



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

Editor: Iman Dawood (i.s.dawood@lse.ac.uk)

23.11.2018

CONTENT

Call for Papers & Conferences	4
The Iranian Revolution as a World Event	4
"Mapping the Role of Intellectuals in Iranian Modern and Contemporary History"	6
Annual Palestine Research Seminar	7
5th China and The Middle East and North Africa Conference	8
Call for Articles on "Contact" for Special Issue of Peer-reviewed Online Journal "Middle East – Topics & Arguments" (META).....	9
Call for Articles on "Islam in Europe, Religious Pluralism, Immigration" for Special Issue of "Religions"	11
Talks & Other Events	11
On manifestations of protest space: Revisiting the spatial manifestations of the post-election protests in 2009.....	11
The Rule of Violence: Subjectivity, Memory and Government in Syria	11
What do 'The People' Want? Social Justice, Democracy, Religion and Migration in the Middle East	12
EUME Berliner Seminar: Musical Life in Beirut: Leisure, Cosmopolitanism and Struggles at the Beginning of the 20th Century	12
Recent & Forthcoming Books	13
Shooting a Revolution: Visual Media and Warfare in Syria.....	13
Islamists and the politics of the Arab uprisings: governance, pluralisation and contention	14
Modern Woman in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Rights, Challenges and Achievements	14
Journal Articles & other Academic Publications	15
Understanding Arab civil society: functional validity as the missing link.....	15
Magical realism and metafiction in Post-Arab spring literature: narratives of discontent or celebration?.....	15
Pleading for a place in modern Egypt: negotiating poverty and patriarchy, 1908–1913	16
From local revolutionary action to exiled humanitarian work: activism in local social networks and communities' formation in the Syrian post-2011 context	16
New Social Movements: The Case of Youth's Political Project in Egypt: Comparing the 1919 and 2011 Revolutions.....	17
Morocco's Hirak movement and legacies of contention in the Rif.....	17
News Pieces & Commentary	18
Matthew Hedges' wife slams UK inaction as lecturers vote for UAE boycott	18
Airbnb is removing its listings in Israeli settlements.....	19
Thousands protest Tunisia's public sector cuts.....	20

Turkey hands list of Gulen suspects to US, requests extradition.....	20
Positions and Opportunities	21
Postdoctoral position in Mediatized Diaspora: Contentious Politics among Arab Media Users in Europe	21
Professorship in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies.....	22
Guest Professorship for Women’s and Gender Research Research Focus in “Feminism and Social Movements”	23
Head of Programs for the New Arab Centre for Research, London.....	24
Dean of School of Humanities and Social Sciences, American University in Cairo	24
Chairpersons for Five Academic Departments at the University of Sharjah, UAE	25
Faculty Positions in Politics and International Relations/Comparative Politics, Doha Institute for Graduate Students	26

CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

The Iranian Revolution as a World Event

December 13-14, 2018
University of Amsterdam

Marking the 40th anniversary of the Iranian Revolution of 1978-79, the Amsterdam Initiative for Iranian Studies (AIIS) organises this conference to stimulate research on its causes, dynamics and global ramifications.

There is only a limited number of seats available, RSVP please: iranianrevolutionconference@gmail.com.

Keynote lecture (public event)

Dr. Behrooz Ghamari-Tabrizi (Princeton University)

The Iranian Revolution and Its Detractors: "A Leap Into the Open Air of Historical Possibilities"

13 December, 17.00 - 19.00

The keynote lecture will be at a different venue: Spui25, Spui 25-27, Amsterdam

Program and Panels

Thursday 13 December

9.00 Opening by Peyman Jafari and Artemy Kalinovsky

9.15 Welcoming words by Touraj Atabaki

9.30 The Iranian Revolution and International Politics

- Maaïke Warnaar (Leiden University)
The Iranian Revolution as seen from The Netherlands
- Craig Daigle (City College of New York)
The Iranian Revolution and the Making of the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty
- 10.45 The International Left and the Iranian Revolution
- Dmitry Asinovskiy (European University at St.Petersburg)
Ideology and pragmatism in the early Soviet assessments of the revolution in Iran
- Siavush Randjbar-Daemi (University of St. Andrews)
Interested and Invested Observers: The Partito Comunista Italiano and the Iranian Revolution
- Claudia Castiglioni (University of Milan)
The European Intellectual Left and the Fall of the Shah
- Jeremy Friedman (Harvard Business School)
Who lost Iran? Socialism and Islam in the Iranian Revolution

12.30 Lunch

13.15 Transnational networks and ideas

- Iman Lechkar (Free University of Brussels)
The impact of Khomeini and Iranian revolution in Sunni conversion to Shia Islam
 - Simon Wolfgang Fuchs (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg)
How to Import a Revolution: Shi'is, Islamists, and their Opponents in Pakistan
 - Philip O Hopkins (Russian-Armenian University/SOAS)
American Missionaries' Reflections of the Events Before, During, and After the Islamic Revolution
 - Manijeh Nasrabadi (Barnard College)
Transnational Revolutionary Legacies: Iranian foreign students and the Third World left in the United States
 - Arash Davari (Whitman College)
Tehran '68: Collectivist States and Human Rights Guerrillas in the Long 1970s
- 17.00 - 19.00 Keynote lecture (see above)

Friday 14 December

9.15 Rethinking Revolutionary Islam

- Sarah Marusek (University of Leeds)
Islam and Revolution: A Critical Muslim Studies Approach
 - Leili Adibfar (University of Illinois)
Ali Shariati; Islam, Modernity, and the Complicated Aesthetic of the Iranian Revolution
 - Mojtaba Mahdavi (University of Alberta)
Public Religion and the 1979 Revolution: Did Progressive Muslims Pave the Way for the Hegemony of Khomeinism
 - Christopher Pooya Razavian (University of Birmingham)
Why did social justice become a central theme for Mottahari?
- 11.15 The Subaltern and the Iranian Revolution
- Shirin Saeidi (University of Arkansas)
Building Another Kind of World: Iranian Women and Spiritual Acts of Citizenship from 1980-88
 - Allan Hassaniyan (University of Exeter)
The Iranian Popular Revolution (1978-79) and the Kurdish National Movement
- 12.30 Lunch

(conference continues in room E102, Bushuis)

13.15 The Subaltern and the Iranian Revolution

- Stella Morgana (Leiden University)
Consolidating the Revolution in the Factory: The Islamic Republic's Narratives on Labor in Posters and May Day Speeches
- Touraj Atabaki (International Institute of Social History)
Iran's Marxist Left and Labour on the Eve of the Revolution
- Negar Mottahedeh (Duke University)
Falqoosh: Listening to the Revolution on Kate Millett's cassette tapes

15.15 Making Sense of the Iranian Revolution

- Naghmeh Sohrabi (Brandeis University)
Rethinking the Iranian Revolution as a "World Event"
- Kamran Matin (Sussex University)
The Revolution Against Capital?: 1979 in International Perspective
- Peyman Jafari (University of Amsterdam/International Institute of Social History)
Social Theory and the Iranian Revolution
- Michiel Leezenberg (University of Amsterdam)
Revolution as a World-Historical Category: Foucault's Iranian Writings Reconsidered

17.00 Roundup

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

"Mapping the Role of Intellectuals in Iranian Modern and Contemporary History"

Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS

December 1st, 2018

9 AM-6PM

At the crossroads between tradition and modernity in the modern history of Iran stand generations of intellectuals, diverse in their backgrounds and views, who struggled to mediate the transition from traditionalism to modern mode of thinking. Yet for many decades the development of democratic ideas was held back by intellectual elites who surrendered their critical independence to the dogmas of ideologies such as Stalinism and Islamism. As a result, many among the Iranian intellectuals became handmaidens of power rather than agents of the Iranian Enlightenment. That is the reason why the Iranian revolution was not accompanied with an intrinsically critical nature among the Iranian intellectuals which would impel them to speak the truth to power.

The shock of the Revolution and the re-evaluation of political ideals have been part of a learning process that has generated a collective sense of responsibility among the post-revolutionary intellectuals in Iran and led them to opt for cultural dissent rather than ideological politics.

Forty years after the Revolution, how can we evaluate the role of Iranian intellectuals in the history of Iranian modernity and in the process of the Iranian democratic debate? This question and many others are some of the key points this one-day conference – organised by the Centre for Iranian Studies at SOAS – will explore.

Confirmed speakers:

- Professor Saeed Paivandi (University of Lorraine) on "Amir Kabir"

- Professor Ramin Jahanbegloo (Jindal Global University – India) on "Muhammad Ali Foroughi"
- Professor Homa Katouzian (St Antony's College, Oxford) on "Sadeq Hedayat"
- Professor Ali Ansari (St Andrews University) on "Nationalism"
- Professor Haideh Moghissi (York University) on "Iranian Women"
- Professor Farhad Khosrokhavar (EHESS – France) on "Shariati and Jalal Al Ahmad"
- Professor Touraj Atabaki (IISH, Amsterdam) on "Iranian Marxist Intellectuals"
- Professor Farzin Vahdat (Vassar College – USA) on "Islamic Thinkers"

Admission: £10 standard; £5 students (proof of students status required). The registration fee includes lunch and refreshments.

More information [here](#)

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

Annual Palestine Research Seminar

SOAS University of London

27 February 2019

Abstract Deadline: December 1st, 2018

We are pleased to share with you the call for papers for the annual Centre for Palestine Studies research seminar to be held at SOAS University of London on Wednesday February 27 2019. This one-day research seminar provides a critical platform for PhD students working on Palestine or Palestine-related issues to present their projects and discuss theoretical and research questions.

We welcome a broad range of topics aiming at an inter-disciplinary dialogue across Palestine Studies. This is a unique opportunity to present PhD or Postdoctoral research in a supportive environment and receive feedback from others engaged in the field.

If you are interested in presenting, please submit an abstract of approximately 300 words along with a brief bio to Dr Rafeef Ziadah at rz2@soas.ac.uk by December 1 2018.

Panels will be organised around themes that emerge from the papers and will be assigned with a discussant to respond to the papers.

More information [here](#)

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

5th China and The Middle East and North Africa Conference

Northwest University, Xi'an, China

May 16, 17 and 18, 2019

Abstract Deadline: April 15th, 2019

Co-Sponsored by Chinese Journal of Middle East Studies

Shanghai University, People's Republic of China

<http://en.shu.edu.cn/>

Cappadocia University, Republic of Turkey

<https://www.kapadokya.edu.tr/english/>

Description and Objectives:

We organized four very successful academic conferences on this topic in collaboration with Beijing University, on March 17-18, 2015; Qatar University, on March 23-24, 2016; Shanghai University, on June 7-8, 2017; and Nevsehir Haci Bektas Veli University and Cappadocia University on June 20-22, 2018. This year, we will have 5th China and the Middle East Conference in Xi'an, on May 16, 17 and 18, 2019.

We therefore invite submissions on the following and related topics:

Political Economy of the Middle East

Nationalism and Nation-State

Political Parties

Environmental Issues

Social Movements

Religion and Politics

Gender Issues in the Middle East

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Modern Middle East and Modern China

China's Foreign Policy Toward Middle East/West Asia

Energy

Trade

Economic Integration

The Belt and Road Initiative

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Call for Articles on "Contact" for Special Issue of Peer-reviewed Online Journal "Middle East – Topics & Arguments" (META)

Abstract Deadline: December 15th, 2018

Article Submissions: April 15th, 2018

Editors: Evgeniya Prusskaya (Russian Academy of Sciences) and Vera Tsukanova (Philipps-Universität Marburg)

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:

More information [here](#)

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

Call for Articles on “Islam in Europe, Religious Pluralism, Immigration” for Special Issue of “Religions”

Abstract Deadline: January 31st, 2018

Articles on Islam and political movements, social trends, Islamic authority, new media, gender, Islamic culture and branding Islam as well as keeping into account historical background and emerging trends of the presence of Islam in Europe will be particularly welcome.

More information email: stefano.allievi@unipd

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

TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

On manifestations of protest space: Revisiting the spatial manifestations of the post-election protests in 2009

November 28th, 2018

Room T101, SOAS

Reza Masoudi Nejad, SOAS.

The core idea of this presentation is about the manifestation and experience of ‘the protest space’. This ambition is developed based on juxtaposing spatial and ritual theory throughout an ethnographic curiosity. On one hand, the protest space is formulated as a topological space. On the other hand, the discussions revisit the protest within the framework of Victor Turner’s ritual theory, and articulating the protest space as a performed space. Addressing the spatial aspect of protest, this paper is about the spatial manifestation of the protest, and how this collective performance spatially comes into being and is experienced.

More information [here](#)

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

The Rule of Violence: Subjectivity, Memory and Government in Syria

26th Nov 2018 19:00 - 21:00

University of Edinburgh: Appleton Tower, Lecture Theatre 1

A Conversation with Professor Salwa Ismail (SOAS) and comment from Dr Mihaela Mihai (University of Edinburgh)

In *The Rule of Violence: Subjectivity, Memory and Government in Syria* (Cambridge University Press, 2018), Salwa Ismail examines the centrality of violence to the Asad regime's mode of governing Syria over a forty-year period. Drawing on extensive fieldwork carried out in Syria between 2005 and 2011 and on interviews with Syrians inside and outside Syria, a key question Ismail asks is how the regime's practices of violence – both spectacular and routine – were formative of Syrian political subjectivities, and what effect this violence had at the level of society and the individual. Governing through violence shaped Syrians' affective life, inciting in them feelings of abjection, humiliation, dread and horror. This form of rule is revealed to be constraining of citizens' political engagement, while also demanding of their action. *The Rule of Violence* illuminates our understanding of the Syrian present and provides insights into the conditions that entrenched polarization and division among Syrians and ultimately laid the ground for breaking their country apart.

More information [here](#)

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

What do 'The People' Want? Social Justice, Democracy, Religion and Migration in the Middle East

14th Dec 2018 15:30 - 18:30

University of Edinburgh

6th Floor Staff Room, Chrystal Macmillan Building, 15a George Square, EH8 9LD

A conversation with Dr Andrea Teti (Politics and International Relations, University of Aberdeen)

More information [here](#)

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

EUME Berliner Seminar: Musical Life in Beirut: Leisure, Cosmopolitanism and Struggles at the Beginning of the 20th Century

December 19th, 2018

Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin, Germany

Speaker: Diana Abbani (EUME Fellow 2018/19)

Chair: Yektan Turkyilmaz (EUME Fellow 2017-20)

Please register via eume@trafo-berlin.de.

In 1927, As'ad 'Aql, a journalist writing in al-Ma'raḍ newspaper signalled alarm over the epidemic popularity of Beirut's entertainment places. He wrote: "Can I describe [Beirut's] bright cabarets and clubs opened all night, its crowded theatres, thriving bars and ballrooms? In every street you find a tavern, a dancing or a gambling club. These are popular products

desired by the wealthy and the destitute, frequented by the rich and the penniless. [...] This is the progress of “Westernized” [ġarbiyya] Beirut, its nobility and its urbanism, Beirut hates stagnation and always walks, a step forward and twenty steps backwards”.

In these words, he summarised the impact of global changes on Beirut during the 1920s and 1930s. The musical scene reflected the image of a city entering modernity and presenting itself as an open and cosmopolitan one, with a particular inclination towards Western culture. Beirut opened gradually to the entertainment world of two major capitals: Cairo and Paris. On the one hand, the establishment of the French mandate (1919-1943) affected Beirut's musical life, provoking a growing tendency for the westernization of entertainment venues, ways of consuming music, as well as artistic and cultural tastes. While the arrival of Egyptian singers and vaudeville troupes to the Levantine city invaded its artistic scene, which was deeply influenced by popular Egyptian music. Many voices tried to imitate this music; others rose to criticize this Egyptian domination while seeking to find a distinct musical identity. In parallel to this Egyptian wave, Beirut tried to produce its own commercialized music: Satirical socio-political monologues (in the local dialect) and patriotic sung poems (in classical Arabic) flourished in the emerging modern city. A new “popular music” was being formed which was essentially an urban music closely related to the emergence of a new middle class, the market economy and new technologies. Through the analyses of 78-rpm records, newspaper articles and ads, Diana Abbani aims to follow the rise of the entertainment world in Beirut under the French mandate, and particularly the gradual formation of a new popular music in the city in a context of identity crises.

More information [here](#)

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

RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Shooting a Revolution: Visual Media and Warfare in Syria

Donatella Della Ratta
Pluto Press, November 2018

From ISIS propaganda videos to popular regime-backed TV series and digital activism, the Syrian conflict has been dramatically affected by the production of media, at the same time generating in its turn an impressive visual culture. Yet what are the aesthetic, political and material implications of the collusion between the production of this sheer amount of visual media being continuously shared and re-manipulated on the Internet, and the performance of the conflict on the ground?

This ethnography uses the Syrian case to reflect more broadly on how the networked age reshapes contemporary warfare and impacts on the enactment of violence through images and on images. In stark contrast to the techno-utopias celebrating digital democracy and participatory cultures, Donatella Della Ratta's analysis exposes the dark side of online practices, where visual regimes of representation and media production dramatically intertwine with modes of destruction and the performance of violence.

Exploring the most socially-mediated conflict of contemporary times, the book offers a fascinating insight into the transformation of warfare and life in the age of the internet.

[*Back to top*](#)

Islamists and the politics of the Arab uprisings: governance, pluralisation and contention

Hendrik Kraetzschmar, Paola Rivetti
Edinburgh University Press, 2018

What role does political Islam play in the genealogy of protests as an instrument to resist neo-liberalism and authoritarian rule? How can we account for the internal conflicts among Islamist players after the recent Arab uprisings? How can we assess the performance of Islamist parties in power? What geopolitical reconfigurations have the uprisings created, and what opportunities have arisen for Islamists to claim a stronger political role in domestic and regional politics? These questions are addressed by the contributors to this volume who look at the dynamics in place during the aftermath of the Arab uprisings in a wide range of countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

[*Back to top*](#)

Modern Woman in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Rights, Challenges and Achievements

Hend T. Al-Sudairy
Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2017

The first book to situate the Saudi woman in a broader cultural context, this text explores a variety of themes, historical developments, and social taboos. It also investigates a wide range of writing by Saudi women, beginning with the first attempt by a woman to write for the public in the middle of the twentieth century up to the peak of the Saudi woman's literary production in this millennium.

It is also concerned with the Saudi woman's social, economic, and religious contributions, making it possible for the reader to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the reality of Saudi women through studying and connecting the Saudi woman's past with her present. As such, this book represents a major contribution to the study of women in the Middle East, and offers a unique contrast between fictional presentation and lived experience.

[*Back to top*](#)

JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Understanding Arab civil society: functional validity as the missing link

Carmen Geha
British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies
February 2018

The study of civil society in the Arab region has been riddled with normative expectations largely derived from the experiences of civil society in other countries. While the region continues to endure a democratic deficit, it is also home to myriad civil society organizations working on a range of issues. The missing link when theorizing about Arab civil society has been in considering its functional validity in the eyes of the activists themselves. This article utilizes insights from focus groups with activists in Tunisia, Libya, Lebanon, Kuwait, Iraq and Syria to propose a typology of the functional validity that civil society offers to Arab activists. Despite the criticisms that the concept of civil society has faced in the region, activists continue to find validity in the work they are doing. The typology proposed here presents a fivefold validity of action through neutrality, mobilization, democratic claim, access to funds, and representation for civil society activists. By bringing in empirical evidence from the activists themselves we can move away from normative expectations about civil society towards a better understanding of the various functions that civil society organizations are fulfilling in different contexts across the region.

[Back to top](#)

Magical realism and metafiction in Post-Arab spring literature: narratives of discontent or celebration?

Abida Younas
British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies
September 2018

My study is an attempt to examine recent developments in post-Arab Spring fiction by Anglo-Arab immigrant authors. Instead of conforming to the traditional narrative modes and strategies, post-Arab Spring literature provides a bitter evaluation of the so-called Arab Spring and deconstructs the revolutionary rhetoric that heralds a new era for the Arab world by producing a counter-narrative. The selected novels, Karim Alrawi's *Book of Sands* and Youssef Rakha's *The Crocodiles*, use peculiar strategies to portray the fractured and cryptic realities of the Arab world. Written within the framework of realism, utilizing the literary strategies of postmodern literature, these writers unsettle the boundaries of literary genres and give rise to diverse phenomenal trends in Arab fiction. Using magical realism, Alrawi expands the traditional realist narrative style by blending realist elements with magical. By employing metafiction, Rakha formally exhibits the precarious scenario of the Arab world. Drawing on the theory of Magical Realism and Metafiction, these works are investigated in order to emphasize how this new writing reflects the unstable reality of the Arab Spring.

While it is too early to discern the characteristics of Post-Arab Spring literature, my research is a contribution to developing a framework in which to do so.

[Back to top](#)

Pleading for a place in modern Egypt: negotiating poverty and patriarchy, 1908–1913

Hoda. A. Yousef
British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies
July 2018

This paper examines the petitions of a poor woman, Jalila Sa'd, who sought educational opportunities and property from the Egyptian government between 1908 and 1913. Her interest in procuring a 'place' for her sons and her family in modernizing Egypt reflects the ways in which non-elites were able to participate in and move within the major physical and discursive public spaces of the era. This study argues that even those at the very edges of society were not categorically marginalized; rather, they were negotiating the dominant spatial hierarchies of their time in attempts to better their circumstances. This ability to navigate and participate in the prevailing discussions and institutions of the time demonstrates that even the most marginalized elements of Egyptian society were quite integrated into the project of 'modern Egypt', even if they did not always reap its benefits.

[Back to top](#)

From local revolutionary action to exiled humanitarian work: activism in local social networks and communities' formation in the Syrian post-2011 context

Laura Ruiz de Elvira
Social Movement Studies, November 5th, 2018

Based on empirical material collected in Lebanon and Turkey in 2014 and 2016, this paper focuses on Syrian activists and social aid networks operating from exile from 2011 onwards. By paying attention to what these activists do and say, to their individual trajectories (namely during the 2011 period and the first months of popular protests), and to their immediate 'environment', I shed light on how they give meaning to their humanitarian activity and on how they relate to politics. I also explore the way in which activists explicitly and implicitly contribute to the changing political dynamics of the conflict, for instance by supporting and constructing Syrian (exiled, displaced and besieged) communities. In so doing, I illustrate how informal networks created in situations of uprising may find an exit strategy by institutionalizing themselves and how they adapt to a context of war

characterized by fluidity, the sudden pluralization of the political arena and the need to negotiate space and resources with multiple 'players.'

[Back to top](#)

New Social Movements: The Case of Youth's Political Project in Egypt: Comparing the 1919 and 2011 Revolutions

Dina El-Sharnouby

Middle East Law and Governance, Volume 10, Issue 3, 2018

With the 2011 Revolution in Egypt, new forms of social mobilization and new possibilities for political interaction surfaced. The manifestation of these events suggested a different understanding of politics among particularly revolutionary youth. How do their values and practices affect political imaginaries? How are those imaginaries different from previous revolutionary struggles? This article highlights the political projects of the 2011 revolutionary youth versus previous revolutionary struggles by looking at youth activists and the case of the leftist Bread and Freedom party. Contrasting the Revolution of 1919 to 2011 in Egypt reveals a renewed call to social justice imagined to be practiced through the state and state institutions while minimizing ideology and a singular leadership in their mobilization strategies. Drawing on fieldwork done in 2014 and 2015, this paper suggests that the 2011 political project from youth's perspective is about the importance of political practices of social justice over an ideology.

[Back to top](#)

Morocco's Hirak movement and legacies of contention in the Rif

Anne Wolf

The Journal of North African Studies

October 25th, 2018

In August 2018, King Mohammed VI released 188 detainees linked to the Hirak al-Sha'bi (Popular Movement), which for over a year has led protests in Morocco's marginalised Rif region in the north of the country. The Hirak emerged in mid 2017 out of a wider protest movement sparked by the gruesome death of a fish seller in the Rif's coastal town of Al-Hoceima; in November 2016 Mouhcine Fikri was crushed to death by a rubbish truck as he tried to rescue the fish catch the police had confiscated from him on the grounds that he did not possess a fishing licence. This triggered major protests in the Rif and, in solidarity, demonstrations were organised in other regions and by the Moroccan diaspora community abroad. The protests in the Rif have continued ever since and soon widened their focus as they began to encompass the larger political and economic grievances of the region. Hirak activists

presented a list of key demands to the authorities, which included the establishment of a hospital, university, infrastructure projects and the demilitarisation of the Rif, demands that reflected the disenchantment in the region over its longstanding marginalisation from the rest of the country.

Continue reading [here](#)

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

NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

Matthew Hedges' wife slams UK inaction as lecturers vote for UAE boycott

November 22nd, 2018
Middle East Eye

Lecturers union members at Birmingham University vote to refuse work at the university's Dubai campus in wake of conviction

The wife of imprisoned British PhD student Matthew Hedges has blamed the UK government for failing to help her husband, a day after he was sentenced to life in prison in the United Arab Emirates.

Speaking to the BBC Today programme on Thursday, Daniela Tejada said that the British had been too fearful of upsetting their ties with their close ally.

"I got the impression that they were putting their interests with the UAE above a British citizen's rightful freedom and his welfare and his right to just a fair trial, just to freedom," she said.

"They were stepping on eggshells instead of taking a firm stance."

Hedges, 31, has lived in the UAE on and off since he was nine years old. He was in Dubai researching the UAE's foreign and internal security policies. He was originally arrested in May and spent months in solitary confinement with little consular access or contact with family members.

In a verdict that shocked his family, he was sentenced to life in prison on Wednesday for "spying", after a five minute hearing during which no lawyer was present.

Following the verdict, UK Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said he was "deeply shocked" by the sentence, while Prime Minister Theresa May said she was "deeply disappointed" and had instructed the foreign office to "continue to press this matter at the highest level with the Emiratis".

Continue reading [here](#)

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

Airbnb is removing its listings in Israeli settlements

November 19th, 2018
Middle East Eye

Home rental company Airbnb has announced it plans to remove listings in Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, a move that comes after several years of pressure from Palestinian human rights groups.

The US-based company said it currently has about 200 listings in Israeli settlements in the West Bank and made its decision after speaking to "various experts", including critics of Airbnb's listings in the occupied Palestinian territory.

"We concluded that we should remove listings in Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank that are at the core of the dispute between Israelis and Palestinians," the company said in a statement on its website Monday.

"Our hope is that someday sooner rather than later, a framework is put in place where the entire global community is aligned so there will be a resolution to this historic conflict and a clear path forward for everybody to follow," Airbnb said.

Israel's West Bank settlements are in violation of international law, which states that an occupying power cannot transfer its civilian population into occupied territory.

Palestinian and international activists have pushed for years to get Airbnb to remove its listings in the settlements, saying they promote "structural discrimination, theft of Palestinians' land, and direct violations of international law".

"Through earning fees from settlement vacation rentals, Airbnb is directly profiting from the continuing occupation and dispossession of Palestinians," a 2016 petition launched by rights groups, including Jewish Voice for Peace and CODEPINK, reads.

More than 153,000 people have signed the petition calling on Airbnb to suspend the settlement listings.

It remained unclear when Airbnb's settlement listings would come down, however.

On Monday afternoon, several listings in Israeli settlements were still available on Airbnb's website, MEE found.

An Airbnb spokesman told Reuters on Monday that the decision would take effect in the days ahead.

Continue reading [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Thousands protest Tunisia's public sector cuts

Al Jazeera
November 22nd, 2013

Tunisian civil servants have gone on strike around the country to protest the failure of negotiations with the government for wage increases, as buying power plunges and inflation soars.

About 650,000 public sector workers were joined by thousands of other people across [Tunisia](#) on Thursday to protest the government's refusal to raise wages amid threats from international lenders to stop financing its tattered economy.

Thousands gathered in front of parliament with chants of "shame on the government" and calls to be given their "rights."

Schools, universities, municipalities and ministries were shut and hospitals had only emergency staffing in the nationwide walkout organised by the UGTT union, the biggest strike action in Tunisia for five years.

Thousands took to the streets in cities including Sfax, Gabes, Sidi Bouzid and Kasserine. "I can't pay for my sons' food and studies out of a 900 dinar (\$309) salary," said 50-year-old teacher Nafisa who was protesting outside the parliament. "I can't pay back my bank loans."

Under pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and a deepening political crisis, [Prime Minister Youssef Chahed](#) is battling to cut the budget deficit to about 4.9 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) this year from 6.2 percent last year.

His unpopular reforms include cuts to the public sector, state companies and fuel subsidies.

Continue reading [here](#)

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

Turkey hands list of Gulen suspects to US, requests extradition

Al Jazeera
November 21st, 2018

Turkey has renewed its call for the United States to extradite Turkish religious leader Fethullah Gulen, and 83 alleged members of his movement, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said.

The Turkish government blames Gulen for the July 2016 coup attempt against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, but previous calls for his extradition have so far been ignored by the US.

Cavusoglu said on Tuesday he did not receive assurances on the extradition issue after meeting with his US counterpart Mike Pompeo and US national security adviser John Bolton during a visit to Washington.

Trump: US not considering Fethullah Gulen's extradition to Turkey
"But we have given this list of the people that we request the US to extradite," Cavusoglu said.

US President Donald Trump "asked Erdogan to send that list and I gave that list to both Pompeo and ambassador Bolton," he said.

Continue reading [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Postdoctoral position in Mediatized Diaspora: Contentious Politics among Arab Media Users in Europe

Application deadline: 25-11-2018

Employment start: 01-01-2019

The Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of Copenhagen (UCPH), Denmark, invites applications for a 11 months postdoctoral position in 'Mediatized Diaspora' to be filled by 1st of January 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter. The position is for 11 months.

Job content

The successful candidate will join the collaborative project 'Mediatized Diaspora. Contentious Politics among Arab Media users in Europe' that is headed by Associate Professor Ehab Galal. The project examines how Arabic diasporic communities in Europe use regime-critical and politically mobilized Arab media in transnational political action since 2011. The project is funded by the Independent Research Fund Denmark.

The candidate will be responsible for conducting a subproject on how media practices of Tunisian political activists living in Denmark, Sweden and France contribute to political transformation in Tunisia, focusing on their attempts to negotiate and contest interpretations of current developments. The candidate is expected to conduct qualitative interviews among members of the Tunisian diaspora in the elected countries, to analyze and conclude on the findings, and to contribute to the methodological and theoretical discussions of the project.

Place of Employment and Work: The place of employment and daily work is Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen.

Qualification requirements

In order to be considered for the position applicants must have research qualifications at least corresponding to what can be achieved as part of a successfully completed PhD within a relevant field.

- A PhD in Cross-Cultural Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Media Studies, Arab Studies, Anthropology or equivalent research experience.
- Research experience in media or political activism in the Middle East or in Arab diaspora communities in Europe.
- Experience in qualitative and interview-based research.
- Good-organizational skills and a structured approach to fieldwork.
- Excellent English skills written and spoken.
- Advanced knowledge of either Arabic or French.

Desirable experience and skills:

- Research based knowledge on Tunisia or the Arab Spring.
- Knowledge of Danish language.

More information and application [here](#)

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

Professorship in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies

Bern University, Faculty of Humanities.

Application deadline: November 30, 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.

Tasks

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.

Requirements

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.

We offer

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.

Contact: Korbinian Seitz, +41 31 631 3816

Applications include an online questionnaire and a PDF (cover letter, curriculum vitae, list of publications, information on teaching experience, teaching philosophy, course evaluations, list of external funding and list of conferences organised to date).

More information and application [here](#)

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

Guest Professorship for Women's and Gender Research Research Focus in "Feminism and Social Movements"

Alpen-Adria-University of Klagenfurt

Application deadline: 14th December 2018

At the Alpen-Adria University (AAU) of Klagenfurt Gender Studies are integrated into all areas of study and can be completed as curricular extensions or as an elective programme (<https://www.aau.at/gender/studium/>). For Summer Semester 2020 we are seeking a guest professor with a research focus in "Feminism and Social Movements".

Requirement profile and teaching duties:

The Guest Professorship comprises 4 hours of teaching per week for a term (4SWS) covering the field of Gender Studies/Gender Research, two of which are dedicated for the lecture "Introduction to Gender Studies".

The applicant will be expected to present expertise, publications and teaching experience in the field stated above, with a clear focus on Gender Studies / Women's and Gender Research.

Requirements:

1. A university degree corresponding to the position sought at an Austrian or comparable foreign institution (completed Ph.D.)
2. Outstanding scientific qualifications in research and teaching in the area "Feminism and Social movements" as well as Gender Studies
3. Pedagogical and didactic qualification

Applications should comprise an academic Curriculum Vitae, which demonstrates the subject and academic qualifications of the applicant, a list of publications and a proposal for the teaching the guest professorship requires.

Applications for courses held in English are particularly welcome.

More information and application [here](#)

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

Head of Programs for the New Arab Centre for Research, London

The centre concentrates on the study of the Arab region, bilateral Arab-British relations and broader Arab-European ties. The centre will hold academic conferences and run research projects. Candidates should have a PhD in the social sciences from a reputable academic institution and experience in social science research.

More information and application email admin@arabcentre.org.uk

[*Back to top*](#)

Dean of School of Humanities and Social Sciences, American University in Cairo

Application deadline: 01/31/2019

The American University in Cairo invites applications and nominations for the position of Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. The School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HUSS) is made up of nine departments: Applied Linguistics; Arab and Islamic Civilizations; Arts; English and Comparative Literature; History; Philosophy; Political Science; Psychology; and Sociology, Egyptology and Anthropology. The School offers 35 degrees and diplomas at the undergraduate and graduate level, and boasts a world-class faculty who produce groundbreaking research and provide the finest liberal arts education in the region. Among the school's strengths are its state-of-the-art facilities for study and creative work in theatre, music and the visual arts, the only counseling psychology training clinic in the region, and two internationally recognized periodicals: Cairo Papers in Social Sciences and Alif: Journal of Comparative Poetics. HUSS upholds and shares AUC's commitment to the principles of academic freedom and freedom of expression.

We are searching for a dean with vision, imagination, and energy, possessing strong oral, written, and interpersonal communication skills. The candidate should be knowledgeable about and interested in developments in the arts, humanities and social sciences around the world. As the school's chief academic and administrative officer, the dean should be a practiced and collaborative manager, working closely with other senior administrative officers to enhance programs both within the school and across the university.

Responsibilities include coordinating, evaluating and improving curricula and programs; recruiting new faculty; promoting excellence in instruction and research; determining resource priorities and preparing the school's budget; and representing the school and its faculty to other divisions of the university and to the broader public. Strengths in support of the school's fundraising efforts will be considered an asset.

Requirements:

The successful candidate must have a doctoral degree in a discipline in the Humanities or Social Sciences (or comparable terminal degree in the Arts), ideally eight years of relevant

administrative experience, and a record of recognized scholarly research and teaching accomplishments sufficient to merit appointment as a full professor in one of the school's departments. Candidates must be enthusiastic about the prospect of living and working in Egypt. Salary and benefits are competitive, based on qualifications and professional experience.

Additional Information:

Confidential review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Application Instructions:

All applicants must submit the following documents via the online system: a) an updated C.V.; b) a letter of interest; c) names and contact information for at least three references familiar with your professional background; d) a completed AUC Personnel Information Form (PIF).

Your letter of interest should address your ability to lead a multi-disciplinary school and create a collaborative and inclusive environment.

More information and application [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Chairpersons for Five Academic Departments at the University of Sharjah, UAE

Application Deadline: Until position is filled.

The Academic Department Chairperson manages, provides guidance and coordinates all educational, research and teaching activities in the Department. Required Qualifications: PhD in the required specialization from a local or international reputable university; holding the rank of a professor; proficiency in Arabic and English writing and speaking. The candidate may expect to begin work in August 2019.

1. Chairperson of the Department of Foundations of Religion – College of Sharia and Islamic Studies: see <http://www.shariah.ac.ae/en/academics/Colleges/sh/dept/deen/Pages/default.aspx>
2. Chairperson of the Department of Jurisprudence and its Foundations – College of Sharia and Islamic Studies: see <http://www.shariah.ac.ae/en/academics/Colleges/sh/dept/fikh/Pages/default.aspx>

3. Chairperson of the Department of Arabic Language and Literature – College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences: see

<http://www.sharjah.ac.ae/ar/academics/Colleges/ahss/dept/ad/Pages/default.aspx>

4. Chairperson of the Department of Sociology – College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences: see

<http://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/academics/Colleges/ahss/dept/sd/Pages/default.aspx>

5. Chairperson of the Department of International Relations – College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences: see

<http://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/academics/Colleges/ahss/dept/IR/Pages/default.aspx>

Review of applications will begin on November 15, 2018 and continue until the position is filled.

For further information contact Marwa Saeed Khamis mkhamis@sharjah.ac.ae.

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

Faculty Positions in Politics and International Relations/Comparative Politics, Doha Institute for Graduate Students

Application Deadline: December 31st, 2018

Successful candidates will have a Ph.D. in Political Science from an internationally recognized academic institution. Applicants should have a broad theoretical and methodological training in Political Science with preference given to candidates who can teach courses on International Relations, Research Methods (quantitative and qualitative), Foreign Policy, and/or International Organizations.

While English is recognized as a language of learning and research in the DI, the candidate must have the ability to teach in Arabic. The successful candidate will be expected to engage in individual and collaborative research projects at different areas of Political Science working closely with colleagues across different disciplines. Also, the candidate will be expected to fully participate in the academic life of the DI.

The DI offers internationally competitive salaries and benefits commensurate with rank and experience, and the opportunity of promotion across ranks, subject to performance.

The appointment is scheduled to commence in September 2019.

Inquiries and applications (cover letter, detailed curriculum vitae, evidence of teaching experience, research statement, statement of teaching philosophy, publication/writing

sample, and three letters of recommendation) should be sent by 31 December 2018 to: careers@dohainstitute.edu.qa. For informal enquiries, applicants are encouraged to contact the Head of the Politics and International Relations Program, Dr. Khalil al-Anani (khalil.alanani@dohainstitute.edu.qa)

More information and application [here](#)

[Back to top](#)