Annual Conference of the Academy in Exile

Dire Times: Critical Thinking Then and Now.

Conveners: Vanessa Agnew, Kader Konuk, Susanne Zepp-Zwirner

January 16 & 17, 2020 at Freie Universität Berlin

Harnack House, Max Planck Society | Ihnestr. 16-20, 14195 Berlin

Registration is required to attend the conference. To register, please contact: academy-in-exile@fu-berlin.de

Thursday, 16 January 2020

2:00  Arrival and Registration

3:00  Conference Welcome:
Verena Blechinger-Talcott (Vice President, Freie Universität Berlin/ Institute of East Asian Studies, Freie Universität Berlin)

3:15  Opening Remarks:
Kader Konuk (Director, Academy in Exile/ University of Duisburg-Essen)

3:30-5:30  Roundtable: What Is at Stake?
Bülent Eken (Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen), Tijen Tunali (Freie Universität Berlin), Zeynep Türkyılmaz (Forum Transregionale Studien/ Academy in Exile) and Achim Rohde (Academy in Exile)

Chair: Olga Hünler (Academy in Exile)

5:30  Break

6:00  Performance:
Maryam Abu Khaled (Gorki Ensemble)

6:30  Keynote Lecture:
Nishant Shah (Vice-President of Research at ArtEZ University of the Arts, The Netherlands)

8:00  Reception

Friday, 17 January 2020

9:00  Coffee

9:30-11:00  The New School: Building Institutions
Elzbieta Matynia (Sociology and Liberal Studies/ Director of the Transregional Center for Democratic Studies, New School for Social Research, New York)

“Critical Thinking in Critical Times: 30 Years of Democracy & Diversity Institutes”

Arien Mack (Psychology, New School for Social Research/ Founder of The New University in Exile Consortium)


Chair: Kader Konuk (Academy in Exile/ University of Duisburg-Essen)

11:00  Coffee

11:30-1:00  Judgement
Klaus Hoffmann-Holland (Vice President, Freie Universität Berlin/ Criminology and Criminal Law, Freie Universität Berlin)

Susanne Zepp-Zwirner (Romance Studies, Freie Universität Berlin)

“Evidence, Reasoning, Judgement: A Case Study in Law and Literature”

Chair: Bülent Eken (Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut, Essen)

1:00  Lunch

2:00-4:00  Infringements on Academic Freedom
Paul Pickering (Director, Research School of Humanities and the Arts/ Director, Australian Studies Institute, The Australian National University)

“What Is at Stake?”

Dariusz Stola (Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw)

“Profit or Loss: Is the Academy on Sale?”

Éva Kovács (Research Programme Director, Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies)


Chair: Vanessa Agnew (University of Duisburg-Essen/ The Australian National University)

4:00  Coffee & Open Networking Session

5:00  End of Conference