



## Culture, Education & Science | DAFG Jour Fixe #15

### DAFG Jour Fixe

# „Syrmania“ – A podcast about the Syrian experience in Germany

with

Dima AlBitar Kalaji & Rasha Al Khadra

Thursday, 8 February 2018, at 6:30 pm

DAFG Office, Friedrichstr. 185 (Kontorhaus Mitte), 10117 Berlin

Language: English

The podcast project „Syrmania“ provides a platform for Syrians in Germany to speak for themselves, aiming to break away from the „refugee“-label and to start conversations about issues and challenges, but also simply about the comedy of everyday life. „Syrmania“, the podcast’s title, combines the German word for Syria with the Arabic word for Germany („Almania“). Alternating between episodes in German and Arabic, the program covers a wide variety of topics that shape the new living environment: Love and relationships, encounters in public spaces or raising children in a foreign country.

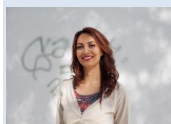
After its first season had aired live on the Berlin-based free community radio *Pi Radio*, the second season premiered in October 2017, in cooperation with *Deutschlandfunk Kultur*. Also, Syrmania’s main Arabic online platform is the independent non-profit online radio station [Radio SouriaLi](#). In order to help building a sense of mutual understanding, Dima AlBitar Kalaji and her team of producers, moderators and sound engineers produced [12 new episodes](#) that document the Syrian experience in Germany through a mix of interviews, poetry, music and culinary segments. As a result, the podcast platform has allowed to create timeless half-hour pieces that blend friendly chatter among friends, serious topics („Shall we go back to Syria when the war is over?“ or „The phenomenon of ‚Lügenpresse‘“) and tips for foodies.

Our 15th DAFG Jour Fixe will host „Syrmania’s“ Dima AlBitar Kalaji and Rasha AlKhadra to discuss how the podcast portrays Syrian life in Berlin, how individual episodes are produced and what challenges and opportunities the podcast platform itself provides.



Dima AlBitar Kalaji, Syrmania’s project director. She has been living in Berlin for four years, working as a cultural podcast producer at Radio SouriaLi, an independent radio station founded in 2012.

„I see Syrmania as an opportunity to become the subject and not the object, to tell stories from the perspective of Syrians.“



Rasha AlKhadra, moderator. Leaving her work as a dentist in Syria, she arrived in Berlin in 2016. On her YouTube channel „Rasha and Life“, she chronicles experiences of her new life in Germany.

„Syrmania represents my two lifeworlds, both Syria and Germany.“

We look forward to your participation. If you wish to attend, **please register until 7 February 2018** on our website or via email to Jan-Philipp Zychla, Project Coordinator ([jan-philipp.zychla@dafg.eu](mailto:jan-philipp.zychla@dafg.eu)).



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