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Arabistik/Islamwissenschaft

Arab fan culture & the World Cup



Filmscreening and discussion

With Ronnie Close (AUC)

30.11.2022, 6.15 p.m.

M204, Schillerstrasse 6

04019 Leipzig



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The politics of football in the Middle East and North African region is wrapped up in identity through domestic clubs and the emotions attached to national teams. The 2022 World Cup has brought a spotlight on Qatar, but football has a much longer and richer heritage in the Arab region. This event will explore the experience and meaning of fandom beyond sport by looking into the tragic history of Ultras fans in Egypt as an example. This subculture paid a heavy price for their role in the 2011 Revolution, and they help us rethink the labels 'fans' or 'hooligans'. The role of the body is essential to understanding Cairo's Ultras, and how the physicality of the stadium rituals and acerbic chants were key expressions that resonated with many Egyptians.

Writer and filmmaker Ronnie Close, will present his research on Cairo's Ultras and host a discussion on Arab football culture.

Film: More out of Curiosity, (OV) Arabic and English, (UT English), 26:00 mins, 2014.

Discussion: Bring your own views and language! Discussion in English, but we mediate for Arabic and German and see what can be done for/with whatever languages we all have.

And also: For those watching, the event is timed to slide right in between two games in Group D: Tunisia vs. France at 4 pm; and Saudi Arabia vs. Mexico at 8 pm.

Contact: bjoern.bentlage@uni-leipzig.de

Wednesday,
November
30, 6.15
p.m., M204

Oriental Institute
Schillerstrasse 6
04109 Leipzig