CALL FOR POSITION >

EARLY STAGE RESEARCHER 5

Arab-Muslim encounters with Orientalism in the colonial age

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION >

Orientalism is commonly viewed as the manufacture of knowledge that 'occidental' scholars used to represent the Orient for several ends. In different cases, processes related to politics, diplomacy, colonial power and fascination with the exotic, as well as knowledge production, in the Near and Middle Eastern colonies shaped the nature of Orientalism in the modern age. Nevertheless, it is a mistake to claim that Orientalism in the colonial period was an isolated Western exercise in which Orientals had no place. In the case of Arab Muslim encounters with Orientalism in pre-modern and modern times, in particular, we come across Arab, both Muslim and Christian, scholars who had contacts and cooperated with Western scholars in producing 'Orientalist' knowledge; they actively chose to become part of this in order to 'modernise' their countries. Most contacts between Orientalists and Arab scholars took place within the colonial borders. Even those who did not have any direct relations with Orientalists had access to their knowledge through translations, reviews and responses in the Arab press. The sub-project will highlight contacts between Arab Muslim intellectuals and Orientalists and the intellectual and psychological processes in the global history of the production of knowledge in the field of humanities in the colonial age. It will study the Arab 'counter-genre' of literature in which they tried to explain Orientalism and the West to Arab readers in their global history of mediation of ideas between the Orient and the Occident.

The ESR will be under the supervision of Prof. Umar Ryad (KU Leuven) and co-supervision of Prof. Albrecht Fuess (Philipps University of Marburg). External tutor: Nicolette van der Hoek (Brill). The applicant is expected to develop his/her own research project within the framework of the position description. The applicant will interact on a regular basis with the other project partners and cooperate with the other Early Stage Researchers where required. Additionally, travel abroad will be necessary.

Each applicant may apply for up to 3 Early Stage Researchers positions.

REQUIREMENTS >

Application form on: www.itn-mida.org

Essential criteria:
- Postgraduate or Master level degree (or equivalent) in Arabic and Islamic Studies, Middle Eastern Languages and Studies, History, Cultural Studies or other similar domains
- Commitment to collaborate in the general development of the project
- Fluency in spoken and written English. A proof of the language proficiency (CT level Cambridge Proficiency; IELTS 7.0-8.0 or equivalent) has to be enclosed if English is not the native tongue
- Fluency in written Arabic

Desirable criteria:
- The ability to work with primary and secondary literature in modern European languages related to the topic
- Ability and experience to work independently and willingness to work in an interdisciplinary research team, with good organisational and social skills
- Research / Work experience in one of the Arab countries is recommended

BENEFITS >

Successful candidates will receive an attractive salary, based on the Marie Curie Program regulations.

For further information about the project and the position, please contact: info@itn-mida.org

Eligibility criteria:
- no residence in Belgium for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately preceding the engagement date
- no PhD degree
- less than 4 years of research, Master excluded
- not restricted to EU citizens

Application file:
- copies of degree certificates (Master degree or equivalent)
- curriculum vitae
- list of publications (if applicable)
- reference letter
- 2-page research proposal
- short motivation letter

Deadline: 1st of June
Candidatures received after the 1st of June will not be considered.

Starting date: ideally in September 2019

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