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Abstract for an Invited Paper  
for the APR15 Meeting of  
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**SESAME: science for intercultural dialogue**

GIORGIO PAOLUCCI, SESAME (Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East)

SESAME is an international research organization located in Jordan, in the Middle-East. Based on a synchrotron radiation source, it will allow scientist from the region to access a world-class research infrastructure to boost their research and scientific knowledge. At the same time its international nature will allow scientists with different cultures, different religions and different experiences to interact with each other. It is therefore an excellent opportunity for the regional development. The talk will introduce synchrotron radiation as a method to study matter, with examples in various disciplines, from physics to life sciences. The organisational structure of SESAME will be described, emphasising how this project is expected to enhance cooperation and mutual comprehension in the Middle East.