of Tunisian and U.S. institutions, particularly the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and the U.S. Embassy in Tunis. Since the 2011 Revolution, CEMAT's scholarly agenda has been closely linked to developments related to the political transition allowing us to serve as an important resource for political, academic and media briefings.

Unsurprisingly, the majority of scholars-in-residence at CEMAT are working on topics related to the political transition or new political developments in Tunisia, including political Islam, the Salafist resurgence, Constitution drafting, political parties, protest and economic development. Yet research in other academic areas continues to thrive and some of the most innovative findings have occurred in public and decorative arts, informal economic practice, public health, urban planning and architecture, women's studies, and Tunisia's philosophical and literary traditions. Access to research institutions and facilities has eased significantly and despite various moments of political crisis, CEMAT scholars have been able to work in archives and libraries as well as conduct interview research with little interruption.

Programmatically, CEMAT has had the honor to help implement the new, high-profile Thomas Jefferson Scholarship Program as a local partner to the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX). The \$US 10 million State-Department scholarship program will send 200 Tunisian undergraduate students to U.S. universities and community colleges for one year between 2013-2015. Despite an eight-month delay in the project's rollout, CEMAT was able to complete outreach and recruitment of 66 Thomas Jefferson Scholars (from more than 700 applicants) in less than two months. The program has significantly strengthened our working-relationship with the new leadership at the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education as well as the Ambassador and Public Affairs Office and the U.S. Embassy.

Since December 2012, we have successfully implemented the first year of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Alumni Chapter and our fantastic chapter coordinator, Nura Suleiman, has seamlessly organized 16 activities, including skill-building, training, volunteer events, a joint Algeria-Tunisia initiative and a Regional Debate conference. In May 2013, we organized a two-

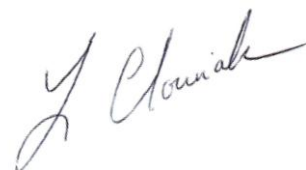
day conference on Transitional Justice and Judicial Reform in Algeria and Tunisia. His Excellency Samir Dilou, Minister of Transitional Justice and Human Rights, opened the conference and announced for the first time reforms to the 2003 anti-terrorism law to align it with international human rights standards and Tunisia's constitutional and international obligations. This past September, we organized a MEPI Regional Debate conference with young and brilliant attendees from eleven different countries in the region.

Back at the CEMAT villa, we have started a new Anglophone lecture series entitled *Thursday Tunis Talks*. At the suggestion of CEMAT Scientific Council member Zied Mhirsi (see scholar profile), the regular platform allows us to organize a variety of niche events that cater to the growing anglophone community in Tunisia. Events so far have spanned from book signings to large-scale lectures, including a joint-lecture by Professor Clement Henry Moore and National Constituent Assembly member Moncef Cheikh Rouhou on Islamic Banking in Tunisia. We look forward to inviting researchers and AIMS members to participate in *Thursday Tunis Talks* this coming year.

Throughout the last two years, Tunisian scholars have approached CEMAT for assistance with research design development, research methodology and grant writing. In response, we have offered multiple opportunities for scholars to engage in such skill-building activities. Following the launch of a post-election public opinion survey conducted by Drs. Ellen Lust, Lindsay Benstead and Dhafer Malouche, Professor Benstead held a survey methodology workshop at CEMAT. This past September, CEMAT has organized a research proposal development and grant writing workshop supported by the Guggenheim Foundation led by Professors Lisa Wedeen, Corinna Mullin, Jillian Schwedler and Angel Foster who delivered lectures to North African graduate students on qualitative research methods and proposal development.

Lastly, I would like to thank the entire CEMAT staff both old and new, for supporting our initiatives over the past year. Riadh Saadaoui has been with CEMAT for the last 15 years and has tirelessly buttressed all of our programs while always welcoming new scholars and guests to CEMAT. Nura Suleiman has been invaluable to CEMAT and AIMS, seamlessly coordinating our MEPI Alumni Chapter while overseeing all other programs at CEMAT and helping with initiatives in Algeria and also on the overall AIMS level. Nura is leaving CEMAT in October of 2013 yet the impression she has made on CEMAT remains, as does her exceptional ability to create supportive and productive work environments. Lamia Hatira, who worked with us for the first year of the Thomas Jefferson Scholarship Program, beautifully understood Tunisian-American educational and cultural exchanges and her commitment to the program was indispensable in getting the program off-the-ground. Finally, I would like to welcome three new members, Mahassen Segni who supports all MEPI and CEMAT initiatives, Roua Krimi, our new MEPI Alumni Chapter Alumni Coordinator, as well as Brahim Rouabah at CEMA, who has always been committed to supporting our Tunisia-based initiatives even though he works primarily from Algiers.

Without a doubt, this next year will continue to be challenging as well as rewarding for our multifaceted work at CEMAT. I welcome all AIMS members and fellow scholars, researchers, and interested parties to visit our offices and contribute to our academic and professional activities. Tunisia continues to be inviting and rich with possibilities for all those engaged in North African studies. As always, I look forward to welcoming all of you personally.



News Briefing: Tunisia in Transition



“Zaba, Le Retour,” Get out and vote campaign by *Engagement Citoyen*. Video available at

Tunisia’s political transition continues to the marked by upheaval as well as advances towards a more liberal political order, despite a number of setbacks in the past year. In the face of a deteriorating security environment since the attacks on the U.S. Embassy in September of 2012, including two political assassinations of leftist political leaders Chukri Belaid and Mohamed Brahmi, fatal attacks against the Tunisian military in the Chaambi mountain range, and regular clashes with the police, Tunisia has made extraordinary advances in its political transitions. Political parties are actively negotiating with one another, unions and civil society are blossoming and have positioned themselves as crucial political partners for both citizens and political elites, and the National Constituent Assembly finalized a third draft of the Constitution for negotiation and vote prior to the most recent political standoff.

Nonetheless, Tunisian citizens increasingly feel suspicious towards politics, question the validity

of the 2011 revolution that deposed ex-Dictator Ben Ali, and many do not believe that future legislative and Presidential elections will be held in a reasonable amount of time. These popular sentiments were crystalized in the most recent “Bardo Sit-In” (“*Rahil*”) that began after the August 4, 2013 following the assassination of Mohamed Brahmi. Protesters are calling for the immediate dissolution of the current Troika coalition, for the replacement with a caretaker government and an appropriate committee of experts to supervise the completion of the Constitution-drafting process. In short, Tunisia’s political transition is defined by on-going negotiations between the government and its opposition, and an increasingly disenfranchised citizenry, which is desperately looking towards a new political program.

Within these complex political developments, some savvy and witty observers have also been able to transform detrimental events into comedic outlets that allow for Tunisians to be involved in the very political process from which they feel disengaged. Earlier this year, the Harlem Shake took over Tunisia’s public spaces while more recently marriages during the Bardo Sit-in have become commonplace. Bold political cartoons appear in papers daily, Radio Mosaïque airs *Sayes khounk* (“Go easy on your brother”) a comedic parody of political elites, and Nessma TV continues to air its popular *guignols* (puppets), representing Tunisia’s politicians. Without a doubt, this next year will be as fascinating, challenging, and surprising as the previous two years marking Tunisia’s early transition from dictatorship.

CEMAT Scholar Profiles

Zied Mhirsi



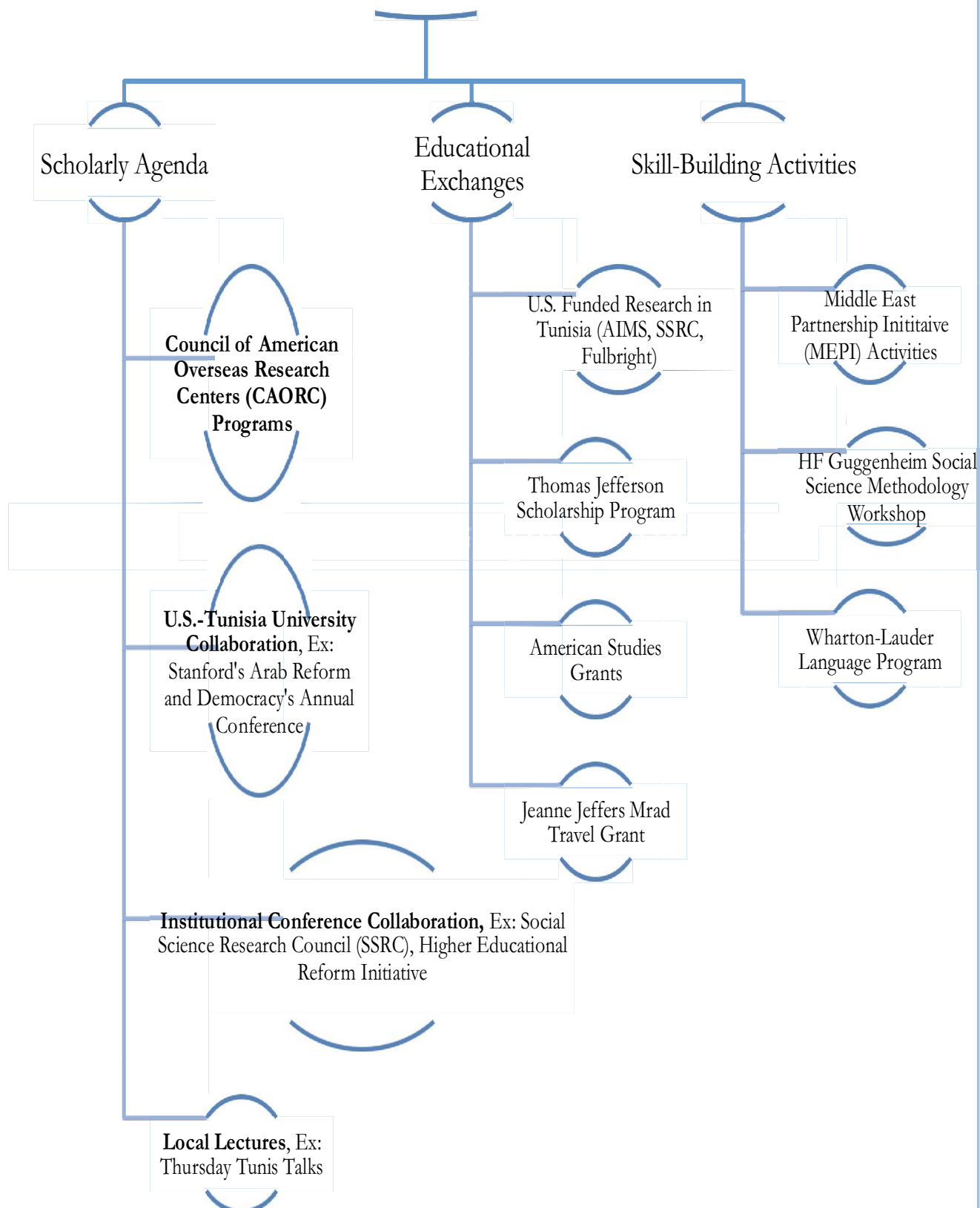
Zied Mhirsi is one of CEMAT's most active Scientific Council Members, a regular contributor to the CEMAT lecture series, and, most recently, the recipient of a CEMAT grant to present his research in public health at the 2013 International AIDS Society Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Zied contributed in various capacities to the conference's theme on "HIV in Islamic Majority Settings," and was able to create a relationship between the Tunisian Center for Public Health, which he founded, and UNAIDS. In addition to Zied's public health agenda, he is also a key member of Tunisia's civil society. He co-founded *Tunisia-live.net*, Tunisia's first comprehensive anglophone news outlet, which is committed to investigative and fact-based reporting and news analysis. In addition, Zied is a leader in a wide variety of initiatives, spanning public health, journalism, civil society activism, institution-building as well as performing arts in Tunisia. After the September 2012 attacks on the U.S. Embassy, for instance, Zied was concerned about the tense relationship between Tunisia and the United States and led the CEMAT effort to organize a Tunisian-American friendship concert on the island of Djerba in October of 2012. Zied studied at the American University of Beirut, and later completed a Masters in Public Health at the University of Washington in Seattle as a Tunisian Fulbright Scholar. CEMAT and Tunisia is lucky to have such a dynamic, productive, committed and brilliant friend like Zied!

Jessica Gerschultz

Dr. Jessica Gerschultz, Assistant Professor in the Department of African and African-American Studies at the University of Kansas, traveled to 11 Tunisian cities to conduct research for her project "Décoration and the New École in Tunis" in May and June of 2013. She has come to Tunisia in various research capacities since 2007, first as a pre-doctoral researcher, then as a Fulbright scholar for dissertation research and most recently to continue research for her first book project. Using archival documents uncovered during her doctoral fieldwork in Tunisia in 2009-2010, Jessica compiled a list of decorative programs designed by artists of the École de Tunis for government buildings between 1950 and 1978 during two iterations of the 1% law. Initiated under the French Protectorate in 1950 and reinstated by Habib Bourguiba in 1962, this law allocated 1% of a civic building's construction budget towards its decoration with modern artwork. In both periods, École de Tunis artists such as Pierre Boucherle, Nello Levy, Ammar Farhat, Abdelaziz Gorgi, Jellal Ben Abdallah, and Safia Farhat channeled state commissions. Under Bourguibist patronage, however, the labor of women artists became embedded with renewed symbolism as the state sought to engender creativity in a new female work force. In her book, Jessica will examine form, materiality, and conceptual approaches implemented in the creation of a Bourguibist program of *décoration* by the "New École." With CEMAT support and an award from the New Faculty General Research Fund of the University of Kansas, Jessica was able to locate and document these monumental works, many of which remain *in situ* around the country in schools, banks, government offices, textile factories, refineries, and formerly state-owned hotels. In total, Jessica photographed over 40 tapestries, murals, ceramic tile panels, stone obelisks, and low-relief friezes executed in iron, glass, and stone, and she plans to make the resulting digital compendium of images publicly available.



CEMAT'S SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES



CEMAT Partnerships

CEMAT is the Overseas Research Center of AIMS, the American Institute for Maghrib Studies, www.aimsnorthafrica.org. Our partnerships in Tunisia, the United States and internationally are at the core of our activities. We consistently seek to expand our relationships with academic institutions, think tanks and other key partners.

- Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education
- Council of American Overseas Research Center
- U.S. Embassy Tunis/Public Affairs Office
- Tunisian National Archives
- International Research and Exchanges Board
- The Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation
- The Arab Council for the Social Sciences
- United Nations Development Fund
- Institut Supérieur des Sciences Humaines de Tunis
- Faculté des Sciences Humaines et Sociales de Tunis
- Manouba University
- Tunis El-Manar University
- Jendouba University
- Sfax University
- Kairouan University
- Gabes University
- Gafsa University
- Le Kef University
- Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy/Tunis
- University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business and Lauder School of Law
- Education for Employment, Tunisia Office
- Tunisian Institute for Diplomatic Training (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- Institut National du Patrimoine
- Fondation Temimi pour la Recherche Scientifique et l'Information
- Observatoire Tunisien de la Transition Démocratique
- Stanford University
- Institut pour le Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain
- School of Advanced International Studies at John's Hopkins University

CEMAT Partnership Highlight: The Harry Guggenheim Foundation

On September 13-14, CEMAT and CEMA organized a social science methodology and grant writing training program for young North African Scholars. Led by Professors Lisa Wedeen from the University of Chicago, Corinna Mullin from SOAS, Angel Foster from the University of Ottawa, and Jillian Schwedler from Hunter College, the young scholars were exposed to interpretative methods, research question formulation, the study of international human rights norms, as well as elements of proposal development. Dr. Karen Colvard from the HFG Foundation and Dr. Mary Ellen Lane from CAORC discussed funding opportunities for the students. We are especially proud of the participants, many of whom work exclusively in Francophone settings, for discussing their work in English.

CEMAT's Scientific Council

The Scientific Council meets bi-annually and plays an advisory role for CEMAT's academic agenda. Council members also guide and mentor CEMAT-affiliated scholars.

Council Members

- Laryssa Chomiak, CEMAT Director and Director of Council (Political Science)
- Dalenda Lagueche, Professor (History)
- Asma Noura, Professor (Political Science)
- Mohamed Kerrou, Professor (Anthropology, Sociology)
- Mohammed Haddad, Professor (Comparative Religion)
- Mounir Khelifa, Professor (English Literature)
- Hamadi Redissi, Professor (Political Science and Law)
- Nejib Ben Lazreg, Institute of National Patrimony (Archeology and Ancient History)
- Zied Mhirsi (Public Health and Journalism)

Thomas Jefferson Scholarship Program



Thomas Jefferson Scholars Bid Farewell to Their Families

This spring CEMAT partnered for the first time with the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) to implement a three-year, \$10 million scholarship program funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the United States Department of State. The program officially commenced in April of 2013 following a launch ceremony and press briefing at the Ministry of Higher Education conducted by the U.S. Ambassador Jacob Walles and Tunisian Minister of Higher Education. The CEMAT Director, Laryssa Chomiak, was invited by the Ministry and the U.S. Embassy to attend the ceremony and contribute to the press briefing.

The Thomas Jefferson Scholarship Program (TJSP) is comprised of two programs—an undergraduate program (UGRAD), which provides opportunities for full-time undergraduate students from Tunisia to spend one academic year of non-degree study at a U.S. university and the Tunisia Community College Program (TCCSP), which aims to promote economic development in Tunisia by training talented youth in technical fields at U.S. community colleges for one year. Each program helps to provide participants with a deeper understanding of American educational culture and new globally applicable skills and expertise. The newly earned skills buttressed by class work, community service, cultural exchange and part-time internships will help Thomas Jefferson scholars contribute to Tunisia's development at this crucial time. Upon their return from the U.S., alumni are provided with opportunities to continue to develop their workforce skills, contribute meaningfully to their communities, and maintain professional networks developed through the program.

Thomas Jefferson Scholarship Program Continued

From the 700 candidates who submitted applications this year, 66 impressive finalists traveled to the US for the 2013/2014 academic year. A critical number of the finalists represent the interior and southern regions of the country, where CEMAT engaged in extensive outreach efforts and built new relationships with universities and ISETs (Instituts Supérieur d'Études Technologiques). The initiative to include ISET students is especially remarkable because these talented students are often overlooked by many of the exchange opportunities available in Tunisia. The choice to focus on underserved areas in the country is likewise of great significance as these areas are often at a disadvantage due to lack of outreach efforts.

There are many people to thank for working so hard to make this program a reality, amongst them the team at the U.S. Embassy here in Tunis, particularly Public Affairs Office Staff Stephen Kochuba and Jim Bullock, and their colleagues in Washington DC within ECA, especially Ingrid Larson who travelled to Tunisia to help exclusively with the scholarship program. It has been an honor to work so closely with Program Director Kaia Benson and her team at IREX in DC. In addition, we are deeply indebted to the Tunisian and American volunteers who spent hours interviewing semi-finalists for final selection. Thank you!

The TJSP Scholars are quickly acclimating to their new lives in the U.S. and engaging in cultural exchange activities on their respective campuses. After three days on campus, one TJSP Scholar reported, "The first two days were a really spectacular experience. I was meeting people from different countries all day long and making an international network. I really like the environment here."

We envision the program will attract thousands of undergraduate students this year and are excited to begin the process again with even broader outreach and inclusion of the most disadvantaged areas of the country. This will certainly be a life changing undertaking for many more young Tunisian scholars.



L: Thomas Jefferson finalists celebrate at the U.S. Ambassador Jacob Walles' house

R: Students departing from Tunis Carthage Airport with time for one last tune

Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Alumni Chapter

This year, in addition to our exciting scholarly agenda and academic focus, we received a grant from the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) to launch the first-ever official MEPI Alumni Chapters in Algeria and Tunisia. On December 20, 2012, the U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia, Jacob Walles, CEMAT Director, Dr. Laryssa Chomiak, and Interim MEPI Coordinator, Nura Suleiman, officially launched the Tunisia Chapter at the Africa Hotel in downtown Tunis. We were incredibly honored, particularly so soon after the U.S. Embassy attack in Tunis to have over 100 Tunisian MEPI Alumni attend. The launch event showcased presentations from Alumni dedicated to the state of entrepreneurship in Tunisia.

This year the Tunisia MEPI Alumni Chapter joins the ranks of MEPI Alumni Chapters throughout the region dedicated to networking alumni together to empower Tunisian society through volunteer activities, trainings and skill building workshops, thematic events with our Sister Chapter in Algeria and numerous outreach activities throughout the country. We are extremely thankful to our Alumni Steering Committee and Tunisian MEPI Alumni throughout the country for thematic and programmatic input and look forward to continued collaboration!

Some Highlights from This Year's Activities

Sister Initiative: Transitional Justice and Judicial Reform

The MEPI Alumni Chapters in Tunisia and Algeria organized a Sister Initiative on Transitional Justice and Judicial Reform in Tunis from May 13-14, 2013. His Excellency Samir Dilou, Minister of Human Rights and



CEMAT Director with His Excellency Samir Dilou, Minister of Human Rights and Transitional Justice

Transitional Justice, delivered the initiative's opening remarks on the importance of transitional justice in Tunisia's path to democracy and announced for the first time reforms to the 2003 anti-terrorism law to align it with international human rights standards and Tunisia's constitutional and international obligations. On Tuesday, May 14, 2013 members of the Tunisian National Constituent Assembly for the first time in months began discussing the draft law on transitional justice after months of delay.

In attendance were members from the MEPI Regional Office, U.S. Embassy-Tunis staff, former AIMS Scholar and international transitional justice expert Christopher Lamont, along with Maitre Nouredine Ahmine (co-founder of the Algerian League of Human Rights), Algerian public intellectual Rachid Tlemcani, Judge Yakout Akroune from the Superior Council of Algerian Judges, Judge Raoudha Laabidi Zaafrane (President of the Tunisian National Union for Judges) as well as Ghazi Guerairi, an expert member of the Ben Achour Commission and Secretary General of International Academy of Constitutional Law.

Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Alumni Chapter

Volunteer Activity

Volunteer activities comprise an integral part of the MEPI Alumni Chapter's outreach. This year, we partnered with 21 dynamic students from the Tunis Business School (TBS), Tunisia's first and only English-language public business school. The students facilitated workshops for 62 primary school students in Mourjou, an underserved neighborhood in the Southern suburbs of Tunis, on goal setting, non-violent forms of communication, and the importance of community volunteerism. As one student put it, "A day spent with a child is a day of purity. The TACC Junior Board is extremely delighted to have worked with the Hay Amor Primary School, Farhat Hached. Together we construct a brighter future for our kids!"



Debate Trainings

Debating and negotiation skills are important tools for civil society actors and policy practitioners to communicate and negotiate with both government officials and citizens. Civil society in the pre-Arab Spring-era was largely a top-down product of the state. For this reason, we organized regional and local debates in Tunisia to help MEPI Alumni develop skills of how to identify, frame, develop and communicate a policy reform initiative to diverse audiences. Congratulations to our two Tunisian winners, Wadii Boughedir and Souhir Chaari, who represented Tunisia in the Regional MEPI Alumni Debate from September 23-24, 2013. The Regional Debate, one of our most successful and exciting Alumni Chapter events thus far, was opened by Acting MEPI Regional Director Stephen Ibelli, included 11 country teams from across the region, and was covered on three Tunisian TV stations.

How to Stay Up to Date

To stay informed about chapter activities, be sure to "like" us on our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MepiAlumniTunisiaChapter>. For those of you who are MEPI Alumni, make sure to apply to join our closed group for members only at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/193162967522751/> and register with MEPI at <https://www.mepialumni.org>.

Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Alumni Chapter

Skills Training

While the post-revolutionary grant opportunities abound in Tunisia, Tunisians have had difficulty accessing these grants and putting together comprehensive proposals, particularly in English. Thus, the MEPI Steering Committee chose grant writing as one of its most important target topics for the 2013 year. This year's grant-writing workshop, held in collaboration with MEPI

Grantee Education for Employment Tunisia, gathered participants from Tunis, Gabes, Gafsa, Tataouine, Jendouba, El Kef, and Zaghuan for a day-long training held at the CEMAT Villa in Tunis. AIMS Board Member and Grant Writing Expert, Dr. Angel Foster deftly led participants through how to write a compelling proposal, construct a realistic budget, prepare a CV and an interview, and how to re-write a proposal that might have been rejected for funding.



Proud graduates of the Grant Writing Seminar



Nura Suleiman and a MEPI participant pose for a picture after the conference

Dr. Angel Foster presents at the CEMAT villa



Some Things to Look Forward to

Throughout our first year of work, we have been extremely privileged to work with these alumni on numerous initiatives. As the Chapter continues to grow to well over 500 members, we look forward to a Sister Initiative Conference with our Algerian Chapter dedicated to Educational Reform, new skill building trainings, volunteer activities, and continued outreach activities throughout the country. We are grateful to our AIMS Board Members, AIMS and CEMAT Communities, and our Tunisian community for their support in launching this chapter and look forward to their continued support!

CEMAT Lectures 2012 - 2013

Doris Gray, "Silence Kills! Women and the Transitional Justice Process in Tunisia." (September 4, 2012).

Monica Marks, "Comparative Perspectives on *Nabda* Women's Discourse." (September 4, 2012).

Angel Foster, "Expanding Access to Emergency contraception in the Arab World: Lessons Learnt in Tunisia." (October 11, 2012).

Sarah Feuer, "Zitouna and the Battle over Religious Education in Post-Revolution Tunisia." (October 17, 2012).

C.K. Lamont, "Transitional Justice in Comparative Perspective." (October 24, 2012).

Corinna Mullin, "Transitional Justice and International Human Rights Discourses." (October 24, 2012).

Houda Cherif, "Transitional Justice and Draft Law Procedures." (October 24, 2012).

Hela Boujneh, "Transitional Justice and Politics of Exclusion." (October 24, 2012).

Melani Cammett, "Political Inclusion and Development in the Middle East." (November 1, 2012).

Lindsay Benstead, Ellen Lust, and Dhafer Malouche, "Tunisia Faces the Future: Political Participation and Public Confidence in Tunisia's Transition." (December 11, 2012).

American Studies Grantees Panel, *Presentations by Karima Arif, Anouar Ben Hafsa, Jibene Bouraoui, Lobna Cherif, Ahmed Mezoun, Fatima Radhouani Saidani, Yassine najjar and Mounir Tibaoui*, (February 21, 2013).

"Building Bridges: Towards Viable Democracies in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya." Co-organized with the University of El Manar and Stanford University's Project on Arab Reform and Democracy. (March 28-29, 2013).

- Zied Mhirsi, "Tunisia Emerging Public Health Challenges: An Appeal for Public Health (R)evolution," (April 25, 2013).
- Dr. Christopher Lamont, "Tunisian Transitional Justice in Comparative Perspective," (May 13, 2013).
- Maître Noureddine Ahmine, « Chevauchement entre Droit de l'Homme et la justice transitionnelle, » (May 13, 2013).
- Maître Mohamed Hamouda, « Justice transitionnelle en Tunisie: Quel processus ? » (May 13, 2013).
- Dr. Ghazi Guerairi, « Les mécanismes de la justice transitionnelle en Tunisie, » (May 14, 2013).
- M. Rachid Tlemçani, « Justice transitionnelle en Algérie, » (May 14, 2013).
- Mme. Raoudha Laabidi Zaafrane, « Le rôle de la magistrature indépendante dans la justice transitionnelle, » (May 13, 2013).
- Robert Parks, "The Micro-Logic of Riots in Algeria." (May 16, 2013).
- Paola Gandolfi and Mohamed Kerrou, "Rivolte in Atto", Lecture and Book signing. (May 22, 2013).
- Moncef Cheikhrouhou and Clement Moore Henry, « Finance islamique / participative: Histoires et perspectives. » (June 4, 2013).
- Lisa Wedeen, "Interpretive Social Science," (September 13, 2013).
- Corinna Mullin, "International Human Rights Norms and Local Violations: Methodological and Empirical Considerations," (September 13, 2013).
- Angel Foster, "Elements of Grant Proposal Development," (September 14, 2013)
- Jillian Schwedler, "Developing a Research Question," (September 14, 2013).
- Lisa Wedeen, "Ideology and Humor in Dark Times: Notes from Syria," (September 16, 2013).

Program Highlights

CEMAT & CEMA co-organized Round Table Discussion on Transitional Justice

On Wednesday, October 24, 2012, CEMAT Director Dr. Laryssa Chomiak, former AIMS Grantee Dr. C.K. Lamont (International Relations, University of Groningen), and CEMA Director Dr. Robert Parks led a Round Table Discussion on Transitional Justice. They were joined by Member of the Sousse-Region Transition Commission Ms. Hela Boujnef (Law, University of Sousse), Member of the Executive Committee of the Republican Party Ms. Houda Cherif, and Dr. Corinna Mullin (International Relations, SOAS-University of Tunis). The discussion focused on the current transitional justice reform process, and touched on issues as varied as political exclusion of former regime members from the new political system, the institutional organization of the transitional justice reform process, as well as competing versions of a draft law.



L-R: Ms. Hela Boujnef; Mr. Brahim Rouabah; Ms. Eya Jrad; Dr. Corinna Mullin; Dr. C.K. Lamont



Professor Dhafer Malouche presents the survey findings

Tunisia Post-Election Survey Public Opinion Survey Launch

On December 11, 2012 CEMAT hosted the launch of the first Tunisian Post-Election Public Opinion Survey, entitled, "Tunisia Faces the Future: Political Participation and Public Confidence in Tunisia's Transition." Dr. Ellen Lust from Yale University and Dr. Lindsay Benstead from Portland State University trained a rigorous survey team from the Ecole Supérieure de la Statistique et de l'Analyse de l'Information in Tunis in the fall of 2012. The survey team, headed by Professor Dhafer Malouche, conducted household interviews regarding political attitudes and expectations across Tunisia between October and November. The event drew a crowd of scholars, international NGOs, the African Development Bank and former Tunisian Ministers, along with Tunisian, American and European scholars.

Program Highlights Continued



L-R: Dr. Lina Khatib from Stanford University, Rached Ghannouchi of Tunisia, Prince Moulay Hicham of Morocco, CEMAT Director Dr. Laryssa Chomiak

Stanford Conference: Building Bridges: Towards Viable Democracies in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya

On March 28-29, 2013, CEMAT partnered with Stanford University's Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (CDDRL) Program on Arab Reform and Democracy (ARD) and the University of Tunis *El Manar* to convene ARD's fourth major conference, titled *Building Bridges: Towards Viable Democracies in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya*. For the first time, the conference was held in the Arab World and we were honored that Stanford and Professor Larry Diamond chose Tunis as its location. The conference brought together leading scholars, policymakers, and practitioners from Tunisia, Libya and Egypt, as well as international experts, to reflect comparatively on the process of democratization following the Arab spring. During the conference, speakers shared their experiences and addressed specific key issues, including political coalitions and Islamism, constitution drafting, national dialogues and civil society, economic policy, and Arab relations with the USA and Europe. Lastly, the conference played an especially marking role in Tunisia's political sphere as it brought together two leaders of opposing political parties, the President of the ruling *Ennahda* party, Rached Ghannouchi, and President of *Nida Tounes*, Beji Caid Essebsi.

CEMAT Scholars 2012 - 2013

Elhem Alkasimi, New York University, "Women's Participation in the Tunisian National Movement." Spring 2013.

Ashley Anderson, Harvard University, "Labor Politics in the MENA Region." Spring 2013.

Kawther Bchit-Ben Hassine, École supérieure de la statistique et de l'analyse de l'information, « A Quantitative Study on the Democratic Process: Tunisia's Post-Election National Survey. » Fall-Winter 2012.

Imen Ben Khelifa, École supérieure de la statistique et de l'analyse de l'information, "Quantitative Study on the Democratic Process." Winter 2012

Lindsay Benstead, Portland State University, "A Quantitative Study on the Democratic Process: Tunisia's Post-Election National Survey." Fall-Winter 2012.

Daniel Blatter, George Washington University, "Political Economy about Fuel Subsidy Reform." February 2013.

Hicham Bou Nassif, Indiana University, "Tunisia's Military Pre-and Post-Political Transition." Summer 2013.

Elizabeth Buckner, Stanford University, "The Policies and Politics of Privatization: Higher Education Reform in Tunisia." Spring 2013.

Zachary Buzzell, George Washington University, "Political Economy about Fuel Subsidy Reform." February 2013.

Melani Cammett, Brown University, "The Emergence and Evaluation of Welfare Regimes in the Middle East: The Case of Tunisia." Winter 2012.

Iris Colman, University of Amsterdam, "Women and The Rise of Salafism in Tunisia." Spring 2013.

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CEMA Director, Dr. Robert Parks, and CEMAT Scientific Council Member Hamadi Redissi

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CEMAT Staff

Dr. Laryssa Chomiak, Director

chomiak@aimsnorthafrica.org

Mr. Riadh Saadaoui, Associate Director

Saadaoui@aimsnorthafrica.org

Nura Suleiman, Program Coordinator

Suleiman@aimsnorthafrica.org

Ms. Roua Krimi, MEPI Alumni
Coordinator

mepitunisia@gmail.com

Mr. Faouzi Mahbouli, General Assistant

Ms. Mahassen Segni, Administrative
Assistant

Address

Impasse Menabrea, 19 bis, Rue d'Angleterre

Tunis, Tunisia

Mail: B.P. 404, 1049 Tunis—Hached

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cematmaghrib

Fax: +216.71.328.378