

WOCMES Seville 2018
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From 16th to 20th July 2018, the WOCMES Seville 2018 World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies welcomed the Fifth edition which this time has taken place in the capital of Andalusia. It was a perfect occasion to debate and share many different points of view concerning the latest information on research and studies about the Middle East, migration, environment, culture, literature, media, socio-linguistics, art, Al-Andalus, etc. In this occasion, the Congress centred its attention to the relationship between the three cultures as well as the Andalusí legacy found in Seville, the city that hosted the event. As we all know, Seville has historically been a city where interchange and cultural change has been possible. All the assistants to the Congress will never forget such an awesome experience, since the promised objective of being an unforgettable Congress was reached from the first day.

It is important to mention that this Congress counted with the presence of the King of Spain, H.M. Felipe VI, who inaugurated the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies. The act was broadcast in streaming in the Aula Magna at the University of Seville.

This Congress offered an amazing possibility to all the public interested, and especially to professors and researchers, to find a WOCMES' Book Exhibition that served as a gathering point to create interest in books concerning several issues: the Middle East, North Africa, the three cultures, Andalusia, the Middle-Eastern tradition, etc. It was a great opportunity for both authors and University and publishing houses to offer and display their latest publications

on these fields of study, because they could promote their publications on the Cooperative Book Display.

Amongst the books presented, we must highlight the presentation of the book *De Toledo a Córdoba. Tathlith al Wahdaniyyah (La Trinidad de la Unidad). Fragmentos teológicos de un judeoconverso arabizado* edited by Editorial Sindéresis and written by Dr. Juan Pedro Monferrer Sala, a renowned erudite on Middle Eastern Studies. This author did also present a *Glossary of Nabataean Aramaic. With etymological and comparative notes* edited by UCO Press.

Not to mention the incredibly WOCMES Award Ceremony, which was hold on July 18th at Teatro de la Maestranza. The title of this ceremony was called WOCMES Award for Outstanding Contributions to Middle Eastern Studies in 2018. Every four years, the Congress' Advisory Council decides to underline the research trajectory of an expert for his/her contribution to Middle Eastern Studies. In this edition, the winner of such honour in the 5th WOCMES Award Ceremony was Dr. Rashid Khalidy, a brilliant Professor of Arab Studies at Columbia University.

It was also possible for assistants to testify the wide variety of different cultural activities which took place during this Congress, and which included a cinema festival, some concerts and a couple of exhibitions at the main buildings of the University of Seville. There were some award-winning films, documentaries and short films broadcast from the most representative festivals of the Middle East and North Africa.

On the other hand, the program of conferences carried out was huge. Amongst all the topics which were presented and talked about, we must mention for the goal of this review the panel organised by the University of Córdoba called *Translating the Other: The re-creation of Arab Culture in Europe*, which took place on July 18th at room 212.

Some presentations were performed by several researchers from this University.

María Pilar Castillo analysed some complex fragments from a translation's point of view, due to the different cultural bias between German and Spanish languages found in the text of a Syrian-German author, Rafik Schami. The title of her presentation was *The translation of migrant literature from the Middle East: Rafik Schami's novels from German into Spanish*.

María del Mar Ogea showed some translation examples of culturemes of a documentary about Al-Andalus which let a cultural approach with some

specialized terms in Spanish, due to the Arab influence that we can find in Spanish language and culture. Her presentation was titled *The translation of cultural terms specialised in Al-Andalus: subtitling the documentary "When the moors ruled in Europe"*.

María Luisa Rodríguez talked about ideology and the possible manipulation in the usage of proper names of certain medieval monuments in Cordoba, as well as the controversy towards the nomenclature of the Mosque or Mosque-Cathedral, depending on the context or media. Her presentation was titled *Translation and rewriting of history in medieval monuments of Córdoba: patronage and ideology*.

Finally, Azahara Veroz and Manuel Marcos, in a presentation titled *The perception of Islam in the Media: a terminological approach French-Spanish* showed a study of corpus that analyzed the use of substantives and adjectives with a possible emotional burden and which are employed with a major frequency in texts concerning the Arabic culture. Is it a manipulation of the information? Do they offer a negative vision of the Islamic world?

In conclusion, this event was an example of interculturalism, of interchange and of how diverse societies can do better when they are united throughout history, culture, language and society. Being an event for researchers, professors, students and to all people interested in Middle Eastern Studies, this Congress not only aimed at research *per se*, but also to something bigger: to the extraordinary opportunity to take on an amazing world which offers a culture that may well be called *a treasure*.