

wie zum Beispiel Konflikte um das Kopftuchtragen oder Moscheebauten. Auch in diesen Schulbuchkapiteln fanden wir homogenisierende Darstellungsmuster, in denen Migranten mit Türken und Türken mit Muslimen gleichgesetzt werden. In diesem Sinne werden auch Bilder kopftuchtragender Frauen stets dazu eingesetzt »Ausländer« und »Fremde« zu illustrieren.

Vor dem Hintergrund dieser Ergebnisse sollten die Schulbücher mindestens in zweierlei Hinsicht überarbeitet werden. Besonders wichtig erscheint uns, dass die »Erzählungslücke« zwischen dem Mittelalter und der Gegenwart gefüllt wird und neue Themen in die Schulbücher aufgenommen werden. Sie könnten Informationen über muslimische Reformbewegungen des 19. Jahrhunderts und nachkoloniale Modernisierungsprozesse aufgreifen und darüber die sozialen und politischen Wandlungsprozesse in den Gesellschaften sichtbar machen, an denen nationalistisch-panarabisti-

sche, säkulare und islamistische Akteure gleichermaßen beteiligt waren. Davon würden Darstellungen des islamistischen Terrorismus profitieren. Es würde auch helfen, zukünftig die Umbruchprozesse in der arabischen Welt, den sogenannten »arabischen Frühling«, sinnvoll in die Schulbücher zu integrieren.

Darüber hinaus sollten die Migrationskapitel so überarbeitet werden, dass sie es den Schülern ermöglichen, sich mit der Gesellschaft zu identifizieren und sich in einem breiten Meinungsspektrum zu gesellschaftlichen Fragen individuell zu verorten. Die stete Gleichsetzung türkisch-muslimisch-fremd wirkt hier ausgrenzend und kontraproduktiv. Schüler sollten für Fragen kultureller, ethnischer und religiöser Identität sensibilisiert werden und die Vielfalt der daraus resultierenden Lebensstile sollte gezeigt werden.

## School Textbooks in the Greater Middle-East: National Identity and Images of Self and Other

*Samira Alayan*

The Truman Conference took place at the Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on June 28-29 2011. It was accompanied by rising awareness and media coverage by dealing with the issue of school textbooks in the greater Middle-East. The conference was a product of unique cooperation between the Truman Institute at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Georg-Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research in Brunswick, Germany. Also supporting the Conference and taking an active part was the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the NCJW Research Institute for Innovation in Education at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The conference organizers were Dr. Samira Alayan of the Georg-Eckert Institute, a researcher of Middle Eastern textbooks, and Prof. Elie Podeh of the Truman Institute and the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the Hebrew University.

The idea of the conference was to analyse the way in which the national identity is formed through the description of the self and the other in school textbooks. Any textbooks can be relevant, but the emphasis is on history and civic textbooks. The other may be related to any minority groups, strangers or enemies. In spite



Melanie Kamp (r.) im Gespräch

of the known importance of the subject-matter, there is very little academic work on this subject with respect to Middle Eastern countries, excluding Israel. Although its aim was to focus on the Middle East, the project was presented within a broader theoretical framework and compared with several European case studies. The project will proceed in two stages: in the first an international conference will be held on the theme suggested above. In the second, an edited book will be published.

It is a common truism that national identity is disseminated through various state socialization instruments. A major tool in this context is the education system and its textbooks.

Many scholars from around the world participated. Researchers came from Germany, the United States, Turkey, Greece, Iraq and Israel. The conference included a large number of textbook research specialists from the Georg-Eckert Institute and from other institutes and countries, who presented interesting results of studies on many Middle-Eastern countries.

The conference started with a series of presentations given by Western scholars, in order to examine a comparison to the study of textbooks. The first lecture, «Current Trends in Textbook Research», was given by Prof. Eckhardt Fuchs, deputy director of the GEI. In this lecture he addressed the development of

textbook research in the past years, giving examples from different studies around the world while pointing out the major development of textbook research in the Western world.

Following the opening lecture, and prior to the subject of textbooks in the Arab world, a panel of lectures was formed by different western researchers: Prof. Simone Lässig, director of the Eckert Institute, gave a presentation on the German case and the change in textbooks in West and East Germany; Prof. Gregory Starrett from the University of North Carolina presented on the representation of Muslims in textbooks in the USA, and explained how textbooks can produce wrongful images and stereotypes of Muslims as



the »Other«; Dr. Katarina Batarilo-Henschen, a former researcher at the Eckert Institute, presented the case of post-war Bosnia-Herzegovina as an example for strong images that were created in a wrong way. Dr. Falk Pingel addressed the issue of forming a European identity in his lecture by highlighting the importance of textbooks in the shaping of the collective identities of nations, and the use of textbooks in implementing and strengthening the European identity in Western pupils. He claimed that textbooks are used as post-war and post-conflict tools to provide narratives that seem right and just to the textbook author.

These lectures functioned as a starting point for the entire conference, presenting a comparative perspective to the series of Middle-Eastern lectures.

The research field of Arab textbooks is relatively new. World-class researchers are now more and more interested in the questions – what are the contents of Arab textbooks? How do these textbooks represent the Self and the Other? Who is the Other?

Prof. Betty Anderson of Boston University presented the Lebanese case and the complexity of writing textbooks in a country that is divided by different religions and that has gone through wars and educational reforms. Dr. Achim Rohde from the University of Marburg, a former researcher at the Eckert Institute, presented the case of Iraq and the differences in textbooks implemented before and after Saddam and the

Ba'ath. Dr. Iris Fruchter-Ronen studied Jordanian textbook connections to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan throughout the years, and also the creation of textbooks in the Palestinian Authority. Prof. Nathan Brown from George Washington University and Dr. Samira Alayan from GEI conducted a joint panel. Nathan Brown started with a presentation on the complex policies that the Palestinians have been through to build their national vision and presenting it in textbooks; Samira Alayan continued with reviewing her research on the content of Palestinian textbooks, and curriculum and the representation of the Palestinian history. She added a review on Israel's representation in these books.

As for Israel and the changes that accrued since 1948, Elie Podeh claimed that textbooks in Israel have undergone many changes through the years, dividing the time to four periods. The Arab-Palestinian situation in Israel was presented by Dr. Johnny Mansour, who studied the lack of representation of Palestinian identities in Israeli textbooks controlled by the Israeli Ministry of Education, therefore not allowing the Arab pupils to study their own culture and identity. He claimed these books represent the Israeli-Jewish narrative alone.

More researches of the Middle East were presented during the conference, such as the Egyptian and Syrian cases. Researchers discussed many questions concerning textbooks and connected the debate to current events in the Arab world.

The Saudi case was presented by Dr. Eleanor Abdella Doumato, who revealed how the textbooks present the »Other« while she criticised the books and their contents.

Based on the research presented at the conference, a book will be edited by Samira Alayan of the Georg-Eckert Institute and Elie Podeh of the Truman Institute. This book will be the first of a series of collaborations between the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Georg-Eckert Institute, Germany.