


Various Aspects of History: The Present and Future in Euro-Mediterranean Research

JAKA VADNJAL

Euro-Mediterranean University, Slovenia

jaka.vadnjal@emuni.si

 <https://emuni.si/ISSN/2232-6022/16.155-158.pdf>

In this new issue the *International Journal of Euro-Mediterranean Studies*, we are proud to present five articles with very diversified content. Two articles focus on past historical periods, two deal with the business reality of today and the last is centred on one of the most important questions concerning the future: our fresh water supply.

Meshal Alenezi (Kuwait), in his article ‘Loyalty and Affiliation of the Andalusian Elites Towards Mulūk Al-Ṭawā’if During the 11th Century/Fifth AH’ explores how 11th century Islamic rule in the Iberian Peninsula (*al-Andalus*) witnessed political and military disintegration caused by its division into twenty-two Arab and Berber states. In the presence of intellectual and scientific prosperity, scholars and historians were also prompted to examine the cultural prosperity of the Islamic states in *al-Andalus*, the domination of Christians in these states as well as the conflict between the Islamic states. This research clarifies the loyalty of Andalusian elites to the 11th century Muslim rulers in the Iberian Peninsula. It delves into the political positions and ambitions of these elites, particularly those of famous poets and jurists since many scholars concentrate on how the political weakness of the Iberian Muslim rulers impacted the cultural contributions of poets and jurists without examining how it affected their political ambitions and loyalty to those rulers in question during this century.

Adjoba Audrey Paule Nze and Abderrahman Tenkoul (Morocco),

[156] in her article 'Exploring State Effectiveness in Sustainable Development: Development and Use of a Measurement Tool for the Fez-Meknes Region' investigates the application of sustainable development, which has evolved into a fundamental tenet that is incorporated into numerous laws and frameworks for governing bodies. The paper presents a tool for measuring and comparing internal governance capacity for sustainability and operationalisation in the Mediterranean region, such as the provinces and prefectures of the Fez-Meknes region, which aims to be a reference for the sub-region as a smart, resilient, and sustainable city. Using this tool reveals the variety of governance arrangements and their various capacities. It also shows where and how our modes of cultural management, which can be further reinvented and better organised, can be improved in terms of governance of the sustainability of governments and administrations.

Hebatalla Emam, Nagwa Samak, and Israa Abd Elaziz (Egypt) focused on modern day finance in their article 'Measuring the Transparency of the Central Bank of Egypt as a Prerequisite for Adopting Inflation Targeting Policy.' It has been almost two decades since the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) initially announced its intention to adopt the IT regime once the fundamental prerequisites were met. The transition towards the IT policy has been part of the complete revamping and reform of monetary policy in Egypt following the various challenges in the Egyptian economy that have been underway since the late nineties (AlMashat 2008). Thus, the CBE has paid continuous attention in complying with the preconditions of the IT policy. The purpose of this paper is to assess the degree of transparency of the CBE over the period 2005–2021. The study relies on the most recently developed index for Central Bank Transparency (CBT) for inflation-targeting central banks, designed by Al-Mashat et al. (2018) to quantify the degree of transparency of the CBE. The analysis reveals that CBT in Egypt is advancing, but with a relatively reasonable path of change. Still, the CBE has a large void to fill, especially pertaining to the transparency related to the Forecasting and Policy Analysis System and policy-making process.

Predrag Ljubotina and Jaka Vadnjaj (Slovenia), in their article



'Career Decisions in the Mediterranean: To Be or Not to Be an Entrepreneur?,' discuss recent research on family business succession, which has primarily focused on the importance of individual and family factors; nevertheless, regional influences have often been disregarded. This study investigates the influence of regional circumstances on the career choice intentions of family company heirs with respect to employment, beginning their own entrepreneurial endeavour, or family firm succession using individual level cross-country data. The authors have found that there are several distinctions between the European and non-European Mediterranean countries. Even beyond circumstances, such as the university setting, entrepreneurship in the curriculum, entrepreneurial mindsets, locus of control, power distance and subjective standards, individual characteristics of the family business and start-up time are important determinants. Policies regarding company succession and related firm survival should be particularly based on various macroeconomic and youth labour market factors in order to reduce succession failures.

[157]

Yousra Ezzghari, El Khalil Cherif, Ayman Bnoussaad, Hamza El Azhari and Hakim Boulaassal (Morocco) in their article 'Assessment of Coastal Water Quality by Testing a Linear Model Using Landsat 8 SST data: Exploratory Study,' discuss the richness of the ecology of the Mediterranean Basin, which lies off the coast of Tangier, Morocco, considered one of the most valuable waters. However, pollution is a growing problem along this coastline. In order to determine the northern Mediterranean coastal water quality in fifteen selected sites along the coast from Tangier to Ksar-Sghir, a linear model was developed for the Atlantic western coastal waters of Tangier using a sea surface temperature estimated from Landsat 8 images and *Escherichia coli* concentration. According to the findings, the cities around the Souani and Mghogha Rivers, and Tangier Med Port, had the highest measurements, which is indicative of low quality and extremely high levels of hazardous contamination. The tested model is useful for estimating the quality of coastal water on the Mediterranean side of Tangier, and in the future, as a means of potentially monitoring pollution in this region.

Jaka Vadnjal

We hope you will enjoy reading these articles. Please feel free to recommend them to your colleagues for use in their own research and to refer them to IJEMS for future submissions for potential publication.

[158]

