



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

A New Wave of Populism in Europe and the Arab World: Implications and Consequences for Civic Institutions

Leipzig, Germany, 3 – 5 October 2016

Deadline for abstracts: 20 Aug 2016

This conference, organised by the Transformation Working Group of the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA), aims at bringing together scholars from various disciplines (particularly, but not exclusively, political science, sociology, history, communication studies, education studies, Middle East studies, European studies, philosophy, psychology etc.) who are interested in understanding forms and manifestations of populist politics in either Europe or the Arab World. A key aim is to create a better understanding of the challenges of populism for democracy and civic and associational life. In particular, our discussions will focus on how various institutions and groupings, including political parties, parliaments, trade unions, religious communities, institutions of higher education, media and civil society organisations are affected by populist forms of politics, and how they can help to counter it.

Europe is currently witnessing the rise of successful opposition parties labelled as populist (in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, UK and other countries). Populist politicians have in fact formed governments in countries such as in Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. The “Brexit” decision in the United Kingdom has been argued to have demonstrated the success that populist movements can have in shaping fundamental long-term policies. Similarly, the potential consequences of Donald Trump being elected as president are intensely debated in the U.S. and elsewhere. In many Arab countries, historically, populist rhetoric has been part of the communication strategies of post-independence leaders. Five years after the Arab Spring, a revival of populist strategies has been observed in order to restore political leadership and tame dissent. A common theme of these rhetorical strategies is a particular invocation of nationalism and the repeatedly propagated idea of permanent external and/or internal threats to the existence and integrity of the state.

As a political buzzword, ‘populism’ is used to denote very diverse phenomena: a catch-all political rhetoric, an exclusive and polarising style of governance, a personalised media strategy around a potent leader, short-lived but successful popular movements, the message of elites acting contrary to “the people”, and charismatic leadership. At its root, populism is a belief in the power of ordinary people, and in their right to have control over government rather than a small group of political actors or a wealthy elite. Populist appeals usually rely on legitimacy established by expressions of (an imagined) popular will, ideally referring to votes secured in elections, referenda or other forms of popular support, such as mass rallies and demonstrations. We are particularly interested in instances where appeals to the popular will and anti-elitist rhetoric are used to undermine democratic institutions such as parties, parliaments, or other key institutions such as the judiciary, media or civil society organizations.

The literature on populism has been largely focused on right-wing movements in Europe and the USA as well as left-wing politics in Latin America (populist socialism). The conference seeks to expand the academic discussion by investigating the aspects and forms of populism that can be observed in European and Arab countries at present, in order to identify divergences and convergences between populist politics in different socioeconomic and political contexts. It welcomes contributions about the relationship between populism and ideology, in terms of left-right divisions or in terms of secular-religious divisions, as well as its intersections with nationalism and discourses that emphasize external threat, control or intervention.

The specific added value of the conference will be the decidedly European-Arab perspective on debates around populism. The mutual perspectives on the various forms of populism can help in understanding this phenomenon and in identifying counter strategies on the long- term. Different panel discussions will problematize various sub-aspects of populism, both in Europe and the Arab world, and discuss how key institutions like the media, parliaments, universities, judicial institutions like reconciliation institutions, and economic organizations do interact and can counter (or not) tendencies of populist rule.

Contributors may focus on one or several of the following themes:

1. Convergences and divergences of populist policies in Europe and Arab countries
2. Effects and impact of populism on civic institutions in different European or Arab case studies
3. Counterstrategies against populism in different European or Arab case studies

Interested participants are invited to submit an abstract in English (max. 250 words) of their paper to the organisers Dr Florian Kohstall, Freie Universität Berlin (florian.kohstall@fu-berlin.de) and Dr Jan Claudius Völkel, Cairo University (jan.voelkel@daadcairo.org) until 20 August 2016. The results of the selection process will be communicated by 1 September 2016. The conference will begin on Monday, 3 October 2016, at 18:00, and end on Wednesday, 5 October 2016, at 14:00. Travel expenses and full-board accommodation during the conference for accepted participants will be covered by AGYA.

More information [here](#)

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Cfp: The July 15, 2016 Coup Attempt in Turkey as Event and as Process

Deadline: 15 August

Note: You MAY submit an abstract for this panel even if you have had another abstract accepted for presentation. If accepted these panels will be scheduled on November 17th or 18th.

On the night of July 15, 2016, Turkey experienced a violent military coup attempt, which targeted key institutions of formal democracy and claimed the lives of over 300 people. The attempt was swiftly intercepted. Within hours the event was declared to have been of great historical significance for the nation, a turning point in the nation's history. While a bleary-eyed population was still trying to

make sense of what happened, a nationalist account of events was made available through media outlets new and old: a nefarious coup against the people's democratic will had been thwarted by the people themselves. Not yet a month later, the events of the night of July 15 have been accorded a foundational status vis-à-vis the nation's historic quest for democracy, and have already been monumentalized in the forms of rapidly renamed bridges and public squares.

While there remains much uncertainty and confusion about the July 15 coup attempt—from the plotters to their motives, consequences to specific timelines—the event has paved the way for a comprehensive restructuring of the country's fundamental socio-political and administrative institutions. A state of emergency, arguably declared to defend and promote the nation's will against a compromised state mechanism, has been used for sweeping changes to the military and the judiciary, education, media and healthcare.

This panel brings together the work of anthropologists who consider the July 15 coup attempt, both in its irreducible singularity as an event and as part of socio-political processes that extend far beyond the horizon of a single Friday night. We welcome submissions focused exclusively on Turkey as well as those that help situate these events in a comparative perspective or that address the fluctuating landscape of Turkey's international relations. We are interested in bringing together theoretical and ethnographic work that allows us collectively to reflect on July 15 from multiple foci including, but certainly not limited to:

- Critical analyses of hegemony struggles in the post-2000s Turkey
- Moderate Islam as discourse and a practice in state- and nation-making
- Fethullah Gülen's Hizmet movement as a national (whether by national one means Turkish or American) and international political force
- Democratic representation and representations of democracy
- The changing contours of rights and liberties discourses in Turkey
- The mechanics of manifesting "the will of the people," whether in front of tanks or as part of massive crowds "keeping watch" over the nation's democracy
- The events of July 15 and after as illuminating mediation as part and parcel of contemporary politics
- July 15 as a remake or sequel to earlier moments in Turkey's history, such as the 2013 Gezi Park protest or 1980 "bloodless" military coup
- July 15 as traced and seen from the provinces of the Kurdish conflict
- Gendered politics and performances of power and dissent

Please send abstracts of 250 words and very brief bios or CVs to Zeynep Gürsel (zgursel@macalester.edu) and Ruken Şengül (rukens@umich.edu) by **August 15th 2016**.

We will notify selected panelists by August 23rd when we must submit our panel proposal to the AAA. The AAA has said they will notify selected panels by early September.

Contact Info: Zeynep Devrim Gürsel, Assistant Professor, International Studies Department, Macalester College
Ruken Sengul, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Contact Email: rukens@umich.edu

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Call for Submissions: “Frontiers of Contemporary Research on the Middle East and North Africa”

Deadline for submissions: 1 October 2016

The APSA MENA Newsletter, a newsletter emerging from the MENA Workshops of the American Political Science Association (APSA), is a community-building initiative designed to serve as a platform for Political Science researchers interested in the Middle East and North Africa. The newsletter aims to build a community that connects junior researchers studying the region and serves as a resource to support their research. The newsletter aims to publish short pieces addressing the variety of methodological, theoretical, empirical, and ethical concerns reflected in the study of the MENA region. More importantly, it encourages dialogue, engagement, and conversation between different disciplines and fields in the study of the MENA region.

For our inaugural newsletter, we have chosen the following theme: “Frontiers of Contemporary Research on the Middle East and North Africa.” At present, the MENA region offers a wide variety of opportunities for young scholars to conduct innovative research. Yet, security breakdown and instability in many countries present outstanding substantive, methodological, and ethical limitations and challenges to scholars of the Middle East in general, and to junior scholars in particular. We invite submissions pertaining to personal experiences, reflections, difficulties, findings, and impressions of studying MENA politics. We encourage submissions from scholars across the Middle East and North African research spectrum on topics related, but not limited to, emerging research fields, challenges during fieldwork, methodological issues, ethical concerns of studying vulnerable populations, and the difficulties of conducting research in authoritarian contexts.

The newsletter provides scholars with a valuable opportunity to “bounce their ideas around” in a friendly, amiable but professional forum while networking with peers interested in similar substantive/methodological/regional fields. Submissions should be between 800-1000 words, and submitted to menanewsletter@apsanet.org. We welcome referenced pieces that share research findings as well as personal reflections. The deadline for submissions is October 1, 2016. For questions and comments, feel free to contact the editors at menanewsletter@apsanet.org.

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TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

Dissent and Censorship in a Changing Turkey

13 September 2016, 7:00 PM

Venue: Front Line Club, 13 Norfolk Place, London, W2 1QJ

As unrest escalates in Turkey — a country that once prided itself as being a beacon of secularism and stability in the Middle East – writers and journalists are facing a crackdown on press freedom, including jailing, blackmail and the forceful takeover of major news platforms. After a Turkish court ruled in March that *Zaman*, an opposition newspaper critical of president Erdoğan, should be run by appointed trustees, the offices were raided and tear gas and rubber bullets were used to dispel protesters. Local journalists continue to face extreme intimidation, threats and charges of espionage. Restrictions on press freedom reflect similar treatment within civil society groups, which are widely seen as losing independence from the government. The recent attempted military coup led to further attacks on journalists, raising international concerns that Turkey has become an increasingly perilous place for writers and reporters. While Erdoğan maintains that the press in Turkey is among the most free in the world, human rights organisations warn that freedom of expression is under ever-growing threat. We will be joined by prominent Turkish writers, along with media monitoring experts, to discuss their work in the context of the new dangers faced by writers and journalists in Turkey today.

More information & registration [here](#)

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Safar Film Festival

14-18 September 2016

Venue: Institute for Contemporary Arts (ICA), The Mall, London SW1Y 5AH

From 14-18 September 2016, SAFAR will return to the Institute for Contemporary Arts (ICA), for its third edition. This year SAFAR focuses on Contemporary Arab Cinema; a testament to the unflinching vitality, versatility and creativity of Arab film culture, showcasing contemporary voices and the singular talents both from emerging filmmakers and master auteurs. Overtly defying and transgressing social and political taboos, this year's chosen films cross genres and borders, heralding the profound transformations that have taken place in Arab societies since 2011.

More information & registration [here](#)

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Morbid Symptoms: Relapse in the Arab Uprising

4 October 2016, 5:45 – 7:00 PM

Venue: Russell Square: College Buildings, Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS, London

Speaker: Gilbert Achcar

Event to mark the publication of Gilbert Achcar's *Morbid Symptoms: Relapse in the Arab Uprising* (Saqi Books, 2016). Since the first wave of uprisings in 2011, the euphoria of the "Arab Spring" has given way to the gloom of backlash and a descent into mayhem and war. The revolution has been overwhelmed by clashes between rival counter-revolutionary forces: resilient old regimes on the one hand and Islamic fundamentalist contenders on the other. Focusing on Syria and Egypt, Achcar assesses the present stage of the uprising and the main obstacles, both regional and international, that prevent any resolution.

More information [here](#)

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Violence and the City in the Modern Middle East

05 October 2016, 18:00-19:30

Venue: Room 9.04, Clement's Inn, Tower 2, LSE, London

Speaker: Dr Nelida Fuccaro, SOAS, University of London

Chair: Professor Fran Tonkiss, LSE

Nelida Fuccaro launches her book exploring violence in the public lives of modern Middle Eastern cities, approaching violence as an individual and collective experience, a historical event, and an urban process. The essays included in this volume reflect the diversity of Middle Eastern urbanism from the eighteenth to the late twentieth centuries, from the capitals of Cairo, Tunis, and Baghdad to the provincial towns of Jeddah, Nablus, and Basra and the oil settlements of Dhahran and Abadan. In reconstructing the violent pasts of cities, new vistas on modern Middle Eastern history are opened, offering alternative and complementary perspectives to the making and unmaking of empires, nations, and states. *More information & registration* [here](#)

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Let's Rock/Rap it! Music as Collective Action: The case of the Arab Spring

11 October 2016, 17:15-19:15

Venue: [Room 9.04, Tower 2, Clement's Inn, LSE](#), London

Speaker: Amina Boubia, Sciences Po Centre for International Studies

Chair: Dr John Chalcraft, LSE

Amina Boubia presents her paper which studies the role new music genres such as rock and rap have played in the Middle East and North Africa during the Arab Spring. She argues that music is a powerful form of collective action and should therefore be taken seriously by academics and stakeholders as it can either effectively strengthen contentious movements emerging in a specific context, thus challenging the established order, or, on the contrary, contribute to supporting the status quo.

More information & registration [here](#)

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Revolution and Authoritarianism in North Africa

Frédéric Volpi

December 2016 – Hurst C & Co

This book offers a much-needed corrective to dominant approaches to understanding political causality during episodes of intense social mobilisation, specifically with a North African context. Drawing on analyses of routine governance and of 'revolutionary' mobilisation in four countries of the Maghreb -- Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya -- before, during and after the 2011 uprisings, Volpi explains the different trajectories of these uprisings by showing how specific acts of protest created new arenas of contention that provided actors with new rationales, practices and, ultimately, identities. The book illustrates how the dynamics of revolutionary episodes are characterised by the social and political de-institutionalisation of routine mechanisms of (authoritarian) governance. It also details how post-uprising re-institutionalisation and/or conflict are shaped by reconstructed understandings of the uprisings by actors, who are themselves partially the products of these episodes of phenomena.

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Violence and the City in the Modern Middle East

Nelida Fuccaro (Ed)

2016 – Stanford University Press

This book explores violence in the public lives of modern Middle Eastern cities, approaching violence as an individual and collective experience, a historical event, and an urban process. Violence and the city coexist in a complicated dialogue, and critical consideration of the city offers an important way to understand the transformative powers of violence: its ability to redraw the boundaries of urban life, to create and divide communities, and to affect the ruling strategies of local elites, governments, and transnational political players. The essays included in this volume reflect the diversity of Middle Eastern urbanism from the eighteenth to the late twentieth centuries, from the capitals of Cairo, Tunis, and Baghdad to the provincial towns of Jeddah, Nablus, and Basra and the oil settlements of Dhahran and Abadan. In reconstructing the violent pasts of cities, new vistas on modern Middle Eastern history are opened, offering alternative and complementary perspectives to the making and unmaking of empires, nations, and states. Given the crucial importance of urban centers in shaping the Middle East in the modern era, and the ongoing potential of public histories to foster dialogue and reconciliation, this volume is both critical and timely."

Content

- 1 Urban Life and Questions of Violence Nelida Fuccaro
- 2 The Semantics of Violence and Space Rasmus Christian Elling
- 3 Elite Conflict and the Urban Environment: Eighteenth-Century Cairo James E. Baldwin
- 4 Urban Space and Prestige: When Festivals Turned Violent in Jeddah, 1880s-1960s Ulrike Freitag
- 5 Citizenship Rights and Semantics of Colonial Power and Resistance: Haifa, Jaffa, and Nablus, 1931-1933 Lauren Banko
- 6 Challenging the Ottoman Pax Urbana: Intercommunal Clashes in 1857 Tunis Nora Lafi
- 7 A Tamed Urban Revolution: Saudi Arabia's Oil Conurbation and the 1967 Riots Claudia Ghawri
- 8 Making and Unmaking Spaces of Security: Basra as Battlefield, Basra Insurgent (1980–1991) Dina Rizk Khoury
- 9 A Patriotic Uprising: Baghdadi Jews and the Wathba Orit Bashkin
- 10 Dissecting Moments of Unrest: Twenty-Century Kirkuk Nelida Fuccaro
- 11 War of Clubs: Struggle for Space in Abadan and the 1946 Oil Strike Rasmus Christian Elling
- 12 Urban Rupture: A Fire, Two Hotels, and the Transformation of Cairo Yasser Elsheshtawy

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Foucault in Iran - Islamic Revolution after the Enlightenment

Behrooz Ghamari-Tabrizi

2016 – University of Minnesota Press

Were the thirteen essays Michel Foucault wrote in 1978-1979 endorsing the Iranian Revolution an aberration of his earlier work or an inevitable pitfall of his stance on Enlightenment rationality, as critics have long alleged? Behrooz Ghamari-Tabrizi argues that the critics are wrong. He declares that Foucault recognized that Iranians were at a threshold and were considering if it were possible to think of dignity, justice, and liberty outside the cognitive maps and principles of the European Enlightenment. *Foucault in Iran* centers not only on the significance of the great thinker's writings on the revolution but also on the profound mark the event left on his later lectures on ethics, spirituality, and fearless speech. Contemporary events since 9/11, the War on Terror, and the Arab Uprisings have made Foucault's essays on the Iranian Revolution more relevant than ever. Ghamari-Tabrizi illustrates how Foucault saw in the revolution an instance of his antiteleological philosophy: here was an event that did not fit into the normative progressive discourses of history. What attracted him to the Iranian Revolution was precisely its ambiguity. Theoretically sophisticated and empirically rich, this interdisciplinary work will spark a lively debate in its insistence that what informed Foucault's writing was not an effort to understand Islamism but, rather, his conviction that Enlightenment rationality has not closed the gate of unknown possibilities for human societies.

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Imaginative Geographies of Algerian Violence: Conflict Science, Conflict Management, Antipolitics

Jacob Mundy

2015- Stanford, Stanford University Press

The massacres that spread across Algeria in 1997 and 1998 shocked the world, both in their horror and in the international community's failure to respond. In the years following, the violence of 1990s Algeria has become a central case study in new theories of civil conflict and terrorism after the Cold War. Such "lessons of Algeria" now contribute to a diverse array of international efforts to manage conflict—from development and counterterrorism to the Responsibility to Protect doctrine and transitional justice. With this book, Jacob Mundy raises a critical lens to these lessons and practices and sheds light on an increasingly antipolitical scientific vision of armed conflict. Traditional questions of power and history that once guided conflict management have been displaced by neoliberal assumptions and methodological formalism. In questioning the presumed lessons of 1990s Algeria, Mundy shows that the problem is not simply that these understandings—these imaginative geographies—of Algerian violence can be disputed. He shows that today's leading strategies of conflict management are underwritten by, and so attempt to reproduce, their own flawed logic. Ultimately, what these policies and practices lead to is not a world made safe from war, but rather a world made safe *for* war.

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Civil uprisings in modern Sudan, the 'Khartoum Springs' of 1964 and 1985

W. J. Berridge
2015 – Bloomsbury

In the wake of the protests that toppled regimes across the Middle East in 2011, Sudanese activists and writers have proudly cited their very own 'Arab Springs' of 1964 and 1985, which overthrew the country's first two military regimes, as evidence of their role as political pioneers in the region. Whilst some of these claims may be exaggerated, Sudan was indeed unique in the region at the time in that it witnessed not one but two popular uprisings which successfully uprooted military authoritarianisms. *Civil Uprisings in Modern Sudan* provides the first scholarly book-length history of the 1964 and 1985 uprisings. It explores the uprisings themselves, their legacy and the contemporary relevance they hold in the context of the current political climate of the Middle East. The book also contends that the sort of politics espoused by various kinds of Islamist during the uprisings can be interpreted as a form of early 'post-Islamism', in which Islamist political agendas were seen to be compatible with liberalism and democracy. Using interviews, Arabic language sources and a wealth of archival material, this book is an important and original study that is of great significance for scholars of African and Middle Eastern political history.

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Sasun: The History of an 1890s Armenian Revolt

Justin McCarthy, Omer Turan, Cemalettin Taskiran
2014 – University of Utah Press

Sasun, a region of Anatolia formerly under Ottoman rule and today part of eastern Turkey, is frequently described as the site where, in 1894, the Turks massacred large numbers of Armenian Christians, with estimates ranging from 3,000 to 10,000 people. News reports at the time detailed that gruesome acts, including torture, had occurred at Sasun at the hands of the Ottoman army. The Ottoman Empire denied these allegations. A commission of European delegates sent to investigate the matter concluded that the news reports were highly exaggerated, yet the original stories of atrocities have persisted. This volume provides a close examination of the historical evidence to shed light on what happened at Sasun. The authors' research indicates that the stories circulated by the media of torture and murder in Sasun don't hold up against the findings of the European investigators. Evidence instead shows that an Armenian revolt led to fights with local Kurds and many fewer deaths, on both sides, and that the conflict had largely subsided before the arrival of the Ottoman army.

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Ashes of Hama: The Muslim Brotherhood in Syria

Raphael Lefevre

2013 - Oxford University Press

When the convulsions of the Arab Spring first became manifest in Syria in March 2011, the Ba'athist regime was quick to blame the protests on the "Syrian Muslim Brotherhood" and its "al-Qaeda affiliates." But who are these Islamists so determined to rule a post-Assad Syria?

Little has been published on militant Islam in Syria since Hafez Assad's regime destroyed the Islamist movement in its stronghold of Hama in February 1982. This book bridges that gap by providing readers with the first comprehensive account of the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood's history to date.

In this ground-breaking account of Syria's most prominent, yet highly secretive, Islamist organisation, the author draws on previously untapped sources: the memoirs of former Syrian jihadists; British and American archives; and also a series of wide-ranging interviews with the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood's historical leaders as well as those who battled against them--many speaking on the record for the first time. *Ashes of Hama* uncovers the major aspects of the Islamist struggle: from the Brotherhood's radicalisation and its "jihad" against the Ba'athist regime and subsequent exile, to a spectacular comeback at the forefront of the Syrian revolution in 2011--a remarkable turnaround for an Islamist movement which all analysts had pronounced dead amid the ruins of Hama in 1982.

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Iraq's Democratic Moment

Foulat Hadid

2012 - C Hurst & Co

In 1920, a massive uprising took place against British occupation of Mesopotamia. This initiated a struggle for democracy that pitted nationalist leaders against the British, their local political allies and a newly-installed monarchy. *Iraq's Democratic Moment* is the story of that long and passionate struggle of the Iraqi people to achieve the liberal democracy promised them by the constitution of their newly-created country. In 1936, a coup d'etat brought the nationalist forces to power amid great public jubilation, only for the coup to fail when its leaders fell out among themselves. In 1941, the Iraqi army went to war with the British for violating the terms of the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty. The Iraqis lost the war, and as a result, had to endure British military occupation for the next five years. In 1946, political parties were allowed a certain degree of freedom, but the opportunity was thwarted as the regime failed to deliver on the democratic reforms promised. Further opportunities presented themselves, especially in 1948, when a massive uprising known as al-Wathba forced the cancellation of the Portsmouth Treaty. In 1952, the Iraqi intifada brought more pressure to bear on the regime to introduce the political reforms that the Iraqi people were clamouring for. On both these two occasions, the ruling regime failed yet again to implement free elections and parliamentary democracy. Perhaps the best opportunity of all was presented by the 1958 Revolution. This ended with the army retaining power and the political parties collapsing in disarray. The failure of the revolution and the brutal authoritarian rule that followed dashed the country's hopes for the democracy that it had so long struggled and sacrificed for, but which it has yet to achieve.

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OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Northern Sinai: Egypt's hidden war and open wound

Amr Khalifa

Middle East Eye, 10 August 2016

Last week, yet again, the international media reported that the Egyptian army had killed the head of Sinai Province (Islamic State in Sinai). Back in Cairo, a local paper with a tad more cynicism, reported that the leader had died one too many times. In the tragi-comedy that is the security scene in northern Sinai, this has become a daily dance: a sparring match between reality and the *neo-reality* that the deep state wishes to relay to Cairo, Arab capitals and Western allies. This binary is crucial to the survival of what Sisi is selling at home and abroad: his image as protector of the realm.

Problematically, the sales pitch has included both science fiction and simultaneous, systematic attempts to quell serious, professional coverage of what is truly unfolding on the ground. In a year that saw a mammoth blow to Egyptian tourism after a Russian plane, with 224 aboard, was likely blown out of the sky by a terrorist bomb claimed by IS, Egyptian claims of “control” over northern Sinai ring hollow. Despite the government’s best efforts to secure informational domination over what emerges about northern Sinai, particularly the hotbeds of militancy in Sheikh Zweid and Arish, alternative domestic and foreign sources of information remain, which are of paramount importance if you want to understand the northern wound that Sinai has become. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Revealing an Unknown Cairo

Claire Messud

NY Review of Books, August 18, 2016 Issue

Review of: *Chronicle of a Last Summer: A Novel of Egypt*

by Yasmine El Rashidi

The unnamed narrator of Yasmine El Rashidi’s short first novel, *Chronicle of a Last Summer*, records her conversation in 2014 with a young Cairene record salesman named Mohamed: He tells me the revolution has connected us to a past that preceded us. I nod, tell him I’ve gone back into our history books to understand. I’ve read everything. I can’t believe all this I didn’t know. You might not believe me, he says, but I have too. He’s learning that history is repeating itself. We talk about Nasser. The first revolution. 1919. The Wafd revolting against the British. What El Rashidi attempts in her deceptively quiet, adamant novel is no less than to suffuse the present with the past, to convey the way in which a walk through Cairo and the purchase of vegetables are acts filled not only with vivid present detail but also with echoes of historical and political significance. Language, too—whether Egyptian Arabic or English—means more than itself, and in the novel’s three sections, El Rashidi’s narrator builds a small lexicon of freighted words: “listless,” “lethal,” “*Tadmeer*” or

“devastation,” “*Kifaya*” or “it’s enough,” “truth.” An entire nuanced world emanates from these apparently offhand recollections. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Petitions support Alexandria shipyard workers standing military trial

Jano Charbel

Mada Masr, 2 August 2016

More than 500 individuals and civil society groups signed petitions in solidarity with 26 civilian workers from Alexandria Shipyard Company who are currently standing trial before a military court. The case has been ongoing since June 18. The workers, half of whom are being tried in absentia, face charges of instigating strikes and obstructing operations at the company. They deny the charges, claiming they weren’t involved in any strike action but staged a sit-in that did not halt production. Military prosecutors have charged the workers with violating Article 124 of Egypt’s Penal Code, which stipulates penalties of three months to one year imprisonment and/or fines of up to LE500 for civil servants who deliberately refrain from performing their duties at work. A verdict in the ongoing case was due to be issued on August 2, but was postponed to August 16. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Al-Wefaq and the February 14 uprising: Islam, nationalism and democracythe Shici-Bahraini discourse

Elisheva Machlis

Middle Eastern Studies, 52:6

From Tunisia to Bahrain, the masses that supported the ‘Arab Spring’ revolted against their regimes due to deep social, political and economic grievances. But the uprisings were also about the role of Islam in society, with Islamist movements taking control of popular revolts to promote *dacwa* (the call for Islam; the proselytization of religion). So what is the real affiliation of Shicis in Bahrain and what is the meaning of nationalism and democracy in the Shici-Bahraini context?

Research on the revolt in Bahrain discussed the involvement of outside forces, the sec-tarian dimension of this uprising and its reformist character. Yet, they did not explore the question of group membership among the Shicis of Bahrain as a basis for evaluating the community’s relationship with the Bahraini nation-state. Nor did they provide an in-depth understanding of the ideological dimension of this revolt. Filling this lacuna, this article will explore the correlation between Islam, sectarianism, nationalism and trans-national Shici ‘solidarity among the Shicis of Bahrain, through the prism of al-Wefaq, the country’s largest Shici party. With a growing debate over Islamists’ relationship with both national-ism and democracy, this article will contribute to understanding the

Shici angle of this discourse within the unique context of Bahrain. The study will focus on the period of renewed political participation from 1999, when the country's current ruler, Shaykh Hamad Bin Khalifa, revived the activity of the parliament after it was suspended in 1975, through the popular revolt of 2011. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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The feminist movement during the AKP era in Turkey: challenges and opportunities

Melinda Negrón-Gonzales
Middle Eastern Studies, 52:2

This article explores women's rights activism in Turkey during the Justice and Development Party's (AKP) time in power (2002–present). A comparative analysis of three feminist campaigns for policy reform shows that in a context in which majority public opinion and the policy preferences of the ruling party militate against feminist policy proposals, a strong political ally (the European Union) was necessary to generate a policy change. The article also argues that the political opportunity structures within which feminists are embedded have been reconfigured over the course of the AKP's three terms in power, leaving the AKP in a stronger position to resist feminists' demands. This explains the paradox of an internally stronger and more dynamic social movement that, nevertheless, appears to have weakened *vis-à-vis* the state. Furthermore, because some recent legal reforms do not significantly reflect the AKP's or much of the public's preferences, the movement has been less able to generate implementation of recent policy changes. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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The interplay between formal and informal institutions in Turkey: the case of the Fethullah Gülen community

Filiz Başkan-Canyaş & F. Orkunt Canyaş
Middle Eastern Studies, 52:2

Supporters of the Fethullah Gülen community, an informal institution with an influential role in Turkish political life, have formed an international chain of schools and student dormitories, and a communications web that includes newspapers, journals, television and radio channels, as well as other companies and finance institutions. Although the community has no formal structure, its followers have established these formal institutions to integrate it into formal systems like education and the economy. This paper focuses on the community's educational organizations to argue that, since the community has preferred to pursue its goals within Turkey's existing formal framework, rather than by challenging it or breaking its rules, it can be defined as an accommodating informal institution rather than complementary, competing or substitutive. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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The Wadi al-Hawarith affair (Emek Hefer): disputed land and the struggle for ownership: 1929–33

Muhammad Suwaed

Middle Eastern Studies, 52:2

The Wadi al-Hawarith (Emek Hefer) affair was considered to be one of the prominent land disputes between Jews and Arabs in Palestine during the British mandate period. The region in which the dispute broke out was found south of Hadera in Emek Hefer. The purchase of lands of Wadi al-Hawarith, by Jewish bodies, had already started at the end of the nineteenth century and continued for four decades, and during this there were disputes between the Jews and Arabs, which were accompanied by legal hearings. The Jewish National Fund tried to reach an arrangement by means of compensation for the Bedouin tenants who dwelled on the lands of the valley, in exchange for their willingness to leave the territory. From time to time, the Bedouins agreed to this, but they went back on their agreement. Despite the effort to reach compensation arrangements with the Bedouins, the Palestinian political leadership was interested in inflaming the opposition of the Bedouins to leaving the land. This is what caused a long string of trials, which continued for many years. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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From State Exclusionary Politics to Youth Inclusionary Practices: The Tahrir Square Experience

Dina El-Sharnouby

International Journal of Sociology, Volume 45, 2015 - Issue 3

In the four years since the uprising of January 25, 2011, Egypt has undergone many changes—but exactly what kind of changes? Although January 25, 2011, is marked as the beginning of a revolution, its precise meaning remains unclear regarding how to analyze its outcomes related to transformative social change. When focusing on institutions, revolutionary changes are indeed largely invisible four years later in that they have not fundamentally transformed to ease Egyptians' daily practices and living conditions. Instead of just looking at institutional changes, the revolution sparked a temporary opening to the general Egyptian public, and youth especially, during the 18 days until the ousting of President Hosni Mubarak. This opening, I argue, has affected youth activism that focuses on unity and inclusion in response to many years of exclusionary state politics. This article analyzes the discourse on Egyptian youth from the state's perspective since Egypt's independence, highlighting the escalating exclusionary practices over the years due to sociopolitical and economic strategies. Using Tahrir Square as a focus for understanding the dynamics of youth activism, I argue that although this temporary opening was marked by inclusionary youth activism, it did not overcome those mental structures in their imagination for change as a more cohesive and inclusionary society. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Landscapes of Belonging: Protestant Activism in Revolutionary Egypt

Anna Dowell

International Journal of Sociology, Volume 45, 2015 - Issue 3

The year 2011 saw a remarkable visibility of Christian Egyptian activism, especially among Coptic Orthodox youth movements and Protestant churches. Drawing on both historical and ethnographic material, this article explores the idioms of blood and land used by Protestant pastors and lay leaders at Kasr al-Dobara Evangelical Church bordering Tahrir Square to explain their revolutionary sympathies and to impel those of their congregation. This research connects these twenty-first-century discourses of revolution and responsibility with late nineteenth-century colonial representations of Copts as the native sons of Egypt. I argue that it is through the historical reading of these landscapes of belonging that one can understand these moments of confident, self-assured Christian activism in the face of mounting sectarian and political violence. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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The Committee of the Parents of the Missing and Disappeared: 30 Years of Struggle and Protest

Marwan G. Rowayheb & Makram Ouais

Middle Eastern Studies, 51:6

This article investigates the work of a Lebanese non-governmental organization (NGO) called the Committee of the Parents of the Missing and the Disappeared. Although the successive Lebanese governments, most political leaders, ex-militia leaders and ex-combatants did not want to help in revealing the truth about what had happened to the people who went missing during the Lebanese civil war of 1975, the Committee managed to mobilize the families of the missing people under one banner for more than 30 years and was successful in making the Lebanese government and the legal authorities take few but important decisions that favoured the cause of the families of the missing people. It managed to do so without being deterred by the social, political and economic challenges it faced and due to the ability of its leadership to clearly define the sources of contention it wanted to protest against and by selecting the protests methods that best serve its cause. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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The Muslim Brothers' Conception of Armed Insurrection against an Unjust Regime

Uriya Shavit

Middle Eastern Studies, 51:4

The article analyzes the opinions of the intellectual and political luminaries of the Muslim Brothers from the 1930s to the late 1990s on launching an armed insurrection against an unjust Muslim regime. An examination of works by Hasan al-Banna, Hasan al-Hudaybi, 'Umar al-Tilmisani, Muhammad Qutb, Yusuf al-Qaradawi and Ma'mun al-Hudaybi reveals that, in addressing different types of challenges, the mainstream of the movement developed a broad and consistent consensus on the matter that draws from classic Islamic jurisprudence. According to this consensus, violence can be applied only as a last resort and only following an application of 'fiqh al-muwazanat' (the jurisprudence of balances) that indicates that success is certain, and that the harm caused in the process would not be greater than the benefit incurred. How a specific regime came to power, and the level of injustice it commits, are irrelevant criteria; a decision on launching a violent revolution is primarily concerned with pragmatically assessing opportunities and consequences. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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The Role of Drought and Climate Change in the Syrian Uprising: Untangling the Triggers of the Revolution

Francesca De Châtel

Middle Eastern Studies, 50:4

This article examines the role of drought and climate change as triggers of the Syrian uprising that started in March 2011. It frames the 2006–10 drought that struck north-eastern Syria in the context of rapid economic liberalization and long-standing resource mismanagement, and shows that the humanitarian crisis of the late 2000s largely predated the drought period. It argues that focusing on external factors like drought and climate change in the context of the Syrian uprising is counterproductive as it diverts attention from more fundamental political and economic motives behind the protests and shifts responsibility away from the Syrian government. More than two years after the first protests in the rural town of Dara'a in March 2011, what started as a peaceful uprising against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad in Syria has degenerated into a bloody conflict. In July 2013, the United Nations (UN) estimated that more than 100,000 people had died since March 2011, while millions of officially registered and unregistered refugees are scattered from Egypt to Turkey and beyond, and an estimated 4.25 million people are internally displaced. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Nationalist Mobilization and State–Society Relations: The People's Houses' Campaign for Turkish in Izmir, June–July 1934

Alexandros Lamprou

Middle Eastern Studies, 49:5

This article studies the campaign against the use of non-Turkish languages that was organized by local forces in Izmir in 1934. In contextualizing the campaign within domestic politics and state–society relation, the article attempts to study domestic politics through a local perspective and explore the impact that similar events in the periphery had in the centre's policies, which the literature is usually inclined to comprehend *solely* with reference to state 'high politics'. The article argues that cases of autonomous mobilization from below, such as the 1934 Izmir campaign, contributed to the evolution of the Turkish political regime in the 1930s by turning the centre towards decisions that would redesign the relationship between the state and the ruling party, and have an impact on state–society relations. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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'The Importance of being Civil Society': Student Politics and the Reformist Movement in Khatami's Iran

Paola Rivetti & Francesco Cavatorta

Middle Eastern Studies, 49:4

Through a non-conventional understanding of civil society activism, the article provides an explanation of the relationship between the student movement and Khatami's governments in Iran. This study approaches 'civil society' as a space where we may observe the dynamics and exercise of power. The case study of the interactions between the Daftar-e Tahkim-e Vahdat and Khatami's governments illustrates how civil society is not a fixed concept, but a contested one. By analysing the conflicts and interactions between these two actors, the article examines the continuous negotiations that reinvent the meaning of civil society and produce political inclusion or exclusion. . *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Akhund Khurasani and the Iranian Constitutional Movement

Denis Hermann

Middle Eastern Studies, 49:3

During the last 15 years several important sources have been published allowing the appraisal of the role of ulema during the Iranian constitutional movement (1906–11) and thus opening new lines of research. The 2006–7 edition compiled by Muhsin Kadivar from several unknown documents written

by Akhund Muhammad Kazim Khurasani (d. 1330/1911) make it possible to measure his importance and his impact on the evolution of the events as well as his ideological influence. The *usuli* rationalist jurist Akhund Khurasani was considered at the beginning of the constitutional movement as one of the principal *mujtahid* and *marja'-i taqlid* of the Shiite world, and was possibly the best-known. After introducing the life and work of Akhund Khurasani and the theoretical principles (*nazari*) that he uses to define the constitutional movement, the main topics that arise in the study of this literature are identified. Particular attention is paid to his position as a rallying point and legitimizing force, his enthusiasm for an ambitious progressive policy, his intricate relations with western powers and his links with the Qajar. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Comparative Politics – Assistant Professor of Political Science, Tenure-Track

Starting Date: September 2017

A New Jersey public institution with a distinctive interdisciplinary focus and a commitment to teaching excellence seeks a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Political Science specializing in Comparative Politics. The successful candidate will offer undergraduate courses in Introduction to Comparative Politics, advanced courses in Comparative Politics, a rotation of Introduction to Politics as well as interdisciplinary General Studies courses.

Ability to offer courses in one or more of the following areas is desired – Political Economy of Development, Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict, Politics in the Developing World, Gender and Politics, Environmental Politics, Comparative Law, Democratization, or Regional Integration. Regional focus is open.

Teaching load is three courses (12 credit hours) per semester with additional duties as negotiated under the collective bargaining agreement. Applicants with a Ph.D. in Political Science completed will be given preference, although ABD candidates in Political Science will be considered. Evidence of excellent teaching experience or a demonstrable pedagogical commitment to teaching excellence is required. A strong commitment to scholarly activity and service is also expected.

Salary is dependent upon experience. Review of applications will begin September 28, 2016 and continue until the position is filled.

Representatives of the Political Science program will conduct informational interviews with potential candidates at APSA in Philadelphia. Interested candidates should contact Tina Zappile (Tina.Zappile@stockton.edu) to request an informational interview (include an electronic copy of CV with interview request).

To apply please visit: <https://careers-stockton.icims.com/jobs>. Only electronic documents will be accepted. [note: please check back after August 9th for the official online job application]. Please complete the on-line application, which will require submission of the following required documents. All required documents must be submitted in order for your application to move forward. You may upload documents using Word, PDF or Videos either as one single file or as individual attachments.

- 1) A letter of application describing qualifications and accomplishments
- 2) A curriculum vitae
- 3) Evidence of teaching excellence (student evaluations, course syllabi, teaching philosophy, professional development related to teaching)
- 4) Graduate transcripts
- 5) Three letters of recommendation/reference

All offers of employment are contingent upon a favorable background check. Individuals with disabilities desiring accommodations in the application process should contact: Sharon Hunt, Recruitment Manager at 609-652-4384. Prospective employees may access the Annual Security Report for the University at www.stockton.edu/campuspolice or contact the Campus Police department at 609-652-4378 to request a hard copy of the report. Stockton University is an equal opportunity institution encouraging a diverse pool of applicants, visit: http://www.stockton.edu/affirmative_action.

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Assistant Professor or Instructor in the History of the Islamic World/Middle East (tenure-track) Franklin & Marshall College

Franklin & Marshall College invites applications for a tenure-track position in the history of the Islamic World/Middle East in the Department of History beginning Fall 2017. The rank will be Assistant Professor or instructor depending on qualifications; with appropriate qualifications, appointment at the Associate level may be considered. Applicants should possess or be close to completing a doctoral degree. The successful candidate will teach courses at all levels in the history of the Islamic World and the modern Middle East along with contributions in the College's general education program, Connections. She or he will also cultivate connections with other programs, initiatives, and departments beyond history, for example, International Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, Government, and Religious Studies. Franklin & Marshall faculty are expected to be excellent teachers, active mentors, and productive scholars. Teaching load is 3/2.

Pursuant to cultivating an inclusive college community, the search committee will holistically assess the qualifications of each applicant. We will consider an individual's record working with students and colleagues with diverse perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds. We will also consider experience overcoming or helping others overcome barriers to academic success.

Candidates should submit the following materials electronically via Interfolio

(apply.interfolio.com/36412): letter of application, curriculum vitae, graduate transcript, teaching statement, research statement, a writing sample, teaching evaluation forms, and three letters of recommendation. For full consideration, applications should be received by November 15, 2016.

Franklin & Marshall College is committed to having an inclusive campus community where all members are treated with dignity and respect. As an Equal Opportunity Employer, the College does not discriminate in its hiring or employment practices on the basis of gender, sex, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, religion.

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NYU Abu Dhabi Faculty Positions Political Science

New York University Abu Dhabi is inviting applications from political scientists for faculty positions at any level (assistant, associate or full professor, tenure/tenure track - senior candidacies also welcome) to strengthen its program in Political Science, for appointment on September 1, 2017. We encourage applications from all subfields of Political Science. You may visit the Political Science program's website for a description of its innovative curriculum:

<http://nyuad.nyu.edu/en/academics/undergraduate-programs/majors/political-science.html>

New York University has established itself as a Global Network University. The network has three foundational degree-granting campuses: New York, Abu Dhabi, and Shanghai, complemented by a network of eleven research and study-away sites across five continents. Our students are drawn from around the world and surpass all traditional recruitment benchmarks, both US and global. Our goal is to develop a cohort of international students attuned to and educated for an inclusive global society. Students and Faculty will circulate within the global network in pursuit of common research interests and the promotion of cross-cultural and interdisciplinary solutions for problems both local and global.

The excellent terms of employment are competitive and include generous start-up and on-going research funds, as well as housing subsidies and educational subsidies for children. Faculty may also spend an occasional semester at NYU New York and other sites of the global network, engaging in both research and teaching opportunities.

Applications are due no later than September 15, 2016. Campus visits to NYUAD will be held in October and November 2016, with the visits to NYUNY occurring in the succeeding four weeks. The review of applications will begin immediately, and will continue until the positions are filled. We anticipate that the successful candidates can start employment on or before August 15, 2017 subject to final budget approval.

To ensure full consideration by the search committee, applicants must submit their curriculum vitae, statements of research and teaching interests, and representative writing samples. To complete the online process, applicants will be prompted to enter the names and email addresses of at least three referees. Each referee will be contacted to upload his or her reference letter. Senior candidates are not required to submit references at this time.

If you have any questions, please e-mail nyuad.socialscience@nyu.edu.

More information [here](#)

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PhD candidates in Middle East Studies (Arabic)

The Faculty of Humanities at Leiden University invites applications for:

PhD candidates in Middle East Studies (Arabic) (3 x 1, 0 fte)

Vacancy number: 16-252

Deadline: 14 September 2016

Project description

The 3 PhD candidates will carry out research in the framework of the ERC-funded project, “Embedding Conquest: Naturalising Muslim Rule in the Early Islamic Empire (600-1000)” headed by Prof. Dr. Petra Sijpesteijn (PI). This project is to understand the success of the early Islamic empire (600-1000 CE) using the vastly important but largely neglected documentary evidence from the Muslim world. Examining all written expressions of social hierarchical relations, the goal of this project is to uncover the deeper social structures that underlay the Arab-Islamic empire and to reconstruct the system of shared expectations, assumptions and codes that underwrote its cohesion, and how these changed over time.

The three PhD candidates will each study one of three specified topics within the project focusing on different linguistic sources and concentrating on specific geographical areas. They will also identify and prepare materials from their respective source base for the project’s online database of linguistic expressions describing social hierarchical relations. They will participate in regular team meetings and present their research findings at scholarly venues. For details, read the appendix.

Key responsibilities

- Write a PhD dissertation;
- Carry out and publish original research;
- Gather linguistic expressions for incorporation in the database;
- Disseminate the project to non-academic parties and on social media;
- Co organize (PhD 2&3) conference on ‘Local élites as brokers of power and culture’;
- Prepare the proceedings of the conference for publication in an open-access volume or thematic journal issue.

- Selection criteria (general)
- An MA degree;
- Fluency in English;
- Willingness to work in an international and competitive research environment;
- Ability to work independently and as part of and in support of a larger team;
- And for specific criteria see the appendix.

Our Faculty/ Institute

The Faculty of Humanities is an international centre for the study of languages, cultures, arts, and societies worldwide, in their historical contexts from prehistory to the present. We take culture broadly to include religions, philosophies, and worldviews as well as literature art, and technology. We aim to contribute to knowledge, the sustainable well-being of societies, and the understanding of the cognitive, historical, cultural, artistic, and social aspects of human life. In research and teaching, we focus on Dynamics of Diversity, meaning the mobility of people, language, culture, ideas, art, and institutions in a globalizing world, and their interconnectivity through the ages. Our faculty is home to more than 5,400 students and 800 staff members.

The postdoctoral fellow will hold a position in the Leiden University Institute for Area Studies (LIAS). LIAS is committed to the integration of disciplinary and regional-historical perspectives, on a solid foundation of excellent language skills, and comprises a School of Asian Studies and a School of Middle-Eastern Studies.

Terms and conditions

We offer a fulltime, fixed-term post from 1 February 2017 until 31 January 2021. The appointment will initially be for 12 months and if evaluated positively, with an extension of 3 years and must lead to the completion of a PhD thesis.

The salary range for a PhD candidate is from € 2,191. - to € 2,779. - gross per month (pay-scale PhD candidates).

Leiden University offers an attractive benefits package with additional holiday (8%) and end-of-year bonuses (8.3 %), training and career development and sabbatical leave. Our individual choices model gives you some freedom to assemble your own set of terms and conditions. Candidates from outside the Netherlands may be eligible for a substantial tax break. <http://www.workingat.leiden.edu/>.

Diversity

Leiden University is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from members of underrepresented groups.

Information

Enquiries can be made to Petra Sijpesteijn via p.m.sijpesteijn@hum.leidenuniv.nl.

Information about the LIAS Department can be found at <http://www.hum.leiden.edu/lias/> and about Leiden University at <http://www.hum.leidenuniv.nl>.

Applications

Applications must be received **no later than 14 September 2016**. Interviews are planned for the end of September 2016. Applications should be in English, and be submitted to

vacatureslias@hum.leidenuniv.nl, with the items listed below included in this order in one single PDF document named 'FAMILY NAME – Given name – 16-252:

A CV including education and employment history and publications;

A letter of motivation;

A 3-page research proposal of a specific research topic proposed within the overarching PhD project including a short sample biography (indicating well which PhD project the proposal pertains to);

Names, positions and email addresses of two referees (no reference letters).

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