



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

Gender, Activism and Subjectivity in Contention and Conflict: A Comparative Perspective

25th November 2019, 15:00 – 17:00

Dublin City University, Glasnevin Campus

The Dublin City University's Institute for International Conflict Resolution and Reconstruction (IICRR) would like to invite you to attend a roundtable discussion addressing the topics of Gender, Activism and Subjectivity in Contention and Conflict. Taking stock from the events of the 2010-11 Arab Uprisings, scholars and activists join together to explore the various ways in which gender identities and subjectivities are transformed as a result of individual and collective engagement in contentious politics, activism and conflict. Acknowledging that identities and activism cannot be observed outside of context but must be understood as responses to local power frameworks and dynamics, the roundtable brings together a pool of renowned international scholars working on Iran, Egypt, Turkey, Morocco, Syria, UK and Northern Ireland, to share and compare experiences from a variety of local and regional perspective. Together, the scholars investigate how gender identities and subjectivities are shaped by their environments and by the involvement in contentious politics, revolutionary upheavals and conflicts, as well as by broader processes such as state modernization, state feminism, top-down liberal reforms, neoliberal policies, among the rest.

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CfP: "Post-Erdogan imaginaries: continuity and change in Turkish society, culture and politics in the 21st century", panel for the IPSA 2020

Deadline: September 15th, 2019

Recent developments in Turkey, namely the results of local elections and numerous splits within the AKP, have sparked debates on AKP hegemony for the first time since 2002 within and outside the ruling party. The panel we would like to put together seeks to address these debates in a scholarly fashion, departing from multiple perspectives. As such, this panel of discussants aims at incorporating sound and well documented analysis of continuity and change with an eye on the policy proposals in diverse sites of society and culture in Turkey. Are there dynamic social, cultural and political forces that anticipate a more progressive or more repressive post-AKP regime in Turkey? How do they negotiate a past and a future along the geographies of the Turkish Republic? Are these indeed forces of democratic participation or diverse forms of conservatism? How do collective actions and social movements operate at such times of transformation? We argue that only such framework that moves from theory to

policies and practices can identify trajectories of continuity and change, and comparatively inform researchers of rising authoritarianisms elsewhere in the world.

If you are interested, please email: isabela_davidova@yahoo.com and kumru@pratt.edu until 15 September with a 300-word abstract.

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TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

Egypt's Exiles: Repression, Polarization and Politics

September 27, 2019 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Philippines Conference Room
Encina Hall, Third Floor, Central
616 Serra Mall, Stanford, CA 94305

While the phenomenon of Egyptians leaving their homeland in search for work abroad has been ongoing for decades, a new trend has emerged since 2011, namely thousands have expatriated for political reasons. Some have left based on a general sense that the political climate has become hazardous for them, while others left because of specific fears due to court convictions, lawsuits, loss of employment, attacks in the media, or direct physical threats related to their political, journalistic, or civil society activities. In contrast to waves of politically motivated Egyptian migration into exile in the 1950s–1970s, migrants now have highly diverse identities, motives, destinations, and experiences in exile. While specific data are hard to locate, post-2011 Egyptian exiles generally appear to be greater in numbers, younger, and enjoying higher educational attainment than those of the past. One reason for this diversity is that far more groups are at serious risk in Egypt—Islamists as well as Christians, liberals as well as leftists, artists as well as businesspeople, prominent intellectuals as well as underground activists—compared to the past, when fewer groups faced political or social persecution at any given time.

More information [here](#)

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"I am the Revolution": Film Screening

Thursday 03 October 2019 5:00pm to 7:00pm
RESEARCH CENTRES SUITE, 9TH FLOOR, PANKHURST HOUSE, CLEMENT'S INN,
WC2A 2AZ

This event is a film screening organised with the Decolonise LSE Collective. We will be screening Benedetta Argentieri's documentary *I am the Revolution* which focuses on feminist revolutions taking place in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan.

These countries has been torn apart by decades of war, and are, according to international indexes, among the worst places on earth to live as a woman. By following three women, Selay Ghaffar, Rojda Felat, and Yanar Mohammed, and the movements around them, the documentary explores how they are leading the way for a new future for women in their countries.

Each country reflects the groundswell of feminist revolutions: political revolution in Afghanistan, armed in Syria, and grassroots activism in Iraq. Taking a journalistic approach, the film challenges the images of veiled, silent, and timid women in the Middle East and instead shows the strength of women rising up on the front lines, in remote villages, and in city streets, to claim their voice and their rights.

There will be a panel discussion following the film screening.

More information [here](#)

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

False Dawn: Protest, Democracy, and Violence in the New Middle East

Steven A. Cook
Oxford University Press, 2019

More than half a decade after Arabs across the Middle East poured into the streets to demand change, hopes for democracy have disappeared in a maelstrom of violence and renewed state repression. In *False Dawn*, noted Middle East expert Steven A. Cook looks at the trajectory of events across the region from the initial uprising in Tunisia to the failed coup attempt in Turkey to explain why the Arab Spring uprisings did not succeed. Despite appearances, there were no true revolutions in the Middle East seven years ago: none of the affected societies underwent social revolutions, and the old structures of power were never eliminated. Even supposed successes like Tunisia still face significant barriers to democracy because of the continued strength of old regime players. Libya, the state that came closest to revolution, has fragmented into chaos, and Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has undertaken a widespread crackdown on his opponents, reinforcing the Turkish leader's personal power.

After taking stock of how and why the uprisings failed to produce lasting change, Cook considers the role of the United States in the region. What Washington cannot do, Cook argues, is shape the politics of the Middle East going forward. While many in the policymaking community believe that the United States must "get the Middle East right," American influence is actually quite limited; the future of the region lies in the hands of the people who live there. Authoritative and powerfully argued, *False Dawn* is a major work on one of the most important historical events of the past quarter century.

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Revolution and Its Discontents: Political Thought and Reform in Iran

Eskandar Sadeghi-Boroujerdi
Cambridge University Press, 2019

The death of the Islamic Republic's revolutionary patriarch, Ayatollah Khomeini, the bitter denouement of the Iran-Iraq War, and the marginalisation of leading factions within the political elite, in tandem with the end of the Cold War, harboured immense intellectual and political repercussions for the Iranian state and society. It was these events which created the conditions for the emergence of Iran's post-revolutionary reform movement, as its intellectuals and political leaders sought to re-evaluate the foundations of the Islamic state's political legitimacy and religious authority. In this monograph, Sadeghi-Boroujerdi, examines the rise and evolution of reformist political thought in Iran and analyses the complex network of publications, study circles, and think-tanks that encompassed a range of prominent politicians and intellectuals in the 1990s. In his meticulous account of the relationships between the post-revolutionary political class and intelligentsia, he explores a panoply of political and ideological issues still vital to understanding Iran's revolutionary state, such as the ruling political theology of the 'Guardianship of the Jurist', the political elite's engagement with questions of Islamic statehood, democracy and constitutionalism, and their critiques of revolutionary agency and social transformation.

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JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Contemporary Forms of Female Islamic Leadership, Activism, and Interpretation in Morocco

By Doris Gray
COMPARATIVE ISLAMIC STUDIES, VOL 12, NO 1-2
Published August 28th, 2019

Female Islamic leadership in Morocco is marked by male patronage and fragmentation. Women in leadership positions—in the religious, political or economic realm—rise and remain dependent on male power. This article focuses on the religious/political arena where leading women do not pursue a common goal, but have varying understandings of gender justice or equality. Various developments in Morocco point to the creation of a middle ground for female activism between Western secularism and Islamism. Such developments can easily be overlooked when more radical voices gain the spotlight and generate media controversy.

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Female Activism and Leadership through Social Media in Egypt during the Arab Spring: Nawara Negm's Blog

Samar Barghouthi

COMPARATIVE ISLAMIC STUDIES, VOL 12, NO 1-2

Published August 28th, 2019

This article provides a detailed analysis of the blog of an Egyptian female activist, Nawara Negm, during the critical period of the Egyptian Revolution of 2011. The analysis presents the contents of the blog thematically, through identifying strategies and values and in terms of the author's shifting terminology by undertaking a quantitative and qualitative analysis of Negm's changing lexicon. The intersection of gender, nationalism, political activism, and Islam make this individual and her blog important examples of new spaces for the female voice in Arab Muslim contexts.

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Egypt's Military Coup of 2013: An Analysis of the Private Press in 112 Days

Maher Hamoud

New Middle East Studies, Vol 9, No 2 (2019)

In July 2013, a widely celebrated military coup took place in Egypt – only two and a half years after the 2011 Revolution. This article investigates the hegemonic power of the private press owned by Egypt's business elite during the coup period. In the context of this research objective, this study answers the question of “how did Egypt's private press provide popular support to the 2013 military coup?” through following a critical approach and conducting framing analysis of news headlines in a period of 112 days. This article examines the popular privately-owned newspapers al-Masry al-Youm and al-Watan as the main case studies. Findings show that Egypt's business elite engaged in significant news framing in support of the 2013 military coup - for the purpose of maintaining their hegemonic position in the country. They particularly used the frame of “fear” (of the Muslim Brotherhood, potential violence and political chaos) and the frame of “promotion” by portraying the military as a saviour.

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NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

Four things to know about Tunisia's presidential election

Al Jazeera

September 12th, 2019

Tunisians head to the polls on September 15 to elect a new president in the second such vote since the 2011 revolution.

When President Beji Caid Essebsi died in late July, three months before his mandate was due to end, Tunisian authorities reacted swiftly.

The news of his death was communicated to the public within an hour, the speaker of parliament was sworn in as interim leader shortly thereafter, and the electoral commission brought forward the date for the presidential election.

But the peaceful handover of power, a rarity in the Arab world, belies the political instability and economic stagnation that have plagued the country since it democratised in 2011.

Tunisians will head to the polls on Sunday to choose Essebsi's successor, with 26 candidates vying for the job.

There are a number of prominent figures running for the position, including Prime Minister Youssef Chahed, Defence Minister Abdelkarim Zbidi, jailed media mogul Nabil Karoui and Abdelfattah Mourou, the first presidential candidate put forward by the Islamist party Ennahdha.

Analysts say the large pool of high-profile candidates makes it difficult to predict the outcome.

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Nabil Karoui: The jailed populist seeking Tunisia's presidency

By Layli Foroudi

Al Jazeera

September 13th, 2019

Bizerte, Tunisia - Days ahead of Tunisia's election on Sunday, the market in the centre of this port town was covered with red and white flyers bearing the face of media tycoon Nabil Karoui.

But Karoui, 56, a candidate for the presidency, was absent from his own campaign as he sits in jail on suspicion of money laundering and tax evasion.

His party, Qalb Tounes, claim that his arrest in late August was politically motivated; an attempt by the government to eliminate political opponents. But the mood in the market suggests that it has had the opposite effect.

"The people love him, the politicians do not love him, that's why he's in prison," said fishmonger Lotfi Bourguiba, 51, waving a Qalb Tounes flyer in one hand and a fish in the other to "drive away the evil eye."

Mamia, a 58 year old woman selling bread, cried when he was arrested. "He was arrested because he is good - he fed people, clothed them, he bought them fridges and televisions," she said.

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Sudan's transitional government reaches deal to enter into talks with rebel groups

By Mohammed Amin
Middle East Eye
September 12th, 2019

Members of Sudan's transitional government have agreed to a framework for talks with rebel groups in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile state, prompting hopes that the country's ongoing political revolution could pave the way for a lasting peace in the restive regions.

The two sides met in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, earlier this week for talks mediated by South Sudanese President Salva Kiir, whose government and ruling party, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), have close ties with both rebel groups and civilian opposition leaders.

The announcement on Wednesday of a preliminary agreement after just two days of discussions is seen by many as an indication that the peace process, which had stalled for years under former Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir, may finally be moving in the right direction.

The negotiating team for the transitional government was headed by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, a member of Sudan's sovereign council and the head of the notorious Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia who is also known as Hemeti. It also included members of the Forces for Freedom and Change opposition coalition.

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Saudi journalist and activist honoured at RSF Press Freedom Awards

Middle East Eye
September 13th, 2019

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) on Thursday awarded its 2019 Press Freedom Prize to three female journalists, including Saudi Arabia's Eman al-Nafjan who has been accused by the Saudi authorities of threatening "national security".

A linguistic professor and journalist, Nafjan was awarded RSF's Prize for Courage, which is offered to those "who demonstrate courage in the practice, defence or promotion of journalism."

Nafjan, along with other activists including Loujain al-Hathloul, Aziza al-Yousef, and Hatoon al-Fassi, have led years-long campaigns against Saudi Arabia's ban on women driving, only to be arrested last year just before the kingdom's landmark decision to lift restrictions on female motorists.

Activists group say some of the activists were held in solitary confinement and subjected to mistreatment and torture, including electric shocks, flogging and threats of rape and murder. The New York Times reported in March that Nafjan's treatment was so harsh that she tried to commit suicide, according to a US intelligence assessment.

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In letter from prison, jailed Muslim Brotherhood youth call on prominent public figures to mediate with authorities to secure their release

Mada Masr
September 9th, 2019

A group of imprisoned youth members of the Muslim Brotherhood has issued a new letter calling on prominent public figures to mediate with Egyptian authorities in order to secure their release.

The statement is addressed to the Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar, Ahmed al-Tayyeb, and a number of "religious, media and political figures," including former presidential candidate Mohammed Salim Al-Awa, Salafi Sheikh Mohammed Hassan, and chair of the Supreme Media Regulatory Council Makram Mohamed Ahmed.

It calls on the public figures to form a mediation committee to negotiate between the state and imprisoned Muslim Brotherhood youth in order to create a roadmap to "end this crisis." In the plea, the imprisoned youth say they will agree to whatever conditions the mediation committee comes up with to secure their release.

The message was first published on Al Jazeera on September 3 and re-published on Facebook by Omar Hassan, a close associate of the group's youth members.

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POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

POMEPS APSA MENA FELLOW

Deadline: December 31st, 2019

The Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) and the MENA Politics Section of the American Political Science Association invite nominations and self-nominations for the inaugural POMEPS MENA Politics Fellow. The Fellow should be an early career scholar, defined as pre-tenure, who has demonstrated excellence in scholarship and an interest in contributing to the professional and intellectual development of the field of Middle East Political Science.

The Fellow will participate in the programming of the MENA Politics Section, assist the editor of the MENA Politics Newsletter, and help to coordinate the MENA Politics Virtual Research Forum. The Fellow will serve a one year term beginning at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the APSA, and will receive a modest honorarium in recognition of service. Please send a **statement of interest by December 31 to apsamena@gmail.com**. Submit your full application including a CV and a one page statement of purpose which outlines potential contributions to the Section's programming to apsamena@gmail.com by **February 15, 2020**.

More information and application [here](#)

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Research Fellow, UCL

Deadline: September 20th, 2019

The post holder will work closely with Prof Fiddian-Qasmiyeh (the project PI) and Dr Estella Carpi throughout all stages of the project, assisting in developing grounded conceptual and theoretical frameworks vis-à-vis refugee- and Southern-led responses to displacement; analysing (and where relevant, collecting) qualitative data in/from Turkey, Lebanon and/or Jordan, and engaging in a range of dissemination activities.

The Research Fellow will be encouraged to author and co-author academic and non-academic outputs throughout the project with the PI, Dr. Estella Carpi and/or with locally-based researchers as appropriate, and to contribute actively to the knowledge exchange and outreach

activities of both the UCL-Migration Research Unit and the UCL-Refuge in a Moving World research network. The Research Fellow will be expected to offer between 4 and 8 hours of lecturing activities in the academic year at UCL on topics related to displacement and forced migration. They will be expected to offer at least one public seminar on a displacement-related topic.

This post is initially funded for 12 months commencing October 2019.

Key Requirements

The successful candidate will have a PhD in a relevant social science or cognate field such as; anthropology, human geography, development studies, refugee and forced migration studies, humanitarian studies, sociology, and any other relevant discipline.

They will also be expected to have a strong knowledge of critical theories and literatures pertaining to post-development and 'non-traditional' development and/or humanitarian actors. As well as experience in producing high quality written communications including articles, book chapters, reports and blogs.

More information and application [here](#)

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Lectureship in Economic History, King's College London - Political Economy

Deadline: September 22nd, 2019

The Department of Political Economy (DPE) is undergoing a further significant expansion as part of its mission to offer a broad-based interdisciplinary research and teaching space which brings the study of economics and politics closer together. The department is committed to theoretical and methodological pluralism and is based on an inclusive interdisciplinary vision. We welcome applicants for these posts from all candidates who share that vision and who will contribute to its broader diversity.

The Department of Political Economy invites applications for a Lectureship in Economic History. We encourage applications from candidates who can deliver research-led teaching in any branch of economic history. Candidates should be able to contribute to undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and ideally have a demonstrated ability to teach in other related areas of economics (e.g. applied econometrics, macroeconomics or history of economic thought).

This post will be offered on an indefinite contract.

This is a full-time post - 100% full time equivalent.

The selection process will take place by Interviews process will consist of a presentation to DPE Department staff and research students, followed by an interview with the selection panel.

Professor Mark Pennington 020 7848 1687 mark.pennington@kcl.ac.uk

To apply, please register with the King's College London application portal and complete your application online.

Please ensure you have uploaded your CV as well as the personal statement before submitting your completed application. Applications with no CV attached will not be considered.

We do not accept academic articles either published or in draft form as part of the application process. We will ask for this information only from shortlisted candidates.

More information and application [here](#)

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Junior Research Fellowship, The Crown Center for Middle East Studies

Deadline: October 31st, 2019

The Crown Center for Middle East Studies is offering **two-year fellowships** to outstanding scholars of Middle East politics, economics, history, religion, anthropology, or sociology for the 2020-2022 academic years. This consecutive, two-year fellowship is targeted at junior scholars with PhD in hand and not yet tenured. The fellowship's goal is to allow junior scholars the flexibility and means to advance a specific research project related to the contemporary Middle East.

Eligibility

The 2020-2022 Junior Research Fellowship is open to both recent PhDs (as a post-doctoral position) and assistant professors in Middle East-related fields. A PhD must be completed by September 1, 2020.

Terms

This fellowship is a two-year appointment beginning September 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2022. The annual stipend is \$50,000. In addition, funding is available for research, travel, and related expenses. Fringe benefits will be available during the two-year appointment period.

Fellows are required to be in residence at the Crown Center during the tenure of the fellowship. During their residence, fellows write a *Middle East Brief each year* and participate in all Crown Center events, including: seminars, workshops, meetings, and retreats.

More information and application [here](#)

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Tunis Office: Yemen Researcher, Arab Regional Advocacy Program, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)

Deadline: September 20th, 2019

CIHRS is a unique organization that has demonstrated its credibility in the field of human rights and democracy since its inception in 1993. During the many political storms that have come, passed and remain throughout the MENA region, CIHRS has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to stand above the politics of interest groups. As a growing and increasingly influential organization, CIHRS remains resolutely committed to its core principles of respect for universal human rights and justice.

The researcher is responsible for developing a program of research; network creation and advocacy to achieve positive human rights change in Yemen, taking into consideration the influence of neighboring states and other regional and global powers on human rights conditions. The Yemen Researcher carries out research and analysis on human rights conditions; outreach to local, independent civil society organizations; support and capacity building for local partners and coordination with colleagues in other human rights organizations focused on similar issues.

A central part of the job is to build a network of human rights activists from Yemen, and other relevant countries, to partner with CIHRS in coordinated advocacy with international organizations to achieve human rights objectives. The Yemen Researcher works with partner organizations and human rights activists from the Arab region and around the world to carry out national, regional and global human rights advocacy campaigns and initiatives. In coordination with CIHRS' advocacy offices in Brussels and Geneva, and with CIHRS staff members and partners in the United States, the researcher implements advocacy to achieve specific human rights policy objectives targeting international organizations and influential governments. The researcher serves as an in-house expert at CIHRS on the political, legal and social contexts shaping human rights conditions in Yemen.

The researcher will join a small but expanding team of ARAP researchers based in the Tunis office, as well as with a larger team of ARAP and CIHRS staff located in multiple countries.

While this position will have primary responsibility for developing an advocacy program for Yemen, all researchers are expected to be flexible and able to respond to human rights developments in the Arab region according to expertise and availability.

Duties and Responsibilities

Tasks and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Follow and monitor developments that impact human rights conditions in Yemen.
- Develop advocacy goals for CIHRS and its partners at the United Nations and other international advocacy targets.
- Produce research and analysis on human rights conditions in the target country.
- Provide training, support and assistance to partner organizations focused on Yemen in their work and relations with international mechanisms and officials throughout the year.

- Represent CIHRS in high-level international meetings, strategy sessions, events, trainings, etc.
- Articulate clear and measurable advocacy objectives, and establish coherent strategies, plans and activities to achieve them.
- Perform media outreach, the production of press releases, the building of working relations with media outlets and individuals.
- Regularly consult and strategize with CIHRS staff and partner organizations to formulate international and national advocacy strategies and goals that reflect the mission of ARAP.
- Participate in CIHRS and program meetings to assist in the formulation and creation of organizational and program specific goals, plans and strategies.
- In consultation with the Senior Director for Advocacy and other ARAP staff as appropriate, contribute to developing CIHRS' region-wide focus on human rights promotion depending on expertise, regional developments and availability.

Eligibility criteria:

Essential qualifications, knowledge & experience and skills:

- A Master's degree in a relevant social science field (e.g. Political Science, International Relations, Law etc.) desirable, an academic background in human rights is an asset. Relevant experience in the human rights or international civil society area will also be taken into consideration.
- Minimum 3 years (full-time) working in the human rights field on the MENA region, previous experience in international advocacy is a strong asset.
- Strong understanding of international politics and international human rights mechanisms, experience engaging with and building advocacy campaigns directed at the UN and national capitals is strongly preferred.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Arabic required.
- Excellent analytical skills and a strong understanding of the political and social context in the region and of the human rights field is expected.
- Strong public speaking and presentation skills.
- Ability to formulate and carry out successful human rights advocacy campaigns.
- Previous experience in capacity building with local activists is preferred.
- Demonstrated commitment to universal human rights.
- Willingness and ability to travel regularly, work extra hours (sometimes during weekends), work well under pressure and adapt to emerging issues and changing priorities.
- The ability to work both as part of a team and to be individually motivated and organized
- Ability to work in a multicultural environment.
- Willingness to take on new and challenging tasks and goals.

More information and application [here](#)

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