



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

Transregional Academy: "Fragment - Power - Public: Narrative, Authority, and Circulation in Archival Work"

26 August – 06 September 2019

American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Submission Deadline: 15 December 2018

The Berlin-based Forum Transregionale Studien, the Max Weber Stiftung – Deutsche Geisteswissenschaftliche Institute im Ausland and the Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages of the American University of Beirut (AUB) cordially invite doctoral and postdoctoral scholars from the humanities and social sciences, as well as research-oriented artists and writers, to apply for a Transregional Academy in the framework of the research program Europe in the Middle East – The Middle East in Europe (EUME). The Transregional Academy will be convened from August 26th to September 6th, 2019 at the AUB in Beirut on the topic of

Fragment – Power – Public: Narrative, Authority, and Circulation in Archival Work.

It will be chaired by Rasha Chatta (EUME Fellow 2018/19), Leyla Dakhli (CNRS / Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin), Pascale Ghazaleh (American University in Cairo / EUME Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation 2017-19), Zeina G. Halabi (AUB / EUME Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation 2018-20), Lamia Moghnieh (EUME Fellow of the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung 2019-20), Alia Mossallam (EUME Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation 2017-18), and Ala Younis (artist). It is arranged in cooperation with the German Orient Institut in Beirut (OIB), the American University in Beirut (AUB), and the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC).

Twenty-four doctoral and postdoctoral scholars and artists from different countries and backgrounds will present and discuss their current research in an international and multidisciplinary context. Collectives, artists and scholars from Lebanon who work with archives will also contribute to the Academy. The Academy is designed to support scholarly networks and closer ties among research activities in and outside Europe and the Middle East. In order to promote intensive debate and encourage new perspectives, it is structured around four main elements: presentations of individual research projects in small groups, working group sessions for the participants, general lectures, and panel discussions open to a wider public.

Rationale

Scholars of history, culture and society in and of the Middle East, no matter what their political engagement, were swept up in the wave of Arab uprisings that started in 2010. The revolutions brought to a paroxysm a process of contestation that had been building since the 1990s, when new critiques began to challenge old narratives and ideologies and shake their hold on public space and the political sphere.

The return to the archives had opened up radical possibilities for social histories as early as the 1970s. Even then, for many scholars, turning to the archives was a way of exploring new narratives and questioning dominant discourses; but, since 2010, they have also found themselves formulating more fundamental questions related to the nature, constitution, and ownership of the archives. Excavating fragments of the past and attempts to document the present have led researchers to question the role of the state and its cultural practices in gathering and preserving these fragments, the nature of the public institutions involved in this endeavor, and the authority to define what legitimately constitutes an archive; the uprisings thus drove scholarship further beyond state-centered monistic narratives, to explore different historical and literary representations as sources for the production of knowledge and a reflection on the culture/power nexus. This interest, of course, has not been restricted to the academy: it has served to support work in curation, art, performance, and activism. New technologies supported one aspect of the archival turn, as evidenced by the development of digital humanities and the incorporation of such technologies into pedagogy. Thus, current research expands the boundaries of what constitutes legitimate membership in the community of historians, and intervenes in archival material through a variety of formats and venues.

This cross-disciplinary, international Transregional Academy also probes the ways in which the past, present and future have been and are imagined, represented, and reconfigured in modern historiography, literature, art and thought in archival work. Examining questions of aesthetics, genre, translation, and historiography, it aims to build on ongoing conversations about the practice of literary, artistic and historiographic excavation.

This Academy presents an opportunity for collaboration among different actors (historians, scholars of literature, anthropology and other disciplines, artists, graphic artists, performance artists in music, theatre and cinema, archivists, and others) and poses the following questions:

- How do we make sense of the increasing interest in archives by scholars and artists in and outside the Middle East?
- How do we relate the changes in technology and media, the new possibilities of storage and communication to the closure, disintegration, and to the policing of archives and people?
- How can we make archives and other historical narratives accessible in ways that are true to their forms (visual, sound, etc.) and conducive to more experiences and possibilities than those offered by monographs?
- How can we make our sources/narratives more accessible to a wider public through digital humanities and/or public history projects? And what are the limits?
- How can we cultivate relations between scholars and other practitioners to widen our scope for understanding and representing the archives with which we work?
- How can we, as scholars, work with (or without) certain gaps in the archive or with fragmented archives? And how can we deal with the abundance of facts and different readings?
- How to give voice to subjects and characters, whose experiences fall within and outside state archives?

- How have historians, writers, artists and intellectuals been engaged with the cultural or people's archives in modern times?
- How have excavation practices in literature transformed the literary and what is revealed from such practices of excavation?

We invite scholars in the humanities and social sciences, as well as artists engaged in ongoing research projects about and with archives from the Middle East and other regions. We are equally interested in comparisons, contemporary and historical cases and diverse and dissident approaches to these questions from across the humanities and social sciences, at all scales, and their interconnections.

Structure

The Academy aims to provide a forum for scholars in social sciences and humanities and research-oriented artists and writers who are interested in discussing and exchanging on questions of archives and archival practices in past and present societies and in diverse contexts.

The Transregional Academy promotes intensive peer-to-peer debates and encourages new perspectives grown from debates in small discussion groups. Participants take an active part in contributing to the program's structure and content. They present their individual research, co-design thematic discussion groups, and are involved in organizing the thematic discussions. While most of the work is conducted in an intensive small-group atmosphere, the Transregional Academy also presents its work to the public through general lectures and open panel discussions. For more information on the format please visit our Transregional Academies blog:

<https://academies.hypotheses.org/>.

Organization

The Transregional Academy is chaired by the above-mentioned group of scholars and organized by the Forum Transregionale Studien in cooperation with the AUB, OIB and AFAC.

For questions regarding the concept of the Academy, please contact Georges Khalil; for questions regarding eligibility and format, please contact Jessica Metz, both at: eume@trafo-berlin.de; phone +49 (0)30 89 001 427; fax: +49 (0)30 89 001 440.

Application and Procedure

Travel, accommodation and meals of the participants will be fully covered. The program targets doctoral and postdoctoral researchers, as well as research-oriented artists and writers, who wish to present their ongoing projects in both a comparative perspective and in relation to the questions raised above. Moreover the researcher's work should be clearly relevant to the themes of the Transregional Academy. The working language is English.

The application should likewise be in English and consist of:

- a brief motivation letter that describes the relevance of one's own research to the Academy's topic and contains a few paragraphs outlining what the applicant could contribute to the collective in terms of a talk, thematic discussion, viewing, performance

etc., as well as two suggested readings relevant to the Academy's theme which you would like to discuss with other participants (please provide bibliographical data only, no copies of the suggested readings are required);

— a curriculum vitae, indicating at the end the names of two university faculty members or collaborators who can serve as referees (no letters of recommendation required);

— a three- to five-page outline of the project the applicant is currently working on, with a brief summary thereof.

More information [here](#)

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When things turn ugly? Anger, politics, and the morality of protest

Location: University of Brighton, UK

Date: 1st and 2nd November 2019

Paper Proposal Deadline: 1st May 2019

Anger is divisive, not just in real life: while many theorists believe that anger should have no place in rational or deliberative politics, others see in it an essential feature of democratic protest. And while anger might be the reason why, sometimes, people are literally out of their minds, there is also a sense in which anger can be healthy or even righteous. Given these very different views, both of anger and of its normative status, some might suppose that context is everything, and that different conceptions of anger have their home in different social and other circumstances.

However, and not least because anger has recently begun to feature more prominently in social and political movements across the political and moral spectrum, a greater engagement with anger is warranted. This conference aims to bring together philosophers, sociologists, political scientists, and those working in the history of emotions in order to consider questions such as the following:

What is anger? Is it simply an affective reaction? Or can it be considered a rational, perhaps even necessary, response?

Might it be important to distinguish between feeling anger and expressing it?

What role does anger play in social movement organising? Does anger undermine or augment activist struggle? Can different strategies of regulating anger work together to advance a common goal?

What, if any, are the differences between someone reacting angrily to what she thinks of as environmental destruction by corporate business and someone reacting angrily to immigration policies that they consider a threat to national culture?

To begin to consider these and related questions we propose that it is necessary to bring together empirical and conceptual considerations by engaging a range of approaches and expertise in an avowedly interdisciplinary conference.

This conference, then, aims to explore different views of anger to help us develop an understanding of the possible moral and political roles of anger. Possible sub-themes, in addition to the larger questions above, might include:

- anger and normative disagreement
- anger and value recognition
- anger as a virtue
- righteous anger
- 'anger' across different natural languages
- language and emotion perception
- anger in cross-cultural perspectives
- 'anger' and 'forms of life'
- the differences between or the shared features of, 'anger', and such things as 'rage', 'fury', 'wrath', 'indignation', 'frustration', 'irritation' and 'resentment'
- anger and resistance
- politics, anger, and strategic communication

We plan to have individual papers as well as workshops encouraging interdisciplinary discussion related to the four overarching questions adumbrated above: 1) conceptual issues of anger, 2) relation between feeling anger and acting/expressing it, 3) strategic role of anger in social movements, 4) morality and anger.

Submission guidelines:

Please send your paper proposal by 1st May 2019 to: I.A.Sinclair@brighton.ac.uk .

Proposals should include: paper title, abstract (300 words), references (not included in the word count), name, contact details, and short biography (50 words).

Note that talks should not exceed 20 minutes.

Please indicate which workshop (1-4) you would be most interested in.

Accepted speakers will be notified by 1st July 2019.

Colleagues from outside Europe and North America as well as members of minorities in philosophy are particularly encouraged to apply.

There will be up to five fees-only bursaries available to colleagues without adequate institutional support. Initial preference will be given to those from the Global South. Please indicate if you wish to be considered for a fee-waiver when you send your abstract.

Workshop fee: £65

More information please contact either Mara-Daria Cojocaru mara-daria.cojocaru@hfph.de or Bob Brecher r.brecher@brighton.ac.uk.

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“Middle East – Topics & Arguments” (META) is calling for submissions for its thirteenth issue, Contacts.

Abstract Submission Deadline: December 15th, 2018

Article Submission Deadline: April 15th, 2019

Publication date: Fall 2019

The peer-reviewed online journal “Middle East – Topics & Arguments” (META) is calling for submissions for its thirteenth issue, which will be entitled Contacts.

Contacts between different cultures and ethnic groups are an important issue that should be approached and discussed from different points of view, because it affects various facets of human civilization. The interaction between linguistic systems may be the easiest one to identify, but contacts imply both verbal communication and non-verbal actions. Intercultural transfers occur at different levels: attributes of material culture, ideas, religious beliefs, literary topoi, etc. Within this volume we suggest conceptualizing contacts in the form of cross-cultural exchange and its instruments in the context of different disciplines. By adopting a wide understanding of “contacts” we intend to elaborate new approaches and scopes at the intersections of several disciplines. Contacts may be described from the point of view of the cultural, political, and social conditions in which they occur, as well as their consequences.

Language contacts represent one of the most important factors of language change. They can trigger language shift, language death, or the creation of a new creole or mixed languages. In the case of the Middle East, languages that had already died at some point but were kept used in literary or religious traditions usually had an impact on spoken languages, cf. Classical vs. dialectal Arabic, Syriac vs modern Aramaic, Classical vs. contemporary Persian. This situation concerns not only the classical situation of diglossia: Arabic, for example, had a huge impact on other languages of the area. Thus, Ottoman Turkish had about 80% borrowed lexicon from Arabic and Persian, and while Persian words came into the language as a result of direct contact, the Arabic ones were learned in the process of education or through Persian. The question arises: how can the classification of language contacts be applied to such situations or to the contacts between various languages of tradition? The following perspectives can be also taken into account: the impact of linguistic borrowings on cultural, religious, and historical changes; the role that secondary communication facilities, such as writing and mass media, play in language contacts; or the shifting dynamics of transfers.

On the structural level one can distinguish between atomic borrowings and pervasive phenomena of interference. Sometimes contacts in various domains display similar patterns and intensity, but more interesting for comparison are those cases where they show non-trivial mismatches. As an example, one can cite the destinies of three peoples within the Medieval Arab Caliphate: the Arameans and Egyptians largely shifted to Arabic but partly kept their religion, while the Iranians largely converted to Islam but maintained their own language. The case of the multicultural Ottoman Empire and the ways of communication and cultural transfer within this state, which involved diverse ethnic and religious groups, represents another interesting topic. Shifts in language and communication are often

examined through social networks analysis, which today is a growing methodological approach in various disciplines to study contacts between individuals and/or organizations. By analyzing the properties between units of contact and within them, phenomena may be described as relational. Recent manifestations of social media give ample opportunities for empirical linguistic observations.

The transfer of ideas and ideology can be studied within the context of relations between the Middle East and North Africa and other world regions (Europe, other areas of Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Americas) in the 19th–21st centuries. It implies not only the way of adopting and developing different political or social ideas (republicanism, socialism, modernity, etc.) but also the reflection of these ideas in special terminology of both local and borrowed origin. Colonial and postcolonial interactions, which included institutionalized violence as a language of perceived cultural superiority, as well as intercultural exchange and its rejection, represent important issues to discuss. Postcolonial theory and research on the colonial relationships in the region open a diversity of contact forms: assimilation, hybridization, economic integration, clash of different systems of values, etc. The significant issue of cultural identity in the colonial and postcolonial eras involves the concept of orientalism and its reconsideration.

We are seeking articles from different disciplines that involve the Near and Middle East and North Africa, including linguistics, history, comparative literature, sociology, political science, and others. Papers challenging specific hypotheses or frameworks are particularly welcome. Summarizing, we accept papers that address the following issues within the geographical area under discussion:

- language contacts
- interaction of living and classical languages
- impact of language contacts on different aspects of culture
- forms of colonial and post-colonial interaction
- instruments of cross-cultural exchange
- transfer of the ideas and ideologies
- social network analysis

Papers presenting new, original research findings on the issue's topic will be published in the journal's FOCUS section. Articles in this section should be between 2,800 and 4,600 words.

In addition to papers for the main section, we call for contributions for META Journal's special sections:

The META section also relates to the issue's focus topic, with the papers discussing Contacts from a theory-centered perspective. Regional scope is not limited to the Middle East and North Africa, but may also consider theoretical approaches involving other world regions. Article length is 2,800 to 4,600 words.

The CLOSE UP section features a short written portrait of a person or institution that has a special relation to the issue's main topic, e.g. a researcher who has constitutively contributed to the language contacts in the MENA region. It links that person's biography with their contribution to the field. Article length is 1,500 to 3,000 words.

The ANTI/THESIS section juxtaposes two rivaling positions that highlight different lines of argument, pros and cons, and/or competing narratives. These can be presented either by one author together, or by two authors in two different articles. One topic that may be discussed in this section is whether we need to involve local Middle Eastern language theories into academic studies, in order to change “orientalist” view (in the sense of E. Said). Article length for each paper is 1,500-3,000 words.

All articles that fall into the general framework of the journal, but do not relate to the special topic “Contacts,” will be taken into consideration for the OFF TOPIC section: offtopic@meta-journal.net

Prior to developing a complete manuscript, authors are asked to submit an abstract (300 words max.), a short CV (150 words max.), and 3-5 key bibliographic sources. Please clearly indicate the research question, the method to be used, and the empirical material your research will be based on. Papers are accepted in English and French.

The editors will make a preliminary decision regarding the topic’s relevance to the journal’s aim and scope and may provide suggestions for developing the manuscript, at the latest four weeks after the proposal submission deadline.

All manuscripts must adhere to our stylesheet and will not be taken into consideration when exceeding the word count. All manuscripts published with META journal are reviewed through an open peer review process, according to a review guideline on which the reviews should be based. The process is open by choice; author(s) and reviewers choose whether to reveal their own names.

More information [here](#)

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Fourth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies

The University of Cambridge at St John's College on 9-10 April 2019.
Submission Deadline: 30 December 2018.

We welcome proposals that engage with any aspect of Iranian studies within the arts, humanities, and social sciences.

Subjects include but are not limited to prehistory through to contemporary history; poetry and literature; economics; political science; philosophy; archaeology; religions and theology; historiography; sociology; anthropology; music; art and architecture history; social and political theory; cultural heritage; international relations; languages and linguistics; law and legal studies; Diaspora studies; new media and communication studies; film studies; and the performing arts. Comparative themes and interdisciplinary approaches are also very welcome.

The conference will be conducted in English.

Eligibility

- a. Postgraduate students (MA, MPhil, MSc, etc.: currently enrolled or graduated in 2017 or 2018);
- b. PhD students/candidates at any stage of their degree; and
- c. post-docs who graduated within the last three years (2018, 2017, 2016, 2015).

Submissions

Papers are allocated 15 minutes each and will be grouped into panels of three or four speakers, with the expectation that some sessions may be interdisciplinary. Panels last 1.5 hours each.

Pre-arranged panels are allocated 90 minutes and should consist of three or four presenters. Panel themes may be broad or narrow, however, a connective thread between the proposed papers must be evident in your submission. Proposals should include a succinct rationale for bringing the individual papers together as a panel and a brief description of how each paper fits into the theme of the panel.

- i. You may submit one proposal for consideration.
- ii. You cannot participate in a pre-arranged panel and deliver an individual paper.

More information [here](#)

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Politics and Popular Culture in the Middle East: Power and Resistance Post-2011

University of Warwick, Coventry, UK

7-8 May 2019

Submission Deadline: December 10th, 2018

Call for Papers

Over the past decade or so, popular culture has attracted increasing attention from scholars of the Middle East and North Africa. In particular, the mass protests and uprisings from the end of 2010 onwards sparked interest in popular culture as a vehicle for mobilizing and articulating resistance to authoritarianism (amongst others, Abaza 2013, El Hamamsy and Soliman 2013, Mostafa and Valassopoulos 2014, Salih and Richter-Devroe 2014, Swedenburg 2012).

This workshop builds on and extends the insights of this body of literature to consider the relationship between politics and popular culture more broadly. We define popular culture to include a range of mass cultural and subcultural forms (such as, TV, film, graffiti, cartoons, music, dance) recognizing that the boundaries between popular culture and 'high culture' or

'folk culture' are fluid and contingent. Meanwhile, we conceptualize politics to include not only formal political processes, actors and institutions but also the political economy of popular cultural production alongside the struggles over the cultural meanings that are constitutive of power relations.

We invite abstracts exploring the intersections of politics and popular culture in the contemporary Middle East and North Africa from any relevant discipline. We are particularly interested in papers that address the following themes:

- The role of popular culture in both promoting progressive/revolutionary as well as reactionary/counter-revolutionary political agendas and ideas
- The use of popular culture by marginalized/subordinated social groups –such as women, workers, economically-marginalized groups, ethnic and religious minorities, LGBTQ communities and refugees
- The use of popular culture by elites and governments
- State policies towards popular culture
- Religion and popular culture
- The political economy of popular culture
- The role of popular culture in resistance
- The role of popular culture in representing the past and shaping public memory
- The politics of aesthetics in relation to popular culture
- The politics of space in relation to popular culture
- The politics of identity (gender, nation, race, class, sexuality) in popular culture

We also welcome contributions that examine popular culture in the Middle East and North Africa in other historical moments and/or in relation to longer-term struggles that cannot be reduced to the Arab uprisings and their aftermath.

A selection of papers will be published as part of a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal.

Deadline for submissions is 10 December 2018. Successful applicants will be notified by 3 January 2019.

There is no workshop fee for successful applicants. Some bursaries may be available to cover travel costs for those coming from outside Europe, particularly from the Middle East and North Africa.

Submission Format

Please submit the following details in a word document/pdf file:

- Name(s)
- Title(s) and affiliation(s)
- Paper title
- Abstract of 350 words
- Short bio of 250 words
- Corresponding email address

For submissions or inquiries please email us at: popcultureMENA@warwick.ac.uk

Keynote speaker: **Charles Tripp, Professor Emeritus, SOAS**

Conveners:

- Nicola Pratt, University of Warwick
- Dina Rezk, University of Reading
- Dalia Mostafa, University of Manchester

More information [here](#)

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"Reconfigurations and Connectivities of the MENA Region: Contextualizing Upheavals, Transformations, and Lasting Crises"

University of Marburg, 14-16 November 2018

The final conference grants a discussion platform for reconfiguring both the historical consciousness and transformation of the MENA-region in all disciplinary and topical facets our research network has to offer. At the same time, the conference aims to go beyond the MENA-region, contributing to critical debates on area studies while pointing out transregional and translocal references in a broad and comparative manner. The conference intends to provide a setting for the network's expertise and experience, assessing its past research performance and highlighting cooperation efforts not only within Marburg, but also on national and international levels, thus granting insight into the future research of network members and their partners.

More information [here](#)

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International Conference: Studying the Transnational in the Contemporary Arab World

IRMC, Tunis, 3-4 December 2018

List of Speakers:

Achour Kallel Myriam- Faculté des sciences humaines et sociales de Tunis

Allal Amin- IRMC (Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain)

Baamara Layla - CHERPA (Croyance, of Histoire, Espace, Régulation Politique et Administrative (France)

Bendana Kmar- IRMC (Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain)

Ben Mami Riadh Amine - CHERPA (Croyance, Histoire, Espace, Régulation Politique et Administrative) (France)

Ben Mouro Youness Université Mohammed V-Rabat (Maroc)

Bidet Jennifer - CERLIS- Centre de recherche sur les liens sociaux - (France)

Bouagga Yasmine, Triangle -Action, discours, pensée politique et économique- (France)

Boustane Mohamed - INAU- Institut National d'Aménagement et d'Urbanisme - Rabat (Maroc); École doctorale Urbanisme Gouvernance Urbaine et Territoires (Maroc)

Bureau Jeanne - URMIS- Unité de recherche migrations et sociétés (France)

Dakhli Leyla- CMB (Centre Marc Bloch Berlin)

Deforge Quentin- IRISSO -Institut de Recherche Interdisciplinaire en Sciences Sociales-, IRMC (Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain)

Drif Leila, IRIS (Institut de Recherche Interdisciplinaire sur les Enjeux Sociaux), IFPO (Institut Français du Proche-Orient Beyrouth)

Dufoix Stéphane, Sophiapol- Sociologie Philosophie Anthropologie Politiques- Université Paris Nanterre (France)

El Chazli Youssef, CMB (Centre Marc Bloch Berlin), Le Centre d'Histoire Sociale du XXE Siècle

Grueneisl Katharina - Durham University (Royaume-Uni)

Klaus Enrique, Université Galatasaray (Turquie)

Marchetti Dominique, CSE - Centre européen de sociologie et de science politique- (France)

Moussalih Abdellah - INAU- Institut National d'Aménagement et d'Urbanisme - Rabat; École doctorale Urbanisme Gouvernance Urbaine et Territoires (Maroc)

Poirier Marine - CEDEJ- Centre d'Études et de Documentation Économiques, Juridiques et Sociales - Le Caire (Égypte)

Robert Diane - LADYSS- Dynamiques sociales et recomposition des espaces (France)

Rouland Betty, IRMC (Institut de Recherche sur le Maghreb Contemporain)

Youssef Maaï- CESSP- Centre européen de sociologie et de science politique- Centre d'Études et de Documentation Économiques, Juridiques et Sociales - Le Caire (Égypte)

Vaucheux Antoine- CESSP- Centre européen de sociologie et de science politique (France)

Zederman Mathilde - European University Institute Florence (Italie)

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Rebel Streets: Urban Space, Art, and Social Movements

University of Tours

28-29 May 2019

Abstract Submission Deadline: December 15th, 2018

Art's practical place in reconstituting the urban space, as one of the defining elements of urban culture, renders a twofold role. The role of art in the neoliberal urban planning shows that art is an integral part of current capitalist processes that are turning the neoliberal art subject in a source of capital—both as a resource for tourism and a real estate investment. However, recent research has found that arts and art establishments are not as significant in gentrification processes as before (Grodach, Foster, Murdoch 2018). Indeed, art has been both a product of and a response to the unequal distribution of resources and visibility in the city through the processes of new urban planning. For example, a growing resistance against neoliberal urbanism in Europe (Colomb & Novy 2016) demonstrates the relationship of artist communities and neighborhood organizations and challenges the prescriptive approaches to art's role in neoliberal aestheticization.

Art's presence in the urban space is dynamic and interactive that communicates the complex forms of globalization, cultural hybridity, and plurality in contemporary daily life—where we experience politics. The new forms of agencies and strategies of urban creativity in the form of graffiti, wall paintings, yarn bombing, stickers, urban gardening, street performances, tactical art, creative campaigns and theatrical actions—among others—demand an active spectatorship (Whybrow, 2011) and have a growing power to renegotiate space for new forms of political participation.

Social mobilization in the neoliberal cities constitute a common theme in texts inspired by Henri Lefebvre's colossal work on production and reproduction of urban space (Lefebvre, 1968) and David Harvey's book *Rebel Cities* (Harvey, 2012). Urban creativity has a broad scope of interests from a clear "right to the city" perspective with its ecological, spatial, and ideological agenda to the struggles of civil rights, and individual and collective freedoms. While this aspect has opened the research into recognizing street art as a genre for "political democratization" (Bengtson 2014), the growing significance of art in social and spatial justice movements has been neglected by both social movement theory and art theory. Thus, the

analysis of art and urban social movements is still academically insufficient, although street art is well-recognized to have had an essential part during the Egyptian (Abaza 2016), Tunisian (LeVine 2015) and Syrian (Cprooke 2018) revolution, Spanish Indignados (Ramírez Blanco 2018), Greek Aganaktismenoi movement (Tsilimpoudini 2016) and the Gezi Uprising (Tunali 2018).

Rebel Streets conference aims to shift the focus from a rather disempowering critical perspective towards urban art to one that stresses its aesthetical and political powers as a part of the urban social resistance. We ask participants to investigate the hypothesis that the aesthetic reconfiguration of the neoliberal city does not only allow for a hegemonic restructuring of the urban environment, but it also facilitates the growth of counter-hegemonic resistance.

Critical inquiries should adhere to one of the three areas of the conference theme:

1. Street art and everyday life in the city
2. Art and anti-gentrification resistance
3. Art and the urban social movements

We invite papers from all humanities and social sciences disciplines that investigate the way art:

--exists in the increasingly policed, surveilled, designed and otherwise controlled urban contexts,

--confronts and reconstitutes the concept of public space,

--provides citizenry with new and innovative ways to engage,

--activates, captures, and subverts the experience of the urban space,

--enables reflexive processes and co-creation of knowledge and worldview,

--reveals hegemonic and counterhegemonic interactions among city authorities, urban developers, and artists,

--empowers the resistance movements in the gentrified neighborhoods,

--is a part of the aesthetics of the urban social movements and its commitment to participative (direct) democracy.

Rebel Streets conference will engage in the questions that scrutinize the complex relationships between urban space, social resistance, and art, such as: How can art in the public space be used as a weapon of resistance and a means of reconstruction? Are street artists obliged to be a part of the urban resistance against neoliberalism? How does art

respond uniquely to gentrification? How do public artistic expressions reveal, delimit or question the complexity of neoliberal urbanization? How can we interpret the poetics of urban art from the perspective of subcultures, freedom of expression, and the limits of criminality? How is street art activism perceived by the authorities, politicians, businesses, and the wider public? What prompts urban artists to communicate with urban dwellers with their marks on the city's surface? What kind of public should critical urban art try to constitute and what kind of public spaces are needed to that effect? What can we learn from street art about visual resistance in the interplay with political power structures? Under what conditions could art become effective in reclaiming the cities as sites of resistance and change?

The 2-day conference will be held on the campus of the University of Tours France on 28-29 May 2019. There is 25 Euros attendance fee and the presenters are expected to cover their travel and accommodation expenses.

More information [here](#)

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TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

The Worker Leaves the Archive: Documents, Material and Commentary, but NO Film

Wednesday, 14 November 2018, 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm |
Forum Transregionale Studien, Wallotstr. 14, 14193 Berlin

The Worker is an early film production that produced images of workers suffering in factories. Directed by Ahmad Kamel Mursi in 1943, the film was shot in a real factory and in the newly established national studios in Egypt. It was produced by its protagonist Hussein Sedky, who shortly after turned to produce films that supported conservative values. One of the film's main scenes is around a worker who is injured in an accident during his shift in the factory. The Egyptian authorities censored the film just after its second screening in 1943. The film was distributed by Behna Film Selections, which has become today Wekalet Behna, an art space and film archive project that has the film's materials. But the film prints are lost, or perhaps were among the Egyptian films collection that was sold to Saudi media corporations.

This presentation attempts to investigate, imagine and restore The Worker through materials compiled from different resources.

More information [here](#)

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Public Workshop: "Vita Activa and Vita Contemplativa: Reading Hannah Arendt in Egypt"

AUC Tahrir Square Campus

November 28, 2018

With Mona Shahien & Amro Ali

More information [here](#)

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Saudi Post-Khashoggi: What next for the Kingdom?

Madawi Al-Rasheed, Steffen Hertog & Ian Black, LSE

Saudi Journalist Jamal Khashoggi entered the Saudi embassy in Istanbul on 2 October 2018 to never leave. Having denied knowing his whereabouts, Saudi Arabia now admits that Khashoggi had been killed, but the leadership claims to have no knowledge of – or connection to – the murder. The death of the Saudi journalist has taken over international headlines; but what are the long-term implications of this event? This panel brings together LSE Middle East Centre experts to discuss internal, international and economic repercussions.

Please note that attendance at this event is by registration only and that you will be required to show your ticket and matching ID to gain access. Please make sure you have a printed or digital copy of your ticket.

More information [here](#)

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Professor Ozan Karaman (CNRS, Paris) presents "Urban redevelopment in Istanbul: contestations and negotiations"

November 14th, 2018

Exeter University

Ozan Karaman is a CNRS researcher, based in LATTs (Research Centre on Technologies, Territories and Societies). Focusing on Istanbul, this talk will contextualize urbanization processes within an entrenched authoritarian-Islamic-neoliberal political framework and discuss facets of urban (re)development.

Ozan Karaman was previously a Lecturer in Human Geography at the University of Glasgow, and a researcher in Urban Sociology at the Singapore-ETH Centre. His work has engaged with debates in urban political economy and urban theory, with a particular concern with

socio-spatial inequalities and grassroots mobilisations. He is currently undertaking an ERC funded research project titled "urban revolution and the political".

Tea and coffee to be served from 4.30pm in the IAIS Common Room. All are welcome to attend and registration is not necessary.

More information [here](#)

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Dr Katherine E Brown (University of Birmingham) presents "Gender and the Apocalypse in Daesh"

November 21st, 2018

Exeter University

Dr Katherine E Brown is interested in Muslim women's involvement in violent religious politics, specifically those linked to Islam. This talk examines key areas of the apocalyptic institutions and practices at the heart of the Islamic State Group's (Daesh) propaganda and practices: first the idea of 'sacred lands' and future battles, second the destruction of shrines, third the creation of new saints as martyrs, fourth the narrative of paradise, and fifth the role of 'widows'.

Katherine E Brown's work examines the way in which gendered jihadi narratives motivate and enfranchise, and how they combine with everyday experiences of living and politics. She also examines how counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation programmes impact on religious women's rights and Muslim communities. Her long term project is to explore how religious women build resilience to violent extremism in their everyday lives and communities. She has recently finished a volume on gender and anti-radicalisation measures worldwide (out soon!). Currently, she is consulting with UNWomen and the OCHCR creating their "UN Gender Mainstreaming Guidelines for Countering and Preventing Violent Extremism".

Tea and coffee will be served from 4.30pm in the IAIS Common Room. All are welcome to attend.

More information [here](#)

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Faith and Resistance: The Politics of Love and War in Lebanon

Sarah Marusek

May 2018

Pluto Press

What kind of decolonial possibilities exist in today's world? Exploring the rise of Islamic activism in Lebanon and the Middle East, and drawing transnational parallels with other revolutionary religious struggles in Latin America and South Africa, Sarah Marusek offers a timely analysis of the social and political evolution of Islamic movements.

The growing popularity of Islamic movements means that many groups, which emerged in opposition to Western imperialism, are now also gaining increasing economic and political powers.

Based on more than two and a half years of ethnographic fieldwork in Lebanon, Marusek paints a picture of how resistance is lived and reproduced in daily lives, tracing the evolution of the ideas and practices of the charities affiliated with Hizbullah and the wider Islamic resistance movement.

Adopting a dialectical approach, Faith and Resistance discusses the possibility for resistance groups to reconcile acquiring power with their decolonial aspirations. In doing so, the book acts as a guide for liberation struggles and those engaged in resistance the world over.

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Justice for Some: Law and the Question of Palestine

Noura Erakat

April 2019

Stanford University Press

Justice in the Question of Palestine is often framed as a question of law. Yet none of the Israel-Palestinian conflict's most vexing challenges have been resolved by judicial intervention. Occupation law has failed to stem Israel's settlement enterprise. Laws of war have permitted killing and destruction during Israel's military offensives in the Gaza Strip. The Oslo Accord's two-state solution is now dead letter.

Justice for Some offers a new approach to understanding the Palestinian struggle for freedom, told through the power and control of international law. Focusing on key junctures—from the Balfour Declaration in 1917 to present-day wars in Gaza—Noura Erakat shows how the strategic deployment of law has shaped current conditions. Over the past century, the law has done more to advance Israel's interests than the Palestinians'. But, Erakat argues, this outcome was never inevitable.

Law is politics, and its meaning and application depend on the political intervention of states and people alike. Within the law, change is possible. International law can serve the cause of freedom when it is mobilized in support of a political movement. Presenting the promise and risk of international law, Justice for Some calls for renewed action and attention to the Question of Palestine.

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Giving to God: Islamic Charity in Revolutionary Times

Amira Mittermaier

February 2019

University of California Press

Giving to God examines the everyday practices of Islamic giving in post-revolutionary Egypt—from foods prepared in Sufi soup kitchens, to meals distributed by pious volunteers in slums, to almsgiving—practices that are ultimately about giving to God by giving to the poor. Surprisingly, many who practice such giving say that they do not care about the poor, instead framing their actions within a unique non-compassionate ethics of giving. At first, this form of giving seems deeply selfish, but upon further consideration, it does avoid many of the problems associated with the idea of “charity.” Using the Egyptian uprising in 2011 and its call for social justice as a backdrop, this gorgeously crafted ethnography allows the reader to understand that “giving a man a fish” might ultimately be more revolutionary than “teaching a man to fish.”

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Black Power and Palestine: Transnational Countries of Color

Michael Fischbach

November 2018

Stanford University Press

The 1967 Arab–Israeli War rocketed the question of Israel and Palestine onto the front pages of American newspapers. Black Power activists saw Palestinians as a kindred people of color, waging the same struggle for freedom and justice as themselves. Soon concerns over the Arab–Israeli conflict spread across mainstream black politics and into the heart of the civil rights movement itself. *Black Power and Palestine* uncovers why so many African Americans—notably Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and Muhammad Ali, among others—came to support the Palestinians or felt the need to respond to those who did.

Americans first heard pro-Palestinian sentiments in public through the black freedom struggle of the 1960s and 1970s. Michael R. Fischbach uncovers this hidden history of the Arab–Israeli conflict's role in African American activism and the ways that distant struggle

shaped the domestic fight for racial equality. Black Power's transnational connections between African Americans and Palestinians deeply affected U.S. black politics, animating black visions of identity well into the late 1970s. *Black Power and Palestine* allows those black voices to be heard again today.

In chronicling this story, Fischbach reveals much about how American peoples of color create political strategies, a sense of self, and a place within U.S. and global communities. The shadow cast by events of the 1960s and 1970s continues to affect the United States in deep, structural ways. This is the first book to explore how conflict in the Middle East shaped the American civil rights movement.

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JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Beyond medical humanitarianism - Politics and humanitarianism in the figure of the *Mīdānī* physician

Sophie E. Roborgh

Social Science & Medicine

Volume 211, August 2018, Pages 321-329

This article explores the complex position of local physicians at times of political unrest or conflict, conceptualizing local medical voluntarism as a form of collective action. It analyzes the evolving interpretation of medical neutrality among Egyptian physicians who provided medical assistance to injured protesters in the Egyptian uprising (2011–2013). In-depth interviews with 24 medical and non-medical volunteers on their perception of medical neutrality were matched with their mobilization and participation history, showing the extent towards which political considerations influenced their voluntary medical engagement. The results firstly show that revolutionary political considerations played a central role in the physicians' mobilization into medical networks active in the protests, as well as in their interpretation of their medical and non-medical activities. Secondly, I argue that the interpretation of medical neutrality among Egyptian physicians evolved significantly over time. A special type of medical volunteer took shape, the *mīdānī* physician. This physician openly expresses his/her political convictions and adheres to (self-defined) humanitarian principles through a conscious reconciliation of the two. The article details the increasing difficulty of this task after the revolutionary movement splintered into competing factions and citizens ended up fighting each other instead of authoritarian rule.

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The ‘Third Hand’ in Egypt: Legitimation and the International Dimension in Political Transformations

Sarah Wessel

Middle East Law and Governance, Volume 10, Issue 3

2018

This article seeks to complement current research on the international dimension of the recent transformations in the Arab world by focusing on the subjective domestic political debates on external actors in Egypt. Approaching political transformations in post-revolutionary Egypt (2010–2014) as dynamic and reciprocal processes of claim making and receiving, I explore how the representations of external actors served as an important source for the military to legitimize the continuous expansion of its political powers. By doing so, I hope to illuminate on a period that was celebrated as a departure towards democracy, yet regressed into the re-emergence of a military regime three years later. Drawing from empirical findings gained in a multi-sited long-term field study from 2010 to 2014, I show that the ‘third hand’ – a concept that is commonly used in the streets, the media and in political speeches to designate external interventions as attempts to undermine the stability of the country – had a major impact on the transformations. The article shows how the exploration of domestic public debates is key to a better understanding of the international dimension in political transformations.

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Female Fighters and Militants During the Lebanese Civil War: Individual Profiles, Pathways, and Motivations

Jennifer Philippa Eggert

Studies in Conflict & Terrorism

2018

This article offers an analysis of women’s profiles, pathways, and motivations to join the Lebanese civil war (1975 to 1990), with a particular focus on female fighters militants involved with Harakat Amal, Kataeb, the Progressive Socialist Party, Lebanese Communist Party, Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The article contributes to existing debates on women’s motivations to join nonstate armed groups by examining both militias that included female fighters and those that did not. It is the first study so far that analyses the profiles and motivations of female fighters and militants within all major militias during the Lebanese civil war.

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Overstating Climate Change in Egypt's Uprising

Jessica Barnes
MER 287, 2018

The possible link between climate change and political upheaval in the Middle East has attracted increasing media attention and is generating a new wave of academic research seeking to demonstrate the link. An influential study that put forward this thesis was the 2013 report *The Arab Spring and Climate Change*, published by the Center for American Progress in Washington DC. [1] Featuring images of angry protestors, parched fields, and people carrying water, the report asserted that while climate change did not cause the Arab uprisings, it acted as a “threat multiplier,” which exacerbated “environmental, social, economic, and political drivers of unrest.” In other words, human-induced changes in climatic conditions, through their impact on water supplies and agricultural production, can interact with and even accelerate social and political causes of dissent and rebellion.

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Trump's Full Spectrum Assault on Palestinian Politics

Ilana Feldman
MER 287, 2018

The Trump Administration announced on August 31, 2018 that it was ceasing all US contributions to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), rejecting what it termed “an irredeemably flawed operation.”

UNRWA provides education, healthcare, job training, and limited food aid for millions of Palestinian refugees in the Middle East, the majority of whom are descendants of those Israel forcibly displaced from their homes in historic Palestine in 1948, in what Palestinians refer to as the Nakba (catastrophe). Unlike most UN agencies, the entirety of UNRWA's operational budget comes from voluntary contributions by member states. The US has historically been UNRWA's biggest donor, last year providing about one-quarter of its \$1.24 billion budget. The US refusal to contribute is therefore potentially catastrophic for its recipients.

The Trump administration's decision to cease funding UNRWA in part reflects its general reluctance to shoulder what US governments have traditionally seen as their responsibility to support international institutions, often citing unfair burden sharing. The State Department announcement of the cessation complained about “the very disproportionate share of the burden of UNRWA's costs that we had assumed for many years.” Other countries have, in fact, stepped forward to fill in much of the shortfall: A September 27 meeting of foreign ministers of Jordan, Sweden, Turkey, Japan and Germany, as well as

representatives of the European Union, produced pledges of \$122 million in support. A day later, a letter signed by 112 Democratic Party representatives urged the administration to reverse this decision because of its “disastrous consequences.”

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NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

Rights organizations criticize arrest of at least 31 in Thursday dawn raids

Mada Masr
November 4th, 2018

Rights organizations have condemned the Thursday arrest of at least 31 people, including employees of the [Egyptian Coordination of Rights and Freedoms](#) (ECRF) and Aisha al-Shater, the daughter of senior Muslim Brotherhood figure Khairat al-Shater. The groups issued a joint [statement](#) on Saturday demanding information about their whereabouts.

During a series of dawn raids on Thursday, security forces arrested Aisha al-Shater and at least 30 others, including ECRF employees, as well as a number of lawyers and activists unaffiliated with the independent rights organization, according to lawyer Mohamed al-Baqer.

The Saturday statement was signed by various NGOs, including the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms, Al-Nadeem Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence, the Adala Center for Rights and Freedoms, the Cairo Center for Human Rights Studies, the Egyptian Front for Human Rights, and the Community For Justice.

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Trial of Nubian activists continues despite motion for judge’s recusal

Mada Masr
November 8th, 2018

Despite an outstanding motion for his recusal, Judge Mahmoud Abdeen presided over a trial session on November 4 in a case in which 32 Nubian activists are being tried on protest-related charges.

On October 28, Munir Bashir, a lawyer who is also a defendant in the case, submitted a motion for the recusal of Judge Abdeen in Case 26/2017 “for not complying with requests made by the defense team,” according to defense lawyer Amany Mamoun. A hearing to

review the motion in front of the Aswan Court of Appeals was subsequently scheduled for November 25.

Nevertheless, on Sunday, Judge Abdeen resumed presiding over the case being tried by the Aswan Emergency State Security Misdemeanors Court, issuing a decision to postpone the trial until December 2, lawyer Ahmed Rizq, who was formerly a member of the defense team, told Mada Masr.

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Libyan National Army announces start of military trials for 'terrorist groups'

Nadine Dahan
Middle East Eye
Wednesday 7 November 2018

The self-styled [Libyan National Army](#) (LNA) has announced the start of military trials in eastern Libya for more than 200 people the armed group accuses of terrorism.

Speaking to Arabic language news website Asharq al-Awsat on Thursday, LNA spokesperson Ahmed Mismari described most of those accused as "highly dangerous".

He said the LNA's fight against "terrorist groups" in Benghazi and Derna - two major cities in the east of the country - is over.

Still, the announcement of military trials has sparked concern over whether the hearings will be fair, especially since they will be overseen by the LNA.

"It is hard to imagine that any of these trials will be fair and free from interference by the LNA," Riccardo Fabiani, a geopolitical analyst at Energy Aspects, told Middle East Eye.

"The LNA was formed around a very broad definition of terrorism - so any consideration for these prisoners' rights is likely to be at the bottom of the LNA's priorities and, inevitably, of the courts that will try them."

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Tunisia's deep structural inequality will take generations to unwind

Max Gallien

Middle East Eye

Wednesday 7 November 2018

At a recent workshop, a young Tunisian politician stands in front of a flip chart, where he has drawn a platform meant to represent the new "21st-century economy". It is held up by multiple pillars: transparency, digital education, internet connections, and equality of opportunity.

Along the pillars, he has drawn little stick figures - Tunisia's youth - who, unshackled from the barriers of authoritarianism, are pulling themselves up the columns, to surf the waves of the global economy. "The wave is coming," he declares with a dramatic flair.

Legacies of neglect

The politician, who asked not to be identified, echoes what has become a common part of the narrative around post-revolutionary development and job creation in Tunisia. It is a powerful discourse: the myth of the level playing field. It recognises that the economic logic of authoritarianism has created deep structural obstacles and inequalities throughout Tunisia's labour market, barring many young people with talent from jobs, investments and opportunities.

The common recommendation is to get rid of these barriers - to create new opportunities determined by performance, not patronage. "We need to level the playing field" is the chorus of the day, suggesting that the previously marginalised will pull themselves to the top.

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POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Part-time Lecturer for Politics of Near and Middle East at the academic center in NYU Washington, DC

Consideration for applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

NYU Washington, DC is seeking a local, part-time lecturer to teach an undergraduate politics course, in spring 2019. The course will meet once per week for 3 hours for 14 instructional weeks (3 hours each session) plus a 15th session during "finals week" for the final exam. The instructor role includes all preparation, delivery, and grading. Using Washington, DC as a learning tool (e.g., a guest speaker, an excursion) is an expectation for the course. Courses

are to be intellectually challenging in content, and rigorous student assessment is required.

Course Description: Politics of Near and Middle East is a survey course exploring the politics of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) from both comparative politics and international relations perspectives. It focuses on the national internal politics of the region, the economic, military and other dimensions of international relations among the MENA countries, and attempts by the U.S., Russia, China, and the EU to exercise influence in the region. Please review a sample syllabus for more details about the course.

Qualifications A PhD in political science or a related discipline preferred. Preference will be given to applicants with area expertise who conduct research using Middle East languages.

Application Instructions All applications must be made online through Interfolio ByCommittee at <http://apply.interfolio.com/57056>. If you are new to using Interfolio Faculty Search you may find the following guide useful: Job Applicant's Guide to Interfolio Faculty Search. Applications must include a cover letter, an updated CV, and list of references. In the cover letter, please highlight any relevant experience you have in teaching and describe your teaching and philosophy. Applicants are also encouraged to submit a sample course syllabus (optional).

Consideration for applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Applications will be reviewed jointly by NYU Washington, DC and NYU New York. The salary will be based on equivalent and appropriate rates for the course. Terms and conditions will be discussed with the successful applicant. Please direct any questions to Fatemeh Hosseini, Assistant Director of Academic Affairs at NYU Washington, DC via email at fh39@nyu.edu.

More information and application [here](#)

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Professorship in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Bern

Deadline for applications: November 30th, 2018

The Institute seeks a scholar with a very good knowledge of the field as a whole and excellent proficiency in at least one language of the MENA region. In their own research, applicants should have historical expertise (preferably in political, social or economic history) oriented towards questions of the present, as well as a high degree of theoretical competence that also informs their teaching.

Depending on his or her formal qualifications, the successful applicant will be employed as assistant professor with tenure track, as associate professor or as full professor. An assistant professorship requires an outstanding PhD and a second, advanced research project.

Candidates for an associate or full professorship are required to have a habilitation thesis or equivalent qualifications.

The language of instruction and administration at the University of Bern is German. Applicants are expected to acquire a good working knowledge of German within two years.

The University of Bern is committed to equal opportunities in employment, in particular to increasing the number of women in senior academic positions. Women are therefore strongly encouraged to apply. Dual applications for job-sharing are possible.

Date of Appointment: August 1st, 2019

More information and application [here](#)

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Research Fellow and Senior Research Fellow for Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore

Deadline: November 30th, 2018

The Middle East Institute (MEI) is looking for outstanding researchers for the following positions:

1. Research Fellow
2. Senior Research Fellow

Applicants should **only apply for ONE of the positions.**

As a Singapore-based research institute, MEI is well-positioned between the Middle East and East Asia. We are therefore on the look-out for researchers who not only have an in-depth knowledge of the Middle East but also understand Northeast or Southeast Asia. In particular, we seek researchers with expertise in the following areas of relevance to the Institute's Research Clusters:

1. Politics
 - a. Gulf Politics, including Saudi Arabia and Iran. Candidates should have in-depth expertise on individual countries, and a lively understanding of the animating dynamics of the Gulf region. Candidates who combine research with policy briefs and media commentary would be at an advantage.
2. Middle East Politics. Topics of interest are Political Economy, Resource Curse, Rentierism, Diversification, Geostrategy, International Relations, Conflict. Candidates who combine research with policy briefs and media commentary would be at an advantage.

3. Military and Security Affairs. PhD holders or practitioners with work experience are welcome to apply. Candidates who combine research with policy briefs and media commentary would be at an advantage.
2. The Diffusion of Ideas
Fundamentalist or militant religious ideas or networks, Salafi or jihadi movements in the Middle East or Southeast Asia. The different channels through which ideas are diffused across regions and through countries: whether these are networks, via technology, education or through family and people-to-people contacts. Candidates who combine research with policy briefs and media commentary would be at an advantage.
3. Economics Or Business
MEI is looking to hire researchers and practitioners in business and economics. Holders of PhD degrees or MAs with industry experience are welcome to apply. MEI has a major interest in the burgeoning commercial and economic links between the Middle East and Asia. Fields of interest include banking and finance, sovereign wealth and public "private equity", public finance and country analysis, infrastructure, trade, energy, industry. Candidates who combine research with policy briefs and media commentary would be at an advantage.
4. Law
 - a. Islamic Law. Topics of interest include commerce, finance, Salafism, how Islamists use law in politics, social debates and controversies. PhD holders, MAs with work experience or lawyers with professional law degrees will be considered. Candidates who combine research with policy briefs and media commentary would be at an advantage.
 - b. Private International Law, and Commercial Law. MEI has interest in the legal aspects of growing links between the Middle East and Asia in trade, construction, finance, infrastructure, alternate dispute resolution, BRI. PhD holders, MAs with work experience or lawyers with professional law degrees will be considered.

More information and application [here](#)

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Assistant Professor in Anthropology and Middle Eastern Studies, Croft Institute for International Studies, University of Mississippi

The Croft Institute for International Studies (www.croft.olemiss.edu) and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology (<http://socanth.olemiss.edu>) at the University of Mississippi invite applications for a Croft Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Studies. This is a joint-appointment, tenure-track position with a start date of August 2019. We are seeking an anthropologist of the Middle East. Preference will be given to critical medical anthropologists and/or engaged cultural anthropologists who work with refugee/migrant populations. Scholars who utilize rigorous cross-subdisciplinary methodologies are especially encouraged to apply. The successful candidate will be able to

teach a survey course on the Middle East, introductory and thematic courses for Anthropology and International Studies as well as upper-level and graduate courses in their regional and thematic areas.

Candidates must demonstrate an active fieldwork program, a strong commitment to teaching, and the language proficiency to conduct original research in Arabic. Ph.D. in Anthropology is required by the time of appointment. Tenure and promotion reside in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Teaching and service responsibilities will be divided equally between the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the Croft Institute. The Department of Sociology and Anthropology offers BA and MA degrees in Anthropology. The Croft Institute, a signature program on campus, administers the major in International Studies within the College of Liberal Arts. Interested candidates should apply by uploading a letter of application and curriculum vita. Candidates must also submit a statement of current and projected research interests, evidence of teaching effectiveness, a writing sample, and names and contact information for three individuals who can be contacted for letters of recommendation.

More information and application [here](#)

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Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity Fellowship Opportunity

Deadline: November 20th, 2018

The Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity programme is offering residential and non-residential fellowships at the LSE International Inequalities Institute. The programme aims to bring activists and social change leaders from around the world to LSE. With a focus on the global South, this year they are targeting the MENA region.

More information and application [here](#)

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