



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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Conferences & Calls for Papers

- [CfP: Arab-Soviet Internationalism – Socialist Internationalism, International Organizations and the Politics of Revolution in the 20th and 21st Centuries](#), Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin, Germany, 13-15 July, 2022
- [Call for Papers: "The Arab-majority and Muslim-majority Worlds in/and Contemporary Decolonisation Debates"](#), University of Edinburgh, 5-6 April 2022
- [Call for Papers: "The Making and Unmaking of Identities in the Early Modern Mediterranean"](#), European University Institute, Florence, 12-13 May 2022
- [Call for Papers: International Conference: "British White Paper of 1922 on Palestine and the Beginning of the British Mandate – Century Anniversary"](#), Western Galilee College, Akko, 1-2 June 2022
- [Call for Papers: "Queer in the Middle East, Queering the Middle East,"](#) University of Texas at Austin, 4, 5 & 12 March 2022

Events

- [Online Seminar: The Framing Palestine Series #2 - Living Through the Nakba](#) (26th of Nov)
- [Online Seminar: Imperial Bodies: Empire and Death in Alexandria](#) (1st of Dec)
- [Webinar: Gender and the Cultural Lives of Neoliberalism](#) (8th of Dec)

Recent & Forthcoming Books

- [Women and the Lebanese Civil War: Female Fighters in Lebanese and Palestinian Militias](#), by Jennifer Philippa Eggert

Journal Articles & Other Academic Articles

- [The Nakba Continues: The Palestinian Crisis from the Past to the Present](#), by Ahmad Qabaha and Bilal Hamamra
- [Settler Colonialism \(Without Settlers\) and Slow Violence in the Gaza Strip](#), by, Michelle Pace and Haim Yacobi
- [Claiming an Individual: Party, Family and the Politics of Memorialization in the Lebanese Civil War](#), by Dylan Baun
- [Remembering Nubia's Past: Space, Generations and Memorial Practices](#), by Mayada Madbouly

Petitions

- [Statement for a boycott of the Zionist 'oud festival' in occupied Jerusalem](#)

News Pieces & Commentary

- [Sudan: The Pre-Revolutionary Development of Resistance Committees](#), Al Muzaharat
- [Sudan's PM Hamdok backed military takeover, says general](#), Al Jazeera
- [Sudanese security forces fire tear gas at anti-coup protests](#), Al Jazeera
- [Dozens killed in clashes in Sudan's restive Darfur](#), Al Jazeera
- [Turkish police fire tear gas at women protesters in Istanbul](#), Al Jazeera
- [Israeli settlers attack father and child as violence against Palestinians escalates](#), Middle East Eye

- [Two Palestinians end hunger strike after release deal with Israel](#), Middle East Eye

Positions and Opportunities

- [Alomran Family Postdoctoral Research Associate in Middle East Studies](#), Brown University
- [Faculty Fellow Position, Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies](#), New York University
- [Lecturer in Modern Middle East History since 1750](#), University of Edinburgh

"QUEER IN THE MIDDLE EAST, QUEERING THE MIDDLE EAST"

a conference devoted to understanding current queer methodologies used in the study of the Middle East

Dates: 4, 5 & 12 March 2022

Location: Zoom

Organizer: Ipek Sahinler [ipeksahinler@utexas.edu]

Organizing Institution: University of Texas at Austin

DESCRIPTION

As a school of criticism jeopardizing its core premise of deconstructing the centre by centralizing itself around the LGBTI+ discourse, Queer Theory, without doubt, has a curious place within the academy today. Though it is a thirty-years-old school of thinking, we less often see queer methodologies being used in the study of cultural productions from the “third world,” which has historically been defined as non-sterile, perverted, underdeveloped, primitive and queer in the face of the “West” (through works by critics and theorists such as Edward Said, or Mary Louise Pratt). This is evident from how the Anglo-American culture, by orientalising the Middle East, has unwillingly attributed a queerness to its other. Therefore, we ironically owe the possibility of talking about the queerness of the Middle East to the Western binary opposition that defines its “civilizational Other” (Aijaz Ahmad) as marginal. In short, there is an urgent need to talk about queerness in the Middle East and the existing methodologies used in the study of understanding queer voices from this region.

This three-day virtual conference aims to bring together scholars, researchers, artists, and activists to discuss theoretical and practical applications of Queer Theory and queer thinking in the study of the Middle East. Concomitantly, we have three objectives. First, to talk about proto-queer and queer works from the Middle East. Second, to discuss whether Queer Theory can speak, not for, but about this designated region. Finally, to queer the current, ossified understandings of queerness anchored around LGBTI+ politics and thus to “let queer take on meanings” (Butler, 1993: 228).

CALL FOR PAPERS

The conference will address issues of queerness, sexuality, gender, and identity politics. We invite original and unpublished works from different disciplines such as literature, anthropology, linguistics, cultural studies, sociology, translation studies, philosophy and more. Topics include but are not limited to:

- representations of queerness in the Middle East
- queer narratives from or about the Middle East/MENA
- queerness being used as a subversive strategy in authoritarian times and regimes
- censured and challenged cultural productions due to their queer(ing) content
- translated texts that speak to issues related to queerness
- grammatical or linguistic queerness
- queer affect conveyed via Arabic, Turkish, Kurdish, Persian (also Urdu and Hebrew)

TIMELINE

Please submit an abstract (around 300 words) and a short bio by December 15, 2021 to ipeksahinler@utexas.edu. Participants will be notified by January 15, 2022. Accepted participants will submit full drafts of their unpublished works (5000-8000 words) by Feb 15,

2022. As a preliminary step to the event in March 2022, conference participants will attend a one-day workshop in late February to discuss the papers.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Irvin Cemil Schick

École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales