



# **SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA**

## **Digest of Current Publications and Events**

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## FEATURED PUBLICATION

### **Theorising revolution, apprehending civil war: leftist political practice and analysis in Lebanon (1969–79)**

Fadi Bardawil

LSE Middle East Centre papers series, 16/2016.

In the wake of the Arab popular uprisings, this short piece revisits the thought of an earlier generation of revolutionaries. Unlike those today, who are united by the desire to overthrow authoritarian regimes but who come from competing ideological universes and conceptions of the political, this earlier generation of militants grounded political practice in a thick Marxist theoretical language. This paper focuses on the writings of Waddah Charara as well as the Marxist tradition of thought at the beginning of the Lebanese civil and regional wars (1975–1990). It highlights how Charara's analysis rethought the question of power away from class politics in the wake of his diagnosis of the failure of hegemony in Lebanon. *Download [here](#)*

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## CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

### **CfP: Wars of Position: Marxism and Civil Society**

8-10 June 2017, Manchester, UK

Deadline for abstracts: 1 December 2016

Key-note speakers

Jodi Dean, Professor of Political Science, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, New York.

Stathis Kouvelakis, Reader in Political Theory, King's College, London and former member of Syriza's Central Committee.

Kevin Morgan, Professor of Politics and Contemporary History, University of Manchester.

'In Russia', wrote Antonio Gramsci, 'the State was everything' and 'civil society primordial'; in the highly-developed West, civil society formed 'permanent fortifications' which the revolutionary party would have to occupy and transform in order to take and hold power.

No Marxist parties in the West made a revolution. Historical analysis of their failure has been abundant, but insufficiently attentive to parties' approaches to civil society in Gramsci's sense (i.e. social practices and institutions outside the government, judiciary and repressive state apparatus). This international and interdisciplinary conference is at once historically grounded and attuned to contemporary debates on the Left. It brings together: analysis of the theory and practice of twentieth-century Marxist parties in relation to civil society; analysis of contemporary Left

formations' approaches to civil society; analysis of the 'idea' of communism today and the relevance or obsolescence of 'the party' as an organizational form in the twenty-first century.

Proposals are invited for twenty-minute papers and panels of three papers. Abstracts (250 words) should be emailed to [warsposition2017@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:warsposition2017@manchester.ac.uk) by 1/12/16. Conference interpreters may be available for delegates who wish to present in languages other than English (please e-mail the organisers). The conference will take place in Manchester's People's History Museum, an institution committed to archiving and chronicling the history of radical politics; some panels will discuss the challenges faced by such institutions today. Papers for the conference might address, but are not restricted to:

- History, civil society and the 'idea of Communism' debate (Badiou, Žižek, Dean et al)
- Civil society and political strategy in recent / contemporary Left formations (e.g. Podemos, Syriza, Five Star Movement, Die Linke, Parti de gauche)
- Theoretical debates in the Marxist tradition on 'civil society' (Marx, Engels, Lenin, Trotsky, Luxemburg, Gramsci, Lukács, Althusser, Marcuse, Poulantzas et al)
- The struggle for 'proletarian culture' in the 1920s and after
- Communism, the nation and the Popular Fronts in the 1930s and 1940s
- New Lefts and communism
- 'Anti-revisionism' and cultural revolution
- Eurocommunism and civil society
- 'Post-Marxism'
- Marxism, gender and the family
- Marxist parties and intellectuals/ education / science / religion / writing history/ the media / the family
- Marxism and the arts / the avant-garde / popular culture
- Marxist parties and their cultural institutions, publishing houses, publications and counter-hegemonic events

The conference is part of the AHRC-funded project, Wars of Position: Communism and Civil Society led by Dr Ben Harker at the University of Manchester.

It is run in collaboration with the People's History Museum and the journal *Twentieth Century Communism*. The organisers intend to publish an edited collection based around the conference proceedings.

*More information* [here](#)

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# **Gender and Generation in the Aftermath of the Uprisings. Political Visions, Desires, Movements in the Middle East and North Africa Today**

9 - 10 December 2016

SOAS, University of London, Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre

The conference will explore the predicament of young women and men in and from the MENA region in contemporary times. It brings together scholars and activists with the aim to analyse the visions, desires and projects emerging in the post-uprisings contexts among youth individuals, affective communities, social and political movements and social non-movements. Questions that will be addressed include: what do the present and future look like at a time when young people's visions for social justice, their aspirations towards socio-economic mobility and their projects of self-determination and liberation have been betrayed by increased precariousness, violence and surveillance?

These questions will be approached from three crucial angles: political movements, apathy and mobility; vocabularies of change and affectivity; 'wired communities' and friendship. How are young men and women re-organising in and across the region? Are they rethinking their strategies and spaces of action beyond and across the state? Are they creating, or joining in, transnational movements and political organisations? Is political apathy a shared reality or on the contrary this is a time where new terrains and spaces of actions and resistance are being articulated? When and how migration represent a way to reconcile personal and political aspirations? What visions, imaginaries and desires are embedded with desires to stay put or to leave?

What languages and channels are mobilised in the creation of new political, affective and social ties among young people in the contemporary Middle East? What new discourses and practices appeal to young people and which ones are losing their salience? What is the currency of modern frameworks and vocabularies like 'Human rights' 'Gender and women's rights' in young people's visions and political imaginaries today? How are sexuality, desire and change intertwined in the articulations of femininities and masculinities in the region?

How do we study the role of friendship, performance, art in creating new affective communities and political change? What has been, and what can continue to be, the role of internet-based forms of communication for youth political mobilisation, mobility and community formation, in the face of increasing censorship and authoritarian surveillance?

Convened by: Ruba Salih (SOAS), Lynn Welchman (SOAS) and Elena Zambelli (Institute of Development Studies and SOAS).

*More information [here](#)*

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# Call for Papers - Anarchism and Marxism in the Contemporary Global Left

Deadline: 16 December 2016

We seek original articles for a projected 2018 special issue of *Globalizations* on the ways in which anarchism(s) and Marxism(s) are articulated and practiced across the contemporary global left. Anarchism and Marxism are two of the long-standing intellectual frameworks through which anti-capitalism is articulated and practiced. Often seen in tension or polar opposites, two recent collections of essays has shown this to be historically misleading (Prichard et al 2012), and equally problematic in terms of contemporary philosophical debate and practice (Prichard and Worth 2016). More needs to be said about the complexities of current practices and movements, the collaborations and compromises that animate the contemporary global left.

We see practices, ideas, and emancipatory strategies, as mutually constitutive. Ideological frameworks emerge from movements, are complex and contested and morphological (Freeden 1996). It is possible to identify (*inter alia*) different meanings of freedom, accounts of the workings of capital or domination, all articulated in different ways in different social democratic, counter-cultural, revolutionary and anti-parliamentary tendencies. These ideas animate different groups, often different elements within the same movements, which give the practices of these cross cutting social movements their dynamism and complexity, and often a contradictory character. Can these be untangled, and in so doing, can we identify any identifiably anarchist and Marxist tendencies in this dynamic process across the global left?

It has been widely remarked that an anarchist sub-culture pervades large parts of the contemporary left, from shaping modes of participation, to decision making, and rationalising disengagement from mainstream politics, any yet most mass social movements are not self-identifying as anarchist. While anarchistic groups have been central to Occupy and 15M, so too have the plural Marxist tendencies, explaining their plural strategies and wide appeal. The successes and the failures of Podemos, Bernie Sanders and Syriza, also invites further reflection on the relative merits of anarchist and Marxist accounts of the appropriate strategies of emancipatory social, political and economic change. More stories are yet to be told about the place of anarchism and Marxism in black and minority ethnic struggles in the west, in Black Lives Matter for example. What place does anarchism or Marxism have in the violent labour disputes in South Africa, or in the aftermath of the factory recuperations in Argentina, or far left movements in India, Nepal, and elsewhere? Likewise, radical LGBTQ and feminist movements are adopting organisational strategies and campaigning forms that have moved beyond the traditional anti/parliamentary left. Are conceptions of hegemony and counter-hegemony that have been current since the 1990s still salient here? The 'democratic confederalists' in the Rojava region of Kurdistan, the Zapatistas in Mexico, and the global La Via Campesina movement, can each be said to exhibit tendencies of a broad left convergence, adopting formal organisational structures while dissociating from the state. Are these hybrid ideological forms of left wing politics? What are their contours, their constitutive practices and aims? Where are the compromises, the innovations, and what can we learn from this for the future of the left?

Papers in this special issue will explore the conjuncture between anarchism(s) and Marxism(s) in actually existing social movements, to tell us something new about the nature of left praxis today.

Timeline:

We will publish 8 selected articles in a prospective special issue of *Globalizations* in 2018. To meet this publication date, we require abstracts of up to 300 words by December the 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Successful authors will be notified in January 2017, and encouraged to present their draft papers at a major international conference or smaller colloquium in 2017 (t.b.c.). Papers will be double blind peer reviewed and submitted to *Globalizations* in January 2018.

Please submit your abstract, by no later than the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, to Owen Worth at the following email address: Owen.Worth@ul.ie. Should you wish to discuss your potential contribution in more detail, please contact Alex Prichard at the following email address: a.prichard@exeter.ac.uk

More information [here](#)

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## **CfP Postgraduate conference: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of the Middle East and North Africa**

27-28 April 2017, University of Sussex, UK  
Deadline for abstracts: 31 December 2016

The Middle East and North Africa Centre at Sussex (MENACS) invites proposals for paper presentations at a forthcoming postgraduate conference, to be held at the University of Sussex on 27-28 April 2017. The conference is designed as a broad forum that brings together UK-based PhD students working on the MENA region from any perspective. MENA here is defined in the broadest possible terms and includes Israel, Turkey, Iran and the central Asian states alongside countries in which Arabic is the majority language. We particularly welcome proposals that adopt interdisciplinary approaches and that reflect critically on the process of conducting interdisciplinary research, although we welcome any proposal that is pertinent to the study of MENA. In addition to the usual platform of presentations, the conference will provide a space for doctoral researchers, through the involvement of the Sussex Humanities Lab and the Sussex Centre for the Visual, to consider how visual, textual and digital sources might be brought into productive dialogue.

The conference is organised and funded through the Consortium of the Humanities and the Arts South-East England (*CHASE*) and is planned as the first of a regular bi-yearly event. Faculty members from across the CHASE group of universities (including from Sussex, SOAS and the Courtauld Institute of Art) will participate in the conference as panel chairs and commentators. This will ensure doctoral students receive critical feedback on their work from leading scholars who work on the MENA region from a variety of viewpoints.

Abstracts of 300 words should be sent to [chasepgconference@gmail.com](mailto:chasepgconference@gmail.com) no later than 31 December 2016.



The organizers will be able to offer successful candidates funding for travel and accommodation (up to £50 per night) There is no registration fee.

For enquiries please contact [menacs@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:menacs@sussex.ac.uk)

More information [here](#)

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## **CfP: Middle East - Topics & Arguments “Youth”**

Deadline for abstracts:

Editors: Christoph H. Schwarz, Anika Oettler

Publication date: Fall 2017

The uprisings of 2011 challenged many predominant concepts of ‘youth’ in the MENA region. Before, young people were often merely discussed as a ‘youth bulge’ – a demographic, quantitative problem, even a potential terrorist threat. In other stereotypical representations, youths and young adults hardly appeared as political subjects, but rather as objects of policies that had to change: unemployed and socially excluded, passive victims of a failed social pact negotiated between former generations and authoritarian regimes. Movements that contradicted both stereotypes, like the Moroccan and Tunisian unemployed graduates, who had been protesting ‘apolitically’, negotiating their employment with authoritarian regimes for over a decade, hardly received any attention.

A new idol emerged in the course of the 2011 events in the MENA region: the ‘young Arab protester’ was acclaimed as a heroic vanguard against fossilized autocratic regimes ruled by old men. For many, this figure seemed to embody certain democratic ideals and practices that apparently had lost impetus in the established democracies of the West, especially in the wake of the global economic crisis. Here, new social movements like the Spanish ‘indignados’ were highly inspired by the ‘Arab Spring’. Now, young people in the MENA region were also given credit as protagonists in the cultural field, which was often directly related to their political mobilizations. Western media started to show interest in their creative productivity, whether in literature, music, their use of new media and ICTS, or everyday practices like football and its respective fan cultures.

In academia, this sudden public attention was echoed by a boom in research on ‘youth’ in the MENA region. But many of the studies and policy papers hardly involved critical theoretical reflections of the term ‘youth’. Again, young people were mainly researched as members of an age cohort, defined in quantitative terms, although now with different expectations. On the other hand, critical discussions regarding the empirical significance of youth in reproducing social inequality and catalyzing processes of social exclusion continue to revolve around the situation of young people in ‘the West’. These debates often seem oddly disconnected from the social reality in the MENA region – a region that empirically has been inseparable from ‘the West’ throughout long histories of colonialism and migration, and in which young people constitute, after all, the majority of the population.

Against this backdrop, we welcome papers that address the overarching theme of the call, including those that consider, but are not limited to, the following topics and questions:

- How do the concepts of 'youth' and 'generation' help to understand these recent developments?
- To what extent does social age, 'youthfulness', or generationality matter when we discuss power relations, the reproduction of social inequality, and actors' agency in the region?
- How much does it influence analyses and discussions of recent developments, e.g. regarding refugee policy and refugees' agency, or Jihadist recruitment in the MENA region and in the West?
- Does it suggest different policy interventions and media attention when we frame a certain phenomenon, such as political violence, social exclusion or inequality, as a 'youth' issue, or as a problem between generations?
- How do actors position themselves in intergenerational relations and refer to generational narratives, on which grounds, and to what purpose?
- How are these narratives related to specific fields of cultural production or everyday practices?
- What are the spatial dimensions of 'being young'?
- How are 'youth' and 'adulthood' defined in different social spaces, contexts, and fields?
- Can we discern respective transitions to adulthood, and if so, how are they organized and negotiated?
- How does social age matter at intersections of class, ethnicity and gender?

We call for articles from a broad array of disciplines, including sociology, anthropology, political science, literature studies, cultural studies, media studies, history and economics, which critically engage with concepts of youth related to the MENA region, or which present new empirical findings.

Submissions relating to the issue's focus topic are published in the FOCUS section and reflect original research. Articles in this section should be between 2,800 to 4,600 words. In addition to papers for the FOCUS section, we call for contributions for META's special sections:

The CLOSE UP section features a short written portrait of a person who has a special relation to the issue's main topic, e.g. a researcher who has constitutively contributed to the field. It links that person's biography with their contribution to the field. Article length is 1,500 to 3,000 words.

The META section also relates to the issue's focus topic, with the papers in "meta" discussing the main topic from a theory-centered perspective. Regional scope is not limited to the Middle East, but may also consider theoretical approaches involving other world regions. Article length is 2,800 to 4,600 words.

The ANTI/THESIS section juxtaposes two rivaling positions that highlight different lines of argument, pros and cons, and/or competing narratives. These can be presented either by one author together, or by two different authors in two different articles. Article length for each paper is 1,500-3,000 words.

All articles that fall into the general framework of the journal, but do not relate to the special topic “Youth”, will be taken into consideration for the OFF TOPIC section.

Prior to developing a complete manuscript, authors are asked to submit an abstract (300 words max.), a short CV (150 words max.), and 3-5 key bibliographic sources. Please clearly indicate the research question, the method to be used, and the empirical material your research will be based on. Papers are accepted in English only.

The editors will make a preliminary decision regarding the topic’s relevance to the journal’s aims and scope and may provide suggestions for developing the manuscript. Please consult our website for further information about the journal’s concept, sections, and authors’ guidelines.

The deadline for abstract submissions is December 20<sup>th</sup> 2016.

The deadline for article submissions is April 15<sup>th</sup> 2017.

More information [here](#)

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## TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

### **From Revolution to Authoritarianism: Algeria in Arabic Literature**

15 November 2016, 17:00 - 18:30

Speaker: Anne-Marie McManus (EUME-CNMS Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung 2016)

Chair: Maaïke Voorhoeve (EUME Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung 2016-18)

Venue: Forum Transregionale Studien, Wallotstraße 14, 14193 Berlin

Viewed from Arabic literary centers like Beirut, Baghdad, and Cairo, the Algerian War of Independence (1954-1962) was an icon of revolution for a region in the throes of decolonization. An outpouring of poetry, short stories, and essays celebrated writers’ discovery of the distant, yet fraternal Algerian struggle to end more than a century of French colonial rule. Many of these texts appeared in the Beirut-based journal *al-Adab*, which was then endeavoring to create a new, transregional print culture in Arabic. The potent symbolism of Algeria in the Mashriq literary imagination was clear by 1962, when *al-Adab*’s editor, Suhail Idriss, visited the newly independent country and reported to his readers that he kissed the soil of this 'sacred' land of Arab emancipation. In the ensuing years, other Mashriq writers and intellectuals - notably from Syria and Iraq - would follow in Idriss’ footsteps. But their texts betray a new ambivalence, attesting to realities wracking independent Algeria: language reform, state suppression of the left, and power struggles over Islam. Through a reading of Syrian author Haydar Haydar’s novel *Banquet for Seaweed* (1984), this paper shows that Algeria remained a site for Arabic literature to evaluate the emancipatory and

transregional hopes of the mid-20th century -- and to reckon with the onset of postcolonial authoritarianism.

More information [here](#)

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## Poetry and Politics in the Modern Arab World

15 November 2016, 5:45-7:00 PM

Soeakers: Atef Alshaer (University of Westminster), Caroline Rooney (University of Kent), Dina Matar (SOAS)

Venue: SOAS, Paul Webley Wing (Senate House), Wolfson Lecture Theatre, London

Panel discussion with Atef Alshaer, Caroline Rooney and Dina Matar on the subject of Alshaer's latest book *Poetry and Politics in the Modern Arab World* (Hurst, 2016) in which he demonstrates an integral connection between poetry and politics, reflecting the holistic character of Arab culture as well as the longstanding embodiment of poetry in the socio-political life of the Arabs. Alshaer illuminates the perennial concerns of major Arab poets with their societies and discusses the poetic representation of the end of the Ottoman Empire, the onset of Arab nationalism, French and British colonialism, Palestine and the struggle against Zionism, as well as Arab inter-relationships, the emergence of Islamism and Islamist movements, and finally the Arab Spring. *More information* [here](#)

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## The Religionisation of Israeli Society

16 November 2016, 18:00-19:30

Speakers: Yoav Peled, Tel Aviv University; Horit Herman Peled, Tel Aviv University

Location: Room 9.04, Clement's Inn, Tower 2, LSE

Yoav Peled and Horit Herman Peled examine the growing saliency of the religious outlook in Jewish Israeli society, in order to test the argument that Israeli society is undergoing a process of religionisation. They also analyse the counter-argument, that secular-religious relations among Jews in Israel went into crisis in the 1980s and that the society had actually secularised during the 1990s. They seek to explain the causes and significance of these two processes and the seeming contradiction between them, as well as the variance in the trajectory of religionisation between different historical periods. *More information & registration* [here](#)

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## **Book Launch: Urban Violence in the Modern Middle East**

17 November 2016, 6:00 pm

Panel discussion with Ulrike Freitag (ZMO), Nelida Fuccaro (SOAS), Claudia Ghrawi (ZMO) and Nora Lafi (ZMO)

Venue: Freie Universität Berlin, Fabeckstraße 23-25, Room 2.2059

The uprisings in the Arab World in 2011, the civil war in Syria and the military interventions in Libya and Iraq perpetuated an age-old image of the Middle East as a place of extreme and destructive violence. By situating violent incidents in particular processes and conflicts, the two collective volumes *Urban Violence in the Middle East*, edited by Ulrike Freitag, Nelida Fuccaro, Claudia Ghrawi, and Nora Lafi in 2015 and *Violence and the City in the Modern Middle East*, edited by Nelida Fuccaro in 2016 seek to counter the notions of a violent Middle East in order to foster a new understanding of violence beyond that of a meaningless and destructive social and political act. *More information* [here](#)

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## **Protest and Mass Mobilization — A Conversation with Merouan Mekouar**

21 November 2016, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Venue: Elliott School of International Affairs, Lindner Family Commons, 1957 E St NW  
Washington, DC 20052

Merouan Mekouar is an assistant professor in the department of social science at York University, Canada. He will discuss his recent release, *Protest and Mass Mobilization: Authoritarian Collapse and Political Change in North Africa* (Routledge, 2016). *More information & registration* [here](#)

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## **Film screening: Tahrir – Liberation Square**

24 November 2016, 18:00-20:00

Location: Room 3.01 (Virginia Woolf Building - Kingsway), King's College, London

Contact: [mems@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:mems@kcl.ac.uk)

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## **Shadows in the Garden: Women Agents Underground and Communist Activism in Mid-20th Century Iran**

28 November 2016, 5:15-7:15 pm

Speaker: Dr. Lana Ravandi-Fadai, Russian Academy of Sciences

Venue: Russell Square: College Buildings, SOAS, London

*More information* [here](#)

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## **Inside the Muslim Brotherhood: Religion, Identity and Politics**

28 November 2016, 6:00-8:00 PM

Speaker: Khalil al-Anani, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

Venue: SOAS, Paul Webley Wing (Senate House), Alumni Lecture Theatre, London

Talk by Khalil al-Anani on the subject of his latest book *Inside the Muslim Brotherhood: Religion, Identity, and Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2016), in which he provides a comprehensive analysis of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt since 1981 and unpacks the principal factors that shape the Brotherhood's identity, organization, and activism, investigating the processes of socialization, indoctrination, recruitment, identification, networking, and mobilization utilized by the movement. Professor al-Anani argues that the Brotherhood is not merely a political actor seeking power but also an identity maker that aims to change societal values, norms, and morals to line up with its ideology and worldview. *More information* [here](#)

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## **Screening: A Revolution in Four Seasons + Q&A**

28 November 2016, 7:00pm

Venue: Frontline Club, 13 Norfolk Place, London, W2 1QJ

This compelling documentary follows journalist Emna Ben Jemaa and Constituent Assembly member Jawhara Ettis over the course of Tunisia's critical first four years after the Revolution. Emna is a secular journalist fighting to keep religion out of government, while Jawhara works within Parliament to help gently guide the nation towards more Islamic principles. Both women exhibit remarkable determination, wisdom, and resilience in their efforts to steer the country towards disparate versions of the perfect democracy. *More information* [here](#)

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## **Popular Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East**

29 November 2016, 5:30-7:00 PM

Speaker: John Chalcraft, LSE

Venue: SOAS, Paul Webley Wing (Senate House), Wolfson Lecture Theatre, London

Lecture by John Chalcraft on the subject of his book *Popular Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East* (Cambridge University Press, 2016). Challenging top-down views of Middle Eastern politics, Chalcraft looks at how commoners, subjects and citizens have long mobilised in defiance of authorities and forges a new narrative of change over time, creating a truly comparative framework rooted in the dynamics of hegemonic contestation. Beginning with movements under the Ottomans, which challenged corruption and oppression under the banners of religion, justice, rights and custom, Chalcraft goes on to discuss the impact of constitutional movements, armed struggles, nationalism and independence, revolution and Islamism. *More information* [here](#)

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## **RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS**

### **The 51 Day War: Ruin and Resistance in Gaza**

Max Blumenthal

2015 – Verso

Best-selling author reports on Israel's brutal assault on Gaza in July 2014. Beginning July 8, 2014, Israel launched air strikes and a ground invasion of Gaza that lasted fifty-one days, leaving over 2,000 people dead, the vast majority of whom were civilians. During the assault, at least 10,000 homes were destroyed and, according to the United Nations, nearly 300,000 Palestinians were displaced. Max Blumenthal was on the ground during what he argues was an entirely avoidable catastrophe. In this explosive work of reportage, Blumenthal reveals the harrowing conditions and cynical deceptions that led to the ruinous war. Here, for the first time, Blumenthal unearths and presents shocking evidence of atrocities he gathered in the rubble of Gaza.

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## **Syrian Notebooks: Inside the Homs Uprising**

Jonathan Littell  
2015 – Verso

In 2012, Jonathan Littell traveled to the heart of the Syrian uprising, smuggled in by the Free Syrian Army to the historic city of Homs. For three weeks, he watched as neighborhoods were bombed and innocent civilians murdered. His notes on what he saw on the ground speak directly of horrors that continue today in the ongoing civil war. Amid the chaos, Littell bears witness to the lives and the hopes of freedom fighters, of families caught within the conflict, as well as of the doctors who attempt to save both innocents and combatants who come under fire. As government forces encircle the city, Littell charts the first stirrings of the fundamentalist movement that would soon hijack the revolution. Littell's notebooks were originally the raw material for the articles he wrote upon his return for the French daily *Le Monde*. Published nearly immediately afterward in France, *Syrian Notebooks* has come to form an incomparable close-up account of a war that still grips the Middle East—a classic of war reportage.

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## **The Rise of Islamic State: ISIS and the New Sunni Revolution**

Patrick Cockburn  
2015 – Verso

The essential “on the ground” report on the fastest-growing new threat in the Middle East from the Winner of the 2014 Foreign Affairs Journalist of the Year Award. Born of the Iraqi and Syrian civil wars, the Islamic State astonished the world in 2014 by creating a powerful new force in the Middle East. By combining religious fanaticism and military prowess, the new self-declared caliphate poses a threat to the political status quo of the whole region. In *The Rise of Islamic State*, Patrick Cockburn describes the conflicts behind a dramatic unraveling of US foreign policy. He shows how the West created the conditions for ISIS's explosive success by stoking the war in Syria. The West—the US and NATO in particular—underestimated the militants' potential until it was too late and failed to act against jihadi sponsors in Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan.

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## JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

### **My pain grows as my life dwindles”: Women, poetry, and resisting state violence in Afghanistan**

Victoria E. Collins

Crime Media Culture *November 10, 2016*

Western media reporting on the post-9/11 Taliban regime in Afghanistan propagated the image of Afghani women as being helpless, voiceless victims in desperate need of external intervention to rescue them from oppression—i.e. the faceless woman dressed in the all-encompassing blue burqa. Contrary to such symbolizing, and drawing on Hayward and Schuilenburg’s (2014) criteria for resistance, this article examines the longevity and endurance of Pashtun poetry as a vehicle of resistance for women and girls in their fight against state-sanctioned patriarchal oppression. Not only does this undermine the broader narrative of helplessness propagated by the West, but it illuminates the agency, resilience, and bravery of women who challenge the status quo and achieve greater participation in public and political life.

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### **Civil-Military Relations in the Middle East**

Arab Reform Initiative Research Papers

28/10/2016

This book focuses on Civil-Military Relations (CMR) in Egypt, a country that witnessed uprisings calling for democratic change in January 2011, which led to the ousting of Hosni Mubarak from the Presidency, the suspension of the constitution, and the dissolution of the parliament as well as the ruling of the National Democratic Party (NDP). Ironically, revolutionary forces in Egypt were dependent on the Egyptian military in taking these steps, with the military ultimately taking power some 30 months later. This work is guided by a number of questions, the foremost being “what strategies might help Egypt’s civilians keep the military at bay?” In order to address this guiding question, further sub questions need to be answered regarding factors governing CMR in Turkey and Egypt, and the military’s stance on civil-Islamist competition in these countries. Specifically, these sub questions are “Why is the Egyptian army once again at the forefront of the country’s political scene only one year after the SCAF delivered authority to an elected president?” and “How, in general terms, might Egypt benefit from the Turkish experience, the latter having made considerable progress along the lengthy pathway to civilian control? *Download [here](#)*

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## **Fatah from Below: The Clash of Generations in Palestine**

Jacob Høigilt

British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Volume 43, 2016 - Issue 4

Dominated by a Fatah/Palestinian National Authority coalition, West Bank politics is characterized by authoritarianism, factionalism and an accommodating policy vis-à-vis the Israeli occupier. These features are prominent parts of what Hisham Sharabi called neopatriarchy, a dysfunctional political system that leaves societies internally repressive and externally weak, marginalizing the young and accommodating colonial interests. The resulting alienation and dissatisfaction among young Palestinians have led to two kinds of reaction that bear on the Palestinian–Israeli conflict: a well-organized but leaderless popular resistance, and destructive, spontaneous outbursts of violence. The onus is on the elite to reform the political culture, as liberation from Israeli occupation will not by itself improve the dysfunctional organization of West Bank politics.

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## **The Islamist Uprising in Syria, 1976–82: The History and Legacy of a Failed Revolt**

Brynjar Lia

British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Volume 43, 2016 - Issue 4

The Islamist Uprising in Syria between 1976 and 1982 remains understudied in view of the growing availability of new primary sources on the subject. The present article explores the unfolding of the Revolt, examining the causes for its eventual defeat and the long-term legacy of the Uprising. It argues that the Islamist Uprising in Syria failed for a variety of reasons, first and foremost internal disunity and indecisiveness, leading to a lack of military preparedness, planning, and coordination at critical junctures, and a lack of mass mobilization for the Revolt. Failure to rally sufficient foreign support made the Uprising crumble in the face of the regime's unrestrained brutality. Rather than serving as a rallying cry for the Syrian opposition, the defeat at Hama has had a divisive effect, illustrated by the contradictory narratives embraced by the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood and their jihadi opponents.

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## **On Justice: Peasants, Petitions and the State in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Egypt**

Maha A. Ghalwash

British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Volume 43, 2016 - Issue 4

The historiography on peasant–state relations in agricultural societies includes the recognition of peasants as actors in their own right that did not wait passively to be acted upon by the ruling elite. Yet, most often, these discussions examine peasant–state relations within the framework of peasant mistrust of and resistance to the state. This paper focuses on peasant petitioning practices in mid-nineteenth-century Egypt and seeks to present a more nuanced interpretation of peasants’ attitude towards the state by addressing two questions: What were the major elements of state discourse on justice for the peasantry? Were the peasants cognizant of this discourse? My examination of the relevant archival evidence reveals the peasants’ propensity for peaceable engagement with the state. Indeed, peasants were familiar with state bodies and rules, and fully expected the state to deliver on its promise to ensure justice.

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## **‘Unarmed’ We Intervene, Unnoticed We Remain: The Deviant Case of ‘February 28th Coup’ in Turkey**

Ömer Aslan

British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Volume 43, 2016 - Issue 3

When a military staged an intervention during the Cold War, students of civil-military relations could quite easily tell if it was a coup d’état. This no longer seems to be the case. The reason may be the regnant understanding of coup d’état as a violent (bloody), swift, and extralegal/extra-constitutional seizure of power by first and foremost military officers or members of state apparatus after a long time of secret planning. This article takes stock of political complexities surrounding coups in our times by studying the nationally and internationally neglected case of February 28<sup>th</sup> (1997) coup process in Turkey as a ‘deviant case’, based on newly-revealed military documents as primary sources and several previously unstudied memoirs by army officers of the period. It argues that the February 28<sup>th</sup> coup was deliberately stretched over a long process, it was violent but not bloody, was staged almost openly through ‘theoretically constitutional political operations’ and psychological warfare against the elected government. Several select ‘civilian’ groups from the media, judiciary, trade unions, and non-governmental organisations were happily enlisted by the military as active participants in the coup caravan and without them as unique and pioneering a coup as the February 28<sup>th</sup> could not be executed.

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## **Protests Against Energy Projects in Turkey: Environmental Activism Above Politics?**

Ståle Knudsen

British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Volume 43, 2016 - Issue 3

The surge of environmental protest in Turkey has been interpreted as 'above politics' activism that strengthens civil society, fosters alternative expressions of identity, and creates new forms of agency outside the state. This article contends that any analysis of the way environmentalism unfolds in Turkey must take into account identity dynamics and the power the state has over these dynamics. Environmental activism seldom remains purely 'issue-based', despite the claims and desires of many activists themselves that their protests be 'above politics' as a 'people's movement'. Drawing on ethnographic and other methods in the study of environmental protest against a gas power plant on the Black Sea coast, this article shows how activists are caught in a dilemma which forces them to tread very carefully if they are to avoid accusations of being separatists or betrayers of the fatherland. Thus, environmental conflicts in Turkey can only be understood within the context of national identity- and party-politics.

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## **The New Landscape of Jordanian Politics: Social Opposition, Fiscal Crisis, and the Arab Spring**

Sean L. Yom

British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Volume 42, 2015 - Issue 3

The absence of regime change in Jordan during the Arab Spring obscured two critical trends transforming political order in this authoritarian kingdom. First, new opposition forces demanding democratic reform mobilized, within not only the youth population but also East Bank tribal communities long assumed to be citadels of loyalty. Second, worsening fiscal dysfunction and budgetary pressure have amplified the state's institutional weakness, and precluded the possibility that increased foreign aid could buy off dissent. Such possibilities require a serious reassessment about the foundations of stability in this kingdom. This double bind presents a nascent opportunity with profound ramifications: in the near future, the Hashemite monarchy may be forced to initiate credible political reform, because even a diminished autocracy is superior to a collapsing regime mired in mass insurrection.

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## **Constitutions against Revolutions: Political Participation in North Africa**

Gianluca P. Parolin

British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Volume 42, 2015 - Issue 1

This article looks into the genesis of Madisonian factions (or Elster's interests) in the constitution-making process. The North African constitutional transitions offer prime insights into the appetites of political forces to appropriate the key decisions on how to write the constitution, which ultimately

leads to undue advantages in the drafting stage. Tunisia, Egypt and Libya show different ways of appropriating that moment and the involvement of different forces. These appropriations, however, all involve limitations to political participation, with various degrees as evidenced in the three experiences. If distortions of constitution-making are deemed inappropriate, then appropriations need to be avoided.

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## **From Reform to Resistance: Universities and Student Mobilisation in Egypt and Morocco before and after the Arab Uprisings**

Florian Kohstall

British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Volume 42, 2015 - Issue 1

University students played a pivotal role in the Arab uprisings in 2011. This article explores the link between reform policies and social mobilisation through a comparison of university reforms and student protests in Egypt and Morocco. It argues that both—the fabrication of social policies and the formation of protest—are rooted in the specific political configuration of authoritarian regimes. Egypt and Morocco have both embarked on internationalising higher education, but the monarchy was more successful in embracing change through a more pluralistic type of governance. Hence, Morocco was able to escape the disruptive dynamics of the uprising, unlike Egypt, which was more reluctant to establish a new type of governance.

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## **Labour Demands, Regime Concessions: Moroccan Unions and the Arab Uprising**

Matt Buehler

British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Volume 42, 2015 - Issue 1

This article investigates how public employee unions mobilised to take advantage of Morocco's Arab uprising. Leveraging their positions as operators of public institutions, these unionists exploited the unrest to strategically advance their interests. Two points emerge from this account of state—labour relations in Morocco. First, a spike in labour contestation began in early 2010, presaging the unrest that rocked Moroccan cities in 2011. Second, the unions secured their demands through traditional tactics of labour mobilisation—joining street protests, exaggerating material demands, and threatening negotiation walkouts. This strategy, however, became more efficacious during the Arab uprising. Fearing urban riots that had historically grown from labour protests since the 1980s, regime elites conceded to union demands, many of which they had previously rejected in the 2000s.

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## NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

### **Egyptian police arrest scores of anti-Sisi protesters**

Al Jazeera, 11 November 2016

At least 130 people have been arrested across Egypt as calls for an uprising against poor economic conditions and rising prices went largely unheeded. In the capital, Cairo, where riot police had been deployed in force in anticipation of Friday's protests, some 39 alleged demonstrators were arrested. Police also quickly scattered several dozen protesters who assembled in the port city of Suez, according to media reports. Meanwhile in Beheira province, some 70km north of Cairo, sources told Al Jazeera that security forces fired tear gas and rubber bullets against protesters. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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### **11/11 in Egypt: The invisible demonstrations**

Amr Khalifa

Middle East Eye, 11 November 2016

"This is the largest number of guns I have ever prayed with," Haitham el-Tabei, AFP's Cairo correspondent, told me. "The number of security praying exceeded the civilian faithful." Today, a numerical oddity of four 1s failed because trepidation and lack of trust ruled the day. Such was the government's fear of planned demonstrations on 11/11. In Abdel Fatah al-Sisi's Egypt, anger may be rising daily but it is nowhere near the boiling point. You see, where anger and fear mix, in an iron fist state like Sisi's, the latter has a habit of winning until the kettle screeches. Though the consequences of a recent devaluation have had devastating effects on millions of Egyptians, a disorganised opposition never stood behind the call for a day of anger whose sources were, to say the least, mysterious. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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### **Nightmare on the Nile: Egypt's devaluation**

Amr Khalifa

Middle East Eye, 3 November 2016

On a visit to Cairo in late April, the unofficial exchange rate stood at 10.5 Egyptian pounds (EGP) to \$1. Earlier this week, a dollar fetched 18.25 EGP in the parallel market. "Business is grinding to a near halt in Egypt," reported Reuters. Yet, in a public statement on the same day, Egypt's prime minister

insisted "the [problem](#) is not economic". So now the inevitable happens: today, the pound has indeed been floated, devaluing it initially by 48 percent to 13 EGP. The repercussions will be massive. Of that, there can be zero doubt. With prices soaring, sometimes on a daily basis, it must look to the Egyptian public as though a stampede of elephants is hurtling in its direction. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## **Fishmonger's gruesome death sparks protests in Morocco**

Al Jazeera, 31 October 2016

Outraged Moroccan students in the northern city of Al-Hoceima boycotted schools on Monday and took to the streets in new protests over the gruesome death of a fishmonger, who was crushed to death inside a garbage truck in the city. Mouhcine Fikri, 31, was crushed to death in the truck on Friday, as he reportedly tried to protest against a municipal worker seizing and destroying his wares. An image of his inert body - head and arm sticking out from under the lorry's crushing mechanism - went viral on social media, sparking protests in more than 20 cities nationwide over the weekend, including in the capital Rabat. Footage online showed thousands of people following the yellow ambulance that carried Fikri's body through Al-Hoceima in the ethnically Berber Rif region on Sunday. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## **Fishy Neoliberalism in Morocco**

*Miriyam Aouragh*

*Historical materialism blog*, 10 November 2016

As Morocco's streets roiled with protest, I looked with astonishment and even mistook some of the videos for those of the 2011 uprisings scenes. It is not an exaggeration to say that again almost the whole country has risen up. Hundreds of thousands of people are protesting across the country chanting 'al sha'b yourid isqat al fasad' [the people demand the downfall of the corrupt] or 'tahiya nidaliya, al hoceima thawriya' '[salute to the uprising, al hoceima is our revolution]'. The protests quickly spread across 41 cities. They then reverberated in the major cities of France, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands where most of the Moroccan diaspora reside. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## **The Western Sahara and Football: A Path toward Self-Determination?**

Aubrey Bloomfield and Sean Jacobs

Jadaliyya, 21 June 2016

In April this year, a story appeared on an Algerian football website, *Le Competiteur*, noting that the country's national football team was planning a friendly match against Western Sahara. The question for the article was how Algeria's regional rival Morocco would respond. Following incomplete decolonization by Spain in 1975, Western Sahara--which borders Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania--was occupied by Morocco and Mauritania despite the International Court of Justice (ICJ) rejecting the occupiers' claims to pre-colonial sovereignty and asserting the Sahrawis' right to self-determination. A bitter war, during which the Sahrawi resistance movement, known as the Polisario Front, were able to drive out Mauritanian but not Moroccan forces, ended with a ceasefire in 1991. The Sahrawis were promised a referendum on self-determination under the auspices of the United Nations. But that referendum has still yet to take place and Morocco continues to occupy the majority of Western Sahara with the Polisario controlling the rest. Tens of thousands of Sahrawi refugees, many whom have been there since they fled Moroccan forces in 1975-76, remain in camps in Tindouf, Algeria. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### **Teaching Fellow in Middle Eastern Studies, King's College London**

Deadline: 24 November 2016

The Department of Middle Eastern Studies in the Faculty of Social Science & Public Policy, formerly the Institute of Middle Eastern Studies, is a leading centre of excellence for theory based research, learning and teaching on one of the world's most challenging, contested and important regions. Our research on the politics, social movements, international relations, history, political economy, and culture and society of the Middle East has a global reach, and through innovative research led teaching we train and create a diverse cohort of international post-graduate students who go on to work in and on the region. Our aim is to maintain and enhance our status as a global centre for advancing knowledge and understanding of the challenges the Middle East faces in the twenty first century. Middle Eastern Studies at King's has consistently received the top rating in all research assessment exercises and its academics have established themselves as world leaders in their fields. In recognition of this and of the growing demand for world-class teaching and policy advice, the Institute became a Department in August 2016.

To provide teaching cover from January 2017 to September 2017, the Department of Middle Eastern Studies welcomes applications from outstanding candidates for the position of Teaching Fellow in Middle Eastern Studies. The successful candidate will be trained in some aspect of Middle Eastern Studies. S/he will have an emerging research portfolio in Middle Eastern Studies and proven teaching ability in contemporary Middle Eastern Studies, including conflict studies. S/he will contribute to



empirically strong and theoretically informed research led teaching and supervision on our BA and MA programmes.

The post will be located at the Strand Campus in the Virginia Woolf Building on Kingsway. Located in the heart of London, King's is the hub of a global network of strong academic connections and collaboration, with prestigious international partnerships within and across disciplines. King's is investing in the highest calibre of talent to drive the university forward to achieve its greatest potential. We are looking for a strong commitment to teaching, to push the boundaries of knowledge, influence the future and create a lasting impact.

This is a full-time post offered on a fixed term contract for 9 months.

The salary will be paid at Grade 6, £32,958 to £39,324 per annum, plus £2,623 per annum London Allowance.

The selection process will include a presentation and a panel interview. Interviews are scheduled to be held the week commencing 5 December 2016.

Closing date: 24 November 2016

If you have questions about this role, please contact: Professor Michael Kerr, Email: michael.r.kerr@kcl.ac.uk

*More information and application [here](#)*

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## **Open research position on modern Iran, Prague**

Deadline: 13 January 2017

The Oriental Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Department of the Middle East, is offering a position for researchers in the field of modern and contemporary history of Iran.

**Eligibility:** This position is open to researchers with a PhD degree in Iranian Studies, Middle Eastern History, Islamic Studies or a related field. The candidates must hold their PhD degree at the time of applying for the position or guarantee that they will receive it before the beginning of the position.

**Research focus:** History of pre-1979 Iran, with preference given to early modern, modern and contemporary history (i.e. from the early 16<sup>th</sup> to the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century).

We expect candidates with experiences in grant activities, a proven publishing record and a working knowledge of Persian language in addition to fluent English and a working knowledge of another Middle Eastern or European language.

**Terms:** The position will start from the first or second quarter of 2017 (the details can be negotiated). The duration of the position is 3 years with the possibility of extension. The Institute will provide an office space, computer, proofreading services, library services (including a modest amount for books

purchase), and funding for conference or research trips abroad. Researchers are expected to be in residence at the Oriental Institute in Prague. During their residence, researchers are required to produce academic publications and participate in Oriental Institute seminars and other events. This is a non-teaching position. The selected candidate may expect a gross monthly salary of 1,200-1,700 EUR, depending on experience. We reserve the right not to fill this position.

Application: Please submit all of the following materials:

1) CV and Publication List;

2) Project proposal:

a. In three to five pages, double spaced 12 pt. font, please explain the project you would undertake in the starting stage of your residence. In addition please include a separate bibliography of works to demonstrate how this project relates to the current state of research;

b. A strong proposal articulates a clear hypothesis and methodology; outlines a clear and realistic work plan; and demonstrates how this contributes to the subject under scrutiny.

3) Writing Samples:

a. Please include a writing sample of no more than 20 pages;

b. Please include a Dissertation Abstract of no more than 2 pages.

4) Two letters of Recommendation:

a. Please list the names, addresses and occupations of the two persons, not related to you, who will submit letters of recommendation on your behalf. Letters of recommendation must be submitted by the deadline for the application to be complete.

Deadline for applications: January 13, 2017

Notification: January/February 2017

Inquiries: Please direct inquiries to Dr. Jan Zouplna, Head of the Middle East Department - [zouplna@orient.cas.cz](mailto:zouplna@orient.cas.cz)

Mailing Instructions: Please send the application and letters electronically to: [zouplna@orient.cas.cz](mailto:zouplna@orient.cas.cz)

*More information and application [here](#)*

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## **PhD and MA Scholarships in Comparative History (CEU, Budapest)**

Deadline: 1 February 2017

The Department of History at Central European University (CEU) offers students interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives on the history of Eurasia from the late medieval period to the present. It is recognized for its innovative approaches to research and teaching and as a center for outstanding research advancing comparative and transnational history on empirical and theoretical grounds. Our international faculty offers expertise that extends from the history of the Habsburg, Romanov, and Ottoman Empires to the comparative study of totalitarian regimes in the 20th century; from comparative religious studies to numerous aspects of cultural and intellectual history.

CEU is an English-language, graduate university located in Budapest and accredited both in Hungary and the United States. It is committed to attracting talented students and scholars from around the

world and take prides in the fact that there is no dominant nationality on campus. Our student/faculty ratio is 6:1, allowing for small, discussion-based seminars and close guidance from faculty members.

#### Scholarships and Application Deadline

The vast majority of our students receive generous financial aid packages, including full scholarships with stipends. Research grants are also available for all students regardless of nationality. The deadline to apply for admission with financial aid for the 2017-18 academic year is February 1, 2017.

#### Programs Offered

- Master of Arts in Comparative History (One Year)
- Master of Arts in Comparative History: From 1500 to the Present (Two Years)
- Master of Arts in European Women's and Gender History [MATILDA] (Two Years)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Comparative History

#### Additional Certificates in Various Specializations

Eastern Mediterranean Studies, Jewish Studies, Political Thought, Religious Studies, Science Studies, and Archives and Evidentiary Practices (in collaboration with the Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives). Selected Areas of Research:

Comparative history of communism, Comparative history of fascism, Comparative history of Habsburg, Ottoman, and Russian empires, Comparative religious studies, Cultural history, Digital humanities, Early modern history, Gender studies, Intellectual history, Labor history, Nationalism studies, Russian, Ukrainian, and Eurasian history, Social history, South and South-East Asian Studies, Soviet and post-Soviet studies, Transnational and global history, Urban studies.

*More information and application [here](#)*

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## **Fellowship Competition for U.S. Scholars Conducting Field-Based Research on Palestine**

Full proposals due 9 January 2017

Fellowship awards from \$6,000 - \$9,000

The Palestinian American Research Center (PARC) announces its 18th annual competition for doctoral and post-doctoral research fellowships in Palestinian studies.

Important information about the fellowship competition:

Research must contribute to Palestinian studies. Any area of Palestinian studies will be considered, including the humanities, social sciences, economics, law, health and applied sciences. Purely scientific research is not eligible for this fellowship competition. Research must take place in Palestine, Israel, Jordan, or Lebanon. PARC funding is limited to one year of research.

Individual and joint research projects are eligible for this competition.

Applicants must be post-doctoral scholars, established researchers, or full-time doctoral students enrolled in a recognized degree program. Doctoral students must have fulfilled all preliminary requirements for the doctorate degree except the dissertation by the time the research commences. The fellowship will not cover tuition fees. Senior researchers without doctorates but with a record of academic publication are eligible. Applicants with a master's degree may only apply jointly with a post-doctoral scholar.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens. U.S. permanent residents are not eligible for this competition.\* Applicants must be PARC members. Visit the PARC membership page for more information. Former PARC fellows who received grants in the last three years are not eligible to apply. Minorities and scholars from Minority Serving Institutions are especially encouraged to apply. Click below to be directed to our online application system: <https://orc fellowships.fluidreview.com>. Funded by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs through an agreement with CAORC.

\*Palestinians who are not U.S. citizens should visit the Palestinian Fellowships page and contact the Palestine office at [paloffice@parc-us-pal.org](mailto:paloffice@parc-us-pal.org).

Contact Info:

P.O Box 19616, Washington, DC 20037-1203, USA

[usoffice@parc-us-pal.org](mailto:usoffice@parc-us-pal.org)

*More information and application [here](#)*

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## **Sigrid Rausing PhD Studentship in Human Rights Research, UCL**

Deadline: 30 December 2016

The Department of Anthropology at UCL is seeking applications for an MPhil/PhD candidate fully funded by The Sigrid Rausing Trust, to commence in the academic session 2017/18.

The Sigrid Rausing Trust is a UK grant-making foundation, founded in 1995 by Sigrid Rausing to support human rights globally.

In conjunction with potential supervisors, the successful applicant will be expected to propose research in any area directly relevant to human rights issues. It is expected that the candidate will upgrade from MPhil to PhD after 9 months and that fieldwork will be conducted over a 12-15 month period. The final thesis will be submitted within 4 years of initial registration. Funding will cover UCL fees (up to UK fee cost) and provide a stipend for 3 years (paid at the RCUK rate, which is currently £16,296 per annum).

Enquiries may be addressed to Dr Allen Abramson (Graduate Tutor) at [a.abramson@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.abramson@ucl.ac.uk) or Prof. Susanne Kuechler (Head of Department) at [s.kuechler@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.kuechler@ucl.ac.uk)

Person Specification

Candidates will be considered for the post on the basis of the criteria outlined below.

First Class Bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline AND/OR Distinction at Masters level in a relevant discipline, with at least one of the degrees being in Anthropology.

Strong familiarity with issues pertaining to human rights

Experience of and ability to carry out fieldwork

Relevant linguistic skills or ability to acquire

#### How to apply

Please email your application in pdf format to Martin O'Connor (martin.oconnor@ucl.ac.uk) who is the Departmental Manager for UCL Anthropology. Please include a full CV (up to 2 pages) and a piece of work (c. 5,000 words) from your masters or a related dissertation, along with a statement (c. 750 words) describing how you are qualified and prepared for the position and how you would approach the proposed area of research. Please arrange for TWO academic referees to write confidentially to Martin O'Connor, to be received no later than the closing date. References should be emailed.

The successful candidate will be required to complete a UCL research student application on-line (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/apply/research/how-to-apply>) in order to enrol at UCL and be formally registered to receive the studentship.

*More information and application [here](#)*

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