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Title: **“Hebrew and Judaic Studies in the Islamic World”**

Panel: Judaism, Jewish Studies and Anti-Semitism

Western democracies have always had a tradition of studying the politics and culture of societies with which they were in conflict.

By contrast, the lack of a robust Israel-Jewish Studies in Muslim academia in general and in Arabic academic institutions in particular is remarkable.

In this paper we will examine the reasons behind this situation such as: the dominance of ideological epistemologies on scholarship, The priority of Arab scholars to delegitimize Israel rather than to provide a sound knowledge of it, Those who addressed the topic of Israel in the Arab world were doing so as participants in a struggle rather as social and political scientists.

The political agendas of the ruling political elites, and the need to mobilize public opinion against Israel necessarily seeped into academia and made a scientific or objective approach to the topic all but impossible. Anyone's academic work not displaying this hostility is usually attacked and condemned by the media and may suffer censure by the institutions in which they work as result of public pressure.

In order to highlight the reality of Jewish studies in Arab –Muslim world we will present:

- The Overlapping between Jewish studies and Israeli studies in Arab and Muslim’s world.
- The overlapping between the Jewish studies and conflict studies (Israeli-Arab conflict)
- The future of Jewish studies in Arab world – challenges and obstacles .
- Teaching of Hebrew language in Arab world as a tool of normalization and narrowing the gap between the peoples.