



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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Conferences & Calls for Papers

- [Call for Papers: Power\(s\) in Palestine](#) (Special Issue: Confluences Méditerranée)
- [Call for Papers: Iran and Global Decolonization](#), the University of Pennsylvania and the University of California Los Angeles, May 20-21, 2021.
- [Call for Papers: Archival Methods and Global Palestine in the 1960s and 1970s](#), Roskilde University, April 16-17, 2021
- [Call for Papers: SPA Biennial 2021: Interrogating Inequalities](#), 6-10 April, 2021
- [Call for Papers: "Migrant Belongings: Digital Practices and the Everyday"](#), Utrecht University, 21-23 April 2021
- [Call for Papers: In the moment and after the fact: Ethnographic reflections on political engagement](#), Zoom workshop organised with the Anthropology Department, LSE, 19-20 February 2021

Online Events

- [Launch of the Scholars at Risk Annual Report Free to Think 2020](#) (December 11th)
- ["The Palestinian Right of Return: The 72nd Anniversary of UNGA Resolution 194"](#), Centre for Palestine Studies, SOAS (December 12th)
- [The Future of the Study of the Middle East: Ecology, Health and Decolonisation](#), the Middle East Centre, LSE (December 15th)

Recent & Forthcoming Books

- [The Folktales of Palestine](#), by Farah Aboubakr
- [Creating Spaces of Hope: Young Artists And The New Imagination In Egypt](#), by Caroline Seymour-Jorn

Journal Articles & Other Academic Articles

- [Re-envisioning civil society and social movements in the Mediterranean in an era of techno-fundamentalism](#), by Amro Ali
- [Performing \(for\) Populist Politics: Music at the Nexus of Egyptian Pop Culture and Politics](#), by Joel W. Abdelmoez
- [Beyond Martyrs and Mullahs: Transformations of Gender Roles and Identities Among Tehran Middle-Class's Men](#), by Rassa Ghaffari
- [Takfir as Anti-Hegemonic Practice: Al-Shabab, Daesh and the Creation of New Political Communities](#), by Abdulla Moaswes
- [Rethinking Authoritarian Power: The Logistics Space and Authoritarian Practices in and between Secondary Port Cities of the Global South](#), by Alke Jenss and Benjamin Schuetze

News Pieces & Commentary

- [Saudi activist al-Hathloul appears in court, UN calls for release](#), Al Jazeera
- [In Yemen, journalism can be a capital offence](#), Al Jazeera
- [Amnesty criticises Airbnb for West Bank settlement listings ahead of IPO](#), Middle East Eye
- [Egypt's new crackdown on powerful businessmen sparks criticism](#), Middle East Eye
- [Egypt releases three human rights advocates after international outcry](#), Middle East Eye
- [Beirut explosion: Judge charges PM, ex-ministers over August port blast](#), Middle East Eye
- [Italy to indict Egyptian security officers in Giulio Regeni murder case](#), Middle East Eye

Positions & Opportunities

- [Post-Doctoral Research Assistants in History](#), Northumbria University Newcastle
- [Education and Scholarships Officer](#), Caabu and The Amjad & Suha Bseisu Foundation
- [Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages](#), Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, University of Oslo.
- [Associate Professor in Gender and Diversity Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences](#), Department Literature and Art, Maastricht University
- [PhD Position in LGBTQ+ Migration: Narratives and Policy](#), The Institute for History of Leiden University
- [Postdoctoral Research Fellow Middle East and North Africa](#), GIGA German Institute for Global and Area Studies
- [Research Associate for the Project "Social Contexts of Rebellion in the Early Islamic Period"](#), Universität Hamburg
- [External Senior Fellowships and Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in the Excellence Cluster "Politics of Inequality"](#), University of Konstanz
- [Assistant Professor in the Area of the History of Islamic Countries, Ca' Foscari](#) University of Venice
- [Assistant Professor of Sociology](#), Ozyegin University, Istanbul
- [Postdoctoral Research Associate \(12 Months\) for Iran and the Persian Gulf Studies \(19th - 21st Century\)](#), Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, Princeton University
- [Assistant Professor of Middle Eastern and Non-western History](#), Norwich University

In the moment and after the fact: Ethnographic reflections on political engagement

Friday 19 & Saturday 20 February 2021

Zoom workshop organised with the Anthropology Department, London School of Economics and Political Science

The aim of this workshop is to collaboratively investigate the ways that moments of collective action and rupture are experienced and made sense of, and what is made of them by participants in their aftermath. We solicit participation from those doing ethnographic research (in or outside of academia) in contemporary sites of political engagement: from border struggles, to mobilisations over infrastructure, to responses to climate breakdown, to emerging communities and initiatives, protests and assembly during the covid-19 pandemic. We wish to reflect on the ways in which popular movements and collective action continue being generative of political imaginaries and experiments, and how these moments of rupture reverberate in more long-term projects.

We are interested in research which engages with the “impulse to act” (Alexandrakis 2016) – whether that is from established activists, newly engaged individuals, or those who understand their interventions as something more or other to politics as status quo – be it addressing the state or institutional actors, or be it aimed at remaking subjectivities and society. Our suggestion is that what much ethnographic research on political engagement shares is:

1. A bearing witness to moments of rupture, outside mundane time, when possible futures open up. These can be singular acts like the jumping of border fences, wildcat strikes, or occupations of buildings aimed at contrasting evictions, but also attempts to delay harmful processes, such as infrastructural and regeneration projects imposed from above.
2. An attention to the future-oriented practices that occur in the aftermath of moments of intensified or heightened political engagement. For example, the collective and participatory archiving of struggles, the creation of transnational networks of solidarity, the transformation of grassroots movements into formalised politics or into more long-lasting collective projects.

The workshop will focus on these two times: experiences of political engagement in the moment, and the ways in which people carry these forward in their thinking and actions. We encourage participants to provide their two accounts [more information below] in a broad range of ways, including video, audio or photographic material if they wish, and to write their pieces in ways that they feel best capture their ethnographic work.

Format

In advance of the workshop, participants will circulate two short contributions (1500-2000 words each), as well as any other audio-visual material they might want to share, based on their ethnographic research: one from the moment of political engagement, the other from its aftermath.

The workshop will take place over two days, on Friday 19 & Saturday 20 February 2021 (4 hours plus breaks on both days). These sessions will be roundtable discussions, rather than presentations. All contributions will be pre-circulated and made available alongside all multimedia material in the weeks prior to the workshop through a shared private folder. We will organise the thematic threads that run through the contributions. Our roundtable discussions will be curated through the themes and connections that participants find in each other’s work in the weeks leading up to the workshop.

The first intended outcome of this workshop will be a set of digitally-enhanced essays, with the possibility of further collective activities to follow.

We invite expressions of interest which briefly outline the “in the moment” and “after the fact” ethnographic material (max 300 words total) to be sent to politicalengagementworkshop@gmail.com by 22 December 2020. Participants will hear back by the first week of January.

For any queries, please email us:

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