



# MOSAICS



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## Disputatio 2014: The Mediterranean, Bridge of Cultures

UNU-GCM, together with the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea, was delighted to host the Disputatio 2014 on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014 in the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site. This modern-day revival of a medieval debate was a lively event on the theme: 'The Mediterranean, Bridge of Cultures'. The speakers were Maria Paradiso, Professor of Geography and Planning at the University of Sannio, Italy, who spoke on 'The Mediterranean: Bridging, bordering and cross-bordering', and the region's new solidarities and networks; while Enric Banda, Director of Science and Environment at the La Caixa Foundation and Member of the Academia Europaea, spoke on the importance of 'Science as a Mediterranean bridge'.

## Contribution to IEMed Yearbook: 'Cultural and Religious Diversity in Europe'

Professor Dr. Parvati Nair, Founding Director of UNU-GCM, contributes to the IEMed Mediterranean Yearbook 2014, with a piece on 'Cultural and Religious Diversity in Europe: The Challenges of Pluralism'. The piece illustrates how the meeting of cultures is a key concern in Europe and one that has always been at the core of its own process of identity construction. It also highlights the importance of the Mediterranean region in addressing the challenges of pluralism, and questions of tolerance, equality and justice.

## Visit by UNU Vice Rector, Mr. Max Bond and Mr. Krishnadasan, Legal Advisor

On Thursday 30th October, UNU-GCM hosted the Vice Rector of UNU, Mr. Max Bond, and Mr. Krishnadasan, the Legal Advisor. During their mission in Spain, they took the opportunity to learn more about the activities of UNU-GCM. As well as providing a vital link to developments elsewhere in the UNU, they offered helpful advice and feedback on the Institute's programme of research. They expressed interest in the topics covered and discussed how future work could engage with United Nations debates and policy.

## UNU Migration Network: Upcoming Activities

On 12th January 2015, the United Nations University Migration Network, coordinated by UNU-GCM, will hold its Fifth Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, at the UNU-International Institute on Global Health (UNU-IIGH). Researchers involved in the UNU Migration Network will also share their work at a symposium organised by UNU-IIGH on 13th January 2015. This will be a unique opportunity for UNU migration experts worldwide to engage with Malaysian stakeholders and to discuss the future of migration policy. For more details, please visit: <http://migration.unu.edu>

## Profile: Talha Jalal, Visiting Researcher

Talha Jalal joined UNU-GCM as a Visiting Researcher in October 2014. His research at UNU-GCM focuses on the displacement resulting from the transnational conflict in Syria and Iraq. Talha's research interests include human security, protection issues in fragile contexts, and particularly cultural security, within the human displacement context. Focusing on the broader Middle East and South Asia region, he has worked with international NGOs, and also recently held a research position at The Foreign Policy Institute in Washington, DC.

UNU Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility  
Sant Manuel Pavilion, Sant Pau Historic Site  
c/ Sant Antoni Maria Claret, 167  
08025 Barcelona, Spain  
[communications.gcm@unu.edu](mailto:communications.gcm@unu.edu)  
[www.gcm.unu.edu](http://www.gcm.unu.edu)



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