

WOCMES Side events

A series of side events will take place during WOCMES Seville 2018. Organised outside the academic programme, these activities provide an excellent opportunity for all participants to approach institutions or projects related to the geographical area of the congress but working on the margins of academia.

SE-01. 'The Absence of Paths' Performance. Curated by: **Lina Lazaar**. Organised by: Kamel Lazaar Foundation

Monday 16th to Friday 20th

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. / 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

University of Seville

Stopping for a moment to think about the concept of a border will be the exercise proposed to all participants and visitors to the Congress at the Rectorate of the University by Wocmes Sevilla 2018's cultural agenda and in particular by 'The Absence of Paths' performance, carried out in collaboration with the Kamel Lazaar Foundation.

'The Absence of Paths' performance, staged at the Tunisia Pavilion during the 57th edition of the Venice Biennale, is an artistic show that invites people to join a movement to challenge border regulations and focuses on migration and freedom of movement.

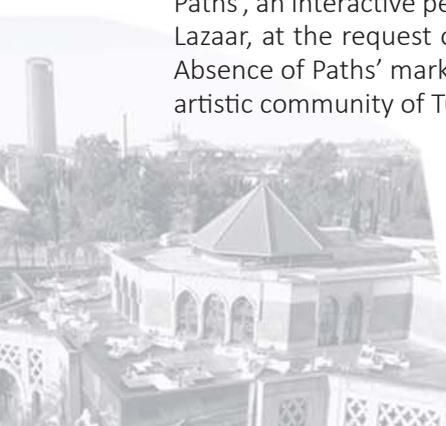
A kiosk, reminiscent of any checkpoint of our recent contemporary history, receives visitors, who can register as migrants with "Origin: Unknown", "Destination: Unknown" or "Status: Migrant" and obtain a universal travel document that looks like an official visa.

During the Venice Biennale, people could register at the different kiosks spread all over the city and knock on the doors of a world with 'open borders' to be citizens of everywhere and nowhere.

'The Absence of Paths' arrives at WOCMES2018 with the same goal: to encourage reflection on the refugee crisis and the privilege of world cultural and artistic events.

During the staging of this performance, false travel documents called 'Freesas' will be emitted and visitors will need to have them stamped with their fingerprint to validate them and agree to 'back a universal freedom of movement philosophy without a need for arbitrary sanctions based on status'.

The first national pavilion of Tunisia since 1958 challenged contemporary political order with 'The Absence of Paths', an interactive performance aimed to inspire more investigation into human movement. Curated by Lina Lazaar, at the request of the Presidency of the Republic of Tunisia and the Ministry of Cultural Matters, 'The Absence of Paths' marks a continual association between concerned members of the public and the blooming artistic community of Tunisia.

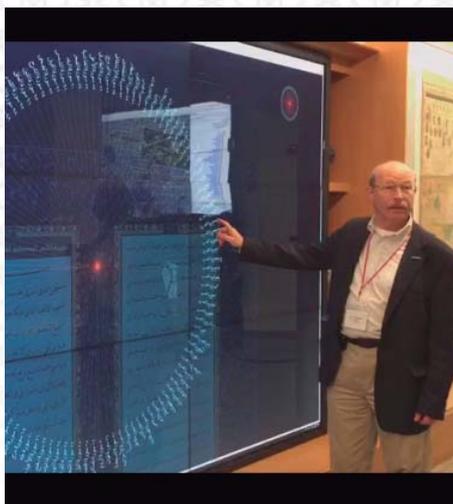


SE-02. Presentation of Mushaf Muscat. Organised by: **Thomas Milo**, DecoType. With the collaboration of the **Omani Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs**.

Tuesday, July 17th

11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.

Room XVII



With the massive number of people who use the Arabic script in many different languages, Silicon Valley's indifference regarding Arabic script culture becomes catastrophic, despite many competent individual contributions. This talk presents a new concept, possible to develop technically into a comprehensive solution suitable for browser-based application, yet independent of Silicon Valley restraints, that preserves the characteristics of Islamic script in the context of global computing and Unicode. URL: mushafmuscat.om

Besides this presentation, a touchscreen will be installed (next to the Book Exhibition area) during the congress, so that participants might try themselves the new concept developed by the Mushaf Muscat project.

Thomas Milo is linguist, researcher and pioneer of Arabic font technology. He holds the Peter Karow award for exceptional innovations

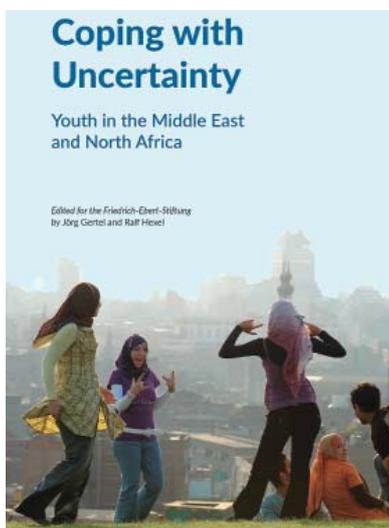
in the development of digital type and typography-related technology and represents the Sultanate of Oman as full member of the Unicode Consortium.

SE-03. Book launch. 'Coping with Uncertainty: Youth in the Middle East and North Africa'

Tuesday, July 17th

5:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.

Room 203



Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung presents the book *Coping with Uncertainty: Youth in the Middle East and North Africa*. In this landmark volume, edited by Jörg Gertel and Ralf Hexel and recently published by Saqi Books, an international interdisciplinary team of researchers assesses one of the most comprehensive, in-depth studies of young people in the MENA region to date. Nine thousand people aged 16–30 from Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen were surveyed in 2016 and 2017. Given how rapidly events have developed in the Middle East and North Africa, the findings are in many regards unexpected.

SE-04. With a dictionary and a gun – scholarship under combat conditions. Organised by: **Thomas Milo**, DecoType.

Wednesday, July 18th

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Room XVII

In 1979 the Netherlands was dragged into Peace Keeping for the first time: UNIFIL in South Lebanon. A combat-ready armoured infantry battalion was taken out of the Cold War battle order and positioned in a Hot War that it was not prepared for, in which it was no party and which it was unable to stop. In the chaos of Israelis, Palestinians, Lebanese, armies and militias, guerilla's and thugs, the troops were constrained by very rigid UN rules of engagement. Against this backdrop, the Dutch army decided to deploy Arabic speaking officers to do the speaking instead of guns.

Thomas Milo is linguist with a background in Slavic, Turkic and Arabic. After an adventurous period in the 1970s in long-distance trucking between Holland and the Gulf, he voluntarily joined the Royal Netherlands Army and served as one of the Arabic speaking officers of Dutchbatt UNIFIL between 1980 and 1983. He completed two operational tours, and between tours he wrote the Army Manual of South Lebanese Spoken Arabic – a totally undocumented variety of Arabic that was the only valid one. No other UNIFIL unit had Arabic speakers in their operational and intelligence staff, and no other contributing nation produced relevant language material. In 1983, together with 5 fellow soldiers, Tom managed to return from South Lebanon with 3 m38A1 jeeps, one of which is now a prime exhibit in the National Military Museum.

SE-05. Book launch: No Room for Small Dreams –the Legacy of President Peres. Organised by: **Tsvia (Peres) Walden**.

Wednesday, July 18th

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Room: 103

In this, his final work, finished only weeks before his passing, Peres offers a long-awaited examination of the crucial turning points in Israeli history through the prism of having been a decision maker and eyewitness. Told with the frankness of someone aware this would likely be his final statement, *No Room for Small Dreams* spans decades and events, but as much as it is about *what* happened, it is about *why* it happened. Examining pivotal moments in Israel's rise, Peres explores what makes for a great leader, how to make hard choices in a climate of uncertainty and distress, the challenges of balancing principles with policies, and the liberating nature of imagination and unpredicted innovation. In doing so, he not only charts a better path forward for his beloved country but provides deep and universal wisdom for younger generations who seek to lead—be it in politics, business, or the broader service of making our planet a safer, more peaceful, and just place.

Taken from: <https://www.harpercollins.com/9780062561442/no-room-for-small-dreams/>

