



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

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

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# CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

## Call for Abstracts for Panel Proposal: Children's agency and politics in the MENA region

for the 26th International DAVO Congress, Hamburg 3-5 October 2019

Chiara Diana (ULB-Belgium) and Nazan Maksudyan (FU Berlin-Germany)

Deadline: June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019

As a part of the global world, the Middle East and North Africa region has also been the stage for wars, conflicts, revolutions and radical political changes which have deeply affected historical paths of the region and its populations from the nineteenth century onwards till the present day. Since the 2010-2011 revolutionary movements and the most recent popular mobilizations in the region, there is an emerging debate about the increasing political subjectivity of children and youth in the urban and marginalized centers of several countries, including Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Algeria, etc. The stereotypical and conservative public discourse, produced by mainstream journalists, politicians, and prosecutors, acknowledges that there are different versions and examples of the children's politicization and that they expressed some form of political agency. In this interpretation, children are portrayed as simply being deceived, manipulated, and exploited by certain politicized adults, since politics is conceived as a sphere in which children have no place. These contemporary opinions are not very different from those of mainstream history-writing, which has failed to add children to its account. Since the last decades, however, historians of children and youth attempt to construct a proper historical identity for children aimed to recognize their agency and political subjectivity, by highlighting children's experiences in political changing contexts, their unconventional forms of political participation, their everyday ways of doing politics and their forms of resistance to political settings constructed by adult people.

This panel intends to bring together scholars from different disciplines, specifically from anthropology, history, sociology, political science, who focus on different countries in the Middle East and North Africa region in different historical periods in order to enlarge our understanding of children's agency in present day societies as much as in historical accounts. Here, children's agency is not limited solely to the concept of participation in social, political and revolutionary movements or institutional political processes. Rather, it intends to take into account different individual or collective, rational and affective ways of acting, affecting and impacting politically. We employ an empowering and interdisciplinary approach that recognizes the importance of children's experiences and involvement during critical historical moments, as partakers, as active agents, and as witnesses. Individuals who wish to contribute can send a 300-word abstract with a short bio by 20 June 2019 to: Chiara Diana (Chiara.Diana@ulb.ac.be) and Nazan Maksudyan (maksudyan@gmail.com).

The panel will be sponsored by the Association of Middle East Children and Youth Studies AMECYS (<https://amecys.wordpress.com/>)

More information [here](#)

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## **“Middle East – Topics and Arguments” (META) Special Issue: Gender**

Deadline: July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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

Facing recent events and upheavals in the Arab World, this issue of META intends to conceptualize the category of gender in the context of changing social, political, and ideological configurations. Special attention will be given the collective protests that took over the Arab world in 2010 and 2011 and the second wave in Sudan and Algeria in 2019, when women and men claimed freedom and dignity side by side. The visibility of women in public spaces rekindles the ambiguous relation between feminism, patriarchy, and nationalism. It underscores the fluidity of borders that cuts across traditional concepts of bodies and voices and their respective spaces and opens political discourses for new diverse arrangements.

In the context of these upheavals, violence is an important aspect to consider. Although the protests had intended to be peaceful, violence was always present. This points to a systematized use of violence based on gender vulnerabilities. Governmental violence is not only thought to control protesting bodies in public spaces, it also controls bodies’ sexualities and sex orientations using accusations of “public indecency” and “inciting immorality”. These forms of sexualized and governmental violence contradict the presence of women as fighters in the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. We can observe the emergence of female militias, jihadists, and suicide bombers, as well as activist-heroes (e.g. Nadia Murad) and victims (e.g. the abuse of Yazidi women and children). At the same time, questions arise of the masculinity of the soldiers dragging the “blue-bra woman” in Egypt and of the appearance of violent popular suburban male heroes in TV series. These performances reassess the interplay between roles of femininity and masculinity in the wars and upheavals in the MENA region and modify traditional concepts of gender.

In this issue, we aspire to attract papers that go beyond classifying events of people’s demonstrations as ruptures or dichotomies of failure and success. We instead seek to perceive those events that include most of the Arab countries as a continuation of the decolonization process in a post-independence era, to observe the imploding of the old frameworks, and to scrutinize the reciprocity between the political and gendered body apart from men/women binaries to open the field to see gender empowerment in flux.

In this conceptual realm, we are interested in papers that look at gender relations as dynamic spaces establishing new political and/or ideological regimes in different historical periods and different spaces. Contrary to essentialist notions of gender, gender is understood here as being brought about by social and cultural norms and being constructed through historical and current discourses. Understanding gender as a productive category in the study of power relations, the publication is looking for practices and theoretical approaches, including queer theory, in order to look at how

regimes try to establish their hegemonic approaches via the regulation of gendered bodies and at subversive answers to it.

We are interested in textual and visual representations of gender relations; this can include artistic productions as well as everyday life practices that reflect, negotiate, and subvert new forms of gendered hegemony. Against the background of the practical and material turn, we invite papers that include ideas of “practices”, “objects”, and “infrastructures”.

An additional focus will be the intersectional relationships of gender. Although the Arab world is often perceived through a gendered perspective, other aspects – including social or ethnic backgrounds, class, national affiliations, generation, etc. – are relevant to explaining inequality and insecurity.

We are seeking articles from different disciplines that involve the Near and Middle East and North Africa, including history, ethnography, comparative literature, media studies, sociology, political science, and others.

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## **Workshop: Preparing for fieldwork in the MENA**

King’s College London on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Fieldwork on activism and conflict in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is increasingly dangerous for both researchers and their interlocutors. King’s College London, with support from the British Academy, is holding a one-day workshop in London to provide training for early career researchers who plan to conduct empirical research in the MENA.

The workshop will involve a series of practical sessions, led by academics and practitioners with a variety of experience in carrying out fieldwork. These sessions will focus on pre-fieldwork preparations, digital security and protecting informants, conducting interviews, and analysing open source information. To prepare researchers for the ethical approval process, there will be a Q&A with the chair of the research ethics board at King’s College London.

Preparing for research -- Ilyas Saliba (Amnesty International MENA)

Open source data analysis -- Ahmad Atif (WikiThawra Project)

Digital security -- Jannis Grimm (SAFEResearch)

Profile management -- Thoraya El-Rayyes (LSE)

Interviews -- Aymann Al-Tamimi (<http://www.aymennjawad.org>)

Interviews -- Inna Rudulf (KCL)

Ethical clearance -- Dr Michael Kandieh (KCL)

The workshop has 15 places for early career researchers (including PhD students, postdoctoral fellows, and lecturers). The workshop will be held at King's College London on 19 July 2019. Travel funds are available for those living outside of London.

To book a place on the workshop, please send a curriculum vitae and where you will be travelling from to [inna.rudolf@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:inna.rudolf@kcl.ac.uk).

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## TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

### **Stop the massacre in Sudan - Victory to the revolution**

June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 1-5PM

Trafalgar Square, London

Stand in solidarity with Sudanese activists after troops from the Transitional Military Council killed at least 35 people taking part a peaceful sit in outside the Army General Command in Khartoum on 3 June and many others across Sudan. Hundreds have also been injured after the Rapid Support Forces militia led by war criminal General Hemedti, regular troops and security forces went on the rampage.

Opposition alliance, the Declaration of Freedom and Change forces, has called for an open-ended strike and civil disobedience until the fall of the regime:

"After a day of a massacre on civilians, committed by the combined forces of the Sudanese military, the Janjaweed militias (also called the 'Rapid Support Forces'), the 'national security' forces and other militias, in Khartoum and other cities and towns of Sudan, the DFC declare 'an escalation of the revolution'."

London protest organised by the The Alliance of Sudanese Political Forces (ASPF), Sudanese Associations and Trade Unions (SATU) and the Sudanese Communities in the UK. Supported by MENA Solidarity Network. Bring trade union banners.

*More information* [here](#)

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## RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

### **Lifeworlds of Islam**

Mohammed A. Bamyeh

Oxford University Press, May 2019

How do old ideas continue to appear relevant in a modern world? A sociological approach to Islam allow us to approach an answer to this question.

In *Lifeworlds of Islam*, Mohammed A. Bamyeh shows that Islam has typically operated not in the form of standard dogmas, but more often as a compass for practical individual orientations or "lifeworlds." Through a comprehensive sociological analysis of Islam, he maps out how Muslims have employed the faith to foster global networks, public philosophies, and engaged civic lives both historically and in the present. Bamyeh further argues that all three fields are poorly understood in recent literature, which tends to focus on one specific problem or another and does not take into account the variety of lifeworlds in which Islam operates. The book contends that the larger preoccupations of ordinary Muslims-how to imagine a global society, how to guide life in the manner of a total philosophy, and how to relate to the world of daily struggles in organized or semi-organized civic forums and social movements-are neither unique to the present period nor to religious life. They are rather shared universal quandaries.

A focused empirical lens on the career of a religion, *Lifeworlds of Islam* contributes to the larger literature and provides insight into the nature of global citizenship, the philosophical needs of individuals, and the ethical values that foster social participation.

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## **The Rise of Islamic Political Movements and Parties: Morocco, Turkey and Jordan**

Esen Kirdiř

Edinburgh University Press, May 2019

Although regarded as a single community of Islamists, Islamic political movements utilise vastly different means to pursue their goals. This book examines why some Islamic movements facing the same socio-political structures pursue different political paths, while their counterparts in diverse contexts make similar political choices.

Based on qualitative fieldwork involving personal interviews with Islamic politicians, journalists, and ideologues – conducted both before and after the Arab Spring – author Esen Kirdiř draws close comparisons between six Islamic movements in Jordan, Morocco and Turkey. She analyses how some Islamic movements decide to form a political party to run in elections, while their counterparts in the same country reject doing so and instead engage in political activism as a social movement through informal channels. More broadly, the study demonstrates the role of internal factors, ideological priorities and organisational needs in explaining differentiation within Islamic political movements, and discusses its effects on democratisation.

Key features:

Discusses internal debates taking place within six Islamic movements in three countries

Compares Islamic movement behaviour across different countries and within the same country  
Compares different Islamic movement coming from diverse Islamic trends including the Muslim Brotherhood, Salafism, Sufism and Islamic parties  
Informed by qualitative fieldwork in Turkey, Morocco and Jordan, involving personal interviews with party/movement leaders and archival research on numerous party/movement documents and statements  
Develops a theory of party formation in authoritarian regimes where there are no obvious benefits to party politics

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## **Routledge Handbook of Minorities in the Middle East**

Edited by Paul S Rowe  
Routledge, 2018

The *Routledge Handbook of Minorities in the Middle East* gathers a diverse team of international scholars, each of whom provides unique expertise into the status and prospects of minority populations in the region. The dramatic events of the past decade, from the Arab Spring protests to the rise of the Islamic state, have brought the status of these populations onto centre stage. The overturn of various long-term autocratic governments in states such as Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Yemen, and the ongoing threat to government stability in Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon have all contributed to a new assertion of majoritarian politics amid demands for democratization and regime change. In the midst of the dramatic changes and latent armed conflict, minority populations have been targeted, marginalized, and victimized. Calls for social and political change have led many to contemplate the ways in which citizenship and governance may be changed to accommodate minorities – or indeed if such change is possible.

At a time when the survival of minority populations and the utility of the label minority has been challenged, this handbook answers the following set of research questions. What are the unique challenges of minority populations in the Middle East? How do minority populations integrate into their host societies, both as a function of their own internal choices, and as a response to majoritarian consensus on their status? Finally, given their inherent challenges, and the vast, sweeping changes that have taken place in the region over the past decade, what is the future of these minority populations? What impact have minority populations had on their societies, and to what extent will they remain prominent actors in their respective settings?

This handbook presents leading-edge research on a wide variety of religious, ethnic, and other minority populations. By reclaiming the notion of minorities in Middle Eastern settings, we seek to highlight the agency of minority communities in defining their past, present, and future.

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## JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

### **Social Media Activism in Egyptian Television Drama: Encoding the Counter-Revolution Narrative**

Gianluca P. Parolin

Middle East Critique

Published online: May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Egyptian Ramadan TV series have explored the relationship between law and television in a number of iterations over the past few years. In 2017, the most watched production (115 million views on YouTube), *Kalabsh*, went one step further by examining the interaction between television broadcasting and social media in affecting the course of justice. Even though its events revolve around the framing and wrongful incrimination of a 'good' police officer, the dynamics suggest a not-so-subtle reference to the January 25, 2011 uprising. It portrayed social media actors as naïve agitators, outsmarted and used by those same dark networks of business and politics that they intend to expose and ultimately to unseat. This representation strengthens the counter-revolution's narrative of the January 25 uprising as the making of some 'Facebook kids' ['iyāl bitū' il-face]. With *Kalabsh*, Egyptian TV series recalibrate the representation of the role of television broadcasting in affecting the course of justice and thus produce a new narrative that includes social media. This representation challenges as 'optimistic' the reading of the 'democratic' nature of social media by showing how its actors are even more prone to falling prey to mystifications and networks of corruption. The centrality of television broadcasting in affecting the course of justice clearly recedes in *Kalabsh*, but television broadcasting itself seems to regain some reputation.

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### **The metamorphosis of social movements into political parties. The Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood and the Tunisian al-Nahda as cases for a reflection on party institutionalisation theory**

Barbara H. E. Zollner

British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies

May 2019

The article studies newly established parties with roots in social movements. Using the post-Spring development of Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood and Tunisian al-Nahda as in-depth empirical cases, the study reflects on prevalent theoretical explanations for the transitions of social movements into political parties. The paper argues that extant literature on party system institutionalization and the development of social movement organizations do not adequately explain the driving factors for the transition process of movements into parties. A focus on party systems does not take note of the dynamics of movement-party relations, while social movement theory remains steeped in

conceptions of institutional evolution and 'natural progression' in politics. When rethinking party institutionalization, it needs to be recognized that it is a precarious process during which features of social movement activism overlap with the formalized engagement that characterizes political parties. The comparative study of the Muslim Brotherhood-led Freedom and Justice Party and the Tunisian al-Nahda Movement and its al-Nahda Party exemplifies that the degree to which leading parties emancipate themselves from the guardianship of their 'mother-organizations' is an essential factor for democratic state-building.

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## **Clients or challengers?: tribal constituents in Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE**

Courtney Freer

British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies

May 2019

Traditional understandings of Middle Eastern politics place tribes as critical supporters of ruling families; this dynamic is considered particularly strong within the smaller Gulf states, which are oftentimes even referred to as 'bedouinocracies'. While tribes undoubtedly hold political capital throughout the Middle East, it is uncertain to what extent they remain clients of Gulf regimes or are in fact independent, and potentially oppositional, actors. This paper examines electoral outcomes for the Kuwaiti legislature, Qatari municipal council, and Emirati consultative council to understand the extent to which major tribal groups take collective action through electoral campaigns.

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## **NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY**

### **Algeria's Constitutional Council: July elections impossible**

Reuters/Al Arabiya

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

Algeria's constitutional council has concluded it will not be possible to hold presidential elections on July 4 as planned, state TV reported on Sunday, prolonging the country's transition after President Abdelaziz Bouteflika resigned two months ago.

The constitutional council cited a lack of valid candidates, saying it had received only two candidates, who were deemed invalid.

The vote was meant to elect a new president after Bouteflika ended his 20-year rule in the wake of mass protests calling for wider political reforms.

Demonstrations have continued, demanding an end to the dominance of the elite who have ruled since the country won independence from France in 1962.

The council did not set a new date for the presidential elections, asking interim President Abdelkader Bensalah to organize a vote at a later date, state television said.

Bensalah had been appointed as interim leader until July 9.

Protesters have called for his removal and that of Prime Minister Noureddine Bedoui, who was appointed by Bouteflika days before he stepped down.

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## **Sudan crackdown: At least 100 dead after attacks on protesters**

Middle East Eye

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

At least 100 people have been killed in a two-day crackdown on Sudanese protesters carried out by troops and paramilitaries, a doctors' committee close to the demonstrators said on Wednesday.

It said it had received eyewitness reports of bodies still to be recovered from the site of the sit-in as well as reports of bodies being dumped in the Nile by security forces.

A previous toll given by the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors had counted 35 dead since the security forces bloodily dispersed a weeks-long sit-in outside army headquarters in Khartoum on Monday.

But the doctors' committee said that it still expected the death toll to rise. It said at least 326 people were injured and that most required "urgent surgical intervention and intensive care".

Forty bodies were pulled out of the river near the capital Khartoum, the doctors' committee said on Wednesday. Video shared with Middle East Eye by an activist and verified by our correspondent appeared to show a body being recovered from the river.

Sudan's main opposition group has called for an international inquiry into the killing of the protesters.

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## **After the violent dispersal of the Khartoum sit-in: Revolutionaries block roads, start civil disobedience**

Mada Masr

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

“Armed soldiers threw me into the back of a military vehicle and beat me with the butts of their rifles. My blood soaked into my clothes while the vehicle drove to the district of Bori, east of Khartoum, where they threw me out to lay bleeding on the side of the road before a group of revolutionaries brought me to Yabstashiroun Hospital. As soon as my wounds were stitched, Rapid Support Forces stormed the hospital, but the doctors managed to hide me under the table they were working on.”

Bakri Othman, 28, whose head and hands were wrapped in medical gauze, recalled the events of Monday at dawn, after Rapid Support Forces stormed the sit-in outside of the military headquarters in Khartoum, Sudan, and opened heavy gunfire, dispersing the protest. The number of casualties has risen to 35 confirmed dead and more than 150 injured, according to the Sudan Doctors Union.

“The violence I witnessed when the Rapid Support Forces stormed the sit-ins and when I was violently attacked during my arrest will only make us more determined to confront them with peaceful means,” Othman adds.

In Khartoum, protesters put up barricades on thousands of kilometers of the capital’s roads in response to the violent dispersal of the sit-in. “The only choice in front of us is to place these barriers and completely paralyze the country following the opposition’s calls and the military council backing away from the deal,” Othman says as he rebuilds barricades in the Jabra neighbourhood in eastern Khartoum.

Following the dispersal of the sit-in, the Sudanese Professionals Association, which has been a key organizer of the protests, called for full civil disobedience and renewed its call for a comprehensive work strike following the Eid al-Fitr holiday, which began on Tuesday. Partial blocks of the internet and other communications infrastructure have carried on for the second consecutive day.

Ismael al-Taj, spokesperson for the association, told Mada Masr that the state of paralysis in the capital and other cities points to the success of the planned civil disobedience. According to Taj, the disobedience will grow on Sunday after the holiday, when people from influential sectors like banking and the judiciary will join in.

Taj added that Sudan is living in a state of anger following the ruling Transitional Military Council’s decision to abandon the agreement reached with the Freedom and Change Coalition, which assumed representation of the Sudanese opposition. These repeated attacks by the Rapid Support Forces on groups of civilians will only escalate this anger, especially in Khartoum where they have been firing live ammunition and striking people with whips, he said.

Yabstashiroun Hospital was not the only hospital receiving protesters that was raided by the Rapid Support Forces. They also raided al-Moalem and Royal hospitals near the protest camp, eyewitnesses

told Mada Masr. The forces raided and assaulted doctors at East Nile and al-Jawda hospitals after the doctors announced that they would treat wounded people from the protests, despite being located far from the sit-in.

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## **'Eid turned into a funeral': Sinai attack leaves Egyptian soldiers dead and questions hanging**

Middle East Eye  
June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Mohamed and his family were attending prayers for Eid in the North Sinai city of Arish early on Wednesday morning when they heard fireworks.

But they soon realised the fireworks were, in fact, explosions and gunfire, and ran from the open hall where they had gathered, Mohamed told Middle East Eye. MEE is not publishing the full names of those interviewed to protect their safety.

Nearby, militants in the restive North Sinai city had launched an attack, starting with a police checkpoint. When a backup squad arrived at the scene, it was ambushed by a second group of militants, a Sinai-based military source told Middle East Eye.

At least eight security personnel, mostly conscripts, were killed in the attack, and five militants were also killed in an ensuing gun battle, according to Egypt's Ministry of Interior. Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the attack, but MEE could not independently verify the [statement](#).

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## **'No real check on Israeli power' leaves Palestinians stateless**

Aljazeera  
June 18, 2019

As Palestinians mark 52 years since Israel captured the whole of historic Palestine, their bid for self-determination remains in the hands of Israel and its strongest ally, the United States.

The yet-to-be-revealed US Middle East peace plan, dubbed the "deal of the century" by President Donald Trump, is expected to do little to assist the Palestinians in their struggle for freedom and statehood, years after the Oslo Accords proved futile.

The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), which represents the Palestinians internationally, wants an independent state based on the de-facto borders before the Six-Day War of 1967, in which Israel occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and annexed East Jerusalem. It also captured Egyptian and Syrian territory during the war.

Known by Palestinians as the Naksa, or the setback, the 1967 war came 19 years after the creation of the state of Israel - when Zionist militias took over the majority of Palestine and established a Jewish state.

The Naksa saw the displacement of more than 300,000 Palestinians - many of whom had sought refuge in these territories after the 1948 war, known by Palestinians as the Nakba, when more than 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly displaced from their homes and villages.

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## **Will there be a counter-revolution this time? The seasons after the Arab Spring**

Gilbert Achcar  
Le Monde diplomatique  
June 2019

Images of popular protests that recall the revolutionary movement of 2011 have dominated news from the Arabic-speaking world for months. Uprisings began in Sudan on 19 December and in Algeria with the marches of Friday 22 February. They revived memories of the huge, peaceful demonstrations early in the Arab Spring that shook Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen, Libya and Syria.

Commentators have been more cautious this time, asking questions rather than commenting directly, mindful of the bitter disappointment that followed their initial euphoria over the Arab Spring. The repression of the 2011 uprising in Bahrain, crushed after only a few weeks with the help of the other oil monarchies of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), could have been the exception, given the unique characteristics of that club of states. But two years later the region entered a counter-revolutionary phase, with a new chain reaction going the other way.

Bashar al-Assad launched a new offensive in Syria in spring 2013 with the help of Iran and its regional allies. Then came the army-backed establishment of a repressive regime in Egypt, and the return to power of members of Tunisia's ousted government; in Cairo and Tunis, forces linked to the Muslim Brotherhood hijacked the initial revolutionary impetus. Emboldened by 2013's developments,

remnants of the former regimes in Libya and Yemen formed opportunistic alliances with groups that had jumped on the bandwagon of the revolution and shared their hostility to the Muslim Brotherhood. Their attempts to take power by force ended in civil war. Enthusiasm gave way to melancholy in the 'Arab Winter' as the totalitarian terrorist enterprise ISIS gained a foothold.

Though this latest avatar of Al-Qaida was eventually crushed in Iraq and Syria (groups operating under the same franchise remain active in Libya, the Sinai peninsula and outside the Arab-speaking world), other counter-revolutionary forces remain on the offensive. The Assad clan continues its reconquest of most of Syria's territory with the help of Russia and Iran. In Egypt, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's despotic regime, careless of the potential impact of rebellions in Sudan and Algeria, has adopted a constitutional amendment that allows him to remain in power until 2030.

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## **The Egypt Death Penalty Index: a groundbreaking new tool in the fight for human rights in Egypt**

Reprieve

Egypt is in the midst a human rights crisis. Since coming to power in 2013, the regime of current President Abdelfattah el-Sisi has overseen more than 144 executions and handed preliminary death sentences to more than 2,400 people. Ten of these were children.

Ahmed Saddouma was arrested when he was 17 for a crime he couldn't possibly have committed – it took place three weeks after his arrest. He was then tortured into making a false confession and sentenced to death in a mass trial of 30, mostly adult, co-defendants.

Ahmed's case is one of those we know about. But Egypt has handed out so many death sentences – both preliminary and confirmed – in recent years that it has overwhelmed the human rights activists, media outlets and policymakers trying to keep track. Many cases go unreported to international human rights mechanisms and media outlets. People get lost in the system.

In response to this crisis, Reprieve has created the Egypt Death Penalty Index— an open-source website that aims to track every single death sentence recommended by Egyptian courts since the January 25th 2011 revolution. The Index – at [www.egyptdeathpenaltyindex.com](http://www.egyptdeathpenaltyindex.com) – is a free, centralised database for anyone wishing to learn more about Egypt's application of the death penalty as a whole, or about individual death penalty trials or defendants, where Reprieve is at liberty to publish that information. The site includes statistical analysis of trends in Egypt's application of the death penalty as well as an option to download the full dataset in its raw form. The Index also offers an option for users to submit any missing information they may possess related to the death penalty in Egypt to site moderators, for verification and possible addition to the site, provided that such data can lawfully be publicised. You can read more about how to use the site [here](#).

This data compiled by Reprieve for the Index project is information that the UN General Assembly has said should be provided by any country that continues to apply the death penalty. The vast majority of executing states, including Egypt, have resolutely failed to do this, so it has fallen to civil society groups like Reprieve to build out these datasets from scratch.

We hope that this website will be a live, real-time report of capital punishment in Egypt, and serve as an invaluable resource to defendants and their families, human rights defenders, the legal community and the media. Most importantly, though, we hope that the international community – countries, and their leaders, that maintain strong ties with Egypt and so have real opportunities to influence el-Sisi’s regime – see this information as a wake-up call and start taking action wherever possible to curtail Egypt’s unlawful application of the death penalty.

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## POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### **Professor of History, The Department of History at The Pennsylvania State University**

Review of Applications: November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The Department of History at The Pennsylvania State University invites applications for a new endowed professorship, the Oliver McCourtney Professor of History, and invites applications for a position specializing in the Global South, broadly constructed. The appointment will be made at the rank of Professor, with tenure, and will begin in August 2020. The successful applicant should be able to enhance the graduate and undergraduate curricula, demonstrate an active research agenda of international distinction, and be able to contribute immediately to both graduate and undergraduate teaching in the department. Ph.D. is required at the time of appointment. For consideration, please submit a curriculum vitae, a letter of application that describes current and future research, and the names and contact information of three references. Review of applications will begin on November 15, 2019 and continue until the position is filled.

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

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## **Full-Time Non-Tenure Track Faculty Position, The School of International Service (SIS) at American University (AU)**

Review of Applications Begins Immediately

The School of International Service (SIS) at American University (AU) invites applications for a full-time, non-tenure track faculty appointment for AY 19-20. Rank will be dependent on experience and stature in the field. The appointment is for one year, commencing on July 1, 2019, with the expectation that the appointment may be renewed for subsequent academic years subject to satisfactory performance and budgetary authorization.

The position is intended for a person who would serve as the Administrative Director for our professionally-oriented Masters programs in International Development; Global Environmental Policy; and International Economic Relations. These professional programs collectively train 150 students each academic year and prepare graduates for careers in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

We are especially interested in candidates with administrative/management experience, who specialize in policy, practice, and/or scholarship at the intersection of sustainable development and international economics.

The Administrative Director provides leadership to their designated programs. By working closely with faculty, students, and staff, the director is well positioned to support community building and the distinct intellectual life of their respective programs. The successful candidate has responsibility for the design, delivery, and assessment of the curriculum; program-level recruitment and conversion strategies; and student professional and academic success.

In addition, the person selected would teach two courses per academic year in SIS at the graduate and/or undergrad level. All faculty are expected to hold office hours and participate in School and University activities and service.

The candidate would ideally have a record of excellence in teaching and administration. Applicants should hold a PhD in a social science discipline or equivalent (MA/MS and ten years of professional experience).

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

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

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## **Fairfield University Visiting Assistant Professor, Comparative Politics**

Review of Applications Begins Immediately

Fairfield University is a co-educational, comprehensive Jesuit university with a 200-acre campus located along the scenic shoreline community of Fairfield, CT. The University is comprised of approximately 3,500 undergraduate and 1,200 graduate students pursuing degrees within 5 schools: The College of Arts and Sciences, The Charles F. Dolan School of Business, The School of Engineering, The Marion Peckham Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies, and The Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions. As an expression of our Jesuit, Catholic mission and identity, Fairfield embraces a liberal humanistic approach to education, encouraging critical thinking, cultivating free and open inquiry, and fostering ethical and religious values.

The Politics Department at Fairfield University invites applications for a one-year full time visiting assistant professor position beginning Fall 2019. The position is for instruction in comparative politics. The instructor will offer an introductory course in comparative politics, and courses in Asian politics, development in the global south, and related courses, such Islamic politics. The teaching load is four undergraduate courses each semester, and may include a topics course related to the candidate's area of specialization.

Applicants are expected to have completed a MA or Ph.D. in Politics, or to be ABD. Applicants must have a strong commitment to excellence in undergraduate teaching. Teaching experience in comparative politics is preferred.

The department consists of eight faculty members representing a range of specialties in Political Science and related programs at Fairfield University, including International Studies, Environmental Studies, Humanitarian Action, and the Master's Program in Public Administration. The Department has a vibrant culture of undergraduate student-faculty collaboration in research, several departmental events and guest lecturers annually, and a large student interest in area and interdisciplinary studies. The salary and benefits for the position are highly competitive.

Fairfield University is a Jesuit institution, consistently ranked as a top comprehensive university in New England, located in the scenic shoreline community of Fairfield, CT, one hour from New York City along Long Island Sound. Our five Colleges and Professional Schools enroll approximately 3,500 undergraduate and 1,200 graduate students.

Fairfield University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer, committed to excellence through diversity, and, in this spirit, particularly welcomes applications from women, persons of color, veterans, Jesuits, and members of historically underrepresented groups. The University will provide reasonable accommodations to all qualified individuals with disabilities.

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

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# **Associate Professorship in Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Aarhus**

Deadline: June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The School of Culture and Society invites applications for the position of associate professor in Arab and Islamic Studies. The position is placed at the Department of the Study of Religion, in the programme in Arab and Islamic Studies. The associate professorship is a permanent position, and the appointment begins on 1 January 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter.

## **The Position**

The Department of the Study of Religion seeks to appoint a gifted researcher to develop a promising field of study of contemporary Arab and Islamic Studies at the highest international levels in collaboration with the School of Culture and Society's other fields of study.

The successful applicant will join the trans-disciplinary research unit Islamic Cultures and Societies Research Unit (ICSRU). Please see [here](#) and below.

## **Research**

We are looking for scholars with a strong research profile in the modern or contemporary Arab or Islamic world, and with a research record that includes research focusing on some aspect of Shia Islam in the Arab world. Research related to globalisation, transnationalism or transregionalism which includes aspects of Islam would also be an advantage.

Research activities will be evaluated in relation to actual research time. Thus, we encourage applicants to specify periods of leave without research activities, in order to be able to subtract these periods from the span of the scientific career during the evaluation of scientific productivity.

## **Teaching**

The successful applicant will teach and develop a range of introductory and advanced courses within Arab and Islamic studies and carry out BA and MA supervision. The associate professor will also be expected to participate in teaching development and educational development. Please read more [here](#)

## **Talent development**

The successful applicant will be expected to undertake supervision of PhD students and to partake in the development and implementation of PhD courses as well as to participate in curriculum development.

## **Knowledge exchange**

The successful applicant is expected to exchange knowledge with various sectors of society outside the university and to contribute actively to the general public debate in areas related to the position.

## **Qualifications**

Applicants must have a PhD degree or similar qualifications in a field relevant to Arab and Islamic Studies, as well as research and teaching qualifications equivalent to those acquired during a three-year assistant professorship.

Applicants must also be able to document:

- A relevant and internationally oriented research and publication profile
- Appropriate competence in one or more relevant research languages
- Participation in national and international research networks
- Experience of or an interest in the exchange of knowledge with various sectors of society outside the university
- Experience of and interest in attracting external research funding
- Command of English at an academic level
- Teaching experience, including experience with innovative teaching methods such as IT-based courses and teaching development

Experience in supervising student projects and an interest in researcher talent development.

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

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