



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

Call for contributors- Examining Democratic Transition Theories in the Arab World

Deadline: 15 December 2017

We seek scholars who can participate in a research project focusing on democratic transition theories after the Arab Spring. Each scholar should write a chapter/paper of approx 7000 words on one of the following topics:

1. *State, Society and the Impediments to Democratic Transition: The Arab Experience with Democracy.* The chapter should answer key questions regarding the Arab dilemma with democratic transition such as why did past and recent Arab transitions seem to falter and lead to nothing? Are questions of 'pre-requisites', including culture, still relevant? What did the Arab Spring tell us about pre-conditions of democratic transition? Does the problem of transition in the Arab world pertinent to society or state structures? And how does the Arab experience fit into the broader context of democratic transition theories? And any other questions or issues might be relevant to this topic.

2. *The Impact of Identity Politics on the Outcomes of Democratic Transition.* This chapter aims to examine ideological, religious, and sectarian divisions in the Arab world and how they affected transition after the Arab Spring. The chapter should answer some key questions including but not limited to: Islamic-secular divide: how unique it is? Can its general characteristics be comparatively examined in contrast with other ideologies (e.g. Communism, in particular in Spain and Italy)? More generally, how can issues of reassurance and mutual trust be addressed? And any other questions or issues might think to be relevant to this topic.

The decline for submitting draft chapters is December 15.

After submission, scholars will be invited to a workshop in Doha organized by the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies in Doha in the Spring 2018.

Scholars who are interested and willing to participate in the project should send a writing sample and copy of their resume to the following emails:

kalanani@dohainstitute.edu.qa

kalanani@gmail.com

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Political Economy Summer Institute

June 2018 at George Mason University

Deadline: 12 October 2017

The goal of the Political Economy Summer Institute is to foster and support critical scholarship on the political economy of the Middle East and beyond. It brings together faculty leaders and student participants for four days of immersive study. Faculty members lead sessions on themes such as state formation, imperialism, and labor, while students present their research and workshop their papers.

To date the Political Economy Project has hosted two summer institutes at George Mason University in 2016 and 2017. In the coming years the Political Economy Project plans to establish and hold summer institutes in the region as well. The Political Economy Summer Institute is a step toward creating a community of scholars working in critical political economy on issues of historical and contemporary relevance to the Middle East.

We are asking for Letters of Interest (LOI) from doctoral students and other researchers for our third Political Economy Summer Institute workshop to be held in June 2018 at George Mason University on the political economy of the Middle East. The aim of the Political Economy Summer Institute (PESI) is both to provide graduate level engagement and instruction as well as to connect doctoral students and independent researchers with mid-career and senior scholars working in the field of critical political economy. The Summer Institute will consist of three main parts: (1) doctoral students presenting their research and receiving written and verbal feedback from the participants, (2) methodological and theoretical workshop sessions led by faculty scholars, and (3) small break-out group discussions that build on the faculty-led sessions.

Anyone interested in submitting an LOI to attend the workshop should provide the following:

1. Title of your current research project.
2. Institutional affiliation along with name and contact information for your thesis/dissertation advisor (and any additional committee members if possible).
3. Short research narrative (500 words maximum). Please lay out your primary research question, scope of your research, methodology, and where you are in the research process.
4. Expected completion date of Ph.D., if applicable
5. List of any relevant publications.

More information [here](#)

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Arab Spring and the Quest for New Metaphors: Modernity, Identity and Change

11-12 November 2017, College of Arts at the University of Guelph

This conference forges a space for Arab-based scholarly investigation of the Arab Spring and its aftermath. Conference outcomes will be disseminated through partner institutions in Canada (University of Guelph), Germany (CNMS, Marburg University), and Qatar (Doha Institute for Graduate Studies and Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies). Our anticipated research outcomes will not only translate the views of prominent academics and writers from three continents but also contextualize them for western academic audiences.

Subsequently, the European and North American academic community will be able to move beyond grand theories or idealistic notions about the Arab Spring. This work will expose these communities to the practical experiences of eyewitnesses, and thereby share a practical knowledge and understanding of the Arab Spring.

This transnational collaboration intends to provide researchers in Arab and Western universities with the needed resources to share their intellectual contributions and engage western academia in an enriching conversation about the Arab Spring. The conference initiates inquiry that will culminate in a co-edited book project by Drs. Eid Mohamed and Dalia Fahmy.

Keynote: Abdelwahab El-Affendi | "Democracy in Evil Times: The Political Science of Paranoid Uncertainty"

More information [here](#)

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TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

Masterclass for Students: Human Rights in Egypt

22 September 2017, 14:00-17:30

Venue: Amnesty-House', Keizersgracht 177, Amsterdam

Amnesty's Masterclasses for Students offer an introduction to human rights and discuss current human rights issues. The introduction consists of human rights theory and the work of Amnesty International. Next, we will apply this knowledge to focus on the human rights situation in Egypt. Since 2011 Egypt faced a dynamic period in its political history: massive people's protests, the downfall of two presidents, democratic elections and a military coup. The installation of former general Abdel Fattah al-Sisi as president in 2014 shows -again- that the army is a huge political actor in Egypt. Six years after the start of the Arab Spring the country's human rights situation has not improved. Arbitrary arrests, the suppressing of demonstrations, torture and ill-treatment of detainees are part of Egypt's current internal policy. The recently approved new NGO law is the perfect example of the 'shrinking space' for Egyptian civil society. This new law imposes extraordinary harsh restrictions on NGOs and places them under huge pressure. This will make it harder, if not impossible, for organizations -both national and foreign- to do their job. During Amnesty's Masterclass for Students on human rights in Egypt, we will analyze the current human rights situation in Egypt. We will explore more specifically to what extent the new NGO law affects the over 47,000 NGOs in Egypt and what this means for Egyptian society. *More information [here](#)*

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Voices from Syria: Book discussion with Wendy Pearlman

28 September 2017, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Venue: Elliott School for International Affairs, Room 505, 1957 E St NW, DC 20052

Speaker: Wendy Pearlman

Wendy Pearlman will join POMEPS to discuss her new book, *We Crossed a Bridge and it Trembled: Voices from Syria* (Harper Collins, 2017) on Thursday September 28, 2017 at 5:30pm. The product of hundreds of interviews conducted over four years, this book eloquently relates the stories of Syrians uprooted and displaced by a violent conflict. Pearlman is an associate professor of political science at Northwestern University. She will be joined by discussants: Omar Dahi of Hampshire College, Jeffrey Isaac of Indiana University Bloomington, Jillian Schwedler of Hunter College CUNY, and Lisa Wedeen of the University of Chicago. The discussion will be moderated by POMEPS director Marc Lynch of George Washington University, and there will be time reserved for audience questions. *More information [here](#)*

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Reorienting the PKK: Rojava and the political thought of Abdullah Öcalan

12 October 2017, 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Venue: LSE, Room 9.04, 9th Floor, Tower 2, 2 Clement's Inn, Mobil Court, London WC2A 2AZ

Speaker: Joost Jongerden

In its 1978 manifesto, the PKK declared the establishment of an independent state to be the most important political goal of any national liberation movement. Twenty years on, the party's leader Abdullah Öcalan changed this when he developed an ideological framework based on the idea of self-governing, stateless societies as the best way of addressing socio-economic and socio-cultural injustices. Joost Jongerden explains this paradigm shift, which reoriented the PKK as well as other Kurdish movements in the Middle East. *More information* [here](#)

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Redefining the Political: The Ultras Football 'Movement' in Egypt

17 October 2017, 5:15pm to 7:15pm

Venue: LSE, Room 9.04, 9th Floor, Tower 2, 2 Clement's Inn, Mobil Court, London WC2A 2AZ

Speaker: Rabab el-Mahdi

In this talk, Rabab El-Mahdi examines the tumultuous path of Egypt's revolutionary process through the lens of the Ultras football fan groups. The story of the Ultras represents a microcosm of Egypt's recent travails and poses questions about mainstream understandings of the country's political landscape. Through focusing on this movement that is often either demonized or romanticized, El-Mahdi shows the significance of the interplay between class and agency in shaping Egypt's politics at a time of historic change. *More information* [here](#)

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

The Muslim Brotherhood in Syria - The Democratic Option of Islamism

Naomí Ramírez Díaz

2018 – Routledge

Anyone who follows world events has heard of the Muslim Brotherhood. Usually considered a fundamentalist religious organisation opposed to secular regimes, the so-called Arab Spring began to challenge this conception, and showed the MB's commitment to democratic principles and elections, albeit with certain difficulties. Until now though, most analysis has focused on the Egyptian branch – the group that gave spiritual birth to the local branches in other countries – with very little having been studied about the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood, especially since the Hama massacre of 1982 and the formal disappearance of the group from Syria. This book provides a deep insight into the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood's ideological evolution from its inception until present-day. Since Syria has unfortunately become the place where all forms of Islamism converge, understanding the SMB, their ideological evolution, and their potential role as moderating forces, is essential in order to debunk some clichés on the MB in general. Each chapter corresponds to a specific period in the SMB's timeline, while the final chapter discusses how the endemic gerontocracy of the group calls for an urgent renovation of structures, and stresses the importance of younger generations in renovating the ideology of the SMB. Through the examination of original primary sources written by the SMB themselves, and relevant groups related to them, this book challenges the traditional categories applied to Islamist movements. It will therefore be a key resource for anyone studying Islamist movements, as well as for students and scholars of Middle East and North African Politics.

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Under the Shadow: Rage and Revolution in Modern Turkey

Kaya Genc

2016 – I.B. Tauris

Turkey stands at the crossroads of the Middle East--caught between the West and ISIS, Syria and Russia, and governed by an increasingly forceful leader. Acclaimed writer Kaya Genc has been covering his country for the past decade. In *Under the Shadow* he meets activists from both sides of Turkey's political divide: Gezi park protestors who fought tear gas and batons to transform their country's future, and supporters of Erdogan's conservative vision who are no less passionate in their activism. He talks to artists and authors to ask whether the New Turkey is a good place to for them to live and work. He interviews censored journalists and conservative writers both angered by what has been going on in their country. He meets Turkey's Wall Street types who take to the streets despite the enormity of what they can lose as well as the young Islamic entrepreneurs who drive Turkey's economy. While talking to Turkey's angry young people Genc weaves in historical stories, visions and mythologies, showing how Turkey's progressives and conservatives take their ideological roots from

two political movements born in the Ottoman Empire: the Young Turks and the Young Ottomans, two groups of intellectuals who were united in their determination to make their country more democratic. He shows a divided society coming to terms with the 21st Century, and in doing so, gets to the heart of the compelling conflicts between history and modernity in the Middle East.

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Gaza Under Hamas: From Islamic Democracy to Islamist Governance

Bjorn Brenner

2016 – I.B. Tauris

Hamas is designated a terrorist organization by Israel, the EU, the USA and the UN. It has made itself notorious for its violent radicalism and uncompromising rejection of the Jewish state. So after its victory in the 2006 elections the world was watching. How would Hamas govern? Could an Islamist group without any experience of power - and with an unwavering ideology - manage to deal with day-to-day realities on the ground? Bjorn Brenner investigates what happened after the elections and puts the spotlight on the people over whom Hamas rules, rather than on its ideas. Lodging with Palestinian families and experiencing their daily encounters with Hamas, he offers an intimate perspective of the group as seen through local eyes. The book is based on hard-to-secure interviews with a wide range of key political and security figures in the Hamas administration, as well as with military commanders and members of the feared Qassam Brigades. Brenner has also sought out those that Hamas identifies as local trouble makers: the extreme Salafi-Jihadis and members of the now more quiescent mainstream Fatah party led by Mahmoud Abbas. The book provides a new interpretation of one of the most powerful forces in the Israel-Palestine arena, arguing that the Gazan Islamists carry a potential to be much more flexible and pragmatic than anticipated - if they would think they stand to gain from it. Gaza under Hamas investigates the key challenges to Hamas's authority and reveals why and in what ways ideology comes second to power consolidation.

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The Lebanese-Phoenician Nationalist Movement: Literature, Language and Identity

Basilius Bawardi

2016 – I.B. Tauris

The question of belonging has formed the basis of the political, religious and cultural tensions in Lebanon, to the point that sectarian conflict on the country's future contributed significantly to the outbreak of civil war in 1975. This book focuses on the development of the Phoenician-Lebanese movement that struggled against the hegemonic status of Arabic language and culture. The Phoenician-Lebanese were a predominantly Maronite Christian group who attempted to remove themselves from the Muslim and Arab world throughout the twentieth century. Their demands for

self-definition as a nation and their desire to establish their own culture were rooted in the concept of their ancient Phoenician past. Basilius Bawardi examines four prominent authors who formed the basis on which all engaged so-called Phoenician literature was built: Sharl Qurm, Sa'id 'Aql, Mayy Murr and Muris 'Awwad. The literary corpus of these writers was a critical component of the political activity that strove to distinguish the native Lebanese inhabitants from their Arab-Muslim neighbours. Studying these authors' works in both a literary and historical way, Bawardi shows how language was used to promote a specific political agenda and identifies the strong connections between language, literature and nation building. As well as revealing the nationalist struggle as it emerges in prose and poetry, the book discusses the history and formation of modern day Lebanon and why language and literature are so crucial for members of a national minority.

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Family law in contemporary Iran: Women's Rights Activism and Shari'a

Marianne Boe

2015 – I.B. Tauris

Passed into law over a decade before the Revolution, the Family Protection Law quickly drew the ire of the conservative clergy and the Ayatollah Khomeini in 1979. In fact, it was one of the first laws to be rescinded following the revolution. The law was hardly a surprising target, however, since women's status in Iran was then - and continues now to be - a central concern of Iranian political leaders, media commentators, and international observers alike. Taking up the issue of women's status in a modern context, Marianne Boe offers a nuanced view of how women's rights activists assert their rights within an Islamic context by weaving together religious and historical texts and narratives. Through Her substantial fieldwork and novel analysis, Boe undermines both the traditional view of 'Islamic Feminism' as monolithic and clears a path to a new understanding of the role of women's rights activists in shaping and synthesizing debates on the shari'a, women's rights and family law. As such, this book is essential for anyone studying family law and the role of women in contemporary Iran.

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Media and Political Contestation in the Contemporary Arab World: A Decade of Change

Lena Jayyusi, Anne Sofie Roald (Editors)

This book addresses the roles of various media in the shaping and active contestation of particular conflicts and political agendas in the Arab world. Interdisciplinary contributions examine the sociopolitical dynamics generated in and through media, with perspectives emerging from media studies, anthropology, religious studies, and political science. This book explores both new media and

older media forms and formats including the press, satellite television, Facebook, Web 2.0 technology, posters, and music videos. Topics range across the politics of popular culture, women scholars' religious fatwas, the Palestinian visual public sphere, Hezbollah's media policy, women's presence on Arab satellite television, and the uses of Facebook in the Tunisian revolution. Contributors include such well-known scholars as Charles Hirschkind, Marwan Kraidy, Amahl Bishara, and Olfa Lamoum.

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JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

The Gezi Protests and the Europeanization of the Turkish Public Sphere

Isabel David, Gabriela Anouck Côte-Real Pinto

Journal of Civil Society, Volume 13, 2017 - Issue 3, Pages 307-322

This article investigates the extent to which Turkish civil society organizations (CSOs) represented at the 2013 Gezi Park protests reflect a Europeanization of the Turkish public sphere. The methodology consists of 14 semi-structured interviews conducted with leaders of CSOs that participated in the protests and one questionnaire sent to a member of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) Istanbul Youth board (and member of the Istanbul Bar Association). The findings of our research reveal differentiated patterns of Europeanization of the Turkish public sphere, depending on CSOs' history, ideology, and multi-level relations with the European Union and the Turkish state. Conversely, pro- and anti-AKP CSOs converge on growing criticism of EU institutions.

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On Shifting Grounds of 'Citizen Journalism' in Egypt

Henri Onodera

Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication, Volume 10, Issue 1, pages 49 – 68

Before and after the January 25 uprisings in Egypt, public and scholarly attention moved from the early political bloggers to today's citizen journalists who use not only blogs but any available means to disseminate alternative information. The use of new 'information and communication

technologies' (ICTs) is no longer an asset for the secular-civil opposition only. Since 2011, various groups, including the Salafists and the military, have resorted to the use of ICTs to establish their influence in public life. In this article, I offer an examination of citizen journalism as political practice and public debate in the Middle East and North Africa. This research may shed light on the everyday appropriations of this traveling concept and the meanings it engenders through actual practices in given socio-cultural contexts. I also argue that the ambiguities around the Arabic translations of citizen journalism provide a way to examine the uneasy processes of state transformation in today's Egypt.

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NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

Jadaliyya Launches New Political Economy Page

This page is co-produced with the Political Economy Project. It serves as a space for producing critical work in political economy, as well as a resource for researchers, educators, and students interested in the field. We will regularly review and publish submissions related to any facet of political economy in accordance with the mission statement of the Political Economy Project, with some variation that is intended to stimulate productive discussions and debates. This page will publish material in English and in Arabic, as well as other languages, and will increasingly feature resources useful to researchers in this domain. Jadaliyya comes full circle to embrace the page that was originally intended to be the project that Jadaliyya is today. That is, the original plan in 2009/2010 was to produce a website/blog on political economy. After some discussion, we opted to start from a broader vantage point and build the political economy page independently (which now developed in part into the Political Economy Project), or within the pages of Jadaliyya. And here we are, delayed for a few years by the Arab Uprisings that started only three months after the official launch of this publication. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Freedom in the Middle East: There are still reasons to be positive

Rayan El-Amine

Middle East Eye, 8 September 2017

Harsh violent realities on the ground have brought some Arabs full circle - and back on to the streets. Most observers of the Arab world have written eulogies and expressed condolences to the Arab Spring. Despite the uprisings, which spread across the Middle East from 2010 onwards, the region

was not reconfigured as many citizens and activists would have liked. In several instances, struggles for dignity, social justice and freedom in the Arab world were rebuffed by counter-revolutions, civil wars, international interventions, sectarianism, Islamist extremism and the retrenchment of authoritarianism. But these harsh violent realities on the ground, combined with the inability of the UN and western powers to mediate or resolve conflicts in the region, have brought some Arabs full circle - and back on to the streets. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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In Morocco, press freedom shrinks with Hirak protests

Ilhem Rachidi

Al-Monitor, 1 September 2017

Eight journalists have been jailed since the beginning of the Hirak, a protest movement in the Rif region in northern Morocco that started in October 2016 following the death of Mouhcine Fikri, a fish vendor who was crushed to death by a garbage truck as he tried to get to his confiscated fish. Most of those arrested are citizen journalists reporting for local websites covering the protests and therefore targeted by the crackdown the Moroccan authorities initiated three months ago. The Moroccan Association of Human Rights told Al-Monitor that at least 300 people have been arrested since May as part of the authorities' efforts to silence the movement. Among those arrested are Mohamed el-Asrihi and Jawad Sabiri of the Rif24 news website, Abdelali Haddou of Araghi TV, Rif Presse photographer Houssein al-Idrissi and Fouad Assaidi of Awar TV. Rabie al-Ablaq, a local correspondent for the Badil Info news site, was hospitalized in early August 36 days into a hunger strike. He is currently detained at the Oukacha prison in Casablanca and treated at the infirmary, according to activists. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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After the Defeat, The Arab Left on the Offensive - June 1967, an Endless Six-Day War

Nicolas Dot-Pouillard

Orient XXI, 29 August 2017

The defeat of the Arab armies in June 1967 did not immediately lead to the rise of the Islamist movements. During a brief period, the left filled the political void. In November, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen) came into existence, led by the National Liberation Front (NLF) which had been fighting the British since 1963. In June 1969, it was the Marxist wing of the NLF which took over the young Republic. While the Arab armies were in a sorry state, a red dawn was rising. 1967 was a "strange defeat". On the one hand, the collapse of the Arab countries following their defeat by Israel was redolent of the 1948 Nakba: many Palestinians went into exile. On the other hand, there was a sweeping radicalization of the left. A new cycle of protest began in

the Arab world where the struggle of the Vietnamese had a powerful echo. Aden might just be a second Cuba.² China appeared less ossified than the USSR: the cultural revolution of 1966 was being carried out by the youthful Red Guards. In the Arab world, the radicalization of the left after the 1967 defeat was also promoted by young people who looked to Europe. Thus the May 1968 events in France were studied closely by Tunisian, Lebanese or Palestinian students in exile, who soon made contact with the “Maoist” Gauche prolétarienne (GP). *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Fear and oblivion before the violent Rabea dispersal, celebration and denial afterward

Donya Ezzat

Mada Masr, 19 August 2017

On August 12, 2012, President Mohamed Morsi chose Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who was the youngest member of the Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF) at the time, as his defense minister, bypassing more senior military leadership who had more clout. The president later described his new minister of defense as a man “as precious as gold,” only a few days before protests erupted in June 2013 demanding Morsi’s ouster, supported by none other than Sisi. Enthusiastic, Morsi reported to the Guidance Bureau that Sisi is “the Muslim Brotherhood man in the Armed Forces,” according to a young Brotherhood leader, who was once in charge of the group’s presence in one of Egypt’s big cities. “Morsi believed that Sisi had Brotherhood inclinations because he prayed regularly, fasted Mondays and Thursdays, prayed behind him, did not wear a gold marriage ring and read the Quran,” the young leader told me in 2013. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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The Palestinian women's uprising that electrified Jerusalem

Elhanan Miller

+972, 1 August 2017

In the struggle of the Palestinian religious factions against Israel, the place of women has been missing from the battle. As opposed to Fatah and the left-wing factions, in which women often take an active role, religious Palestinian women are often left behind the scenes. The events of the last few weeks teach us, however, that the struggle over al-Aqsa is an exception. In September 2015, former Defense Minister Moshe Ya’alon declared the Murabitat, a group of Muslim women activists at Al-Aqsa, a proscribed organization. After they were removed from the site, the women were quiet for some time, yet the women returned to play a central role in leading Palestinian resistance to Israel around the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif, and in the refusal to accept any change in the status quo around the site, including installing security measures. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Al-Aqsa protests unite Jerusalemites

Daoud Kuttab

Al-Monitor, 25 July 2017

No one expected that the ongoing protests in Jerusalem over the Israeli restrictions placed on the entry to Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third-holiest site, would become the nucleus of a new movement for Jerusalemites. Like most popular revolts, it began with a community acting in a defiant way because they could no longer take the humiliation endured on a day-to-day basis. It was a work in progress that quickly found a solution to a pressing problem, which was then implemented.

Mohammed Daraghmeh, a media trainer at Birzeit University and a prominent analyst of Palestinian affairs, wrote in a July 22 post on his Facebook page that what was happening in Jerusalem bore all the hallmarks of a new intifada. "It was a popular movement in that entire families participated in the daily prayers outside the restricted mosque's gates. People figured out how to deal with highly political issues as well as with basic mundane but necessary issues like food and water, and at the same time were keen on creating rotating committees that took care of the cleaning afterward."

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Egyptian activists face mounting repression, while 'thieves' walk free

Sarah Freeman-Woolpert

Waging Non-Violence, 25 July 2017

Seven Egyptian lawyers who were on trial for charges related to their participation in an anti-government protest last year were found guilty by a court in Alexandria on Tuesday. Their trial, however, is only the latest effort by President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi's regime to suppress criticism and dissent since seizing power in the wake of the 2013 military coup that overthrew Mohammed Morsi, Egypt's first democratically-elected president. In another recent crackdown on opposition, on July 6, police detained activist and prominent regime critic Mohamed Adel — one of the leaders of the April 6 Youth Movement, which played an important role in mobilizing civil society leading up to the Egyptian revolution in 2011. According to a source close to Adel, who asked to remain anonymous, the activist was arrested for criticizing the el-Sisi regime on Twitter and Facebook — specifically its acceptance of a controversial \$12 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund. The loan has led to a devaluation of Egyptian currency and sparked many riots and protests in recent months.

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How the world missed a week of Palestinian civil disobedience

Edo Konrad

+972, 24 July 2017

For many Israelis, the violence over the past few weeks around the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif is little more than a result of Muslim intransigence in the face of legitimate Israeli security concerns. This, after all, has been the major talking point among both the Israeli leadership as well as the media. For Palestinians, on the other hand, the metal detectors erected last week by Israeli authorities at the entrance to the Al-Aqsa compound sparked outrage and protests. That outrage stemmed from the government's decision to install the metal detectors — in defiance of both the IDF and the Shin Bet's recommendation — that eventually led to the deaths of four Palestinian protesters at the hands of Israeli security forces, and the brutal murder of three Israeli settlers by a Palestinian attacker that same night. But the violence, and the media's coverage of the bloodletting, erased a central aspect of the story: Palestinian civil disobedience. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Battle over the Nile

Heba Afify

Mada Masr, 16 July 2017

A short ferryboat ride from the area of Warraq takes you to the southern end of the island, which consists of batches of agricultural land and scattered houses, which bear a striking resemblance to a village in the Nile Delta or Egypt's south. Deeper in, the island turns into a typical Cairo informal neighborhood with tightly stacked buildings and narrow streets that are maneuvered by motorcycles and tuk tuks. Much like Cairo's informal areas, Warraq Island and other Nile islands were first populated by migrants from other governorates who settled there and started to manage services on their own, until the state acknowledged them and started introducing official services. But the lives of residents of Warraq Island, one of dozens of inhabited islands that dot the Nile's span across Egypt, were disturbed earlier in June, when President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi identified their imperfect haven as his next target in the ongoing large-scale national campaign to retrieve illegally occupied state land. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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'March for Justice' Ends in Istanbul With a Pointed Challenge to Erdogan

Carlotta Gall
NYT, 9 July 2017

Hundreds of thousands of protesters turned out for a massive rally in Istanbul on Sunday evening, cheering the leader of the opposition as he concluded his three-week March for Justice and threw down a challenge to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to institute changes or face a "revolt against injustice." "Nobody should think this march has ended; this march is a beginning," Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the leader of the Republican People's Party, known as C.H.P., said as he walked onto a stage to rippling cheers. "This is a rebirth for us, for our country and our children. We will revolt against injustice." The march, organized by politicians from Turkey's largest opposition party to protest the government crackdown against thousands of its opponents, drew tens of thousands of people, who trekked, beginning on June 15, from the capital, Ankara, to Turkey's first city, Istanbul, which is about 250 miles to the northwest. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Tenure-Track Faculty: Modern Muslim World/Middle East Historian, University of St. Thomas

Deadline: 16 October 2017

The History Department at the University of St. Thomas (MN) invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track position in history of the modern Muslim world/Middle East (post-1500). Geographic and/or thematic specializations are open. Position begins in Fall 2018. We are looking for a scholar-teacher who is committed to excellence in undergraduate teaching and who can demonstrate scholarly productivity and promise for ongoing research in their field.

The teaching load of three courses per semester involves some combination of the following: first-level course(s) such as *History of the Middle East and North Africa in Global Perspective* or *World History* for undergraduates who are completing their core area (general) requirement in historical studies and a broad range of upper-level course(s) in the history of the modern Muslim world/Middle East for undergraduate history majors and minors. Opportunities also exist to collaborate with the University's Muslim-Christian Dialogue Center.

Established in 1885, the University of St. Thomas is located in the major metropolitan area of Minneapolis-St. Paul, and is Minnesota's largest private university. Its 10,000 students pursue degrees in a wide range of liberal arts, professional, and graduate programs.

Education requirements: Ph.D. (U.S. or foreign equivalent degree) in History or a related field required or alternatively, ABD candidates will be considered. All applicants must have demonstrable skills necessary for excellence in teaching.

Candidates will first be asked to (step 1) create an applicant profile and upload the required documents (listed below) and then (step 2) submit an online application and voluntary EEO form. Applicants should then arrange for three letters of recommendation to be sent to the History Department (step 3 - details below).

To ensure full consideration, application materials should be received by October 16, 2017.

Interested applicants should upload the following 5 documents to their profile (part of step 1):

- 1) Curriculum Vitae (upload into the "Resume" field)
- 2) Copy of academic transcript (upload into the "Graduate Transcripts" field)
- 3) Statement of teaching philosophy and experience, including evidence of teaching effectiveness (upload into "Teaching Philosophy" field)
- 4) Description of research agenda (upload into "Description of Research Agenda" field)
- 5) Writing sample (upload into "Scholarly / Professional Writing Sample")

Please copy/paste a job-specific cover letter for the position into the "Cover Letter" section of the application (part of step 2).

At this time, please do not upload any documents beyond those requested. Candidates who are selected for further review may be contacted to submit additional materials at a later date.

Applicants should also arrange for three letters of recommendation to be sent (step 3) by mail to Dr. Catherine Cory, History Department, JRC 432, University of St. Thomas, 2115 Summit Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105 or by email to cacory@stthomas.edu.

Inspired by Catholic intellectual tradition, the University of St. Thomas educates students to be morally responsible leaders who think critically, act wisely, and work skillfully to advance the common good.

More information and application [here](#)

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Assistant Professor, Contemporary Politics and International Relations of the Middle East & North Africa, Boston University

Applications from: 1 October 2017

The Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the study of Contemporary Politics and International Relations of the Middle East & North Africa beginning July 1, 2018, subject to budget approval. We are especially interested in scholars whose work focuses on international relations, security, human security, and civil society. We welcome applications from scholars in any relevant discipline, including political science, history, sociology, anthropology, geography, international relations, and security studies, and are open to all methodological approaches. Candidates who have demonstrated policy experience are especially encouraged to apply.

Please submit 1) a letter of application describing your teaching and research interests and professional experience, and 2) curriculum vitae electronically. Questions about the position or school may be directed to Associate Dean William Grimes at wgrimes@bu.edu. Review of applications will begin on October 1, 2017 and will continue until the position is filled. The Pardee School of Global Studies is committed to multidisciplinary, policy-relevant research and teaching.

More information and application [here](#)

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Asst Prof - Islam in the Modern Middle East and North Africa, Cornell University

Deadline: 15 November 2017

The Department of Near Eastern Studies, College of Arts and Sciences, Cornell University, seeks to appoint a tenure track assistant professor who specializes in Islam in the modern Middle East and North Africa. We especially welcome candidates whose work is interdisciplinary, comparative, and expands the department's existing strengths. Discipline open. Interested candidates should submit a letter of application, curriculum vitae, a representative writing sample, and three letters of recommendation electronically to <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/9624>: The deadline for applications is November 15, 2017. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans and Individuals with Disabilities.

Application Materials Required:

- Cover Letter
- Curriculum Vitae
- Writing Sample
- Three Reference Letters (to be submitted by the reference writers at this site)

More information and application [here](#)

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Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Duke University (tenure track)

Deadline: 15 October 2017

The Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina invites applications for a position in Arabic culture at the level of assistant or early associate professor. The position is open to candidates with a Ph.D. in Middle Eastern or Near Eastern Studies, or related fields such as Comparative Literature, Film Studies, and Religion, whose research and teaching engages literature, visual media, popular culture, etc. Time period expertise is open, with a preference for the modern period. The successful candidate will demonstrate outstanding scholarship on the cultures of the Arab Middle East and North Africa, contextualize these within current theoretical frameworks (postcolonialism, gender and sexuality, human-rights, etc.), and have a proven record of teaching excellence. Native command of Arabic and English required. Competence in a second Middle Eastern language (Persian, Turkish, Hebrew, etc.) is welcomed but not required. The candidate will be expected to collaborate closely with other units within the department (i.e. Hebrew, Turkish, Hindi) and appropriate interdisciplinary programs across the university, including Duke Middle Eastern Studies Center, Duke Islamic Studies Center, Program in Arts of the Moving Image, and others.

Candidates should submit a letter of application, a current CV, a sample of scholarly writing (published or in-press) no longer than 9000 words, and three letters of recommendation. All materials should be uploaded to Academic Jobs Online (<https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo>). Review of applications will begin October 15, 2017. For further information, visit <http://asianmideast.duke.edu/>. For any questions, please email amesdept@duke.edu. Duke University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer committed to providing employment opportunity without regard to an individual's age, color, disability, genetic information, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

More information and application [here](#)

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