The Middle Eastern languages and society Program in the department of Cross Cultural and Regional Studies in the University of Copenhagen is committed to the study of language, culture, history and politics in the Middle East next to promotion of dialogue between cultures. We encourage our students to take part in community development and contribute back to society through volunteering, awareness and disseminating knowledge.

Language skills and regional expertise form the basis for ToRS' work. The study rooted in four of the major languages spoken in the Middle East: Arabic (the Arab countries and North Africa), Hebrew (Israel), Persian (Iran) and Turkish (Turkey).

Geographically, the area covers a region stretching from Morocco in western North Africa, across the central Middle East, to Iran and Central Asia in the east. Research is conducted into historical and sociological topics, Islam, the media and the Islamic public sphere, urban studies, anthropological subjects, literature and languages.

Each society is studied on its own terms and through its own language, but based on the premise that cultures, religions and societies can never be understood as isolated units. Regional processes must always be seen in a wider context, transcending cultures, national borders and periods.

ToRS’ primary objective is to contribute to developing the knowledge society by increasing our understanding of cultural history, religious matters and social relations in a world whose regions are at the same time both closely interlinked and far away from each other. Through research, communication and education, ToRS’ aim is to make society smarter, both about itself and about others.