**Call for Papers**

**First International Workshop**

**ERC Project “JudgingHistories”**

**Principal Investigator: Professor Dan Diner**

**“Historical Comprehension and Moral Judgement of**

**World War II and the Holocaust:**

**The View from North Africa –**

**Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya”**

**June 21-22, 2015, Mt. Scopus   
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem**

It is commonly assumed that the Second World War and the Holocaust marked the European collective memory as well as the continental history in different manners than it did outside of Europe, for instance in the Middle East, and in North Africa in particular. The first international workshop of the ERC Project “Experience, Judgement, and Representation of World War II in an Age of Globalization” intends to review this assumption by asking: Can and should a perception of the ultimate catastrophe be truly global after all? In other words, can and should the “epistemological gap” between the North African’s historicism of the local historical experiences related to colonialism, on the one hand, and the continental traditions of universalizing WWII and the Holocaust, on the other hand, be bridged?

The aim of the workshop is to explore how continental events that haveoccurred during WWII, and in particular the genocide of the European Jews on the European soil, were historicallycomprehended and morally judged in local terms in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya before and after 1945. For the purpose of this workshop, by “historical comprehension” we mean the ways North Africans perceived the war and the Holocaust in intellectual and scholastic terms. What was the nature of the “official discourse” on these two intertwined events? Whereas, by “moral judgements” we are referring to the “popular discourse”; namely, how did North Africans remember or evoke these events both in the public sphere (e.g. coffee shops) and in the private sphere (e.g. families)?

Questions that may be addressed in the workshop include the following:

- To what extent were the “historical comprehensions” and “moral judgements” made of WWII and the Holocaust by North Africans, synchronized or desynchronized with theperceptions and judgements of these very events by European citizens in Europe?

- Within North Africa itself, what were the differences and similarities between thenorms and forms through which North African Muslims and Jews (with the possibility to include the Algerian Pieds-Noirs) comprehended and judged WWII and the Holocaust?

- Reversely, on the European side: Could and should the continental historicism and memory evoke a situation in which WWII as well as the Holocaust are seen through the prism of European colonialism (French, Spanish, Italian, and German) and the atrocities that it generated in North Africa?

We would like to invite you to send us a proposal for a paper addressing the theme of the workshop by May 15th, 2015. Suitable participants will be contacted and will be kindly asked to send a full version of their paper by June 5th, 2015. The papers will be circulated among all participants two weeks before the beginning of the workshop. In order to enable a fruitful discussion, the presentations should not exceed 20 minutes. After each presentation we shall open the floor for discussion.

Travel costs (economy) and the costs of accommodation in Jerusalem (for 3 nights) will be covered by the project for all the conference participants from abroad.

Workshop participants may be invited to submit their presentations for publication in the project’s publication series “JudgingHistories”.

Dr. Samir Ben-Layashi

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