



Competition for Young Researchers

The topic chosen for the second competition for young researchers organised by the Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research is:

"Female Adolescents in the Arab World: Situation and Prospects"

In its second report on the Development of Arab Women, "Female Arab adolescents: situation and prospects", Cawtar has chosen to distance itself from both the biological (physiological changes linked to puberty) and psychological (the crisis of adolescence) approaches to analyse the daily life of female and male adolescents, their practices and their social perceptions in relation to gender.

How do adolescents from various Arab societies form their personalities? How do they live their relationships with others: their parents, family, school friends and peers? What are their academic and professional projects? What are their social practices? What are their religious, political, sporting and artistic activities? How do they see the future, their own future as well as that of their society and the world?

It is on the basis of such questions that the young participating in this competition could initiate their research. The sub-topics are:

*Adolescence, personal identity and representation of the self:

- Building up the self, individuality and personal autonomy in relation to others.
- Puberty and physiological changes, sexuality and representation of the opposite gender; relationships with parents and inter-generational transmission; break-up and initiation to adult life.
- Relationships with the family. Changes in models of authority: the "traditional" system and democratic forms.
- Representations of the roles of the father and the mother and of the personal space of the adolescent.

* Adolescent culture and sociability:

- Dietary behaviour; clothing practices; sporting practices.
- Adolescent tastes: what do they read, what are their leisure activities, their musical and artistic practices and their relations with the media?

* Adolescence, social and professional insertion : projects for their life and future:

- School attendance and choice of studies: secondary school, vocational training, higher education.
- Curriculum and professional patterns of adolescents experiencing the world of work.

- Integration and participation in social, political and religious life. Membership of political or religious movements, of organisations including non-government organisations.
- Representations of the future and prospects: How do adolescents view the societies of tomorrow, especially in the Arab world?

Who can participate in the competition?

Young Arab researchers, both male and female, under the age of 35 who are engaged in higher education (Master's degree, Ph.D. thesis, or other equivalent higher diplomas) and who are doing research in one of the following fields: Sociology, Psychology, Social Psychology, Anthropology, Legal Sciences, Educational Sciences, Social Sciences ...

What does the competition consist of?

- * Candidates are requested to:
- * choose one of the proposed research sub-topics and undertake research on adolescents in one or several Arab countries.
- * write an article of a scientific nature (in compliance with current standards) and not exceeding twenty pages (250 words per page).

Terms of participation

- * Candidates are to fill in and send to Cawtar a pre-inscription form before 30 September 2002. From 1 July onwards, Cawtar will answer them and invite them to initiate their research.
- * Articles may be written in one of the following languages: Arabic, English or French.
- * The article proposed for this competition must be an original one and not have been published previously.
- * The article must be addressed to Cawtar before 20 January 2003.
- * The article must be sent on floppy disk (specify the software) or by e-mail.

- * Candidates are requested to attach their curriculum vitae to this article as well as a certificate stating their registration for a Ph.D. or Master's degree including the opinion of their research director.

Results of the competition

- * Articles submitted for Cawtar's appraisal will be assessed by a selection committee composed of faculty staff representing the different disciplines of the candidates.
- * Articles submitted for this competition will remain at the disposal of Cawtar, who will have the right to publish them and/or otherwise use them after the competition.
- * **Three prizes** will be awarded to the best articles:

- The first and second prizes will be awarded to the best articles submitted by young researchers doing their Ph.D.

The first prize to be awarded will be **US\$ 2000**, plus **one month of scientific study tour(s)**

Second prize: **US\$ 1500**

- The third prize will be awarded to the best article written by a young researcher preparing a Master's degree (or equivalent diploma) and is **US\$ 1000**.

Contact

Articles should be sent to the Director of Cawtar

For any further information, please contact Kaouther Graïda (Research Unit)

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