

**DAAD-Programm „Hochschuldialog mit der islamischen Welt“****Projektprofil****Titel des Projekts:**

The Social and Cultural Dimensions of Resources: Iranian and German Perspectives

**Name der deutschen Hochschule(n):**

Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main

**Projektverantwortliche(r):**

Prof. Dr. Roland Hardenberg

**Partnerland/-länder:**

Iran

**Partnerhochschule(n)**

Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran  
University of Isfahan, Iran

**Kurzbeschreibung / Projektziele:**

The project will promote dialog between graduate students and early-career researchers from the University of Isfahan (Iran), the Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (Iran) and the Goethe University Frankfurt am Main (Germany). It will do so by taking up an important discussion in both countries, namely the role, relevance, and possible contribution of the social sciences and humanities in addressing pressing socio-political issues. The exchange between project participants will focus on the concrete case of the allocation and use of resources.

The innovative aspect of this project is that it does not adopt the usual economic perspective on resources; instead it highlights the social and cultural dimensions of resources and their use. Another important component of the project is the explicit emphasis on a dialog that also includes practitioners, i.e. those who are directly involved in policy work or intervention, be it in governmental or non-governmental organizations. This component allows project participants to check the practical relevance and feasibility of contributions of social science and humanities research in dealing with contemporary socio-political problems.

The general aim of this 12-month project is to encourage dialog between Iranian and German early-career academic researchers and practitioners on socially relevant issues. It is twofold: 1) to provide an understanding of the social dynamics in both countries and 2) to become familiar with how governmental and non-governmental institutions in the respective countries deal with these issues. This will set the basis for further exchange and an expansion of the topics of dialog between the German and Iranian partner institutions in this project. The results of our exchanges on increasing the practical relevance and applicability of social science and humanities research will have consequences for curricula, teaching, and professional training of students and early-career researchers at the participating Iranian and German institutions.