



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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

04.04.2018

CONTENT

Call for Papers & Conferences	4
Frankfurt Research Center on Global Islam / 25th international DAVO congress	4
Rethinking Politics and Religion: Studies in Honor of Professor Saba Mahmood, Special issue of <i>Sociology of Islam</i>	6
Future of Salafism Conference	7
The Sociology of the World – Diwan of Sociology-12th Issue	9
Workshop on “The Evolving Role of Political Institutions in the Arab World”	10
Talks & Other Events	12
Popular Protest in Mamluk Egypt and Syria	12
Freedom of Press in Egypt – Film screening: “Tickling Giants”	12
Human Rights in Egypt and Tunisia after the Arab Spring	13
Breathing Life into the Archive: Egyptian Revolutionary History on the Theatre Stage	13
The Syrian Uprising: Domestic Origins and Early Trajectory	14
Strikes, Riots and Laughter: Egypt's 1918 Peasant Insurrection	14
Centre for Palestine Studies Annual Lecture: The Nakba in the Present	15
Critical Muslim Studies Conference - Decolonial Struggles and Liberation Theologies	15
Recent & Forthcoming Books	16
Colonial Lives of Property: Law, Land, and Racial Regimes of Ownership	16
The ABC of the OPT - A Legal Lexicon of the Israeli Control over the Occupied Palestinian Territory	17
The Unmaking of the Arab Intellectual: Prophecy, Exile and the Nation.....	17
Journal Articles & other Academic Publications	18
Rights as a Divide- and-Rule Mechanism: Lessons from the Case of Palestinians in Israeli Custody	18
On the Absence of Political in Four-Field Anthropology - Renewing Political Anthropology	18
The Last Journey of Karl Marx	19
The Islamic Republican Party of Iran in the Factory: Control over Workers’ Discourse in Posters (1979–1987)	20
News Pieces & Commentary	20
A Mind Is a Terrible Thing to Imprison: Confining Palestinian Political Thought	20
Israeli army kills 17 Palestinians in Gaza protests	21
[Palestine:] 'We want to return to our lands without bloodshed or bombs'	21
Palestine Land Day: A day to resist and remember	21
The Weaponization of Nostalgia: How Afghan Miniskirts Became the Latest Salvo in the War on Terror.....	22

Positions and Opportunities	23
2 PhD positions: « Towards a Decentred History of the Middle East», Université de Neuchâtel	23
Arcapita Visiting Professor of Modern Arab Studies at Columbia University	23
Editor, <i>International Journal of Middle East Studies</i> , Call for Applications and Nominations	24
Lecturer in Comparative Politics, UCL	25

CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

Frankfurt Research Center on Global Islam / 25th international DAVO congress

4 – 6 October 2018, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Deadline for panel proposals: 21 April 2018

Deadline for abstracts: 16 June 2018

The 25th Annual Congress of DAVO (German Middle East Studies Association for Contemporary Research and Documentation) combined with the Conference of the Frankfurt Research Center on Global Islam (FFGI) "Politics, Religion and Society at the Middle East" takes place at the Cluster of Excellence "Normative Orders" at the Frankfurt University. It is organized by Prof. Dr. Susanne Schröter (Director of the FFGI at the Cluster of Excellence "Normative Orders").

Call for Proposals

The organizers of the DAVO Congress call upon scholars of all relevant disciplines, who are engaged in research on the contemporary Middle East (and its relations to other regions), to hand in proposals for pre-organized panels and individual papers. Our understanding of the Middle East comprises the member states of the League of Arab States, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, Israel, and the Islamic states of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Pre-organized Panels and Individual Papers

Proposals for pre-organized panels and workshops on a common theme with at least three papers to be presented are welcome. The coordinators of such pre-organized panels are also responsible for the quality of the papers and may reject papers with summaries of low quality.

Individual papers will be ordered thematically and summed up into panels. For every paper are 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion planned. Accepted languages of presentation are German and English. Due to the international character of the congress we prefer English contributions. Please hand in proposals for two papers per participant at maximum.

For every proposed paper please send in a summary of approx. 300 words, for every proposed panel please send in a summary of 100 words at maximum.

The deadline for the registration of papers and panels is 16 June 2018.

The proposed papers will be accepted or rejected on the basis of the quality of the summary.

The decision about the acceptance or rejection of the proposals will be announced until 31 July 2018.

Requirements for the Summaries of Proposed Panels and Papers

Every summary of the proposed papers and panels will be reviewed by two scholars who accept or refuse the proposed contribution according to the following question-based criteria:

- Is the paper based on a clearly stated research question?
- What is the methodological approach of this paper?
- Does it develop an argument, does it attempt to verify a hypothesis, or does it answer the research question on the basis of the author`s empirical findings or the results of a study based on other sources?
- Does this paper take into account the latest state of research?
- Does this paper contain innovative aspects?
- In the case of proposals for pre-organized panels the reviewers will examine:
- Do all contributions meet scientific standards?
- Is the panel well matched and does it offer a concerted input?

In the case of proposals for pre-organized panels the reviewers will examine:

Do all contributions meet scientific standards?

Is the panel well matched and does it offer a concerted input?

The review of the proposed panels will take into account the academic quality and the coherence of the papers. Please keep the academic standards in mind when you formulate the summary of your paper or pre-organized panel.

Proposals for Open Panels

If you are interested in organizing a panel for this Congress and look for paper presenters, you are kindly requested to send the title and summary (up to 100 words) to the General Secretary of the Congress, Amke Dietert before 21 April 2018.

The call for papers for open panels will then be forwarded via EURAMES and DAVO-Info-Service to more than 6000 scholars who should send their paper proposals directly to the organizer of the specific panel until 9 June 2018.

Panels for Current Research Projects by Advanced Students and PhD Candidates

Advanced students and PhD candidates who are members of DAVO have the chance to present their current research projects for a MA-Thesis or a dissertation in special panels. The discussions are intended to provide additional ideas and concepts for the improvement of the current research work of young members of the German Middle East Studies Association.

Registration Fees

€ 65.00 Full DAVO Members

€ 35.00 Student Members

€ 85.00 Non-Members

Free for students and staff of the Frankfurt University

Please note that there is an additional late-registration fee of € 20.00 for registrations after August 15th. Information on DAVO membership application.

Papers are invited for special open panels. To present a paper in these panels please send your abstracts (up to 300 words) to the panel convener(s) and to Amke Dietert (amke.dietert at googlemail.com) before 16 June 2018.

Contact

For registration of your contributions to the congress or any further questions please contact:

DAVO-Kongress
Frau Amke Dietert
Carl-Cohn-Straße 73
22297 Hamburg
Germany
Tel.: 0049 40 5133671
E-Mail: amke.dietert@googlemail.com

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Rethinking Politics and Religion: Studies in Honor of Professor Saba Mahmood, Special issue of *Sociology of Islam*

Deadline: 30 April 2018

On the sad news of the passing of Saba Mahmood, the editorial board of the journal *Sociology of Islam* has decided to organize a special issue to honor the work and legacy of our distinguished colleague for the study of global politics and religion.

Saba Mahmood's anthropological work shifted debates on secularism and religion, gender and politics, the rights of religious minorities, and the impact of colonialism in the Middle East. Her conceptual engagement with these pertinent social and political issues, however, has opened up broader questions about the politics of religious difference in a secular age beyond the Middle East and Muslim majority countries. This special issue of *Sociology of Islam* intends to bring to the fore the scope of these contributions in order to assess the cross-disciplinary and trans-regional magnitude of her work. The editorial board calls for papers on the following and related subjects in the work of Saba Mahmood:

- Agency and submission;
- Body/Embodiment;
- Citizenship;
- Ethics;
- Feminist Theory;
- Gender;

- Hermeneutics;
- Law and the State;
- Postcolonialism/Postcoloniality;
- Religious freedom;
- Religious difference;
- Secularism/Secularity;
- Sovereignty;
- Subject formation;
- The minority condition.

If you are interested in contributing to this special issue, please send a 500-word abstract to Tugrul Keskin (tugrulk@vt.edu), Sultan Doughan (sultan_doughan@berkeley.edu) and Jean-Michel Landry (jean-michel.landry@mcgill.ca) by 30 April 2018. We acknowledge receipt of all emails and will reply to all. If you do not receive a reply, please resend your abstract. Please include the following in your email:

- Author name;
- Affiliation;
- email address;
- abstract in Word format;
- a short CV.

Acceptance notices will be sent by 15 May 2018. Full articles are due 30 September 2018. The special issue will come out in early 2019 (2019/2). All articles must follow the guidelines provided in the attachment to this email.

More information [here](#)

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

Future of Salafism Conference

5-6 December 2018, University of Oxford, UK

(Jointly hosted by Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford, and the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies)

Deadline: 15 June 2018

Like all ideologies and movements, Salafism one of the most influential Islamic movement of the last century is not monolithic. Not only have Salafi inspired groups evolved in different ways across different countries and contexts, in the same space Salafi reasoning can find multiple expressions or one mode of Salafi reasoning can give way to another in response to the changing context. Scholars widely recognise four visible expressions of Salafism: scholastic Salafis (those who focus on the scholarship); Salafi jihadis (those who use aspects of Salafi thought to justify militant Islam); political Salafis (those who use the Salafi thought to justify political action such as Surooris or Sahawis in

Saudi Arabia or Al-Nour Party in Egypt), and Madkhalis (the quietest Salafis who accept the secular form of government). Right now, however, all these multiple expressions of Salafism are exposed to new pressures due to changing contexts. We have seen the impact of the Arab Spring on Salafi groups in the Middle East and Gulf regions especially Yemen, Libya and Syria; in the first two the Madkhalis have adopted a more jihadist approach and developments in the latter have created a space for merging of Salafi jihadists of different orientation. Juxtaposed against the recent shifts in Saudi Arabia which along with Qatar is the only state to officially endorse Salafism the future of Salafism is unpredictable. This conference is aimed at bringing together established scholars, postdoctoral researchers, as well as doctoral students who can offer original insights into how Salafi thought, and the diverse set of groups inspired by it, are evolving in different contexts in light of the post-Arab Spring developments and the changes unfolding within Saudi Arabia. This conference thus welcomes empirically rich case studies from different country contexts, which can shed light on any of the following questions:

- What changes has the Arab Spring triggered within different categories of Salafi groups in the Arab world? What lines of reasoning have different groups adopted to justify change in their approach or strategies? Have Salafi groups in one country context been influenced by groups in another country or region or have their responses to the Arab Spring been very localised?
- What is the Saudi state's conception of 'moderate Islam'? How does this conception of moderate Islam relate to Salafi and Wahhabi teachings? How are the leading Salafi and Wahhabi scholars within Saudi Arabia and beyond responding to the Saudi state's call for a 'return to moderate Islam'? Papers that can draw on detailed interviews with leading Salafi scholars in different contexts or on their writings or speeches to analyse how Salafi scholars and other Salafi movements are responding to changes within Saudi Arabia are very welcome.

The conference is being jointly hosted by the Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford and the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies and will result in an edited volume.

Those interested to participate in the conference are requested to submit a 500 word abstract to Professor Masooda Bano, Associate Professor, Oxford Department of International Development (masooda.bano@qeh.ox.ac.uk) and cc Dr Abdullah Bin Khalid Al-Saud, Director of Research, King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (a.alsaud@kfcris.com) by 15th June 2018. Selected participants will be informed of the outcome by the end of June 2018.

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

The Sociology of the World – Diwan of Sociology-12th Issue

Editors: Dr. Gökhan Bozbaş gbozbash@gmail.com , Dr. Tuğrul Keskin tugrulkeskin@t.shu.edu.cn

Deadline: 1 May 2018

Diwan of Sociology was first published in 2013 as a new academic journal in sociology publishing. Diwan of Sociology's new issue invites papers for its 12th issue entitled "The Sociology of World" which will be published in December 2018. Since the journal was first published, it has been discussing social problems, realities, situations, horizons and boundaries between the past and the future. From past to today and from today to the future it has been consciousness that conditions of human and social situations have a changing, renewing, differentiating, re-establishing feature. The Journal aims to develop comprehensive and understanding attitude within the society. It is known that modern sociology, which emerged in Western Europe from the early of the eighteenth century, eventually transformed into a hegemonic understanding by influencing the whole world. When the modern sociological understandings of the world are evaluated, it could be clearly seen that the world has been imagined as western culture and the others. Non-western World societies has been studied through the western societies' lenses and they are classified in an evolutionary development line which is evaluated by western societies. Western social structures and institutions have become compulsory choices for other non-western societies. The society's own unique and local characters have been ignored in the name of innovation and modernization. In this framework, the modern sociology developed not only a monotype person but also a society in which individuals losing their dignity. While talking about modern sociology in the world, the same basic books are being read almost everywhere and imagination derived from the same basic books are being taught almost everywhere and the imagination and understandings coming from these books are shaped the societies.

In this new issue of Diwan of Sociology, it will be tried to explore and understand the ways in which modern sociology goes into non-Western societies and how well these societies can protect their original character. Especially some basic questions will be tried to be answered:

- Can sociologists raise their own unique characters against Western dominant sociologists?
- If yes; what kind of sociology imagination did they develop?

With this and similar questions, name of this issue is thought to be the sociology of the world. For this reason, it is expected that researchers who answer this call will describe in a descriptive manner how sociology has emerged and developed in their own societies. Texts can be written in Turkish, Arabic, German and English. The first version of the work is considered as a journal that will be in Turkish. Then the second version will be considered as a book to be published in English. Whichever language mentioned above the sent text is written on, it will be translated into the language of publication by a translation board.

Important Dates

Phase 1:

Final Proposal Submission Deadline..... May 1st, 2018

Notification of Proposal Acceptance..... June 1st, 2018

Full chapter Submission Deadline: July 30th, 2018

Phase 2:

Review Process: July 30, 2018 to August 30, 2018

Review Results to Chapter Authors: September 30, 2018

Phase 3:

Revised Chapter Submission from Chapter Authors: October 30, 2018

Final Acceptance Notifications to Chapter Authors: November 15, 2018

Submission of Final Chapters to Editors: November 30, 2018

[Back to top](#)

Workshop on “The Evolving Role of Political Institutions in the Arab World”

September 2018 in Rabat, January 2019 in Tunis

Extended Deadline: Sunday April 8, 2018

APSA welcomes applications from early-career scholars who would like to participate in the 2018 MENA Workshops. This two-part program is a unique opportunity to network with colleagues from across the MENA region and develop current research related to political institutions in the Arab region and the changing state-society dynamics engendered by the Arab Uprisings post-2010. The first workshop will be held from September 24-28, 2018 in partnership with the Center for Studies and Research in Social Sciences (CERSS) in Rabat, Morocco. A second workshop will be held from January 28 to February 1, 2019 at the University of Tunis El Manar in Tunisia. Co-leaders for the program are Ahmed Jazouli (Independent Scholar, Morocco), Tofigh Maboudi (Loyola University Chicago, USA), Asma Noura (University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia), Abdallah Saaf (Mohammed V University, Morocco), and Peter J. Schraeder (Loyola University Chicago, USA). The organizers will cover participation costs (including airfare, lodging, and materials) for up to 20 qualified applicants. The working language of the workshop is English.

Workshop Theme: “The Evolving Role of Political Institutions in the Arab World”

The 2018 program aims to explore the relationships between formal political institutions and political liberalization in the MENA region. The program adopts a broad interpretation of formal political institutions, including (but not limited to) government agencies, legislative and judicial bodies, political parties and organizations, electoral rules and systems, local government, and constitutions. Participants will explore core questions and theories of formal political institutions as well as the implications of these theories for political representation, channeling citizen interests, government performance, and more broadly, political liberalization. By employing diverse theoretical frameworks and case studies, the workshops aim to illustrate how we can better understand the role and influence of institutions and the prospects of political liberalization, accountability, and representation.

To provide a framework for reflection and investigation relating to these topics, the workshop will also focus on research design and methodology, issues associated with manuscript preparation and publication, and other professional development topics. Workshop sessions will include guest lectures, small seminar discussions, and presentations of participants' research. Following their participation in the full workshops program, alumni will receive 3 years' membership to APSA and will be eligible to apply for small research grants.

Participants: early-career Arab scholars

The workshop is targeted at PhD students and post-doctoral fellows who are citizens of countries in the Arab Middle East and North Africa. Citizens of countries outside the region who are currently based at universities or research institutes in the Arab MENA region may also be accepted. The program is open to scholars in political science and other social science disciplines undertaking research related to the workshop theme. Scholars should apply with a manuscript or research project in progress which they will share at the first workshop week, improve over the interim period, and present during the second workshop week. Professional fluency in English is required. Applications from scholars working on the following topics are especially encouraged:

- State Institutions, including the Executive, Parliament, and Judiciary
- Government Agencies, such as Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Trade, and Tourism
- Regional and Local Government
- Constitutions
- Accountability, Transparency, and Government Performance
- Elections and Electoral Rules and Systems
- Political Parties and Organizations
- Rights, Identity, and Representation

Applications: due by April 8

Completed applications, including all necessary supporting documents (in PDF or Word format), must be submitted by Sunday, April 8, 2018. Selected fellows will be contacted in April 2018. Applications must be in English and include:

- The completed online Application Form (<https://apsa.wufoo.com/forms/2018-apsa-mena-workshop-application-form/>)
- A detailed, recent Curriculum Vitae/resume.
- A research statement (maximum 2,000 words) describing the work-in-progress you propose to develop and present across the MENA Workshops program. This should outline the main theme of the paper, its methodology, the data/fieldwork on which it is based, and how it relates to the workshop theme. The research statement should not be part of a co-authored project. Submissions should not be an excerpt from an already completed work or one that already has been accepted for publication. Submissions may be derived from an ongoing dissertation project but should function as a stand-alone piece.
- Two letters of reference on official letterhead and scanned as electronic files. If you are a graduate student, one letter should be from your supervisor. If you are a researcher or faculty member, the letters can be from a former dissertation supervisor, a colleague at your home institution, a university official, or an employer.

For more information, contact menaworkshops@apsanet.org. Please do not contact the workshop leaders directly.

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

Popular Protest in Mamluk Egypt and Syria

11 April 2018, 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm |

Venue: Forum Transregionale Studien, Wallotstr. 14, 14193 Berlin

Speaker: Amina Elbendary (Annemarie-Schimmel-Kolleg Senior Fellow, University of Bonn / American University in Cairo)

Chair: Pascale Ghazaleh (American University in Cairo / EUME Fellow 2017/18)

Contrary to many assumptions about pre-modern Middle Eastern societies, and despite the despotism of the ruling regimes, various social groups did play part in the politics of their societies. The late Middle Ages were a period of social and cultural transformations that also had reverberations in popular politics. In particular, incidents of urban protest in Egypt and Syria in the late Mamluk period allow us to see some of the urban politics in practice, to understand some of the dynamics that operated in medieval Middle Eastern cities and the alliances between various groups. Recent research has added more nuance to understanding urban protest, not simply as reflexive reactions to economic strife but more as part of the dynamic that maintained city life and integrated various communities. In riots, crowds of common people allied with and protested against military elites, religious scholars, merchants and craftsmen. Studying popular politics allows us a better understanding of the role of various communities in pre-modern Middle Eastern history. *More information [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

Freedom of Press in Egypt – Film screening: “Tickling Giants”

19 April 2018, 7.30 pm |

Venue: Werkstatt der Kulturen, Wissmannstr. 32, 12049 Berlin, Germany

Speaker: Taher Mokhtar (al-Nadeem Center)

Discussant: Aya Ibrahim (Amnesty International)

Film: Tickling Giants, by Sara Takelst, USA 2016, Documentary, 111 min, Arabic/English; German Version

Tickling Giants tells the story of Dr. Bassem Youssef, the "Egyptian Jon Stewart", who decides to leave his job as a heart surgeon and becomes during the Egyptian revolution a very popular late-night comedian with a show on his own. The movie is about how he finds creative, non-violent ways to protect free speech and fight a president who abuses his power.

With this screening, we are raising awareness on Shawkan, a photojournalist and prisoner of conscience. Shawkan was detained 2013 while documenting the violent attack on a protest camp by security forces. Since then he has been detained with 700 other people, and his trial was postponed over 40 times. While he is in a poor health condition and suffers from Hepatitis C, he is denied medical access. *More information* [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Human Rights in Egypt and Tunisia after the Arab Spring

24 April 2018, 6:00 PM

Venue: Brunei Gallery, Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS, London

Speakers: Maha Azzam (Egyptian Revolutionary Council), Nicola Pratt (University of Warwick), Ian Pattel (LSE), Melek Saral (SOAS)

During the so called "Arab Spring", the demonstrators brought human rights references to the centre of their political struggles. On the one hand, the uprisings are framed as a demand for human rights. On the other, the Arab Spring is believed to have provided a context for the re-articulation of the human rights situation in the MENA region. Seven years after the revolution, Egypt is witnessing an unprecedented rate of human rights abuses whereas Tunisia is celebrated as the only successful transitional country with a flourishing human rights record. The panel will address issues of human rights in two major "Arab Spring" countries namely Egypt and Tunisia. The speakers of the panel will highlight the current political and civil rights situation in these countries, and give an insight into future perspectives. *More information* [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Breathing Life into the Archive: Egyptian Revolutionary History on the Theatre Stage

25 April 2018, 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm

Venue: Forum Transregionale Studien, Wallotstr. 14, 14193 Berlin, Germany

Speakers: Laila Soliman (Cairo), Alia Mossallam (AUC / EUME Fellow 2017/18)

Chair: Cilja Harders (FU Berlin)

What is a revolutionary archive? From hand-scribbled protest songs in colonial police archives in London, to magazines and newspaper articles from Cairo's Azbakiyya markets, rusty LPs with tunes by rebellious divas stored in Beirut, and investigations into rape testimonies by the brave women of the village of Nazlet el shubak. In this talk Laila Soliman discusses her experience of patching together archives of the forgotten uprisings of 1917-1919, the years leading up to the iconic 1919 revolution in

Egypt. How can stories be told despite archival absences, weaved out of truncated events, and characters revived out of stories seldom told? How can a theatre piece reflect on historical gaps, questioning the silence, rather than overwriting it? Through this discussion about her theatre practice Soliman highlights the experiences behind *Hawwa al-Hurreyya* (2014) and *ZigZig* (2016) - taking us on a journey from the archive to the stage. *More information* [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

The Syrian Uprising: Domestic Origins and Early Trajectory

1 May 2018, 5:30 PM

Venue: Russell Square: College Buildings, Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS, London

Speaker: Raymond Hinnebusch, University of St Andrews

Panel Discussion to mark the publication of *The Syrian Uprising: Domestic Origins and Early Trajectory* (Routledge, 2018) with the editors Raymond Hinnebusch and Omar Imady, and contributors. *The Syrian Uprising* presents a snapshot of how the Uprising developed in roughly the first two to three years (2011–2013) and addresses key questions regarding the domestic origins of the Uprising and its early trajectory. Firstly, what were the causes of the conflict, both in terms of structure (contradictions and crisis within the pre-Uprising order) and agency (choices of the actors)? Why did the Uprising not lead to democratization and instead descend into violent civil war with a sectarian dimension?

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Strikes, Riots and Laughter: Egypt's 1918 Peasant Insurrection

2 May 2018, 17:15 – 19:15

Venue: LSE; Wolfson Theatre, 54 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3LJ, United Kingdom

Speaker: Alia Mosallam, Forum Transregionale Studien

Discussant: Hazem Jamjoum, New York University

Chair: John Chalcraft, LSE

In the summer of 1918 the Ministry of Interior in Cairo was bombarded with reports of 'criminal activity' from villages across Egypt. This marked the unfolding of an important but little-known revolt in 20th Century Egypt. In this event, Alia Mosallam looks at three particular instances of subversive confrontation that took place in the lead up to the summer of 1918 on the World War I fronts in Boulogne, Rafah, and in Roda Island. She asks; how did these workers chip away at the edifice of the British/Egyptian administration that subjected them to war? How did they articulate their struggle and discontent in a way that continued to resonate so strongly for many years? *More information* [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Centre for Palestine Studies Annual Lecture: The Nakba in the Present

2 May 2018, 6:30 PM

Venue: Brunei Gallery, Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS, London, UK

Speaker: Elias Khoury

In this year 2018 marked by two competing 70th anniversaries – that of the creation of the state of Israel and that of the Palestinian Nakba – the CPS Annual Lecture will be delivered by Lebanese writer, novelist, university professor and prominent public intellectual Elias Khoury.

In his lecture, Elias Khoury will discuss the following themes:

- 1) The Nakba as ethnic cleansing, and how it has been depicted in Israeli and Palestinian Literatures;
- 2) The Nakba as a settler-colonial process that is still ongoing;
- 3) The error in comparing the Nakba to the Holocaust, and Edward Said's concept of 'the victims of the victims';
- 4) The Nakba as an open book.

Elias Khoury has published 13 novels, translated into 15 languages. He has taught in several universities, including Columbia University and New York University (NYU), and is the editor of the Arabic equivalent of the *Journal of Palestine Studies*. His novel *Bab Al Shams (Gate of the Sun)* was praised by Edward Said and made into a film. In *The Guardian*, Maya Jaggi commented: 'a character dreams of writing a "book without a beginning or end... an epic of the Palestinian people" ... Khoury's monumental novel is in a sense that groundbreaking book'. *More information* [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Critical Muslim Studies Conference - Decolonial Struggles and Liberation Theologies

23-24 June 2018, Granada, Spain

Deadline: 30 April 2018

The Granada Critical Muslim Studies Summer school has been at the forefront of intellectual engagements between decolonial approaches and the analysis of Muslims, Islam and the Islamicate. It has been part of a broader intellectual project which is represented by two academic journals (*Islamophobia Studies* and *ReOrient*), a book series (*Decolonial Horizons*) and websites. The proliferation of these platforms opens the possibility of moving from epistemic critique towards the production of knowledge in a post-Western key. The task of critique of pointing out the inadequacies of current approaches to situating the Muslim experience and the experience of the global South must be reinforced by the articulation of an alternative.

The challenges to envisioning such an alternative come from two sources. Firstly, the continuation of old Orientalist framework enhanced by a decade and more of the infrastructure of the war on terror has institutionalised Islamophobia including in the academy. Secondly, the hegemony of neo-liberalism has strengthened liberalism in its flight from the political, as a consequence, the attempt

to produce alternative frames are undermined by a refusal to comprehend the constitutive role of the exercise of power. Thus, the liberation becomes and becomes a little endorsement of an underlying and hegemonic liberalism creating a nihilism that suspends any possibility of transforming the world as it is.

Proposals should explore themes that touch on one or more of the following:

1. Thinking through and inclusion of diversity of epistemologies that centers the Global South.
2. Seminal political, social, economic, religious and literary texts from the Global South so as to expand the basis of theorization for future possibilities.
3. Re-conceptualization of decolonial time and history and the demarcation of decolonial time.
4. A decolonial economic theorization rooted in cooperative, transformative and co-dependent modalities that are sustainable and fair across the globe.
5. Art, culture and modes of artistic expression that challenges commodification and uplift the human condition while being organically connected to history and society.

The Granada Summer School in cooperation with [UC Berkeley Ethnic Studies Department, CERS, Iqbal Centre, and IRDP] invites papers across existing disciplinary boundaries to contribute towards a prolegomenon to decolonial world history. We welcome papers that do more than just critique and help flesh what an alternative to the Eurocentric production of knowledge.

Paper proposals should consist of a paper title and 300-word abstract and a one paragraph bio for the program if the paper is accepted. Please send these to the attention of Professors Ramon Grosfoguel, Salman Sayyid and Hatem Bazian

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Colonial Lives of Property: Law, Land, and Racial Regimes of Ownership

Brenna Bhandar

Duke University Press, May 2018

In *Colonial Lives of Property* Brenna Bhandar examines how modern property law contributes to the formation of racial subjects in settler colonies and to the development of racial capitalism. Examining both historical cases and ongoing processes of settler colonialism in Canada, Australia, and Israel and Palestine, Bhandar shows how the colonial appropriation of indigenous lands depends upon

ideologies of European racial superiority as well as upon legal narratives that equate civilized life with English concepts of property. In this way, property law legitimates and rationalizes settler colonial practices while it racializes those deemed unfit to own property. The solution to these enduring racial and economic inequities, Bhandar demonstrates, requires developing a new political imaginary of property in which freedom is connected to shared practices of use and community rather than individual possession.

[Back to top](#)

The ABC of the OPT - A Legal Lexicon of the Israeli Control over the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Orna Ben-Naftali, Michael Sfard, Hedi Viterbo
Cambridge University Press, April 2018

Israel's half-a-century long rule over the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and some of its surrounding legal issues, have been the subject of extensive academic literature. Yet, to date, there has been no comprehensive, theoretically-informed, and empirically-based academic study of the role of various legal mechanisms, norms, and concepts in shaping, legitimizing, and responding to the Israeli control regime. This book seeks to fill this gap, while shedding new light on the subject. Through the format of an A-Z legal lexicon, it critically reflects on, challenges, and redefines the language, knowledge, and practices surrounding the Israeli control regime. Taken together, the entries illuminate the relation between global and local forces - legal, political, and cultural - in Israel and Palestine. The study of the terms involved provides insights that are relevant to other situations elsewhere in the world, particularly with regard to belligerent occupation, the law's role in relation to state violence, and justice.

[Back to top](#)

The Unmaking of the Arab Intellectual: Prophecy, Exile and the Nation

Zeina Halabi
Edinburgh University Press, 2017

Zeina G. Halabi examines the unmaking of the intellectual as prophetic figure, national icon, and exile in Arabic literature and film from the 1990s onwards. She comparatively explores how contemporary writers and film directors such as Rabee Jaber, Rawi Hage, Rashid al-Daif, Seba al-Herz and Elia Suleiman have displaced the archetype of the intellectual as it appears in writings by Elias Khoury, Edward Said, Jurji Zaidan and Mahmoud Darwish. In so doing, Halabi identifies and theorises alternative articulations of political commitment, displacement, and loss in the wake of unfulfilled prophecies of emancipation and national liberation. *The Unmaking of the Arab Intellectual* offers critical tools to understand the evolving relations between aesthetics and politics in the alleged post-political era of Arabic literature and culture. In this book Zeina G. Halabi examines the figure of the

intellectual as prophet, national icon, and exile in contemporary Arabic literature and film. Staging a comparative dialogue with writers and critics such as Elias Khoury, Edward Said, Jurji Zaidan, and Mahmoud Darwish, Halabi focuses on new articulations of loss, displacement, and memory in works by Rabee Jaber, Elia Suleiman, Rawi Hage, Rashid al-Daif, and Seba al-Herz. She argues that the ambivalence and disillusionment with the role of the intellectual in contemporary representations operate as a productive reclaiming of the 'political' in an allegedly apolitical context. *The Unmaking of the Arab Intellectual* offers the critical tools to understand the evolving relations between the intellectual and power, and the author and the text in the hitherto uncharted contemporary era.

[Back to top](#)

JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Rights as a Divide- and-Rule Mechanism: Lessons from the Case of Palestinians in Israeli Custody

Hedi Viterbo

Law and Social Inquiry, Forthcoming

Critics have highlighted the complicity of human rights law in mass disempowerment and domination – a criticism equally applicable to child law. This article investigates this issue, as evidenced by three recent developments that Israel has justified by invoking these legal frameworks: an increased separation of Palestinian adults and children in Israeli custody; the Israeli legal system's growing preoccupation with "rehabilitating" the now-segregated Palestinian children; and the Israeli authorities' ever-diminishing interest in such rehabilitation for adult Palestinian prisoners. By canvassing the legal architecture, judicial rationalizations, adverse effects, and socio-political context of these developments, this article foregrounds their divide-and-rule logic and structure of driving a generational wedge between Palestinians and potentially weakening their political ties, solidarity, and resistance.

[Back to top](#)

On the Absence of Political in Four-Field Anthropology - Renewing Political Anthropology

Irfan Ahmad

Anthropology News website, 22 March 2018

The absence of politics as a subfield in four-field anthropology—physical/biological, archaeological, linguistic, and cultural-social—has often puzzled me. I first encountered the exact term "four-field anthropology" during my doctoral training at University of Amsterdam. If these subfields are what

make anthropology a holistic discipline, how can politics be excluded? The absence of politics as a subfield unto itself actually does something quite insidious: it divides the world into them and us, where “they” are “primitive,” “pre-modern” peoples studied by anthropology, and “we” are “modern” Westerners, studied by sociology and other disciplines. The division was instituted through “holism,” and it is still an idea at anthropology’s core. Holism distinguishes anthropology from other disciplines. It meant studying non-Western peoples in their entirety, as a whole so to speak, through four fields: physical/biological, archaeological, linguistic, and social-cultural. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

The Last Journey of Karl Marx

Jürgen Neffe

Los Angeles Review of Books, 16 March 2018

THE FOLLOWING IS an abridged excerpt from Jürgen Neffe’s *Marx. Der Unvollendete* (C. Bertelsmann Verlag, 2017), translated by Shelley Frisch.

Algiers, late April 1882. After an unusual period of cold weather with rain streaming down from black skies, a hot desert wind was driving temperatures up to more than 30 degrees Celsius. In his salon somewhere in the play of shadows on the cool back streets, a barber was sharpening his knives. Today they needed to be particularly sharp. An elderly gentleman with a bushy beard and white mane atop a strikingly high forehead had taken a seat in the barber’s chair, and this sedentary giant now looked far larger than when he entered the shop.

The man wished to shed his crowning glory, from his face and his head, probably on the advice of a doctor. He looked sickly, a little bloated, and drained by life. His eyes had lost their sparkle, but they flashed up briefly when he spoke and told jokes, thus providing the only indication of his true age. In a few days he would turn 64. His overcoat, his demeanor, and his highly precise French identified him as a man from the north, yet with his bronzed complexion and dark brown eyes, he could have been from these parts. He also owed his nickname to the Moorish aspect of his features: his family and his German friend back home, now living in exile in London, called him “Moor.” That was how he signed his letters to his comrade there, and the name his three daughters had known him by since they were children. “Moor,” they said, “Moor is furious, Moor can go.” Not: “The Moor.” At the close of every letter he wrote them, he sent the young women his (always fond) regards, and signed his letters “Old Nick,” which, in English, stood for the devil. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

The Islamic Republican Party of Iran in the Factory: Control over Workers' Discourse in Posters (1979–1987)

M. Stella Morgana

Journal of the British Institute of Persian Studies, Published online: 16 Jan 2018

This article discusses how May Day posters, released by the Islamic Republican Party of Iran (which represented the core of Ayatollah Khomeini's supporters in terms of state power between 1979 and 1987), started to express a new socially constructed identity for workers within the factory. By tracking hidden meanings and the particular use of visual language, it investigates why various styles and symbols were woven together. Finally, it shows – through the analysis of discourse in posters – how a process of appropriation of leftist symbols developed, in order to nullify a perceived ideological threat to the Islamic Republic, represented by both secular Marxists groups and those who, in Khomeini's words, "mixed Islamic ideas with Marxist ideas and have created a concoction which is in no way in accordance with the progressive teachings of Islam" [Khomeini, Ayatollah Ruhollah. "We Shall Confront the World with Our Ideology." *MERIP Reports* (1980).

[Back to top](#)

NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

A Mind Is a Terrible Thing to Imprison: Confining Palestinian Political Thought

Hedi Viterbo

Jadaliyya, 2 April 2018

Considerable public and media attention has recently been paid to Israel's detention and prosecution of Ahd Tamimi – the teenager who was filmed slapping Israeli soldiers on her family's property shortly after a soldier shot her cousin in the head at close range. Once the video of the incident went viral, Tamimi was arrested, tried behind closed doors in an Israeli military court, and, eventually, sentenced to eight months in prison. Tamimi is among an estimated 800,000 non-citizen Palestinians that Israel has taken into custody since 1967. In fact, the entire non-citizen Palestinian population has been locked up in a colossal jail of sorts, or rather a disjointed network of jails. Israel has placed the Gaza Strip under closure, while enclosing the West Bank with a wall and splintering it into enclaves. Yet, not only have Palestinians been subjected to mass incarceration and the restriction of physical movement. As I show in two recent articles and a book, Israel also seems resolute to curtail and confine their thought and communication. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

Israeli army kills 17 Palestinians in Gaza protests

Al-Jazeera, 31 March 2018

The Palestinian Authority has declared Saturday a day of national mourning after 17 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces as thousands marched near Gaza's border with Israel in a major demonstration marking the 42nd anniversary of Land Day. "Schools, universities, as well as all government institutions, across the country will be off on Saturday, as per President Mahmoud Abbas' decision to declare a day of national mourning for the souls of the martyrs," a statement issued on Friday said. More than 1,400 others were wounded after Israeli forces fired live ammunition at protesters and used tear gas to push them back from a heavily fortified fence, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

[Palestine:] 'We want to return to our lands without bloodshed or bombs'

Maram Humaid

Al-Jazeera, 30 March 2018

East of Gaza City - In the early hours of Friday, 85-year-old Umm Khattab Dolah and her grandsons headed towards Gaza's eastern border with Israel. Once there, they joined masses of Palestinians who set up tents along the border, looking out at the other side, where the Israeli army was deployed. At least 70 percent of the two million people in the Gaza Strip live in refugee camps just a few kilometres away from their original homes and villages across the border, where Zionist armed groups forcibly displaced them seven decades earlier. Dolah, who lives in Shati refugee camp along the northern coast of the Gaza Strip, said she was forced to flee along with her family from the city of Jaffa in 1948, during what Palestinians refer to as the Nakba, or "catastrophe". "I came here today to call for my right of return," Dolah told Al Jazeera. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

Palestine Land Day: A day to resist and remember

Yara Hawari

Al-Jazeera, 30 March 2018

Forty-two years ago today, Israeli police shot and killed six Palestinian citizens of Israel as they were protesting the Israeli government's expropriation of thousands of donums of Palestinian land. Since then, March 30 has been known as Land Day. It has become a major commemorative date in the Palestinian political calendar and an important event in the Palestinian collective narrative - one that emphasises Palestinian resistance to Israeli colonisation and sumud (steadfastness). The 1976 protests were a result of mass collective action across historic Palestine, which saw Palestinian

communities resisting not only the theft of land but also overall settler colonial policies of erasure. Although there were also protests in the Naqab and Wadi Ara, most of the action took place in six villages in the Galilee that had been placed under curfew: Sakhnin, Arraba, Deir Hanna, Tur'an, Tamra, and Kabul. The demonstrations were met with serious aggression and violence; in addition to the six demonstrators killed, hundreds were injured. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

The Weaponization of Nostalgia: How Afghan Miniskirts Became the Latest Salvo in the War on Terror

Alex Shams

Ajam Media Collective, 6 September 2017

Last month, Donald Trump announced that the US would be extending its military occupation of Afghanistan, reversing a stance he has held for years demanding a rapid pull-out. Instead, the country will see a continuation of the endless war, a war that has left tens of thousands dead but which has failed miserably to achieve any of its goals – like securing peace for the Afghan people. Now, it looks like the war could be increasingly privatized – and Trump has shown interest in persuading Afghanistan’s government to clear the way for US mining companies to exploit the country’s untapped mineral deposits – valued at \$1 trillion – as payment. Like the Iraqi oil loot seized after the 2003 US invasion, it is hard to imagine a more brazen form of armed robbery. How do miniskirts play into this picture? US national security adviser McMaster showed Donald Trump 1970s-era photos of Afghan women wearing miniskirts in order to convince him to maintain the 16-year-long US military presence in the country, the Washington Post reported this week. This isn’t the first time Afghan women’s clothing has been used to justify war. Back in 2001, Republicans took up the blue burqa worn by many Afghan women – and enforced as law by the Taliban, then in power – as a symbol of women’s oppression. Continuing a long history of complicity with imperialism, some feminists began to rally around US guns and missiles as the best hope of “freeing” Afghan women – apparently not considering that bombing a country and killing thousands of people hardly creates much of a path to freedom. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

2 PhD positions: « Towards a Decentred History of the Middle East», Université de Neuchâtel

Deadline: 22 April 2018

Doctoral Fellowship ERC at 50% in contemporary history for 3 years:

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Neuchâtel is recruiting a doctoral student for the ERC Project **titled** “Towards a Decentred History of the Middle East: Transborder Spaces, Circulations, ‘Frontier Effects’ and State Formation, 1920-1946” (BORDER) funded by the European Research Council and led by Professor Jordi Tejel. The candidate will join a research team of three and complement the existing research strengths by working on the history of the modern Middle East.

Doctoral Fellowship ERC at 70% in contemporary history for 4 years:

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Neuchâtel is recruiting a doctoral student for the ERC Project titled “Towards a Decentred History of the Middle East: Transborder Spaces, Circulations, ‘Frontier Effects’ and State Formation, 1920-1946” (BORDER) funded by the European Research Council and led by Professor Jordi Tejel. The candidate will join a research team of three and complement the existing research strengths by working on the history of Iraq in the interwar era.

More information and application [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Arcapita Visiting Professor of Modern Arab Studies at Columbia University

Deadline: 15 April 2018

The Middle East Institute and the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies at Columbia University invite applications for an appointment as Arcapita Visiting Professor of Modern Arab Studies for a one-semester position for the fall 2018 or spring 2019 semester. The position may be filled at the rank of Visiting Assistant Professor, Visiting Associate Professor, or Visiting Professor. We are interested in candidates whose field of research and teaching is in history, culture, or social sciences of the modern Arab world. The incumbent will be expected to teach two courses in this field, to participate in the activities of the Middle East Institute and to give a brown bag lecture and other such public lectures as may be appropriate.

A Ph.D., a record of scholarly publications, and proven teaching experience in English are required by the beginning of the appointment. Experience teaching at a university in the Middle East highly preferred.

All applications must be made through Columbia University's online Recruitment of Academic Personnel System (RAPS).

More information and application [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Editor, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Call for Applications and Nominations

Term: July 1, 2019-June 30, 2024

Review of applications from: 1 August 2018

The MESA Board of Directors invites applications and nominations for the next editor for the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (IJMES) for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2019. Candidates should be internationally recognized Middle East scholars in either the humanities or the social sciences and be affiliated with an academic institution prepared to contribute space and support to an editorial office. Applications should include proposals for this institutional contribution endorsed by the institution involved.

The editor is responsible for ensuring the quality of IJMES as the leading English-language journal in the field. Editorial duties include establishing editorial policy in consultation with the MESA Board of Directors; negotiating with Cambridge University Press (CUP), which publishes IJMES; managing the ScholarOne online system now used by the journal; administering the peer review selection process; compiling the book review section in conjunction with book review editors; suggesting revisions for manuscripts; nominating book review editors and members of the editorial board for review and approval by MESA's Board of Directors and CUP; and overseeing the editing and production of the four issues that make up an IJMES volume. Support from the institution with which the editor is affiliated could consist of office space and equipment for the editor and managing editor, support for a graduate student assistant (or financial support that will cover salary for a secretary), postage and incidental expenses, and release time from teaching for the editor. CUP also provides some financial support for the editorial office including a modest salary for the managing editor. The editor and CUP will determine the way in which CUP's contribution is to be allocated. The editor receives an annual stipend from CUP.

In addition, MESA provides for the editor's travel and two nights' lodging at the annual meeting. The editor gives a report at the fall board meeting (held in conjunction with the annual meeting) and presents a report at MESA's members (business) meeting; s/he also serves as a member of MESA's Publications Committee.

Inquiries should be addressed to Amy Newhall at 520-333-2577 or amy@mesana.org. Applications with letter(s) of institutional commitment should be sent to secretariat@mesana.org. Application review will begin August 1, 2018 and continue until a new editor is identified.

[Back to top](#)

Lecturer in Comparative Politics, UCL

Deadline: 15 April 2018

UCL wishes to appoint a new Lecturer in Comparative Politics starting in September 2018 to contribute to teaching and administration on the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes within the Department of Political Science. With a core of 38 full-time academic staff members, and several teaching and research fellows, the Department has an active research culture and impressive teaching programme.

The Department's status as one of Britain's leading centres for research in Political Science was confirmed by the results of the 2014 Research Assessment Exercise. The Department ranked 5th on Times Higher GPA and 2nd on the Times Higher Subject Ranking on Intensity, the Guardian's subject ranking, as well as on other measures. The department's performance contributed to a very strong performance by UCL overall. The Department acts as the bridge between UCL's world-class research and the policy-making community in Britain and internationally. In addition to regular research seminars, we have weekly seminars featuring distinguished external speakers that form a unique part of our teaching programme, and hold regular high-profile events for policy makers and others. The Department has close ties with UCL's Global Governance Institute and the European Institute.

At the undergraduate level, the Department contributes to two leading inter-disciplinary degrees, the BSc in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) and the BA in European Social and Political Studies (ESPS). In 2019, the Department will introduce a new BSc degree in Politics and International Relations. At the Masters' level, we offer ten MA and MSc degrees in a variety of fields in political science, international relations, and public policy. Our PhD programme is supported by both ESRC and AHRC studentships for eligible students.

Further information on the Department of Political Science, including research clusters and teaching programmes, is available on our website (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/political-science>).

The Lecturer will teach a comparative politics module at undergraduate level, and offer at least two additional modules at undergraduate or postgraduate level – either from existing offerings within the department and/or by developing new options.

We welcome applications from high-quality candidates with research and teaching interests in any of the fields in comparative political analysis. However we particularly encourage interest from candidates whose fields of expertise are less well represented among our existing staff. The successful candidate will be expected to undertake research of the highest international standards within his or her own specialist field, which will contribute to the research standing and culture of the department.

Key Requirements

Candidates must have a PhD in Political Science or related field, (candidates nearing completion will also be considered).

A proven ability to undertake academic research of international quality, publications consistent with UCL's expectations for international research excellence, previous experience of teaching in a related field at undergraduate or postgraduate level and the ability to make a distinctive contribution to the department's teaching needs are all essential.

Evidence of research 'impact' and experience of research that feeds into policy-making and demonstrated ability to win research grant funding would be desirable.

If you have any queries regarding the vacancy or the application process, please contact Rachel Cronkshaw (email: r.cronkshaw@ucl.ac.uk)

We particularly welcome female applicants and those from an ethnic minority, as they are under-represented within UCL at this level.

More information and application [here](#)

[Back to top](#)