



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

The Egyptian Revolution of 1919: The Birth of the Modern Nation

27-28 March 2019, London

Deadline 30 June 2018

A conference presented by the British Egyptian Society, the Council for British Research in the Levant, and the London Middle East Institute SOAS University of London

The Egyptian independence movement in 1919 led to the recognition of Egyptian sovereignty in 1922, an Egyptian constitution in 1923, and Saad Zaghoul's appointment as the first prime minister of a government elected by suffrage in 1924. To mark the centenary of the revolution, the British Egyptian Society (BES), the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL) and the London Middle East Institute (LMEI) at SOAS University of London are holding a conference on 27-28 March 2019.

Speaking at the conference is an opportunity to stand in front of an international and diverse academic and professional audience at the Brunei Gallery at SOAS to share your research and contribute your experience with regional and global experts. Highlight your work in the industry, share your knowledge and connect with commercial and academic executives across UK, Egypt and global research bodies. Most speakers will be selected through a Call for Papers issued by a panel appointed to assess applications. The criteria for the selection of submissions are:

- (i) Focus on the topic and addressing relevant themes (see above for an indication of relevant themes);
- (ii) Quality of work and analytical rigour and
- (iii) Contributors' track records in research in the field.

The conference will cover travel and lodging costs of those presenting a full paper. We plan to publish a selection of the presented papers at the conference.

Instructions for Submission

Please provide the following:

- (i) An abstract of the paper being proposed for presentation (maximum of 500 words).
- (ii) Short CV(s) of the author(s).

Alternative to using our automatic submission system above you could email: LMEI-Egypt2019@soas.ac.uk

More information [here](#)

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Digital Media, Islamism, and Politics in the Middle East

28-29 September 2018, Basel, Switzerland

Deadline: 5 July 2018

An international workshop organized by MUBIT Inter-University Doctoral Cooperation in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies Basel/Zurich & Middle Eastern Studies, The Graduate School of Social Sciences (G3S), University of Basel, Switzerland

Call for Applications for the 6th Annual MUBIT Doctoral Workshop in Late- and Post-Ottoman Studies in Basel, a workshop with Assistant Professor Dr. H. Akin Ünver (Kadir Has University/Oxford University/Alan Turing Institute) & Dr. Monica Marks (Harvard University)

This two-day workshop immerses students in comparative studies of Islamist politics in the Middle East and North Africa through the lens of how violent and non-violent Islamist state and non-actors, as well as their opponents, use and manipulate digital and social media to further their goals. The workshop is specifically interested in exploring themes in how the region's religious, political and social forces interact and mobilize in digital space, including their competing organizational networks and narrative claims.

As an increasingly more popular and politically-relevant topic in the region and beyond, we seek applicants whose work lie at the intersection of ICTs (information and communication technologies – such as Whatsapp, Signal, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and other web channels) and social media platforms on the one hand, and religion, politics, culture, and mobilization on the other. Those that are interested in, and work on how online and offline mobilization, behaviour and organization interact in the Middle East are particularly encouraged to apply.

Related questions that this workshop will explore include:

1. The definition of "Islamism," Islamic vs. Islamist vs. jihadist hierarchies, communication strategies, and organizational networks of influence in the digital world
2. Digital Surveillance, Censorship, Protest, Voice, and Opposition in the Middle East
3. Organized Diversion: Fake News, Trolls Bots
4. Online Radicalization and ICT Use of Extremist Groups

* In addition to the presentations and discussions by the guest lecturers, the workshop will offer the participants a one-to-one session with the lecturers, in order to create an opportunity to expand and explore specific questions related to the workshop and/or to the participant's own research. Due to limited time, approx. 20 minute, one-to-one sessions will be offered on a first come basis.

PhD students who wish to attend the workshop are asked to send an email to Dr. Selen Etingue (g.etingue@unibas.ch), with a biographical abstract explaining their research interests and projects as well as their academic background (max. 400 words, in 3rd person singular, in English). The deadline for the application is July 5, 2018. Applicants will receive an answer regarding their participation on July 15.

Contact Info:

Dr. Selen Etingü

Universität Basel

Seminar für Nahoststudien

Maiengasse 51

CH-4056 Basel

Switzerland

Contact Email: g.etingue@unibas.ch

More information [here](#)

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Entries for “Conflict in the Middle East: An Encyclopedia of Civil War, Revolutions, and Regime Change”

Deadline: 1 July 2018

Entries for this Encyclopedia are from ABC-CLIO and will cover the significant personalities, political movements, ideologies, events, social and political forces, and competing perspectives across 22 countries. While covering the 2011 protests, and the developments ensuing, the entries will enable the reader to develop a forward-looking vision for the region.

For information please contact Jonathan K. Zartman, Ph.D. CIV (jkzartman@yahoo.com)

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Queering the Middle East – Middle East Critique Special Issue CFP

Deadline: 31 May 2018

Queer theory is a site for methodological and analytical frameworks whose significance to the study of the MENA region reflects Middle East scholarly efforts to imagine what is possible beyond dominant theory/practice (e.g., (Amar and El Shakery [2013] Introduction: Curiosities of Middle East Studies in Queer Times). Middle East Critique is inviting papers for a proposed Special Issue that aims to examine how queering, as a process of troubling (Butler, 1995) and/or mapping intersectionalities of raced, gendered, sexed and/or classed positionalities (Muñoz 1995; Smith 2010; Brown 2006; Morton 1996; Halberstam 1998; & Viteri 2008) matter to both empirical and conceptual (re)readings and critiques of the MENA region within the frames of ‘power/resistance.’ In particular, we call for papers that focus on the interdisciplinary study of social, geo-political, economic and/or (neo)colonial regimes of normalcy and how their solidification within the web of institutions, desires, practices and/or identities align the significance of queering, within the MENA region, as a practice and analytic.

We invite papers whose focus include but are not limited to the following themes and (sub)questions:

1. *Queer[ing] (in) uprising and social movements*

This theme engages a variety of questions that include: Is the revolution queer? And how do analyses of uprisings and/or social movements in various Arab countries intersect queer critiques of socio-political and economic normalcies? Further, in shedding light on the possibilities of queering 'the revolution,' can the revolution be 'queered' via an assessment of the power normalcies inscribing the revolutionary event?

2. *Queer[ing] (in) migration, displacement and (im)mobilities*

This theme engages the linkages and compatibilities of queer and migrant within a MENA context. It engages a range of (sub) questions that include: Is the refugee figure a queer one? And what are the gendered, sexed and classed processes that define processes of displacement as well as re-settlement in a MENA context?

3. *Queer[ing] in cities and geo-politics*

This theme engages (sub)questions in relation to the wider terrain of urban spatialities as sites for the(de)regulation of geo-politics, i.e., urban planning in various MENA cities- as a reflection of the intertwinement of international and local hegemonic geo-political processes- and the queer spaces they produce.

4. *Queer[ing] the [post]colonial present*

This theme engages the fundamental question of colonial past and present within a MENA context while navigating how queer as an analytic or a practice (i.e., aesthetic and political-aesthetic praxis) imagines a decolonial past, present and future.

How To Submit

Abstracts for proposed papers for this special issue are due by May 31, 2018. Please send directly to Dr. Walaa Alqaisiya at walaa.alqaisiya@durham.ac.uk and critique.1992@gmail.com.

Editorial information

Guest Editor: Walaa Alqaisiya (walaa.alqaisiya@durham.ac.uk)

More information [here](#)

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Contentious politics in the Middle East and North Africa: bridging theory, disciplines and methodological approaches

4 -6 October 2018, University of Naples, Italy

Deadline: 15 June 2018

The University of Naples, L'Orientale welcomes paper proposals for its first Procida Symposium on "Contentious politics in the Middle East and North Africa: bridging theory, disciplines and methodological approaches". Combining an academic conference with a workshop, the Procida Symposium is open to graduate students, independent researchers, junior and senior scholars. The Arab uprisings sent a far-reaching message to all those interested in the processes of collective action and revolutionary change. Sceptics about the prospects of democratisation in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) were once again reminded that a non-democratic past does not sentence the region to an authoritarian future. On the other hand, idealist predictions of a democratic fourth-wave subsided under a tide of internal strife and repressive backlash. Historically, abrupt political transformations have always elicited periods of instability with outcomes ranging from successful regime change to authoritarian persistence and full-blown war. Today, the MENA region appears as an example of the possibilities and shortcomings of both contentious action and regime resilience. While Tunisia stands as standard-bearer of a still fragile transition to democracy, Egypt succumbed to the heavy-hand of a martial regime. Civil war in Libya, regional war in Yemen and globalised war in Syria keep people hostage of a cycle of violence generating a spiral of refugees. The resulting humanitarian crisis that hit the shores of Europe proves that local conflicts have sweeping consequences.

A region at a crossroads is in itself an academic puzzle worth exploring. Even if the Arab uprisings did not deliver on their promises of emancipation, there is no reason to bear the Orientalist straightjacket. Democratic backsliding, authoritarianism, questions of limited statehood, political violence and war are quintessential research problems. Moreover, engaged researchers can neither overlook the regional political economy structures nor the contentious agents erupting in its midst. Academics from both sides of the Mediterranean are confronted with grievous problems, which invite careful consideration and creative solutions.

While the event will focus on contentious politics, we intend to explore this phenomenon in a threefold perspective. On a theoretical level, we stress the need for a more dynamic approach, which takes stock of the structural continuities at the same time as it acknowledges the emergence of agent-driven changes. Secondly, the literature has so far neglected the presence and modalities of collective action in polities characterised by areas of limited statehood, war-torn or post-conflict states, something which we want to shed light on. Third, this event also aims at promoting a disciplinary and methodological debate that addresses possible approaches to research in difficult and risky environments, particularly looking at the place for ethnography and participant observation in conflict-laden countries. Innovative tools and methods can be a way of outsmarting the severe restrictions on academic freedom. For example, new modes of communication can easily link up both sides of the Mediterranean and facilitate outreach activities. Likewise, scholars have now access to digital sources of information, such as social media platforms and electronic archives, and rich data, like political event databases and surveys. Paired with powerful analytical methods, from discourse and content analysis to inferential statistics and social network analysis, researchers have at their

disposal a set of possible instruments to investigate contentious politics in the MENA, in light of contextual limitations.

The Procida Symposium aims at bridging different theories, disciplines and methodological approaches to contentious politics. We invite papers from all relevant fields, such as Political Science, International Relations, Sociology, Anthropology, Area Studies, etc. We are particularly interested in interdisciplinary studies employing quantitative and qualitative methods and, more specifically, contributions that incorporate new data sources (e.g. social media, political event databases, online surveys, crowdsourcing) and/or analytical and visualisation tools (e.g. content analysis, social network analysis, digital cartography, etc). Also welcomed are papers that, regardless of the disciplinary or regional focus, propose theoretical or methodological innovations with the potential to be used in the analysis of contentious politics in the MENA region.

Location, Format and Paper Submission

The event is organised by Ruth Hanu Santini, Assistant Professor of Politics and International Relations at the Università L'Orientale in Naples and Hugo Leal, Research Fellow at CRASSH at the University of Cambridge, and will take place in the splendid [Island of Procida](#). The three-day programme is evenly divided between a conference and a workshop during which we aim at exploring and debating the evolution of contentious politics in the MENA region since the Arab uprisings as well as the challenges and opportunities currently faced by scholars interested in the area. The first part of the event is an academic conference, including a roundtable, directed at junior and senior scholars and seeks to explore the ways in which contentious action and research on contentious action have evolved in the MENA region in the aftermath of the Arab uprisings of 2011. The graduate workshop intends to pair doctoral students and/or independent researchers with the participants in the academic conference, who will serve as discussants and provide feedback on theoretical and methodological issues.

To submit a paper proposal, please send your name, affiliation, contact information and preferred venue (conference or workshop) together with a short bio and abstract (up to 500 words including paper title) to Dr. Irene Costantini at: icostantini@unior.it and/or to Dr. Edoardo Baldaro at edoardo.baldaro@sns.it by June 15th 2018. Notification of acceptance will be sent by July 15th. Full papers are expected by September 15th.

A selection of papers presented at the conference will be considered for publishing as a special issue in a peer-reviewed academic journal.

Registration, travel and accommodation

Bucking the current trend, our goal is to promote dialogue among academics rather than monetising their output. For that reason, there is no registration fee. Meals will be provided to all attendants. Accommodation for some students, independent researchers and junior researchers without funding and/or no economic means, and/or coming from the MENA region is also assured and free of charge. Those who feel eligible for accommodation under these conditions should send a justification of their status together with the paper proposal. Please, note that we do not cover travel expenses.

More information [here](#)

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“Summer of Coups,” A Jadaliyya Roundtable

Deadline: 15 June 2018

Jadaliyya is seeking contributions to its “Summer of Coups” series, which aims to provide historical and/or contemporary analysis of coups in the Middle East and North Africa region, whether through specific case studies or comparative perspectives. We are interested in the political, economic, social, and/or cultural dynamics of coups, as well as their aftermaths/consequences.

While the MENA region is currently witnessing a rising tide of militarized authoritarianism and new consolidations of power, coups d’etat play an important role in the history of the region, and therefore, they loom large in contemporary political, social, and cultural imaginaries. Yet coups, failed or aborted, have also had an important part to play in other countries less associated with or analyzed in relation to coups. More important, the aftermath of coups transforms the landscape of political parties as well as the coercive powers of various state institutions. We are thus seeking contributions that contribute to a critical, engaged, and scholarly understanding of coups. Possible lines of inquiry include, but are not limited to:

- How do social, political, and economic forces nurture, promote, and/or resist coups?
- In what ways have coups transformed existing and emerging regimes?
- What has been the impact of coups on military and security policies?
- How do coups affect opposition movements across the Middle East and North Africa?
- What is the relationship of colonialism and imperialism to coups, how have political alliances emerged between regional and foreign powers as a consequence?
- What kinds of cultural practices and products are engendered by coups and coup attempts?
- How have historical and contemporary coups circulated regionally and transnationally?
- How do civil and military politics get delineated, if at all? Where the lines between civilian and military politics are blurry, how have political and institutional cultures developed?
- What is the political economy of coups and military regimes?
- Since the nineteenth century, how have coups and civil wars been intertwined with the modernization of politics in the Middle East?

Understanding the causes, dynamics, and consequences of coups past and present thus offers a prism onto wider social, political, economic, religious, and cultural phenomena across the Middle East and North Africa. Examining these historical moments offers an opportunity to put forth a “critique of violence,” posing questions about the contours and boundaries of state violence, political leadership, and normative assumptions about both.

In this light, we seek articles, pedagogical resources, multimedia art, and other contributions that provide critical insights on coups and putsches, attempted or aborted, successful or not, past and present. We also welcome comparative perspectives from other regions of the world that seek to challenge the insularity of knowledge production on the MENA region and its alleged relationship to coup d’etat, highlighting the globality of modern political phenomena or investigating the historical

connections within and across world regions. All submissions are subject to the Jadaliyya review process.

Please submit your contribution by our early deadline of 15 June 2018. We are interested in finished contributions rather than abstracts or proposals. However, if you wish to develop a particular idea, individually or collectively, or if you wish to explore multimedia submission requirements, please email us at info@jadaliyya.com.

More information [here](#)

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TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

The People's Property: Resources and Rights in Late Nineteenth-Century Egypt

30 May 2018, 5 pm

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

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

Chair: Alia Mossallam (American University in Cairo / EUME Fellow 2017/18)

In this presentation, which takes as its main focus Egypt from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day, Pascale Ghazaleh will look at popular attempts to assert control over certain goods such as land and water. She will place these attempts in the context of conflicts over the nature of political participation and the social identity of those who could engage in politics. In particular, she will try to trace different practices of entitlement to resources, focusing on the ways in which the developing state apparatus sought to establish itself as the exclusive custodian of certain types of property, while various social groups asserted their right to control or benefit from this property. Examples from Iran and Lebanon will also illustrate struggles over resources that became widespread in the region during the nineteenth century. During this period, Ghazaleh argues, working people invoked their labor as a means of justifying their entitlement to resources and, by extension, their identity as citizens. At the same time, peasants, guild members, Bedouins, and other non-elite social groups colluded with the state in producing and endorsing a partially abstract category: that of national or public property.

More information [here](#)

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Annual George Antonius Memorial Lecture- The Tunisian Revolution: Achievements and disillusions

7 June 2018 - 5:00pm

Venue: Investcorp Auditorium, Middle East Centre, St Antony's College, Oxford, UK

Speaker: Moncef Marzouki (Former President of the Republic of Tunisia, 2011-2014)

Mohamed Moncef Marzouki was the first democratically elected president of Tunisia after the January 14th Revolution in 2011, a seminal moment in modern Arab history which heralded the onset of multiple popular revolutions throughout the Arab World. Elected to the presidency by the Tunisian National Constituent Assembly, President Marzouki is Tunisia's first president in modern history to arrive at his position through fair and transparent elections. Upon the assumption of the presidency, Moncef Marzouki embarked on mission to "open the doors" of the presidential palace through campaigns of transparency, participative democracy, and by encouraging a safe public space for civil organizations to flourish. During his mandate, Moncef Marzouki was a voice of social and revolutionary activism, calling for civilian rights, curtailment of the security apparatus, and economic sovereignty, and transformed the presidency into a position of service to the Tunisian public. Occupying a middle ground between secularist and Islamist political standpoints, Moncef Marzouki was instrumental in creating a dialogue between all political, social, and religious tendencies in Tunisia, clearing the ground for an inclusive, stable, and consensus-based Tunisian democracy to take root.

More information [here](#)

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Imagining the Future of the Arab World from the Ruins of the Revolutions

09-10 June 2018

Venue: Archive Kabinett, Müllerstraße 133, 13349 Berlin, Germany

The surge of counter-revolutions, the stepping up of mechanisms of internal repression, compounded by the active intervention of international powers in the aftermath of insurgencies in the Arab world have caused tremendous material and immaterial damage. Such setbacks do not only impact the present moment, but they also inhibit imaginings and representations of the future, particularly for artists, writers and activists. It is difficult to uphold the same imaginings of the future that had prevailed prior to the Arab revolutions and that regarded dictatorships as merely a phase destined to lapse as time moved forward. Although these aspirations materialized in many cases, they have not revealed new horizons. Indeed, the aftermath of revolutions seems to pull down the curtain on a political era that once conceived of a bright future.

After the revolutions were defeated, motifs of dystopia in literature and art have begun to emerge. Whereas science fiction, comics, and creative writings continue to enable imagining the unimaginable and unveiling horizons for better morrows for some, it invited others to delve into

deeper level of despair. Has dystopia become a fount for intellectual and artistic production? Are we to relinquish the very idea of a future carrying promises for betterment and bliss? Or, on the contrary, should we hang on to the notion of utopia as the harbinger of a future for all? Does the moment of the Arab uprising still allow us to conceive of such utopic futures? If this is indeed possible, how do contemporary imaginings compare with those that the generations of the 1960s carried, or even those of the modernist pioneers of the turn of the last century? This Forum will explore these questions by looking at the new literary and artistic forms in the Arab world, in which "the future" is represented or incarnated.

The Forum is curated by Khaled Saghieh (Beirut / EUME Fellow 2016/17) and organized by the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC) in the framework of its Arab European Creative Platform (AECF) in cooperation with the Archive Kabinett and EUME. *More information* [here](#)

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Rap Beyond Resistance: Staging Power in Contemporary Morocco

21 June 2018, 18:00 – 19:30

Venue: Research Centres Meeting Suite, Tower 1, London School of Economics, UK

Speakers: Cristina Moreno-Almeida, King's College College

Chair: Shakuntala Banaji, LSE

This talk launches Cristina Moreno-Almeida's book, 'Rap Beyond Resistance: Staging Power in Contemporary Morocco'. In the book, Moreno-Almeida argues for a new way of looking at cultural resistance in the Arabic-speaking world that goes beyond secular liberal ideas of resistance. In doing so, she provides an in-depth look at rap culture in Morocco, bringing light to a vibrant and varied rap scene, and uncovering the many ways in which young artists are being political beyond 'radical lyrics'. *More information* [here](#)

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Re-Imagining Cultural Histories of the Middle East and North Africa

28 June 2018, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Venue: 309 Regent Street, London W1B 2HW

Keynote speaker: Professor Ella Shohat, New York University

Celebrating 10 years of the Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication

The Arab uprisings of 2011 have awakened interest in studies of cultural creativity and transformations across different historical epochs in the Middle East and North Africa region. However, despite the expanding scholarship, there is a significant gap in knowledge about the diverse cultural histories of the region. The little work there is remains trapped within the narrow Western-centric premise of liberal and modernisation theories that presuppose linear models of cultural, creative and political innovation.

This conference begins with the premise that understanding cultural histories of the region needs to begin with contextualized analysis of cultural and political practices within their local contexts, while not disregarding or ignoring the encounters with the global and international. It also begins with the proposition that a historical analysis of culture and cultural practices needs to consider the relationship between structure and agency as well as lived experiences in order to provide a more critical and historically-contextualized theorisation of cultural histories of the region.

We ask key questions about why we need to address the writing of cultural histories now and why it matters. Who are the key writers of MENA's cultural histories? In which languages and under what social conditions were these histories written? How have these writers responded to socio-cultural, political and technological transformations in the region? Through which conceptual frameworks have they understood the region? Why have they focused on some countries and ignored others? What type of epistemologies and theorisations of 'culture' and 'history' still dominate the writing of cultural history of this region? What role have Middle Eastern and North African cultural historians played in cultural translation and subsequently in reimagining the cultural history of their region? What elements of their legacies need to be challenged; who is challenging them today, and how? The conference brings together cultural and art historians, anthropologists, political scientists as well as media and cultural studies scholars. The conference engages with the following themes:

- Intellectual histories/genealogies
- Histories of trade Unionism and the Left
- Migratory and minority cultural histories
- Subcultural histories and transgression
- Modernist art and artistic expression in the late 20th century
- Questioning methods and epistemologies of cultural history
- Digital histories, the internet and the future of cultural history
- Memory, remembering and war
- Gender, race and sexuality
- Cultural histories of entertainment

More information [here](#)

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Decolonizing Academia Poverty, Oppression and Pain

Clelia O. Rodríguez

Fernwood Publishing - 2018

Refreshing and radical, *Decolonizing Academia* speaks to those who have been taught to doubt themselves because of the politics of censorship, violence and silence that sustain the Ivory Tower. Clelia O. Rodríguez illustrates how academia is a racialized structure that erases the voices of people of colour, particularly women, and their potential. She offers readers a gleam of hope through the voice of an inquisitorial thinker and methods of decolonial expression: poetry, art and reflections that encompass more than theory. *Decolonizing Academia* is the voice of a Latinx academic mother passing on the torch to her Latinx offspring to use as a tool to not only survive academic spaces but also dismantle systems of oppression. Rodríguez presents ideas that many have tried to appropriate, ignore, erase and consume in the name of “research.” Her work is a survival guide for people of colour entering academia.

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Remembering Akbar: Inside the Iranian Revolution

Behrooz Ghamari

OR Books, 2016

Set in the tumultuous aftermath of the Iranian revolution in 1979, *Remembering Akbar* weaves together the stories of a group of characters who share a crowded death row cell in Tehran's notorious Evin prison. A teeming world is evoked vividly through the relationships, memories, and inner lives of these political prisoners, many of whom were eventually executed. Told through a series of linked memories by the narrator, Akbar, whose striking candor is infused with a mordant sense of humor, the story takes the reader beyond mere political struggles and revelations, to a vibrant alternative history, written, as it were, by losers. The characters whose stories Akbar recounts are brought to life within the mundane rhythms of a bleak institution, in its simple pleasures as well as its frequent horrors, and in the unexpected connections that emerge between the world inside and a past before imprisonment. Rather than exalting the heroic, or choosing to focus merely on despair or redemption, *Remembering Akbar* reveals eloquently how life unfolds when death is starkly imminent. It is a deeply moving story of great camaraderie, biting humor, and soulful remembrance.

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JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Dialectics of struggle: challenges to the Kurdish women's movement

Al-Ali, Nadjé and Tas, Latif

LSE Middle East Centre Paper Series, 22. Middle East Centre, The London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK

Our paper engages with the complex relationship between national liberation and women's rights movements as an instance to recognise the significance of intersectional political struggles and claims. In our specific case study, we critically explore attempts by political activists and elected representatives of the Kurdish political movement in the Middle East and its diasporas to challenge patriarchal and masculinist ideology and practices. Our work aims to recognise the recent commitment to gender equality, while complicating the often simplistic glorification of women's roles within the Kurdish political movement in the context of Turkey but also northern Syria, both ideologically inspired by the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK), and particularly by the writings of its founder Abdullah Öcalan. Based on two years of multisited fieldwork in Diyarbakir, Istanbul, Berlin and London, our collaborative paper sheds light on the dialectic processes through which the Kurdish political movement is engaging in the translation of its political principles of democratic confederalism and gender equality. *Download [here](#)*

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Toward an Alternative 'Time of the Revolution'? Beyond State Contestation in the struggle for a new Syrian Everyday

Estella Carpi & Andrea Glioti

Middle East Critique, published online: 07 May 2018

The convoluted relationship between the state and citizens in conflict-ridden Syria often has been reduced to a binary of dissent and consent. Challenging these simplistic categorizations, this article analyzes how state mechanisms resonate in the everyday lives of Syrians since the beginning of the crisis. Drawing on ethnographic insights from Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Syrian Kurds in northeastern Syria, this article shows how state, society and political opposition function as relational processes. Then, it identifies the limitations of contemporary strategies of everyday political contestation through the theory of Syrian intellectual 'Omar 'Aziz's 'time of the revolution.'

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Kurdayetî: Pan-Kurdish Solidarity and Cross-Border Links in Times of War and Trauma

William Gourlay

Middle East Critique, Volume 27, 2018 - Issue 1, Pages 25-42

The advance of ISIL amid the horrors of the Syrian civil war has given impetus to the forging of political solidarity among Kurds across international borders. This article examines *Kurdayetî*, pan-Kurdish identification, and the way in which it is shaped by ongoing crises in the Middle East. Amid chaotic events, previously divided Kurdish populations have increased cross-border interaction and co-operation. In northern Syria, Kobani became a bellwether of pan-Kurdish hopes and fears, and a rallying point, with peshmerga from Iraqi Kurdistan passing through Turkey to help relieve the ISIL siege of the city. Meanwhile, Kurdish political groups, particularly the PYD in Syria and the Kurdistan Regional Government, have made strategic gains, raising prospects, in some quarters, of Kurdish independence. Kurdish military forces also have won international recognition (and some logistical support) for the significant role they have played in fighting ISIL. This, in turn, has heightened concerns among regional states, chiefly Turkey, which is traditionally wary of political advances for the Kurds. This article incorporates ethnographic data gathered in 2014 and 2015 in Diyarbakir and Istanbul, to analyze the surge in pan-Kurdish solidarity, confidence and political assertiveness, and the implications these have for the Kurds and the states that surround them.

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Beyond Structure and Contingency: Toward an Interactionist and Sequential Approach to the 2011 Uprisings

[Mounia Bennani-Chraïbi](#)

Middle East Critique, Volume 26, 2017 - Issue 4, Pages 373-395

Taking as its starting point the mental earthquake produced by the 2011 uprisings, this article tackles the epistemological questions of causality and contingency in an effort to foster dialogue between comparative political regime studies, the sociology of revolutions and social movement literature. Based on a comparative analysis of three 'positive cases' (Egypt, Syria and Tunisia), and a 'negative case' (Morocco), it follows an interactionist and sequential approach to revolutionary situations. Its main objective is to expand the scope of the attempts aimed at reconciling structure and contingency, by focusing on the formation of large coalitions and the spread of mobilization on division or defection from within the repressive apparatus, and on the impact of crisis management by the incumbents. More specifically, the article highlights the fact that uncertainty affects not only the 'actors from below,' but also all the actors present: the challengers as much as the incumbents and their international allies, the ordinary citizens as well as the officers and the recruits.

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'Let them entertain themselves': the fall of the Mubarak regime seen through Egyptian political cartoons

Rania Saleh

Middle Eastern Studies, Volume 54, 2018 - Issue 3, Pages 494-520

This article examines the issues underlying the downfall of the Mubarak regime from the perspective of Egyptian cartoonists. A total of 2734 political cartoons published in five leading newspapers between January 2010 and February 2011 are analyzed. Because they form a significant part of the cultural context within which these cartoons are created, popular political jokes are also referenced. The study identifies political stagnation, domestic issues and corruption as the three most significant issues that paved the road to the fall of Mubarak.

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Islamist radicalism in the provinces of Iran 1906–9: a stage in the development of Islamism

Vanessa Martin

Middle Eastern Studies, Volume 53, 2017 - Issue 5, Pages 687-699

Islamist radicalism emerged in the Iranian Constitutional Revolution of 1906–9. This article examines the early stages of its emergence with particular reference to the provinces of Iran. It looks at the subject thematically and traces the development of an Islamist notion of the state, characterized by Islamic law, and the shaping of new views on nationalism, absolutism and the economy. Increasingly politicized ordinary people also influenced ideological change. The article begins by establishing the background and influence of individuals and groups who played a leading role in developing an Islamist radical political perspective and identity. It then discusses their vision for an alternative state in terms of the authority to govern, its institutions and its laws and considers their methods of organization and propagation to oppose the existing system, and their attempts to change it. Since the article is intended primarily for those interested in the history of Islamism, it ends by evaluating the stage it had reached in 1909.

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Street arts of resistance in Tahrir and Gezi

Hakki Taş

Middle Eastern Studies, Volume 53, 2017 - Issue 5, Pages 802-819

With the tremendous visibility of popular mobilization in the last decade, scholars have increasingly directed their attention to the streets to examine the dynamics of power and resistance. Among emerging venues of politics, this study examines street art and graffiti as a performance of resistance in the 2011 Tahrir Revolution and 2013 Gezi Protests in Egypt and Turkey, respectively. As re-

appropriation of the urban landscape and modes of self-expression, street art and graffiti lie at the intersection of politics, space, and identity. Inspired by James C. Scott's concept of 'arts of resistance', this study takes up these 'street arts of resistance' as revealing the hidden transcript, namely, the self-disclosure of subordinates under the politics of disguise. While unpacking that subversive power, this study rests on its claim that street art and graffiti not only seek to represent, but also to perform and interject. Thereafter, it examines how these modes of visual culture interrupt time, space, and the self, along with their respective effects.

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Sufism and Islamist activism in Morocco: an examination of the tradition of 'commanding right and forbidding wrong' in the thought of 'Abd al-Salam Yassine

Sam Houston

Middle Eastern Studies, Volume 53, 2017 - Issue 2, Pages 153-165

In this article, I contribute to ongoing debates regarding proper conceptions of 'political Islam' or 'Islamism' by bringing greater attention to the roles that Islamic mysticism, or Sufism, have played in some traditions of Islamist thought and practice. I do so by situating the 'commanding right and forbidding wrong' discourse in the wider thought of 'Abd al-Salam Yassine (d. 2012), founder of the Moroccan Justice and Benevolence Association (*Jama'at al-'Adl wal-Ihsan*). This discourse has been interpreted and deployed in various ways by Islamist movements to conceptualize their activist visions, and in the hands of Yassine, we find an understanding which has been thoroughly shaped by Sufism, especially in the role played by spiritual and ethical formation (*tarbiya*) in cultivating a successful socio-political vanguard. This perspective challenges analytical frameworks which describe Islamist groups primarily as products of modernity or as political ideologies. Additionally, attention to the Sufi-centric aspects of some traditions of Islamism offers a contrast to previous scholarship which has focused almost exclusively on its exoteric scripturalism and fixation on the law. Such insights are crucial when attempting to understand and engage Islamist actors for purposes ranging from cross-cultural understanding to policy formulation.

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NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

Oral culture and identity in Syria - Dossier

Mohammad Dibo

openDemocracy, 21 May 2018

What are the origins of sectarian consciousness in Syria? Did it appear from nothing or was it always dormant and waiting to erupt? Countless and complex questions are being raised by the issue of open sectarianism ripping across the Arab Mashreq, maybe even the entire Middle East. We are faced with a tremendous resurgence of religious, sectarian, doctrinal, and ethnic currents that have overwhelmed the political and military landscape not only in Syria but also beyond. Political discourses are now replete with sectarian language and terminologies which had, up until two decades ago, and perhaps even less than that, been considered too retrograde to be posed seriously. They are now presented as an inescapable reality and, as such, many are proposing consociational solutions premised on “hair of the dog” logic. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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The Racism Of Blaming Palestinians For Their Own Deaths

Lisa Goldman

Forward, 17 May 2018

On May 14, Israeli soldiers shot and killed 60 Palestinians and wounded over 2,500 while they were demonstrating inside Gaza. That fact is not in dispute. But according to Matti Friedman, a Canadian-Israeli author who lives in Jerusalem, neither the snipers who chose their targets and pulled the triggers nor the officers who ordered them to open fire are responsible for the deaths of the Palestinians. In a May 16 New York Times opinion piece, Friedman claims that those people died because they allowed themselves to be sacrificed so that Hamas could use their images for propaganda purposes. Unsurprisingly, given that his argument is lifted almost in its entirety from the Foreign Ministry’s talking points, which it began to distribute well ahead of the first Gaza demonstration at the end of March, the Israeli embassy in DC tweeted the article with an approving comment. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Seventy years of Palestinian resistance since the establishment of the State of Israel

Yara Hawari

openDemocracy, 15 May 2018

This month marks not only 70 years since the establishment of Israel and the Palestinian Nakba, but 70 years of ongoing Palestinian resistance. The Great March of Return in the Gaza Strip has reminded the world of Palestinian resistance and the Palestinian struggle for rights. Since March 30, Palestinians in Gaza have engaged in peaceful, grassroots mass protests at the Israeli military fence that imprisons them, calling for an end to the dire conditions in the Strip as well as for the right to return to the land from which they were expelled 70 years ago this month – what Palestinians call the Nakba, or catastrophe. The protestors are literally placing their bodies on the line risking being shot by Israeli snipers. Before the US embassy move today, more than 40 Palestinians had been shot dead by Israeli snipers, and thousands had been seriously injured. Today saw the bloodiest day, with over 52 Palestinians killed at the demonstrations and again thousands injured. The brutal cost that Palestinians in Gaza are paying is because of their resistance to Israel- a resistance that began over seven decades ago. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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On the 70th anniversary of the Nakba: reflections of a Palestinian refugee

Haidar Eid

openDemocracy, 14 May 2018

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the *Nakba*, the process of ethnic cleansing carried out by Zionist militias in Palestine which led to the displacement and dispossession of more than 750 000 Palestinians, including my own family. I will not only confine my deliberations to abstract concepts and theories, but will evoke the reality as we experience and understand it on the ground in Gaza and in the diaspora. We Palestinians are fully aware of the fact that we are the victims of an historic issue that has impacted the lives of many, and has polarised the discourse on international peace and security. But what we have learned from the history of state making is that it is not easy to maintain a state that is founded and based upon a historical injustice and the denial of universal freedoms. The history of states is littered with examples of people using all sorts of means of resistance in defense of their universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. We Palestinians are deprived of both! Hence our decades-long multifaceted resistance: armed struggle, popular resistance, BDS...etc *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Rosa Luxemburg: The unsung hero of postcolonial theory

Hamid Dabashi

12 May 2018, Al-Jazeera

The world at large is these days celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Karl Marx (May 5, 1818 - March 14, 1883) the revolutionary political economist who, with a single act of theoretical genius, redefined our enduring understanding of the material foundations of our economic class, social life, political positions, and ideological proclivities in his three-volume magnum opus, *Das Kapital* (1867–1883) . His very vocabulary of theorising the economic foregrounding of social and political (and even religious) forces have now become integral to the social sciences and the humanities - used and abused by friends and foes alike. In a world ravaged by the wanton cruelty of predatory capitalism - now most notoriously led by the imperial presidency of Donald Trump and his billionaires' cabinet, aided and abetted by their European and regional allies - the enduring wisdom of Marx's theory of capital and its political consequences continue to guide the course of our struggles for global justice. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Against solidarity of the powerful

Kamilia Al-Eriani

openDemocracy, 9 May 2018

Is it true that western powers' silence over Yemen stands in opposition to their solidarity for the Syrians? Or, or do they both acquire the same quality? Friends and acquaintances often ask me, as a Yemeni living in Australia, about the situation in my own country. The conversation usually concludes as follows: "We do hear about atrocities in Syria, but rarely do we hear anything about Yemen!" Such remarks are also voiced by my family and friends living in Yemen, who too often lament that "no one cares about us, the world has ignored us." Many concerned academics, activists, and journalists also worry over the "world's silence" demanding "the world" to "speak" against atrocities inflicted on civilians in Yemen. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Egypt: The use of indefinite solitary confinement against prisoners amounts to torture

Amnesty International, 7 May 2018

"The first time I saw Hisham after his arrest was in the hospital. He described his solitary cell to me. He could not see anything in the darkness of the cell. It was hard for him to breathe there was no window or source of air. He said it felt like being buried alive. When the prison guards finally moved him from the cell, it felt like being reborn. But after just a few months in the prison's hospital, he was

put back into solitary confinement again.” Said Manar el-Tantawie, Hisham Gaafar’s wife who has been held in solitary confinement in al-Aqrab Prison. New research by Amnesty International reveals that prisoners detained on politically motivated charges are being held in prolonged and indefinite solitary confinement in Egypt – at times for several years – which in and of itself amounts to torture. They are locked in their cells for 24 hours for weeks at end, denied any human contact and kept in horrific cell conditions. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Building a virtual political party for Egypt

Amr Khalifa

The New Arab, 7 May 2018

In Egypt there is no star brighter than that of footballing legend Mohamed Salah. Just this month, he was named PFA player of the year, and Egyptian Twitter danced deep into the night. Coming on the heels of an "election" dubbed farcical by *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker* and *The Economist*, to name but a few, Salah's sensational season, and a rare appearance by Egypt in the World Cup have been a necessary respite for a disillusioned citizenry. But if Salah brings joy to the millions, leave it to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to bring sorrow. When a man installs his son as the leader of the agency that chooses the Egyptian political elite, one must recognise intent. Sisi is tilting the playing field on three fronts: Judicial, executive and legislative. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Power and the divine: self-repression in Egypt

Maged Mandour

openDemocracy, 16 March 2018

Focusing on the afterlife, the rewards of heaven for the just and hell for the unjust, keeps the masses in check and accepting of their social reality. This needs to change. To understand how power functions, one needs to examine how it penetrates and controls the daily lives of the citizenry on the micro rather than macro level. Of course, there are common indicators of how repressive a society is, such as freedom of the press, treatment of minorities, and the level of violence practiced by the state on its citizenry. However, this approach misses an important aspect of power, namely, how the masses are kept in line without the need to resort to mass violence. Ideological domination is the tool used; it is accepted by the masses as an essential component of their social reality, leaving no room for cognitive dissonance. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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PETITIONS AND CALLS FOR SOLIDARITY

Freedom for Haitham Mohamedain - Stop the repression in Egypt

Early on Friday 18 May, Egyptian security forces stormed the house of labour lawyer and socialist activist Haitham Mohamedain, taking him away to an unknown destination. Haitham is a well-known defender of workers' rights, and has worked tirelessly to support independent trade unionists facing state persecution for demanding better working conditions and the right to organise and strike. In addition, as Amnesty International notes, he "has been persecuted by the Egyptian authorities for his human rights work", playing a crucial role in defending the El Nadeem Centre - which supports victims of torture and violence - from harassment and persecution by the authorities. On Saturday 19 May, Haitham appeared in court and was remanded in custody for 15 days. According to reports from human rights activists in Egypt, he is being interrogated in relation to "incitement to protest over the price of Metro tickets." *Continue reading [here](#)*

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POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Post Doctoral Teaching Fellowship in sociology for Fall 2018, AUC, Cairo

About The American University in Cairo:

Founded in 1919, AUC moved to a new 270-acre state-of-the-art campus in New Cairo in 2008. The University also operates in its historic downtown facilities, offering cultural events, graduate classes, and continuing education. Among the premier universities in the region, AUC is Middle States accredited; its Engineering programs are accredited by ABET, its Chemistry program is accredited by the Canadian Society for Chemistry, and the Management program is accredited by AACSB, among others. The AUC Libraries contain the largest English-language research collection in the region and are an active and integral part of the University's pursuit of excellence in all academic and scholarly programs. AUC is an English-medium institution; while the vast majority of the students are Egyptian, AUC has taught students from nearly ninety countries, principally the Middle East, Africa and North America. Faculty salary and rank are based on qualifications and professional experience. All faculty receive generous benefits, from AUC tuition to access to research funding; expatriate faculty also receive relocation benefits including annual home leave, and tuition assistance for school age children.

Job Description:

The American University in Cairo (AUC) is pleased to announce the continuation of its program of Core Teaching Fellowships, intended for recent PhD graduates. Successful applicants will be appointed, for a three year term, as Core Curriculum Teaching Fellows with the rank of Visiting

Assistant Professor. The faculty appointment is in one of 10 School of Sciences and Engineering departments, depending on the candidates qualifications. The primary responsibility of the Core Fellows will be to teach Scientific Thinking to students in the Core Curriculum Freshman Program. The course focuses on building student skills in critical thinking, the scientific method, research methods and quantitative reasoning. A thematic approach that exposes students, non-majors and majors, to contemporary issues to is key to demonstrating the relevance of science and research in everyday life and its applicability to challenges beyond science, and as informed global citizens. Fellows will also have the opportunity to teach and/or develop additional courses in their own or related disciplines. While at AUC, fellows will have access to apply for AUC's generous travel (and other) grants in support of their research and collaboration, and to observe, work in and learn about one of the most fascinating countries in the world, Egypt.

Requirements:

Review of candidates will begin immediately; applications will be accepted until positions are filled. One or more Fellows will be appointed in fall 2018, depending on needs, which are currently for those with the ability to teach sociology courses that can fulfill requirements for the Core Curriculum. Candidates should have backgrounds in any of, but not limited to, the following disciplines are welcome to apply:

Astronomy; Biology, inclusive of Biomedical Sciences; Chemistry; Environmental Sciences; Geology; Health Sciences; History and Philosophy of Science; Mathematics; Physics; Psychology; Science and Health Policy, and Sociology.

Normally, applicants for Core Curriculum Fellowships will have received their PhD degree within three calendar years of the date of application. Teaching experience is highly desirable. However, the overall candidate's experience and interview will weigh heavily in their assessment.

Application Instructions:

All applicants must submit the following documents through the online system:

a) an updated C.V; b) a letter of interest, which should also address their aspirations in seeking this position; c) a completed AUC Personal Information Form (PIF); and d) List names & contact information of at least three references familiar with your professional background to be sent to odus@aucegypt.edu.

More information and application [here](#)

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University of Glasgow Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in International Relations

The School of Social and Political Sciences is seeking to appoint a Lecturer in International Relations. Glasgow has a strong reputation for producing world-leading research in international relations as well as an established and successful post-graduate programme in the discipline. The successful candidate will contribute to the development and delivery of a new undergraduate International Relations degree. We are particularly keen to receive applications from candidates who can add to

our teaching of human rights, international political economy or international organisations, but we will consider all candidates with strong teaching and research records in any area of the field.

The successful candidate will undertake research of international excellence and contribute to knowledge exchange activities relative to the discipline, contribute to learning and teaching at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels as well as undertake administration and service activities in line with the School/College's strategic objectives. For appointment at Grade 8, a substantial contribution will include leading high quality research activities and delivering, organising and reviewing key areas of teaching and learning within the School.

More information and application [here](#)

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4 PhD positions in Political Science and Sociology, SNS Florence

Deadline: 14 June 2018

The PhD course in Political Science and Sociology of the Scuola Normale Superiore builds upon a methodologically pluralist approach and a multidisciplinary nature, combining structured teaching with close supervision activities by a dedicated faculty. The duration of the programme and its grants is four years. The main research areas which have been singled out are organized around the following topics.

Democracy and social movements. In this area, sociological and political science competences converge around political sociology, which bridges the two disciplines through its main focus on the reciprocal influence of political and social transformations. Social movements, civil society, participative democracy, political violence, new media and conflicts are the main concepts addressed in the teaching and research activities. In the best European tradition, the methodological approach will be sensitive to the historical, institutional and cultural specificities, but also oriented to the development of theory.

Comparative politics and society. This area is oriented towards the comparative analysis of a set of major politico-institutional processes, focusing on the interactions between political parties, interest groups, civil society and public opinion. Classical comparative analysis, based on cross-national comparison, is backed up by the study of processes which are territorially multilevel, such as Europeanization and globalization, in the political – but also economic, social, and cultural – spheres.

Grant information

The scholarship for the PhD course will be paid in 12 deferred equal monthly instalments, subject to the fulfilment of students' academic duties. For the academic year 2018-2019 the scholarship is equal to 17,000.00 euros gross per year, including a lodging allowance. In addition, full coverage of all research expenses (including visiting research periods, conferences, and summer schools). Successful candidates who are citizens of countries not belonging to the European Union will be reimbursed for the travelling expenses incurred for the start of the course to a maximum of 1,000.00 euros and on presentation of original and fiscally valid expense receipts, including boarding passes.

They can also present a justified request for an advance on the first instalment of the scholarship grant. PhD students from countries not belonging to the European Union can request, within a year from the end of the course, reimbursement of expenses incurred for their return to their country of provenance, again up to a maximum of 1,000.00 euros and on presentation of original and fiscally valid expense receipts, including boarding passes.

Requirements (degree, language skills etc.)

Applications for admission are invited from candidates who, irrespective of their citizenship, have an Italian laurea magistrale or an equivalent degree from a non-Italian university, or who expect to have obtained the degree required for admission by October 31, 2018.

Admission to the call is restricted to candidates who:

- were born after October 31, 1988;
- have no past criminal charges against them resulting in a prison term of more than three years;
- have not been subject to the disciplinary measure of “expulsion” as specified in the didactic and internal regulations of the SNS;
- are not in possession of a research doctorate issued by an Italian university, and in any case have never benefitted from a scholarship to attend a research doctorate course in Italy.

More information and application [here](#)

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Post-Doctoral Research Associate in Palestine and Palestinian Studies, Brown University

Review of applications from: 1 November 2018

Middle East Studies at Brown University invites applications for a one-year post-doctoral research associate in Palestine and Palestinian Studies with a possibility of renewal for a second year. The position is part of the ongoing initiative, New Directions in Palestinian Studies, which seeks to critically explore and facilitate innovative lines of academic inquiry in this field. We especially welcome candidates who thrive in an interdisciplinary environment and whose work is informed by comparative and global perspectives.

Qualifications

The position is open to all the humanities and social science disciplines. Scholars who received PhDs within five years of the application deadline are eligible to apply. Residence in the Providence area is required for most of the one-year appointment, unless approval for research-related travel is obtained in advance. Associates will teach one class a year, take a leadership role in organizing the annual New Directions in Palestinian Studies Symposium, advise students, and participate in research-related programming on campus. The annual salary is \$57,000 plus benefits. Additional funding for conference-related travel and other research expenses is available.

Application Instructions

Review of applications will begin November 1, 2018. The following materials should be submitted prior to that date:

- A brief cover letter stating the applicant's academic field, area of specialization, and a short summary of the proposed work during the appointment period.
- A Curriculum vitae.
- A Research statement: Summary of the research questions, goals, and methodological approaches of current and future projects. The statement should not exceed 2,000 words, including all bibliographic references and supplementary material.
- Teaching statement: experience in and approaches to undergraduate teaching.
- Three letters of recommendation
- Writing sample
- A proposed class syllabus suitable for a Middle East Studies course.
- An official copy of each graduate transcript

We will conduct interviews with short-listed candidates at MESA 2018 in San Antonio, Texas, or by Skype in late November. Awards will be announced thereafter.

For further information, please visit the Palestinian Studies website:

Mail:

Middle East Studies

New Directions in Palestinian Studies Initiative

Brown University

Box 1970

Providence, RI 02912

Tel: +1.401.863.6924

email: palestinianstudies@brown.edu

Application Instructions

Review of applications will begin November 1, 2018, and will continue until the position is filled. For full consideration, the following materials should be submitted prior to that date to the application portal in Interfolio.

More information and application [here](#)

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