

## ORGANIZED BY

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Picture: With the courtesy of Masasit Mati

## CONFERENCE VENUE

University of Cologne  
Küpperstift Kerpener Str. 30,  
Side entrance Weyertal, Room 101, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
50937 Köln

## FUNDED BY

Fritz Thyssen Stiftung  
für Wissenschaftsförderung

# Creative Resistance:

Political Humour in the  
Arab Uprisings

March 27-29, 2014

## International Conference

University of Cologne  
Institute of Oriental Studies

# Creative Resistance:

## Political Humour in the Arab Uprisings

**M**ocking the ruler or representatives of the ruling class can be an effective instrument to question and challenge political power by discrediting its authority and reputation. The conference aims to explore the various facets and functions of political humour that have occurred in the course of the "Arab Uprisings" as a force of creative resistance. Bringing together activists and academics, we seek to analyze and theorize forms of humorous expression in various genres and forms of art (literature, satire, graffiti, theater etc.) as well as different forms of media like newspapers, online-magazines, youtube-videos and banners.

### CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 27

6:30 pm **Welcome and Introduction:**  
Humour and the Political

**Keynote Speech:**  
**Khalid Kishtainy**  
Humour as weapon in civilian Jihad

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 28

**Panel I Testimonies of Artists and Activists**

*Chair: Dr. Larissa Förster*

9:30 am **Mohamed Anwar:**  
Political humour: High hopes to nihilism

10:15 am **Doaa El Adl:**  
Caricature and political critique in revolutionary Egypt

11:00 am **Coffee Break**

11:30 am **Jamil Al Abyad (pseudonym):**  
Theatre and Satire as tools of resistance

12:15 pm **Dr. Huda Zein:**  
Art born out of pain and destruction

**Panel II The Power of the Image: Between Breaking Taboos and Documenting the Revolution**

*Chair: Martina Sabra*

3:00 pm **Larissa Bender:**  
The caricatures of the city of Kafranbel as a mirror of international politics

3:45 pm **Coffee Break**

4:15 pm **Prof. Dr. Sabine Damir-Geilsdorf:**  
Black humour in visualizing the Syrian conflict

5:00 pm **Anna Gabai:**  
The emergence of a comic scene in Palestine

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#### SATURDAY, MARCH 29

**Panel III Reality as Fiction: Comedy, Literature, Theater, Film**

*Chair: Prof. Dr. Sabine Damir-Geilsdorf*

9:30 am **Prof. Dr. Randa Abu Bakr:**  
Emerging modes of protests in Egypt and carnivalesque laughter

10:15 am **Martina Sabra:**  
Comedy as reality show: Bassem Youssef's "Al-Bernameg"

11:00 am **Coffee Break**

11:30 am **Fabian Heerbaart:**  
"We started to celebrate to be Egyptian": Young Egyptian artists, humour and creative expression

12:15 pm **Nathanael Mannone:**  
Beyond 'Tanafus': performativity and quotidian humour in revolutionary Tunisia

3:00 pm **Dr. Liza Franke:**  
A festival of resistance: Humorous documents of the Egyptian revolution

3:45 pm **Dr. Stephan Milich:**  
Commemorating the absurd, re-framing the real: Forms of satire, parody and grotesque in literature and video clips

4:30 pm **Closing Discussion**