



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

Towards Anti-Hegemonic Knowledge Paradigms: Space, Place, Mobility and Power

First International Graduate Student Conference in the Social Sciences

9 – 10 May 2018, Birzeit University, Palestine

Deadline: 30 August 2017

The International Graduate Student Conference in the Social Sciences at Birzeit University, conceived and organized by students in the PhD program in the Social Sciences at Birzeit, will bring together graduate students, especially from the global south, along with post-doctoral scholars and early career academics. Through this exchange, participants will interact, expand their academic networks, enhance their diverse backgrounds and witness first-hand one of the last remaining settler-colonial regimes. They will bring a wide variety of experiences to bear on common methodological and theoretical concerns.

The general title of the conference, “Towards Anti-Hegemonic Knowledge Paradigms: Space, Place, Mobility and Power,” suggests our purpose, which is to dissect issues of knowledge production about the global south, particularly on issues having to do with the politics of space and place, mobility and power. We also hope participants will discuss new anti-hegemonic paradigms and their potential role in understanding socio-economic and political struggles. Our purpose is to spend the two days analyzing current power relations and ways to defy and challenge them.

The conference is divided into the following five sub-themes:

1. The political economy of spatiality: spatial inequalities and marginality, re/locating class, urbanization, migration and diasporas, colonial and post-colonial geopolitics of spatiality, global and transnational social and economic networks .
2. Knowledge production in the global south: discourses of power, decolonizing knowledge, indigenous knowledges.
3. Geopolitics of the everyday: globalized neoliberal lifestyles, space-time interactions, identity and popular culture.
4. Neo-colonial warfare in the global south: counterinsurgency warfare, Palestine as a lab, mass confinement and incarceration, surveillance and control, the history and future of neo-colonial wars.
5. Confronting colonialism and imperialism : anti-colonial movements, post-colonial state building, social justice movements in the Global South

Deadline for submissions : Paper abstracts of a maximum of 500 words in Arabic or English are due on 30 August 2017. Applicants will be informed of the conference committee’s decision by mid-November 2017, and full papers are to be submitted by April 1, 2018. Abstracts should be emailed to IGSC.PhD@birzeit.edu

Conference languages : Arabic and English will be the languages of the conference, and simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Financial assistance : a limited number of grants are available to support conference registration and travel and accommodation expenses for Ph.D. students from outside Palestine. After acceptance of their abstracts, applicants interested in financial support will be asked to submit proof of student status and an estimate of their travel costs. Students receiving accommodation support will be housed in local hotels.

Conference registration : all participants are required to register for the conference. Registration covers lunch and coffee breaks during the conference and the pre-conference workshop (for students only). The deadline for registration will be announced later. Pre-conference Workshop : Ph.D. students will have the opportunity to attend a day-long workshop on theory and method on May 8, 2018. It will be led by Birzeit University Ph.D. students and faculty advisors. Day Trip : A tour of important Palestinian sites and institutions will be organized by the conference on May 11, 2018. Cost of participation will be announced later. Limited financial assistance will be available to Ph.D. students presenting papers, and can be requested by the date to be communicated to those whose papers have been accepted.

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Battling through the press: Progressive activism in the Middle East

Deadline: 30 September 2017

Panel for Fifth World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies, 16-22 July 2018, Seville, Spain

Coordinators Patrizia Manduchi (University of Cagliari) , Daniela Melfa (University of Catania)

Decolonisation is seen as a time of struggles and utopian impetus. Since the First World War demands for independence started emerging in the Middle East and political movements organised around competing creeds. Among the 'weapons' used by activists on all side, the press played an essential role – despite wide illiteracy – in challenging authorities, circulating opinions and attracting adepts. Editorial offices, often clandestine, were also a breeding ground of ideas. This political engagement persisted in the aftermath of independence when the intellectual and political elite s strove for development, national unity and state - building. In this effervescent atmosphere the press continued to work as a catalyst for activism and counterhegemonic ideologies. Focusing on the decades that straddle independence, the panel aims to examine the political struggle through the lens of the progressive press. Newspapers' editorial line or even specific articles disclose information about political perspectives and projects. It is on this creative and imaginative phase – which covers both the colonial and postcolonial period – that panellists are invited to focus. Debates around constitutions, state economy, education, foreign policy, etc. shed light on the constitutive moment that goes hand in ha nd with the liberation struggle. We welcome papers that deal with the agenda of newspapers or reviews, the activity of the editorial staff or even prominent intellectual figures.

Through content analysis new horizons of expectations and sense may be highlighted. Attention can be paid also on the profile of readers and the impact of the press on public opinion and the ruling class. Barriers on journalistic activities or censorship may be seen as the litmus test of their effectiveness. Analysis may address both independent and partisan newspapers. The transnational network of these 'activists of the pen' and their international 'ideoscape' may be also taken into account to better situate their posture. Finally, the set of case studies will enable us to better outline what makes 'progressive' a political force, to distinguish different stances of progressivism ('moderate', 'radical', etc.) and to debate related categories such as the 'Left' .

Submission guidelines Proposals must include a title, an abstract and five keywords. Abstracts should be between 300 and 400 words. Accepted languages are English and French (WOCMES working languages). Proposals must be sent in both Word and PDF formats to (Patrizia Manduchi, manduchi@unica.it ; and Daniela Melfa, melfa@unict.it) . The deadline for proposals submission is September 30 , 2017 . Authors will be notified of acceptance on or before October 20 , 2017 .

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Wind of Change: Politics, Economy, Ethnicity in the Mediterranean

University of Lisbon, 2nd – 4th November 2017

Deadline: 31 July 2017

Workshop convenors: Dr Jutta Lauth Bacas, Fellow, Royal Anthropological Institute
Murilo Guimarães, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon (ICS-UL)

We are pleased to announce that the EASA Mediterraneanist Network (MedNet) will held its 2017 MedNet Workshop in cooperation with the University of Lisbon. Focusing on circumstances and conditions of change, the 2017 MedNet Workshop will bring together members of the EASA MedNet Network in an open forum with scholars and colleagues interested in Mediterranean studies. The 2017 MedNet workshop shall focus on the following aspects:

Politics in a broad sense (referring to the Greek term politika, "affairs of the cities") belong to the most relevant fields for studying processes of transformation and change. Anthropologists interested in the study of changing political practices (f. e., clientelism and patronage) and shifting relations of power (formal, informal, new forms of resistance, protest or civil actions) within the Mediterranean as a comparative frame are invited to the workshop. Contributions to the workshop may critically reflect these processes or present current research based on participant observation in the region.

Starting from a basic understanding of the economy as an important field of human practices and transactions, recent experiences since 2008 have made us thinking of crisis - and not growth - as a rule governing economic developments. Countries of the European South have experienced shockwaves of economic and fiscal changes affecting the everyday life of millions of people.

Contribution to the workshop are invited to investigate and elaborate the meaning of crisis from a bottom-up perspective, analyzing the manifold ways of responding to the economic crisis in Mediterranean countries through changing social and cultural practices of individuals, families and social groups.

Ethnicity can be seen as another feature central to most societies bordering the Mediterranean Sea. Following Frederik Barth, ethnicity has to be understood as continuously negotiated and renegotiated by both external ascription and internal self-identification. The forthcoming 2017 MedNet workshop in Lisbon therefor welcomes contributions related to changing interconnectedness in the Mediterranean region and to ethnic group formation related to processes of migration, movements for regional autonomy and/or other social processes of exclusion and incorporation.

Contact Info:

If you wish to present a paper at the 2017 MedNet workshop, please send a title and summary of 300 words until 31st of JULY 2017 to both: Jutta Lauth Bacas, email: jutta.lauth.bacas@gmail.com
Murilo Guimarães, email: murilorguimaraes@gmail.com

More information [here](#)

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Maghrebine Society and the Challenges of Modernity

14-15 November 2017, Moulay Ismail University, Meknes, Morocco

Deadline: 15 September 2017

Just like the rest of the Islamic world, the Maghrebine society is in a state of flux where external influences and internal changes are shaping the structure of the society on vertical and horizontal levels. The tremendous impact of colonialism, the massive power of globalization and the unprecedented revolution in digital communication have accelerated the rhythm of transition from a traditional community where values and norms are deeply rooted in history to a society that has massively been exposed to modernization for some decades.

But unlike the West where modernity implied fundamental changes and ruptures in the structure of thinking, modernity in the Maghreb is still a problematic and controversial issue. For some, modernity should stick only to the hardware, and to the palpable and physical needs, such as economic progress, social welfare, human development and technology, but should not challenge the fundamentals of the society. Western definition of modernity is even deemed detrimental and jeopardizing the essence and identity of this community. For others, modernity is a universal heritage that celebrates human agency, reason and freedom of thought and expression and should, therefore, be locally appropriated as well.

The gulf between these two converging narratives is today manifest in almost every aspect of social and cultural discourses. Civil society is gaining more ground, artists and intellectuals are making their voices more vocal, minorities, women and youth are audaciously challenging hegemonic and patriarchal ideologies. But at the same time, radical thoughts, conservative values are appealing to a large segment of society that identifies with the past in the name of authenticity and revivalism. The aim of this international conference is to explore the dynamics of this transition, to analyze the ins and outs of this society in this particular context and to contribute in mapping possible and constructive routes for the future. The second objective of the conference is to provide a platform for academics and researchers from the Maghreb as well as from other countries so as to think together on how academia could contribute in a smooth transition towards modernity.

We invite abstracts for presentations to address the following issues in the Maghrebine context (but are not strictly limited to):

- Body/identity politics
- Youth culture
- New voices of modern art and literature
- Social movements
- Civil society
- Diasporic writers and artists
- Modern Muslim thinkers from the Maghreb
- Radical Islam
- Social media and social transformation
- Education and the question of modernity
- Multiculturalism and the rights of minorities
- Maghrebine women and gender issues

The conference language is both English and French. Abstracts should all be submitted in English. Abstracts should not exceed 500 words. The biography should include title, institution and academic publications.

The deadline for abstract submission : September 15, 2017

Notification of acceptance : October 15, 2017

Conference date : November 14-15, 2017

Conference coordinator

Dr. Mohssine Nachit : prmohssinenachit@gmail.com

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Rock in a Hard Place - Music and Mayhem in the Middle East

Orlando Crowcroft

June 2017 – Zed Books

A muggy night in Abu Dhabi, 2011. Under the stadium lights a 30,000-strong sea of Libyans, Palestinians, Syrians and Egyptians wait in anticipation. Alongside them are Saudis, Iranians and Israelis. Defiance and excitement course through the crowd like electricity. Standing together, they are waiting for Metallica's first ever show in the Middle East. Many have faced untold violence, but for tonight, nothing else matters...

This is the untold story of that crowd. Of the young men and women and the music they make in the backrooms of shabby houses in al-Zarqa and al-Qatif, Nazareth and Cairo. Of illegal shows in Tehran and Riyadh. Of songs that ousted a dictator in Cairo. Of exiles that have ended in glory, in isolation, and in blood. Journalist and lifelong heavy metal fan, Orlando Crowcroft, spent six years penetrating the rock and metal scene in the Middle East. *Rock in a Hard Place* is a different voice, one that is at odds with the Middle East of violence, extremism, war and ISIS: a voice recognizable to anyone who has ever turned up a speaker or an amp to drown out the din of the everyday, and a voice that may help unite us when we need it most.

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Leading from the Periphery and Network Collective Action

Navid Hassanpour

2017 - Cambridge University Press

Political revolutions, economic meltdowns, mass ideological conversions and collective innovation adoptions occur often, but when they do happen, they tend to be the least expected. Based on the paradigm of 'leading from the periphery', this groundbreaking analysis offers an explanation for such spontaneity and apparent lack of leadership in contentious collective action. Contrary to existing theories, the author argues that network effects in collective action originating from marginal leaders can benefit from a total lack of communication. Such network effects persist in isolated islands of contention instead of overarching action cascades, and are shown to escalate in globally dispersed, but locally concentrated networks of contention. This is a trait that can empower marginal leaders and set forth social dynamics distinct from those originating in the limelight. *Leading from the Periphery and Network Collective Action* provides evidence from two Middle Eastern uprisings, as well as behavioral experiments of collective risk-taking in social networks.

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Crisis and Class War in Egypt - Social Reproduction, Factional Realignments and the Global Political Economy

Sean F. McMahon

2016 – Zed Books

In 2011, capital's crisis erupted in Egyptian society. This eruption, and subsequent politics, have been misrepresented as revolutionary, as the working class was – and is increasingly so – devalued and disempowered. In *Crisis and Class War in Egypt*, Sean F. McMahon critically analyses Egypt's recent political history. He argues that the so-called 'revolution' was the appearance of capital's destruction of the value of the Egyptian working class and an existential crisis for capital. In response, productive capital in the form of the military used, disposed of and replaced its junior partners in governing; first the predatory capital of the Mubarak state with the commodity capital of the Muslim Brotherhood, and then commodity capital with the finance capital of the Gulf Cooperation Council. These reconfigurations have been expressed in all manner of reactionary governmental arrangements including constitutions, legislation and currency reform. Extending today's analysis into the near future, McMahon sees the war of Egyptian society intensifying, and increasingly violent lives for Egyptian workers.

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Digital Jihad: Palestinian Resistance in the Digital Era

Erik Skare

2016 – Zed Books

An innovative and technology-driven form of dissent has emerged in response to the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Dubbed "electronic jihad," this approach by groups of Palestinian hackers has made international headlines by breaching the security of websites, such as the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, Avira, Whatsapp, and BitDefender. Though initially confined to small clandestine groups, interest in hacktivism continues to grow and is being adopted by militant Palestinian parties, including Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, groups which are now incorporating hackers into their ranks. Based on extensive firsthand interviews with Palestinian hackers and other activists, *Digital Jihad* is the first book to look at the increasing role of hacktivism in the Palestinian resistance movement. Erik Skare provides unique insight into the evolution of the movement within Palestine as well as its place within the global transformation of activism, which has embraced technology--and its disruption--as a form of protest

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The Mizrahi Era of Rebellion - Israel's Forgotten Civil Rights Struggle, 1948-1966

Bryan K. Roby

2016 - Syracuse University Press

In this pioneering work, Roby traces the Mizrahi population's struggle for equality and civil rights in Israel. Although the daily "bread and work" demonstrations are considered the first political expression of the Mizrahim, Roby demonstrates the myriad ways in which they agitated for change. Drawing upon a wealth of archival sources, many only recently declassified, Roby details the activities of the highly ideological and politicized young Israel. Police reports, court transcripts, and protester accounts document a diverse range of resistance tactics, including sit-ins, tent protests, and hunger strikes. Roby shows how the Mizrahi intellectuals and activists in the 1960s began to take note of the American civil rights movement, gaining inspiration from its development and drawing parallels between their experience and that of other marginalized ethnic groups. *The Mizrahi Era of Rebellion* shines a light on a largely forgotten part of Israeli social history, one that profoundly shaped the way Jews from African and Asian countries engaged with the newly founded state of Israel.

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The Iranian Constitutional Revolution and the Clerical Leadership of Khurasani

Mateo Mohammad Farzaneh

2015 - Syracuse University Press

The Iranian Constitutional Revolution was the twentieth century's first such political movement in the Middle East. It represented a landmark in Iranian history because of the unlikely support it received from Shi'ite clerics who historically viewed Western concepts with suspicion, some claiming constitutionalism to be anti-Islamic. Leading the support was Muhammad Kazim Khurasani, the renowned Shi'ite jurist who conceived of a supporting role for the clergy in a modern Iranian political system. Drawing on extensive analysis of religious texts, fatwas, and articles written by Khurasani and other pro- and anti-constitutionalists, Farzaneh provides a comprehensive and illuminating interpretation of Khurasani's religious pragmatism. Despite some opposition from his peers, Khurasani used a form of jurisprudential reasoning when creating shari'a that was based on human intellect to justify his support of not only the Iranian parliament but also the political powers of clerics. He had a reputation across the Shi'ite community as a masterful religious scholar, a skillful teacher, and a committed humanitarian who heeded the people's socioeconomic and political grievances and took action to address them. Khurasani's push for progressive reforms helped to inaugurate a new era of clerical involvement in constitutionalism in the Middle East.

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Syria from Reform to Revolt, Volume 2 - Culture, Society, and Religion

Edited by Christa Salamandra and Leif Stenberg

2015 - Syracuse University Press

With a broad range of disciplinary perspectives, contributors reveal how Bashar al-Asad's pivotal first decade of rule engendered changes in power relations and public discourse—dynamics that would feed the 2011 protest movement and civil war. Essays focus on key arenas of Syrian social life, including television drama, political fiction, Islamic foundations, and Christian choirs and charities, demonstrating the ways in which Syrians worked with and through the state in attempts to reform, undermine, or sidestep the regime. The contributors explore the paradoxical cultural politics of hope, anticipation, and betrayal that have animated life in Syria under Asad, revealing the fractures that obstruct peaceful transformation. *Syria from Reform to Revolt* provides a powerful assessment of the conditions that turned Syria's hopeful Arab spring revolution into a catastrophic civil war that has cost over 200,000 lives and generated the worst humanitarian crisis of the twenty-first century.

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Strike Action and Nation Building: Labor Unrest in Palestine/Israel, 1899–1951

David De Vries

2015 - Berghahn Books

Strike-action has long been a notable phenomenon in Israeli society, despite forces that have weakened its recurrence, such as the Arab-Jewish conflict, the decline of organized labor, and the increasing precariousness of employment. While the impact of strikes was not always immense, they are deeply rooted in Israel's past during the Ottoman Empire and Mandate Palestine. Workers persist in using them for material improvement and to gain power in both the private and public sectors, reproducing a vibrant social practice whose codes have withstood the test of time. This book unravels the trajectory of the strikes as a rich source for the social-historical analysis of an otherwise nation-oriented and highly politicized history.

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The Long 1890s in Egypt: Colonial Quiescence, Subterranean Resistance

Marilyn Booth and Anthony Gorman (eds.)

2014 - Edinburgh University Press

Egypt just before political eruption! Turns of the century in Africa's northeastern corner have been critical moments, ushering in overt popular activism in the hope of radical political redirection--as

this volume's focus on Egypt's 19th-century fin-de-siècle demonstrates. The end of the 19th century in Egypt witnessed crisscrossing and conflicting political currents as well as fluctuating economic, geopolitical, social conditions, demographic conditions and cultural processes. Like Egypt's 20th-century fin-de-siècle, much of this ferment was a prelude to the more visible and politically eruptive events of the next decades, when Egypt's popular resistance burst onto the international scene. But its subterranean cast was no less dynamic for that.

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Dissident Writings of Arab Women: Voices Against Violence

Brinda J. Mehta

2014 – Routledge

Dissident Writings of Arab Women: Voices Against Violence analyzes the links between creative dissidence and inscriptions of violence in the writings of a selected group of postcolonial Arab women. The female authors destabilize essentialist framings of Arab identity through a series of reflective interrogations and "contesting" literary genres that include novels, short stories, poetry, docudramas, interviews and testimonials. Rejecting a purist "literature for literature's sake" ethic, they embrace a dissident poetics of feminist critique and creative resistance as they engage in multiple and intergenerational border crossings in terms of geography, subject matter, language and transnationality. This book thus examines the ways in which the women's writings provide the blueprint for social justice by "voicing" protest and stimulating critical thought, particularly in instances of social oppression, structural violence, and political transition. Providing an interdisciplinary approach which goes beyond narrow definitions of literature as aesthetic praxis to include literature's added value as a social, historical, political, and cultural palimpsest, this book will be a useful resource for students and scholars of North African Studies, Postcolonial Studies, Francophone Studies, and Feminist Studies.

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Answering the Call - Popular Islamic Activism in Egypt

Abdullah Al-Arian

2014 – Oxford University Press

Answering the Call examines the means by which the Muslim Brotherhood was reconstituted during Anwar al-Sadat's presidency. Through analysis of structural, ideological, and social developments during this period in the history of the Islamic movement, a more accurate picture of the so-called "Islamic resurgence" develops one that represents the rebirth of an old idea in a new setting. The Muslim Brotherhood's success in rebuilding its organization rested in large part on its ability to attract a new generation of Islamic activists that had come to transform Egypt's colleges and universities into a hub for religious contention against the state. Led by groups such as al-Gama'ah al-

Islamiyyah (The Islamic Society), the student movement exhibited a dynamic and vibrant culture of activism that found inspiration in a multitude of intellectual and organizational sources, of which the Muslim Brotherhood was only one. By the close of the 1970s, however, internal divisions over ideology and strategy led to the rise of factionalism within the student movement. A majority of student leaders opted to expand the scope of their activist mission by joining the Muslim Brotherhood, rejuvenating the struggling organization, and launching a new phase in its history.

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Temptations of Power: Islamists and Illiberal Democracy in a New Middle East

Shadi Hamid

2014 – Oxford University Press

In 1989, Francis Fukuyama famously announced the "end of history." The Berlin Wall had fallen; liberal democracy had won out. But what of illiberal democracy--the idea that popular majorities, working through the democratic process, might reject gender equality, religious freedoms, and other norms that Western democracies take for granted? Nowhere have such considerations become more relevant than in the Middle East, where the uprisings of 2011 swept the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamist groups to power. In *Temptations of Power*, Shadi Hamid draws on hundreds of interviews with leaders and activists from across the region to advance a new understanding of how Islamist movements change over time. He puts forward the bold thesis that repression "forced" Islamists to moderate their politics, work in coalitions, de-emphasize Islamic law, and set aside the dream of an Islamic state. Meanwhile, democratic openings in the 1980s--and again during the Arab Spring--pushed Islamists back toward their original conservatism. With the uprisings of 2011, Islamists found themselves in an enviable position, but one for which they were unprepared. Groups like the Brotherhood combine the features of both political parties and religious movements, leading to an inherent tension they have struggled to resolve. However pragmatic they may be, their ultimate goal remains the Islamization of society. When the electorate they represent is conservative as well, they can push their own form of illiberal democracy while insisting they are carrying out the popular will. This can lead to overreach and significant backlash. Yet, while the Egyptian coup and the subsequent crackdown were a devastating blow for the Islamist "project," obituaries of political Islam are premature.

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How Capitalism Failed the Arab World - The Economic Roots and Precarious Future of the Middle East Uprisings

Richard Javad Heydarian

2014 – Zed Books

Economic liberalization has failed in the Arab world. Instead of ushering in economic dynamism and precipitating gradual democratic reform, it has over the last three decades resulted in greater poverty, rising income inequality and sky-rocketing rates of youth unemployment. In *How Capitalism Failed the Arab World*, Richard Heydarian shows how years of political autocracy, corruption and economic mismanagement have encouraged people to revolt, and how the initial optimism of the uprisings is now giving way to bitter power struggles and increasing uncertainty. A unique and provocative analysis of one of the key social and political events of the last decade.

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The Revolt of the Young - Essays by Tawfiq al-Hakim

Translated from the Arabic by Mona Radwan, Foreword by Roger Allen

2014 - Syracuse University Press

Al-Hakim muses on the cultural, artistic, and intellectual links and breakages between the old and the young generations. He focuses on the young and their role in the continuing development of Egyptian society, which over the course of the last century or so has undergone foreign occupation, an experiment in parliamentary democracy within a monarchical system, a socialist revolution characterized by both successes and failures, the emergence of a dictatorial presidency, and now the development of a complex political scenario currently dominated by groups with varyingly strong ties to the tenets of Islam. Al-Hakim did not live long enough to witness the most recent phases of this elongated and often disruptive process of experimentation and change, but in his writing, he focuses on the institution that he regards as crucial to any forward progress: the family. The essays present readers with a voice from the past, with uncanny foretelling of issues raised by the events that occurred in Egypt more than twenty years after al-Hakim's death. Radwan's translation, along with Roger Allen's foreword, brings to light al-Hakim's lucid and erudite commentary, much of it as relevant to the problems facing Egyptian youth today as it was when first published.

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Jurji Zaidan and the Foundations of Arab Nationalism

Thomas Philipp

2014 - Syracuse University Press

Jurji Zaidan was one of the leading thinkers of the Arab Nahda. Through his historical novels, his widely read journal *al-Hilal*, which is still published today, and his scholarly works, he forged a new

cultural Arab identity. In this book, Philipp shows how Zaidan popularized the idea of society that was based on science and reason, and invoked its accessibility to all who aspired to progress and modernity. In the first section, Philipp traces the arc of Zaidan's career, placing his writings within the political and cultural contexts of the day and analyzing his impact on the emerging Arab nationalist movement. The second part consists of a wide selection of Zaidan's articles and book excerpts translated into English. These pieces cover such fields as religion and science, society and ethics, and nationalism. With the addition of a comprehensive bibliography, this volume will be recognized as the authoritative source on Zaidan, as well as an essential contribution to the study of Arabic cultural history.

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Syria from Reform to Revolt - Political Economy and International Relations

Raymond Hinnebusch and Tina Zintl (Eds)
2014 - Syracuse University Press

This volume explores the ways in which Asad's domestic and foreign policy strategies during his first decade in power safeguarded his rule and adapted Syria to the age of globalization. The volume's contributors examine multiple aspects of Asad's rule in the 2000s, from power consolidation within the party and control of the opposition to economic reform, co-opting new private charities, and coping with Iraqi refugees. The Syrian regime temporarily succeeded in reproducing its power and legitimacy, in reconstructing its social base, and in managing regional and international challenges. At the same time, contributors clearly detail the shortcomings, inconsistencies, and risks these policies entailed, illustrating why Syria's tenuous stability came to an abrupt end during the Arab Spring of 2011. This volume presents the work of an international group of scholars from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds. Based on extensive fieldwork and on intimate knowledge of a country whose dynamics often seem complicated and obscure to outside observers, these scholars' insightful snapshots of Bashar al-Asad's decade of authoritarian upgrading provide an indispensable resource for understanding the current crisis and its disastrous consequences.

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The Shi'ites of Lebanon - Modernism, Communism, and Hizbullah's Islamists

Rula Jurdi Abisaab and Malek Abisaab
2014 - Syracuse University Press

The complex history of Lebanese Shi'ites has traditionally been portrayed as rooted in religious and sectarian forces. The Abisaabs uncover a more nuanced account in which colonialism, the modern state, social class, and provincial politics profoundly shaped Shi'i society. The authors trace the

sociopolitical, economic, and intellectual transformation of the Shi'ites of Lebanon from 1920 during the French colonial period until the late twentieth century. They shed light on the relationship of contemporary Islamic militancy with traditions of religious modernism and leftism in both Lebanon and Iraq. Analyzing the interaction between sacred and secular features of modern Shi'ite society, the authors clearly follow the group's turn toward religious revolution and away from secular activism. This book transforms our understanding of twentieth-century Lebanese history and demonstrates how the rise of Hizbullah was conditioned by Shi'ites' consistent marginalization and neglect by the Lebanese state.

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Islamic Feminism in Kuwait: The Politics and Paradoxes

Alessandra L. González

2013 – Palgrave Macmillan

As Islamic states struggle to modernize and, in some cases, democratize, the issue of women's rights continues to elicit strong feelings and controversy and there are many paradoxes surrounding the idea of Islamic Feminism. Why are conservative Islamists winning elections? Why are educated and professional Muslim women still choosing to wear the veil? Many of the populist revolutions we are witnessing in the Middle East focus on the legitimate grievances of marginalized groups and populations. This book highlights the voices of cultural elites in the oil-rich State of Kuwait, where a modern suffrage movement culminated in giving women their political rights in 2005. The result is a new brand of feminism, one born out of a traditional and culturally conservative climate, which gives Islamic Feminists in Kuwait the edge they need to soar to new heights.

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Youth and Revolution in Tunisia

Alcinda Honwana

2013 – Zed Books

The uprising in Tunisia has come to be seen as the first true revolution of the twenty-first century, one that kick-started the series of upheavals across the region now known as the Arab Spring. In this remarkable work, Alcinda Honwana goes beyond superficial accounts of what occurred to explore the defining role of the country's youth, and in particular the cyber activist. Drawing on fresh testimony from those who shaped events, the book describes in detail the experiences of young activists through the 29 days of the revolution and the challenges they encountered after the fall of the regime and the dismantling of the ruling party. Now, as old and newly established political forces are moving into the political void created by Ben Ali's departure, tensions between the older and younger generations are sharpening. An essential account of an event that has inspired the world, and its potential repercussions for the Middle East, Africa and beyond.

Raging Against the Machine: Political Opposition Under Authoritarianism in Egypt

Holger Albrecht

2013 - Syracuse University Press

Raging Against the Machine explains why political opposition emerges and persists over a protracted period of time in an autocracy thirty years under Hosni Mubarak without either changing the fundamental rules of the political game or disappearing as a consequence of the regime's containment strategies. Albrecht uncovers a rich and dynamic world of opposition politics in Egypt. Apart from Islamist movements by far the strongest opposition groups we find other forms of organizations in Egypt, such as political parties, human rights groups, smaller protest movements, organizations representing workers interests, and informal pressure groups. These groups have employed different ideological and programmatic perspectives, such as Islamism, Nationalism, Liberalism, and Socialism."

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JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Division and Discord among the Shia 'Ulamā': New Lights on the Failure of the 1927 Anti-Conscription Movement in Iran

Najm al-Din Yousefi

Iranian Studies, 2017 Vol. 50, No. 5, 705–733

This essay delves into the 1927 anti-conscription movement and the causes of its failure. It argues that the Shia 'ulamā' of Iran and Iraq suffered from endemic divisions within their ranks, which in turn kept them from agreeing on a unified position against the extensive socioeconomic and military reforms under Reza Shah. The essay sheds light on the government's use of religious justification that facilitated modern reforms. It also demonstrates how certain elements within the clerical establishment helped the Reza Shah government to win the senior clerics over or at least neutralize their opposition. This allows us to discern the fluid boundaries of tradition and modernity as modernizing reforms checked the Shia 'ulamā's long-standing authority in Iranian society.

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New Asymmetries in the New Authoritarianism: Research in Egypt in the Age of Post-Revolution

Lucie Ryzova

International Journal of Middle East Studies, 49(3), 511-514

Egypt was at the center of a wave of uprisings and revolutions that swept the region between 2011 and 2013, the common denominator of which was demands for a radical democratic alternative to authoritarian regimes variously formulated around social justice and political rights. While the Middle East was a major theater of these events, with Tunisia, Egypt, Lybia, Syria, Bahrain, and Yemen sharing the headlines, the processes that informed these uprisings were also deeply global. The year 2011 was a revolutionary year, maybe the last in history, when actors differently positioned in the neoliberal social landscape mobilized in different ways, from the Occupy Movement to the London riots. The demise, or better, defeat, of these movements has reverberated profoundly around the globe, highlighting the postdemocratic nature of governance in contemporary states. One of the effects of the rise of new authoritarianism across Europe and the United States is a palpable transformation in the asymmetry between outside observer and the local observed. Researchers now face a reshaping, in some ways a leveling, of differences between “us” and “them” and the distinct temporality used to underpin this asymmetry. Nothing could illustrate this better than the fact that as I write, Egypt's president ‘Abd al-Fattah al-Sisi is enjoying a warm welcome in the White House. The narrative is no longer framed through the worn-out trope of an Arab leader aspiring to modernize his country through pledging allegiance to the leader of the Free World in exchange for aid and armaments; now the man in the White House implicitly pledges to learn from the Arab dictator. Egypt is the pioneer; the United States is the relative latecomer to the Age of New Authoritarianism.

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Video Activists from Aleppo and Raqqa as ‘Modern-Day Kinoks’? - An Audiovisual Narrative of the Syrian Revolution

Josepha Ivanka Wessels

Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication, Volume 10, Issue 2-3, pages 159 – 174

The popular uprising that began in Syria in 2011 generated an unprecedented number of YouTube videos recording events in Syria; this emphasized how the social media platform had become an important alternative space for news and information, a space beyond the control of the government. In this article, I address the role of Syrian video activism in the Syrian revolution, and pay particular attention to why young Syrian anti-regime protesters started recording and uploading their videos on YouTube. As such, I do not focus on technology or the medium per se, but on the peoples’ motivations—what led them to upload digital video content as testimonies of revolutionary events and violence. Based on observation of verified YouTube clips, field visits to Turkey and Syria and semi-structured interviews with Syrian video activists between the years 2014 and 2016, I suggest that Syrian video activists can be seen as revolutionary filmmakers similar to the twentieth-

century 'Kinoks', or *kino-ki*, that formed part of Dziga Vertov's Soviet filmmakers collective whose radical experiment aimed to bridge social revolution and realist cinematic practice (Tomas 1992) and document reality 'As It Is'.

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Rentier Islamism in the absence of elections: The political role of Muslim brotherhood affiliates in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates

Courtney Freer

International Journal of Middle East Studies, 49 (3). pp. 479-500

Drawing on contemporary history and empirical research, this article revises traditional rentier state theory, which fails to account for the existence of Islamist movements in states accruing substantial outside wealth. Rentier state theory expects that citizens of such states will form opposition blocs only when their stake in rent income is threatened. Examining the development of Muslim Brotherhood affiliates in two archetypal rentier states, or super-rentiers, in the Gulf— Qatar and the United Arab Emirates—this article shows that ideology rather than rent motivated the formation of independent Islamist movements. This research helps to break the causal link established by rentier state theory between oil rents and lack of politically relevant Islamist organizations. We find that the presence of oil rents, instead of rendering Islamist complaint politically irrelevant, shapes the ways in which Islamist movements seek to influence government policies.

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“Is Hizmet Liberal?” Mediations and Disciplines of Islam and Liberalism among Gülen Organizations in Istanbul

Jeremy F. Walton

Sociology of Islam, Volume 1, Issue 3-4, pages 145 – 164

s Hizmet liberal? The question is intractable both for Hizmet actors and for the Turkish public sphere more broadly. In this essay, I marshal ethnographic research carried out over several years among Hizmet institutions in Istanbul to shed light on the politics of this question. I examine several characteristic Hizmet institutions in order to argue that Hizmet forges a synthesis between Islamic and liberal discourses and practices. This synthesis unravels dichotomous images of Islam and liberalism as necessarily opposed. In particular, I analyze ethical values such as “positive action” (*müspet hareket*), “service” (*hizmet*), and piety (*taqwa*), as well as initiatives, such as interreligious dialogue (*dinler arası diyalog*), carried out by Hizmet-affiliated charitable foundations/pious endowments (*vakıflar*). By way of conclusion, I reevaluate the title question of the article to unpack the dialectical tension embedded between liberal political projects and liberalism as a disciplining power.

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Approaching a Sociology of Fethullah Gülen

Joshua D. Hendrick

Sociology of Islam, Volume 1, Issue 3-4, pages 131 – 144

Fethullah Gülen is Turkey's most famous, influential, and controversial faith-based communitarian leader. Collectively known as "the Gülen movement" (GM), individuals inspired by Gülen's charismatic teachings control organizations that span the world. Led by "aksiyon insanları" (people of action), the GM has accumulated tremendous social influence in education, media, trade, and allegedly, in unelected state office. Responding to those critical of its power, GM actors claim to be nothing more than "selfless," "service oriented" advocates for interfaith and intercultural dialogue. The effort of this introduction to this special issue of Sociology of Islam is to situate the GM in its Turkish context. As a collective actor, the GM creates subjects and impacts societies. The social norms and communitarian social structure that are reproduced in the GM network engender identities, regulate desires, and determine social, economic, and political outcomes in Turkey and around the world. In this way, the GM constitutes a source of social power, and thus warrants academic scrutiny. In an attempt to fill a void in the literature on the impact of the GM's collective mobilization, the contributing authors to this special issue of Sociology of Islam hope to contribute to the sociological investigation of Turkey's GM in particular, and to the interactions between Islam and modern socio-political organization in general.

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Post-Islamism or Veering Toward Political Modernity? State, Ideology and Islam in Turkey

Fabio Vicini

Sociology of Islam, Volume 4, Issue 3, pages 261 – 279

In this article I assess the suitability of exploring the entanglement of state and Islam in Turkey under the rubric of post-Islamism. This is achieved through an exploration of the composite intertwining of religious discourse, historical and teleological imaginaries, and ideals of civic engagement within the Gülen movement. In my view not only does the post-Islamist thesis appear to be limited in regard to analyzing this and similar cases, but it also dangerously echoes recurrent neo-orientalist narratives, which in essence circumscribe how Islam can be "inclusive" and open to ideals of "individual freedom," "pluralism," and to Western ideals of democracy. In this paper I argue that it is instead the ideologization of religious discourse – a specific product of political modernity – which hinders Islamic movements such as the Gülen and others from realizing the full potential of Islam as an alternative global civilizational discourse to that of liberal modernity.

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Cultural Opportunity and Social Movements - The Iranian Green Movement and the Egyptian Tahrir Revolution

Arash Reisinezhad and Parisa Farhadi

Sociology of Islam, Volume 4, Issue 3, pages 236 – 260

The emergence of the Arab Spring in 2010 heralded a deep transformation within Muslim societies as well as the geopolitical arrangement of the region. These movements emerged after a non-Arab movement, the Iranian Green Movement in 2009, with which they shared various characteristics, ranging from its broad use of virtual space to movement without a classic leadership. While a large body of movement literature links the formation of social movement to either the structural opportunities or rational choice theory, the present paper addresses the cultural opportunity as a main facilitator-constraint in the movement formation. Given this fact that mediating between opportunities and mobilization are the shared meanings, the article seeks to empirically investigate cultural factors that construct and drive protests. From this perspective, the present study argues that movements tend to cluster in time and space because they are not independent of one another. Thus, it goes deep down in the way that different movements have had tremendous impacts on each other through examining the presence of the Master of Protest Frame (MPF). Transgressing the geographical borders and chronological phases, this factor has shaped movements strategies. Finally and to place recent events in a generalizable analysis, the paper employs a cross-national analysis, with focusing on Iran in 2009 and Egypt in 2010.

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What is the Hizmet Movement? Contending Approaches to the Analysis of Religious Activists In World Politics

Sabine Dreher

Sociology of Islam, Volume 1, Issue 3-4, pages 257 – 275

The goal of this article is to understand the role of religious activists in world politics from an international relations (IR) perspective. The paper proposes a critical theory of religion and encourages researchers to accept individual religiosity, class, and identity in the study of religious actors. The paper develops three avenues of inquiry. First, a better typology of religious actors in world politics is needed to classify them in their political and social contexts. Second, citing the example of Turkey's Hizmet Movement of Fethullah Gülen, the central role played by economic engagement is analyzed from a neo-Gramscian perspective in International Political Economy (IPE). In so doing, Hizmet is presented as a non-western expression of neoliberal globalization and as part of the "globalizing elite." Lastly, Hizmet's international activities are presented as potentially having unforeseen consequences in the light of its creation and reproduction as a transnational social space.

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Meanings and feelings: Local interpretations of the use of violence in the Egyptian revolution

FARHA GHANNAM

American Ethnologist, Volume 39, Issue 1, February 2012, Pages 32–36

I trace the shifting feelings of some of my close interlocutors in a low-income neighborhood in Cairo and explore some of the cultural meanings that informed their attempts to make sense of the changing situation during the first days of the Egyptian revolution. Specifically, I reflect on how existing concepts that structure uses of violence have been central to the way men and women interpreted the attacks of *baltagiyya* (thugs) on the protesters in Tahrir Square and how these interpretations ultimately framed my interlocutors' feelings and views of the revolution, Mubarak's regime, and its supporters.

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NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

Arab Lives Matter: How a Police Killing in Jaffa Could Spark a Movement

Daniel Monterescu

Haaretz, 2 August 2017

Mass demonstrations in Jaffa following Israel Police's killing of an unarmed Arab man resemble Black Lives Matter resistance to police brutality and discrimination throughout the U.S. The abyss between the dominant Israeli Jewish narrative and the Arab narrative was revealed once again this week – in a conversation between journalist Yaron London and social activist Abed Abu Shehada on the TV current events program “London and Kirschenbaum.” The conversation took place due to the tension in Jaffa that arose after a young man was shot to death by police during a chase, which led to demonstrations and residents burning tires by in protest. London's opening sentence – “A shot discharged from the weapon of a lawman in Jaffa. Police hit killed a young criminal apparently a young criminal,” already says it all. Abu Shehada, for his part, refuses to discuss details of the incident because “the police haven't opened the file, there's a gag order.” *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Social unrest boils over in Morocco's al-Hoceima

AJE, 29 July 2017

Last week, thousands of people took to the streets in al-Hoceima in northern Morocco to demand the release of more than 200 activists jailed during demonstrations across the country's Rif region over the past nine months. The unrest dates back to October when fish vendor Mouhcine Fikri died in a rubbish compactor while trying to retrieve his wares, which had been confiscated by local police. His case set off a wave of public anger over the historical marginalisation of the people of Rif. The protest movement, known as Hirak, focuses on the lack of infrastructure, hospitals, schools and employment opportunities in the region. Authorities have responded by making arrests in an effort to suppress the protests. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Women across Middle East demand end to 'marry your rapist' laws

Somini Sengupta

Independent, 23 July 2017

Gruesome billboards of a woman in a bloodied and torn bridal gown appeared around Beirut recently, captioned in Arabic: "A white dress doesn't cover up rape." This spring, a women's rights group, Abaad, hung similarly defiled gowns along the city's famous seaside promenade. Such provocative public awareness campaigns are part of a new push in Lebanon and across the Middle East to repeal longstanding laws that allow rapists to avoid criminal prosecution if they marry their victims. The laws were built around patriarchal attitudes that link a family's honour directly to a woman's chastity; the marriage option is aimed at shielding the victim's family from "the scandal," as one victim's brother put it in an interview. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Tenure-Track Professor in Modern Middle East History, Harvard University

The Department of History seeks to appoint a tenure-track professor in modern Middle East history, with an emphasis on the Arab world from the late Ottoman to the contemporary era. The appointment is expected to begin on July 1, 2018. The appointee will teach and advise at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Basic Qualification: Doctorate or terminal degree in History or related discipline by the time the appointment begins.

Additional Qualifications: Demonstrated excellence in teaching and research is desired.

Candidates are encouraged to apply by October 15, 2017; applications will be reviewed until the position is filled.

1. Cover letter
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. Teaching statement (describing teaching approach and philosophy)
4. Research statement
5. Publications and writing samples
6. Names and contact information of 3-5 referees, who will be asked by a system-generated email to upload a letter of recommendation once the candidate's application has been submitted. Three letters of recommendation are required, and the application is considered complete only when at least three letters have been received.

Harvard is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Contact Information: Kimberly O'Hagan, Faculty Coordinator, Department of History, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138.

Contact Email: kohagan@fas.harvard.edu

More information and application [here](#)

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2 Postdoc Fellowships for 12 Months The Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies

Deadline: 30 September 2017

The Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies (BGS MCS) invites applications for Postdoctoral Fellowships for the calendar year 2018 . We are interested in attracting outstanding postdoctoral researchers who are engaged in research projects relevant to our research focus. The call is open for recent postdocs (not more than four years after submission of thesis) in the humanities and the social sciences. The successful applicants will receive a stipend of 2,500 EUR for 12 months, covering all expenses including travel and accommodation. We expect fellows to participate in our academic life, give a presentation on their research projects, and teach two workshops at the Graduate School on methodological or theoretical issues relevant to our doctoral fellows. Deadline for applications: 30 September 2017

Applications should be sent electronically by email only, and include:

- Application form
- A brief cover letter (1 page)
- PhD certificate (or proof of submission)
- CV, including complete list of publications
- Description of a research project to be worked upon during visit (max. 3 pages)
- Proposal for a workshop on methodological or theoretical issues relevant to doctoral fellows at the BGS MCS

Please email the finalised application, attached as one single pdf - file in the above listed sequence, to application@bgs mcs.fu-berlin.de . Decisions are expected by November 2017.

More information and application [here](#)

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