CALL FOR POSITION >

EARLY STAGE RESEARCHER 4

Islamist movements in Morocco in their ‘other languages’: uses of the Arabic and Berber vernacular varieties in the digital spheres

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION >

Arabic, whether in its classical or modern standard varieties, is a language deeply intertwined with the practice of Islam, frequently conceived as a unifying element, but also as a language forging a worldview. In their promotion of scripturalism and textualism, many Islamist movements in Morocco reinforce the status of both classical and modern standard varieties of Arabic. Nevertheless, Arabic and Berber vernacular varieties (Moroccan Arabic or darija, Tarifit or Rifian, Tamazight, Tashelhit and others) also have a role within Islamist movements in Morocco, yet to be assessed. Morocco stands out as a particularly interesting case-study, as it has the largest Berber-speaking population of all the North African countries, but it also presents very interesting dynamics related to language uses and linguistic policies/attitudes. The aim of this project is to examine the uses of Arabic and Berber vernacular varieties in the oral and written practices of Islamist movements and Islamist individuals, particularly as they are deployed in the digital spheres, including social media. In this vein, the project locating itself in the fields of the anthropology of linguistic practices and digital anthropology. Its main purpose is to examine the place given within Islamist movements in Morocco both to languages other than Arabic and to varieties of Arabic different from classical or modern standard Arabic (MSA). By doing so, the project aims at providing a clear understanding of the role of these ‘other languages’ in the socialisation of Islamist discourses and practices, and within religious and political activities.

The ESR will be under the supervision of Dr. Araceli Gónzalez Vázquez (CSIC-IMF) and co-supervision of Prof. Umar Ryad (KU Leuven). External tutor: Olivia Orozco (Casa Árabe).

REQUIREMENTS >

Essential criteria:
- Postgraduate or Master level degree (or equivalent) in Social Sciences, Anthropology, Arabic Philology, Middle Eastern Languages and 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 (CI 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
- Knowledge of Moroccan Arabic and a Berber variety is required
- Some knowledge of the local language or commitment to learn it during the period of the grant

Desirable criteria:
- Experience in working in an interdisciplinary team

BENEFITS >

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

SECONDMENT >

- Casa Árabe, Madrid (Olivia Orozco)
- German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Hamburg (Jens Heibach)
- Philipps University of Marburg, Marburg (Albrecht Fuess)

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

Starting date: ideally in September 2019

Eligibility criteria:
- no residence in Spain 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

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