



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

2020 WORKSHOP: Who Owns Palestine?

Deadline: November 4th, 2019

This workshop invites papers on the past, present, and future of ownership and on what it means to “own” Palestine. On the material level, the use and distribution of immovable property in the context of gender, generation, and class relations pre-date colonial rule and structure the different struggles against settler colonialism. For Palestinians within historic Palestine, private land ownership is the primary form of wealth and a perceived barrier (albeit, often ineffective) against expropriation. For Palestinians who have been expelled or displaced, property ownership can bring stability and belonging as well as political fragmentation and social conflict. All of these processes have consequences on what it means to be Palestinian and to have a right to Palestine. On a discursive level, Palestine’s religious importance and strategic location has made it a laboratory for competing trans-national visions of civilizational, religious, and political futures since at least the nineteenth century. Notions of ownership are thoroughly enmeshed in contested practices of naming, drawing, mapping, archiving, digging, and performing Palestine. Changing academic frameworks of knowledge production also thrust the question of ownership into new domains of disciplinary power.

NDPS welcomes paper proposals on a wide range of questions, including: Can Palestinians own Palestine under a regime of absolute private property? How does the right to own force the Palestinians, like other indigenous peoples, to prove ownership on the occupier’s terms? As the Palestinian Authority’s attempt to survey, register, and privatize unfolds, how is the relationship between ownership, social struggles, and wider collective territorial questions changing? What are the possibilities and limits of knowledge production shaped by these legal, political, and economic imperatives? How is ownership represented and claimed beyond documents and legal institutions?

Format and Logistics

The 2020 New Directions in Palestinian Studies (NDPS) workshop calls for papers that creatively engage these and the myriad other questions about ownership. The workshop format facilitates intellectual exchange via pre-circulated papers, brief presentations, and extended discussions in panels over a two-day period. Invited senior and mid-career scholars usually chair panels and/or participate in discussions, while most presentation slots are reserved for younger scholars.

If you are interested in presenting an original unpublished paper, please submit a proposal of approximately 500 words along with a brief CV via this link by November 4, 2019. Selected participants will be notified by November 14 and asked to submit a full-length paper of 4,000–7,000 words by 10 February 2020 for pre-circulation. Panels will be organized around themes that emerge from the papers. All paper presenters are expected to give NDPS first right to publication. We plan to publish selected papers either as double-blind refereed articles in the *Jerusalem Quarterly* and the *Journal of Palestine Studies* or as an edited volume in the NDPS open-access book series with the University of California Press.

Middle East Studies at Brown will reimburse reasonable travel expenses and two nights lodging (three nights for those coming from overseas) for paper presenters and discussants. For those traveling from abroad, please keep in mind that reimbursement is possible only for those entering the United States on a Visa Waiver Business (VWB) or B-1 visa. Please direct any questions to palestinianstudiesconference@brown.edu.

More information [here](#)

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Calls for Edited Volume on Transitional Justice in Tunisia

Deadline: September 6th, 2019

The Tunisian transition is the only one of the so-called 'Arab Spring' revolutions where a formal Transitional Justice process has unfolded, and it remains important both for the region and as an example of contemporary practice. While much has been written in Arabic and French on the Tunisian Transitional Justice process, there has been very little written in English. Remediating this deficit is important to ensure that the Tunisian experience reaches the widest possible audience. We take a broad view of how Transitional Justice is understood, including informal processes and any type of engagement with histories of violations, including of social and economic rights. The book proposal is attached.

We are calling for abstracts of 3-500 words proposing chapters for an edited book project, **Transitional Justice in Tunisia: Innovations, Continuities, Challenges**, to be edited by Simon Robins and Sherif Mohyeldeen. Chapters (and abstracts) are welcomed in either English or French. The writing of chapters will be supported by a series of two residential writing workshops in Tunisia, to support Tunisian authors to develop high-quality chapters.

Chapters could address the following themes, but we welcome any relevant submissions:

- Sources and origins of transitional justice in Tunisia;
- The Truth and Dignity Commission: its creation, work, reception and contestation around its goals and outputs;
- Political challenges to the process, including to accountability;
- The role of the international community in shaping the process;
- The relationship between formal and informal transitional justice processes;
- Victims as subjects of and as actors in the process.

The deadline for proposals is 6th September 2019 and the first workshop will be held in September or October. Funding has been secured to support the workshops, and it is an expectation that Tunisia-based authors who wish to contribute to the book attend the workshops. All abstracts should be sent to robins.simon@gmail.com

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26th International Congress of the German Middle East Studies Association (DAVO) Combined with the Conference of the Section for Islam Studies of the Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft (DMG), Hamburg, 3-5 October 2019

Check out the program for several panels related popular politics in MENA: <https://www.aai.uni-hamburg.de/en/voror/veranstaltungen/2019-davokongress/05-programm.html?fbclid=IwAR1JPS0yzG8Xvap2ypX8N6jvx7menlz9mh8xDB1RMVmwDP2iK-ItN5xM7I>

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20th Annual Conference of CSID, Democracy and Good Governance in Muslim-Majority Countries: Lessons from the Last 20 Years

September 12th, 2019

Georgetown University's Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding in partnership with the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy, the University of Denver's Center for Middle East Studies, and the Center for Global Policy invite you to the following special event:

20th Annual Conference of CSID

Democracy and Good Governance in Muslim-Majority Countries: Lessons from the Last 20 Years

Featuring Keynote Speaker Carl Gershman, President of the National Endowment for Democracy and four distinguished panels.

Thursday, September 12, 2019

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Copley Formal Lounge

3700 O St NW, Washington, DC

Georgetown University Main Campus

Keynote: Carl Gershman (President, National Endowment for Democracy)

Carl Gershman is President of the National Endowment for Democracy, a private, congressionally supported grant-making institution with the mission to strengthen democratic institutions around the world through non-governmental efforts. In addition to presiding over the Endowment's grants program in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and the former Soviet Union and Latin America, he has overseen the creation of the quarterly Journal of Democracy, International Forum for Democratic Studies, the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program, and the Center for International Media Assistance.

Panels:

Democracy and Good Governance in Islamic Thought

Chair: Asma Afsaruddin (Indiana University)

Panelists: John Voll (Georgetown University); Najib Ghadbian (University of Arkansas); Ali Abootalebi (University of Wisconsin); H. A. Hellyer (Royal United Services Institution, UK; and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, USA)

Whither Egypt? Eight Years After the Arab Spring

Chair: Tamara Sonn (Georgetown University)

Panelists: Peter Mandaville (George Mason University); Dalia Fahmy (Long Island University); Nathan Brown (George Washington University); Michelle Dunne (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace)

Jamal Khashoggi, Human Rights, and the U.S.-Saudi Alliance

Chair: Nader Hashemi (University of Denver)

Panelists: Sarah Leah Whitson (Human Rights Watch); William D. Hartung (Center for International Policy); Abdullah Alaoudh (Senior Fellow, ACMCU)

Tunisia and the Enduring Hope of Democracy in the Arab World: Roundtable

Host: Radwan Masmoudi (President, CSID)

Panelists: Andrew March (University of Massachusetts, Amherst); Daniel Brumberg (Georgetown University); Others TBA

More information [here](#)

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TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

The Kurds of Northern Syria: Governance, Diversity and Conflicts (Book Launch)

This event launches *The Kurds of Northern Syria: Governance, Diversity and Conflicts*, written by Harriet Allsopp and Wladimir van Wilgenburg and published by Bloomsbury in July 2019. Based on unprecedented access to Kurdish-governed areas of Syria, including exclusive interviews with administration officials and civilian surveys, *The Kurds of Northern Syria* sheds light on the socio-political landscape of northern Syria. The first English-language book to capture the momentous transformations that have occurred since 2011, the authors move beyond idealized images of Rojava and the PYD to provide a nuanced assessment of the Kurdish autonomous experience and the prospects for self-rule in Syria. The book draws on unparalleled field research, as well as analysis of the literature on the evolution of Kurdish politics and the Syrian war.

The event is the first in the LSE Middle East Centre Kurdish Studies Series programme for 2019–20.

Wladimir van Wilgenburg is an analyst of Kurdish politics and a journalist living in Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan.

Robert Lowe is Deputy Director of the Middle East Centre. He joined the Centre when it opened in 2010. Robert is responsible for running the Centre's operations, research activities, fundraising and development.

This event is part of the Kurdish Studies Series at the LSE Middle East Centre. Convened by Zeynep Kaya and Robert Lowe, the series will encourage dissemination and discussion of new research on Kurdish politics and society and provide a network for scholars and students with shared research interests. Public lectures and research seminars will be held regularly during term-time. If you wish to join the mailing list for the series, please contact Robert Lowe: r.lowe@lse.ac.uk

More information [here](#)

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Routledge Handbook on Middle East Cities

Edited by Haim Yacobi, Mansour Nasasra

Presenting the current debate about cities in the Middle East from Sana'a, Beirut and Jerusalem to Cairo, Marrakesh and Gaza, the book explores urban planning and policy, migration, gender and identity as well as politics and economics of urban settings in the region.

This handbook moves beyond essentialist and reductive analyses of identity, urban politics, planning, and development in cities in the Middle East, and instead offers critical engagement with both historical and contemporary urban processes in the region. Approaching "Cities" as multi-dimensional sites, products of political processes, knowledge production and exchange, and local and global visions as well as spatial artefacts. Importantly, in the different case studies and theoretical approaches, there is no attempt to idealise urban politics, planning, and everyday life in the Middle East — which (as with many other cities elsewhere) are also situations of contestation and violence — but rather to highlight how cities in the region, and especially those which are understudied, revolve around issues of housing, infrastructure, participation and identity, amongst other concerns.

Analysing a variety of cities in the Middle East, the book is a significant contribution to Middle East Studies. It is an essential resource for students and academics interested in Geography, Regional and Urban Studies of the Middle East.

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Yemen and the Search for Stability: Power, Politics and Society After the Arab Spring

By Marie-Christine Heinze

I.B. Tauris, 2018

The attacks and blockade on Yemen by the Saudi-led multinational coalition have killed thousands and triggered humanitarian disaster. The longstanding conflict in the country between the Huthi rebels and (until December 2017) Salih militias on the one side and those loyal to the internationally recognized government and many other groups fighting for their interests on the other are said to have evolved into a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran. In 2011, however, thousands of Yemenis had taken to the streets to protest for a better future for their country. When President Ali Abdullah Salih signed over power in the aftermath of these protests, there were hopes that this would signal the beginning of a new period of transition. *Yemen and the Search for Stability* focuses on the aspirations that inspired revolutionary action, and analyzes what went wrong in the years that followed. It examines the different groups involved in the protests - Salih supporters, Muslim Brothers, Salafis, Huthis, secessionists, women, youth, artists and intellectuals- in terms of their competing visions for the country's future as well as their internal struggles. This book traces the impact of the 2011 upheavals on these groups' ideas for a 'new Yemen' and on their strategies for self-empowerment. In so doing, *Yemen and the Search for Stability* examines the mistakes committed in the country's post-2011 transition process but also points towards prospects for stability and positive change.

Introduction: The 'New Yemen': A History of the Present. Marie-Christine Heinze

PART I: Visions and Strategies I: Political and Religious Actors

Chapter 1: The Islah Party Caught in the 'Revolutionary Process': Between Alleged Hegemony and Lessons Learned from Egypt. Laurent Bonnefoy

Chapter 2: National Belonging in Houthi Political Rhetoric: A Critical Stylistic Analysis of Ansarullah's Proposals to the National Dialogue Conference. Gibreel Sadeq Alaghbary

Chapter 3: Visions of Statehood: Ansar Allah and the Second Republic. Marieke Brandt

Chapter 4: The Uprising in Yemen and its Impact on the Country's Salafi Movement. Judit Kuschnitzki

Chapter 5: The Ismailis in Yemen and their Participation in the Upheavals. Hamoud Naofal

PART II: Visions and Strategies II: The Southern Issue

Chapter 6: The Youth of Aden: A Conflict of Identity. Farouq Ibrahim

Chapter 7: 'Jil al-Wahda' Remembers: Family Memories as Contested Spaces in Southern Yemen. Anne-Linda Amira Augustin

Chapter 8: The Southern Yemeni Cause and the Seekers of the Lost Identity. Susanne Dahlgren

Chapter 9: The Mobilisation of Yemen's Eastern Tribes: Mahra's Self-Organisation Model. Elisabeth Kendall

PART III: Visions and Strategies III: Social Actors

Chapter 10: Challenging Norms through Art, Music and Media: A Youth Counterculture Emerging? Mareike Transfeld

Chapter 11: Skepticism among Intellectual Youth in Yemen. Abdulsalam al-Rubaidi

Chapter 12: Negotiating Women's Empowerment in the NDC. Nadia al-Sakkaf

Chapter 13: Women in the 'New Yemen': Towards a Political Culture of Feminist Resistance. Ewa K. Strzelecka

PART IV: Contexts and Changing Concepts

Chapter 14: Dialogue, National and Theatrical: The Arab Spring and its Aftermath, as Portrayed on the Yemeni Stage. Katherine Hennessey

Chapter 15: The Media Structure in Yemen in the Post-Revolutionary Transitional Period. Murad Alazzany and Robert Sharp

Chapter 16: The Politics of Governance in Yemen's Negotiated Transition. Tobias Thiel

Chapter 17: It Takes a Tribe to Conserve a Village: New Approaches to Cultural Production and Preservation in Yemen. Stephen Steinbeiser

Chapter 18: Can Decentralization Save the State in Yemen? Maria-Louise Clausen

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Voices of Jordan

By Rana F. Sweis
Hurst, October 2018

Jordan's diverse socioeconomic make-up encapsulates, like no other Middle Eastern state, both the array of pressing short-term problems facing the region, and the underlying challenges that Arab states will need to face once the current spate of civil conflicts is over: meaningful youth employment, female participation in politics, and integration of refugees into society.

This book tells the story of Jordan through the lives of ordinary people, including a political cartoonist, a Syrian refugee, a Jihadist and a female parliamentarian. The raw voices and everyday

struggles of these people shine a fresh light on the politics, religion, and society of a culture coming to terms with the harsh reality of modernisation and urbanisation at a time of regional upheaval.

With her deep knowledge of Jordan's landscape, language and culture, Rana Sweis sketches an intimate portrait of the intricacies and complexities of life in the Middle East. Rather than focusing on how individuals are affected by events in the region, she reveals a cast of characters shaping their own lives and times. *Voices of Jordan* shares those stories in all of their rich detail, offering a living, breathing social and political history.

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JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Consensus vs. dissensus over the 'civil state' model: a key to understanding the diverse outcomes of the Arab Spring in Egypt and Tunisia

By Limor Lavie

August 8th, 2019

British Journal of Middle Eastern Politics

The 'Jasmine Revolution' that toppled Tunisian president Zine al-'Abidine Ben 'Ali on 14 January 2011, and the 25 January 2011 uprising that toppled Egyptian President Husni Mubarak had similar characteristics yet different outcomes. While the Tunisian experience led to democratization and to a non-violent transfer of power, the Egyptian one led to a reversion to authoritarianism through a military coup and to bloodshed. This paper suggests that the key to understanding the diverse outcomes of the Arab Spring in these countries is the prevalence of consensus/dissensus in each society over the most suitable state model for the post-revolutionary era. The existence of an agreed-upon vision for the post-Arab Spring state in Tunisia—a vision of a 'civil state'—and a wide controversy over such a model in Egypt was a pivotal factor influencing the level of socio-political cohesion during the transitional period, hence determining whether it is destined for success or failure. A prior agreement between Islamist and Secularist opposition groups over the civil state model spared Tunisia the turmoil that Egypt went through due to the polarization over the desired state model in the post-Mubarak era, which served as a catalyst for the 2013 soft coup against the Muslim Brothers elected president.

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Signaling reforms through election results: how a Moroccan opposition party demobilized protests

Sammy Zeyad Badran

August 5th, 2019

British Journal of Middle Eastern Politics

Elections within authoritarian contexts and social movements have been thoroughly, yet separately, studied. This article jointly analyzes these different phenomena in order to demonstrate how electoral results can affect protest demobilization. My interviews with the February 20 Movement (F20), the main organizer of mass protests in Morocco during the Arab Spring, reveals how the parliamentary victory of an opposition Islamist party, the Justice and Development Party (PJD), helped lead to the F20's eventual halt of protests. During my fieldwork, I conducted 46 semi-structured elite interviews with civil society activists, political party leaders, MPs, and independent activists throughout Morocco. This article argues that the 2011 victory of an opposition Islamist party, which had not previously been allowed to win a plurality of parliamentary seats, played a major role in quelling protests. The ushering of Islamists into power following the Arab Spring is often viewed as a threat to the state. In Morocco, however, the winning of the PJD in parliamentary elections signaled to the public that change had occurred and convinced many Moroccans that a social movement for change was no longer needed. Said differently, the state needed Islamists to win.

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NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

'We are not defeated': Palestinian family defiant after Israel demolishes restaurant

By Megan Giovannetti

August 29th, 2019

Middle East Eye

Around 9:30 on Monday morning, an all-too-familiar scene for Palestinians unfolded on a hilltop in al-Makhrour valley, near the Bethlehem city of Beit Jala.

The Israeli military was demolishing the home and the restaurant of the Palestinian Qaisyeh family.

As usual, the military said that the demolition order was given due to the lack of a proper construction permit, but the Qaisyeh family says they have been battling settler organisations over the ownership of the land itself.

“They have a project, the 'Greater Jerusalem' plan, and as you can see in front of you, they are working on this mountain,” Hasan Breijeh, a Palestinian activist with the Colonization and Wall Resistance Commission, said as he pointed at bulldozers on the hilltop across from the al-Makhrour restaurant.

The bulldozers are apparently constructing a new tunnel leading to Jerusalem, with the intent of connecting the holy city with the illegal Gush Etzion and Har Gilo settlements.

“They want all this land empty and for settlers,” Breijeh told Middle East Eye.

Legal tussle

Ramzi Qaisyeh, the owner of the five dunams of land (5,000 square metres), built the al-Makhrour restaurant in 2005. After the business proved successful, Qaisyeh moved his family into a nearby house that he built himself in 2010.

Made of mainly wood and plastic, with the kitchen built in an old mudbrick house predating 1967, the family said the restaurant never needed a building permit because it was there before the formal occupation began.

However, the Israeli military's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) insisted permits were necessary.

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Human rights community in Egypt calls on UN to ‘explicitly cancel’ anti-torture conference after to decision to postpone

Mostafa Mohie
Mada Masr
August 21, 2019

Hours after the United Nations decided to postpone a planned anti-torture conference in Cairo, over 80 prominent human rights workers, lawyers, journalists, activists and public figures in Egypt called on the UN to “explicitly cancel or reallocate the event to another country with the minimum respect for human rights,” in a joint statement on Tuesday evening.

The conference on “Defining and Criminalizing Torture in Legislation in the Arab Region,” co-hosted by the UN’s Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the National Council of Human Rights in Egypt, was due to take place in Cairo on Sept. 4 and 5.

News of the conference sparked an outcry from Egypt’s human rights community.

“Such events essentially aim to whitewash the Egyptian regime’s reputation prior to the Universal Periodic Review for Human Rights at the UN coming up in November,” Mohamed Zaree, head of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, told Mada Masr.

The UN appears to have attempted to downplay the conference even as plans for the event were underway. A human rights worker in Beirut — where the UN office that was organizing the conference is based — who closely followed developments around the conference, told Mada Masr that the UN “tried to keep the event not very well known initially.”

“If you look at the list of NGOs that they consulted and the date that the concept note was drafted, it shows how much the office did not want independent NGOs to know,” the source said.

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Ousted Sudanese ex-president Bashir requesting bail

Kaamil Ahmed

August 24th, 2019

Middle East Eye

Sudan's ex-president Omar al-Bashir plans to request bail in his trial on corruption charges, his lawyer said, after a week in which his appearance inside a courtroom cage elicited celebration among the public.

Bashir has been imprisoned since April, when he was forced from office after 30 years in power following months of mass protests calling for a civilian government.

His trial on corruption charges began on Monday, with Bashir standing charged with illicit possession of foreign currency and accepting gifts in an unofficial manner.

"We are going to ask today that he be released on bail because this is an ordinary case," Bashir's lawyer, Ahmed Ibrahim, told reporters outside the courtroom.

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Gold, weapons, fighters: Sudanese Janjaweed's international path to power

By Kaamil Ahmed

August 28th, 2019

Middle East Eye

Perched on pick-up trucks adorned with machine guns and baskets of rocket-propelled grenades, the notorious Rapid Support Forces (RSF) were an unsettling sight for Khartoum when they began fanning out across the Sudanese capital earlier this year.

Already infamous for their origins in the Janjaweed militias - the “devils on horseback” accused of genocide in Darfur - the now-formalised paramilitary group was no longer rampaging through Sudan’s margins, but dominating street corners in the heart of the capital.

Amid a tussle over Sudan’s future following months of protests that brought down three-decade ruler Omar al-Bashir, the RSF has become one of the country’s most powerful forces, and many consider their commander Mohamed Hamdan Dagolo, otherwise known as Hemedti, to be Sudan’s de facto leader.

Removing them has appeared impossible, despite the demands of protesters who despise the RSF for the deadly violence it has unleashed on demonstrations.

The joint civilian and military government now taking shape secures Dagolo’s position as a leader and his RSF as effectively equal to the army within the military.

The RSF's rise involved doing Bashir’s bidding domestically, but also becoming an enforcer for the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen, transforming its image from a militia that raided villages mounted on horses and camels to one of a significant regional actor.

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Why Hezbollah is now focused on Lebanon's domestic politics

Paul Khalifeh

August 26th, 2019

Middle East Eye

The New Hezbollah has emerged.

In the past, the Lebanese Shia party proclaimed its allegiance to Iran through resistance to the state of Israel, and by inflicting upon the latter its worst losses since its creation in 1948. The party is now undergoing yet another phase in its evolution.

Hezbollah has adopted a distinctly Lebanese orientation, yet has not relinquished its position as a regional powerhouse - a position earned on the battlefields against Israel, and through its involvement in Syria, where it has fought alongside government troops since 2013.

Resisting occupation

The attachment of Hezbollah to Lebanese political life is by no means a new phenomenon. Founded in the 1980s as a response to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the group initially reserved its efforts for resisting the occupation. By 1992, it had taken the initiative to participate in the first legislative elections after the civil war.

For more than a decade, Hezbollah had to be content with parliamentary representation, which gave it popular legitimacy. At the same time, the group intensified its fight against Israel's occupying troops, which finally succumbed in a unilateral and humiliating retreat in May 2000.

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The weight of the world: on framing the fight against climate change

By Alaa Abd El Fattah

Mada Masr

August 21st, 2019

Sitting at a family gathering one day, I asked, half-jokingly, which country people thought would be the most suitable place for me to go and rebuild my life, once the authorities have fully released me. I was immediately told to avoid islands, their survival being no longer guaranteed. I wasn't sure whether this pessimism was about the distance still remaining between me and my freedom, or the imminence of multiple environmental catastrophes.

Speaking to a friend on the phone a few days later, I scoffed at her use of the word "ark" and asked her if she was expecting Noah's flood. She replied seriously, with traces of panic in her voice, and described her terror at the idea that her children will likely inherit a planet whose features have been permanently transformed because of climate change.

Our images of climate change usually borrow from the Flood of Noah, or from contemporary variations such as the long night and never-ending winter of Game of Thrones. We imagine moments of truth in which the wrath of the heavens is brought down on us — punishment for our preoccupation with struggles that have nothing to do with the ultimate, existential threat that lies ahead of us.

These depictions suggest that the solution to climate change lies in awareness. Thousands of scientists and activists have worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the dangers of greenhouse gas emissions, so much so that climate disasters have come to feature in our nightmares and our jokes. But what kind of change has come from all this?

Let's imagine that Noah's people had a similar level of awareness about the coming flood as we do about climate change. Would it have made them more prudent? Or would it have led to more conflict over highlands and shipbuilding timber?

In an existential struggle over resources, people who have accumulated power and wealth before the flood will most likely use them not only to survive, but to consolidate and improve their positions afterwards. The powerless will align with groups that they think will help save them, or seek shelter in extreme religious ideas that promise miracles. They might move towards ideologies that allow them to become saboteurs, protecting the will of the gods by destroying the efforts of a minority to save themselves. Some will surrender to living a short life, with no thought to the future. Others will make use of the state of fear to monopolize the timber trade, or to trick the masses into thinking they have secret technologies for building invincible dams.

The most secular commentators still use rhetoric that describes climate change as a force that will annihilate the human species, or end civilization. This flies in the face of what we know: that our survival as a species only requires a few thousand survivors with a sufficient degree of genetic diversity. Civilization is not so fragile; if humans can narrate their histories and imagine different worlds, they have civilization. But these are not hopeful assurances. We might not be on the brink of extinction, but millions of us will live under conditions so damaging that they could end our lives. Most of us will lose much of the quality of our lives, and our ability to secure the welfare of future generations.

We know that we will not suffer these losses at the same time, or with the same intensity. We know that some of us will even benefit from the disaster.

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POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Call for Research Fellowship Applications

Deadline: September 15th, 2019

The Research Fellowship dedicated to the Governance Programme at the Aga Khan University's Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations based in London (AKU-ISMC) commenced in January 2019. It offers an opportunity to pursue research within a stimulating and supportive

environment. Fellows play an active role in the intellectual life of the Programme and the Institute, participating in a wide range of seminars, workshops, and conferences. The fellowship is an opportunity to explore and carry forward one of the Governance Programme's major research themes.

Fellowship for 2020:

The Research Fellowship will be dedicated to the AKU-ISMC's Governance Programme and the fellow will be expected to actively participate in the planning and execution of the programme's activities. The Fellow will carry out research related to one of the following areas:

- Political accountability of the executive in semi-presidential regimes
- Fiqh and popular culture
- Translation and governance: translation(s) of governance and governance of translation
- Any other area broadly related to previous events organised by the Programme

Funding:

The incumbents will receive a gross annual salary in the range of £31,000 to £35,000 and an annual research budget of £500. A return flight will be paid for international Fellows. Please note that accommodation in London will need to be independently organised by the Fellow. Other benefits include: office space, access to computer facilities, and access to AKU-ISMC's library.

Responsibilities

Expected Outcomes:

The Fellow will be expected to: (1) produce a working paper (min 5k words) on their fellowship topic and acknowledging the fellowship scheme at AKU-ISMC on any other publications related to the fellowship; (2) organise a research workshop, which will be an opportunity to bring together other academics working on their topic (a proposal for this event is part of the application – see below); (3) engage in discussions about their work and that of colleagues at AKU-ISMC; and (4) possibly delivering lectures and seminars in the MA programme in Muslim Cultures.

Requirements

Candidates should have:

- A PhD in the Humanities or Social Sciences
- Demonstrated research background in one of the above topics
- Excellent communication skills demonstrating a high level of proficiency in English, written and verbal, including language(s) relevant to their proposed research

To Apply

Interested candidates should send a cover letter, their CV, and a proposal for a public event/workshop to ismc.personnel@aku.edu. The event proposal should comprise a summary description, a timeline, potential participants, budget (maximum £3,000) and expected outputs. The proposal should be maximum 2 pages long.

The duration of the post will be either six months full time, or up to twelve months part-time. The fellowship can start from 1 January 2020.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend interviews (either in person or online, as appropriate) **between late September and early October 2019.**

More information and application [here](#)

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Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität, Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies, Research Group Leader, "Gender (and Intersectionality)"

The Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn is an international research university that offers a wide range of degree programs. With 200 years of history, about 38,000 students, over 6,000 employees, and an excellent domestic and international reputation, Bonn University is among Germany's leading universities.

From 01 January 2020 onwards, the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies seeks to employ for **up to 6 years (3+3 years, max. until 31 December 2025).**

1 Research Group Leader

for the Research Area E "Gender (and Intersectionality)"

The successful candidate will be employed at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies (BCDSS): https://www.dependency.uni-bonn.de/en?set_language=en. In September 2018, the BCDSS was awarded the status of "Cluster of Excellence" by the German Research Council. We are therefore recruiting early-career researchers who are interested in contributing to an outstanding interdisciplinary and international research centre. In the unique position of a Research Group Leader, you will be a key member of the BCDSS in a position to shape the BCDSS' future research strategy and research activities. The position is for five years, during which time the successful candidate will be given a unique opportunity to conduct his or her independent research and lead a Research Group.

The Research Group will be one of ten Research Groups at the BCDSS. The Research Groups consist of one leader and two PhD candidates. They are aimed at stimulating research with a global, epoch-spanning and multi-disciplinary approach, and therefore the topic of the Research Group should be designed to provide broad conceptual entry point for the study of slavery or other forms of strong asymmetrical dependencies.

The Research Group will be part of Research Area E "Gender (and Intersectionality)", one of five Research Areas at the BCDSS. Research Area E focuses on how asymmetrical dependencies emerge at the intersections of gender, status, class, ethnicity, religion, and age (see <https://www.dependency.uni-bonn.de/en/program/research-areas/research-area-e-gender-and-intersectionality/description-of-ra-e.>) The Research Group should not copy the topic of the Research Area E, but it must employ a gender and/or intersectionality perspective, starting from the aforementioned approaches. We welcome research on all periods before the 20th century, and we encourage research on non-European societies.

Your tasks:

- Designing the research profile for the Research Group for the study of strong asymmetrical dependencies with a historical, epoch-spanning approach.
- Recruiting two PhD candidates for the Research Group
- Scientific coordination and development of the Research Group
- Conducting an independent research project that will be concluded by a monograph
- Developing innovative theoretical and methodological concepts
- Organizing and participating in international seminars, workshops and conferences.
- Creation of Networks within the international scientific community
- Teaching at least two seminars to BA or MA students during the period of employment.

Your profile:

- A postdoctoral researcher with least 2 years of postdoctoral experience in one of the BCDSS' or any related disciplines: Anthropology, Archaeology, Art History, History, Law, Regional Studies, Sociology, and Theology.
- An independent scholar who wants to shape research on coercion and dependency.
- Interest in making comparisons across time and space and in exploring methodological and epistemological problems.
- An interest in interdisciplinary and collaborative research.
- The administrative and personal aptitude to lead a small team of researchers.

We offer:

- Participation in the international research hub *The Cluster of Excellence "Bonn Center of Dependency and Slavery Studies"*.
- The opportunity of conducting independent research and the support that is necessary to do so.
- An open, stimulating and interdisciplinary work environment where good ideas are encouraged and supported.
- The opportunity to lead a Research Group and supervise two PhD-candidates.
- An advanced training program that will give you a competitive advantage when seeking a permanent position and help you balance work and family life.
- Mentoring by two experienced professors from *The Cluster of Excellence*.
- Institutional support for applicants with families and for women.
- TVL E 14 on the salary scale.

The BCDSS focuses its research on strong asymmetrical dependencies in pre-modern societies. Ten Research Groups will be at the core of this research. For information on the Research Groups, their role within the BCDSS, their connection with the five research areas within the BCDSS and the range of disciplines cooperating within the BCDSS, please see <https://www.dependency.uni-bonn.de/en/program>.

More information and application [here](#)

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Conference coordinator, BRISMES

Deadline for Application: September 9th, 2019

Role

The British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) seeks a part-time Conference Coordinator to provide administration for the BRISMES Annual Conference 2020. This post will be based at the Department of Politics & International Studies, University of Warwick.

The Conference Coordinator will work closely with the BRISMES Administrator and the Conference Committee and will report to Nicola Pratt, Vice President of BRISMES and member of PAIS, Warwick. The Conference will be held at the University of Kent, Canterbury, on 29 June-1 July 2020.

Duties and responsibilities

- First and main point of contact for administration of the conference
- Financial administration, monitor the budget, conference fees and expenditure
- Assist colleagues to create the conference programme
- Manage the paper and panel submission system
- Promote the conference widely to ensure high number of delegates
- Lead responsibility for logistics including room bookings, catering, IT
- Arrange travel and accommodation for keynote speakers
- Manage the registration system and conference website
- Design and produce conference materials, including the catalogue
- Recruit and manage conference volunteers
- Promote and administer conference advertising and sponsorship

Skills and experience

- Experience of organising events
- Excellent IT skills, including knowledge of design
- Experience of using social media
- Interest in Middle East Studies
- Strong people skills and attention to detail

Location

Department of Politics and International Studies

Additional information

Start Date and End date: 01 of October to 31st of July 2020.

Hours and days: Work from home is possible.

Interview Date: W/C on the 9th of September.

Please apply for the role with your CV and cover letter outlining your suitability for the role.

More information and application [here](#)

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Syracuse University- Assistant Professor in Comparative Politics - Middle East

Review of Applications Begins: October 1st, 2019

The Department of Political Science seeks a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Comparative Politics for a position beginning in Fall 2020. We seek candidates whose teaching and research focus on the Middle East and North Africa.

The political science department is housed within the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, which is committed to citizenship education at the undergraduate level and to graduate education in public affairs and the social sciences. We seek candidates who complement the broader Maxwell mission and have interdisciplinary interests. Successful candidates may be invited to affiliate with the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs or one of Maxwell's other interdisciplinary centers (<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/centers/>).

Applicants should have a Ph.D. in political science or a related field or a credible expectation of completing all requirements for the Ph.D. by August 2020. The Maxwell School is interested in candidates who can contribute to the inclusiveness and diversity of the academic community through their research, teaching, and/or service.

For consideration, candidates must complete an online faculty application (available at <https://www.sujobopps.com/postings/81426>) and attach online the following: a letter of interest and a CV, a sample of professional writing, a statement of teaching philosophy, and evidence of quality teaching. Files may be no larger than 5MB, but you may submit an external link to a larger file if needed. In addition, applicants will be required to provide the full email addresses of three references.

Applications will be reviewed as they arrive with full consideration given to those received by October 1, 2019. However, the department will continue to consider applications until this position is filled.

More information and application [here](#)

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Assistant/Associate/Full Professor, Modern Middle East History

Yale University: Faculty of Arts and Sciences: Humanities -: History
Review of Applications: October 15th, 2019

Description

The Yale University Department of History intends to make an appointment in Modern Middle East history to begin on July 1, 2020. The successful candidate may be appointed at the rank of full or associate professor with tenure, or at the rank of untenured assistant professor. Applications are invited from senior scholars who have demonstrated exceptional scholarship and teaching as well as leadership in their field. Applications are also invited from early-career historians with strong potential for achievement in scholarship and undergraduate and graduate teaching.

Qualifications

We welcome applications from historians currently teaching at other universities, as well as from recent PhDs and those who expect their PhD or equivalent degree by the time of appointment.

Application Instructions

All applicants should submit a letter of application, C.V., a statement of research interests, a statement of teaching interests, and a chapter length writing sample prepared for anonymous reading. Letters of reference are not required at this initial stage but may be requested later. Please contact Dana Lee (dana.lee@yale.edu) with any questions. The review of applications will begin October 15, 2019, and continue until the position is filled.

More information and application [here](#)

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Comparative Politics/Middle East, The Department of Political Science at Colorado College

Deadline: September 15th, 2019

The Department of Political Science at Colorado College is hiring for a position in comparative politics, broadly defined. The rank is open. The position requires expertise in the Middle East and North Africa, broadly defined. Crucial to the position is potential for, and commitment to, excellence in scholarship as well as in teaching at a liberal arts institution.

Colorado College is committed to fostering an intellectually rigorous and inclusive environment in which students and employees of diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives can learn and work. Candidates should identify the ways in which they can contribute to these goals.

Colorado College has a distinctive academic program, the Block Plan, in which professors teach, and students take, one course at a time. Each block is three and a half weeks long, with an academic year

of eight and a half blocks. The teaching load is six blocks a year. Faculty can apply for a limited number of release blocks, as well as various sources of funding, to pursue research.

If the successful candidate is to begin employment at the assistant professor level, all requirements for the Ph.D. should be complete by the starting date of August 24, 2020.

Applicants should submit: 1) a cover letter; 2) a curriculum vitae; 3) a statement of research goals; 4) a statement of pedagogical principles; 5) evidence of teaching effectiveness (including syllabi and evaluations); 6) undergraduate and graduate transcripts; 7) a dissertation abstract (if applying at the assistant professor level); 8) a sample of scholarly publications, and 9) three letters of recommendation to: <https://employment.coloradocollege.edu/postings/4035>.

More information and application [here](#)

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Harvard University, Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, 2 year Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Academy Scholars Program identifies and supports outstanding scholars at the start of their careers whose work combines disciplinary excellence in the social sciences or law with a command of the language and history or culture of countries or regions outside of the United States or Canada. Their scholarship may elucidate domestic, comparative, or transnational issues, past or present.

The Academy Scholars are a select community of individuals with resourcefulness, initiative, curiosity, and originality, whose work in cultures or regions outside of the US or Canada shows promise as a foundation for exceptional careers in major universities or international institutions. Harvard Academy Scholarships are open only to recent PhD (or comparable professional school degree) recipients and doctoral candidates. Scholars applying by the **October 1, 2019** deadline for the **August 2020** postdoctoral fellowships must have completed the PhD or equivalent after **September 30, 2016**.

Academy Scholars are appointed for a two-year, in-residence, postdoctoral fellowship at The Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Academy Scholars receive substantial financial and research assistance to undertake sustained projects of research and/or acquire additional training in their chosen fields and areas. Some teaching is permitted but not required. The Senior Scholars, a distinguished group of Harvard University faculty members, act as mentors to the Academy Scholars to help them achieve their intellectual potential.

Postdoctoral Academy Scholars will receive an annual stipend of \$70,000. If selected before earning the PhD, the Scholar will receive an annual stipend of \$31,000 until awarded the PhD or equivalent degree. The online application for the postdoctoral fellowships beginning in **August 2020** is due by

October 1, 2019. Finalist interviews will take place in Cambridge on **December 4, 2019.** Notification of scholarships will be made in late **December 2019.**

More information and application [here](#)

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