



The Marie Curie ITN proposal 'Mediating Islam in the Digital Age' (MIDA) has been awarded

11/07/2018

Actividades

An **international consortium** of research institutes, universities and non-academic partners in six European countries has been awarded with a **research grant** from the **Department for Research and Innovation of the European Commission** in **June 2018**.

MIDA is coordinated by the '**Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique**' (**CNRS**) in Paris. Twelve beneficiaries and thirteen partner organisations are part of the consortium, including three CSIC institutes — **Instituto de Lenguas y Culturas del Mediterráneo y Oriente Próximo (ILC)**, **Institución Milá y Fontanals (IMF)**, and **Escuela de Estudios Árabes (EEA)** — as beneficiaries. The scientists in charge are **Maribel Fierro** (ILC), **Araceli González** (IMF) and **Mayte Penelas** (EEA). Partner organisations in Spain include **Casa Árabe**, **LINK: Universidad Autónoma de Madrid** -> <http://www.uam.es/UAM/Home.htm?language=es>, **Universitat de Barcelona**, **Universidad de Granada**.



ITN programs are designed to combine scientific research with an intensive training trajectory for young scholars in order to equip them with the necessary comprehensive knowledge and skills. These researchers work in an inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary and international environment to deepen their knowledge and to find answers to pressing contemporary societal issues.

The MIDA-project rests on the premise that digitisation and technological innovations have a tremendous impact on Islam, the effects of which are diverse and ubiquitous.

<http://ofpi.ugr.es/>

They include first and foremost modes of expression and communication of religious messages and traditions and modes of engagement with society. Digitisation and concurrent innovations as they emerged in the past decades belong to the list of comparable fundamental technological transformations in human history such as the invention of paper, printing technology, steam power, electricity and telecommunication, which constituted major upheavals, even if these were not experienced in all societies and by everyone at the same time, in the same way.

It is commonly recognised that the digital revolution will indeed deeply transform human societies, much as the industrial revolution did in the nineteenth century. However, the rapid changes that are currently taking place generate a sense of loss of control and instability among the general public, politicians, journalists, academics, and, not least, among Muslims themselves. The spread of modern digital media and new technologies of communication, production and dissemination, prompts researchers and social actors, Muslims and non-Muslims alike, to make sense of, and to understand these developments. Consequently, they have shaken up Islam as a field of academic study and have impacted on the ways Islam is to be studied in the future. The specificity of the current digital revolution calls for a re-evaluation of past situations and reflection on future prospects.

MIDA assesses these developments in all their dimensions by formulating three major questions: How does digitisation (1) shape Islam (i.e. beliefs, practices, societies, political organizations, social institutions, and outlooks); (2) modify the relation Muslims have with their past; (3) modify and reorganize scholarship and research on Islam?

MIDA takes Islam as a broad field, not confined to theological dimensions as such. The study of Islam implies the study of mediating practices and concomitant social, political and cultural implications in past and present and consists of three interlocking dimensions. The first concerns texts, doctrines, material culture, and rituals as means to bridge the distance between the individual and the divine and to generate religious experience and reflection. The second dimension concerns the social, cultural, visual and institutional environments and settings in which mediation takes place, and the actors that are involved. The third dimension concerns social and political institutions and power relations in which mediation is embedded. An overall aim of the project is to understand how digitisation instigates renewed attention for the impact of similar processes in the past.

For further information, please contact:

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