



# **SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA**

## **Digest of Current Publications and Events**

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**22.06.2018**

# CONTENT

<b>Talks &amp; Other Events</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Re-Imagining Cultural Histories of the Middle East and North Africa.....	4
Understanding Syria through Refugee Stories: We Crossed A Bridge and It Trembled: Voices from Syria .....	5
The Rebellious in Tradition: Sufism and Surrealism in Issam Mahfouz' Work.....	5
<b>Recent &amp; Forthcoming Books</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Foucault in Tahrir Square: Discourse Analysis And The Social Construction of Crowd.....	6
<b>Journal Articles &amp; other Academic Publications</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Parliamentary Elections, Civil Society, and Barriers to Political Change .....	7
Institutional Surveillance and Policing: Documenting Student Activism at AUB .....	7
Slowing It Down: Embodied Complicity and the Challenges of Feminist Solidarity at the 2017 Beirut Workers' Day March.....	7
Insurgent Infrastructure: Tunnels of the Gaza Strip.....	8
<b>News Pieces &amp; Commentary</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Turkey's LGBT community vows to march for Pride despite crackdown fears.....	9
West Bank, Lebanon and Jordan protests call on PA to lift Gaza sanctions .....	9
The president's wedding: micro-politics of mass mobilisation in Egypt's 2018 election.....	9
Moroccans on trial for mass protest boycott hearing.....	10
Why is the Palestinian Authority attacking Palestinian protests? .....	10
Unhappiness and Mohamed Salah's Egypt .....	11
Palestinians react with shock at PA repression of protest in solidarity with Gaza .....	11
Thousands defy Israeli security squeeze to reach al-Aqsa on 'Night of Power' .....	12
Morocco's social protests across time and space .....	12
Protests in Jordan - "The status quo has to go" .....	12
Spain's Third-largest City Votes to Boycott Israel .....	13
LGBTQ activists block Tel Aviv Pride March: 'There is no pride in occupation' .....	13
Israel scores own goal as Argentina match cancelled in victory for Palestinians .....	14
Freedom intercepted- Israel blocks ship attempting to break Gaza siege.....	14
Women's Rights Activists Detained in Saudi Arabia Despite 'Reforms' .....	15
The Two-State Solution: An Autopsy.....	15
What the Gaza Protests Portend.....	16
Cairo police arrest 10 protesting against metro price rises .....	16
<b>Positions and Opportunities</b> .....	<b>17</b>

Post-doctoral Fellowships (MSCA) to study Protest Camps at the University of Leicester, UK.....	17
Doctoral Research Fellowship in Middle East History, University of Oslo .....	18
British Academy Global Professorships 2018.....	19

## TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

### **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](#)

[Back to top](#)

## **Understanding Syria through Refugee Stories: We Crossed A Bridge and It Trembled: Voices from Syria**

02 July 2018, 16:15 –17:45

Venue: Centrum für Nah- und Mittelost-Studien, Deutschhausstraße 12, Raum 00A23, Berlin, Germany

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Wendy Pearlman

How can we make sense of the tragedy in Syria? Wendy Pearlman has conducted open-ended interviews with more than 300 displaced Syrians across the Middle East and Europe from 2012 to 2017. She has brought together these personal stories in the new book, *We Crossed a Bridge and It Trembled: Voices from Syria* (HarperCollins 2017), called “essential reading” by the New York Times and longlisted for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence. In this talk, Pearlman will share a selection of voices from the book, along with her own commentary and analysis, to explain the origins and evolution of the Syrian conflict, as well as what it has been like for the ordinary people who have lived its unfolding. Her talk will paint a portrait of silence and intimidation under an oppressive authoritarian regime before 2011, expresses the euphoric experience of participating in protest against that regime, conveys the resilience of communities enduring unspeakable violence thereafter, and offers a window into the challenge of becoming and being a refugee. This talk will offer a humanistic interpretation of the current conflict in Syria and how it has transformed those who have experienced it.

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

## **The Rebellious in Tradition: Sufism and Surrealism in Issam Mahfouz' Work**

11 July 2018, 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm

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

Speaker: Arturo Monaco (University of Rome / EUME Fellow 2018)

Issam Mahfouz is remembered in the field of literary studies for his prominent contribution to the development of Lebanese theatre. In fact, a thorough understanding of his poetics should include his first literary attempts as a poet and his prolific production in the spheres of journalism and literary criticism. A reading of these writings in particular may open new perspectives on his literary

production *stricto sensu*. One of these perspectives emerges while reading a selection of Mahfouz's essays that display a certain interest in two apparently contradictory trends: surrealism and mysticism. Much has been said about the relation between these two trends, both in the Western context and in the Arab francophone one, but only in very few cases the Arabic one has been considered. Mahfouz may provide a case study in this regard. During his long career as a writer, he published a number of essays related to both surrealism and Islamic mysticism, i.e. sufism, suggesting a possible connection between the two in some respects. My inquiry starts from the data collected in these essays and tries to answer the following questions: Is the discourse on surrealism and sufism solely limited to Mahfouz's essays? Or is it possible to trace its echo in his poetic and dramatic production as well? If this proved true, in which way could we study this interaction? In his study on the Maghrebi literature in French, Hédi Abdel-Jaouad proposes to study the result of the interaction between surrealism and sufism looking at both of these spheres in their ontological and dynamic dimensions, more than in their respective historical ones, thus taking into account the possible variations that may occur in the single experiences. This approach revealed itself fruitful in the field of francophone literature in the Maghreb. Through a reading of Mahfouz's poetry, we will observe if this approach is viable in the study of Arabic literature as well. *More information* [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

## RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

### **Foucault in Tahrir Square: Discourse Analysis And The Social Construction of Crowd**

Shady Lewis

Amazon Media, 2018

The way in which the crowd is constructed has been shown to be the site of power struggles between the status quo and political change. However, there is little qualitative research on how crowd members construct their experiences of participation in crowd activity. This study examines how the crowd in the Tahrir square sit-in during the 2011 Egyptian revolution was constructed by crowd members themselves. Based on semi-structured interviews with five Egyptian demonstrators regarding their experiences of this sit-in, a Foucauldian discourse analysis indicated that crowd members were subject to a set of discourses that served to normalise or problematise the crowd by constructing its processes as either compatible or problematic compared with the values of the neoliberal agenda respectively. Drawing on Foucault's ideas on governmentality, the discursive repertoires available to crowd members were shown to regulate the ways in which they constructed their subjectivity and social action, governing their conduct in line with the neoliberal ideal of the autonomous, responsible individual. It was shown that in constructing crowd self-regulatory practices, crowd members legitimised or resisted techniques of social control internal to the crowd that limited their ability to bring about political change. Possible recommendations for crowd activism and implications for research are discussed.

## **JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS**

### **Parliamentary Elections, Civil Society, and Barriers to Political Change**

Joumana Talhouk

Kohl: a Journal for Body and Gender Research, Vol. 4, no. 1, Summer 2018

Weeks have passed since Lebanese citizens cast their ballots in the first parliamentary election in 9 years. The event did not make a major impact on people's lives; if not for the remnants of posters plastered all over highway billboards and city walls, one can almost forget that elections occurred at all. The campaign hype lasted for months prior to election day, especially among the independent opposition groups, who viewed the new proportional electoral system as a golden opportunity for breaking through the corrupt establishment and creating "real" change in the country. The results were disappointing to those who believed that May 6, 2018 was an entry point for overthrowing the political system. However, for many, the elections never represented a grand opportunity for change or the ultimate gateway for political salvation, particularly in the Lebanese context.

[Back to top](#)

### **Institutional Surveillance and Policing: Documenting Student Activism at AUB**

Sana, Tee Mk, Raed, Katya, and Rana

Kohl: a Journal for Body and Gender Research, Vol. 4, no. 1, Summer 2018

The student movements at the American University of Beirut (AUB) have long and rich histories. Some of its main waypoints since 2014 were the STFI (Stop Tuition Fees Increase) protests, AUB Divest, Students against Nestle, the Red Oak Club tent during the 2015-2016 protests, and the more recent Boldly G-AUB campaign. It is mainly those actions – which are most discussed among the participants of this conversation – that instigated responses from the administration's part, with the aim to police and discipline student activism.

[Back to top](#)

### **Slowing It Down: Embodied Complicity and the Challenges of Feminist Solidarity at the 2017 Beirut Workers' Day March**

Allison Finn

Kohl: a Journal for Body and Gender Research, Vol. 4, no. 1, Summer 2018

Complicity and coloniality are not abstract forces, but deeply personal experiences and questions. Through an ethnographic meditation of the 2017 Beirut Workers' Day March, this paper explores how feminist activists, researchers, and advocates can openly work through moments in which we are complicit in oppression. Drawing on Sara Ahmed's concept of encounter as method, the author reflects on the dynamics of solidarity, sponsorship, control, and privilege at the march, an annual event calling for the rights of migrant domestic workers and an end of the kafala (sponsorship) system in Lebanon, co-organized by migrant domestic worker activists, non-governmental organizations, and feminist communities. The paper contextualizes the encounter by defining the kafala system as a patriarchal state structure, proposes a distinction between "complicit feminisms" and moments of feminist complicity, and explores how coloniality infiltrates individual bodies and collective action. Then, the author relays her experience of embodied privilege and systems of control at the march, as a feminist supporter and volunteer member of the security team charged with keeping protestors safe. This paper builds on traditions of feminist self-critique and celebration, in analyzing the struggles and successes of solidarity between migrant domestic worker activists and feminist communities in Beirut. Complicity is inevitable when our bodies are markers of privilege, even when we are engaged in feminist, anti-racist, and anti-capitalist practices. This does not mean that we should uniformly retreat, but that we need to interrogate our good intentions and the way that power is constructed within our bodies, and adapt – tactically, individually, and collectively.

[Back to top](#)

## **Insurgent Infrastructure: Tunnels of the Gaza Strip**

Haddad, T.

*Middle East - Topics & Arguments*, Vol. 10, June 2018, pp. 71-85,

This article explores the emergence of tunnels within the Gaza Strip. It argues that tunnels emerged as an implicit response to Israeli policies of separation and control, and the increasingly sophisticated means used to realize these ends during the peace process and thereafter. The latter included approaches that actively embraced a "politics of verticality," incorporating a volume-based approach to Israeli geopolitical interests and designs. Tunnels would come to reify an insurgent impetus vis-à-vis Israeli ideological, political and military doctrines on the one hand, and the structured dependency and ineffectiveness of the Palestinian Authority on the other. Their emergence speaks to the organization and coagulation of many externalities generated by both dynamics, which effectively captured existent infrastructural assemblages toward colonial imperatives.

[Back to top](#)



## NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

### **Turkey's LGBT community vows to march for Pride despite crackdown fears**

Charlie Faulkner

Middle East Eye, 21 June 2018

Turkey's LGBT community has vowed not to surrender in its battle against homophobia, despite fears the outcome of this week's election could lead to a further government crackdown. Amid rising hostility and mounting discrimination, members of the LGBT community feel President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is waging a war against them. Nonetheless, they are preparing to launch a counteroffensive in the form of rainbow flags and a show of unity throughout Pride week, which begins a day after Sunday's vote. During a stormy afternoon in Istanbul, 24-year-old Marsel Tugkan Gundogdu took cover under the canopy of a cafe in the central harbourside district of Karakoy. It was raining and the water streamed down by the bucketload. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

### **West Bank, Lebanon and Jordan protests call on PA to lift Gaza sanctions**

Middle East Eye, 21 June 2018

Under the same slogan, "Lift the sanctions", protesters gathered in the occupied West Bank, Lebanon and Jordan on Wednesday evening to stand in solidarity with the Gaza Strip and call for an end to Palestinian Authority-imposed sanctions on the besieged enclave. Israeli forces have killed at least 133 Palestinians during demonstrations in Gaza since the Great March of Return movement - which calls for the implementation of the right of return for Gaza's 1.3 million refugees - began on 30 March. In the West Bank, demonstrations in solidarity with Gaza have strongly criticised the role played by the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority (PA) in worsening living conditions in the coastal strip since Fatah's rival, Hamas, took control of the enclave in 2007 after winning elections there in 2006. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

### **The president's wedding: micro-politics of mass mobilisation in Egypt's 2018 election**

Leila Zaki Chakravarti

openDemocracy, 21 June 2018

Egypt's recent presidential election saw unprecedented levels of *hashd* (mass mobilisation) in support of President Abd el Fattah el Sisi's re-election. Ethnographic snapshots of micro-level responses, however, show not only the complex rivalries at play beneath the grand narratives of the state – but also individual and local acts of agency reaffirming Egypt's longstanding tradition of subversive political humour. For anyone arriving in Cairo airport in the run up to Egypt's March 2018 Presidential election, the first overwhelming impression would have been the sheer exhilaration of the huge illuminated billboards that had gone up along the route into the city. Alongside large portraits of the benign, gently smiling 'candidate' they proclaimed messages such as "You are the Hope", "The Story of Egypt" and "We began together, and together we march on". *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## **Moroccans on trial for mass protest boycott hearing**

MEE and agencies

Middle East Eye, 19 June 2018

Dozens of defendants on trial in Morocco for taking part in a mass protest movement last year boycotted Tuesday's hearing in Casablanca, denouncing "bias" in the justice system. A total of 54 defendants are on trial over their involvement in the al-Hirak al-Shaabi movement that rocked the country's northern Rif region from late 2016 to mid-2017. The defendants had warned the court of their action before the hearing via a joint letter seen by AFP. But the case went ahead at Casablanca's Criminal Court of Appeal despite their absence. The protesters are accused of using "violence" against police during the demonstrations. "Those responsible for the acts against the police will be punished in accordance with the prosecution's demands," said state prosecutor Brahim Rachidi. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## **Why is the Palestinian Authority attacking Palestinian protests?**

Yara Hawari

Al-Jazeera, 16 June 2018

On Wednesday night in Ramallah, people mobilised once again around a new campaign calling for the Palestinian Authority (PA) to lift the sanctions it imposed on Gaza. The sanctions include slashing the salaries of government employees by over 30 percent and the forced early retirement of nearly a third of PA employees in Gaza. Drastic moves at any time, these sanctions are made even more brutal in the context of the ongoing Israeli siege on Gaza, which has aggravated unemployment and poverty. The protesters view the sanctions as a tool in the siege of Gaza and a mechanism of collective punishment. They also reject political polarisation and the power struggle between Fatah and Hamas. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## Unhappiness and Mohamed Salah's Egypt

Amro Ali

openDemocracy, 14 June 2018

“Unhappy is the land that breeds no hero,” Andrea cries in the 1938 play, *Life of Galileo*, by German dramatist Bertolt Brecht, to which Galileo responds: “No, unhappy is the land that needs a hero.” Egypt can be that unhappy land, a land where farewell parties have outstripped homecoming parties. Where a young female doctor laments she wants to leave because “to give birth to a baby here feels morally wrong, it feels sort of illegal.” Where a juice seller sarcastically quips, “We no longer have time to think of anything else but survival, we don’t even have time to contemplate suicide.” When a country is mired in endless social and economic problems, and smothered in despair, the yearning grows for that *batal* (hero), that one human figure where all painful and complex abstracts will be realised within and resolved without. Something happened in Egypt that short-circuited a sport that is often treated by governments of all persuasions as a distracting bread and circus for the masses. Something interrupted the despotic drive to stamp out the uniqueness from the flow of Egyptian life. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## Palestinians react with shock at PA repression of protest in solidarity with Gaza

Middle East Eye, 14 June 2018

Palestinians reacted with anger and condemnation on Thursday to Palestinian Authority (PA) national security forces violently repressing a protest the night before in the West Bank city of Ramallah, during which demonstrators had demanded to lift punitive PA measures on the Gaza Strip. PA security forces used sound grenades and tear gas and shot bullets into the air to disperse protesters, also confiscating cameras and smartphones, damaging several while ordering journalists not to interview demonstrators. The forces also arrested 46 protesters, according to the human rights centre Addameer, none of whom had been released at the time of publication. Around 10 protesters were hospitalised, only to have their IDs confiscated by the police. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## Thousands defy Israeli security squeeze to reach al-Aqsa on 'Night of Power'

Middle East Eye, 14 June 2018

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians defied a heavy Israeli security presence to gather overnight in Jerusalem's al-Aqsa compound on the most important night of Ramadan. The Waqf, the Islamic trust that runs the al-Aqsa compound, estimated that about 350,000 people attended Laylat al-Qadr prayers late on Monday and stayed at the site in Jerusalem's Old City into the early hours of Tuesday. Images showed thousands of people prostrating themselves in front of the Dome of the Rock mosque. Laylat al-Qadr, or the Night of Power, usually falls on the 27th night of Ramadan and is considered to be an occasion when prayers are especially beneficial. It marks the night on which Muslims believe the Quran was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## Morocco's social protests across time and space

Christoph H. Schwarz

openDemocracy, 13 June 2018

Many European politicians consider Morocco a stable and unproblematic country in an otherwise unpredictable region. Take the case of Germany, where the Federal Minister of the Interior, Horst Seehofer, aims to classify all the states of the Maghreb as "secure countries of origin". Jens Spahn, now Federal Minister of Health, has always shared this view and bluntly justified it a few months ago by saying that many Europeans went on holiday in countries like Morocco, "so these must be safe countries". That this attractive tourism destination is now even applying to host the FIFA World Cup 2026, also fits within this picture. But this is at most half the truth. In Morocco, last year was marked by the largest social protests since the so-called "Arab Spring". Protesters face massive repression, as evidenced by the arrest of hundreds of demonstrators and the persecution and intimidation of critical journalists and lawyers. The focal points lie in the neglected rural periphery, especially in the Rif, the north of the country. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## Protests in Jordan - "The status quo has to go"

Lina Shannak

Qantra, 12 June 2018

Jordan's streets have witnessed widespread popular protests over the past week, sparked by proposed amendments to the income tax law, which would have increased the number of people required to pay tax. As people chanted in the streets, different voices, from analysts to government officials, blamed the refugees and regional circumstances for the deteriorating economic situation in

Jordan, sending a message to the outside world that Jordan should not be left alone to deal with them. As it happened, I was in the midst of the crowds of demonstrators, as a citizen and a journalist, at the Fourth Circle near the cabinet office building, and what I heard was very different. There, I met representatives of the "marginalised", the shrinking "middle class", concerned citizens, and those who have belatedly woken up to the impact of the last strike and decided to speak out. We were all gathered in that spot. No-one called for the repatriation of the refugees. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## **Spain's Third-largest City Votes to Boycott Israel**

Haaretz, 10 June 2018

Following a major Spanish city's vote to boycott Israel, the leader of Spain's third-largest party called the Jewish state a "criminal country" during an interview aired by a public television broadcaster. Pablo Iglesias Turrión, leader of the Podemos far-left party, made the comment in an interview earlier this week on RTVE. "We need to act more firmly on an illegal country like Israel," said Iglesias Turrión, whose party in 2015 won 20 percent of the votes in the general election just one year after its creation. Last week, a motion promoted by a local fraction of Podemos on the City Council of Valencia, Spain's third-largest city, was passed declaring a boycott of Israel and Valencia a "Israeli apartheid-free zone." *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## **LGBTQ activists block Tel Aviv Pride March: 'There is no pride in occupation'**

Yael Marom  
+972 blog, 8 June 2018

Several hundred LGBTQ activists briefly blocked the path of the Pride Parade in Tel Aviv on Friday. The activists said they were protesting the Israeli government's use of the LGBTQ community to cover up its discriminatory and racist policies and the maintenance of the occupation of the West Bank and siege of Gaza. The activists voluntarily dispersed when police declared it an illegal demonstration. The demonstrators claimed that the Israeli government is exploiting the LGBTQ community to present itself as liberal while violating the rights of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. The anti-pinkwashing activists said they wanted to remind the Pride Parade participants that while they were celebrating and demonstrating in Tel Aviv, those demonstrating in Gaza at the same time were risking their lives. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## **Israel scores own goal as Argentina match cancelled in victory for Palestinians**

Ben Lynfield

Independent, 6 June 2018

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government was smarting on Wednesday from a symbolically powerful setback after Argentina cancelled a friendly football match against Israel following pressure by Palestinians and their supporters. The cancellation was painful, not only because it disappointed fans, but also because it marked one of the biggest successes yet for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement that seeks to isolate Israel. Palestinian groups welcomed the news of the cancellation, saying Israel, through the friendly, had been attempting to "sports-wash" abuses against Palestinians, including recent killings by snipers of unarmed Palestinians during protests at the Gaza border. The sold-out match, scheduled to take place on Saturday evening at the Teddy Stadium in West Jerusalem, had been eagerly awaited by Israelis anxious for a glimpse of Lionel Messi in Argentina's final warm-up before next week's World Cup in Russia. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## **Freedom intercepted- Israel blocks ship attempting to break Gaza siege**

Hamza Abu Eltarabesh

Mada Masr, 31 May 2018

Israeli combat aircraft bombed a medium-sized boat inside a workshop at the Gaza Seaport on April 27. The boat was later repaired to lead the first voyage from Palestine to Cyprus, in attempt to break the Israeli blockade on the Gaza Strip that has been in force for over a decade, according to the Supreme National Commission (SNC) for the Great March of Return. The voyage would be the first of its kind, as all previous attempts to break the 12-year blockade involved ships sailing from the outside world toward Gaza. The boat, named the Freedom Ship, set sail on Tuesday, one day before the eighth anniversary of the 2010 assault on the MV Mavi Marmara, one of several ships in a humanitarian aid flotilla that attempted to break the blockade on Gaza. The raid was carried out by the Israeli naval forces on May 31, 2010, killing 10 Turkish activists onboard and injuring approximately 60 people. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## Women's Rights Activists Detained in Saudi Arabia Despite 'Reforms'

Fanack, 29 May 2018

Since 15 May 2018, Saudi Arabian authorities have arrested at least 13 women's rights activists for their peaceful activism. The arrests come just over a month before 24 June, when the driving ban on women is due to be lifted, raising questions about the real impact of the so-called reforms being implemented in the country. Among the activists are Eman al-Nafjan, Loujain al-Hathloul, Aziza al-yousef, Aisha al-Manea, Madiha al-Ajrourh, Walaa al-Shubbar and Hasah al-Sheikh, as well as male campaigners Ibrahim Modeimigh, Muhammad al-Rabe and Abdulaziz al-Meshaal, all of whom are against the male guardianship system. This system allows a male guardian, a father, husband, brother, cousin or son to make critical decisions on a woman's behalf, like travelling, applying for a passport, studying abroad or getting married. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## The Two-State Solution: An Autopsy

Henry Siegman

LRB, Vol. 40 No. 10 · 24 May 2018, pages 17-18

During the latest outbreak of violence in Gaza, Israeli security forces, using high-powered rifles and live ammunition, have killed forty Palestinians (and counting), and wounded more than five thousand. B'Tselem, a leading Israeli human rights group, Human Rights Watch and Reporters Without Borders have all accused Israel's government and its minister of defence, Avigdor Lieberman, of targeting reporters and mostly unarmed civilians. Lieberman replied that there are 'no innocent people' in Hamas-run Gaza. The new US secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, reassured Israelis that 'the United States is with Israel in this fight. And we strongly support Israel's sovereign right to defend itself.' That this support applies not only to its confrontations with Iran but also to Israel's turkey shoot of Palestinians in Gaza was established when President Trump's envoy to the UN, Nikki Haley, vetoed a Security Council resolution that would have investigated the Gaza killings. This was justified on the same grounds: Israel's sovereign right to defend itself. The invocation of Israel's 'sovereign right' is the big lie at the heart of America's responsibility for the collapse of the peace process. In Gaza, as in the West Bank beyond the pre-1967 armistice line, Israel is acting not in accordance with its sovereign right to protect itself, but to protect its occupation. What Israel's military restores when it quells Palestinian protests is not law and order, but illegality and repression, reinforcing its theft of Palestinian territory in order to preclude the possibility of a Palestinian state, a goal it has achieved. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## What the Gaza Protests Portend

Tareq Baconi  
NYRB, 15 May 2018

This was the order issued in 1953 by Israel's Fifth Giv'ati Brigade in response to the hundreds of Palestinian refugees who sought to return to homes and lands from which they had been expelled in 1948. For years after the war, the recently displaced braved mines and bullets from border kibbutzim and risked harsh reprisals from Israel's army to reclaim their property. The reprisals included raids on refugee camps and villages that often killed civilians, as the Israeli historian Benny Morris and others have laid out. Still, refugees persisted in their attempts to return, and Israel persisted in viewing these attempts as "infiltration." Over the past six weeks, Israeli soldiers have killed some forty Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, the majority of them unarmed civilians, and injured more than five thousand protesters. As the US relocated its embassy to Jerusalem Monday, the violence escalated alarmingly. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## Cairo police arrest 10 protesting against metro price rises

Middle East Eye, 12 May 2018

Egyptian police arrested 10 people on Saturday over a rare protest in the capital Cairo against increased metro prices, a security official said. The incident took place after authorities announced late on Thursday the metro ticket price would be increased the following day. A security official said those arrested were facing charges of entering the metro without paying, preventing a train from moving and illegal assembly. The detained protesters were due to appear before prosecutors on Saturday evening, the official said. The government raised the price of tickets on Cairo's loss-making metro on Friday, more than tripling some fares and setting off a wave of angry reaction on social media. Posts showed people demanding it rescind the decision, with some jumping over ticket barriers, apparently refusing to pay the new fares. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)



# POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Post-doctoral Fellowships (MSCA) to study Protest Camps at the University of Leicester, UK

Deadline: 9 July 2018

This is a call for expressions of interest from outstanding post-doctoral researchers eligible to apply for a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action Individual European Fellowship. We would like to hear from candidates interested in developing their research by pursuing an empirical or conceptual project connected the study of Protest Camps at the University of Leicester, UK.

Protest camps are a form of alternative organization that has come to increasing attention in protest events since the Arab Spring in 2011. Protest camps are widely regarded to benefit the protestors, at least in the initial period of a protest, by providing a permanent and highly visible presence in often symbolically charged public space[1]. To date protest camps remain an understudied form of social movement organization.

Academics at the University of Leicester have contributed to the study of Protest Camps in different disciplines and subject areas (Human Geography, Organization Studies, Social Movement Studies)[2] . As prospective mentors they will support the development of MSCA applications. While the bulk of work drafting the proposal remains with the potential candidates, the University of Leicester provides institutional support and has a track record of successful MSCA applications.

Qualified candidates from any country are eligible to apply for these fellowships, provided they have not lived or worked in the UK for more than twelve months in the three years immediately prior to the application deadline of 12th September 2018. Candidates need to have been awarded a PhD or possess equivalent experience by the time of the application deadline.

If you would be interested in working with us on a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action Fellowship, please email an expression of interest (EoI) to Dr Fabian Frenzel (ff48@le.ac.uk) and Dr Gavin Brown (gpb10@le.ac.uk) by Monday 9th July 2018. Please include a CV with details of your academic and other relevant achievements, and a working research proposal (around 1000 words).

Candidates successful at the EoI stage will be supported in developing the full proposal and application for final submission on 12th September 2018.

*More information and application [here](#)*

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

# Doctoral Research Fellowship in Middle East History, University of Oslo

Deadline: 1 September 2018

The applicant is asked to propose a project that deals with the social and cultural history of the twentieth-century Middle East, with a focus on Egypt or the Levant. The project may take a specific case study within the region or explore the circulation of ideas and cultural products across national boundaries. The resulting dissertation is expected to contribute to an understanding of the modern Middle East in the context of the global circulation of knowledge, politics, and/or aesthetics. The project will be supervised by Associate Professor Toufoul Abou-Hodeib.

The person appointed will be affiliated with the Faculty's organized research training. The academic work is to result in a doctoral thesis that will be defended at the Faculty with a view to obtaining the degree of PhD. The successful candidate is expected to join the existing research milieu or network and contribute to its development. Read more about the doctoral degree.

The appointment is for a duration of three years. All PhD Candidates who submit their doctoral dissertation for assessment with a written recommendation from their supervisor within 3 years or 3 ½ years after the start of their PhD position, will be offered, respectively, a 12 or 6 month Completion Grant.

## Qualification requirements

- A Master's Degree or equivalent in history. A degree from a different program may qualify if the applicant documents a substantial amount of training in research methods of history. The Master's Degree must have been obtained by the time of application.
- Fluent oral and written communication skills in English.
- Personal suitability and motivation for the position.

To be eligible for admission to the doctoral programmes at the University of Oslo, applicants must, as a minimum, have completed a five-year graduation course (Master's degree or equivalent), including a Master's thesis of at least 30 ECTS. In special cases, the Faculty may grant admission on the basis of a one-year Master course following an assessment of the study programme's scope and quality.

In assessing the applications, special emphasis will be placed on:

- The project's scientific merit, research-related relevance and innovation
- The applicant's estimated academic and personal ability to complete the project within the time frame
- The applicant's ability to complete research training
- Good collaboration skills and an ability to join interdisciplinary academic communities
- Applicants who have recently graduated with excellent results may be given preference.

## How to apply

The application must include:

- Application letter describing the applicant's qualifications and motivation for the position

- Curriculum Vitae (complete list of education, positions, teaching experience, administrative experience and other qualifying activities, including a complete list of publications)
- Transcript of records of your Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Applicants with education from a foreign university must attach an explanation of their university's grading system
- Project description, including a detailed progress plan for the project (3 - 5 pages, see Template for project descriptions)

Please note that all documents must be in English or a Scandinavian language.

Educational certificates, master theses and the like are not to be submitted with the application, but applicants may be asked to submit such information or works later.

The application with attachments must be delivered in our electronic recruiting system, please follow the link "apply for this job".

Short-listed candidates will be invited for an interview.

*More information and application [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## **British Academy Global Professorships 2018**

Deadline: 12 September 2018

The British Academy is providing mid-career to senior scholars - active in any discipline within the social sciences and the humanities and based in any country overseas - with the opportunity to work for four years in the UK and make a contribution to UK research and higher education. This new programme is supported under the UK Government's National Productivity Investment Fund. It aims to demonstrate and further enhance the UK's commitment to international research partnerships and collaboration as well as strengthen the UK's research capacity and capability in the humanities and the social sciences.

### Aims

Up to 10 Global Professorships each year will be offered during the course of the programme (which will run for three years in the first instance). Each award will provide funding for four years to an outstanding international researcher, not currently working in the United Kingdom, to bring their research experience to the UK. The purpose of the Global Professorships is to enable world-class scholars to further their individual research goals while strengthening the UK research base and advancing the research goals and strategies of their UK host universities. Each four-year appointment is intended to be a complete project in itself and is expected to involve a specific research focus, although the British Academy does not have a preferred model for the balance of time to be spent between research and teaching (which may vary over the course of the award and will depend on the UK host institution's needs).

### Eligibility Requirements

Suitable candidates for the Global Professorships include internationally-recognised mid-career to senior researchers active in any field within the social sciences or the humanities who are currently

employed outside the UK. The applicant must either be in a permanent (full-time or part-time) position at their home institution overseas or have a fixed-term position for the duration of the Global Professorship. Applicants must be available to take up a long-term secondment or employment at an eligible UK university or research institution.

#### Value and Duration

Awards are expected to run for four years each. The British Academy will provide up to £250,000 per annum for the first three years, making a total contribution of £750,000 per award. The costs of the fourth year will be expected to be committed in full by the UK host institution. Successful applicants to the 2018 competition will be required to start their awards between 1 December 2018 and 31 May 2019.

#### Application Process

Applications must be submitted online using the British Academy's Grant Management System, Flexi-Grant®

Application Deadline: Wednesday 12 September 2018 (17.00 UK Time)

UK Host Institution Approval Deadline: Thursday 13 September 2018 (17.00 UK Time)

#### Contact Details

Please contact [internationalgrants@britac.ac.uk](mailto:internationalgrants@britac.ac.uk) or call 020 7969 5220 for further information.

[Back to top](#)