



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

Youth, Change, and Social Agency Conference

April 26-28 2017, Bethlehem, Palestine

Deadline for proposals: January 30th 2017

Young people shape the futures of their society. They envision, plan, challenge practices and present new perspectives. Youth as actors face however many challenges. This international conference will explore how do youth and other actors enhance youth capabilities to pursue the change they envision within a context of social and political repression, sociopolitical instabilities. Further, it will look into ways in which youth emerge as actors and become more influential in policies, and shaping the current and future alternative of their societies; How do youth and other actors sustain their collective action and sense of agency with increase repression in societies; how would they move from the focus on the individual to a focus on a greater commitment despite all the challenges they face. Youth resiliency the experiences of youth and other actors with regards to enhancing youth engagement.

This Bethlehem University, ISA RC34, and RC47 conference will be an opportunity to enhance a mutual learning between scholars in Palestine, Arab countries, and the international community.

We particularly welcome papers on the four axes of the conference:

The main themes to be discussed in the conference are:

- Youth as actors of change, transformation from the individual to the collective commitment
- repression: How to create and sustain a commitment with a context of repression
 - o A sub topic will be with regards to the development of tools and techniques by youth and other actors to face repressions and online repression.
- Youth resiliency and engagement: how to move forward in time of conflict and instability. Engagement as a tool for community rebuilding
- Youth in Palestine: collective action and change intersection of development and liberation

1. Youth as actors of change, transformation from the individual to the collective commitment

Since 2011, young people, participating in movements in the Arab world and USA and across Europe, have proven to be major actors of social and political change, as much the ones that strike mainstream media headlines as those that discreetly transform politics or daily life. They have developed specific forms of commitment and activism that connect individualization with strong social commitments, protests and alternative, online and offline activism. This conference will gather analyses of young people's contributions to socio-political change in the Arab countries and around the world. We particularly welcome analyses of youth cultures of activism, and youth visions of social change.

Transformation from a focus on the individualized self to the common and public good is one of the aspects in which youth, organizations, political parties, and others have tried to develop. Various forms of social and political commitment were developed and promoted by different actors. This ranged from voluntary work to participating in online and offline activism. Currently, in many parts of the world there are two competing spheres in which collective identity and commitment to the public good is emerging and evolving: the formal and informal. In the informal sphere, initiatives are generally youth-led, with young people working on developing their own structures, groups, and cultures for social and political engagement. Within the formal sphere it is organizations, policy makers, and political parties that are constructing interventions concerned with creating opportunities for young people to demonstrate their social and political contribution as active citizens. Both spheres are increasingly affecting the current and future frameworks of young people's lives as they shape youth identities, and cultures, styles and forms of engagement.

2. Repression

Repression is another factor that impact youth ability to form a collective action. Repression affects the willingness to participate in collective action, the forms of engagement. Repression affects the possible available actions to be taken by various actors, and the tools that these actors own and access. Youth and other actors try to manipulate a system of repression- political or social- to push for changes they envision. Yet the risk needed for engagement under repression is high and accordingly decreases the possibilities of engagement and sustaining it. For example, Restriction applied on online engagement is only one example of how surveillance limits the space of young activists; framing the actions to support the local community as civic while under colonization is another approach to avoid risks of being subjects to surveillance. How to enhance Youth participation in collective action during such restrictions varies from one context to another, what are the factors that are encouraging youth to get engaged despite of the risk that they will face is one of the questions that will be tackled by this conference. Another will how do youth and other actors navigate the space available to achieve the change they envision. It will look into the techniques and strategies used by various actors to build a sense of agency and create a sustainable change in a society.

3. Resiliency

Resiliency is another aspect that is vital for engagement, agency, and change especially in societies that lives in conflicts and wars. Social and political engagement is an indicator of resilient youth and their societies. Engaged youth prove to be more able to face pressures in their lives, and arguably possess or develop the social capital that helps them to navigate the personal and positional change they want. In a context like Palestine, engaged youth showed better signs of agency, and more capability to face the challenges resulting from a life under colonization, and within a society with high level of unemployment among youth, and political division that lasted around ten years. Youth resiliency is interlinked with the collective resiliency of their society. . Resilient young people are seen to be able to step forward to build the change they envision: they have access to resources provided by their social network, and they have a strong sense of agency. How do social networks and structures enhance youth resilience and prospectively shape and sustain youth engagement. How do programmes and policies directed towards youth affect youth inclusion within their communities and society, and push the boundaries and spaces available for youth as social actors.

4. Understanding youth in Palestine. Contributions for and from research in Palestine in a global context

In Palestine, where one third of the population is between the ages of 18 and 30 years old, young people's ability to affect the change on policy levels, political parties, and organizations is limited. This is despite a nation's history in which a strong youth movement shaped the resistance movement against the occupation, and formed the current political parties. The youth movement, similar to other collective actions efforts in Palestine, has dissipated as a result of socio-political changes that have shaped the Palestinian society since signing the Oslo Accord twenty years ago. Currently in Palestine young people are now shaping new spaces for their engagement, usually focused on their local community. Still young people participated in a smaller scale in national movements such as BDS, stop the wall, and the teachers' movement.. This situation, although in some respects distinct for Palestine, shares many similarities with other countries in the world.

The conference will take place in Bethlehem University, Bethlehem, Palestine from April 26th to 28th 2017. The conference will be followed with encounters with local actors on April 29th in the cities of Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Hebron. Interested participants will notably meet with organizations that support young people and foster their agency in the three cities. Program to visit organizations working with youth and collective action will be arranged during the conference.

Proposals should be submitted in English or Arabic; abstracts should not exceed 300 words and may be submitted by January 30th 2017 to the following addresses: youthandchange@bethlehem.edu if you have any problems or questions, please contact Abeer Musleh Abeerm@bethlehem.edu, Geoffrey Pleyers Geoffrey.Pleyers@uclouvain.be ; Ani Wierenga wierenga@unimelb.edu.au

More information [here](#)

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CfP - Middle East Law and Governance. An Interdisciplinary Journal

Middle East Law and Governance, an international, peer reviewed journal, invites submissions or proposal for special thematic issues from scholars working on issues of law and governance in the Middle East and North Africa.

MELG is a peer-reviewed venue for scholarly analysis on issues of governance and social change in the Middle East and North Africa region. Filling a gap in the academic literature, MELG tackles with breadth and depth compelling governance issues generally, and in the Middle East specifically. The journal addresses interested readers in academia, government, and the civil society sector. MELG brings a global commitment to path-breaking scholarship and draws on the expertise and leadership of editorial and advisory boards of respected faculty and scholars from around the world.

The journal welcomes research that explores law, society, and/or governance topics, broadly construed. MELG's interdisciplinary approach is meant to attract scholars from a wide range of disciplines (anthropology, economics, history, political science, religious studies, and so on). Though a journal with a regional focus, MELG provides a forum for those interested in governance as a point of intersection or a point of departure in their research. MELG is broad in scope, discussing issues of critical importance to the Middle East without presupposing conceptual, analytic or even geographic boundaries.

More information [here](#)

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Call for papers for a panel for the annual BRISMES conference

Title: TBC

Deadline: 23 January 2016

The onset of World War One in 1914 transformed the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire into a battleground that facilitated the rapid spread of European power across the region. The subsequent collapse of Ottoman power following the end of the war consolidated the hold of European power in the region and inaugurated the rise of new local political dynamics. Accordingly the Egyptian Revolution unfolded in 1919 followed shortly by the Iraqi uprising against the British occupation in 1920, and subsequently by the Great Syrian Revolt against the French occupation between 1925 and 1927. This early postwar period was thus characterized by momentous political changes accompanied by the rise of new patterns of political contestation. As such, this period offers a fertile ground for analyzing the emergence of new political actors and the rise of new patterns of resistance vis-à-vis the spread of European power across the region. Yet the majority of political and diplomatic histories of the Arab world during this pivotal moment at the turn of the century tend to focus on politics through the prism of European diplomats or macro-economic change, with a lack of in-depth focus on the role of local political movements during this critical period. **This panel therefore invites papers which focus either on political movements during this historical juncture, or on the historiographical/ theoretical/ methodological questions raised by the hitherto absence of such movements from mainstream accounts of Arab political history.**

Please send paper abstracts (max. 200 words) to Aula Hariri (a.hariri@lse.ac.uk) by 23 January 2016.

More information [here](#)

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(Un)Making Europe: Capitalism, Solidarities, Subjectivities - 13th Conference of the European Sociological Association

August 29 - September 1, 2017, Athens

Deadline for abstracts: 1 February 2017

(Un)Making Europe: Capitalism, Solidarities, Subjectivities

Europe can be made or unmade, and this is especially true since the 'Great Recession' of 2008. European society, and even the very idea of Europe, is under threat. First, the inherent contradictions of capitalism are obviously stronger than we thought: Greece, where the emphatic idea of "Europe" originated, has experienced severe austerity measures; Europe has seen a deepening of neo-liberal politics, threats to what remains of the welfare state and increasing inequality.

Second, solidarities are fragmented in and between societies across Europe. The new world economic crisis formed a context for both the constitution and the undermining of solidarities. On the one hand, from the Arab Uprisings to the various Occupy and Indignados movements – and their manifestations at the level of political parties – we have seen rebellions by citizens demanding political change. On the other hand, refugees fleeing wars have been denied human rights and their lives have been threatened by the closure of borders and the lack of a coordinated European strategy.

Third, subjectivities are formed that do not only result in resistance and protest, but also in apathy, despair, depression, and anxiety. Authoritarianism, nationalism, racism, xenophobia, right-wing extremism, spirals of violence, and ideological fundamentalisms have proliferated throughout the world, including in Europe.

As a result, the promise of Europe and the geographical, political, and social borders of Europe have been unmade and this 'unmaking' poses a profound challenge for sociology and the social sciences more generally. It is in this context that the European Sociological Association's 2017 Conference takes place in Athens at the epicentre of the European crisis. The underlying question for the conference is: How and where to should a sociology that matters evolve? How can sociology's analyses, theories and methods, across the whole spectrum of ESA's 37 research networks and various countries, be advanced in order to explain and understand capitalism, solidarities and subjectivities in the processes of the making, unmaking and remaking of Europe?

Invited speakers include David Harvey, Margaret Abraham, Gerard Delanty, Donatella della Porta, Silvia Federici, Eva Illouz, Maria Kousis, Hartmut Rosa, Markus Schulz, Yanis Varoufakis, Michel Wieviorka, Ruth Wodak and others. We cordially invite sociologists and social scientists from around the globe to join us in Athens to attend the 13th ESA conference, to participate actively in the discussions, and to contribute presentations of their own work!

More information [here](#)

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Islam in World Affairs: Politics and Paradigms

Call for panel, roundtable and paper proposals for Section 24 of the 11th Pan-European Conference on International Relations, Barcelona (Spain), 13-16 September 2017

Deadline: 10 February 2017

The International Relations and Islamic Studies Research Cohort (Co-IRIS, www.coiris.org) kindly invites those interested to submit panel, roundtable and paper proposals for Section 24 "Islam in World Affairs: Politics and Paradigms" of the 11th Pan-European Conference on International Relations, to be held in Barcelona, Spain, 13-16 September 2017.

Submit your paper, panel and roundtable proposals at <https://goo.gl/j9vyj2>. Deadline is Friday 10 February 2017!

We look forward to receiving submissions that address the role of Islam in world affairs, exploring the empirical experiences and ideational perspectives of the Islamic civilisation on world affairs with regards to statecraft, governance, transnational movements and Islamic State (ISIS, ISIL, Daesh) phenomenon.

We are particularly interested in analyses of concrete historical experiences and Islamic theoretical approaches to the field of International Relations. Most of the researches carried out by students of IR have fallen into two extremes: they have either overlooked Islamic contributions to world affairs and the field of International Relations — and the rich tradition of the Islamic civilisation with regards to international affairs and statecraft— or tried to 'Islamise' the Western tradition of IR. Going beyond these extremes, the aim of the section is to build bridges between IR and Islam by looking into various variables such as theories, empirical experiences and categorical levels of generalisation in international relations.

The overall objective of the section is to both (1) develop a body of knowledge that addresses the theories and practices of the Islamic civilisation and of Muslim societies vis-à-vis international affairs and the discipline of International Relations and (2) set a model for the inclusion of Muslim contributions to the field of IR in order to enrich, diversify and strengthen it.

Section convenors: Raffaele Mauriello, Deina Abdelkader and Nassef Manabilang Adiong
Contact Email: raffaele.mauriello@mac.com

More information [here](#)

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'New Man' in Africa, Asia and the Middle East: Practices, Networks and Mobilization, c. 1910-1960

International Conference, ZMO, Berlin, 27th – 29th September 2017

Deadline: 15 January 2017

The 'New Man', here, is understood to encompass a plethora of theoretical constructs as well as social projects closely linked to aspirations of 'progress', modernity and social utopias (or dystopias) that were characteristic of the end of the nineteenth and the earlier part of the twentieth centuries. It was, however, not a 'Western' idea but can be said to have evolved simultaneously in different regions of the world where people were grappling with their own visions of possible futures. The 'New Man' was the idealized type of personality that could be created by way of a deliberate and planned social process. The (historically overloaded) term 'New Man' was not always explicitly used and had certainly fallen out of fashion by the second half of the twentieth century. We have nevertheless opted to use it for this later period as well since the need for large-scale social engineering and the creation of the right type of citizen remained, and occupied a prominent position in late colonial and post-colonial nation-building projects. The methods, goals and relevant categories were transformed but also exhibit continuities that make a comparative exploration worthwhile.

We assume that the 'New Man' as idea and practice of creating a new kind of being fit for the future was a widely popular if not universal undertaking that accompanied projects of modernisation and national movements alike. We further assume that south-south linkages and regional networks were as important as the exchange with Western Europe, Russia or North America. Anti-colonial movements and new Cold War alliances profoundly shaped and changed practices relating to the 'New Man'. As a conceptual container, which despite appearances often included women and especially children, it was related to concrete projects of societal progress that were typically understood to follow a historical telos. It follows that the supposedly most malleable part of the population – youth – often constituted an ideal target for such social experimentation.

This conference is interested in tracing the emergence and shifts in discourse but more particularly in practices surrounding the idea of creating a different kind of human being. We are equally interested in the continuously evolving and changing temporalities and their historical imagination that brought forth, altered and appropriated the idea of a New Man until such time as it receded into the background or was superseded by other concepts.

Being 'new' also meant to be at the forefront of societal progress and, thus, exposed to selection. The criteria varied according to the historical context as well as to the concrete understanding about how society functions. Since the 'New Man' should bear particular, if often ill-defined, spiritual/ideological, mental/attitudinal and bodily characteristics, concrete projects typically targeted this triangle in combination. These projects often became institutionalized, influential and in high demand in times when nothing was sure anymore and everything seemed possible. The 'New Man' was thought of as a vanguard, a force that was already tamed and, thus, itself a potential taming force for all kinds of deviation from the 'right path' to Progress.

The conference puts an explicit emphasis on reception history (*Wirkungsgeschichte*) and social history. Thus, we are interested in presentations that look at concrete practices of shaping the 'New Man' in Africa, Asia and the Middle East or compare examples from different regions or transfers between them. We seek to explore questions such as: Which kind of south-south or north-south networks disseminated the relevant practical knowledge? Which ruptures and continuities influenced these practices? Was there any reference to earlier ideas (i.e. from the nineteenth century) which became common sense or common practice in the twentieth century? How did the dissemination of sports and other distinctly modern bodily performances contribute to such notions? How did cultural productions, such as arts, literature and architecture, visualise and legitimise specific ideas and practices of creating the 'New Man'?

The conference aims to bring together scholars who are specialized in area studies, global history and historical anthropology. Applicants are requested to send an abstract of 300 words to katrin.bromber@zmo.de by 15th January 2017, along with information concerning their academic affiliation. There are limited funds available to reimburse travel costs and three nights of accommodation.

Participants will ideally address one of the following themes in their presentations:

- Youth movements as the avant-garde: children and young people in projects of social engineering
- A (non-)gendered being? New Women and New Men
- The body as a revolutionary site: physical culture and sports
- Educational initiatives, political training and cadre schools to mold the minds of (Wo)Man
- The 'New Man' builds the nation: development projects and civil society
- The 'New Man' in translocal perspective: knowledge and practice transfer (South-South, and North-South)

Contact Email: katrin.bromber@zmo.de

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Rethinking Agency Beyond, or in Spite of, the State

Call for panel for EISA 13-16 September 2017 - Barcelona

Chairs: Licinia Simão, University of Coimbra; Abel Polese, Dublin City University, Tallinn University of Technology

IR, and political sciences debates at large, have been evolving around the central role of the state in domestic and international affairs. This has resulted in a limited academic exploration of sub-national and trans-national phenomena such as networks, individuals, movements, institutions, enterprises, which have become central to international affairs. There are, in our view a whole variety of forces operating not only alongside, across, beneath and above the state but also in dimensions that exist 'in spite of' or 'beyond' the state. Traditional state concerns have been challenged by transnational

issues, such as the environment, migrations, human rights, religion, and terrorism, among others, prompting a variety of reflections on the transformation of the role of the state, and a variety of other actors that can be considered equally relevant. Many of these challenges have become qualitatively differentiated, demanding the definition and conceptualisation of novel theoretical and methodological approaches for better understanding the variety of actors and their strategies, complementing or competing with a state in the political field.

Our goal of integrating a non-state perspective into Political Science and IR debates has prompted us to construct this section across three main points: the changing nature of power and agency in IR and International Studies; theorising IR and IS beyond the state; conceptualising relevant global political action to contemporary challenges. We are interested in proposals that address, from any perspective, one or more of the points below:

- Agents of power in IR and IS
- Emerging fields of global action
- Economic management structures and non-state actors
- Global arenas of violence
- Individual mobilisation and international action
- Traditional, human and informal security: intersections between traditional and new security actors
- Market vs non market institutions: dynamics, mechanisms and actors providing various kinds of security and social justice
- Informal market institutions and their impact on the local governance processes
- State and non-state actors and their role in redefinition of security and securisation
- Main challenges and threats to individual and collective security in a cross regional and cross country perspective
- Critical security perspectives on the state and non-state actors
- Perspectives and directions in critical political economy
- Interdisciplinary dialogues in IR: benefits and limitations
- Critical conceptualisations of governance
- Economic inequalities and insecurity in the Global North and South

More information [here](#)

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TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

Turkey's Attempted Coup d'État and its Aftermath

10 January 2017, 5:45-7:00 pm

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

Speaker: William Hale

Fortunately, the attempted coup in Turkey of 16-17 July 2016 failed ignominiously, prompting some significant comparisons with previous military interventions in Turkish politics. However, it has also resulted in a massive government crackdown on those held responsible, as well as sections of the legitimate opposition, heightening worries that President Tayyip Erdoğan will further tighten his personal control. This increased internal polarisation comes at a time when Turkey is faced with serious actual or potential external conflicts with the EU, the USA, Russia and its Middle Eastern neighbours. *More information* [here](#)

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Revolution and Authoritarianism in North Africa

16 January 2017, 18:00 – 19:30 GMT

Location: Room 9.04, 9th Floor, Tower 2, 2 Clement's Inn, Mobil Court, London School of Economics

Speaker: Frederic Volpi

Frederic Volpi launches his book, 'Revolution and Authoritarianism in North Africa', in which he challenges dominant approaches to understanding political causality during episodes of intense social mobilisation, specifically with a North African context. Drawing on analyses of routine governance and of 'revolutionary' mobilisation in four countries of the Maghreb -- Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya -- before, during and after the 2011 uprisings, Volpi explains the different trajectories of these uprisings by showing how specific acts of protest created new arenas of contention that provided actors with new rationales, practices and, ultimately, identities. *More information* [here](#)

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Islamist movements in the MENA: Adaptation and divergence

26 January 2017, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Location: Elliott School for International Affairs, Lindner Commons, Room 602, 1957 E St NW, Washington, DC 20052

Panelists: Khalil al-Anani, Monica Marks, Jillian Schwedler, Eva Wegner

Moderated by: Marc Lynch

In the post-Arab uprisings political landscape, Islamist movements across the Middle East and North Africa are adapting in unique ways to face challenges from the evolution of Salafi-jihadist movements to local insurgencies and repression. Some – like Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood under President Sissi – have faced severe domestic and regional repression disrupting their organization, ideology and strategy. Others have found new opportunities, whether in formal politics or as members of military coalitions. These structural changes have produced an intriguingly diverse array of responses at the ideological, strategic and organization level. This panel of top scholars will seek to address timely questions such as: what explains the variation in the ways in which Islamists have adapted to these new challenges and opportunities? To what extent have Islamist parties, movements, members or intellectuals engaged in significant strategic adaptation, ideological rethinking, or internal reorganization? What are the appropriate historical or cross-national comparisons to make sense of the current political moment? *More information* [here](#)

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Inside the Muslim Brotherhood: Religion, Identity, and Politics

30 January 2017, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Location: Lindner Family Commons, Room 602, 1957 E St NE, Washington, DC 20002

Speaker: Dr. Khalil al-Anani

Dr. Khalil al-Anani is an associate professor at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies in Qatar. He previously taught at Johns Hopkins University, Georgetown University, George Washington University, and George Mason University. His research focuses on Comparative Politics, Democratization, Religion and Politics, Islamist Movements, Social Movements, Egyptian Politics, Identity Politics, and Arab Politics. Prof. al-Anani has published several books (in English and Arabic) including, *“Elections and Democratization in the Middle East”* (co-editor, Palgrave MacMillan, 2014), and *“The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt: Gerontocracy Fighting against Time?”* (Cairo: Shorouk Press, 2007), and has published several academic articles in leading journals such as *The Middle East Journal*, *Sociology of Islam*, *Digest of Middle East Studies*. He has also published policy papers and op-ed pieces in leading newspapers including *The Washington Post*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *CNN*, and *Al-Monitor*. *More information* [here](#)

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Hezbollah: The Political Economy of Lebanon’s Party of God

31 January 2017, 5:45-7:00 pm

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

Speaker: Joseph Daher

Chair: Adam Hanieh, SOAS

Talk by Daher to mark the publication of his book *Hezbollah: The Political Economy of Lebanon's Party of God* (Pluto Press, 2016). Where previous books have focused on aspects of the party's identity, the military question or its religious discourse, here Joseph Daher presents an alternative perspective, built upon political economy. Drawing on extensive fieldwork in Lebanon and dozens of interviews, as well as new archival and other primary sources, Daher's analysis confidently positions Hezbollah within socio-economic and political developments in Lebanon and the Middle East. He emphasises Hezbollah's historic ties with its main sponsor, the Islamic Republic of Iran, its media and cultural wings and its relationship with Western economic policies. *More information* [here](#)

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Understanding Protest Environments beyond Opportunity and Threat

02 February 2017, 18:00-20:00

Location: King's College, Council Room (K2.29) King's Building Strand Campus, London

Speaker: Dr John Chalcraft (LSE)

Chair: Dr Maysoun Sukarieh (King's College London)

This lecture aims to develop conceptual understandings of the relationship between mobilization and the political environment. It presents an alternative to conventional social movement theorizing on political opportunity. A political extension of Gramsci's writings on hegemony provides the conceptual framework. Research on movements in the Middle East and North Africa provide the main empirical base. Hegemonic incorporation is understood to be a process whereby established political institutions, procedures and norms win consent among the subordinated members of a given political community. This article identifies and elaborates five incorporation mechanisms: participation, delegation, legitimation, nesting, and co-optation. These mechanisms are enabling conditions for consent and contained contention; they drive forward hegemonic incorporation, thickening and stabilizing hegemonic political structures. When these mechanisms breakdown, disincorporation follows, a process which destabilizes hegemonic structures, and provides enabling conditions for either withdrawal or transgressive mobilization. This analysis aims to get theorists beyond instrumental, static, and deterministic concepts of political opportunity structure, without accepting existing alternatives rooted in culture, attribution, or relationality. These constructionist alternatives do not give political power and structure its due, and they suffer from subjectivism, voluntarism, excessive interactionism, and a too a-structural use of mechanisms. This article aims to open up a new way to understand and research the relationship between the political environment and shifts between transgression, consent, contained contention, and withdrawal. *More information* [here](#)

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After the Revolutions: Arab Memory and Bewilderment

15 February 2017

Location: SOAS, University of London, Alumni Lecture Theatre in the Paul Webley Wing (Senate House), London

Speaker: Hisham Matar

In the BRISMES Annual Lecture, prize-winning Libyan novelist Hisham Matar will offer a literary response to the present, reflecting on the seismic shifts experienced in the Arab region. He will be looking back, as well as casting forward towards shared yearnings for the future, the hopes and fears it engenders, and what this might reveal about the current imagination.

This year's Annual Lecture is held in collaboration with the London Middle East Institute at SOAS and will be followed by a drinks reception. *More information* [here](#)

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

The Arab Spring, Civil Society, and Innovative Activism

Cenap Cakmak (Ed)

2017 - Palgrave Macmillan

This book investigates the role of society groups in the making of the Arab Spring and under which conditions they attained their goals. Democracy and recognition of human rights and fundamental freedoms seem to be the main drives of the people organized in form of civil groups or grassroots movements in the Arab Spring countries; but it is essential to identify when they find it suitable to take such extreme action as taking the streets in an attempt to take down the repressive regimes. It is also important to investigate what methods they relied on in their action and how they challenged the state and the government. A review of the cases in this volume shows that civil society has certain limitations in its action. Analysis of the cases also challenges a commonly held assumption that the Arab world does not have strong and rich civil society tradition. However, for a lasting success and consolidation of democracy, something more than civil society action is obviously needed. A strong organized opposition and a democratic culture seems to be indispensable elements for the evolution of a democratic order and tradition.

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The Movements of Movements: Part 1: What Makes Us Move?

Jai Sen

February 2017 – PM Press

Our world today is not only a world in crisis but also a world in profound movement, with increasingly large numbers of people joining or forming movements: local, national, transnational, and global. The dazzling diversity of ideas and experiences recorded in this collection capture something of the fluidity within campaigns for a more equitable planet. This book, taking internationalism seriously without tired dogmas, provides a bracing window into some of the central ideas to have emerged from within grassroots struggles from 2006 to 2010. The essays here cross borders to look at the politics of caste, class, gender, religion, and indigeneity, and move from the local to the global. Contributors include Taiaiake Alfred, Tariq Ali, Daniel Bensaïd, Hee-Yeon Cho, Ashok Choudhary, Lee Cormie, Jeff Corntassel, Laurence Cox, Guillermo Delgado-P, Andre Drainville, David Featherstone, Christopher Gunderson, Emilie Hayes, François Houtart, Fouad Kalouche, Alex Khasnabish, Xochitl Leyva Solano, Roma Malik, David McNally, Roel Meijer, Eric Mielants, Peter North, Shailja Patel, Emir Sader, Andrea Smith, Anand Teltumbde, James Toth, Virginia Vargas, and Peter Waterman.

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Contemporary Turkey in Conflict: Ethnicity, Islam and Politics

Tahir Abbas

2016 - Edinburgh University Press

New perspectives on ethnic relations, Islam and neoliberalism have emerged in Turkey since the rise of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) in 2002. Placing the period within its historical and contemporary context, Tahir Abbas argues that what it is to be ethnically, religiously and culturally Turkish has been transformed. He explores how issues of political trust, social capital and intolerance towards minorities have characterised Turkey in the early years of the 21st-century. He shows how a radical neoliberal economic and conservative outlook has materialised, leading to a clash over the religious, political and cultural direction of Turkey. These conflicts are defining the future of the nation.

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Hezbollah: The Political Economy of Lebanon's Party of God

Joseph Daher

2016 – Pluto Press

Hezbollah provides a new, grounded analysis of the controversial and misunderstood Lebanese party. Where previous books have focused on aspects of the party's identity, the military question or

its religious discourse, here Joseph Daher presents an alternative perspective, built upon political economy. Drawing on extensive fieldwork in Lebanon and dozens of interviews, as well as new archival and other primary sources, Daher's analysis confidently positions Hezbollah within socio-economic and political developments in Lebanon and the Middle East. He emphasises Hezbollah's historic ties with its main sponsor, the Islamic Republic of Iran, its media and cultural wings and its relationship with Western economic policies. Further chapters examine the party's policies towards workers' struggles and women's issues, and its orientation towards the sectarian Lebanese political system. Hezbollah is a well informed and fresh analysis of a topic which remains central to our understanding of one of the world's most tumultuous and politically unstable regions.

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JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Why did the PKK declare Revolutionary People's War in July 2015?

Şener Aktür
POMEPS Studies Online

On July 11, 2015, KCK, a political umbrella organization for the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), declared an end to the ceasefire with Turkey due to the hydroelectric "dams being built for a military purpose" by the Turkish state (T24 2015). Three days later, Bese Hozat (2015), the co-chair of the KCK, published an op-ed in *Özgür Gündem*, the semiofficial newspaper of the PKK, titled, "The new process is Revolutionary People's War," where she declared the beginning of the PKK's offensive. What followed was the most violent episode of uninterrupted fighting between the PKK and the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) since the 1990s, compounded with frequent suicide bombing attacks that hit civilians in major urban centers such as Istanbul, Ankara, Bitlis, Bursa, Elazığ and Van, among others. The violence between the PKK and TAF that began in July 2015 has been continuing as of this writing in October 2016. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Lost and found, then lost again? The social history of workers and peasants in the modern Middle East

Kyle Anderson
History Compass, Volume 14, Issue 12, December 2016, Pages 582–593

Academic research on the history of the "modern Middle East" in European languages initially emerged in conjunction with efforts to dominate and colonize the region. Yet it was not until the

post-war wave of de-colonization that what we recognize today as “social history” began to emerge in the field of Middle East studies. At the time, structural functionalism set the parameters for the field, with the elite-centric “notables paradigm” providing a durable way for historians to think about the region. This scholarship was soon eclipsed by the “new social history,” which aimed to shed light on the previously neglected lives of provincials, women, workers, peasants, slaves, and others. But the “cultural turn” has served for the past twenty or so years to push back against the impulses that used to motivate social historians. This article provides an overview of these developments, along with suggestions for future research in the field of Middle East studies to re-focus on the lives of workers and peasants. I argue that recent research, informed by theories of performance and a critical geographic approach to institutions and the state–society relationship, overcomes the epistemological critiques embodied in the cultural turn and provides promising new directions for the study of workers and peasants in the modern Middle East.

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NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

Egypt's church bombing and the monsters in Sisi's closet

Amr Khalifa

Middle East Eye, 13 December 2016

It has been more than three years since Egypt’s president Abdel Fatah al-Sisi asked for carte blanche to fight terrorism. Fast forward to 9:50 AM last Sunday and 25 Egyptians, mostly women and children, were murdered by what authorities believed to be a 12 kilogram TNT charge or a suicide belt. The attack, the third in a trilogy that saw the deaths of six policemen in Giza and one civilian in Kafr el-Sheikh, 48 hours earlier, is a devastating indictment of a regime, which stands on the precipice of a long and slippery slope. If the dead could speak, they would say: “You promised us citizenry and all we have found is misery.” *Continue reading [here](#)*

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'Rebel' Saudi Arabia woman who posted photo without head scarf is arrested

The Guardian, 12 December 2016

Saudi police have arrested a young woman who tweeted a picture of herself outdoors without the body-length robes and head scarf that women in the kingdom are required to wear. A woman identified as Malak al-Shehri posted a picture of herself on Twitter in a jacket and multi-colored dress

last month after announcing that she would leave her house without her abaya, a long loose-fitting robe, and headscarf. The tweet caused a backlash with many calling for Shehri – whose first name means angel, which was also her moniker online – to be executed with the hashtag “We demand the arrest of the rebel Angel Shehri.” *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Hunger-striking writer jailed over poem dies in Algeria

Al-Jazeera English, 12 December 2016

A British-Algerian journalist has died after being on hunger strike in protest against his arrest and two-year jail term, which put him in a coma, according to his lawyer. Mohamed Tamalt was convicted in an Algerian court of "defaming a public authority" and "offending" Algeria's President Abdelaziz Bouteflika in a poem he posted on Facebook. "I can confirm the death of the journalist Mohamed Tamalt in Bab el-Oued hospital after a hunger strike of more than three months and a three-month coma," Amine Sidhoum, Tamalt's lawyer, wrote on Facebook on Sunday. Tamalt, 42, died of a lung infection while in a coma. Before his arrest, he ran a blog and was a freelance journalist based in London. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Anger in Egypt after deadly Cairo church blast

Al-Jazeera English, 12 December 2016

Anger is growing in the Egyptian capital after an explosion went off near the city's main Coptic Christian cathedral, killing at least 25 worshippers, many of them women and children. Hundreds of Christians and Muslims protested outside St Mark's Cathedral, Cairo, late on Sunday, hours after the blast destroyed a female worshippers' hall at St Peter's church, which adjoins the cathedral - the seat of Egypt's Orthodox Christian Church. The church's floor was covered in pools of congealed blood and debris from shattered windows, with ball bearings, apparently used as shrapnel inside the bomb, burrowing through furniture and peppering the walls. The angry crowd chanted slogans against President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and called for the dismissal of Magdy Abdel Ghaffar, the interior minister, whom they blamed for the security failure. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Creativity and the Arab Uprisings: A conversation with Marwan Kraidy

Marwan Kraidy
POMEPS Studies Online

On this week's Middle East politics podcast, Marc Lynch has a conversation on creativity and the Arab Uprisings with Marwan M. Kraidy. "I felt paralyzed when the Arab uprising started unfolding. I saw the focus back then on social media to be missing something and I did not know quite what I felt it was missing," said Kraidy. "So I did not write anything. I started thinking about it." Kraidy spent a year in Beirut, traveling the region and collecting items that showed people creatively expressing dissent, like leaflets, media, and taking photos of graffiti. From that research, he wrote his latest book, *The Naked Blogger of Cairo: Creative Insurgency in the Arab World*, which looks at radical and gradual activism in the modern Middle East. "The main argument that I make in the book is that this kind of political creativity is nearly always collective," said Kraidy. *Listen [here](#)*

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Refighting the Past in the Present: Modern Conflicts and the Mobilizing and Contesting of Sacred History

Christopher Anzalone
Maydan, 17 November 2016

The adoption of "sectarian" language and rhetoric by contemporary socio-political movements and particularly armed groups in parts of the wider Muslim-majority world, though they espouse a selectively historicized legitimacy, is a thoroughly modern phenomenon, one which cannot be separated from ongoing political, social, economic, and military conflicts and competitions between rival groups over power and (self)-prestige. By claiming historical and religious authenticity in their struggles, these groups seek to tap into their target audiences' feelings of personal piety, masculinity and the hero complex persecution and oppression, and being under an existential threat. They do this in a bid to increase recruitment and support from the wider community they claim to represent. The given conflict is so severe and historically pre-determined, these groups argue, that the only viable solution is violence. Contemporary opponents are tied to historical villains, portraying modern conflicts as extensions of the past. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Palestinian-Sahrawi Solidarity Trumped by Morocco-Hamas Power Politics, Campaigners Allege

Habibulah Mohamed Lamin

The New Arab, 6 December 2016

Relations between armed and nonviolent resistance groups in Palestine and Western Sahara go back to the mid-1970s. But a new Palestinian solidarity committee with the Sahrawi people has been recently banned in Gaza. Hamas, the ruling party of Gaza, and the ruling Moroccan Justice and Development party, have themselves developed relations throughout the past ten years. This, analysts say, has made it almost impossible for progressive voices to mobilize support in Palestine for an independence movement in Western Sahara, which Morocco invaded in 1975. The Palestinian Committee for Solidarity with the Sahrawi people is now an online platform, where Sahrawi and Palestinian activists share ideas on how to confront the sieges against them. Now the framework of this initiative is based on a Facebook page as a space to attract sympathisers, who are not reachable outside the virtual world under the present circumstances. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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B.D.S. Is Not the Only Tactic Against Israeli Occupation, But It Is Working

Ben White

Middle East Eye, 4 December 2016

This week, the BDS National Committee (BNC) published a round-up of campaigning for boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel during 2016, including a summary of "the most significant indicators of direct and indirect BDS impact in various fields". Introducing the timeline, the BNC noted how progress over the past year has occurred in the face of intensified Israeli state efforts to undermine, attack and sabotage the BDS movement. Despite this, the BNC points out, campaigners have seen successes in activism targeting major multinationals, churches, city councils and student groups, as well as securing the support of the European Union and national governments for the right to boycott (despite Israeli efforts to equate such campaigning with illegitimate hate speech). *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Protests in Western Sahara Against Solar and Wind Plant Construction

Middle East Monitor, 8 November 2016

Protests erupted on November 7 in Western Sahara over the construction of renewable energy plants without the permission of the Sahrawi people. The protests, which took place in the capital

Laayoune, coincided with the United Nation's COP22 conference on climate change yesterday in Marrakech. Siemens and Enel are building solar and wind plants in the region. "Siemens should not back Morocco's occupation of Western Sahara through energy infrastructure," the Western Sahara Resource Watch (WRSW) said on social media. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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A Look at the Other Morocco: From Protests Against Austerity to Occupation of Western Sahara

Democracy Now, 15 November 2016

Late last month, thousands of people took to the streets of Marrakech, Morocco, to protest after a fish seller was crushed to death in a garbage truck trying to retrieve fish confiscated by police. Video circulating online appears to show Mouhcine Fikri jumping into the back of the truck to rescue his swordfish, before being crushed to death by its compactor. The protests in Morocco were called by activists from the February 20 movement, which organized demonstrations during the Arab unrest of 2011. Fikri's death drew parallels to that of Tunisian fruit seller Mohamed Bouazizi in 2010, whose death sparked the Arab Spring uprisings. We speak with Miriyam Aouragh, a Dutch-Moroccan anthropologist and democracy activist based in Britain and lecturer at the University of Westminster in London. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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To Silence Dissidents, Gulf States Are Revoking Their Citizenship

The Economist, 26 November 2016

The Gulf states are increasingly stripping dissidents, and their families, of citizenship, leaving them stateless. The consequences can be severe. Summoned to hand over their ID cards and driving licences, individuals lose not just the perks that come with citizenship of an oil-rich state, such as cushy jobs, but the ability to own a house, a car, a phone or a bank account. Those abroad are barred from returning. Those inside the country cannot leave. The stateless cannot register the birth of a child or legally get married. They may find a sponsor and apply for residents' permits as foreigners, but if refused they are liable to be arrested for overstaying. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Down One Article, the Protest Law Survives

Mostafa Mohie

Mada Masr, 4 December 2016

The Supreme Constitutional Court struck down Article 10 of Egypt's protest law in a decision on December 3, calling the clause unconstitutional and effectively transferring authority over the authorization of demonstrations from the Interior Ministry to the court alone. However, the ruling leaves other clauses of the law intact, quelling expectations that less restrictive legislation may have come to pass. Here is a rundown of the ruling's legal details and the protest law articles that were challenged before the court. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Egypt Protest Law May Be Unconstitutional, But It Is Still in Force

Leena ElDeeb

Middle East Eye, 4 December 2016

Initial reports suggested a change was coming - Egypt's top court had struck down a crucial article of the country's controversial anti-protest law, ruling it "unconstitutional" to make citizens seek permission from the interior ministry to stage demonstrations. The supreme constitutional court said that Egypt's constitution guaranteed freedom of association and the right to peaceful protest. But within hours of the decision being made public on Saturday, reality began to bite: the court had upheld other areas being contested by rights lawyers, including one that criminalizes any gathering that could threaten "public order." As a result the protest law, brought in after Abdel Fatah al-Sisi deposed the Muslim Brotherhood president Mohamed Morsi in 2013, would remain very much in force. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Why Palestinian Camp Is Protesting Lebanese “Wall of Shame”

Lizzie Porter

Middle East Eye, 4 December 2016

The Lebanese army has started building a wall around the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain al-Hilweh. Thousands of the camp residents have protested, calling it the "wall of shame" and the "separation wall," phrases that echo descriptions of the barrier that Israel built around the West Bank in 2000. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Rebel, Rebel: The Protest Songs of Yemen's War

Nasser Al Sakkaf

Middle East Eye, 26 November 2016

When conflict breaks out in any country, there is also a cultural war, a drumbeat to accompany the fighting on the ground. Yemen is no exception, and much of this soft war has taken the form of revolutionary songs. Bilal al-Aghbari is a singer for the Yemeni Popular Resistance, which has been fighting Houthi rebels and their pro-Saleh allies around Taiz. "I participated in the revolution of 2011," he said, "and now I am participating in the cultural war by producing inspiring songs for the fighters." "Artistic resistance is half of the fight, and each person has to make the most of their strengths to resist invaders," said Aghbari. Their purpose, he believes, is to encourage fighters, console the families of martyrs and encourage civilians to be patient. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

PhD Scholarship in the Anthropology of Human Rights and/or Humanitarianism, University of Edinburgh

Deadline: 1 February 2017

This award is for a PhD scholarship on Human Rights and/or Humanitarianism. Applications are invited that will contribute to understanding to the broad field of the anthropology of human rights and/or humanitarianism.

It is expected that the candidate will be registered within the Social Anthropology PhD program, but in exceptional circumstances the candidate may alternatively be registered for the PhD in International Development. The PhD will be supervised by Professor Tobias Kelly.

The scholarship holder is expected to engage in independent research for his/her PhD, and to assist Professor Kelly in research and teaching. The precise details will depend on the qualifications and experience of the successful applicant. On average, the scholarship holder will invest 20% of his/her time on such activities, and 80% on his/her own research.

Each scholarship covers the UK/EU rate of tuition fee as well as a stipend of £14,000. The scholarship will commence in the academic year 2017/18. Subject to satisfactory progress, the scholarship is awarded for three years.

We are looking for someone with an outstanding academic record, with an UG degree and/or MSc in Anthropology, or a related field, and a demonstrated interest in human rights/humanitarianism. We

expect candidates to have earned a 2.1 or higher (or international equivalent) in their previous degree programs.

Applications should contain the following:

- A cover letter of 1 page describing one's research background and expertise.
- A two-page PhD research proposal.
- A CV, including names of 2 referees.
- A sample of writing, preferably a copy of the MA/MSc thesis.
- Transcripts and proof of existing qualifications.

The material should be emailed to the gradschool.sps@ed.ac.uk with the subject line: Human Rights and Humanitarianism PhD Scholarship Application. Academic queries about the scholarship should be sent to Professor Tobias Kelly (toby.kelly@ed.ac.uk).

In addition to applying for the scholarship, candidates must also formally apply and be accepted to the appropriate PhD program at the University of Edinburgh's School of Social and Political Science. The Scholarship is conditional on being accepted into a relevant program.

More information and application [here](#)

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MSc/PhD studentships at University of Edinburgh, Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies

The Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Edinburgh announces ESRC MSc/PhD studentships commencing September, 2017.

We invite applications from those who meet EU/UK eligibility criteria for our various 2+3, 1+3 (One and two-year MSc + PhD) programmes and for our 3-year PhDs.

The deadline for completed submissions/applications is 20 January, 2017.

For further information on our various MSc programmes and the application process, contact Professor Andrew Newman, a.newman@ed.ac.uk

More information and application [here](#)

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Brandeis University - Mellon Sawyer Seminar: 2017-2018

Postdoctoral fellowship

Priority consideration deadline: 15 January 15 2017

The Mellon Sawyer Seminar at Brandeis University invites applications for a one-year postdoctoral fellowship for 2017-2018. The position will hold the title of Mellon-Sawyer Postdoctoral Fellow in Comparative Revolutions with the rank of Lecturer. The theme for this seminar is “Misplaced Dreams and Forgotten Revolutions: Conceptualizing Twentieth Century Revolutions in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Middle East.”

Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the seminar will situate revolutionary movements from Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Middle East in comparative dialogue with one another in order to reconceive revolutionary theories, practices, and programs.

Eligibility:

The fellowship is open to scholars in the humanities and social sciences whose research investigates revolutionary movements in the twentieth century and whose work is interdisciplinary in scope.

Geographical specialization is open.

Preference will be given to scholars working on:

- Revolutions in Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Africa
- Revolutionary movements constituted by diasporic populations connected to Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Africa
- Theories of comparative revolutions applicable to these regions

The fellowship is a one-year residential appointment beginning in the Fall of 2017. The salary will be \$53,000. In addition, \$2000 in funding is available for research, travel, and related expenses. Fringe benefits, including health insurance will be available during the appointment period.

While in residence at Brandeis, the postdoctoral fellow will be responsible for attending and contributing to all seminar meetings and working with graduate students participating in the seminar. The fellow will also teach an undergraduate course on a topic related to their research during their fellowship year.

Applications will be received online at <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/8688>. Please submit a cover letter, CV, a writing sample of no more than thirty pages, and three letters of recommendation.

The committee will start reviewing applications on January 15, 2017 and will continue until the position is filled. All candidates must have received their Ph.D. after June 30, 2013 and must have finished all requirements for the Ph.D. by September 1, 2017.

Brandeis University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer, and we are committed to increasing the diversity of our faculty. We thus strongly encourage members of underrepresented minorities to apply for this postdoctoral fellowship. If you have any questions, contact Greg Childs (gchilds@brandeis.edu) or Naghmeh Sohrabi (sohrabi@brandeis.edu)

More information and application [here](#)

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Yale University - Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies in the Council for Middle East Studies

Priority consideration deadline: 15 January 2017

The Yale Program in Iranian Studies (at the Yale MacMillan Center's Council on Middle East Studies) accepts applications for the newly-established Ehsan Yarshater Fellowship in Iranian and Persian studies for 2017-18 (renewable for one year).

The Post-Doctoral Associate will teach one course during the year, either in the Fall or the Spring semester, pursue his/her own research, and participate in the activities of the Iranian Studies Program and Council on Middle East Studies. Post-doctoral Associates are expected to be in residence from August 2017 to May 2018. Applicants in all fields of humanities and social and political sciences who have recently received their PhDs or are in the early stages of their academic career may apply. Requirements include a viable research project and teaching an undergraduate seminar in the field of specialization.

We will begin accepting applications immediately with review beginning on January 15, 2017 and continuing until the selections are final.

Yale University is an equal opportunity employer. Applications from women, members of minority groups, protected veterans, and persons with disabilities are particularly encouraged. To apply, send a one-page statement, CV, synopsis of your research project, and a draft of a syllabus of a course you propose to teach at Yale. You'll also need to have three letters of recommendation submitted on your behalf.

More information and application [here](#)

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American University in Cairo - Assistant or Associate Professor in International Relations

Priority consideration deadline: 23 December 2017

The Department of Political Science invites applications for a fixed term 1 year contract position, renewable, in international relations at the Assistant or Associate Professor level beginning in Fall 2017. Applicants should have a research and teaching specialization in international relations and security studies. Teaching responsibilities will include a combination of courses on theories of international relations, contemporary foreign policies, international organization, and security studies. This position will involve teaching at the BA and MA level within the Department of Political

Science. The search committee is eager to review applications of individuals with demonstrated excellence in teaching, and an interest in living and working in the Middle East.

Requirements:

PhD is required at time of appointment. Successful candidates should have an ongoing program of research and publication. Teaching experience is preferred. Responsibilities include undergraduate as well as graduate teaching, an active program of research and publications, and service to the Department and the University.

Additional Information:

Priority will be given to applications received by December 23, 2016. Position is open until filled.

Application Instructions:

All applicants must submit the following documents online:

a) a current CV; b) a letter of interest; c) a statement of teaching philosophy; d) a completed AUC Personnel Information Form (PIF); e) a copy of a recently published article or manuscript chapter in progress. f) Please ask three referees familiar with your professional background to send reference letters directly to gehanwm@aucegypt.edu.

For more information, e-mail Dr. Ibrahim Elnur, Chair, (ielnur@aucegypt.edu; Ms. Gehan Wissa, Executive Assistant to the Chair, (gehanwm@aucegypt.edu) or visit the department's website at <http://www.aucegypt.edu/huss/pols/pages/default.aspx>

More information and application [here](#)

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TransSOL Summer School “Solidarity Beyond Borders”

3-9 July 2017, Warsaw University, main campus (city centre), Collegium Iuridicum III WPiA UW
Oboźna 6 street, r. 102, Warsaw, Poland

Application deadline: 15 January 2017

Notification of outcomes and awarded grants: 15 February 2017

Summer school “Solidarity beyond borders” is a 7-day course encompassing various theoretical and methodological aspects of transnational solidarity. It will address such topics as: the legal basis of solidarity within the EU, network analysis on solidarity, research on Transnational Alternative Organisations, solidarity in public discourse, and more. Participants — PhD and advanced MA students — will have a unique opportunity to take part in seminars and workshops provided by leading European scholars working on solidarity issues. Students will also be offered comments and discussion on their own papers related to transnational solidarity. 4 ECTS points, a “transcript of record” and a certificate of attendance will be granted to participants.

Summer school is open to PhD and advanced MA students from all over the world studying political science, sociology, economics, media, geography, anthropology, education, etc. Candidates are requested to fill out the application form and send a 300-word abstract of their own scientific paper on solidarity-related issues. Papers addressing the topic of EU transnational solidarity are particularly welcome. The 20 who are accepted are required to submit a full paper by 10 June 2017. Applications, including the article abstract, should be sent to: transsol@uw.edu.pl by 15 January 2017. Good command of English is required.

Successful candidates will be required to read the assigned literature and actively take part in workshops. Summer school is free of charge. No accommodation costs are covered, but 4 accommodation grants will be funded.

More information and application [here](#)

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Pears Foundation PhD Scholarships at the Middle East and North Africa Centre at the University of Sussex (2017)

Deadline: 26 January 2017

The Middle East and North Africa Centre at the University of Sussex offers three PhD scholarships (fully funded for three years) available from September 2017, made possible by the generous support of the Pears Foundation. The scholarships are tenable for 3 years, with the possibility of extension for one further year. The scholarship covers UK/EU or International fees and provides a stipend that matches that provided for UK doctoral students by the UK Research Council.

The doctoral project proposed must fall 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. Students must be accepted into a PhD course in the humanities or social sciences, which include the following schools:

- English
- History, Art History and Philosophy
- Media, Film and Music
- Business, Management and Economics
- Education and Social Work
- Global Studies
- Institute of Development Studies
- Law, Politics and Sociology

The successful candidate will have an outstanding academic background, including the methodological training and/or language skills necessary to start their research project. Applicants must be able to commence their PhD in September 2017.

Application procedure

Applicants will need to complete TWO applications in order to be considered for a scholarship:

1. Applicants must apply online for a PhD at Sussex.
2. Applicants must complete a separate application for the scholarship using the Pears Foundation Scholarship application form. This application will be assessed by a panel made up of faculty members of the university.

Timetable

Thursday, 26th January 2017 - Deadline to apply for a PhD at Sussex

Thursday, 9th February 2017 - Deadline to apply for the scholarship

Contact details

For an informal discussion to find out more about the scholarships, please contact MENACS Director Dr Hilary Kalmbach via email at h.kalmbach@sussex.ac.uk.

Questions regarding the submission or status of your application can be directed to Paige Thompson at Paige.Thompson@sussex.ac.uk.

More information and application [here](#)

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