Summer School on ‘Trauma’
September 2018 at Yarmouk University

First Day: September 22, 2018

On the arrival of the Köln University students.
Stephan Milich asked the students to choose a picture. Later, each one of them told what made him or her choose the one they took.

Discussing why one has chosen his or her picture and introducing oneself.
Small working groups exploring each other’s behaviors and interests.
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Mr. Basel Al-Hamad giving his presentation about ‘Political Trauma’.
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Open discussion and round of questions with Mr. Al-Hamad.

Visit to the Family and Childhood Protection Society in Irbid.
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Discussions during the visit to the Family and Childhood Protection Society.

Welcome dinner at The Chimney House Restaurant.
Second Day: September 23, 2018

The official opening with the president of Yarmouk University (From Left to Right: Stephan Milich, President of Yarmouk University, Dean of the Faculty of Arts).

The first lecture: introduction and presentation by Stephan Milich.
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Working Group 1: The History of Trauma.

Working Group 2: The Context of Colonialism, Trauma Theory, Trauma and Literature.
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Getting together in small groups to discuss three questions:
How would you define Trauma in your own words, and which forms of Trauma can we distinguish so far?
Where do you think speaking about Trauma is most present in your society?
What do you think helps most to recover from past traumatic effects?
Performance of his short story by Hisham Al-Bustani, discussion with the author and with Hussein Nashwan.

Continuing with the working groups.
Working group 3: Trauma in Arabic Literature (example of Mahmoud Darweesh) and the aims of narratives.
The two poems of the Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darweesh that were discussed during the session.
Working Group 4 discussed the topics of Social Life, Trauma, Heritage and the Trauma of young Egyptians.

Session on Trauma in several Arab countries such as Egypt and Palestine.
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At Alyabroud Restaurant, having a discussion session with Dr. Hussein Nashwan about his book ‘The Slaughter and the Victim’ (Al-Jallad wa Al-Dahiah).
Dr. Hofner gave each one a porcupine ball, which is used for the physical aspect in trauma therapy.
Lecture by Prof. Fadia Al-Suyoufie (Department of English Language and Literature) about her approach to studying and engaging with Syrian women’s life in Jordan.
Visit to and lunch at the Jordanian Women’s Union: Discussion about their services and women rights in Jordan.
Guided Tour to Om Qais, here, the students had an opportunity to engage with each other.
Continuing discussing the relation between politics, refugees, migration and trauma. Working Group 5 presented about the following topics:
1- Introduction to Trauma, with a focus on trauma and children,
2- Trauma and refugees, mental situation of asylum seekers in Germany
3- Traumatic experiences in sensitive development stages,
4- ‘Human devastation syndrome’ from a psychological point of view with the example of Kareem and Khadija.
Dr. Hofner's lecture: Methods, approaches and tools in trauma therapy. She informed about how trauma therapy works and put a focus on transgenerational trauma.
Group work on methods of trauma therapy by Dr. Hofner.

Working Group 6: Trauma in German History and Society. PTSD is not a disease to be treated by medicine only, it is rather about understanding psychological mechanisms of coping with stress and shocking experiences.
Sixth Day: September 27, 2018

Continuing with working group 6 and a session of discussion on trauma in German history, with a special focus on World War II.

Working Group 7: They presented about German society after World War II. After that, students engaged in a discussion on traumatic dimensions of German literature after the Second World War.
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Lecture and Q & A by Dr. Ayat Nashwan (Director of Yarmouk University’s Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center) about ‘Trauma, Agency, Resilience and Growth empowerment’.

Souvenirs by Yarmouk University and its students for the German participants of the Summer School.
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Farewell Dinner at Al-Rassam Restaurant.