

An updated report on activities related to the grant from the society of Libyan Studies

Date: 08/03/19

- **Title of the research project as was submitted to the society for Libyan studies:** Food ways in three Libyan communities: history, cultural identity and concepts of well-being (see appendix 1)
- **Research team:** Dr Osama Tashani and Dr Maria Maynard, Leeds Beckett University.
Other contributors to the data collection process, transcription and translation of the interviews: Salima Awad, Rehab Astita and Sabri Garoushi (all affiliated to Leeds Beckett University as associate members of Staff).
- **Completion of data collection:** 17/04/2017.
- **Completion of transcription and translation of the interviews:** 10/10/2017.
- **Translation of the interviews** from Arabic to English completed on: 16/12/2017.
- **Analysis of data:** commenced on 04/01/2018, initial analysis finished on May 2018.
- **Acquiring literature in Arabic about food and identity:** ongoing and all required literature received by December 2018.
- **Writing the first draft of the manuscript to submit to *Libyan Studies*:** ongoing.
- **Expected week of submission:** the second week of May 2019.
- **Other activities related to the project:**
 - Interview with Osama Tashani at Al-Wasat media to announce the launch of the project, Cairo. August 2016.
 - Interview with Al-Hadath TV to discuss Libyan Food ways and identity. September 2016.
 - Submission to the British Academy summer showcase 2018 (see appendix 2). The application was not successful.
 - Presentation of the results at the MANA Research Group Annual meeting (25 April 2019).
- The field trip and number of participants in the research:
 - **Cairo-** 3 (7 October city, participants were originally from Benghazi), 2 (Maadi, participants were from Awajla), 8 (central Cairo, 1 participant was from Albayda, 3 from Benghazi, 2 from Shahat, 2 from Derna): **total 12.**
 - **Alexandria-** 7 (focus group from the hinterland of Albayda), 2 (participants were originally from Shahat): **total 9.**
 - **Tobrug-** 2 participants.
 - **Faydia-** 1 participant.
 - **Omar Muktar village-** 1 participant.
 - **Sousa-**7 participants.

- **Shahat**- 2 participants.
- **Benghazi**- 14 participants.

When returned to the UK the following interviews took place:

- **Manchester**: 6 participants (originally from Albayda and Derna)
- **London**: 1 participant (a Libyan Jew).

Total number of participants: 55 participants.

Notes on differences between the planned research and the final research:

- The number of participants was 53 and not 96 as it was clear through the interviews that the themes identified were re-occurring suggesting that the data is saturated and no more participants (especially for the hinterland of Albayda and Sousa were needed).
- It was impossible and unsafe to travel to Awjillah as it was planned.
- There was a strong opinion in responses from participants through the few first interviews that without the contribution of residents of Benghazi and Derna the research would be deficient as the Libyan dishes in these two cities are distinctly rich and widespread through the Eastern region. Therefore participants from these two cities were recruited.
- There was a need also to review a Libyan Jew (in London) and some individuals from Tripoli to clarify some link between Tripoli cuisine and the most widespread Libyan dishes such as *Couscous* and *Libyan Soup*.

Appendix 1

FORM B

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Title of Project: | Food ways in three Libyan communities: history, cultural identity and concepts of well-being |
|--------------------------|---|

Personal data

| | | | |
|--|---|---------------------|--------|
| <i>Surname of applicant:</i> | Dr Tashani | | |
| <i>First name(s):</i> | Osama | | |
| <i>Postal address:</i> | School of Rehabilitation And Health Sciences Faculty of Health and Social Sciences Room 611, Portland Building Leeds Beckett University Leeds LS1 3HE UK | | |
| <i>Email address:</i> | O.Tashani@leedsbeckett.ac.uk | | |
| <i>Telephone contact no(s):</i> | 0113 81 23858 | | |
| <i>Date of birth:</i> | 09/12/58 | <i>Nationality:</i> | Libyan |
| <i>Present position or occupation:</i> | Senior Research Fellow | | |
| <i>Academic record of applicant (max. 1000 words):</i> | | | |
| Work history | | | |
| 1983-1985 | Veterinary Surgeon | | |
| 1989 | Demonstrator in Physiology Dept. Faculty of Medicine (Benghazi) | | |
| 1994 | Demonstrator and postgraduate student in Veterinary Physiology and Biochemistry Dept. (UCD-Ireland) | | |
| 1998 | Lecturer in Physiology and research methodology, Garyounis University – Benghazi | | |
| 2000 | Assistant Professor in Physiology, Dept. of Zoology, Garyounis University | | |
| 2004 | Associate Professor, Physiology and Research Methodology _ Garyounis University – Benghazi | | |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| 2008 University | Research Fellow – Centre for Pain Research – Leeds Beckett UK |
| 2013 | Senior Research Fellow – Centre for Pain Research – Leeds Beckett University UK |

Qualifications

| | |
|------|---|
| 1983 | B.V.M.& S. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (Al-Fateh University) Tripoli, Libya |
| 1993 | PG Cert Biostatistics and Research Methodology. University College Dublin, Ireland |
| 1994 | PhD Neurophysiology. University College Dublin, Ireland |
| 2010 | PG Cert Higher Education. Leeds Beckett University |

Dr Tashani holds degrees in veterinary medicine and a PhD in Neurophysiology, leading and collaborating on a number of Libyan based studies and other interdisciplinary research. In addition to his track record in biosciences he is experienced in ethno-cultural studies, and specifically Libyan studies, and has conducted, written up and disseminated research in both English and Arabic. Examples of relevant work include the translation and linguistic evaluation of assessment tools; examining the intersections between gender, gender roles and ethnicity in health outcomes. His wider academic and non-academic activities are also relevant and indicate his wider understanding of practical and political contexts of conducting research in Libya. Dr Tashani has a range of academic and community contacts in Libya and among Libyan groups in the UK. Within a range of leadership roles he is the coordinator of the Libyan Scientific Society of Veterinary Medicine, is a member of Pan-Arab Biological Society and heads the Leeds Libyan Society.

Name, position and academic record of any collaborating partner(s) (max. 500 words each):

Dr Maria Maynard, Senior Lecturer, Leeds Beckett University (2014- present).

Work history

- 2013 – 2014 Lecturer Public Health Nutrition, Leeds Metropolitan University
- 2009 – 2013 Senior Investigator Scientist, MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, Glasgow.
- 2004 – 2009 Investigator Scientist, MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, Glasgow.
- 2001 – 2004 Post-doctoral Career Development Fellow, MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, Glasgow.
- 2000 – 2001 Post-doctoral Research Associate, Department of Social Medicine, University of Bristol. (grant-holder).
- 1996 – 2000 PhD student. Department of Social Medicine, University of Bristol. Research Scholarship with project funding from the World Cancer Research Fund.

1995 – 1996 Research Assistant (p/t), Institute of Psychiatry.
1992 – 1996 Research Assistant (p/t), London School of Hygiene and Tropical
Medicine.

Qualifications

1991 University of London: BSc. (Hons) Nutrition, King's College London.
2000 University of Bristol: PhD Nutritional Epidemiology
2014 Leeds Beckett University: Post-graduate Certificate Academic
Practice.

Dr Maynard is a member of the UK Association for Nutrition and has been Assistant Editor of the Ethnicity and Health Journal since 2008. She has instigated and leads the newly formed Migrant Health theme in the Institute for Health and Wellbeing, Leeds Beckett University. Her research interests are encompassed within three intersecting themes: Ethnicity and health; Community-based communication, engagement and intervention; and Methodologies. Her work is theory-driven, including socio-ecological theory, phenomenology and grounded theory, within an overarching life course framework. Her methodological expertise includes developing indices of diet quality, dietary assessment across the life course, focussing on reducing respondent burden while maintaining good quality data. She has employed qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods in studies of nutrition and health.

Her research achievements to date indicate the likely success of the study aims. She has over 30 publications, with 4 papers submitted to REF 2014 published in internationally renowned journals. In addition, project management of primary research projects, from funding applications through to dissemination, indicates her ability to build on the proposed project with a range of future activities.

She has experience in researching the social determinants of health inequalities, and nutrition and health throughout the life course. With Prof Seeromanie Harding, Dr Maynard co-founded and co-managed a longitudinal study of health of young people (now young adults) which takes a mixed-method approach (ethnographic/anthropological, epidemiological) to examining health among those from diverse ethnic groups. The study which has run over 10 years involved Dr Maynard in training, managing and supporting fieldworkers, managing complex issues such as multiple translation of materials; and sensitive ethical issues such as engaging families in research and obtaining opt-in consent and assent from parents and children. She continues to collaborate on the study and to work on ethnic differences in health, intersections with gender, social position and other structural issues, and the role of diet and nutrition.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Please list five selected relevant academic publications by yourself or your collaborating partners:</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elzahaf, R. A., <u>Tashani, O. A.</u>, & Johnson, M. I. (2013). Prevalence of chronic pain among Libyan adults in Derna city: a pilot study to assess the reliability, linguistic validity, and feasibility of using an Arabic version of the structured telephone interviews questionnaire on chronic pain. <i>Pain Practice, 13</i>(5), 380-389. 2. Alabas, OA., <u>Tashani, OA.</u>, & Johnson, MI. (2012). Gender role expectations of pain mediate sex differences in cold pain responses in healthy Libyans. <i>European Journal of Pain, 16</i>: 300-311. 3. <u>Tashani OA</u>, Alabas OA, Johnson MI (2010). Cold pressor pain responses in healthy Libyans: effect of sex/gender, anxiety, and body size (2010). <i>Gender Medicine, 7</i>:309-19. 4. Rawlins, E., Baker, G., <u>Maynard, M.</u> and Harding, S. (2013) Perceptions of healthy eating and physical activity in an ethnically diverse sample of young children and their parents. <i>Journal of Human Nutrition and Dietetics, 26</i>:132-144. 5. <u>Maynard MJ</u>, Baker G, Rawlins E, Anderson, A, Harding S. Developing obesity prevention interventions among minority ethnic children in schools and places of worship: The DEAL (DiEt and Active Living) study. <i>BMC Public Health, 2009; 9</i>:480. |
|---|--|

Project details

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Date, duration and location of project:</p> | <p>The project will run for 12 months from the end of February 2016 to February 2017.</p> |
| <p>Outline of over-all project (including persons involved and publication plans) and intentions for this year (max. 2,000 words):</p> | |
| <p>Background and aims</p> <p>Food plays an essential role in preserving cultural lifeways with those of shared identities, personal and social histories. This role may be particularly emphasised for communities that migrate to a new land and where maintenance of traditional food habits contributes to the connection between home and the new society. Traditional diets in North African countries are based on diverse, raw ingredients such as fruit, vegetables and legumes; rich in vitamins, minerals, vegetable proteins and fibre with input from Europe, the rest of the Middle East and Africa. The study of the food of different communities can also reveal shared experience and history of the origin of the community concerned. However, traditional foodways in home countries and abroad are under threat. Challenges to sustaining food traditions and customs include globalisation and the ‘nutrition transition’ both typically leading to increasingly industrialised or ‘westernised’ food patterns in communities and countries. In contrast to traditional diets, these phenomenon lead to food patterns that feature highly processed, convenience and ‘fast’ foods, and is associated with energy dense but micronutrient poor intakes. Coinciding with these dietary changes is the associated rise in nutrition related non-communicable disease such as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, detailed in a burgeoning evidence base. Less well documented are the influences of these changes on cultural life and identity, or lay perspectives on the relationship</p> | |

between food and health among people from North Africa. By means of a case-study in Libya we will explore food in relation to cultural linkages, histories and views on food and health in three diverse community settings.

The concept of ethnicity among Libyans is complex and while most of the population refer to themselves as Arabs, many Libyan communities can trace their origins to Amazigh tribes, the Arabic Peninsula, Greece, Turkey and sub-Saharan Africa. The Amazigh tribes dates back to before the Roman and Greek settlement in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica, while the Arab influence started after the spread of Islam around 1400 years ago. The Ottoman Turkish effect which is mostly clear in Tripoli's architecture is dated to the time of the expansion of the Ottoman empire some 600 years ago. The less studied modern Greek influence could be traced back to the exodus of the Muslim Greco-Turks from Crete after the wars between Greece and Turkey. In addition, there is a long tradition of migration between Libya and other countries within Africa, including from west and east Africa. The deteriorating economic situation in these countries during the 1970s resulted in Libya becoming a common destination for internal migration. Further, Libya's international isolation in subsequent decades led to policies focussing on sub-Saharan Africa for trade and migrant workers, culminating in the 'consolidation of migration routes and networks' (de Haas, 2006; Sánchez Mateos, 2005). There is a lack of ethnographic food research among different Libyans generally, and very little exploration of the dietary practices, or the interrelationships between theirs and other food cultures, of those who identify as Libyan but are of non-Arabic ancestry.

The aim of this study is to explore the symbolic and structural entanglements of food and community, identity and health among three communities in Libya, whereby it is our contention that distant and less distant translocation may differentially shape these relationships. The overarching framework will be a phenomenological theoretical model. This approach identifies and analyses patterns in individuals' experiences based predominantly on the idioms and symbols in the language that people use to describe their experiences.

The specific objectives are to:-

- (i) Illustrate the individual and structural factors that directly or indirectly relate to food after relocation from Crete to Libya among the Cretan Turks (more accurately, Muslim Cretans) in Soussa, Eastern Libya, and compare them with the two other dominant communities in Libya – Amazigh tribes in the Awjillah oasis in the Sahara desert, and the local Bedouin tribes of the Green Mountains.
- (ii) Underscore how participants' food related activities (shopping, cooking, eating practices and rituals) interact with daily life complexities in the social production of identity and wellbeing.
- (iii) Explore perceptions of the relationship between food and wellbeing/ health concerns.

Methods

We will use a reflexive ethnographic approach to explore process and meaning within the research objectives stated above. Methods will include participant observation and semi-structured one- to- one interviews, supplemented by informal observation and discussions.

Sample and setting

The study will be conducted at three sites - Soussa (near Shahat), Awjillah, and the hinterland of Al Bayda city (Figure 1).



Figure 1 Study areas are circled.

If travel to Awjillah becomes a challenge because of security reasons we will interview individuals from Awjillah who live in Benghazi. Respondents for the study will be recruited using a snowball sampling process. Consistent with the snowball approach, we will first make contact with academic colleagues in the university of Benghazi and the university of Omar Almortar in Bayda to make introductions. Recommendations for additional participants will then be obtained from this first group of respondents. Purposive selection will also be employed to ensure a range of voices across age, gender and ethnic groups; to achieve this we aim to recruit a total of 96 participants (Table 1).

Table 1. Purposive sampling grid

| | | Soussa | Awjillah | Al Bayda | Total |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Adults aged 30 years and over | Males | 8 | 8 | 8 | 24 |
| | Females | 8 | 8 | 8 | 24 |
| Adults aged 18-29 years | Males | 8 | 8 | 8 | 24 |
| | Females | 8 | 8 | 8 | 24 |
| Total participants = | | 32 | 32 | 32 | 96 |

Participant observation

Informal observations will take place in all three community locations. Observation of day to day and ritual/special occasion food related events will allow for identification of activities that reinforce group solidarity and behaviours.

Individual interviews

Interviews with participants will involve a semi-structured framework of theoretically driven topics. A topic guide will be developed to ensure consistency across interviews, but with flexibility to accommodate additional relevant ideas and experiences. All interviews will be conducted in Arabic, will be digitally recorded (with permission) and transcribed verbatim. Participants will complete a short screening questionnaire to ensure the proposed demographic variability of the sample is achieved.

Analysis

The study data will comprise the transcripts from the interviews and the fieldnotes of the observations. Thematic analysis will provide detailed accounts of views. In keeping with the phenomenological theoretical approach, analysis will remain faithful to participants' own experiences and therefore interpretation of themes will be associated with 'thick description' of accounts, illustrated with quotes sufficient for the reader to visualise participant-interviewer

interactions. Reflexivity by the research team will ensure that the characteristics of the researchers and how the study was conducted may have influenced interpretations can be evaluated.

Ethical considerations

Ethical approval for the study will be sought from the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences Research ethics committee, Leeds Beckett University. Information sheets and consent forms will be prepared to facilitate informed consent. Literacy rates in Libya are high, but alternative verbal consent process will be in place, fully documented and witnessed so that non-literate individuals will not be excluded, in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki (2000) (paragraph 22). Participants will be advised that their participation is voluntary and that they can cease taking part at any point up until the completion of the interview and parting company with the researchers. Information with which participants could be identified (name, date of birth) will not be collected; however each participant will be given a unique ID number with which to link their demographic and interview data. Physical questionnaires and consent forms will be stored separately. Encrypted, electronic data will be emailed to MM at Leeds Beckett University and immediately stored on password protected server space.

Research team roles

The study has been conceived by both applicants (OT and MM). Participant observations will be conducted by the PI. Interviews will be conducted by OT and where appropriate, a local female Arabic speaker (researcher/ research student) will assist in each of the three locations. Local knowledge, insider identity, and respect for cultural norms makes this approach essential for the mutual understanding between investigator and respondent known as the ‘naturalistic approach’. OT will transcribe the interviews and translate the Arabic transcripts into English. Both applicants will be responsible for the analysis, interpretation and writing-up of the data in a research article and a conference abstract/ presentation. Assuming acceptance of the conference abstract MM will present the findings at an international conference (see below).

The project will run for 12 months from the end of October 2015 to October 2016. The plan of activities is detailed in Table 2, below.

Table 2.

| Activity | Month | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|----|------|----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| | Fe | Ma | Apri | Ma | Jun | Jul | Au | Sep | Oc | No | De | Ja |
| | b | r | l | y | e | y | g | t | t | v | c | n |
| Prepare documents, obtain ethical approval, and arrange | | | | | | | | | | | | |

(ii) Local female researchers / research students to co/conduct interviews in Libya (£400)

(iii) Staff time for transcription/ translation of the interviews (£4,338).

Registration, travel and subsistence for attending the conference will be provided within Leeds Beckett University staff development scheme and are therefore not requested.

Amount requested from the Society in this and subsequent years:

£7,438

Other bodies applied to (with amounts requested):

£200 from Dr Maynard cluster budget and logistic support from University of Benghazi estimated to account for £300

Project management

Describe your risk assessment for this project and your provision for the health and safety of participants:

We will be guided by Leeds Beckett University Faculty of Health & Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee's risk checklist and ethical guidance, which are framed by the Declaration of Helsinki ethical principles for research involving human participants. Attention that will be given to identifying potential hazards; who may be at risk from these hazards, and how they can be controlled or reduced is outlined in the full risk assessment in Appendix 1.

What would be your exit strategy from any relevant foreign country in an emergency?

The main applicant is of Libyan origin with family members in Benghazi, Bayda, Soussa and Tripoli. It is unlikely that there will be significant difficulties in the areas in which data collection is planned. However the applicant will liaise with local and university security and the Ministry of Higher Education in Libya, with which he has worked closely in previous work and research in the region, to secure his exit if necessary.

If in the future the situation in Libya means that travel is impossible a contingency plan is to collect data from the three Libyan communities members (mentioned above) in Alexandria and Cairo in Egypt which is home to more than 150 000 Libyan displaced by the recent events in the country.

Does time spent on this project fall within the remit (and timescale) of your present employment? If not, how will you find the time to complete it?

Yes

| | |
|---|---|
| <p><i>How will you ensure that any other team members will complete their responsibilities and submit timely reports (if relevant)?</i></p> | <p>The PI and co-investigator will work closely together to ensure the objectives are met. A time plan for the study has been agreed (see project plan above). Regular meetings will be held, with action points noted at each meeting and a timeframe for their completion. Both researchers are highly committed to the research area and have a track record of timely delivery of research projects, including in challenging settings.</p> |
|---|---|

| | |
|---|---|
| <p><i>Names and contact details of two referees:</i></p> | <p>Dr Fathi Ali Attia Head of Zoology Department Faculty of Science University of Benghazi faattia@yahoo.co.uk</p> <hr/> <p>June Copeman Professional Lead – Nutrition and Dietetics School of Health & Wellbeing Faculty of Health and Social Science Leeds Beckett University Leeds, UK J.Copeman@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</p> |
| <p><i>If you have previously received an award from the Society, please indicate the project name and date:</i></p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p><i>Signature and date of application:</i></p> | <div data-bbox="560 1496 804 1653" data-label="Text"> </div> <p style="text-align: right;">Dr Osama Tashani</p> <p>31/7/15 and updated on 11/11/2015</p> |

Appendix 1

Leeds Beckett University

Risk Assessment

Study Title: Food ways in three Libyan communities: history, cultural identity and concepts of well-being

Principal Investigator: Dr Osama Tashani

| Nature and Method of Work | Hazards/Risks | Hazard severity | Likelihood of Occurrence | Risk Level ½ = high ¾ = low | Safeguards |
|--|---|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Recruitment Phase | | | | | |
| Advertisement, recruitment and enrolment | Accidental upset caused by information provided as part of recruitment and enrolment | Slight | Low | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigators are aware of sensitive cultural issues and will be trained on all procedures |
| 2. Data Collection Phase | | | | | |
| interacting with participants | Psychological upset (e.g. ethno-cultural insensitivity) | mild | Low | 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigators are aware of sensitive cultural issues and will be trained on all procedures |
| C. Other | | | | | |
| Unforeseen Major Medical Emergency | | WCO = Major | Negligible | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency procedure in place including notices of telephone numbers and procedures in the research area. Tel: local emergency services Tel: First Aiders and Health Centres. |
| Safety issues | Due to the fighting in some areas of Libya there are risks if participants have to travel through some regions. | Slight | Low | 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigators will travel to the participants' location. Research will only be conducted in safe areas. |



BRITISH ACADEMY SUMMER SHOWCASE 2018 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

For the first time in June 2018 the British Academy will hold a two-day public event to showcase the outstanding research we support across our disciplines. Our aim is to present to the public the active and inspiring role Humanities and Social Science research takes in shaping the world around us.

We are asking for proposals for displays, and related activities, based on research we have funded, each of which will be given a space in the British Academy building on Carlton House Terrace for the two-day festival. A special Private View, featuring discussions and talks, will be held on the evening of Thursday 21st June. This exclusive invitation only event will allow exhibitors to showcase their research to Parliamentarians, Vice-Chancellors, academics, representatives from the National Academies, senior staff working for Cultural Organisations, funders and press. The festival itself will take place on Friday 22 and Saturday 23 June. A public Late event will take place on the evening of Friday 22 June. This social evening will allow a wider public audience to engage with the displays. In addition to a general public audience, we also aim to attract academics, higher education students, A Level students and local community groups.

It is envisaged that you will be on hand to explain your research to those who attend over the two days (including the public Late event), and at the Private View. Because of the amount of time to be spent on site we would encourage and welcome research co-applicants to join you. This would enable you to take breaks when needed, and would ensure that you are able to share your research effectively with the 100s of people we hope to attract across the two days. If you don't have a research partner we would encourage you to think of any colleagues, doctoral students or friends who might be able to join you, or we can liaise with you to ensure that you have the necessary support required.

Content

10-15 award holders will be selected to present their research as a display in the Academy's building. Depending on the size and nature of the display, successful applicants will be allocated part of a room (to share with other exhibiting award holder's) or a room of their own. We are keen to showcase research in an accessible and engaging manner, with displays in various formats e.g.

- An installation or set design could be created for visitors to interact with (N.B. As the Academy is a listed building, and due to the cost, we are keen to avoid

complicated built stands or sets. Smaller built displays, or larger installations that do not include complex builds would be welcomed)

- Props could be utilised to visually showcase research.
- Projections of film clips; listening booths to share audio; computer game stations; VR headsets to provide 3D imagery or professional photography.

Activities to accompany displays are welcomed and encouraged. These could range from short pop-up performances, interactive activities such as voting boxes for visitors to log their opinions, experiments or hands on activities. You may also choose to use this opportunity to inform your research. We would like submissions to take the audience into account and make the projects as visual or interactive as possible, with activities used to provide an engaging 'hook' through which to approach complex research ideas. **We appreciate that it may not be appropriate for all research to be presented this way** and are keen to have a variety of work in different formats on show. If useful, we are happy to develop your project with you.

Selection Criteria

A range of different funded projects will be selected, showing the breath of funded disciplines, from Universities across the UK. All applications will go to a Committee chaired by Rev. Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch FBA for selection. As we are inviting submissions from a range of researchers not all submissions will be successful.

Funding

A small fund has been set aside for each display if necessary, with up to 15 projects to be selected by a Committee overall. 3 night's accommodation, travel and food expenses for your group will be provided.

Why Should You Apply?

- An opportunity to showcase, and share, your research with a wide audience.
- A chance to network with other academics, Parliamentarians, Vice-Chancellors, senior staff working for Cultural Organisations, funders and press.
- An opportunity to invite any working partners or community groups to the public open days.
- The showcase will be widely promoted in print and online media.
- REF's: we encourage you to speak to your University about how your involvement could potentially be used to show impact. We will provide you with attendance numbers at the end of the weekend.

We look forward to receiving your proposal,

Marisa Smith
Head of Events
The British Academy

British Academy Summer Showcase 2018:
Proposal Form

Your name, title and Institution

**Dr Osama Tashani
MENA RESEARCH GROUP
Leeds Beckett University**

Email:

telephone:

O.Tashani@LeedsBeckett.ac.uk

07533919783

Your project title and the scheme/Institute you were funded by:

Food ways in Libyan communities: history, cultural identity and concept of well-being

Name of co-researchers working on this project (if applicable):

**Dr Maria Maynard
MRS Salima Awad**

Display Proposal. Please also include any related activities such as pop-up performances or interactive workshops that would run alongside your display (max 200 words):

Libya, because of its unique geographical location was, and still is, a major migration hub between Africa and Europe; the Maghreb region and Egypt. In addition, historical migration routes to Libya are well documented from the Levant and Arabia. Through the centuries some of the migrant communities and occupiers of this land settled in the country and mingle with locals who themselves migrated to Libya from other regions centuries before the newcomers. One way to study the culture and sense of identity of these communities is through their choice of different foods, their attachment to traditional dishes which were either brought from their original homelands or acquired from the new areas they inhabited. In this display we will interactively challenge, and engage, the visitors to an interactive display to communicate our research.

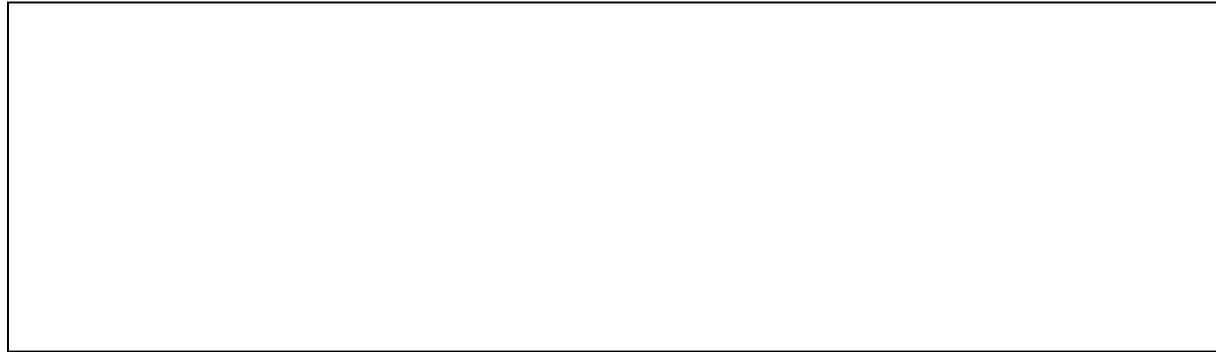
The activity will involve assigning different Libyan traditional dishes to the known migration routes to Libya on a big map spread over the table. Models and photographs of the traditional Libyan dishes with clear labels and some information will be provided to the visitors and let them identify the origin of the dish and the route. For example, *couscous* can be easily identified as western North African dish which is the staple dish from Tripolitania to Morocco but *Assida's* (a dough based dish) history is tricky yet its migration route is identified by participants in our research as the Sahara Desert. *Mathrouda* (a traditional bread soaked in a hot tomato or animal fat sauce) can be traced to Arabia. Different desserts and salads are attributed to Southern Greece and Turkey. Pasta is definitely Italian and was introduced to Libya in early 20th century to become the traditional dish of *embakbaka*. The most interesting part is the origin of a fish dish called *Haraimi* (literally means the forbidden food). *Haraimi* was mastered by the Libyan Jews in Tripoli and Benghazi to the extent that it is called the *Jewish Haraimi*, but it is equally popular with the Muslim families that claim they are descendants of the moors who left south of Spain 5 centuries ago.

The recoils or posters at the display will feature three distinctive stories from the research which was conducted on Libyans in Egypt and Libya. These stories are:

- 1- **Different heritage, one food:** This will show reflections of participants on the peculiar cuisine of the city of Derna with influences from Andalucía, Egypt, Tripolitania and Crete.
- 2- **The Forbidden dish:** The participants of this research from Benghazi and Tripoli had strongly narrated their admiration to the way the Libyan Jews contributed to the Libyan dishes of *Haraimi* and *Tabikhat Fasolia*.
- 3- **When there the food is scarce:** The strong contingent of the participants in the hinterland of small towns in the green mountain recalled vividly memories about their traditional food in limited resources areas and during the time of wars.

By using this activity, we think that the public and particularly young school kids will absorb the findings of our interesting research on the food ways in Libya and understand the history and geography of migration of communities and how food is essential to cultural identity.

Note: One of the presenter will be wearing traditional Libyan dress and a traditional Libyan music will be played if it is allowed to do so.



Display materials you would need. Please specify if you would bring these, and if so the likely delivery costs. If you would require support from the British Academy please indicate costs. If costs aren't known please just outline what would be needed so we can cost up:

We will bring:

4 large recoil posters.

A large map.

Models of traditional Libyan dishes.

A sample of two types of (cold) desserts freshly prepared.

2 laptops computers.

We need you to provide:

Two tables and 4 chairs.

A plasma screen connected to wifi (optional).

Please detail any locations where your previous presentations can be viewed (e.g. YouTube, websites, or other channels). Please note that it is not necessary for you to have any previous experience of presenting your work to the public:

Osama Tashani was a member of a team presenting at the Summer Science exhibition 2008 and in Bombay University Techfest (2009) on a research on sex and gender differences of pain and electrical therapy of pain.

Partnership working is not essential but encouraged. Please list any possible partner organisations or charities linked to your project who might be interested to work with you for this event (N.B. you do not need to approach any potential partners at this stage):

**The Society for Libyan Studies, The British Academy.
Leeds Libyan Society**

If you require funding for travel and accommodation, please indicate where you will be travelling from and how many members of your group (normally not more than 3 people per display – unless there are a greater number of co-researchers working on this project) will require funding:

If possible we need travel and accommodation for three people from Leeds, West Yorkshire to London.

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Please return form by
6 December 2017 to gensec@societyforlibyanstudies.org