Mecca between photography, phonography and motion picture in the colonial period

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION >

In the digital age, this image of Mecca, the holy site of the Islamic annual Hajj, is easily conveyed by live shots, documentaries and even Hajj-selfies which are spreading on the Internet and in social media. In that sense, the visualisation of Mecca has become much more accessible to the wider global public, Muslims and non-Muslims, in contrast to the pre-colonial and colonial era. In the colonial age, the mediation and representation of Mecca started to reach Europe by means of paintings, phonographic recordings, photography and films. This audio-visual production became an intrinsic part of Europe's interest in Mecca as a 'global' city that attracted increasingly high numbers of Muslim subjects from the colonies. This new colonial 'Hajj' culture in Europe included political and sanitary reports, academic studies, and popular works and resulted in Europeans travelling to Arabia. In order to support these fields of interest, capturing real image representations of Mecca and its life, including drawings and photography, was needed in order to visualise the city for those interested in the subject in academic and political circles as well as to the wider public. The sub-project will study how, as in the present digital turn, the advent of photography and film, which was originally a Western novelty, in the mid-19th century. created a new 'colonial gaze' on Mecca and the Hajj.

The ESR will be under the supervision of Prof. Gerard Wiegers (Universiteit van Amsterdam) and co-supervision of Prof. Umar Ryad (KU Leuven). External tutor: Erdogan Aykaç (Tropenmuseum).

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 >

Essential criteria:
- Postgraduate or Master level degree (or equivalent) in Middle Eastern Studies, Islamic Studies, Religious Studies or other similar domains
- Excellent skills in spoken and written English. A proof of the language proficiency has to be enclosed if English is not the native tongue
- Fluency in written Arabic
- Commitment to collaborate in the general development of the project

Desirable criteria:
- Experience in working in an interdisciplinary team
- Experience with material and /or visual analysis

APPLICATION FORM ON: www.itn-mida.org

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

BENEFITS >

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

Eligibility criteria:
- no residence in the Netherlands 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