



Bergen, 11.2.08

Nordic Ph.D. workshop in Egypt, 2-8. June 2008

The Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies invites all Ph.D. candidates working in the Nordic countries to take part in a Ph.D. workshop in Cairo and Alexandria, 2-8. June 2008.

The workshop will partly consist of lectures and seminars on two particular topics of general interest, partly of presentations by Ph.D. students who will be commented on by instructors from the Nordic countries and Egypt, as well as by fellow students. One half the time will be hosted by the *Danish-Egyptian Dialogue Institute* in Cairo, the other half by the *Swedish Research Centre in Alexandria*.

The topics selected for this year's workshop are *The New Arabic media*, to be discussed in Cairo, and *How are our sources created?*, which will be discussed in Alexandria.

Many of those of us who work on contemporary topics are affected by the great changes that have taken place in the media landscape over the last decade, with pan-Arabic and independent newspapers, new satellite channels, and the Internet. For many, these provide our sources, for others they are research topics in themselves. How do these changes affect the social and cultural situation in the Middle East, and what effect does it have for our work as researchers? The Cairo section will take place in the *al-Ahram* building, and we will be able to utilize their resources.

Whether we work in the humanities or social sciences, in the early period or contemporary topics, we need and we use *sources*. We are trained to evaluate them critically. But how do these sources come about? The second section will discuss the creation of sources: from oral to written, from raw to interpreted, from originals to translated text. The aim of this topic is to help us develop our critical sense of source evaluation, across the complete field of human and social sciences.

Most of the time will also be set aside for the participants' own presentation. They need not be precisely in the fields discussed under the theme topics, we invite participation from all fields of research, whether they are based on Middle Eastern languages, or Western sources, human or social sciences. The participants will be asked to comment on each others' presentation, but the papers will also be developed and criticized by a group of prominent Nordic scholars in Middle East Studies, as well as by participants from Egypt.

The number of participants is limited to 12 students. These will get travel and accommodation etc. covered. There is a participation fee of €400.

We welcome applications, which should include a brief CV and a description of their project (no more than one half page), by **15 March 2008**. These should be sent, preferably by email, to <post@smi.uib.no>, or to the Nordic Society at the address below.