



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

Editor: Jann Boeddeling (j.boeddeling@lse.ac.uk)

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CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

IAIS Postgraduate Conference 2017 - "Conflict, Borders and Contested Space"

24 - 25 May 2017

Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies conference, University of Exeter, UK

Deadline: 7 April 2017

Within the context of conflicts in the Middle East which challenge historical borders, the growth of militarised borders in Europe and the US, and the increasing securitisation of migration and the 'refugee crisis', the need to understand spatial articulations of conflict has become increasingly critical. In this time of a securitisation of civil space and the militarisation of borders, this conference seeks to explore changing formations of conflict, contestation and dissent, as well as their implications for contemporary academia.

We encourage papers that take up the theme in innovative ways, exploring not only conflict, borders and the contestation of space, but also how differing research approaches can stimulate new academic findings and contest the largely neoliberal dominance of studies in the field. We particularly welcome submissions that highlight the connections between the Middle East and North Africa, and other areas of the globe, and aim to foster dialogue and discussion between scholars from a wide array of backgrounds and disciplines. We especially encourage postgraduates and recent PhD graduates to apply.

Potential topics for papers include:

1. Conflict
 - Changing patterns of conflict, contestation and dissent in the 21st Century
 - Post-colonialism, the modern state and contemporary settler-colonialism
 - 'Radicalisation', counter-terrorism and critical terrorism studies
 - Borders of identity and sectarianism
 - Contentious activism, social movements and tactics of political protest
2. Borders
 - The historical development, and changing conceptualisations, of sovereignty, borders and boundaries
 - Borders, the economy and the state in a 'glocalised' world
 - Migration, securitisation and the 'refugee crisis'
 - Borderlands, 'non-space' and 'bare life' in the age of liquid modernity
3. Contested Space
 - Securitisation and its spatial projections
 - Gender-based, diasporic and minority-community articulations of identity
 - Archaeology and geography in the making of contested space
 - Spatial approaches to academic practice and their future implications
 - Construction and reproduction of contested space(s)

The conference will include a key note speech by Dr. Bassel Salloukh, Associate Professor of Political Science at the Social Sciences Department at Lebanese American University, entitled '*Demystifying Sectarian Narratives of the Middle East after the Popular Uprisings*'.

Abstract

Details of the Call for Papers are attached. Please send an abstract of maximum 250 words to iaisprconference@exeter.ac.uk by Friday, 7 April 2017.

More information [here](#)

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Reading the '1979 Moment' in the Middle East

Deadline: 17 March 2017

Berlin, June 15-16, 2017

Forum Transregionale Studien, Wallotstr. 14, 14193 Berlin

The year 1979 is one that looms large in the recent history of the Middle East. As the world entered the final phase of the Cold War, 1979 would witness the Iranian Revolution, the siege of the Grand Mosque of Mecca, the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel and, at the tail end of the year, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Meanwhile, the Lebanese Civil War raged, violence in Syria between the government and the Muslim Brotherhood increased, political violence in Turkey reached a crescendo readying the stage for the 1980 coup, and Saddam Hussein consolidated power over Iraq. Although unrelated to one another in their causality, these events would signal a tectonic shift in the political and social landscape of the Middle East—particularly in the Arab and Persianate worlds—including the emergence of Islamically-inspired political movements, the decline of traditional leftist politics, and a new era of state oppression. The year would also usher in a period of wars in the region that would last throughout the 1980s (the ongoing Lebanese Civil War, the Soviet-Afghan War, and the Iran-Iraq war) and the 1990s (the Algerian Civil War, continued war in Afghanistan and the 1990-91 Gulf War). In all of these conflicts, stretching from North Africa to Afghanistan, various strains of Islamism would emerge as major forces to be reckoned with.

While some historians and scholars of politics in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia have begun to recognize this recent regional transformation, scholars of cultural production have largely ignored the fact that the material conditions for cultural production throughout the region also changed dramatically in 1979 and the two decades that followed, reflecting a new sociopolitical reality. This two-day, interdisciplinary workshop will address this lacuna by exploring the cultural and intellectual legacy, broadly conceived, of the Middle East's '1979 moment' and its aftermath. We invite papers that explore the cultural and intellectual reactions and changes surrounding the decline of leftist and the rise of Islamist political movements in this region that occurred in and around the year 1979. We particularly encourage papers that explore comparative perspectives between Middle Eastern intellectual trends, languages and cultures, as well as comparative approaches that look

beyond the region.

Some of the questions that this workshop seeks to address, but is not limited to, are the following:

- How does 1979, as a relatively recent, pivotal year connect to other dates of significance, regionally and globally, (i.e., 1948, 1953, 1967/68, 1989, 2001, etc.)?
- In what ways did the events of that year create or destroy the imaginative possibilities of social and political movements?
- How have regional and diasporic (Afghan, Arab, Iranian, Kurdish, Turkish, etc.) writers, filmmakers, artists and intellectuals represented the events of 1979 and the wars that dominated the decades that followed?
- To what extent (if at all) have aesthetic approaches to literature, film and art changed after the events of 1979?

Scholars of the humanities and social scientists are invited to submit abstracts of 250-300 words for paper presentations of 20-25 minutes, along with a brief academic bio, to eume@trafo-berlin.de by **March 17, 2017**. Participants invited for presentation will have a version of their paper published online on the TRAFO blog, a blog for Transregional Research, and may have the option to publish their papers in an edited print/open access format as well.

Funding is available to cover the costs of accommodation and travel for a limited number of participants. Thus, participants are encouraged to secure complementary funding for travel if their home institution offers this option.

More information [here](#)

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Gender in Revolution - Women and men experiencing revolutionary change 1917-2017

Deadline: 4 April 2017

30th September – 1-2nd October 2017 ° Odessa, Ukraine

Conference organised by Women in War (Paris) in partnership with the Democratic Development Centre (Kyiv) and Southern Ukrainian National Pedagogical University (Odessa)

After Sarajevo in 2014, Beirut in 2015, Yerevan in 2016, the next annual international Women in War conference, to be held in Odessa in autumn of 2017, will explore different aspects of the social and political transformations in gender relations, especially the life of women, resulting from one century of revolutions. These will include uprising and revolts where women have played exceptional roles with major social consequences.

We have chosen to situate our next conference in Ukraine, a country which has historically challenged both the imposition and the legacy of Soviet rule, and today represents the most positive and advanced society for women's rights in the post-Soviet bloc.

In this unique conference, we shall focus on women's revolutionary experiences worldwide as influenced by the Soviet revolution of 1917, in order to establish commonalities and differences in terms of women's participation and influence.

We are targeting four major areas of study:

- 1) States that have actually experienced a Communist regime, including the USSR, the entire East European bloc, China, Afghanistan, Cuba, People's Republic of Mozambique, People's Republic of Congo, South Yemen, North Vietnam, and Cambodia and others.
- 2) Revolutionary Marxist militarized movements in non-Communist countries such as Mujeres Libres in 1930s' Spain, anti-Nazi uprisings, PKK, Nepalese, Kashmiri, African, Sri Lankan and South American movements (FARC, Sendero Luminoso and others), up until today's Mexican Chiapas and the Kurdish Rojava.
- 3) The place of women and sexual minorities in uprisings against Communist regimes in the entire Eastern bloc and Asia, as well as those following the fall of the USSR: the Orange and Euromaidan (Ukraine), Rose (Georgia), Jeans (Belarus), Tulip (Kyrgyzstan), and Abkhazian revolutions.
- 4) World youth movements influenced by Communist ideology ; the role of women and LGBTI participation in civil rights ; students and revolutionary movements of the 1960s-70s- 80s (including Black Panthers, R.A.F., Brigade Rosse and others).

In all these revolutionary configurations, we shall attempt to evaluate women's long-term gains and losses in personal and collective empowerment, as well as their influence on gender relations. The place of women and sexual minorities in hyper-masculinist military structures will also be examined, be they regular, paramilitary, combat or terrorist. Does the increasing presence of women in armies, in war or peacetime constitute revolutionary change? Does the growing military ethic contribute to or reduce the structural violence against women in these countries ?

This is where achievements in gender rights in recent, post-communist revolutions, in particular the whole of the Eastern bloc up till Central Asia, can be measured in relation to conventions penned by international organisations such as the UN (Resolution 1325, CEDAW and others) NATO, OSCE. Have these been effective in changing legislation, public service, popular and local culture? How do they compare with competing ideologies, especially the fast growing influence of religion, be it Orthodox, Catholic, or Muslim, especially in the context of globalization?

Aims and expected outcomes:

- ° to establish links between academia, NGOs, and public administration, resulting from the meeting of different specialists, researchers, militants, combatants, civil servants during this conference in view of charting practice-based future policies in post-revolutionary countries
- ° to bring together international scholars, politicians, and activists with feminist writers, artists and musicians working on these themes.
- ° to explore differences and commonalities in all fields under discussion, through panels organized on themes and methodology rather than geographic areas
- ° to establish the place of gender rights within revolutions over the course of the past century and to measure the real progress in women's lives in countries which have experienced revolutions in terms of legislation, rights, public administration (national and local), reproductive health, and sexual violence

- ° to evaluate the place of women in revolutionary military and paramilitary
- ° to measure the influence of women's place in revolutions and uprisings in official and unofficial culture, school texts, books, and the media
- ° to evaluate set-backs and disappointments following revolutionary processes

Proposals should be sent in English, Russian, or Ukrainian by April 2nd, 2017.

Length: not more than 300 words ° Please include a short bio of no more than 50 words

Please indicate your name, affiliation if relevant, and the title of your paper

Please include your name in the subject line of your email together with the area concerned by proposal. You will hear back from us latest on May 15th. Send proposals and all questions to: infoATwomeninwar.org

The selection committee is made up of academics from Yale University (U.S.), University of Paris 8 (France), Hagazian University (Lebanon), Pedagogical Institute of Odessa and NAPA, Kyiv (Ukraine). Dr. Carol Mann director of Women in War (Paris), Ella Lamakh, Democratic Development Centre (Kyiv), Dr. Evgenia Sadykova, Pedagogical Institute (Odessa)

More information [here](#)

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Women and Politics in an Age of Uncertainty : The Road to Sustainable Democracy and Democratization

Organized by Polydisciplinary Faculty of Ouarzazate, IbnZohr University (Morocco), in collaboration with University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA)

Deadline: 20 April 2017

Venue: Kenzy, Farah Azghor. Ouarzazate

Along with the emergence of popular movements for democratic change in MENA region countries, the past few years have also brought clear evidence of crisis in longstanding democratic and undemocratic states. Democracy in many parts of the world appears today to be under threat, as more nations roll back the hard fought for democratic freedoms. In parts of the world where democracy was taken for granted and where it was institutionalized, like the US and in Europe, democratic institutions are now being threatened more than in any time over the last 25 years and uncertainty looms especially among youth as to the future of freedom and rights.

In Europe, this is evident in the treatment of refugees, immigrants and minorities, and in the curtailing of press freedom. In the US, the attacks on women, Muslims, Jews, racial and sexual minorities have increased alongside undemocratic discourses as evident during the 2016 presidential elections. Liberal democracy is under greater threat internationally. There is, for example, a lot of uncertainty about whether the US will continue to play a role as an advocate of human rights globally. In Africa, while there have been gains in democratization in countries like Ghana and Tunisia, there have also been retreats in countries like Uganda, South Africa, and Ethiopia. The

Middle East is the least free region of the world and instability continues to threaten possibilities for democratization in many of its countries.

Given the new uncertainties in the world and the challenges to democracy and democratization, the meaning and value of democracy, as well as the responsibilities it entails are continuously being questioned. In recent years, as the process of democratization has expanded in some countries and retreated in others, the complex relationship between governance, women's empowerment, and gender equality has come under increasing scrutiny by academics, development practitioners, and grassroots constituencies.

Although it is generally acknowledged that democracy is good for women's rights, questions still remain about how women, who have traditionally been excluded from full involvement in economic and political arena, can gain greater control over the circumstances that influence their lives. Violations of human rights, such as women's political rights, can deepen alienation, isolation and exclusion and lead women to violent radicalization. Building women's political skills can foster a greater sense of ownership of political processes; generate strong and sustainable organizations, and exert a stabilizing influence, as well as empower them to be able to resist violent extremist propaganda and radicalization.

The conference provides an excellent venue for academics, researchers, students and professionals in private and public organizations to address these issues and share their work from their respective disciplines of study, be they gender studies, political science or any other associated disciplines. The aim of this conference is to explore the relationship between women's empowerment and democracy / democratization by asking the following questions:

- What are the prospects for women's political rights given the new uncertainties in the world and the new challenges to democracy and democratization?
- What are the challenges to women's rights in the emerging democracies and how are they different from challenges in older democracies?

Papers may address, but are not restricted to any of the following themes:

1. Gender and citizenship;
2. The role of women and women's movements in sustaining democracy;
3. Gender quotas and women's political representation/participation;
4. Women's rights and gender(ed) policies in established democracies;
5. Political economy/capitalism, democracy and gender;
6. The implications of the retreat of democracy for women in politics and society;
7. Gender rights and democratic transition;
8. Women's rights and gender policies before and after the Arab Spring protests;
9. The role of women in countering terrorism;
10. Gender, Politics and masculinity;
11. Gender, conflict and militarization;
12. Gender and peacemaking/peace building/conflict resolution/mediation;
13. The relation between gender, democracy and violence;
14. Women's leadership and democracy/democratization;
15. The role of international institutions in fostering gender equality in relation to democracy.

We especially welcome an intersectional approach to any of the topics.

Authors of high quality papers will be invited to submit their work for potential publication in a special issue in the Journal of Middle East Women's Studies (JMEWS).

If you are interested in sponsoring the conference, please contact Hanane Darhour at (icgp.fpo@gmail.com) .

More information [here](#)

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Special Issue of New Media & Society: Media, Identity, and Online Communities in a Changing Arab World

Deadline: 25 March 2017

Co-edited by Aziz Douai, Eid Mohamed, and Adel Iskandar

This special issue will examine the role of new media in the construction of online communities in the Arab world. It is important to understand how user-generated content empowers these new publics and the novel communities established by user comments on social media and news websites. Specifically, there is a need to research these online communities and their perceptions of the role of user-generated content to contribute to politics, and potentially engage other citizens in the public debate. For these reasons, this special issue seeks to answer the following questions: What characterizes these online users' communities? What are their motivations? How do they perceive the role of news websites' commenting functions in promoting political engagement? The editors welcome contributions that are theoretically informed and empirically rigorous, employing qualitative and/or quantitative research methods.

Articles could develop a subject in connection to any of the following suggested themes:

- Theorization of the Online Arab Public Sphere
- User-generated Content and Participatory Cultures
- **New Media and Social Movement Theory in the Context of the Arab Uprisings**
- **Arab Spring and the Mobilizing Potential of New Media**
- **Media Convergence and Citizen Journalism after the "Arab Spring"**
- The Political-Cultural Division in the Public Sphere
- Network Cultural Production in the Digital age
- Digital Divide and Participation in the Public Sphere
- New Media and the Construction of New Arab Identities
- Regulation Policies and Standardization Processes, and Their Impact on Institutional and Individual Uses of Technology

Please note that these themes are suggestions only and the guest editors welcome inquiries on a wide variety of theoretical contributions in the fields of new media and the public sphere, presentation of ongoing research and empirical studies along with any of the abovementioned themes.

Proposals should include the author's name and affiliation, title, an abstract of 250-300 words, and 3 to 5 keywords, and should be sent to the e-mail address tiproject@dohainstitute.edu.qa no later than March 25th 2017. Selected submissions will be due 30 September 2017 and will be submitted directly to the submission site for *New Media and Society*: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/nms> where they will undergo peer review following the usual procedures of *New Media & Society*. Note therefore that invitation to submit a full article does not therefore guarantee acceptance into the special issue. The special issue will be published in early 2018.

Tentative Timeline:

- Abstract Submission Deadline: March 25, 2017
- Proposal Selection Notification: April 15, 2017
- Initial Article Submission Deadline: September 30, 2017

More information [here](#)

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TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

Legal Ordering, Citizenship and Human Rights: The Case of the Palestinian Citizens of Israel

24 March 2017, 12.00 p.m. - 1.30 p.m

Venue: LSE, TW2 9.04, (Tower 2, 9th Floor, Room.04), London

Speaker: Dr Mazen Masri

Discussant: Professor [Yoav Peled](#)

Given Israel's constitutional definition as a 'Jewish and democratic state', the citizenship of the Palestinian citizens in Israel has always been a challenge to liberal paradigms of citizenship. The historical and political foundations of the state, and the current realities raise a number of questions about the meaning of this definition. This lecture will address how this definition affects constitutional rights and human rights, and how it plays out in the daily life of the Palestinians living in Israel. Building upon his newly released book *The Dynamics of Exclusionary Constitutionalism: Israel as a Jewish and Democratic State*, Dr. Mazen Masri will present some of the consequences of the 'Jewish and democratic' definition for the Palestinian citizens in Israel. It explores how the definition affects the legal ordering of the state and the operation of the law, creating a complex model of exclusionary citizenry in a continuous state of crisis. Prof. Yoav Peled, a political scientist and a legal scholar who wrote extensively on Israeli citizenship and its implications for Palestinians, will offer his insights on the topic. *More information* [here](#)

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The Edward W Said London Lecture 2017: Justice Not Revenge

31 March 2017, 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Venue: BP Lecture Theatre at The British Museum, London

Speaker: Mahmood Mamdani

British Museum with the support of AM Qattan Foundation and London Review of Books

Internationally renowned academic and author Mahmood Mamdani presents this year's Edward W. Said London Lecture, examining the concept of revolutionary justice. will look at how South Africa's transition from apartheid presents a critique of the lessons that have been drawn from the Nuremberg trials – the post-war judgment of Nazi war criminals – which have been incorporated into the contemporary human rights movement and International Criminal Court. *More information* [here](#)

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Art as Defiance in the Middle East

5 April 2017, 18:00 to 19:00

Venue: Chatham House, London, UK

Speakers: Bassem Deaibess, Lebanese musician; Socio-Political Commentator; Founder, Blaakyum band; Bashar Farhat, Syrian Medical Doctor; Poet; Writer; Larissa Sansour, Palestinian Visual Artist

Chair: Dr Lina Khatib

The cultural and artistic domain is an active forum for political engagement in the Middle East. Many artists in the region are commenting on socio-political issues and making their voices heard through poetry, music and the visual arts. In doing so, they often encounter political oppression, social intolerance and economic hardship, as well as difficulties accessing an international audience for their work. This panel discussion presents artists from Palestine, Syria and Lebanon who will talk about their experience working and performing in the Middle East and the role that art and culture play as a form of protest in the Arab world. How much of an impact does conflict have on the lives and artistic output of artists? Can art bring about positive political and social change? *More information* [here](#)

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Negri in Cambridge and London

25 and 26 April 2017

Venue (25 April, 5.00pm-7.00pm): The Bateman Auditorium, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge

Venue (26 April): the School of Oriental and African Studies [SOAS, London

Speaker: Antonio Negri

On Tuesday 25 April the Italian political thinker Antonio Negri will be in Cambridge to deliver the first of two talks on the possibilities for a renewal of revolutionary thought and action. His chosen topic for the Cambridge talk is: "Post-operaismo or neo-operaismo". In this talk he will give a new reading of the development and ongoing validity of the "operaista" [workerist] tradition in Italian political thought, and will offer perspectives for the future of revolutionary activity in that vein. The meeting will also mark the publication of his most recent collection of essays in English, entitled *Marx and Foucault* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2017) The speaker will be introduced by the translator of that volume, Ed Emery [SOAS]. The ensuing discussion will be introduced by Elisabetta Brighi [University of Westminster] The talk will be in Italian, but a translated abstract will be available. Discussion will be in Italian, French and English ADMISSION: For reasons of space we recommend that you book in advance *More information* [here](#)

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Fridays of Rage - Al Jazeera, The Arab Spring, and Political Islam

Sam Cherribi

March 2017 – Oxford University Press

Fridays of Rage reveals Al Jazeera's surprising rise to that most respected of all Western media positions: the watchdog of democracy. Al Jazeera served as the nursery for the Arab world's democratic revolutions, promoting Friday as a "day of rage" and popular protest. This book gives readers a glimpse into how Al Jazeera has strategically cast its journalists as martyrs in the struggle for Arab freedom while promoting itself as the mouthpiece and advocate of the Arab public. In addition to heralding a new era of Arab democracy, Al Jazeera has become a major influence over Arab perceptions of American involvement in the Arab World, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the rise of global Islamic fundamentalism, and the expansion of the political far right. Al Jazeera's blueprint for "Muslim-democracy" was part of a vision announced by the network during its earliest broadcasts. The network embarked upon a mission to reconstruct the Arab mindset and psyche. Al Jazeera introduced exiled Islamist leaders to the larger Arab public while also providing Muslim feminists a platform. The inclusion and consideration of Westerners, Israelis, Hamas, secularists and others earned the network a reputation for pluralism and inclusiveness. Al Jazeera presented a mirror to an Arab world afraid to examine itself and its democratic deficiencies. But rather than assuming that Al Jazeera is a monolithic force for positive transformation in Arab society, *Fridays of Rage* examines the potentially dark implications of Al Jazeera's radical re-conceptualization of media as a strategic tool or weapon.

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Militarizing the Nation - The Army, Business, and Revolution in Egypt

Zeinab Abul-Magd

March 2017 - Columbia University Press

Egypt's army portrays itself as a faithful guardian "saving the nation." Yet saving the nation has meant militarizing it. Zeinab Abul-Magd examines both the visible and often invisible efforts by Egypt's semi-autonomous military to hegemonize the country's politics, economy, and society over the past six decades. The Egyptian army has adapted to and benefited from crucial moments of change. It weathered the transition to socialism in the 1960s, market consumerism in the 1980s, and neoliberalism from the 1990s onward, all while enhancing its political supremacy and expanding a mammoth business empire. Most recently, the military has fought back two popular uprisings, retained full power in the wake of the Arab Spring, and increased its wealth. While adjusting to these shifts, military officers have successfully transformed urban milieus into ever-expanding military camps. These spaces now host a permanent armed presence that exercises continuous surveillance over everyday life. Egypt's military business enterprises have tapped into the consumer habits of the rich and poor alike, reaping unaccountable profits and optimizing social command. Using both a political economy approach and a Foucauldian perspective, *Militarizing the Nation* traces the genealogy of the Egyptian military for those eager to know how such a controversial power gains and maintains control.

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From Independence to Revolution - Egypt's Islamists and the Contest for Power

Gillian Kennedy

2017 – Hurst

From Independence to Revolution tells the story of the complicated relationship between the Egyptian population and the nation's most prominent political opposition — the Islamist movement. Most commentators focus on the Muslim Brotherhood and radical jihadists constantly vying for power under successive authoritarian rulers, from Gamal Abdul Nasser to General Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. Yet the relationship between the Islamists and Egyptian society has not remained fixed. Instead, groups like the Muslim Brotherhood, radical jihadists and progressive Islamists like Tayyar al Masri have varied in their responses to Egypt's socio-political transformation over the last sixty years, thereby attracting different sections of the Egyptian electorate at different times. From bread riots in the 1970s to the 2011 Tahrir Square uprising and the subsequent election of the Muslim Brotherhood's Mohamed Morsi in 2012, Egypt's Islamists have been countering authoritarian elites since colonial independence. This book is based on the author's fieldwork interviews in Egypt and builds on comparative political approaches to the topic. It offers an account of Egypt's contesting actors, demonstrating how a consistently fragmented Islamist movement and an authoritarian state have cemented political instability and economic decline as a persistent trend.

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The Making of Salafism - Islamic Reform in the Twentieth Century

Henri Lauzière

2015 - Columbia University Press

Some Islamic scholars hold that Salafism is an innovative and rationalist effort at Islamic reform that emerged in the late nineteenth century but gradually disappeared in the mid twentieth. Others argue Salafism is an anti-innovative and antirationalist movement of Islamic purism that dates back to the medieval period yet persists today. Though they contradict each other, both narratives are considered authoritative, making it hard for outsiders to grasp the history of the ideology and its core beliefs. Introducing a third, empirically based genealogy, *The Making of Salafism* understands the concept as a recent phenomenon projected back onto the past, and it sees its purist evolution as a direct result of decolonization. Henri Lauzière builds his history on the transnational networks of Taqi al-Din al-Hilali (1894–1987), a Moroccan Salafi who, with his associates, participated in the development of Salafism as both a term and a movement. Traveling from Rabat to Mecca, from Calcutta to Berlin, al-Hilali interacted with high-profile Salafi scholars and activists who eventually abandoned Islamic modernism in favor of a more purist approach to Islam. Today, Salafis tend to claim a monopoly on religious truth and freely confront other Muslims on theological and legal issues. Lauzière's pathbreaking history recognizes the social forces behind this purist turn, uncovering the popular origins of what has become a global phenomenon.

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History and Event: From Marxism to Contemporary French Theory

Nathan Coombs

2015 Edinburgh University Press

Nathan Coombs demonstrates that the Marxist science of history has been reimagined by a strand of contemporary French theory after Louis Althusser. Taking a comparative approach, he explores the technical details of both traditions historical sciences. He argues that their articulations of history and event affect how we approach political transformation and view the role of theoreticians in political practice. Coombs establishes the continuities and discontinuities between classical Marxism and Althusserian theory, bringing you new readings of Hegel, Marx, Lenin, Althusser, Badiou, Meillassoux and complexity theory.

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JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Arab Spring, Mobilization, and Contentious Politics in the Middle East

Atef Said

Oxford Bibliographies, 28 February 2017

The following is an annotated bibliography on the Arab Spring, specifically in relation to social movements and revolutions. This list is not comprehensive by any means. There are three rationales behind its organization. The first is the critical trend in the scholarship of revolution, according to which the scholarship calls for distinguishing revolutionary origins from processes and outcomes. The second is inspired by the characterization of the so-called “fourth generation” of scholarship on revolutions. According to Jack Goldstone and others, this generation gave more attention to the role of culture, agency, and processes in uprisings. Third, while this bibliography is particularly attentive to literature on revolutions and Social Movement Theory (SMT), it also includes larger debates regarding the Arab Spring in these fields: democracy and democratization, political transition, and the authoritarianism of the region. This list is divided in a way to reflect the three rationales. The title of the entry is broad to reflect these themes. And in addition to sections on origins, and process/transition and outcome, the bibliography includes sections on the relation between the Arab Spring and SMT literature; the role of agency in the Arab Spring; the role of social media; the role of culture; the role of various repertoires of contention; and the role of space and the role of regional and international politics. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Mechanisms of Co-optation in the Palestinian Territories: Neutralizing Independent Civil Society

Dana El Kurd

Middle East Institute, 28 February 2017

The Palestinian Authority (P.A.) was established in 1994 as the government of the Palestinian Territories, following the Oslo Accords between the Palestine Liberation Organization (P.L.O.) and the Israeli government. From the Palestinian perspective, the P.A. was to serve as the initial stages of the state-building project, in the hopes that a sovereign semi-contiguous state of Palestine would emerge by 1999. Although this deadline came and went (by 18 years), the Palestinian leadership remains committed to the idea of statehood and continues to struggle for this objective to this day. From the Israeli perspective, the Palestinian Authority was a convenient way to ease Israel’s responsibility as an occupying power. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was very clear in his support of this project, because creating the P.A. would help outsource repression of Palestinians to Palestinian security forces. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Armenian Involvement in the 1925-1946 Kurdish Rebellions in Republican Turkey: Trying to Map the Origins of “Hidden Armenians

Garabet Krikor Moumdjian

New Eastern Politics, 26 January 2017

This chapter will not involve itself with the events pertinent to the Kurdish rebellions in the 1920s and 1930s. Rather, it will focus on Armenian and especially ARF participation in those uprisings. This has to be done in order to close a gap in the international historical discourse regarding the subject, since Armenian and ARF participation were not tackled by historians for several reasons most important of which was and still is the language barrier (knowledge of Armenian) or the paucity of Archival material (perhaps the researchers in question didn't pursue the matter until “no stone remained unturned”). Moreover, and as an archival historian, it is my aim to present archival records almost in their entirety in order not to leave any room for individual interpretations and the misunderstandings they produce; in other words, I want to make the documents speak for themselves regardless of their length in some instances. Finally, it must be underlined that the aim of this narrative is to bring to light the issue of Armenians who were left behind after the genocide and deportations. The archival documents from Armenian and Turkish sources indicate that such a phenomenon existed since the early days of republican Turkey. It is important to shed light on such people and their participation in the Kurdish rebellions of the period, since, as shall be seen, it was this people that today represent what has become known as Islamized and/or Turkified/Kurdified Armenians. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

Kaya Genc Sheds Light on the Endurance of both Erdogan and Youthful Opposition in “Under the Shadow”

Claire Sadar

Muftah, 13 March 2017

Turkish writer Kaya Genc opens his latest work of non-fiction, *Under the Shadow: Rage and Revolution in Modern Turkey*, with the stark and horrifying scenes that mesmerized Turks on the night of July 15-16, 2016: the night the Turkish army attempted, but failed, to carry out a coup against the civilian government. Quickly, however, Genc takes the reader back almost thirty-six years to another, successful coup in 1980, which all but restarted the history of the Turkish Republic.

Through the voices of the generation that was born and came of age since the 1980 coup, Genc explores the contradictions, polarization, and shattered expectations of the modern Turkish Republic. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Activists Bring #OpenShuhadaSt Week of Global Action to Goldman Sachs

Jesse Rubin
Muftah, 13 March 2017

On February 28, gathered in the shadow of Wall Street's infamous "charging bull" statue, some twenty activists began their march to the headquarters of financial giant Goldman Sachs a few blocks away, as part of the Open Shuhada Street global week of action initiated by Youth Against Settlements (YAS), a grassroots Palestinian organization fighting oppression in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron. The protest was organized by CODEPINK, with sponsorship from Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) and Adalah NY. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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'We want bread'

Niveen Wahish
Al-Ahram Weekly, Issue 1335, (9 - 15 March 2017)

Hundreds took to the streets in governorates across Egypt on Tuesday to protest against reductions in daily quotas of subsidised baladi bread. Some beneficiaries of subsidised bread were able to purchase just three loaves per person rather than the designated five leading to rumours bread subsidies were being cut. "We want to live, we want bread," was one of the chants raised by the protesters. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Mubarak goes free

Gamal Essam El-Din
Al-Ahram Weekly, Issue 1335, (9 - 15 March 2017)

After six years of legal proceedings the Court of Cassation — Egypt's highest judicial authority — issued a final ruling on 2 March acquitting former president Hosni Mubarak of any responsibility for the killing of hundreds of protesters during the 25 January 2011 Revolution against his rule. The 89-

year-old ousted president, confined to South Cairo's Maadi Military Hospital since 2012, was flown to the Police Academy in an army helicopter to attend the session. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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The Women of Palestine and the Struggle for Liberation

New Eastern Politics, 11 March 2017

Hayat Al-Balbisi had always wanted to be a teacher. But her father was dead, her mother paralyzed and sick at home, her sister blind, leaving the family with no supporter. So Hayat, a student at the Teachers College in Jerusalem, decided to search for a job to support her family and support her education. And although she was lucky enough to find a job at the Palestinian radio in Jerusalem, her dream of teaching children never faded. So, when she heard that the school of Deir Yassin was in need of teachers, and despite knowing that the village was surrounded by 6 Zionist colonies, Hayat didn't think twice: she was going to teach the children of Deir Yassin. Deir Yassin was a beautiful prosperous village at the outskirts of Jerusalem, a peaceful village with a population of 750 residents. Zionist terror gangs, who had stolen all the land surrounding Deir Yassin and built illegal colonies everywhere, had their eyes set on Deir Yassin because of its wealth and its position. Deir Yassin was known as a peaceful village, and some even report that its residents had prevented Palestinian fighters from staying in the village or using its land as an area from which to fight the Zionist terrorists. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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The Kurdish Struggle – An Interview with Dilar Dirik

George Souvlis

New Eastern Politics, 8 March 2017

As a Kurd, you can never run from your identity, because your identity is essentially political and the level of your political consciousness acts as a self-defense as the only way to secure your survival and existence. That is why insistence on the free expression of your self-determined identity is portrayed as political controversy, nationalism, or terrorism by the capitalist-statist system. As an Alevi-Kurdish woman, who became a refugee as a child, and grew up as a Middle Eastern person in Europe, my personal story is absolutely not special or unique when put in the context of modern Kurdish history. Like many others, I come from a very leftist, politically active family. Knowing former or current political prisoners, militants, growing up around demonstrations and rallies was a normal part of my childhood, which is the case for millions of Kurds. Growing up in such a political environment, the militancy of elderly Kurdish women leading the forefront of demonstrations in the heart of capitalist modernity, in cities like Frankfurt, London, Paris, their wrinkled victory signs, their battle cry, determination, have a very educational and radicalizing effect. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Egypt campus: The students versus the regime

Amr Hamzawy

Al-Jazeera English, 7 March 2017

Following the 2013 military coup, students affiliated with - and sympathetic to - the Muslim Brotherhood demonstrated in public universities to demand the return of the deposed President Mohamed Morsi. Their demonstrations turned universities into a new battleground between security forces and students as Egypt's new rulers moved to crack down on student activism. The clampdown has been harsh. Egypt's ruling generals have used laws, regulations, procedures, and security tools to subdue student dissidents. The government has employed private security companies to patrol public university campuses and pushed university administrations to enforce harsh penalties against non-compliant students. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Flip-Flops and Kalashnikovs

Tom Stevenson

LRB, Vol. 39 No. 5 · 2 March 2017, pages 29-30

'Honourable was the swift and timely aid offered to them in their struggle by the West,' the *Times* said of the Libyan rebels who rose up against Gaddafi during the Arab Spring in 2011; Western military intervention on behalf of the rebellion was 'a good deed in a weary world'. Today, more than five years after Gaddafi's fall in October 2011, Libya has been relegated to that class of countries (Afghanistan, Somalia) from which we hear occasional news of US drone strikes but little else. Gaddafi's overthrow was quickly followed by a national implosion. The historical divide between Tripolitania in the west and the cities of Cyrenaica to the east reopened; disparate bands of militias hacked up the country; arms dealers enjoyed a surge in business unmatched since the collapse of the Soviet Union; paramilitary forces took control of the oil infrastructure. By 2014 two competing governments had emerged, neither of which was in a position to govern. Algerian and Tunisian jihadists found a haven free from French-trained counter-insurgency units. Islamic State established its most powerful satellite in Gaddafi's ancestral seat of Sirte, where it named the city's mosque after Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and carried out public executions for witchcraft. Feuds which had lain dormant or been actively discouraged in Gaddafi's time resurfaced and still persist, with varying degrees of severity, between at least a dozen tribal groups and rival towns. The small town of Tawergha, for example, devastated in 2011 by rebel forces from its large industrial neighbour Misrata, remains an empty ruin, its former residents scattered in four refugee camps around the country. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Who supplies the news? - on misreporting in Syria and Iraq

Patrick Cockburn

LRB, Vol. 39 No. 3 · 2 February 2017, pages 7-9

The nadir of Western media coverage of the wars in Iraq and Syria has been the reporting of the siege of East Aleppo, which began in earnest in July and ended in December, when Syrian government forces took control of the last rebel-held areas and more than 100,000 civilians were evacuated. During the bombardment, TV networks and many newspapers appeared to lose interest in whether any given report was true or false and instead competed with one another to publicise the most eye-catching atrocity story even when there was little evidence that it had taken place. NBC news reported that more than forty civilians had been burned alive by government troops, vaguely sourcing the story to 'the Arab media'. Another widely publicised story – it made headlines everywhere from the *Daily Express* to the *New York Times* – was that twenty women had committed suicide on the same morning to avoid being raped by the arriving soldiers, the source in this case being a well-known insurgent, Abdullah Othman, in a one-sentence quote given to the *Daily Beast*. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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The Kurds of Lebanon: identity, activism and ideology

Clare Maxwell

New Eastern Politics, 30 January 2017

Many members of the Kurdish community in Lebanon cannot give a solid answer to the question of whether they consider themselves Kurdish first and foremost, or Lebanese. It's a conundrum shared by many other national and ethnic groups in the country, who arrived in the 20th century as refugees and immigrants, but were only ever partially integrated into the political and social fabric of Lebanon. Here, some Kurdish families have been prominent member of Beirut society since Ottoman times, while others are newly arrived refugees from Syria, with little hope of ever gaining official permission to stay in the county, let alone citizenship. Under these circumstances, Lebanese Kurds are caught between integration in the local Sunni community, and allegiance to independence movements back in Kurdistan. The community is fractured between being "Lebanese" and being "Kurdish". As with many diaspora communities, those who cling to Kurdish identity are just as split; between support for the Barzani government in Iraqi Kurdistan and the democratic confederalist ideology of the PKK and PYD. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Activism and Motherhood

Lara Aharonian

New Eastern Politics, 17 January 2017

Growing up in an Armenian diasporan community in the Middle East, one learns very early in life that activism and volunteerism is an important part of your life and your identity. I learned it from my grandparents, and later on from my parents, that I followed once or more a week to community center meetings, fairs, demonstrations for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, Cultural and awareness events at the Armenian church, theaters and dances, emergency fundraising for Armenia during the earthquake and the war. And then I experienced it first hand while attending scouting groups as a participant first then as a cub leader, volunteering for youth clubs, church bazaars, and Armenian school events over the years. The first lesson most families teach their children in the Armenian Diaspora is to always give back to the community and volunteer, volunteer, volunteer after, work, school or University. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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A New Feminist Wave in Lebanon or the Path to Democratization

Pamela Chrabieh

New Eastern Politics, 12 January 2017

The study of Feminist/Women's movements not only contributes to our understanding of women's experiences of political and social change, but also helps to bridge the gaps between local activism and feminist theory. Feminist claims and organizations in Lebanon and most Western Asian countries are not new, and credit for the growth of new Feminisms must go to its pioneers, the women who first came to see their inferior status in society and to understand that such inferiority was not a divinely ordained fate that they were obliged to accept. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Sisi's Egypt (Interview with Hazem Kandil)

New Left Review 102, November-December 2016

The regime is still in a state of formation. It remains fluid and we do not know yet how it will consolidate itself. There are two main issues here. One is the political institutionalization of the Sisi regime. Since Nasser's time, Egyptian presidents have always relied upon a single party that organizes state control over trade unions, universities and the media, while also managing a vast patronage network in the bureaucracy, the legal system and the Egyptian countryside. This party had different names, from Nasser to Mubarak, but the President usually sat at its apex and governed through it. One of the consequences of the 2011 revolt has been the release of the old-regime political network from that institutional setting: the ruling party has been dissolved, and the old

network has discovered a way to function without necessarily working together in a formal institutional setting. This makes them less identifiable as the source of all evils in the Egyptian political system, and also gives them greater flexibility. As a result, when the moment came for them to contemplate joining together in a single party once more, they chose not to do so. Rather, they have been operating in politics—and especially in the Egyptian parliament—through a number of smaller parties or as independents, and in the ambit of various electoral coalitions. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Lecturer in the History of the Modern Middle East, King's College London

Deadline: 9 April 2017

The Department of Middle Eastern Studies welcomes applications from internationally outstanding candidates for the position of Lecturer in the History of the Modern Middle East. The successful candidate will have trained in some aspect of the modern or contemporary history of the region. We are looking for a candidate who can speak to wider thematic debates; who can contribute to interdisciplinary modules; and who can teach multiple case studies. Some themes of interest include but are not limited to: nationalisms (including of minorities), nation building, state formation, imperialism, revolutions, gender, socio-economic history. The candidate's research on the region will be empirically grounded, but also theoretically informed. The candidate will be skilled in the use of a regional language, and offer some geographic breadth to our current expertise.

S/he will teach and supervise BA students and contribute to the full range of the Department's clearly defined activities in postgraduate teaching and PhD supervision, research (including grant applications), and administration. For more details please consult the application pack.

Located in the heart of London, King's College London is the hub of a global network of strong academic connections and collaboration, with prestigious international partnerships within and across disciplines – scientific and medical, social and creative. King's is investing in the highest calibre of talent to drive the university forward to achieve its greatest potential. The very best from the United Kingdom and across the globe are invited to join King's. We are looking for a strong commitment to teaching, to push the boundaries of knowledge, influence the future and create a lasting impact.

This post will be Permanent. This is a Full-time post.

The selection process will include a presentation and a panel interview. Shortlisted candidates are requested to submit a sample of their written work.

More information and application [here](#)

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Joint MA Program in Comparative & Middle East Politics and Society (CMEPS) between the American University in Cairo (Egypt) and University of Tübingen (Germany)

Deadline: 1 April 2017

The CMEPS program is happy to announce its Fall 2017 admissions cycle. The final DEADLINE for consideration at AUC is 1 APRIL 2017, while fellowship deadlines vary (see details/link below). Additional funding is available on a competitive basis from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Contact us for more details.

We are actively recruiting candidates from across the globe with selection based on academic merit, personal qualification and recommendations, as well as motivation for graduate study. While the language of instruction for the program is English, further training is encouraged for Arabic/German-language acquisition to accompany study.

In a nutshell, the Joint MA in CMEPS:

- Consists of up to 20 total spaces (10 each university)
- Is taught completely in English (both in Egypt and in Germany)
- Runs for a total of four full-time academic semesters (two years)
- Is jointly supervised by world-renowned faculty at each university
- Offers in-depth training in both theory and practice, as well as a full-time semester at the partner university

Expected Qualifications:

Successful applicants to the CMEPS program are expected to:

- Hold a B.A. degree (or institutional equivalent) in political science or a related social science (such as Middle East or Islamic studies, anthropology, sociology, history, public policy, law, among others)
- Provide evidence of proficiency in English, e.g. TOEFL scores (of at least 90), IELTS (of at least 6.5); other certificates or evidence may suffice.

For how to apply for admission, fellowships, and for general inquiries, simply e-mail: cmeps@aucegypt.edu

Funding is available for (partial and full) tuition coverage at AUC. For a list of options, eligibility and deadlines, visit <http://aucegypt.edu/admissions/fellowships>

More information and application [here](#)

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Non-Resident Fellows, Tahrir Institute

Deadline: 14 April 2017

The Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy (TIMEP) is publishing an open call for applications to our non-resident fellowship program. TIMEP non-resident fellows contribute to TIMEP's mission to inform international policymakers and influence global policy discussions on developments happening in the Middle East and North Africa.

The call seeks applicant proposals for non-resident fellows, who will contribute to TIMEP's mission through development of research, analysis, and policy advisement in coordination with the TIMEP team. Potential fellows should be mid-career professionals with demonstrated expertise and commitment to TIMEP's mission and principles.

TIMEP's mission places great importance on the value of bringing local perspectives to policy discussions; thus, preference will be given to those living or working in the region. Applications will be considered for proposed work in Libya, Syria, Iraq, and Egypt, as well as regional, transnational, and comparative studies. TIMEP is particularly interested in applicants with expertise in the fields of:

- Economy and Development
- Security Sector Reform
- Digital Security
- **Social and Labor Movements**
- Gender and Sexuality
- Development and Good Governance

Scope of Fellowship

The fellowship term will consist of a period of six months, with review of the terms of agreement at the conclusion of the six-month period. The position is a non-resident position, with preference for a fellow with local presence in the region; TIMEP will facilitate a one-week site visit to TIMEP's Washington, DC, offices (outlined below). The fellow will receive a stipend commensurate with experience.

Potential Duties and Obligations

- Contribute analysis articles (around 1,000 words), on mutually agreed topics, for publication on the TIMEP website over the course of the term of the agreement.
- Be available to consult with TIMEP team on developments regarding area of focus, to keep them apprised and to offer assessment of the developments.
- Participate in monthly phone conferences with relevant TIMEP staff.

- Advise on the strategic direction of TIMEP’s research and advocacy initiatives, in coordination with TIMEP’s Research and Executive Directors and Advocacy and External Relations Manager.
- Provide written and oral review of TIMEP-drafted documents (no more than ten pages per month, including analysis pieces, primers, profiles, briefs, etc.).
- Facilitate meetings and site visits for TIMEP staff during research and advocacy trips.
- Conduct one visit to TIMEP’s Washington, DC, office over the course of the term of the agreement, to include events, advocacy meetings, and site visits, to be determined in coordination with the Advocacy and External Relations Manager.
- Indicate affiliation with TIMEP when doing interviews, speaking on panels, or publishing pieces in other news outlets.

Qualifications

- At least five years of relevant work or academic experience in a field related to the proposed area of study.
- A bachelor’s degree in a relevant field, with preference given to those who have graduate research experience.
- Proficiency in written and spoken English, with working proficiency in Arabic.
- Demonstrated commitment to TIMEP’s mission and principles.

To apply, candidates should submit the following to fellowships@timep.org:

- Résumé or Curriculum Vitae
- Cover Letter: The cover letter should indicate the candidate’s desired area of focus and relevance to TIMEP’s mission.
- Plan of work: The plan of work should consist of *no more than two pages*, indicating a general description of research, advocacy, or action initiatives with specific outputs to be developed over a six-month period. These may include desired meetings to be held, field research, reports, analysis pieces, events or workshops to be organized or attended, or other relevant proposals.
- Writing Sample

All application materials should be submitted in English. References may be requested upon review of materials.

TIMEP will review applications on a rolling basis until April 14, 2017.

More information and application [here](#)

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The Middle East in Global Politics SOAS Summer School

3 - 21 July 2017, SOAS, University of London

Co-convenors: Reem Abou-El-Fadl and David Wearing: SOAS, University of London

Programme Description

This course aims to place the modern Middle East in its international context, exploring histories of empire and decolonisation, hegemony and resistance, conflict and cooperation, as well as identity and foreign policy. It is informed by a rigorous engagement with theories of international relations but also places emphasis on historical context and contingency. The course therefore begins with an exploration of the different historical phases of interaction between Middle East states and the international system, divided into the colonial, Cold War and post-Cold War periods. The course introduces international relations theory at intervals in the first two weeks, as this history is being discussed. Engaging with different critical approaches, the course then moves to tackle key themes, such as transnationalism, political economy, globalisation, conflict and cooperation, foreign policy and identity, including analysis of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Arabism and Islamism. Course materials draw on an array of sources from literature and art, as well as international relations and empirical, historical scholarship. Further information on Course Structure, Content and Learning Outcomes can be found [here](#).

Fees, Accommodation, and Discounts

A tuition fee of £1500 will be charged per 3-week programme. Accommodation is available at an extra fee of £710 for 20 nights. For more details of how to reserve a room please visit our accommodation page.

An early bird discount of 10% is available if fees are paid by 31 March 2017.

15% discount for SOAS Alumni or if you take a combination of sessions 2 and 3.

20% discount for our partner institutions.

50% partial fee waiver for current SOAS students (2 available per course)

Other discounts are available for groups, please contact us for further information.

Credits

Students are usually able to obtain credits from their home institution and typically our courses receive 3 credits in the US system and 7.5 ECTS in the European system. Assessment will be optional. Participants will be provided with a certificate of attendance and transcripts will be available on request.

More information and application [here](#)

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