



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

BRISMES 2017 Movement and Migration in the Middle East

Deadline: 27 January 2017

In collaboration with Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Edinburgh, the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies invites proposals for its 2017 Annual Conference on the theme of 'Movement and Migration in the Middle East: People and Ideas in Flux'. The Middle East and North Africa is a region historically shaped by the movement of people, goods, social groups, and ideas. At a time when mass migration within and from the region is dominating global debate, this conference will provide a forum for informed discussion, including insights into the historical background, current context, as well as the challenges posed by the present situation and possible future directions.

We particularly encourage proposals for papers and panels that take up the theme in innovative ways, exploring not only migration of people but movement and exchanges in relation to ideas, culture, language, borders, and social and political groups. We seek submissions that highlight the connections between the Middle East and other areas of the globe, as well as ties within the region, be they between individual countries or between sub-regions. In addition, we warmly invite proposals on any topic related to Middle Eastern Studies, regardless of their fit with the conference's main theme. Our aim is to foster dialogue between scholars studying the Middle East and North Africa from all disciplines. Papers and panels addressing historical or contemporary aspects of the following subthemes are particularly welcome:

- Migration: Migration Routes, Communications, and Integration
- Diaspora Communities and Social Movements
- Religious Movements: Communities (Ancient and Modern), Interfaith Connections, Religious Authority, and Evolving Theological Interpretations
- Radicalisation and Counter-Radicalisation Movements
- Trade Movements: Ancient and Modern Economic Collaborations and Enterprises
- The Politics of Borders and Bodies: Trafficking, Labour, and Militarisation
- Geographical Boundaries in Urban, Regional, and International Contexts
- **Political and Social Movements:** Ruling Elites, Structures of Government
- Cultural Movements: Connections Within Art, Architecture, Literature, Film and Music
- Linguistic and Etymological Movements and Language Development
- Virtual Movements: Social Media, Gaming, and Global Communications Networks

To submit a paper or panel proposal, please download and complete the relevant form, and email it to emma.pearson@brismes.org by 17.00 GMT, 27 January 2017.

More information [here](#)

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Call for Research Stream Proposals ESA Athens 2017 conference: (Un)Making Europe: Capitalism, Solidarities, Subjectivities.

Deadline: 15 October 2016

The next conference of the European Sociological Association will be held in Athens, Greece, in late August 2017. The conference theme is (Un)Making Europe: Capitalism, Solidarities, Subjectivities. The conference programme will include plenaries, semi-plenaries, special sessions, Research Network (RN) and Research Stream (RS) sessions.

Semi-plenaries and RN sessions will be proposed and organized by ESA Research Networks. While Research Networks anchor in specific fields of sociology, Research Streams offer the chance to focus more specifically on our conference theme as well as on new themes across the boundaries of the sociological subdisciplines. Some RS will continue their work from previous conferences; others will introduce new ideas to the conference programme.

We invite ESA members to submit proposals to organize "Research Stream" sessions. If you would like to propose a session, please download our MS Word "Call for Research Stream Proposals" form at <http://www.europeansociology.org/docs/conferences/athens/esa2017RSform.doc>

Proposals should include a "Description of the Research Stream" and a "General call for papers".

Please submit your proposal (MS Word document) to the ESA executive administrator, esa@europeansociology.org. The submission deadline is 15 October 2016.

More information [here](#)

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Turkey at Critical Crossroads: Dynamic Trajectories for Society, Politics and Culture

1-3 February 2017, Lisbon

Venue: School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Deadline for abstracts: 7 November 2016

The Turkish Republic, as a state and society located in a highly volatile region of the world, is in a flux that is consequential for the global affairs. Capturing the dynamism of domestic and regional developments in and around Turkey calls for multi-layered and interdisciplinary debates. To serve this end, the School of Social and Political Sciences (University of Lisbon, Portugal) and the Pratt Institute, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Brooklyn, United States) are organising an international conference seeking to address the changes occurring in Turkey and future trajectories for the country.

This conference is the second in a series that began in 2014 with a very productive discussion on the Gezi Park protests that culminated in the publication of an edited volume (Isabel David and Kumru F. Toktamis (Eds.). 2015. *'Everywhere Taksim': Sowing the Seeds for a New Turkey at Gezi*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press).

A lot has taken place in the country since the agitated days of the summer of 2013. The most significant developments include: the election of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan; the loss of the absolute majority by the AKP in the June 2015 legislative elections and its recovery in the November elections; the rise of HDP; the resumption of hostilities with the Kurds; the Syria quagmire; the refugee deal with the EU; and, of course, the recent coup attempt, on July 15th, the full consequences of which are yet to be known.

The conference seeks to explore the consequences of the changes that have taken place since Gezi for Turkish society, politics and culture. We therefore invite submissions on the following and related topics:

- AKP rule
- Opposition parties
- Debates on the presidential system
- The Kurdish question
- Turkish foreign policy
- Prospects for EU accession
- Democratisation/de-democratisation
- Neoliberalism and state (re)-formation
- A new Constitution
- Issues of international and domestic migration
- Rights and freedoms
- Secularism/laicism
- Negotiating public space
- Art and creativity as resistance practices
- The attempted coup and its consequences for Turkey.

If you are interested in participating, please send a 500-word abstract to Dr. Isabel David (isabela_davidova@yahoo.com or isabel.david@iscsp.ulisboa.pt) and Dr. Kumru F. Toktamış (ktoktami@pratt.edu) by November 7, 2016. We acknowledge receipt of all emails and will reply to all. If you do not receive a reply, please resend your abstract. Please include the following in your email:

- Author name;
- Affiliation;
- email address;
- abstract in Word format;
- a short CV.

Acceptance notices will be sent by November 11, 2016. In case your abstract is accepted, a draft paper of around 8000 words is due two weeks prior to the beginning of the conference. We intend to

compile an edited volume with the best papers for publication in an international reference publisher.

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Call for Submissions: the Left & the War in Syria

Deadline: 17 October 2016

Muftah is putting together a Special Collection of articles that will examine leftist discourse on the Syrian revolution. It is our hope that this Special Collection will feature contrasting and conflicting viewpoints on the war in Syria, specifically from within leftist circles. We are especially interested in articles that eschew Western-centric analyses and highlight the narratives of Syrians.

We are seeking unique, cogent submissions of up to 2500 words, and welcome a range of perspectives on any of the following topics:

- Ideological rifts among leftists on Syria
- The left's responsibilities on Syria
- The left's failures or successes on Syria
- Support of and opposition to foreign involvement in Syria
- Differentiating between moderates and extremists in Syria
- Perspectives on humanitarian intervention in Syria

Submissions are due October 17, 2016. Please email articles to submissions@muftah.org.

More information [here](#)

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TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

Egypt in a Time of Revolution: Collective Violence and Authoritarian State Capture

18 October 2016, 18:00-20:00

Venue: Pyramid Room (K4U.04 - 4th Floor) Strand Campus, King's College, London

Speaker: Dr Neil Ketchley (King's College London)

More information [here](#)

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The July 15 Failed Coup and the Demise of 'Islamic Democracy' in Turkey

19 October 2016, 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm

Venue: Forum Transregionale Studien, Wallotstr. 14, 14193 Berlin

Speaker: Halil Ibrahim Yenigün (Istanbul / EUME Fellow 2016/17)

Discussant: **Asef Bayat** (University of Illinois / Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin 2016/17)

Overcoming various binaries of the earlier decades such as religious reactionaries vs. secular progressives, many policy makers and scholars got heavily invested in the promise of an 'Islamic Democracy' in Turkey in the 2000s. An AKP-Gülen marriage, blessed by the Euro-American power-elite, was accordingly hailed as a successful case of Islamic democracy led by 'good Muslims,' code-named by several labels ranging from 'moderate Muslims' to 'moderate Islamists' and 'post-Islamists.' Eventually the Turkish model received its proper honors in the mainstream media as a template that integrated 'Islam, democracy, and vibrant economics' that supposedly became an operational formula for the whole Middle East after the Arab Spring and 'the envy of the Arab world.' Having witnessed an already three-year long unsightly and bloody divorce of the 'moderate Islam's two Turkish partners that pinnacle in the July 15 coup attempt, has the 'Islamic democracy project' proven an utter failure? What went wrong with Turkey's 'moderate Muslims'?

More information [here](#)

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Book Talk: The Power Triangle: Military, Security, and Politics in Regime Change

Fri 21st Oct 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Sandwiches provided 11:30-12:00pm

Venue. Room 119, Alison Richard Building, 7 West Rd, Cambridge CB3 9DT, UK

Speaker: Hazem Kandil

Iran, Egypt, and Turkey all experienced remarkably similar coup-installed regimes in the middle of the twentieth century, and shared comparable state-building ambitions. Despite these similarities, each followed a different trajectory: Iran became an absolutist monarchy that was overthrown from below; Turkey evolved into a limited democracy; and Egypt metamorphosed into a police state. What accounts for this divergence?

More information [here](#)

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International Relations in the Middle East: Social Movements and Regional Order

24 October 2016, 17.15

Venue: Project room, 50 George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9LH

Speaker: Ewan Stein (Edinburgh) - "International Relations in the Middle East: Social Movements and Regional Order"

More information [here](#)

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Book Launch: Popular Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East

26 October 2016, 18:00-19:30

Venue: Wolfson Theatre, Lower Ground Floor, New Academic Building, LSE

Speaker: Dr John Chalcraft, LSE

John Chalcraft launches his book *Popular Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*, which gives an account of popular protest that emphasizes the revolutionary modern history of the region. Challenging top-down views of Middle Eastern politics, Chalcraft looks at how commoners, subjects and citizens have long mobilised in defiance of authorities, taking examples from a wide variety of protest movements from Morocco to Iran. This book will be sold at the event. This event is free and open to all, however registration is necessary.

More information & registration [here](#)

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Muslim Brotherhood in Europe. An experienced and lived ideology

27 October 2016, 8:00 pm

Venue: Film Plateau, Paddenhoek 3, 9000 Gent, Belgium

Speaker: Brigitte Maréchal (CISMOC - UCL)

Discussant: Iman Lechkar (IMMRC KULeuven)

Since the 1960s against the backdrop of conflicts with political regimes, specifically in Egypt, Syria and Iraq., the Brotherhood is slowly but steadily integrating in Europe, as they established a network of religious, social and political organizations. It mostly expanded in European cities with a strong Muslim presence, first in Germany but later also in France and Britain. In Belgium too, the Brotherhood has left its mark on the religious experience of many Muslims. Adopting an anthropological perspective, this lecture will give us insight in the ideological aspect of the European

Muslim Brotherhood. It is based on a profound fieldwork, that did not solely focus on the leaders of the movement, but engaged in the heterogeneous dynamics that make up the movement, with particular attention to the lived experiences and values of its members. From an analysis of the contemporary re-appropriation of the brotherhood's legacy by European Muslims, it takes stock of what constitutes the strength and weakness of the Muslim Brotherhood in terms of spiritual and intellectual resources. As the historical contribution of the brothers remains a major mobilizing reference for many European Muslims today.

More information [here](#)

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Iraq's Reform Protest Movement: Explaining secular-Sadrist cooperation

31 October 2016, 17.15

Venue: Project room, 50 George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9LH

PhD presentations by Neil Russell on "Bringing the State Back in? Private Islamic institutions and official religious bureaucracy in Sisi's Egypt" and Ben Robin on "Iraq's Reform Protest Movement: Explaining secular-Sadrist cooperation".

More information [here](#)

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Egypt and the Contradictions of Liberalism: Illiberal Intelligentsia and the Future of Egyptian Democracy

Dalia Fahmy, Daanish Faruqi (Eds.)

January 2017 - Oneworld Publications

The liberatory sentiment that stoked the Arab Spring and saw the ousting of long-time Egyptian dictator Hosni Mubarak seems a distant memory. Democratically elected president Mohammad Morsi lasted only a year before he was forced from power to be replaced by precisely the kind of authoritarianism protestors had been railing against in January 2011. Paradoxically, this turn of events was encouraged by the same liberal activists and intelligentsia who'd pushed for progressive

reform under Mubarak. This volume analyses how such a key contingent of Egyptian liberals came to develop outright illiberal tendencies. Interdisciplinary in scope, it brings together experts in Middle East studies, political science, philosophy, Islamic studies and law to address the failure of Egyptian liberalism in a holistic manner – from liberalism’s relationship with the state, to its role in cultivating civil society, to the role of Islam and secularism in the cultivation of liberalism. A work of impeccable scholarly rigour, *Egypt and the Contradictions of Liberalism* reveals the contemporary ramifications of the state of liberalism in Egypt.

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Freedom without Permission: Bodies and Space in the Arab Revolutions

Frances S. Hasso, Zakia Salime (Eds)
2016 – Duke University Press

As the 2011 uprisings in North Africa reverberated across the Middle East, a diverse cross section of women and girls publicly disputed gender and sexual norms in novel, unauthorized, and often shocking ways. In a series of case studies ranging from Tunisia's 14 January Revolution to the Taksim Gezi Park protests in Istanbul, the contributors to *Freedom without Permission* reveal the centrality of the intersections between body, gender, sexuality, and space to these groundbreaking events. Essays include discussions of the blogs written by young women in Egypt, the Women2Drive campaign in Saudi Arabia, the reintegration of women into the public sphere in Yemen, the sexualization of female protesters encamped at Bahrain's Pearl Roundabout, and the embodied, performative, and artistic spaces of Morocco's 20 February Movement. Conceiving of revolution as affective, embodied, spatialized, and aesthetic forms of upheaval and transgression, the contributors show how women activists imagined, inhabited, and deployed new spatial arrangements that undermined the public-private divisions of spaces, bodies, and social relations, continuously transforming them through symbolic and embodied transgressions.

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Egypt beyond Tahrir Square

Bessma Momani, Eid Mohamed (Eds.)
2016 - Indiana University Press

On January 25, 2011, the world's eyes were on Egypt's Tahrir Square as millions of people poured into the city center to call for the resignation of president Hosni Mubarak. Since then, few scholars or journalists have been given the opportunity to reflect on the nationwide moment of transformation and the hope that was embodied by the Egyptian Revolution. In this important and necessary volume, leading Egyptian academics and writers share their eyewitness experiences. They examine how events unfolded in relation to key social groups and institutions such as the military, police,

labor, intellectuals, Coptic Christians, and the media; share the mood of the nation; assess what happened when three recent regimes of Egyptian rule came to an end; and account for the dramatic rise and fall of the Muslim Brotherhood. The contributors deep engagement with politics and society in their country is evident and sets this volume apart from most of what has been published in English about the Arab Spring. The diversity of views brought together here is a testament to the contradictions and complexities of historical and political changes that affect Egypt and beyond.

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OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Mass Mobilization and the Democracy Bias

Marc Morjé Howard, Meir R. Walters
Middle East Policy 22.2 (2015): 145-155.

In July 2013, the cover of Time magazine announced that Egypt has both the world's "best protesters" and "worst democrats."¹ In the same month, the cover of The Economist asked, "Has the Arab Spring failed?"² The media oscillated between euphoria over the democratic potential of "Facebook revolutions" and dismissal (or even gloating) when they did not seem to pan out. This response to the Arab uprisings is part of a broader trend. Popular accounts of mass uprisings tend to label them neatly by color (orange, green, rose) or season (spring, winter). They give an oversimplified portrait of mass mobilization as teleological: Protests are "successful" if they quickly bring about a stable democracy, and "failed" if they do not. This is often matched by a fascination over whether protesters are "like us" — by their use of social media, rejection of extremism, embrace of Europe and free markets, or hatred of dictatorship. Indeed, debates about the success or failure of mass uprisings often reflect a problematic obsession with the question of whether protesters are "ready for democracy." *Continue reading [here](#)*

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The Secular-Islamist Divide Deepens in Jordan

Osama Al Sharif
Middle East Institute, 27 September 2016

The tug of war between proponents of a civil, democratic, and secular state, on the one hand, and conservative forces, especially religious hardliners, on the other, has become the center of public debate in Jordan against a backdrop of incidents that have recently polarized the kingdom. Accusations that new school textbooks for elementary grade students have been altered where

certain religious references, including Quranic verses, were removed have triggered public protests throughout the country. The government initially said the revised textbooks, which were introduced this scholastic year in early September, were part of a strategy to reform the education system and fight extremism. But critics, including the Islamist-controlled Teachers' Association, claim the move is part of conspiracy to secularize school curricula and normalize relations with Israel. A Ministry of Education committee denied the accusations, saying the new textbooks were experimental and should not be compared to cancelled books. It insisted that the revisions have not threatened the "kingdom's religious and national principles." *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Whose revolution?

Maged Mandour

openDemocracy, 21 September 2016

The Egyptian mass protests can only be classified as a reform movement that had hoped to create a liberal order. A modest goal that has degenerated into a full-spectrum military autocracy. Mural depicting ousted President Mubarak, right, and President Morsi, left, that reads "before the revolution, let them be amused, after the revolution, let them be paralyzed." Nasser Nasser/AP/Press Association Images. All rights reserved. The mass protests that erupted in Egypt in 2011, and their aftermath, were dubbed 'a revolution' by both opponents and proponents. The label, on the one hand, has been used to discredit the protests; described as a destructive force that is the reason for the abysmal state of the Egyptian economy. On the other hand, the same label has also been used to romanticize the struggle against the Mubarak regime and its successors. A more sober examination of the nature of these events renders a different picture. It places the upheaval within a reformist rather than revolutionary realm that had aimed to pave the way for the development of Egyptian capitalism beyond the cronyism that had plagued it for several decades. However, a distinction needs to be made between social and political revolutions in order to identify the position of Egyptian mass protests either within this continuum or outside it altogether. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Sports, politics, revolution: how a hardcore football fan club impacted Egyptian consciousness

Karim Zidan

openDemocracy, 26 September 2016

This is the first in a four-part series that delves into the history of the Ultras and their impact on Egyptian society. Part One: Introducing Egypt's Ultras.

A quick glance at the official Ultras Ahlawy Facebook page offers a harrowing reminder of the last five years in Egyptian history. Instead of a timeline dedicated to football fandom and hardcore

support for the Al-Ahly club, poignant pictures of various youth crowd the screen, each with a similar caption – birthday wishes to members no longer among them. A September 7 post read: *Happy Birthday, martyr Khairy Fathy. Paradise awaits you, god willing.* Though less than a decade old, Egypt's Ultras have long lost their innocence. The group were labeled heroes for their bravery during the Egyptian uprising in January 2011, when they represented disenfranchised youth struggling to survive and to have their voices heard. Many believed they represented the new generation of politically conscious Egyptians who would rebuild their beloved nation. They opposed the oppressive regimes that replaced Mubarak's Pharaonic 30-year reign and suffered the consequences in the form of violent suppression and bloodcurdling massacre. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Egypt's Military Inc.

Maged Mandour

openDemocracy, 12 October 2016

Unless Egyptian capitalism evolves beyond the current stage of cronyism to competitive accumulation, no amount of loans or policy reforms will solve the problems of the economy. Amr Nabil/Press Association Images. All rights reserved. The Egyptian economy is currently undergoing a severe crisis. The traditional sources of hard currency, such as the tourism industry, Suez Canal, worker's remittances, and export of oil and gas have all been underperforming, triggering a currency crisis. The Egyptian pound has significantly decreased in value; the difference between official exchange rates and the black market has reached a whopping 32%, which in turn has pushed the country into a spiraling cycle of inflation. The immense sums of aid received from Gulf States have been squandered in huge infrastructure projects with dubious economic returns. The failed expansion of the Suez Canal as well as massive arms deals are the most prominent examples, placing Egypt - as of 2015 – in the position of the fourth largest arms importer in the world. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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'Democratic' doublespeak in Bahrain: how the government spins its summer of repression

[Sam Jones](#)

OpenDemocracy, 19 September 2016

Bahraini anti-government protesters calling out "peaceful, peaceful," approach riot police, Jan. 7, 2012. Hasan Jamali/AP/Press Association Images. All rights reserved. Since the beginning of June, the Government of Bahrain has forcibly exiled activist Zainab al-Khawaja; denaturalized the country's most prominent Shia cleric, Ayatollah Sheikh Isa Qassim; dissolved the largest opposition group, Al-Wefaq National Islamic Society; rearrested celebrated human rights defender Nabeel Rajab; brought

criminal charges against internationally-renowned interfaith leader Sheikh Maytham al-Salman; and judicially harassed more than 60 Shia religious figures on allegations linked solely to sermons and peaceful demonstrations. Khalifa Alfadhel, a law professor at the University of Bahrain and a royally-appointed member of the Bahrain Institute for Political Development (BIPD) run by the Minister of Information Affairs, seems to think it's obvious. In two similar articles recently submitted to *RealClearPolitics* and *openDemocracy* – “Bahrain's Little Known Democratic Move” and “The suspension of Wefaq: a triumph for democracy in Bahrain” – Alfadhel characterizes 2016 as a watershed year for the country, asserting that the government has finally defeated the forces of “neomedievalism” in the name of “pluralism, tolerance and political liberalism” by closing Al-Wefaq and prohibiting religious leaders from political participation. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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On the absence of Arab intellectuals: counter-revolution and the state

Maged Mandour

openDemocracy, 11 August 2016

A civilian looks at a destroyed home in Aleppo, Syria. Andoni Lubaki/AP/Press Association Images. All rights reserved. Counter-revolution in the Arab world has been in the ascendance. From Egypt, where the military regime has all but vanquished its opponents; to Syria, where the regime, at the horrific cost of literally destroying Syria, has managed to shift the tide of war in its favor.

Even though counter-revolution was always superior in the material sense, it has shown a marked weakness ideologically; a feature that it has in common with its revolutionary opponents – a marked failure, that is, in producing an encompassing vision of the society that they are promoting.

There has been a marked reliance on defining themselves in relation to their opponents, labelling the opposition everything from “terrorist” to “anarchist” without offering justification for their right to rule. Rather than offering a credible alternative to the opposition, they remain in a myriad of the rhetoric of “security”, “war on terror” and the constant demonization of their opponents. As such, both the forces of the status quo and the opposition are rejectionist in nature. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Palestine – Premier anniversaire du soulèvement populaire

Ziad Medoukh

The Maghreb and Orient Courier, September 2016

À l’approche du 2 octobre, la Palestine commémore le premier anniversaire du déclenchement du soulèvement populaire dans les territoires palestiniens, notamment en Cisjordanie occupée et dans la ville de Jérusalem. Un an, et les jeunes palestiniens poursuivent leurs actions pacifiques et spontanées contre les soldats et les colons israéliens. Une révolte des jeunes, de plus en plus déterminés contre les soldats occupants et contre les colons agresseurs. Ces jeunes, qui affrontent les forces de l’occupation avec des pierres et leurs poitrines nues et qui quelques fois attaquent

soldats et colons sur les check-points, voient leur avenir oblitéré par la colonisation et des mesures israéliennes contre toute une population civile. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Dissidence and Deference Among Egyptian Judges

Mona El-Ghobashy

MER279

After the coup of July 3, 2013, judges in Egypt repeatedly shocked polite world opinion. In hasty proceedings held in police facilities, in the absence of defense attorneys, courts passed down sentences of death and life imprisonment for thousands of supporters of the ousted Muhammad Mursi, Egypt's first elected president. In one pair of cases in Minya province in 2014, 1,212 people were condemned to die for the killing of two policemen. Mursi himself faces six separate trials. In one of these, related to Mursi's escape from illegal detention as a political prisoner in the early days of the 2011 uprising that unseated Hosni Mubarak, judge Shaaban al-Shami imposed the death penalty. Shami had ordered Mubarak released in a 2013 corruption case, and two years later was promoted to assistant justice minister for forensic medicine. In that capacity, he vehemently denied the medical examiner's statement that the body of Italian researcher Giulio Regeni, murdered in early 2016, showed signs of torture. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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The Plight of Egypt's Political Prisoners

Nadeen Shaker

MER279

On December 2, 2013, Mahienour al-Massry organized a protest on the corniche running along the Mediterranean seafront in Alexandria, Egypt's second city. The human rights attorney's raven ponytail and oversized black glasses made her easy to spot amid the dozens of people with their backs turned to the sea and their eyes trained on the courthouse across the busy roadway. Inside the building, two police officers were appealing their conviction for the brutal killing of Khalid Sa'id in 2010, one of the incidents that galvanized the 2011 uprising that brought down President Hosni Mubarak. The protesters shouted: "Down with every agent of the military!" It was not long before Alexandria's chief of police led a contingent of black-clad officers through the traffic to the corniche. They stationed themselves not more than three feet from where the demonstrators had taken their stand. "You have ten minutes," the chief growled into a megaphone, his amplified voice drowned out by the protesters' calls for the execution of Mubarak and his ruling clique as well as the current president, 'Abd al-Fattah al-Sisi. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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[Egypt:] The right to demonstrate

Mona El-Nahhas

Al-Ahram Weekly, Issue No.1313, 29 September, 2016

On Saturday, the Supreme Constitutional Court (SCC) begins reviewing two appeals contesting the constitutionality of four articles of the law regulating peaceful protests. The court session follows a report, issued last month by the SCC Commissioners' Authority, which found two of the contested articles unconstitutional. Passed in November 2013, months after the ouster of Mohamed Morsi, the 25-article protest law sparked an outcry from activists who argued it effectively banned, rather than organised, all forms of protest. The law obliges organisers to secure the approval of the Interior Ministry ahead of any demonstration and stipulates harsh penalties for those who do not. Hundreds of Islamist and non-Islamist activists have been jailed for organising or taking part in unauthorised protests since the law was issued. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Tenure-track Assistant Professor in Comparative Politics, California State University, Sacramento

Applications reviewed from: 31 October 2016

The Government Department at California State University, Sacramento seeks candidates who are broadly trained in the field of comparative politics to fill a tenure-track position at the rank of assistant professor to begin in Fall 2017. Candidates must possess a Ph.D. in Political Science or related field. ABD candidates will be considered; if ABD, candidates will be required to complete the doctoral degree by January 2018. Candidates must be able to teach a range of undergraduate and graduate courses in comparative politics, including introduction to comparative politics (GOVT 35 and 140) and courses **specializing in identity politics, including but not restricted to ethnicity, nationalism, social movements**, gender, migration, or religion. Candidates are required to demonstrate potential for scholarly achievement and to have strong substantive and methodological training, though the position is open with regard to methodological approach. Candidates must have a demonstrated commitment to working with a diverse student body. Furthermore, experience in promoting and fostering a learning environment that is supportive of a diverse student body is preferred.

Review of applications will begin October 31, 2016 and the position will remain open until filled. An applicant can find the full vacancy announcement at, and must apply through, the Sacramento State jobs website at <http://www.csus.edu/about/employment>. Applicants must submit the following: (1) cover letter addressing qualifications; (2) current curriculum vita/resume; (3) names and contact information of 3 references who will speak to the professional qualifications of the applicant; (4) Unofficial transcripts of all graduate work (official transcripts required if invited for an interview); (5) writing sample; (6) teaching evaluations and syllabi (if available); (7) Statement of teaching philosophy including discussion of commitment to and experience with a diverse student body. In addition, applicants should have three letters of recommendation emailed directly by the writer to govt-cp-hire@csus.edu. Inquiries can also be made to govt-cp-hire@csus.edu.

More information [here](#)

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Tenured Associate or Full Professor in the Political Economy of the Middle East, National University of Singapore

Deadline: 30 November 2016

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) and the Middle East Institute (MEI) at the National University of Singapore (NUS) invite applications for a tenured Associate or Full Professorship in the Political Economy of the Middle East. Advanced Assistant Professors are also welcome to apply. The successful candidate will be jointly appointed by the FASS and MEI with tenure, a reduced teaching load in the most relevant FASS department (e.g. political science, economics, sociology, history, geography), and the opportunity to lead a research cluster in MEI. Expertise in the relations between business and politics, and their ramifications in the wider society, is especially welcome. A transnational connective or comparative dimension, with knowledge of two or more countries, regions or languages in the Middle East and Asia would be a distinct advantage. Related interests in rentier state economies, authoritarian rule, social movements, democratization, party politics, religious revivalism, comparative fundamentalisms, and digital media are also welcome. NUS is a leading university in Asia which provides rich resources and opportunities for research, competitive remuneration and generous benefits, including housing and medical coverage. The university is looking to strengthen Middle East expertise across the FASS departments, and to create a distinctive Middle East Institute in Asia through three such senior appointments: in Political Economy, Legal Pluralism and Middle East-Asia Studies.

Please send a cover letter, CV, two sample publications, three referee names, research and teaching statements by 30 November 2016 to:

Chair, Middle East Political Economy Search Committee

c/o Ms Pui-Yoke BUN

Dean's Office, Faculty of Arts and Social Science

National University of Singapore

Shaw Foundation Building

18

5 Arts Link
Singapore 117570
Email: mes_sc@nus.edu.sg

More information [here](#)

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Two 2-year Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship Positions: Striking from the Margins, CEU, Budapest

Deadline: 1 November 2016

The Center for Religious Studies at Central European University invites applications for two post-doctoral fellow positions for its new research project *Striking from the Margins*. The project, which examines religion and state disintegration in the Middle East, is supported jointly by the University and by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The two positions will be granted for the period two years, beginning January 1, 2017. The main focus of the project is on Syria and Iraq in the past three decades, seeking to connect developments in these countries with those in Arab countries and with global dynamics overall.

Position 1: Applications are invited from researchers working in one of the two thematic fields
Reframing religion and the devolution of religious authority to new actors;
The atrophy of state functions and devolution of the monopoly of violence, including security functions, to informal patrimonial and private actors as well as to quasi-state structures.

Position 2: Applications are invited for researchers working in one of the three thematic fields
The political economy of structural marginalization and socio-economic, cultural and geographical segmentation;
Transnational and global jihadist networks and the reconfiguration of the margins;
Gender as a transversal perspective cutting across all previous themes.

The fellowships will be offered to young researchers who wish to conduct original research and who have already extensive experience with and in the region. It is expected that applicants apply with their own research profiles and agendas which they will integrate and develop further within the framework of the project.

Post-doctoral fellows will join doctoral students and members of CEU faculty from across a number of disciplines, along with external colleagues and members of partner institutions, in contributing to coherent research program. The project aims to produce a critical mass of original scholarship that would map novel research domains to produce more convincing analytical results. With specific reference to postdoctoral fellows, it aims to produce detailed empirical research with appropriate analytical elaboration that would be published and disseminated in print and in digital form. The two post-doctoral fellows will be expected to participate in a bi-weekly internal seminar, participate fully in the life of the project, and to play a major role in preparing an international conference at the end

of the project which will bring in participants from both the research and policy communities and which will result in a major publication.

Compensation

We offer a competitive salary, as well as a dynamic and international academic environment.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants should have held a doctoral degree for a period of less than five years, and have a demonstrable record of promise in a related area.

Applicants are expected to have extensive experience of the region.

Applicants are expected to have a keen interest and experience in cross-disciplinary work in the social sciences. Requests for additional information should be sent to Esther Holbrook, Coordinator (HolbrookE@ceu.edu).

The Application package should include: • A full curriculum vitae, including a list of publications • A detailed covering letter • A summary research proposal, and a full version of the proposal including bibliographic references • A sample article or analytical research report, published or unpublished • The names and contact details of three referees Interested candidates should apply via e-mail to advert@ceu.edu. Please include the following job code in the subject line: 2017/009. Please add the information if you would apply the Position 1 or Position 2. Applications will be processed on a rolling basis and shall not be accepted for consideration any later than 1 November 2016.

More information [here](#)

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Brandeis University, Crown Center for Middle East Studies, Junior Scholar Fellowship

Deadline: 31 October 2016

The Crown Center for Middle East Studies is offering one-year fellowships to outstanding scholars of Middle East politics, economics, history, religion, or social developments for the 2017-2018 academic year. This fellowship can be either a post-doctoral position for new PhDs or a research fellowship for assistant professors during a year off from teaching. It would allow junior scholars the flexibility and means to advance a specific research project related to the contemporary Middle East.

About the Crown Center

The Crown Center's research interests encompass the twenty-two members of the Arab League, stretching from Morocco to Iraq, as well as Israel, Turkey, and Iran. The Center's research focus extends well beyond Arab-Israeli tensions to include Middle East politics and history, Islamic studies, economic and social developments, and regional security and arms control. The Center's research staff reflects its broad geopolitical focus. During its ten years of operation, experienced researchers

with high-level expertise about Egypt, Israel, Palestine, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, GCC and Saudi Arabia have conducted research for the Center. In addition to hosting conferences, seminars, and workshops, the Center has created tools for "real-time" distribution of analyses regarding current developments and events in the Middle East with its "Middle East Brief." The Center also publishes a Working Paper series to promote young scholars' opportunities to publish in peer-reviewed journals. Additionally, the Center's faculty teaches undergraduate- and graduate-level courses at Brandeis University.

Eligibility

The 2017-2018 junior research fellowship is open to both recent PhDs (as a post-doctoral position) and assistant professors in Middle East related fields. Ph.D. must be completed by September 1, 2017.

Terms

This fellowship is a one-year appointment beginning September 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2018. The stipend for these 10 months will be \$48,000. In addition, \$3000 in funding is available for research, travel, and related expenses. Fringe benefits will be available during the appointment period.

Fellows are expected to be in residence at the Crown Center during the tenure of the fellowship. During their residence, fellows are required to write a Middle East Brief and participate in all Crown Center seminars, conferences, and other events, and may produce a Working Paper related to his/her research project.

Please direct inquiries to Kristina Cherniahivsky at crowncenter@brandeis.edu or call 781-736-5320

More information [here](#)

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The Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies

Deadline: 15 November 2016

Funded by the German federal and state governments' Excellence Initiative, the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies will admit up to ten PhD students to its doctoral programme which is to begin on 1 October 2017. These candidates will receive a Graduate School grant. The Graduate School investigates the plurality, changeability, and global connectedness of Muslim cultures and societies. It invites applications from candidates whose dissertation project fits one of the Graduate School's Research Areas. Applications relating to the topics of education, communication, cultural and media studies, and Islam and Muslims in the West are especially encouraged.

Successful applicants will have a master's degree in one of the disciplines represented at the Graduate School, with a ranking, where applicable, of above average. Our language of

communication is English. Admission is initially for one year, and, contingent upon a positive evaluation after the first year of study, this will be extended for a further twelve months. There is the option of a second twelve-month extension thereafter, with a maximum of three years being covered by the grant. As part of the three-year programme we expect doctoral students to take active part in the academic life of the Graduate School. Besides doing their PhD, doctoral students should be open to interdisciplinary and transregional exchange. A receptive attitude to challenging research questions on new terrain is very much appreciated.

The application package needs to include the following documents: a completed and signed application form; an outline of the dissertation project (up to 6 pages, with a brief summary); a curriculum vitae; certified copies of degrees received; proof of proficiency in English (native speakers of English or applicants who have graduated from an English-speaking university in a country with English as an official language are exempt from this verification); evidence of proficiency in the language(s) relevant to the dissertation project. Two letters of recommendation must be e-mailed by the applicant's referees directly to BGSMCS as signed electronic letters. Holders of PhD scholarships that were awarded on the basis of academic references for the same project with which they are now applying to the Graduate School can submit copies of these references.

Applications will be reviewed by the School's Admissions and Grants Committee. The complete application package must be submitted, compiled into one PDF file, to application@bgsmcs.fu-berlin.de by 15 November 2016. Please read the [Guidelines for Application to the PhD Programme](#).

More information [here](#)

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AUC: Researcher II, Department of SAPE, Sociology Unit, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (5 Grant Positions) (50029605)

Deadline: 20 October 2016

Reports to: Grant Principle Investigator, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology and Egyptology (SAPE)- Sociology Unit, School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Purpose: The researchers will be involved in **collecting and analyzing data on civil society organizations and state repression in Egypt.**

Principal Accountabilities:

Collection of data on civil society organizations in Egypt and the changing levels of state repression over time

Analysis of data

Analysis of Arabic-language media

Production of reports in English and Arabic

Participation in capacity-building training workshops and regular team meetings

Requirements:

BA or MA in the field of social sciences.

Experience working in civil society organizations in Egypt would be an asset

Experience conducting field research would be an asset, or a willingness to learn

Analytical research skills

Fluency or near-fluency in Arabic and English

Experience with Excel, basic map making software, or working with datasets would be an asset

Ability to work independently and in a team

Placement is based on the candidate's experience and skills. Only candidates who make it to the short list will be contacted. If interested, please send an updated and detailed resume to hr4@aucegypt.edu, stating "50029605 Researcher II, SAPE- Sociology Unit" in the subject line.

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