



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

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

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## CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

### **Social Movements and Contentious Politics in the Arab world since 2011 in a Global Perspective : Diffusion, Practices, Organizations and Political Dimensions**

Deadline for abstracts: 31 January 2017

International Workshop at IRIS Global Studies, PSL Research University to be held in Paris Dauphine April 2017, 27 - 28th

Organizers:

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General framework:

Globalization, while perpetuating old forms of domination, has led to renewed forms of work as well as new control mechanisms and configurations of labor and power relations. Recent events in the Arab world such as the ' Arab Spring ' remind us that faced with the diversification of forms and places of power, new political contestations, activisms and collective resistances are emerging, materialized in the form of situated social movements. At the same time, in each specific context , power relations are affected by multiple dialectics between existing repertoires of action (Tilly, 2004) and domination, existing institutions and established strategies of resistance on one side and the emergence of new forms of dominant power, contentious politics and collective actions on the other side. These dialectics between old and new forms, construction and deconstruction, and strategies and counter - strategies, suggests the centrality of the interconnections between established actors and organizations on one side and the social movements and challengers on the other side for exploring the new emergent phenomena. Organizations are becoming more movement like and politicized while movements are more likely to borrow strategies from organizations. For instance , although young unemployed people played particularly important role in Cairo, Tunis and elsewhere, and led the way in the use of social and citizen media, organizations such as 'UGTT' (Tunisian General Labor Union) in Tunisia ( Yousfi, 2015 ) or the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt ( Vannetzel, 2016) are crucial to understand the dynamics of the so called " spontaneous " uprisings as well as the current political transition processes. The UGTT has historically been an area of convergence for militant trade unionism and the struggle against the dictatorial political regime. Involved from the start of the uprising in Sidi Bouzid on 17 December 2010, it's members have organized rallies, marches and regional general strikes in various regions and have played a central role in the transition process in

Tunisia , especially during the occupation of Kasbah Square (January - February 2011) (Hmed, 2016) and the National Dialogue (2012 - 13, see Yousfi, 2015). The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt has years of organizational and administrative experience, as well as nationwide networks. It has provided free and subsidized goods and services and its members are influential in professional syndicates and trade unions. As such, they illustrate the importance of established organizational structures, traditional partisanship and leaderships as well as the connections between formal and informal institutions. Conversely, these organizations, which are dialectically affected by the emergent social movements and the coming of a new political elite, are playing a growing role in mediating the so-called « political transitions » (constitutional assembly or legislative elections, development of transitional justice, etc.), but also during authoritarian consolidation as in Egypt. They are the key players in converting primary revolutionary situations into revolutionary outcomes and institutionalized processes , as well as in leading transactions between state, social movements and formal/informal institutions (Tilly, 1978; Hmed, 2016).

By comparison, the current situation and power asymmetry between the state apparatus and the continuous uprising in Syria show that a lack of previous, historical and structural organizational and oppositional structures — trade - unions, Human Rights movements and « civil society » , legal or illegal opposition political parties — could undermine the capacities of social movements to overthrow authoritarian regimes.

These series of paradoxes, contradictions and interactions — between the renewal of collective mobilization modes and action repertoires in the MENA region (for the case of Egypt, see Abdelrahman, 2015) and the long - term established organizational structures — could constitute one of the key questions for social sciences in the next coming period , in order to « pay attention to initiative, agency, appropriation, attribution and the like, and (in the other side) (...) to the solidity of pre - existing forms of organization, structure, objective opportunity » (Chalcraft, 2016 : 6).

Goals of the workshop:

In addition to a focus on the state and the formal political environment in more traditional political economy approaches, researchers have recently begun to examine the intersection of social movements and organizations (e.g., Davis et al., 2005; McAdam, Tarrow & Tilly, 2001). Others have pointed out the historicity of the relations between social movements and institutionalized politics in the Arab world (Chalcraft, 2016; Vairel, 2014). We believe that much theoretical and empirical work lies ahead to put this budding area of research on more solid ground. This involves a need to better situate the interplay of movements , organizations and political institutions in perspectives that pay more attention to larger historical and societal structures, a more careful theorization of how movement activity impinges on central organizational and institutional processes , and a more comprehensive perspective built on fieldwork research. The goals of this workshop is to (a) stimulate innovative studies of movement dynamics in a variety of political, geographic and economic settings, (b) develop the conceptual foundations, frameworks and methods for analyzing the intersection between movements, organizations and institutional change in a global perspective.

We invite theoretical and empirical papers from scholars interested in these issues and are agnostic about epistemological and ontological perspectives. We especially welcome papers that are situated in diverse geographies and disciplinary traditions (political science, sociology, anthropology, history, geography), but firmly based on concrete fieldwork. We conceive of social movements as loosely

organized coalitions that challenge social, economic and cultural practices or structures through sustained mobilization. We treat the category of organization broadly to include organized collective action of all types ranging from corporations and trade unions and interest groups to political parties.

Key questions and topic areas:

The following is a list of indicative, but not exhaustive, topic areas, all of which could be addressed in different geographical spheres in MENA region that have witnessed recent social uprisings:

1. Social Lineages of Protest Emergence and Diffusion:

- a. How did social movements and protest circulate through different social groups and transitionally between Arab countries, and how could we identify the role of groups of individuals, social networks or abeyance structures in this diffusion?
- b. Why did social movements emerge when and where they did, and how have demands been sequenced/ prioritized and informed by waves of protest and counter - measures (e.g. the importance of histories of mobilisation; the role of independent, citizen and new media)?
- c. History, society and institutions: Movements and changes in the relationship between civil society and organizations. What role can state and societal institutions play in challenging established 'scripts' of political change, and as agents of transformation?
- d. Engagement and disengagement, mobilization and demobilization: how to figure out the converse waves of mobilization and demobilization and their individual and collective consequences, as well as the formation of abeyance structures and abeyance networks after the backlash of contention in different spaces?
- e. Civic engagement: Collective mobilization around notions of citizenship, democracy, rights and duties in organizations and dynamics outside organizations.

2. Organizational Issues:

- a. What were the organizational forms and coalitions of actors that drove the social movements and what new identities and political opportunities have been created by the collective action of this period? What is the role of both new and old forms of organizing in driving and contesting change?
- b. Identities, networks and audiences: Interplay of movements with organizational identities, images, and reputations; how movement work with each other and their relationships with other organizational audiences, including analysts, politicians, and the media.
- c. Participation, resistance, subversion and cooptation: Organizations as participants, targets and opponents in movements.

3. The local and the global: Local, national and transnational mobilization in the face of local, national and transnational organizations; postcolonial, development and indigenous perspectives; the politics of economic globalization.

4. Regime change: Origins of critique and transformation of political and economic regimes; movement processes in the creation of institutional alternatives and organizational heterogeneity. How can transformative change occur in the context of political transition and which actors, institutions and structures drive and contest such change? What are the priorities for change of the most marginalized, whether or not they took part in protests? How is their participation shaping (or not) the transition process?

5. The ultimate goal of this workshop is to offer a forum for fresh perspectives on the transformative change processes occurring in the MENA region especially in light of the social - political upheavals. We hope the workshop will advance our understanding of the contemporary MENA political and socio economic challenges while simultaneously offering important theoretical insights into the dynamic of social movements of one of the most troubled region in the world.

Deadlines:

Proposals/abstracts of 1000 words describing fieldwork, research question and topic area are due for January, 31st, 2017.

Decision for acceptance to the workshop should be communicated by the organizers to the authors latest by 20 February 2017.

The dead line for full papers submission is 15 April 2017.

Please send the proposals in the preferred language (English or French) to the five organizers.

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## **Crossing Boundaries: Youth, Migration and Development**

Abstract submissions: 10 January 2017

International Symposium March 2 and 3, 2017

We look at the intersection of youth, development and migration in North Africa. Focus is on North Africa as sending, receiving and transit place for migrants. Common to migrating youth is the lack of development in their home country, which is symptomatic of structural issues common to Africa north and south of the Sahara. Broadly speaking, development is most often defined and assessed by international and national policy makers and donors with limited consideration of fundamental rights, transformations and needs on the ground. This contributes to increasingly swelling numbers of marginalized youth who migrate and/or turn to alternative, destructive modes of living.

The symposium brings together scholars, civil society activists and spokespersons of youth and migrant associations with the goal of ascertaining the specific needs and debates of these issues. The goal is to devise new, creative models for conceiving participant-based development and international partnerships that benefit the young generation.

The symposium is jointly organized by the Hillary Clinton Center for Women's Empowerment at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation in Rabat.

The symposium is seeking contributions in English, French or Arabic for sessions around the following themes:

- Refugees/Migrants and fundamental rights
- Are development policies failing the youth?
- Left behind: single parent households as result of migration
- Gender in the development discourse
- Youth and sexuality
- Youth, education, and employment

Deadline for submissions: January 10, 2017

Please submit to: [hccsymposium2107@gmail.com](mailto:hccsymposium2107@gmail.com)

Travel funds available for scholars from Europe and North Africa, lodging for all participants

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## Recovering the Middle East in/from International Relations (EWIS Workshop)

Abstract Deadline: 20.12.2016

7–10 June 2017, Cardiff, UK, part of the 4th European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS)

Despite the manifest importance of the Middle East for global politics, the region has endured an uneven relationship with the discipline of International Relations (IR). While IR scholarship continually discusses Middle Eastern politics, it often does so in ways that carefully selected examples from Middle Eastern states, societies and cultures are employed to test hypotheses and substantiate theoretical premises. These fragmented cases are frequently developed from within Western (White), Anglophone academia based on little sustained exposure to the region's dynamics. Simultaneously, the attempts that are made to explain and understand these dynamics are often framed within theoretical perspectives that regard such processes as the ramifications of developments happening *elsewhere*, thus minimising the role of actors and processes operating within the region. These shortcomings have further intensified since the Arab Uprisings, which revealed the deficiencies of many approaches and concepts that are utilised in the study of the Middle East.

The workshop thus aims to address the unstable relationship between IR and one of its core field of study, the Middle East, by examining relevant conceptual and methodological issues. It will provide a platform to discuss the ways in which Middle Eastern intellectuals, social movements and scholars themselves approach the questions of international relations, and examine how we can reshape IR's engagement with the Middle East. We aim to promote discussions on how the IR literature can learn from the advances in other branches of the social sciences and humanities. To this end, we particularly encourage submissions and contributions from those who work in the Middle East. Possible themes and research puzzles we would like explore in the workshop include, but are not limited to:

- **How do the Middle Eastern intellectuals, social movements and scholars approach the questions of 'the international'** and the region's position in the international political and economic order? What key insights we can learn from their perspectives to reshape IR's engagement with the Middle East?
- What can the IR literature on the Middle East learn from the advances in other branches of the social sciences and humanities? How can we develop concrete interdisciplinary strategies and research pathways to strengthen IR scholarship on the Middle East?
- Given their significant role in highlighting the questions of Eurocentrism and non-Western agency in IR, how do Marxist and postcolonial critiques fare in the study of the Middle East?



- In light of the recent ‘end of IR theory’ debates, can ‘grand theory’ still provide useful avenues with which to theorise the international and domestic politics of the Middle East?
- To what extent do the ‘rules of academic production’—such as editorial policies of IR journals—lead scholarship away from an in-depth engagement with the social realities of the Middle East and towards ‘grand theory’?
- What are the structural issues limiting IR as a discipline to study the Middle East? Is IR as a discipline that was born into and continuously accused of being an ongoing ‘imperial’ project the best way of understanding its relationship with the Middle East?
- Has IR as an epistemic community and preoccupied with understanding broader connections and global relations lost its own connection to the historical and social specificities of the Middle East?
- What are the prospects for and limits of the calls for ‘peripheral’ and ‘home-grown theorising’ for equipping IR with theoretical apparatuses capable of identifying and explaining regional dynamics?

Please submit your proposals (200 words or less) via the Conftool electronic submission system and send a copy of your abstract to the workshop conveners Dr Cemal Burak Tansel and Dr Clemens Hoffmann by 30 December 2016. Successful participants will be informed by January 20, 2017.

More information [here](#)

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## **Reminder: BRISMES Annual Conference 2017 - Movement and Migration in the Middle East: People and Ideas in Flux**

Deadline for panel and paper proposals: 27 January 2017

IMES, University of Edinburgh | 5-7 July 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’.

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. In addition, we warmly invite proposals on any topic related to Middle Eastern Studies, regardless of their fit with the conference’s main theme. 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.

Subthemes

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, Minority and Majority Movements
  - 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
- Proposals for complete panel sessions are particularly welcome.

The deadline for paper and panel proposals is 17.00 GMT, 27 January 2017. Please apply via the conference website.

More information [here](#)

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## **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference**

Deadline for abstracts: 10 February 2017

The University of Chicago, 5-6 May 2017

We invite proposals from graduate students, faculty, and independent scholars about the Middle East and Islamic World from the coming of Islam until the present day. This year's conference has the broad theme of "Center and Periphery," which raises a number of possible issues:

- How are center and periphery defined? By whom and for whom?
- How is the hierarchy of center and periphery maintained through economic, political and social power? In what ways do shifting fortunes upset that hierarchy for individuals, communities, and nations?
- How do center and periphery figure in to cultural expression like art, literature, and music? Geographical and conceptual space? Racial, gender, and social identity?

We encourage papers on these and related questions from many fields, including but not limited to history, anthropology, political science, literature, philosophy, art history, and media studies. The theme corresponds to our keynote address, which will be given by Professor Benjamin Fortna at the University of Arizona with the title, "Inside Out: The Life of an Ottoman Officer at Empire's End."

Approximately 50 papers will be selected and grouped into panels of three or four. Special preference will be given to pre-arranged panels, although individual submissions are welcome. Participants should be prepared to deliver a maximum twenty-minute presentation and respond to

questions from an assigned discussant. Written papers should be circulated to panel members at least two weeks before the conference. If you are unsure about the suitability of your topic, feel free to email us (see address below).

Please send submissions to [mehatconference@gmail.com](mailto:mehatconference@gmail.com) no later than Friday 10 February 2017. Include each presenter's name, institution, and position (graduate student, professor, etc.), and attach a 250-word abstract with a tentative title. The best abstracts will summarize the paper's topic, its relationship and contribution to existing scholarship, and specific conclusions. For pre-arranged panels, please send a single email with an overall panel description plus individual paper abstracts. Proposals will be evaluated anonymously by the coordinators, so please do not include names or any identifying information in the abstract. Selection results will be announced in March 2017.

Sponsored panels. As in previous years, three of our sponsors will offer limited funding for panels in the following fields: (1) Modern Arabic Literature; (2) Central Eurasian Studies; and (3) South Asian Studies. Participants chosen for one of these panels may be eligible for a modest travel subsidy. Those interested should submit abstracts according to the process outlined above, with a note indicating their interest in a sponsored panel. Applicants not placed on a special panel will still receive full consideration.

More information [here](#)

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## **Unravelling Contemporary Settler-Colonial Relations: Realities, Knowledge and Decolonisation**

Deadline: 10 February 2017

5 panel section co-chaired by Dr. Elian Weizman and Dr. Sharri Plonski at the 11th Pan-European Conference on International Relations: "The Politics of International Studies in an Age of Crises", Barcelona, September 2017.

In the field of International Relations, the settler-colonial present is often muted in quests to unravel contemporary crises. Yet, its core logics persist in ongoing movements of territorial conquest, capital accumulation and dispossession of peoples, often under the guise of development, state-building, and good governance. Glen Coulthard (2014), in his discussion of Canadian settler colonialism, argues that the obfuscation of settler-colonial relations derives from its ability to make its constitutive hierarchies seem natural; its strength depending on its ability to incorporate the cultural and ideological activity that takes place within society and transform it into legitimating support. In rendering its history and present 'normal', it reshapes critique of colonial social relations – in which the dispossession of the native is a ceaseless feature – to give it moral parameters that entrench its legitimacy. This section aims to interrogate the mechanisms through which settler-colonial logics are normalised and hidden, determined moral and made final. Its particular focus is on the way knowledge is harnessed to control narrations of past and present, as well as the relations between colonialists, natives and the different populations that have been made subordinate to, and yet

essential producers of this project. It is our contention that it is the elasticity of settler-colonial knowledge that makes it so difficult to challenge; in effect, to decolonise it. This section will bring together scholars studying settler colonial movements/states, to discuss the ways in which knowledge production becomes ambiguous, resilient and incontestable, in order to work towards its decolonisation. We welcome individual paper proposals that can fit one of the following panel themes:

1) The Contemporary Settler Colonial State

This will include two panels that explore the past and present machinations of settler-colonialism, the different movements and agents that territorialise settler logics in contemporary states, and the multiple interstices with other current projects of erasure and replacement (i.e. capitalism). They unravel intersecting repressive and productive practices that interact to entrench the settler-colonial present.

2) Colonial 'Unknowing' - Knowledge production of/in settler societies

These two panels will explore the significant role 'knowledge' plays in the production and sustainment of settler-colonial relations. Contributors will examine the different sites, agents and material nodes that render settler knowledge normal, hidden and unchallengeable.

3) Decolonising Knowledge – Modes of resistance and change

This panel/roundtable will explore the different ways in which knowledge is/can be decolonised through indigenous and anti-colonial resistance movements; discussing their modes of negating, rejecting and de-normalising settler relations, and their capacity to construct alternative knowledge.

Proposals (with abstracts of 200 words maximum) must be submitted via the online submission system: <https://www.conftool.pro/paneuropean2017/>

For any questions please email [sp46@soas.ac.uk](mailto:sp46@soas.ac.uk) or [deputydirector@kenyon-institute.org.uk](mailto:deputydirector@kenyon-institute.org.uk)

*More information [here](#)*

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

Deadline for abstracts: 31 December 2016

27-28 April 2017, Middle East and North Africa Centre at Sussex, UK

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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## **Palestine in the International Imaginary, 1987-2017**

Abstract deadline: 4 January 2017

24<sup>th</sup> February 2017, John Woolley Common Room, Level 4, John Woolley Building, The University of Sydney, Australia

Organised by:

Dr Isabelle Hesse, The Department of English, The University of Sydney

Dr Ben Etherington, The Writing and Society Research Centre, Western Sydney University

Dr Jumana Bayeh, Department of Modern Politics, History and International Relations, Macquarie University

Confirmed Keynote Speaker: Dr Anna Bernard, King's College, London

The first Palestinian Intifada (1987-1993) consolidated a change in global perceptions of the validity of the Palestinian liberation struggle that emerged as part of the wider anti-colonial movement in the 1960s and 1970s and an increased international solidarity with the Palestinians. This significant shift also had an impact on transnational representations of Palestine in different areas, for example as part of third-world internationalism.

Palestine is now an important part of the international imaginary, not only as a recurring news item in the media but also as a point of reference in diverse cultural works and political discourses. This conference explores how the idea of Palestine has evolved within and across different national

contexts and interrogates the reasons for engaging with Palestine, both as a real and as an imagined space, since 1987.

Bringing together scholars from different disciplines, including literature, media, history, cultural studies, and politics, this conference addresses the global significance of Palestine and the Palestinian cause in the contemporary period.

Proposals for papers (250-300 words) and brief academic bios (50-100 words) should be sent to PalestineConference2017@gmail.com by 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

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## **Call for Chapters: The World and the Arab Spring: How International Community Responded to Popular Uprisings in the Middle East**

This is a call for chapters for a proposed edited volume already under review, tentatively entitled *The World and the Arab Spring: How the International Community Responded to Popular Uprisings in the Middle East*. The book seeks to investigate how different actors of international community approached the Arab Spring process within the context of a foreign policy analysis. Based on the findings in the cases to be explored, the book will draw some conclusions on the reflex of the world community.

Ideally, the proposed chapter will, relying on a foreign policy analysis approach in terms of methodology, investigate how the relevant political actor evaluated the Arab Spring process in different stages.

Those who are interested should contact Dr. Cenap Cakmak at [cenapcakmak@yahoo.com](mailto:cenapcakmak@yahoo.com), along with a 300-word abstract and a brief bio.

Remaining unassigned or incomplete themes include (additional suggestions are also welcome):

- Response by International Organizations  
This section focuses on how the intergovernmental organizations responded to the Arab Spring. The UN's response is considered particularly important because it is the centerpiece of global governance. The EU is also an important case as it dedicates itself to promoting democracy and democratic values. This is why it is crucial to evaluate how it approached the democratic demands of the people during the Arab Spring. NATO's approach represents the likely response of the international community out of the security concerns.
  - United Nations
  - European Union
  - NATO
  - Response by Big Powers
  - China
  - United Kingdom

- Response by Regional Powers
  - Turkey
  - Israel
  - Saudi Arabia
  - Qatar

Contact Info: Cenap Cakmak, Eskisehir Osmangazi University Department of International Relations, Eskisehir Turkey, Contact Email: [cenapcakmak@yahoo.com](mailto:cenapcakmak@yahoo.com)

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## TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

### Conference "Dynamics of Change: Media and the Public Sphere in Egypt"

08.12.-10.12.2016, Berlin

Project of the Working Group "Transformation" of the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA)

Although the Arab region has been marked as stagnating, the regional dynamics evolving since 2011 have launched processes that are reshaping the political, social and cultural landscapes. Egypt witnessed a temporal opening that was followed by a relapse into autocratic settings. The media and the actors behind them (journalists, editors, activists, owners) went through transformations, while at the same time were contributing to the transformation of the society. The pathways of these transformations were plastered with challenges like exclusion and marginalization of different segments of society and a strong political polarization.

In this context, the media are important spaces for participation and negotiation of civil society and can provide the ground for reconciliation. The conference offers the opportunity and space for actors from academia, media, civil society, and politics to discuss relevant issues to the media in times of transformation and conflict. The in-depth exchange of opinions and experiences connects both practical as well as academic views on media and political actors.

Guiding questions for the exchange are:

- How do media as social systems and actors enhance their independence from the surrounding environment?
- How can media help societies to regulate the social orders in peaceful conflict resolution?

While Egypt is the focal point of this workshop, the regional and historical perspectives cannot be neglected to ensure a learning processes across time and space. Therefore, we will also ask: How

does the situation in Egypt relate to other experiences in the world such as in Africa or Eastern Europe, and what can be learned from this?

The conference is hosted by AGYA members Hanan Badr and Carola Richter from the Institute for Media and Communication Studies at Freie Universität Berlin on behalf of the AGYA Working Group "Transformation" and kindly supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The conference will be held in cooperation with MeCoDEM – an EU-funded research project on Media, Conflict and Democratisation which investigates the role of traditional media and ICTs in conflicts that accompany and follow transitions from authoritarian rule to more democratic forms of government. Another cooperation partner is the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP).

*More information* [here](#)

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## **'Islamism' & Islamist alterity – Understanding political Islam**

15 December 2016, 20:00

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

Speaker: Francois Burgat (Iremam - CRNS)

Since the 2000's a resurgence of a certain "political Islam" crystallizes mistrust. Numerous encounters with actors of this movement in different countries, show that their motivations are mostly secular and political rather than religious. In his Forthcoming book "Understanding Political Islam: a research trajectory on Islamist alterity, 1973-2016.", Francois Burgat traces the human and scientific path that led him to express a very strong conviction today. He namely considers the actual tensions in the relation between the Western and the Muslim world have a political rather than an ideological origin. The selfishness from which they are the product is primarily 'ours' and not only, as too often a comfortable laziness makes us think, that of the "other," which never ceases to "decolonize" from us: the Muslim. *More information* [here](#)

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## RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

### **Egypt in the Future Tense: Hope, Frustration and Ambivalence before and after 2011**

Samuli Schielke

2015 – Indiana University Press

Against the backdrop of the revolutionary uprisings of 2011–2013, Samuli Schielke asks how ordinary Egyptians confront the great promises and grand schemes of religious commitment, middle class respectability, romantic love, and political ideologies in their daily lives, and how they make sense of the existential anxieties and stalled expectations that inevitably accompany such hopes. Drawing on many years of study in Egypt and the life stories of rural, lower-middle-class men before and after the revolution, Schielke views recent events in ways that are both historically deep and personal. Schielke challenges prevailing views of Muslim piety, showing that religious lives are part of a much more complex lived experience.

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### **Decolonizing Sexualities: Transnational Perspectives, Critical Interventions**

Sandeep Bakshi, Suhraiya Jivraj, and Silvia Posocco

2016 – Counterpress

*Decolonizing Sexualities: Transnational Perspectives, Critical Interventions* contributes to the critical field of queer decolonial studies by demonstrating how sexuality, race, gender and religion intersect transnationally. The volume maps some of the specifically local issues as well as the common ones affecting queer/trans people of colour (qtpoc). The contributions are not delimited by traditional academic style but rather draw on creative inspiration to produce knowledge and insight through various styles and formats, including poetry, essays, statements, manifestos, as well as academic mash-ups. Queering coloniality and the epistemic categories that classify people means to disobey and delink from the coloniality of knowledge and of being. At this intersection, decolonial queerness is necessary not only to resist coloniality but, above all, to re-exist and re-emerge decolonially.

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## JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

### **Understating the Logic of Regime Survival? Conceptualizing State-Society Relations and Parliamentary Liberation in Post-2011 Jordan**

Paul Maurice Esber

British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, published online 25 Nov 2016

Both reform and revolutionary movements in the Arab world have called on institutions of state to follow through on the cries for dignity, bread and social justice emanating from the street. These movements are not necessarily mutually exclusive, and may demonstrate overlapping commonalities of practice. Asef Bayat has designated this phenomenon an example of 'refo-lution', the amalgamation of a revolutionary agenda with a reform process. This paper will argue that 2011/2012 demonstrations in Jordan fall into this category, and that they elucidate that the relationship between the Hashemite monarchy and Jordanian society needs to be reframed for political stability. The theoretical frame of this article, grounded in the selectorate theory of Bruce Bueno de Mesquita in conjunction with insights from Nazih Ayubi, suggests that this stability requires a more defined separation of powers and functions of the monarchy and the parliament, making the latter an autonomous legislative body.

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### **Embracing *Salafi* Jihadism in Egypt and Mobilizing in the Syrian Jihad**

Jerome Drevon

Middle East Critique, Volume 25, 2016 - Issue 4, Pages 321-339

This article investigates the adoption of *Salafi* jihadism by young Egyptians and its repercussions on their mobilization in the Syrian jihad after 2011. This research demonstrates that *Salafi* jihadis mostly were raised in religious families and argues that the post-9/11 US-led wars triggered the exploration of an alternative to non-jihadi Salafism. This exploration was facilitated by: (1) the inability of mainstream Salafism to face the post-9/11 challenge; (2) the absence of local militant groups; (3) the availability of an alternative literature on the Internet; and (4) the shared religious creed of jihadi and mainstream Salafism. This research contends that online socialization created an internally diverse *Salafi* jihadi milieu that regulated these youths' mobilization in the Syrian jihad after 2011.

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## **Armed Struggle to Peace Negotiations: Independent Kurdistan to Democratic Autonomy, or The PKK in Context**

Mesut Yegen

Middle East Critique, Volume 25, 2016 - Issue 4, Pages 365-383

This article examines the Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan (Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK), which has become one of the prominent actors in Kurdistan and the Middle East since its inception in the mid-1970s. My basic aim is to explain how the PKK became a significant agent, a maker in the Middle East, contributing to the dissolution of the decades-long status quo in Kurdistan. My overall argument is that, while the PKK successfully has changed its 'environment' since its formation, there also have been significant changes in its people, spaces, promises/propositions and instruments.

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## **A Matter of Framing: Explaining the Failure of Post-Islamist Social Movements in the Arab Spring**

Justin A. Hoyle

Digest of Middle East Studies, Volume 25, Issue 2, Fall 2016, Pages 186–209

Shortly after the Arab Spring began in 2010, multiple scholars noted that the dominant discursive trend present within these protests was that of post-Islamism. Post-Islamism is broadly defined as an ideology seeking to establish a democratic state within a distinctly Islamic society. Despite the presence of post-Islamist opportunity structures, social movements embodying post-Islamist principles have had little success consolidating power. The theoretical argument presented here is that the failure of these movements is the result of inherent flaws within post-Islamist frames. Specifically, this study posits that unlike traditional Islamist frames (i.e., frames emphasizing the creation of a state governed by Shari'a) post-Islamist frames limit the ability of movements' to monopolize religion as a cultural asset. As such, when post-Islamist movements face political challenges during contentious periods they cannot rely on nontemporal legitimacy to retain power. Additionally, the challenging task of integrating Islamic and democratic frames in contentious moments renders post-Islamist movements susceptible to counterframing. The preceding claims will be tested through a comparative analysis of the Iranian Hierocracy (1977–1979), and the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood (2011–2014). Comparing the experiences of a post-Islamist movement (Brotherhood) with that of an Islamist movement (Hierocracy) will explicate the flaws within post-Islamist frames.

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## **Fighting without Weapons: Palestinian Documentary Filmy and Acts of Resistance**

Martijn van Gils, Malaka Mohammed Shwaikh

Asian Affairs, Volume 47, 2016 - Issue 3, Pages 443-464

Film production has for a long time been a prominent medium for Palestinians to resist Israeli occupation and create a cultural memory. Though there are some academic studies on the subject, a critical framework of analysis for such films remains underdeveloped. This article argues that Palestinian film production has surged particularly in recent years as part of an increasingly globalised dimension to Palestinian resistance, alongside such initiatives as the Electronic Intifada and the BDS movement. Early Zionist rhetoric asserted the non-existence (or *invisibility*) of Palestinians. Several decades later, when the Arab revolt was shut down, the Israeli official propaganda largely shifted to a discourse of “emergency”, which decontextualizes the anti-colonial nature of Palestinian resistance. The films *5 Broken Cameras* (2011) and *Private* (2004) both engage with Israeli colonialism and the state of emergency by acting as tools of witnessing, laying bare the occupational strategies the Israelis use under emergency law and revealing the arbitrary nature of such practices as the Separation Wall. The films challenge Israeli authority through their depictions of predominantly non-violent forms of resistance, which counters their historically constructed invisibility as a people, as well as the colonialist narrative of “terrorism”. Non-violent resistance makes the recognition of Israeli authority problematic, as the settlers cannot use brute force to drive out the Palestinians if there is no documented incident in context to justify violence. Furthermore, the article argues that the form of the films – pseudo-documentary and especially “talking witness” documentary – enables their emotive content to reach out to an international audience, which could potentially respond. Thus, the films not only contain acts of resistance, but they significantly *are* tools of resistance in the conflict.

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## **NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY**

### **Egypt's top court upholds law restricting protests**

AlJazeera English, 3 December 2016

Egypt's Supreme Constitutional Court upheld a law on Saturday that effectively bans protests, settling a years-long court battle and protecting it from further challenges. The law was passed in 2013 amid persistent demonstrations calling for the reinstatement of Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohamed Morsi after the military overthrew him following mass protests against his rule. It requires would-be protesters to notify the interior ministry of any public gathering of more than 10 people at

least three days in advance, imposes jail sentences of up to five years for those who violate a broad list of protest restrictions, and allows security forces to disperse illegal demonstrations with water cannon, tear gas and birdshot. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## **In Egypt, journalism is a crime**

Amr Khalifa

Middle East Eye, 2 December 2016

Before formally entering journalism, I learned to question ceaselessly from a father who was himself an Egyptian journalist. Fast forward 30 years and those very questions can land you in jail in Sisiland. Yet, to read Western media accounts of the crackdown, you wouldn't be blamed for thinking this was an issue involving a dozen of brave journalists who had been silenced. "Journalism is not a crime," campaigners for arrested journalists protested. But it is much more complicated. In Egypt, independent thought and journalism have indeed become a crime, while the true crime of state propaganda is, somehow, viewed as journalism. Exactly how propaganda power-players have become the state's "journalists" and how journalists have been criminalised is the sort of tricky, state-initiated dynamic that has empowered the most repressive clampdown in the modern history of Egyptian media.

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## **The death of Mohsen Fikri and the long history of oppression and protest in Morocco's Rif**

Imad Stitou

OpenDemocracy, 2 December 2016

On the evening of October 28, a garbage truck crushed Moroccan fish-seller Mohsen Fikri to death in al-Hoceima city in Morocco's Rif as he tried to protect his produce. A month has passed since the incident, but protests are still ongoing in the city. While investigations seem to be at a standstill, protesters in al-Hoceima continued their action against the authorities, end of last week. They demanded the punishment of the culprits in this crime, which they believe is premeditated, instead of offering scapegoats to alleviate the pressure in the streets. The protesters were referring to some employees and garbage collectors whom the authorities arrested on the grounds of being implicated in Fikri's killing. The flame of public anger in al-Hoceima city is still burning, although the situation has relatively calmed down in other Moroccan cities. In fact, relations between the Makhzen a.k.a the federal state and al-Hoceima city, or the Moroccan Rif in general, have been shaky for decades. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## **Sudan police fire tear gas on protest over price hikes**

AlJazeera English, 30 November 2016

Sudanese police forces have fired tear gas at about 300 Sudanese protesters demonstrating against a government decision to cut fuel subsidies. Groups have staged persistent protests for weeks over the subsidy cuts, which have led to a sharp rise in the cost of other goods, including medicines. Several opposition groups called for a three-day nationwide strike earlier this week, which received a mixed response. "No, no to high prices," shouted about 300 men and women as they marched along a main street of Omdurman near Khartoum on Wednesday morning, an AFP correspondent reported.

*Continue reading [here](#)*

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## **On the international day for women human rights defenders: building bridges of solidarity and protection**

Zeina Al-Aghar

OpenDemocracy, 29 November 2016

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) have been featured in international headlines for ages, with a specific emphasis on wars, terrorism, and refugees. This hyper-sensationalist trend which emphasizes violence over the region's gains is unlikely to change any time soon. It is extremely difficult to expand on discussions pertaining to women human rights defenders (WHRD) and be heard when most international attention is focused solely on conflict, war, and violence. Yet, the WHRD Coalition in the Middle East and North Africa is committed to amplifying the voices of hundreds of extraordinary women, who are, despite the dire situation, fighting stereotypes, pushing boundaries, and building new pillars for their societies. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## **Breadline Egypt: Millions face 'a slow death' due to growing poverty**

Noor El-Terk

Middle East Eye, 25 October 2016

"It's a slow death." With these words, Soliman Bakar and his wife summarise the economic situation in Egypt, where reports are increasingly showing just how dire things have become, with many unable to afford basic food and are struggling to make ends meet. Bakar, a father of three, is a government employee. After his shift ends, he works as a taxi driver throughout the night and into the early hours of the morning. "I'm juggling two jobs, and my wife is also working, but even with the three salaries coming in, we're barely making it." "The problems seem never ending, no matter where you turn you're faced with more and more difficulties. The price of gas, electricity, water, petrol, everything went up suddenly. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### **Pears Foundation PhD Scholarships at the Middle East and North Africa Centre at the University of Sussex (MENACS)**

Deadline 26 January 2017

The Middle East and North Africa Centre at the University of Sussex in Brighton, England (MENACS) invites applications for PhD study related to the MENA region in humanities and social sciences disciplines. Research students associated with MENACS work with one of over 30 full time faculty based in departments across the university. They form a diverse and talented student body from around the world that studies the MENA region in an environment focused on cross-cultural dialogue, inter-faith tolerance, and the advocacy of positive change.

We are also pleased to welcome applications to the Pears Foundation PhD Scholarships at the Middle East and North Africa Centre at Sussex. These scholarships provide full funding for UK/EU or International students whose research falls into one of the Centre's main areas of study: Middle Eastern, Israeli and North African Studies. There are no restrictions as to time period or subject area. More information about these scholarships is available here:

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/phd/fees-and-scholarships/scholarships/view/710>. The first stage of the application must be submitted no later than 26 January 2017.

In addition to these MENA-specific scholarships, there are further funding opportunities open to students across the university. These include the Chancellor's International Research Scholarships (for international students in the humanities, first stage due 5 January 2017), CHASE AHRC studentships (for UK/EU students in the humanities, first stage due 11 January 2017), and ESRC studentships (for UK/EU students in the social sciences, first stage due 10 January 2017).

The Middle East and North Africa Centre at Sussex (MENACS) is an innovative and interdisciplinary centre for the study of the Middle East and North Africa. MENACS was launched in 2015-16 as the University's focal point for engagement with the MENA region. It has unusually wide geographic scope, bringing together research stretching from North Africa to Afghanistan, and Turkey to the Indian Ocean. With over 30 full-time academics, the Centre is one of the largest of its kind in the UK. It includes academics spread from departments across the humanities and social sciences, and is especially strong in the fields of modern history and international relations. The centre's activities address major global challenges, involve collaborations from around the world, and facilitate outstanding impact on an international level. More information about the centre is available here: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/menacs/>.

University of Sussex is renowned for its path-breaking creative and interdisciplinary work whilst also achieving excellence in discipline-based research. It is nestled on the edge of the South Downs, on outskirts of the city of Brighton and Hove on the south coast. It is the only UK university surrounded by a national park, yet the campus is only nine minutes by train from central Brighton. Brighton and Hove is a vibrant seaside city less than an hour from central London by train. It has a diverse arts and

music scene, and an eclectic mix of independent shops, bars, cafes, and restaurants. More information is available here <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/>.

More information and application [here](#)

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## **Lecturer in Politics/International Relations - University of Bristol**

Deadline: 8 January 2017

The School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies (SPAIS) in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law at the University of Bristol is seeking to appoint an outstanding candidate to the position of Lecturer in International Relations, with a focus on international security. The new Lecturer will be expected to demonstrate her/his potential to contribute to, or dynamically complement, the School's existing research expertise, notably the work of our three established research centres in Global Insecurity, Gender, and Ethnicity/Citizenship. Participation in faculty collaborations and the University Research Institutes is also desirable, and willingness and ability to make research funding applications is expected. Their expertise will lie in one or more of the following areas: technology and security; environmental change and/or natural disasters; the **politics and societies of the Middle East and North Africa**. As well as having a strong research achievement and trajectory, the successful candidate should be an excellent and enthusiastic teacher, contributing core and optional units to the politics programmes, at UG and PGT levels.

For further information please contact Professor Gregor McLennan (Head of School)  
G.McLennan@bristol.ac.uk

The University of Bristol is committed to equality and we value the diversity of our staff and students. To apply, please click on the Apply button to be redirected to our website, enter the vacancy number into the job search and follow the link to the online application process. The closing date for applications is 8 January 2017.

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## **Director of Gulf Studies and Al-Qasimi Chair (or Associate Professor) in Gulf Studies - University of Exeter**

Deadline: 5 January 2016

College of Social Sciences and International Studies, Director of Gulf Studies and Al-Qasimi Chair (or Associate Professor) in Gulf Studies (P53756)

Competitive salary reflecting qualification and experience (for appointment at Chair level)

If appointment to the Director post is made at Associate Professor level, salary will be in the range £54,637-£68,836



The University of Exeter is a Russell Group university that combines world-class research with very high levels of student satisfaction. Exeter has over 21,000 students from more than 130 different countries and is in the top 1% of universities in the world with 98% of its research rated as being of international quality.

Our research focuses on some of the most fundamental issues facing humankind today. The Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies has the strongest REF2014 results of any Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies department in the UK, establishing Exeter as the leader in the field in terms of research quality, impact and environment. Our international profile as a pioneering and multidisciplinary institute continues to grow.

We are looking for a leading international figure with the ability to attract world-class academics to their research group to lead the Centre for Gulf Studies, and a strong academic in Gulf Studies to assist in the delivery of an exciting new strategy for Gulf Studies at Exeter. Applicants will be innovative researchers with a strong track record of research funding and international quality publications.

The College of Social Sciences and International Studies is one of the leading research intensive groupings in the field internationally, and it incorporates the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies which is one of the largest area studies institutes dedicated to the study of Arabic, Islamic and the Middle East in Europe.

As a result of a generous benefaction establishing the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies in 1999, the University has hosted three Al-Qasimi Chairs in the Institute in Islamic Studies, Arabic and Arab Gulf Studies. Applicants will become part of a vibrant research team at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, which, in REF2014, had the best cohort of results of any Middle East area studies submission. Appointments for the Directorship will be made at the level of Associate Professor; exceptionally qualified candidates will be considered for full Professor.

The area of specialism sought for the chair is broadly conceived: all areas in Gulf Studies using different disciplinary approaches and interdisciplinary methods including (but not limited to) political science, international relations, critical geography, history, literary and cultural studies, religious studies, critical studies, anthropology, sociology, art history and archaeology, and digital humanities; all areas in the study of Arabic including (but not limited to) literature (ancient, pre-modern and modern), material culture, and translation studies.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the College, Prof Debra Myhill (tel: 01392 724767, email: [D.A.Myhill@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:D.A.Myhill@exeter.ac.uk)) to discuss the posts further. Informal enquiries can be made to Prof Robert Gleave (tel: 01392-724025, email: [R.Gleave@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:R.Gleave@exeter.ac.uk)).

The closing date for completed applications is 5th January 2016.

The University of Exeter is an equal opportunity employer which is 'Positive about Disabled People'. Whilst all applicants will be judged on merit alone, we particularly welcome applications from groups currently underrepresented in the workforce.

More information and application [here](#)

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## **Edward Said Professorship in Middle East Studies Assistant Professor - California State University, Fresno**

We focus on broadening students' intellectual horizons, fostering lifelong learning skills, developing the leaders of tomorrow, promoting community involvement, and instilling an appreciation of world cultures. We nurture cultural competence by celebrating the rich diversity of the campus community and welcoming the participation of all. Members of the University community are expected to work effectively with faculty, staff and students from diverse ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

- Available for Academic Year: 2017/2018.
- Fresno State has been recognized as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI); an Asian American/Native American/Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI); and has been designated to the Community Engagement Classification by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.
- Faculty members gain a clear path to tenure through the University's Probationary Plan Process.
- Salary placement depends upon academic preparation and professional experience.
- California State University, Fresno is a vibrant and growing campus. When necessary, the University may decide to make more than one faculty appointment from a single search.

The Middle East Studies Program in the Department of Philosophy, College of Arts & Humanities at California State University, Fresno, seeks applicants for the Edward Said Professorship in Middle East Studies, a tenure-track, academic-year position at the rank of Assistant Professor, starting in the academic year 2017-2018. The successful candidate will be expected to teach courses in Middle East Studies and her or his area of expertise; provide leadership to the interdisciplinary Middle East Studies program; develop and enhance appropriate curricular offerings in Middle East Studies; supervise and assist students; conduct independent research; present public lectures; serve on department, college, and university committees; engage in community service and outreach; and interact and work cooperatively with faculty and staff in the program and college.

Outcomes assessments and service-learning are important components of the university curriculum. The successful candidate may be called upon to teach in a distance education mode and will be encouraged to develop web-enhanced or web-based instruction. The committee welcomes applications from members of diverse populations and those who are interested in and experienced with community engagement.

The Middle East Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, aims to provide a broad intellectual foundation for understanding various aspects of the region. The program offers an interdisciplinary minor in Middle East Studies with language programs in Arabic, Armenian, Hebrew, and Persian. The program draws on a group of faculty from various academic disciplines, including

anthropology, art and art history, economics, ethnomusicology, geography and environmental studies, history, languages and linguistics, literature, media and film studies, philosophy, religious studies, and women's studies.

**Required Education:** An earned doctorate (Ph.D.) in Middle East Studies or related fields in the humanities, such as post-colonial studies, critical theory and cultural studies, comparative literature, anthropology, art history, or philosophy from an accredited institution is required. Applicants nearing completion of the doctorate (ABD) may be considered; however, the doctorate must be completed by the date of appointment (August 2017).

**Required Experience:** 1) Evidence of active scholarship in the candidate's area of expertise with a special focus on Edward Said's intellectual legacy; 2) a well-articulated agenda for future research and scholarly activities; 3) ability to demonstrate a commitment to working effectively with faculty, staff, and students from diverse ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

**Preferred Qualifications:** 1) A demonstrated record of excellence in teaching at the undergraduate level; 2) fluency in one of the languages of the Middle East broadly defined; 3) active role in local, regional, state, national, or international professional organizations.

**Application Procedures:**

Review of applications will begin January 16, 2017 and will continue until the position is filled. Applicants must complete an on-line application at [jobs.csufresno.edu](http://jobs.csufresno.edu) and attach the following: 1) cover letter specifically addressing required and preferred qualifications as well as a vision for the future of the Middle East Studies Program; 2) curriculum vitae; 3) list of three professional references. Finalists will be required to submit: 1) three current letters of recommendation; 2) official transcripts.

For inquiries, contact: Dr. Partow Hooshmandrad, Search Committee Chair, California State University, Fresno, Department of Music, 2380 E. Keats Avenue, MS MB 77, Fresno, CA 93740-8024, Phone: 559.278.7190, E-mail: [phooshmandrad@csufresno.edu](mailto:phooshmandrad@csufresno.edu).

A background check (including criminal records check) must be completed satisfactorily for this position. An offer of employment may be withdrawn or employment may be terminated based upon the results of the background investigation.

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

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# University of Pennsylvania, Perry World House Postdoctoral Fellowship

Early consideration deadline: January 10, 2017

The Global Innovation Program at the University of Pennsylvania's Perry World House invites applications for its postdoctoral fellowship program during the 2017-2018 academic year. The Global Innovation Program is the research arm of Perry World House, the University of Pennsylvania's new university-wide hub for global engagement and interdisciplinary international policy research. Perry World House connects Penn to the international policy world through research, student engagement, and public programming, bringing the university's intellectual resources to bear on the urgent global challenges of the 21st century.

We hope to bring 8 postdoctoral fellows to campus for the 2017-2018 academic year. We are seeking excellent scholars who study global affairs and have interest in interdisciplinary outreach and policy relevance. We are particularly interested in applicants in the following areas:

- The Future of the Global Order: Power, Technology, and Governance
- Global Shifts: Urbanization, Migration, and Demography
- Borders and Boundaries in World Politics
- Identity and Conflict

Qualifications:

- Applications are welcome from scholars who have received their Ph.D. or equivalent degrees in the last two years, or who expect to complete their degree by June 2017.

General Program

Perry World House seeks 4 postdocs related to its two general research themes

- The Future of the Global Order: Power, Technology, and Governance, and
- Global Shifts: Urbanization, Migration, and Demography

Global Order

From Russia's invasion of Ukraine and China's construction of artificial islands in the South China Seas to the global economic and political effects of new technologies and questions of how international institutions will handle diverse questions such as ISIS-driven mass killings, the post-Cold War global order may be at a tipping point. In addition, systemic trends such as globalization and climate change mean that the challenges of today and tomorrow will be global – and require global responses. The role of automated trading algorithms in the 2010 "Flash Crash" in the United States, combined with the specter of drone warfare around the world due and the proliferation of military robotics, highlight how the intersection of technologies such as cyber and robotics presents enormous challenges for global business and diplomatic norms. In a time of change, academic research has the potential to shed significant light on these issues, and highlight new and important approaches for the global policy community.

In this theme area, Perry World House will focus primarily, but not exclusively, on three areas: the implications of emerging technologies for global politics, shifting global power balances and how they influence both state and non-state actors, and the ability of the international community to sustain effective governing institutions in times of change.

### Global Shifts

Urbanization, migration, and demographic changes are transforming the human environment, creating both new challenges and opportunities. The UN High Commission for Refugees said in 2015 that the world faces the highest level of human displacement since its founding in 1950. New and changing migration patterns, whether driven by civil wars, instability due to environmental change, economic hardships, or potential opportunities elsewhere, have depth and nuance that have proven hard to predict – or track. At the same time, over 66% of the world’s population will live in urban spaces by 2050, raising critical questions about urban vitality and sustainability.

Yet, the diverse causes and consequences of urbanization, migration, and demographic change have not been fully understood and are too often examined in isolation. The University of Pennsylvania is poised to contribute to pressing policy debates and to help develop new approaches to these global shifts given the University’s numerous strengths in urban studies, sociology, demography, law, and politics. The Global Innovation Program at Perry World House will bring together Penn’s strengths in these areas through an interconnected examination of urbanization, migration, and demography.

### Requirements and Application Information

Postdoctoral fellows in Global Order and Global Shifts will pursue their own research as well as participate in the intellectual life of the Global Innovation Program and Perry World House. Postdoctoral fellows will be expected to give a presentation during the academic year in the Perry World House Seminar Series, publish policy relevant scholarship related to Perry World House themes, engage with Perry World House’s Undergraduate Student Fellows, and attend regularly scheduled seminars. They will also assist with designing and planning engagement in relevant theme areas. Perry World House will also introduce each postdoctoral fellow to related faculty and leaders of centers and institutes at the University of Pennsylvania.

Applications are welcome from scholars who have received their Ph.D. or equivalent degrees in the last two years (not earlier than 2014), or who expect to complete their degree by June 2017. Applications will be reviewed starting January 10, 2017. To receive full consideration, applications and letters of recommendation should be received by that date.

To apply, please go to: <https://apply.interfolio.com/39455>. Applicants will be asked to complete a short form as well as upload a cover letter, CV/resume, one page research statement, writing sample, and unofficial PhD transcript (only required for current graduate students). We will also ask for the name and email address of a letter writer who can submit a letter of recommendation.

### Borders and Boundaries in World Politics

The Project on Borders and Boundaries in World Politics has two openings for post-doctoral research

fellows for one year, renewable, full-time appointments. Fellows will split their time between their own research and work with a team led by Professor Beth Simmons, Andrea Mitchell University Professor in Law, Political Science, and Business Ethics. The Project is concerned with boundaries between organized human communities, broadly understood. International borders, border regions and border crossings have multiple significance as designations of state authority, security buffers, expressions of social meaning and opportunities for economic integration. Border regions and activities speak to national and local encounters with neighbors and the rest of the world. This project is concerned with how humans demarcate the space between “us” and “them.” It contextualizes border architecture, infrastructure and institutions as expressions of various social, political and economic anxieties associated with globalization. This research team will concern itself with a broad range of questions relating to “bordering” in world politics. Applicants with an interest in territorial politics; migration and movement across borders; development in and across border regions; border crossing regimes, architectures and institutions; transnational migration; transnational crime, human trafficking and law enforcement across borders; and related issues are welcome to apply. Skills in empirical spatial analysis, GIS technologies, mapping technologies, experimental analyses, computerized textual and imaging analyses, and similar technologies are highly desirable, as are computer programming skills and experience using large computer databases and statistical software.

#### Requirements and Application Information

There are no mandatory teaching responsibilities. Postdoctoral fellows will be expected to give a presentation during the academic year in the Perry World House Seminar Series, engage with Perry World House’s Undergraduate Student Fellows, and attend regularly scheduled seminars. Perry World House will also introduce each postdoctoral fellow to related faculty and leaders of centers and institutes at the University of Pennsylvania.

Postdocs will be housed with the Global Innovation Program in Perry World House.

Applications are welcome from scholars who have received their Ph.D. or equivalent degrees in the last two years (not earlier than 2014), or who expect to complete their degree by June 2017. Applications will be reviewed starting January 10, 2017. To receive full consideration, applications and letters of recommendation should be received by that date.

To apply, please go to <https://apply.interfolio.com/39456>. Applicants will be asked to complete a short form as well as upload a cover letter, CV/resume, one page research statement, writing sample, and unofficial PhD transcript (only required for current graduate students). We will also ask for the name and email address of a letter writer who can submit a letter of recommendation.

#### Identity and Conflict

The Program on Identity and Conflict, which is joint with the School of Arts & Sciences, has two openings for postdoctoral research fellows for one-year, renewable, full-time, appointments. Fellows will split their time between their own research and work for a team led by Professor Nicholas Sambanis at Penn’s Department of Political Science. Projects will include, but are not limited to, research on intervention and peacebuilding; the determinants of political radicalization; the effects

of violence exposure on social preferences; the causes of conflict escalation in self-determination movements; and the formation and change of social identities. A variety of methods will be used, including large-N statistical analysis, game-theoretic modeling, field and survey experiments and historical case-studies. Job responsibilities will vary depending on the strengths and interests of the successful applicants, but they will include some combination of assisting with projects undertaken by a research team involving faculty at Penn and other institutions; data collection and management; preliminary data analysis; archival research; and possibly also field work. Successful applicants will have significant training in methods (statistical analysis, survey research, or qualitative methods) and/or modeling. Computer programming skills are highly desirable as is experience using large computer databases and statistical software. All applicants should have excellent organizational skills. Pre-doctoral candidates may also apply, though preference will be given to applicants who will have received their doctorate by the start of the appointment. There is no teaching requirement. Fellows will be expected to give a presentation during the academic year in the Perry World House Seminar Series.

#### Requirements and Application Information

Applications will be reviewed starting January 10, 2017. To receive full consideration, applications and letters of recommendation should be received by that date.

To apply, please go to: <https://apply.interfolio.com/39457>. Applicants will be asked to complete a short form as well as upload a cover letter, CV/resume, one page research statement, writing sample, and unofficial PhD transcript (only required for current graduate students). We will also ask for the name and email address of a letter writer who can submit a letter of recommendation.

#### General Information

All postdoctoral fellow positions pay a stipend of \$50,000 plus relevant fees and health insurance. The position also provides \$1,000 in research support.

Applications will be reviewed starting January 10, 2017. To receive full consideration, applications and letters of recommendation should be received by that date. Applications received after January 10, 2017 may not receive consideration.

If you have questions, please email [postdoc@pwh.upenn.edu](mailto:postdoc@pwh.upenn.edu).

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## PhD Proposals for the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations

Application deadline: 17 February 2016

Eligibility: UK/EU/International students with the required entry requirements

Award Details: Bursary plus tuition fees - UK/EU/International

Duration: Full-Time - 3 years 6 months (Starting September 2017)

Informal enquiries are essential before application; contact Professor Matt Qvortrup to discuss this opportunity.

As an ambitious and innovative University, we're investing an initial £100m into our new research strategy, 'Excellence with Impact'. Through original approaches from world-leading experts, we're aiming for our research to make a tangible difference to the way we live. As a research student you are an integral part of Coventry's lively and diverse research community and contribute to our reputation for excellence. With our exceptional facilities and superb support mechanisms you are afforded every opportunity for academic success.

As part of a continuing programme of expansion of research activity in these areas, Coventry University is offering full-time PhD studentships to well-qualified individuals, to start in September 2017. We welcome applications with proposals for PhD research projects in distinct and cross disciplinary areas related to our current research themes.

These are:

- Communities, Representation and Inclusion
- Faith and Peaceful Relations
- Global Development
- Migration, Displacement and Belonging
- Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation
- Protective Security and Resilience
- Transnational and Maritime Security
- Trust and Workplace Relations

In addition to these broad themes, we would also welcome proposals on the following topics:

- Gender and development or health and development
- Humanitarianism in conflict & disaster
- Transitional justice
- Trust in transitional societies
- Natural resource governance
- Organised crime and the privatisation of security
- **Social movements and democratisation**
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Religious diversity, inter-faith dialogue or intercultural dialogue
- Faith, social policy and social justice
- Religious literacy and education
- Migration and social cohesion
- Trusting individuals and trusting institutions
- Migration and children/young people
- Visual and participatory methods.



We are looking for proposals that challenge existing ideas in these areas and expand current thinking, offering original insights and approaches by undertaking significant and rigorous research. We welcome PhD proposals that link to more than one member of staff's research interests or are in related areas. It is standard practice for supervision teams to consist of three staff members. For further information about potential supervisors interests and expertise, visit CTPSR.

The full-time PhD studentships will cover UK/EU or overseas tuition fee equivalent, and an annual stipend for the duration of the studentship. The fee-only scholarships will cover tuition fee **ONLY**.

#### About the Centre/Department

The Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations has over 60 full-time research staff supported by a team of professional support staff. Our staff are extremely well-connected and are called upon to contribute their expertise on the national and international stage, as advisers to governments and international bodies or at conferences worldwide.

We take a multi-disciplinary approach to our work that brings together creative thinking on concerns of trust and trust repair, peacebuilding, peace and reconciliation and on the contemporary challenges of societal relationships in a diverse and connected world. Our portfolio of excellent and impactful research seeks to change lives and enhance well-being. We convene and contribute to public debates, provide effective policy guidance at local, national, regional and global levels and generate international collaborative research through our global networks.

Successful applicants will have:

- a taught Masters degree in a relevant discipline, involving a dissertation of standard length written in English in the relevant subject area with a minimum of a merit profile: 60% overall module average and a minimum of a 60% dissertation mark
- the potential to engage in innovative research and to complete the PhD within a three-year period of study
- a minimum of English language proficiency (IELTS overall minimum score of 7.0 with a minimum of 6.5 in each component)
- A first or good upper second class undergraduate degree in a related social science or in the humanities and a strong interest in pursuing research in this field.

Application procedure:

Application information can be found in our how to apply section. Academic enquiries may be address to Professor Matt Qvortrup, Head of PhD Programmers. However the Research Admissions team will process your formal application and are the main contact point for all admission and administrative related enquiries.

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

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## **Call for Editor or Co-Editor of the Journal of Middle East Women's Studies'**

Deadline: 1 June 2017

The Association for Middle East Women's Studies (AMEWS) is now accepting applications for an editor or co-editors for the Journal of Middle East Women's Studies (JMEWS) (<http://jmews.org/about/the-journal/>). JMEWS, the official publication of AMEWS, was first published in 2005. As an interdisciplinary journal, JMEWS advances gender, sexuality and women's studies through the contributions of academics, artists and activists from around the globe in the interpretive social sciences and humanities. JMEWS is a venue for region-specific research informed by transnational feminist, gender, and sexuality scholarship on women and gender in the Middle East. JMEWS includes feature articles, book reviews, review essays, dissertation abstracts, and a "Third Space, highlighting the theoretical innovations on gender and sexuality related to the Middle East and its diaspora. JMEWS is published three times annually, and had an acceptance rate of 17% in 2015. Subscription includes membership in AMEWS. Previous editors of JMEWS include Marcia C. Inhorn and Mary Layoun; Marcia C. Inhorn; Nancy Gallagher and Sondra Hale; Marcia Inhorn. Current editors are miriam cooke, Banu Gokarikel and Frances Hasso. JMEWS is published by Duke University Press. The term of office for JMEWS editors is normally four years and will begin on May 1, 2018. Applicants should be prepared to demonstrate institutional support for JMEWS at their home institutions (funds, space, personnel). Duke University Press provides some support as well. The Association for Middle East Women's Studies (<http://amews.org/about-amews/>) was founded in 1985. It is the leading professional association for scholars and individuals with an interest in women and gender studies in the context of the Middle East and beyond, including transnational and diasporic communities around the world. AMEWS is affiliated with the Middle East Studies Association of North America, Inc. and works with academic networks around the world. Membership in AMEWS is open to anyone with an interest in Middle East/Muslim women and gender studies.

JMEWS is indexed/abstracted in the following: EBSCO Current Abstracts, EBSCO Current Citations Express, EBSCO Education Research Complete, EBSCO Education Research Index, European Reference Index for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (ERIH Plus), Feminist Periodicals, Humanities Index, Index Islamicus, Index to Jewish Periodicals, Project Muse, ProQuest Genderwatch, ProQuest Research Library, Sociological Abstracts, Thomson Reuters Current Contents/Social and Behavioral Sciences, Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports/Social Science Edition, Thomson Reuters Social Sciences Citation Index, Wilson Omnifile.

For questions about JMEWS and the application process, contact: Dr. Suad Joseph, [sjoseph@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sjoseph@ucdavis.edu) Applicants for the editor or co-editorship of JMEWS should include the following:

- 1.) CV's of applicant(s)
- 2.) Statement of journal editing philosophy and approach
- 3.) Institutional statement of support – including funding support, staff support, and space
- 4.) Work plan and timetable for the transition of the editorship to the institution of the editor(s).

Kindly send the applications to:

Suad Joseph, Chair, JMEWS Editor Search Committee  
Department of Anthropology  
One Shields Ave, University of California, Davis  
Davis, CA 95616

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