



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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CONTENT

Call for Papers & Conferences	4
"Hegemonic Boundaries and Asymmetric Power in the Gulf"	4
Politics, Religion & Ideology – Special Issue	5
MENA Political Science Conference	6
Call for Submissions: The Canadian Journal for Middle East Studies.....	7
Dialectical Anthropology Special Section - Nationalisms and the Middle East.....	8
Talks & Other Events	10
‘This is our Call of Duty’: Ideology, History and Resistant Videogames in the Middle East.....	10
African Revolutions: From the streets to the written word.....	10
Democratic Transitions in the Arab World.....	11
‘Truth for Giulio Regeni!’ Transnational Activism and Human Rights Violations in Egypt.....	11
Putting Gender at the Centre: The Feminist Turn in the Kurdish Political Movement	12
Starting the Revolution from a Different Place: Art, Protest and Diplomacy in the Arab World.....	12
Recent & Forthcoming Books	13
The Last Ottoman Generation and the Making of the Modern Middle East	13
Transnationalism in Iranian Political Thought - The Life and Times of Ahmad Fardid.....	13
Qur'an of the Oppressed - Liberation Theology and Gender Justice in Islam.....	14
Soundtrack of the Revolution - The Politics of Music in Iran	14
Salafism After the Arab Awakening - Contending with People's Power	15
Circuits of Faith - Migration, Education, and the Wahhabi Mission	15
Journal Articles & other Academic Publications	16
Narratives of Fear in Syria	16
Rejecting resettlement: the case of the Palestinians.....	16
News Pieces & Commentary	17
Egypt: Order to Shut Clinic for Torture Victims.....	17
Jordanian activists released after spy agency crackdown.....	17
Protesting the Modern Language Association's Anti-Boycott Resolution	18
On Punishability – Researching in Egypt after Regeni.....	18
Residents of Bedouin village protest government's forced relocation plan	18
Did Egypt’s January Revolution Die?	19
The Arab Spring Six Years On	19
Egyptian Differences and the Anniversary of the January Revolution.....	19
Thousands of Palestinians and Israelis protest home demolitions	20

How Tunisia survived its own revolution – and the questions that remain.....	20
Gaza’s Electricity Protests Are Bold Sign of Dissent	21
The Modern Language Association and the 2017 Vote on the Academic Boycott of Israel	21
Israel Able to Detail Former Hunger Strikers Due to International Silence	21
17 people arrested on sixth anniversary of January 25 revolution.....	22
Bahrain executions spark violent protests	22
Palestinian citizens go on strike to protest home demolitions	23
Israeli Army Jails Two Conscientious Objectors for Fourth Time	23
Soldiers Use Force on Non-Violent Protest Against Illegal West Bank Outposts.....	23
Positions and Opportunities	24
Clemson University - Visiting Lecturer in International Relations and Comparative Politics.....	24
Lectureship in Middle Eastern Studies, Leiden Institute for Area Studies	24
Projects Assistant & BRISMES Conference Assistant, LSE Middle East Centre	26
Student Assistant, WZB Berlin.....	27

CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

"Hegemonic Boundaries and Asymmetric Power in the Gulf"

10 to 11 July 2017, Exeter, UK

Deadline: 1 April 2017

In recent decades, scholarship on the Middle East has benefited from a dynamic approach to the relationship between identities and boundaries. The post-structural turn encouraged us to think beyond bounded communities to reveal the interconnections, exchanges and forms of relationality that cross and contest perceived cultural and national boundaries. More recently, the Arab revolutions brought our attention to discourses of liberation throughout the region along with collective challenges to hegemonic power and hopes for new moral communities. While paying heed to the ways in which boundaries are being transgressed and disintegrated, this conference alternatively asks how boundaries have been actively constructed and constituted throughout the Gulf region (Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Iraq) in the production of social, ethnic, linguistic, religious, political and even ontological distinctions. While communities and flows of people regularly transcend enforced and imagined boundaries, the active and conscious formation and maintenance of such boundaries remains a felt social reality. Throughout the region, 2016 has been a year of creating and reproducing hegemonic boundaries as much as it has been one of transgression and mass movement. We ask what role boundaries have played in the formation of identities, distinctions and hierarchies in the Gulf, past and present. What can a renewed focus on boundaries tell us about the use and abuse of power in the region? We invite participants from across various disciplines to critically engage with the concept of the boundary, raising questions as to its materiality and/or immateriality:

- How do boundaries and identities inform one another? Must the term boundary imply a binary distinction between inside/outside, known/other, citizen/alien? How does boundary-making relate to the distribution of social and economic capital, privilege and rights?
- What is the relationship between boundary and the imagination in the construction of difference and the flow of power? What are the conscious and/or unconscious practices and actions through which boundaries are made? What forces create hegemonic boundaries? How are they enacted, embodied or performed?
- How are racial, ethnic, and gender boundaries valorized by institutions such as the state or the 'mosque/matam'. How do different groups actively engage in boundary-making, marking and unmarking their identity, excluding others or refusing exclusivity?
- Is the role of colonialism or imperialism overstated in the construction of boundaries? Does this discourse strip local actors of their agency? Are there other forms of colonialism or imperialism at work?

Possible topics for papers include:

- Gender, sex and identity
- Race, ethnicity, purity, eugenics, biopower, anti-miscegenation
- Class and alienation
- Religious studies

- Public sphere, political participation and citizenship
- Temporal boundaries, age and 'youth'
- Family, household and nation
- Moral communities
- Religion, sectarianism , Sunni - Shi'i counter - distinctions and dialectics
- Rural and urban ● Tribes and states ● Resource management
- Nationalism, citizenship, territory, sovereignty
- **Revolutionary and activist movements**
- Othering practices and discourses
- Liminality, liminal spaces
- Legal issues and justice
- Immigration, movement and belonging
- Technology, social media, surveillance
- Urban sociology, space and architecture
- Archaeology, materiality, cartography and heritage
- Political economy

The proceedings of the conference will be published in an edited volume by a leading academic press. Interested parties are asked to submit paper proposals (abstracts of 300 - 500 words), as well as a full CV including affiliation and contact details, before 1 st April 2017 to gulfconference@exeter.ac.uk . Candidates whose abstracts are accepted will be notified by 1st May.

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Politics, Religion & Ideology – Special Issue

For nearly two decades, *Politics, Religion & Ideology* has provided the leading international forum for the scholarly exploration of the politics of illiberal ideologies, both religious and secular. The journal is multi-disciplinary, cutting-edge and truly international in scope, having to date received submissions from authors located in over 30 different countries.

The journal publishes critical analyses of theory and international case studies pertaining to:

- The historic and ongoing interaction between religion and politics.
- The impact of religious radicalism on public policy, political attitudes and decision-making.
- The contemporary politics of religious revival in Europe, North and South America, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.
- The historical and contemporary politics of secular 'totalising' movements, such as fascism, Nazism, Stalinism, Maoism, and Ba'athism.
- Conflicts between illiberal ideologies (both religious and secular) and their opponents.
- Constructions of the sacred and the secular in political religions and other political ideologies.
- Publicly enforced (ir)religion and dissent.

- Class, gender and race in the context of political religions and religious politics.
- Memory, memory culture and the politics of memory in the context of totalitarianism and radical ideologies.

Committed to methodological and empirical eclecticism, *Politics, Religion & Ideology* continues to bring together leading academics and younger researchers engaged in exploring the above thematic. Directed to historians, social scientists, and policy analysts alike, the journal promotes original scholarship that demonstrates an acute awareness of the conceptual and methodological problems raised by the study of social phenomena, such as radicalism and political violence. The journal invites contributions that map common areas between different subject areas, revises conventional definitions of key concepts and, where appropriate, applies non-Eurocentric perspectives to political events, political ideas and political actors.

Periodically, *Politics, Religion & Ideology* allocates thematic Special Issues to leading international academics who have expressed an interest in acting as Guest Editor for a solicited collection of essays. Please note Special Issues contents undergoes blind peer review and unrevised conference proceedings are not accepted. Please direct expressions of interest to the Editor-in-Chief: pri.editor@keele.ac.uk

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

MENA Political Science Conference

Tunis, 25-27 July 2017

Application deadline: 19 March 2017

POMEPS and the American Political Science Association's (APSA) MENA Programs are pleased to announce a Call for Proposals for scholars interested in the upcoming MENA Political Science Research and Publication Conference. This three-day program offers a unique opportunity to share and receive critical feedback on research manuscripts, network with colleagues from across the MENA region, and contribute to a range of forthcoming publications.

Organized in partnership with the Center for Maghreb Studies in Tunis (CEMAT), the conference will be held in Tunis from July 25-27, 2017. Up to 50 scholars will be invited to attend, including up to 30 alumni of the APSA MENA Workshops program, with support from Carnegie Corporation of New York. Organizers will cover the cost of airfare and hotel accommodation for all invited scholars. The working language of the conference is English.

The conference is targeted at Ph.D. students and early-career faculty based at institutions in the Middle East and North Africa. Scholars based outside the MENA region are also welcome. The program is open to those undertaking Middle East political science research across a range of contemporary topics, including:

- State – Society relations
- Democratization
- Elections and Electoral Laws
- Political Institutions
- Political violence and extremism
- Political Economy
- Citizenship, Migration, and Refugees
- Middle East International Relations
- Civil Society and Civic Engagement
- Sectarianism and Ethnic Conflict

Invited scholars will be expected to prepare an original, solo-authored, high-quality research manuscript which, during the conference, will be shared in small working groups for discussion and critical feedback. Key leaders in thematic fields will be invited as discussants and plenary speakers. Following the conference, select attendees will be invited to contribute a revised version of their research for inclusion in a variety of potential publications, including special issues, symposia, policy briefs, collected essays, and other collaborative publications.

The deadline for proposals is Sunday, March 19, 2017. Proposals must be in English and include:

- The online application form.
- A detailed, recent Curriculum Vitae/resume.
- A 500-word abstract summarizing the work-in-progress you intend to develop and share for feedback at the conference. The abstract should outline the main theme of the paper, its methodology, and the data/fieldwork on which it is based. Submissions should not be an excerpt from an already completed work or one that has already been accepted for publication. Research submissions may be derived from an ongoing dissertation project but should function as a stand-alone piece.
- A brief statement describing where you are in your career and how the submission relates to your research interests and broader research agenda.

Successful applicants will be notified in early April and a mandatory deadline for revised manuscripts will be set for late June. For more information, contact menaworkshops@apsanet.org

More information [here](#)

[**Back to top**](#)

Call for Submissions: The Canadian Journal for Middle East Studies

Deadline: 30 March 2017

This Journal is published two times a year and is currently under the editorship of Dr. Gahad Hamed of the University Western Ontario. It contains academic research articles, book reviews and a

bibliographical section. All Middle Eastern academics and experts are invited to contribute to the Journal.

Proposed articles should be submitted online. For author guidelines please check IMESC website and the Journal Website. Books for review in the Journal should be sent to: Dr. Abdalhadi Alijla Institute for Middle East Studies, Canada

The subject areas include, but are not limited to the following fields:

- The Arab Spring
- Government Studies
- Political Sociology of the Middle East
- Culture in the Middle East
- Public Policy in the Middle East
- Arab-Israeli conflict
- Iran-Arabs relations
- Canadian/Arab World relations
- US-Arab World relations
- EU-Arab World relations
- Political Economy of the Middle East
- Religions of the Middle East
- History of the Middle East
- Social Policy
- Arab society and Middle Eastern Studies
- Democracy and democratization process in the Middle East
- Minority Groups, Race and Ethnicity in the ME
- Peace and Conflict Studies
- Citizenship and Civil Society
- Women in the Middle East

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Dialectical Anthropology Special Section - Nationalisms and the Middle East

Deadline: 6 March 2017

As an idea, nationalism arrived late to the Middle East, gaining momentum only with the Ottoman Empire's slow decline in the early twentieth century. Grafted onto the multiethnic and multireligious social fabrics of the Ottoman Empire, with the aim of consolidating the multitude of identities into a single unitary one, nationalism, in the countries of this region has been manifested in multiple forms. Zionism, which was initially external to the region, emerged in response to a long history of anti-Semitism in Europe. Arab nationalism (despite emerging in the early 20th century during the crumbling days of the Ottoman Empire) only solidified after the Second World War during

decolonization. Arab nationalism evolved in response to contradictory experiences including territorial identities, pan-Arabism and colonial experience. In Turkey and Iran, nationalisms emerged as a response to their own imperial pasts, in the absence of the experience of colonialism. Notwithstanding these differences, however, in all of these cases, early nationalisms in the Middle East provided the ideological background for modernization. As the driving force of modernization, nationalism was operationalized by governing elites to silence and homogenize diverse experiences of class, gender, ethnic and religious differences in different parts of the Middle East. A nationalist surge, which started in the region at the dawn of the 20th century, is now in the early part of the 21st century, in crisis throughout the Middle East. National identities, once imposed by regimes in Arabic speaking countries, have become fragmented along ethnic, religious, linguistic and also class lines. Turkish nationalism, which attempted to create a singular identity out of the heterogeneous populations of the Ottoman Empire, is now unable to project a unified image. It is largely incapable of mediating competing claims between Kurdish, urban secular and religious/conservative segments of the population. The delicate balance between religious and secular Jewish identities that was kept in place by modern Zionism is also under increasing stress, as the religious right has increasingly refused to accept traditional Zionism's secular outlook.

This special issue will reflect on the current state of nationalisms in the Middle East and invites papers that focus on but are not limited to the following topics for specific countries in the Middle East including Balkans:

- _The rise of political Islam and declining national identities
- _The impact of the neoliberal transformation of the region on national regimes
- _Shifting ethnic, class and cultural identities in relation to national narratives
- _Gender and national transformations
- _The breakdown of national borders and new geopolitical realities

The full manuscript should be approximately 7,000 words including notes and bibliography. Please indicate your interest by submitting an abstract with title by email to:

Guest editor:

Feyzi Baban

International Development Studies

Trent University

Peterborough, Canada

fbaban@trentu.ca

Important Dates:

Abstract: March 6, 2017

Full Version: - June 1, 2017

[Back to top](#)

TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

‘This is our Call of Duty’: Ideology, History and Resistant Videogames in the Middle East

22 February 2017, 18:00-19:30

Venue: Room 9.04, Tower 2, LSE, London

Speaker: Dima Saber

In recent years, non-state actors in the Middle East have engaged a new generation of activists through a variety of media strategies. Notable amongst these have been a series of videogame interventions, which have appropriated Western game products to convey specific political and religious messages through the inversion or complication of the roles of hero and enemy. Dima Saber explores a selection of such media, produced by or in support of two prominent non-state groups, Hezbollah and Islamic State, arguing that while these video games challenge prevailing(re)presentations of the Middle East and the ‘War on Terror’, they remove or reduce agency to the extent that those who engage with these representations can only witness these challenges, rather than instigate their own. *More information* [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

African Revolutions: From the streets to the written word

25 February 2017, 15:00-16:30

Venue: Wolfson Theatre, NAB, LSE, London

Speakers: Samar Samir Mezghanni, Nii Ayikwei Parkes, Yasmine El Rashidi

The Arab Spring was a revolutionary wave of demonstrations, protests, riots and civil wars that began on 17 December 2010 and dominated the news for most of 2011. In the five years since the people of Tunisia and other countries took to the streets to protest against their governments, a number of writers have shifted away from realism and turned to science fiction to describe the grim political realities faced by the region’s citizens. Although dystopian themes are not entirely new in Arabic fiction, these have become much more prominent in recent years as it gives writers the room to express the sense of despair they feel in the face of cyclical violence and repression. In addition, the futuristic settings gives the writers the freedom to cover political ideas without being labelled opposers of the state. This event explores the literary trajectory in North Africa since the Arab Spring from the initial outburst of optimism to grim dystopian narratives, from the more traditional literary form of poetry in the region to writers experimenting with other literary forms. It will also examine the impact of political realities in the fiction from sub-Saharan countries and how it compares to what has emerged in North Africa since the Arab Spring of 2011. *More information* [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Democratic Transitions in the Arab World

27 February 2017, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

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

Panel Members: Samir Makdisi (American University of Beirut), Ibrahim El-Badawi (The Economic Research Forum for the Arab World, Iran & Turkey), Noha El-Mikawy (Ford Foundation)

Panel discussion to mark the publication of *Democratic Transitions in the Arab World* (Cambridge University Press, 2017), edited by Ibrahim Elbadawi and Samir Makdisi with contributions by several scholars residing in and outside the region.

The panel will address the dynamics of transition in the Arab world and the conditions for its success, as revealed by the experiences of select Arab countries including Egypt and Tunisia. The factors underlying the Arab region's long resistance to democracy, those underlying the uprisings of 2011 and the subsequent mounting resistance to democratic change will be analysed. Of course the Arab region's resistance to democracy is not unique or specific, and can be ascribed to the same elements that to varying degrees, have helped maintain different forms of autocracy in the Arab world eg. conflicts, abundant oil resources, neighbourhood effects and external interventions by both regional and international powers. The panel will go on to look at the prospects for democratic transition in the Arab world in light of the experiences of other regions that have forged ahead along the path to democracy, though often with hesitancy and the bearing of heavy transitional social and economic burdens. Despite their tragic costs, the violent discourses currently engulfing the Arab world may eventually become the most effective educators of both the elites and the people of the Arab region. *More information [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

'Truth for Giulio Regeni!' Transnational Activism and Human Rights Violations in Egypt

2 March 2017, 18:00-20:00

Venue: Room 5.02, Clement House, LSE, London

Speakers: Sherif Azer, York University; John Chalcraft, LSE; Shane Enright, Amnesty International; Liesbeth Ten Ham, Amnesty International

It is just over a year since the mutilated corpse of Giulio Regeni, the Cambridge University doctoral student, was found by a roadside on the outskirts of Cairo, Egypt. A transnational campaign has since demanded Truth for Giulio / Verità per Giulio, and drawn international attention to forced disappearances and extensive violations of human and citizenship rights in Egypt. Giulio's killers, most likely members of Egypt's security services, have not yet been brought to justice. This panel brings together key activists with leading social movement academics to discuss the case at one year. What happened to Giulio Regeni? What sorts of EU, Italian and UK complicity in Egyptian human rights violations have come to light? How can issues around rights and citizenship in Egypt be internationalized? What has campaigning achieved so far, and what are its prospects? What activist

strategies have been, or might be effective? The panel raises wider questions about transnational rights activism in a world of globalized governance. *More information* [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Putting Gender at the Centre: The Feminist Turn in the Kurdish Political Movement

7 March 2017, 17:15-19:15

Venue: Room 9.04, Tower 2, LSE, London

Speakers: Nadjé Al-Ali, SOAS; Latif Tas, SOAS

Horizontal organising within social movements is not necessarily sensitive to gender-based and other intersectional forms of inequalities and hierarchies. Nadjé Al-Ali and Latif Tas present their paper on 'the Feminist Turn in the Kurdish Political Movement', in which they critically explore the attempts by political activists and elected representatives of the Kurdish political movement in south-eastern Turkey (northern Kurdistan) to challenge patriarchal and masculinist ideology and practises. Based on 2 years of multi-sited fieldwork in Diyarbakir, Istanbul, Berlin and London, their paper sheds lights on the dialectic processes through which the Kurdish political movement is engaging in the translation of its political principles of democratic confederalism and gender equality. Many of their respondents, especially many female and male Kurdish political leaders, have been victims of the recent government's crack down on both the leftist and Kurdish opposition, a context in which a pursuit of gender-based equality might be particularly challenging. *More information* [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Starting the Revolution from a Different Place: Art, Protest and Diplomacy in the Arab World

8 March 2017, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Venue: McKinney Conference Room, Brown University, 111 Thayer Street, Providence, RI USA

Speaker: Hanan Toukan

This talk is about the relationship between contemporary art, dissent, cultural diplomacy and cultural politics in the Arab Middle East. Since the start of the Arab revolutionary process and the violence that has accompanied it, the culture and arts domain has come to play an ever more crucial role as mobilizer, witness and archivist of historical events. As a result the domain has enjoyed an exponential growth in the technical and financial support it receives from US and EU funding bodies. This growth has provoked intense debates within policy circles and a plethora of academic literature on what the role of visual and cultural practices are and should be in violent warfare, political change and the study of politics and culture in the region. The talk will historicize and contextualize this phenomenon as its focus predates 2011 and grapples with it from its first appearance in the 1990s and until its consolidation in the aftermath of 9/11. Specifically the talk examines the ways in

which transnational circuits of visual cultural production are related to how society makes, sees and experiences the political in art and its relevance to the wider publics in Jordan, Lebanon and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The talk addresses prevalent debates about the nature of the political in art as well as the role of art and the intellectual in political change. *More information* [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

The Last Ottoman Generation and the Making of the Modern Middle East

Michael Provence

May 2017 – Cambridge University Press

The modern Middle East emerged out of the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, when Britain and France partitioned the Ottoman Arab lands into several new colonial states. The following period was a charged and transformative time of unrest. Insurgent leaders, trained in Ottoman military tactics and with everything to lose from the fall of the Empire, challenged the mandatory powers in a number of armed revolts. This is a study of this crucial period in Middle Eastern history, tracing the period through popular political movements and the experience of colonial rule. In doing so, Provence emphasises the continuity between the late Ottoman and Colonial era, explaining how national identities emerged, and how the seeds were sown for many of the conflicts which have defined the Middle East in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. This is a valuable read for students of Middle Eastern history and politics.

[Back to top](#)

Transnationalism in Iranian Political Thought - The Life and Times of Ahmad Fardid

Ali Mirsepassi

February 2017 – Cambridge University Press

During the Iranian Revolution of 1978/9, the influence of public intellectuals was widespread. Many espoused a vision of Iran freed from the influences of 'Westtoxification', inspired by Heideggerian concepts of anti-Western nativism. By following the intellectual journey of the Iranian philosopher Ahmad Fardid, Ali Mirsepassi offers in this book an account of the rise of political Islam in modern Iran. Through his controversial persona and numerous public and private appearances before, during and particularly after the Revolution, Fardid popularised an Islamist vision militantly hostile to the

modern world that remains a fundamental part of the political philosophy of the Islamic Republic to this day. By also bringing elements of Fardid's post-revolutionary thought, as well as a critical analysis of Foucault's writings on 'the politics of spirituality', Mirsepassi offers an essential read for all those studying the evolution of political thought and philosophy in modern Iran and beyond.

[Back to top](#)

Qur'an of the Oppressed - Liberation Theology and Gender Justice in Islam

Shadaab Rahemtulla

February 2017 – Oxford University Press

This study analyses the commentaries of four Muslim intellectuals who have turned to scripture as a liberating text to confront an array of problems, from patriarchy, racism, and empire to poverty and interreligious communal violence. Shadaab Rahemtulla considers the exegeses of the South African Farid Esack (b. 1956), the Indian Asghar Ali Engineer (1939-2013), the African American Amina Wadud (b. 1952), and the Pakistani American Asma Barlas (b. 1950). Rahemtulla examines how these intellectuals have been able to expound this seventh-century Arabian text in a socially liberating way, addressing their own lived realities of oppression, and thus contexts that are worlds removed from that of the text's immediate audience. Through a close reading of their works, he underlines the importance of both the ethico-social content of the Qur'an and their usage of new and innovative reading practices. This work provides a rich analysis of the thought-ways of specific Muslim intellectuals, thereby substantiating a broadly framed school of thought. Rahemtulla draws out their specific and general importance without displaying an uncritical sympathy. He sheds light on the impact of modern exegetical commentary which is more self-consciously concerned with historical context and present realities. In a mutually reinforcing way, this work thus illuminates both the role of agency and hermeneutical approaches in modern Islamic thought.

[Back to top](#)

Soundtrack of the Revolution - The Politics of Music in Iran

Nahid Siamdoust

2017 - Stanford University Press

Music was one of the first casualties of the Iranian Revolution. It was banned in 1979, but it quickly crept back into Iranian culture and politics. The state made use of music for its propaganda during the Iran–Iraq war. Over time music provided an important political space where artists and audiences could engage in social and political debate. Now, more than thirty-five years on, both the children of the revolution and their music have come of age. *Soundtrack of the Revolution* offers a striking account of Iranian culture, politics, and social change to provide an alternative history of the Islamic Republic. Drawing on over five years of research in Iran, including during the 2009 protests, Nahid

Siamdoust introduces a full cast of characters, from musicians and audience members to state officials, and takes readers into concert halls and underground performances, as well as the state licensing and censorship offices. She closely follows the work of four musicians—a giant of Persian classical music, a government-supported pop star, a rebel rock-and-roller, and an underground rapper—each with markedly different political views and relations with the Iranian government. Taken together, these examinations of musicians and their music shed light on issues at the heart of debates in Iran—about its future and identity, changing notions of religious belief, and the quest for political freedom.

[Back to top](#)

Salafism After the Arab Awakening - Contending with People's Power

Francesco Cavatorta, Fabio Merone (Eds)
2017 – Hurst

One of the most interesting consequences of the Arab awakening has been the central role of Salafists in a number of countries. In particular, there seems to have been a move away from traditional quietism towards an increasing degree of politicisation. The arrival on the political scene of Salafist parties in Egypt, Tunisia, and Yemen, as well as the seemingly growing desire of Salafists in other Arab countries to enter institutional politics through the creation of political parties, highlights quite clearly the debates around how to react to the awakening within Salafist circles. This book examines in detail how Salafism, both theologically and politically, is contending with the Arab uprisings across a number of countries. The focus is primarily on what kind of politicisation, if any, has taken place and what forms it has adopted. As some of the contributions make clear, politicisation does not necessarily diminish the role of jihad or the influence of quietism, revealing tensions and struggles within the complex world of Salafism.

[Back to top](#)

Circuits of Faith - Migration, Education, and the Wahhabi Mission

Michael Farquhar
2016 – Stanford University Press

The Islamic University of Medina was established by the Saudi state in 1961 to provide religious instruction primarily to foreign students. Students would come to Medina for religious education and were then expected to act as missionaries, promoting an understanding of Islam in line with the core tenets of Wahhabism. By the early 2000s, more than 11,000 young men from across the globe had graduated from the Islamic University. *Circuits of Faith* offers the first examination of the Islamic University and considers the efforts undertaken by Saudi actors and institutions to exert religious influence far beyond the kingdom's borders. Michael Farquhar draws on Arabic sources, including biographical materials, memoirs, syllabi, and back issues of the Islamic University journal, as well as

interviews with former staff and students, to explore the institution's history and faculty, the content and style of instruction, and the trajectories and experiences of its students. Countering typical assumptions, Farquhar argues that the project undertaken through the Islamic University amounts to something more complex than just the one-way "export" of Wahhabism. Through transnational networks of students and faculty, this Saudi state-funded religious mission also relies upon, and has in turn been influenced by, far-reaching circulations of persons and ideas.

[Back to top](#)

JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Narratives of Fear in Syria

Wendy Pearlman

Perspectives on Politics 14(01):21-37 · March 2016

Scholarship on Syria has traditionally been limited by researchers' difficulty in accessing the reflections of ordinary citizens due to their reluctance to speak about politics. The 2011 revolt opened exciting opportunities by producing an outpouring of new forms of self-expression, as well as encouraging millions to tell their stories for the first time. I explore what we can learn from greater attention to such data, based on thick descriptive analysis of original interviews with 200 Syrian refugees. I find that individuals' narratives coalesce into a collective narrative emphasizing shifts in political fear. Before the uprising, fear was a pillar of the state's coercive authority. Popular demonstrations generated a new experience of fear as a personal barrier to be surmounted. As rebellion militarized into war, fear became a semi-normalized way of life. Finally, protracted violence has produced nebulous fears of an uncertain future. Study of these testimonials aids understanding of Syria and other cases of destabilized authoritarianism by elucidating lived experiences obscured during a repressive past, providing a fresh window into the construction and evolution of national identity, and demonstrating how the act of narration is an exercise in meaning making within a revolution and itself a revolutionary practice.

[Back to top](#)

Rejecting resettlement: the case of the Palestinians

Anne Irfan

Forced Migration Review, FMR 54, February 2017

Over their seven decades as a large-scale refugee population, the Palestinians have been remarkably consistent in collectively opposing resettlement as a durable solution to their plight. Both the grass roots and later the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have repudiated any suggestion of third-

country resettlement on the grounds that it would undermine the Palestinians' political and national rights as a people. Host-country integration was similarly spurned.

[Back to top](#)

NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

Egypt: Order to Shut Clinic for Torture Victims

Human Rights Watch, 17 February 2017

On February 17, 2016, the Nadeem Center for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, founded in 1993, received an "administrative closure order" from Cairo governorate authorities stating that the center had violated the terms of its license but providing no details. "It's unconscionable for Egyptian authorities to shut down a clinic for torture victims, especially when Interior Ministry agents are committing rampant abuse of people in custody," said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East director. "The Egyptian government should immediately revoke its closure of the Nadeem Center." *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

Jordanian activists released after spy agency crackdown

Ali Younes

Al-Jazeera English, 8 February 2017

Jordan has released several government critics jailed for nearly one month after they demanded accountability and transparency on Facebook and in statements. Jordan's spy agency, the Mukhabarat, began rounding up scores of activists in early January who called for an end to corruption, family members and lawyers told Al Jazeera. Some of those detained were former members of the military and government, and many were high school teachers who had also spoken out. Those detained faced charges of "trying to undermine the regime" and "insulting the king", according to their attorneys. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

Protesting the Modern Language Association's Anti-Boycott Resolution

Jadaliyya Reports

Jadaliyya, 4 February 2017

To the Executive Council of the Modern Language Association:

We write collectively as MLA award winners, current Delegate Assembly members, and past Executive Council members and MLA presidents, representing a diversity of viewpoints on the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. While we are honored, variously, to have served the organization and received gratifying recognition for our work, we are also deeply concerned about the approval of an anti-boycott resolution by the majority of members of the Delegate Assembly. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

On Punishability – Researching in Egypt after Regeni

Helena Nassif

Mada Masr, 3 February 2017

On February 1, 2016, friends posted messages with Giulio Regeni's photo and the hashtag #WhereisGiulio. I wondered to myself if this was the way to find him. That evening in Cairo I stayed up late tracking on social media the story of Ahmad Galal, someone else who had been forcibly disappeared. His family heard nothing about him until his body was found at Zeinhom morgue two weeks later. I obsessed over his photos and visited the profile pages of his wife and sister. His wife wore the niqab, and I suspected he might have belonged to the Muslim Brotherhood. Galal's murder evoked in me a strong feeling of anxiety. A few days later, on February 4, I read an article shared on the Facebook page of the Egyptian newspaper Al-Masry Al-Youm stating that the Italian minister of economic development had cancelled her visit to Egypt after the announcement of Regeni's murder. On the same day, international and local press revealed that Regeni had been tortured to death. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

Residents of Bedouin village protest government's forced relocation plan

Daniel Beller

+972, 30 January 2017

Around 200 residents of the unrecognized Bedouin village of Al-Zarnug demonstrated in the southern city of Be'er Sheva on Sunday morning in protest at a government plan to forcibly transfer them and

the rest of their community to the city of Rahat. The protest, which took place as a local planning committee was meeting to discuss the plan, also included residents of Rahat and members of other Bedouin communities in the Negev. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

Did Egypt's January Revolution Die?

Amira Abo el-Fetouh

Middle East Monitor, 27 January 2017

January 25th passed without a hitch for the people of Egypt, apart from a few posts and tweets on Facebook and Twitter, some of which were eulogies for the revolution while others expressed sadness at it being lost in a sea of frustration. However, there were also some people who insist that the revolution is ongoing and that it will still achieve its goals. [...] The question now is where did the spirit of the revolution within the Egyptians go? *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

The Arab Spring Six Years On

Samir Al-Hajawi

Middle East Monitor, 26 January 2017

Many believe that the Arab revolutions have failed, and that the Arab Spring has been transformed into an autumn or even a harsh winter. They see that the situation has worsened and continues to worsen day by day with increasing violence, bloodshed and outrage. With what is happening in the Arab world today that may well appear to be the situation at face value, but the truth is something entirely different. The Arab Spring succeeded in toppling four heads of state — in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen — who had been stifling the people wholesale. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

Egyptian Differences and the Anniversary of the January Revolution

Mohammad Ayesh

Middle East Monitor, 25 January 2017

For the third year in a row, Egypt's revolutionary forces are preoccupied by suspicious internal differences that tend to appear just weeks before each anniversary of the 2011 January Revolution. This is the season of calls for the renewal of the revolution in Egypt, a time that the post-revolution government fears, in case the people take to the streets once more. The differences amongst the

opposition forces are the main reasons why the government of Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi has survived with some degree of stability and strength. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

Thousands of Palestinians and Israelis protest home demolitions

Keren Manor, Yael Marom

+972, 21 January 2017

More than 5,000 Palestinian and Jewish citizens of Israel converged on the town of Ar'ara in the Wadi Ara region of northern Israel on Saturday, to protest a recent slate of home demolitions targeting Arab communities in the country. Particularly in focus were Wednesday's demolitions in the Bedouin village of Umm el-Hiran, prior to which Israeli police shot to death village resident Yaqub Abu al-Qi'an as he was driving, and whose vehicle struck and killed Erez Levi, an Israeli officer.

Continue reading [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

How Tunisia survived its own revolution – and the questions that remain

Soumaya Ghannoushi

Middle East Monitor, 20 January 2017

Six years ago, in a small Tunisian provincial town called Sidi Bouzid, an errant merchant named Mohamed Bouazizi stood outside a police station, poured kerosene over his frail body and set it ablaze. Little did this young man know that his act of sheer fury and desperation would shake the edifice of the authoritarian regime that had ruled his homeland with an iron fist for 23 years to the core, igniting a popular revolt that would topple its dictator and resonate far and wide across the region. Notwithstanding the all too common tendency to glorify or denigrate the Tunisian revolution, we do need to pause and examine its labyrinthine trajectory and assess its complex outcomes, its failures and successes, as well as the dangers with which it is still beset. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

Gaza's Electricity Protests Are Bold Sign of Dissent

Mohammad Othman

Al-Monitor, 19 January 2017

Following massive protests in the Gaza Strip over a lack of electricity, Qatar pledged on 15 January to donate \$12 million to purchase fuel for Gaza's sole power plant over a period of three months. Gaza's power outage crisis has culminated in mid-January after three generators at the plant stopped operating, leaving residents with just four hours of power per day. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

The Modern Language Association and the 2017 Vote on the Academic Boycott of Israel

Salah D. Hassan

Jadaliyya, 18 January 2017

Ten years ago no academic association in the United States, with the possible exception of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), would have been motivated to make public statements critical of Israel. Over the last decade, many members of associations across the disciplines of the humanities and social sciences have taken a stand in support of Palestinians. One way in which this stand has taken form is through resolutions in support of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. The heated debate and the vote on academic boycott at the 2017 convention of the Modern Language Association (MLA) is only the most recent indication that solidarity with Palestinians has emerged as a crucial political movement among professors and students in the US. Regardless of the results of the Delegate Assembly vote on academic boycott, the simple fact that a resolution to endorse the boycott of Israeli academic institutions was debated before the elected body of the largest association of humanities scholars indicates the legitimacy of Palestine solidarity as a political concern for academics. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

Israel Able to Detail Former Hunger Strikers Due to International Silence

Ramona Wadi

Middle East Monitor, 17 January 2017

Israel's tactic of repeatedly detaining former Palestinian prisoners who went on hunger strikes has this time targeted Mohammed Al-Qiq, following his participation in a protest organised by national organisations in Bethlehem demanding the return of the bodies of Palestinians murdered by Israel since October 2015. According to *Ma'an* news agency, news of his detention triggered the

organisation of another protest calling for his release. Al-Qiq was detained with other relatives of murdered Palestinians who were present during Sunday's protest. Following interrogation, the others were released while Al-Qiq is reported to have been taken to a detention facility at the Beit El settlement. *Ma'an* has also reported that Al-Qiq declared the commencement of another hunger strike protesting his recent detention. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

17 people arrested on sixth anniversary of January 25 revolution

Mada Masr, 17 January 2017

Despite the notable absence of protests across the country, 17 people were arrested Wednesday in Cairo, Alexandria and Tanta on the sixth anniversary of the January 25 revolution. Those arrested include member of the Egyptian Social Democratic Party Khaled Mahmoud, who was taken from his home in the southern Cairo district of Helwan, as well as four others from Dar al-Salam district in southern Cairo. Mahmoud was arrested on Wednesday at dawn, according to lawyer Mahmoud Haidar, and was interrogated before prosecution extended his detention to Thursday, awaiting national security agency reports. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

Bahrain executions spark violent protests

Agence France Presse

The Daily Star, 15 January 2017

Bahrain Sunday executed three men found guilty of killing three policemen, sparking violent protests and stoking tensions between the country's Shiite majority and its Sunni rulers. The three Shiites faced the firing squad, six days after a court upheld their death sentences over a bomb attack in March 2014, the prosecutor's office said. Bahrain, which has been ruled by the Al-Khalifa dynasty for more than two centuries, has a majority Shiite population which has long complained of marginalization. It has been rocked by sporadic unrest since March 2011 when security forces brutally crushed an Arab Spring-inspired uprising. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

Palestinian citizens go on strike to protest home demolitions

Orly Noy

+972, 11 January 2017

Palestinian citizens of Israel called a one-day general strike on Wednesday to protest the demolition of 11 homes in the Arab town of Qalansuwa by Israeli authorities the previous day. Businesses, schools, and local government offices were closed in Arab municipalities across the country Israel, with local activists announcing they would organize a march in the town on Friday against the demolitions. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

Israeli Army Jails Two Conscientious Objectors for Fourth Time

Yale Marom

+972, 10 January 2017

On 9 January, Israeli army sent two conscientious objectors to jail for the fourth time, just five days after they had finished serving their third stint in prison. Presenting themselves at the Tel Hashomer military induction base, Tamar Ze'evi, nineteen years old, and Tamar Alon, eighteen years old, declared their refusal to join the army and take part in the occupation, for which they were sentenced to thirty days' detention. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

Soldiers Use Force on Non-Violent Protest Against Illegal West Bank Outposts

Haggai Matar

+972, 5 January 2017

Dozens of Palestinian and Israeli activists gathered in the Jordan Valley, West Bank, on 5 January in order to protest the establishment of new illegal outposts in the area. The demonstrators, from joint Arab Jewish activist group Ta'ayush, were forcefully dispersed by Israeli soldiers, who fired tear gas at them. The outposts remained where they were. The activists began by demonstrating next to an outpost that had been set up several weeks ago, near Mehola Junction in the northern Jordan Valley. The residents were hosting Israeli soldiers, serving them tea. The army and the Civil Administration — Israel's military government in the West Bank — have taken no action to demolish the outpost, despite the structures being illegal. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Clemson University - Visiting Lecturer in International Relations and Comparative Politics

Deadline: 27 February 2017

International Relations/Comparative Politics. The Department of Political Science at Clemson University invites applications for a one-year, non-tenure track position as a visiting lecturer to begin in August 2017. Specialization within international relations and comparative politics is open. The successful candidate will complement the department's current offerings and will share the Department's commitment to quality undergraduate teaching. The Department offers a BA and BS in Political Science. Responsibilities include a four-course teaching load per semester comprised of introductory and upper-level undergraduate courses in international relations, comparative politics, and research methods. The specific combination of courses will depend on the successful candidate's academic profile.

A Ph.D. in Political Science or International Relations by the time of employment is preferred, though ABDs will be considered. Salary is competitive. To apply, upload the following to Interfolio: an application letter of interest, CV, unofficial transcripts of graduate work, three letters of recommendation, and evidence of teaching effectiveness. Applications received by February 27, 2017, will receive full consideration. Review will continue until the position is filled. For inquiries, please contact Professor Jeff Peake at jpeake@clemson.edu. Clemson University is an AA/EEO employer and does not discriminate against any person or group on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, pregnancy, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status or genetic information. Clemson University is building a culturally diverse faculty committed to working in a multicultural environment and encourages applications from minorities and women.

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Lectureship in Middle Eastern Studies, Leiden Institute for Area Studies

Deadline: 1 March 2017

The lecturer will be expected to teach and conduct thesis supervision at the BA or MA levels. Courses will likely include "Developments in the Modern Middle East", "Politics, Ideologies and Societies in the Middle East" and "History of the Middle East (1500 – present)".

Selection criteria

- We are interested in applications by scholars of politics, culture, or history of the Modern Middle East, with demonstrated teaching and advising experience;
- In-depth understanding of the Modern Middle East, preferably with a specialization in the Mashriq region;
- Knowledge of at least one Middle Eastern language (preferably Arabic);
- PhD. in one of the following fields: Comparative Middle Eastern Studies, Modern Middle Eastern History, Cultural Studies, Politics, or Sociology.

Our Faculty/Institute

The Faculty of Humanities is rich in expertise in fields as philosophy, religious studies, history, art history, literature, linguistics and regional studies covering nearly every region of the world. Our faculty is home to more than 5400 students and 800 staff members. The lecturer will hold a position in the Leiden University Institute for Area Studies (<http://www.hum.leiden.edu/lias/>). LIAS is comprised of a School of Asian Studies and a School of Middle-Eastern Studies, with international staff and student populations. The institute is committed to a present-day vision of area studies, integrating disciplinary and regional-historical perspectives on a solid foundation of excellent language skills.

Current staff in LIAS has expertise in the fields of Anthropology, Archaeology, Art Studies, Buddhist Studies, Film Studies, History, International Relations, Language Pedagogy, Law, Linguistics, Literary Studies, Material Culture Studies, Performance Studies, Philology, Philosophy, Political Economy, Religious Studies, Sociology, and Visual Culture Studies.

Terms and conditions

We offer a part-time, for 26,6 hours per week, fixed-term post from August 2017 through January 2019 (teaching replacement).

Salary range, depending on education and work experience, from € 2,552.- to € 4,691.- (pay scale 10 or 11 in accordance with the Collective Labour Agreement for Dutch Universities) gross per month, based on a full-time appointment.

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

Diversity

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

Information

Queries can be directed to email t.nalbantian@hum.leidenuniv.nl or email e.j.zurcher@hum.leidenuniv.nl.

Applications

Applications Applications must be received no later than 1 March 2017, with the interviews with shortlisted candidates scheduled for second half of March. Applications should be in English, and be

submitted vacatureslias@hum.leidenuniv.nl. Please ensure that you include in a single PDF document named 'FAMILY NAME – Given name – vacancy number and in this order:

- A motivation letter;
- Cv;
- Names of 3 referees.

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Projects Assistant & BRISMES Conference Assistant, LSE Middle East Centre

Deadline: 20 February 2017

!!! Applicants must have the right to work in the UK !!!

Projects Assistant

Start Date: As soon as possible

End Date: 30 October 2017

Hours: Average of 28 hours per week

Pay: £16.09 (Salary Band 4, Step 13.5, includes holiday pay)

The Middle East Centre seeks a Projects Assistant to provide administration for three new research projects. The Projects Assistant will be responsible for all aspects of project administration for the three projects and will provide comprehensive support to the projects' Principal Investigators. The post-holder will organise the research activities taking place in London, Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

The successful candidate will have:

- A keen interest in Middle East studies;
- Experience of project and financial administration;
- Experience of planning and coordinating events;
- Excellent communication skills.

For further information about the post, please see the job description and the person specification. To apply for this post, please send your CV of no more than two pages and a covering letter showing how you meet the Person Specification to Chelsea Milsom at c.milsom@lse.ac.uk.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 9am on Monday 20 February. Regrettably, we are unable to accept any late applications. Interviews will be held in LSE Middle East Centre on Monday 27 February.

BRISMES Conference Assistant

Start Date: As soon as possible

End Date: 21 July 2017

Hours: Average of 10 to 12 hours per week, with an average of 35 hours per week for the period from 26 June to 7 July

Pay: £16.09 (Salary Band 4, Step 13.5, includes holiday pay)

The Middle East Centre and BRISMES seek a Conference Assistant to assist in the delivery of the BRISMES Annual Conference 2017. The Conference Assistant will have responsibilities across all areas of event organisation, including budgeting, programme coordination and liaison with delegates. The post-holder will be based in London, but must be available to travel to Edinburgh for 2–7 July 2017.

The successful candidate will have:

- Experience of planning and coordinating events;
- Experience of financial administration;
- Excellent communication skills.

For further information about the post, please see the job description and the person specification. To apply for this post, please send your CV of no more than two pages and a covering letter showing how you meet the Person Specification to Emma Pearson at e.pearson@lse.ac.uk. The closing date for receipt of applications is 9am on Monday 20 February. Regrettably, we are unable to accept any late applications. Interviews will be held in LSE Middle East Centre on Friday 24 February.

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Student Assistant, WZB Berlin

Deadline: 23 February 2017

The WZB Berlin Social Science Center, research area Dynamics of Political Systems, research unit Democracy and Democratization (Director: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Merkel) seeks to hire a Student Assistant from April 15th until 31st of July 2017 with a weekly working load 10 hours.

Tasks:

Extension of a protest event database within the research project: „Investigating the conditions of transnational authoritarian learning in Morocco and Egypt during the Arab Uprisings 2011“; Support with computer based coding, analysis and management of protest data and interview recordings and transcripts, data collection, support of scientific work.

Required Qualifications:

- Advanced Bachelor or Master Student in Political Science, or related disciplines (e.g. Public Administration, Public Policy, Sociology, International Relations)
- Very good command of English (writing, reading, oral and listening comprehension)
- Advanced Arabic (reading and listening comprehension)

- Knowledge of German and / or French is an asset
- Prior knowledge of political, social and economic aspects of North Africa and interest in political developments in the region since 2010
- Sound knowledge of MS Office applications
- Some experience with coding, data collection, processing, analysis and management (in Excel, STATA, NVivo, MaxQda)
- Some experience with the transcription of audio recordings with F5 or other transcription software

Salary: In accordance with German civil service standards (TV Stud II)

Disabled candidates with equal qualifications will be given preference.

The WZB expressly invites women, as well as persons with migration backgrounds, to apply.

Candidates are kindly requested to e-mail their applications (letter of motivation, CV, copies of relevant certificates and transcript of records) in PDF, no later than February 23, 2017, to: ilyas.saliba@wzb.eu

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung gGmbH Ilyas Saliba

Reichpietschufer 50

10785 Berlin

The interviews will be held in Berlin at the WZB on Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

[Back to top](#)