Digest of Current Publications and Events

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CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

BRISMES 2019 Panel on “Stagnation VS Adaptation: tracking the evolution of the Muslim Brotherhood’s strategies and ideology since the 2013 coup”

University of Leeds
24-27 June 2019
Deadline: November 2nd, 2018

We invite papers for a panel on “Stagnation VS Adaptation: tracking the evolution of the Muslim Brotherhood’s strategies and ideology since the 2013 coup” for the British Society of Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) 2019, University of Leeds 24-27 June 2019. Interested colleagues are invited to submit a paper title and abstract of 250 words directly to Erika Biagini, Dublin City University (Erika.biagini@dcu.ie) and Lucia Ardovini, Swedish Institute of International Affairs (Lucia.Ardovini@ui.se) by Friday 2 November 2018.

Below the panel description:
Stagnation VS Adaptation: tracking the evolution of the Muslim Brotherhood’s strategies and ideology since the 2013 coup

In 2013 the coup d’etat led by Egypt’s Armed Forces removed Mohamed Morsi from power, and posed an end to the Muslim Brotherhood’s (MB) rule. Since then, the MB and its members have been brutally persecuted, and the movement has entered a state of stagnation it is struggling to break out from. The unprecedented intensity of this wave of repression fundamentally threatens the survival of the MB as both a political and ideological actor. In these times of uncertainty, the movement is undergoing a process of ideological and strategic restructuring that not only addresses its own identity as an Islamist organization, but will also have significant implications for practices and understandings of political Islam across the MENA. While its political skills and its own Islamist identity are under scrutiny, it is crucial to analyse the ways in which the movements is reacting to its perceived political failure and ongoing repression.

This panel therefore unpacks and investigates some of the most significant changes – or lack of thereof – that the MB is undergoing in the aftermath of the 2013 coup. It brings together a range of scholars, each working on a specific aspect of the MB’s current transformation, which allows for a multidisciplinary analysis of the key themes at play. These include, but are not limited to, the tensions between the dawa and the political project, ideological and strategic restructuring, the role of women and youth, and internal divisions and realignments.

We invite the submission of papers that address these and related questions:
• How has the MB’s removal from power affected its members’ ideas with regard to the suitability and feasibility of the Islamist political project?
• How have previous strategic and ideological divides played out among various cohorts and sub-group of MB members since 2013, and how are existing divisions driving processes of internal restructuring of the MB organisation?
• What strategies is the MB historical organisation pursuing to stand to and/or downplay current challenges to its legitimacy?
• What role are women and youth playing in the current ideological and strategic restructuring of the movement?
• How has repression affected MB members’ views with regard to the use of violence since 2013?
• What role has secularism played in the evolution of MB members’ worldviews and identities since 2013?
• How have MB mobilisation strategies transformed since 2013, and what do these tell us about the short and long-term political objectives of the movement?
• What role do social media and media channels play in the outreach strategy of the MB, and what can we learn from an analysis of their content?
• What role do Egyptian Islamist diaspora movements play in the current process of MB ideological and structural reconfiguration, as well as its financial support?
• How have MB strategic and ideological alliances with Islamist and non-Islamist groups been affected since 2013?

More information email Erika.biagini@dcu.ie or Lucia.Ardovini@ui.se

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Twenty-Fourth Alternative Futures and Popular Protest Conference

15-17th April 2019 at the University of Manchester, UK

Deadlines:
• Receipt of abstracts: Monday 11th February 2019. We aim to respond by 1st March.
• Conference registration: Monday 1st April 2019
• Receipt of full papers: Monday 1st April 2019

The Twenty-Fourth Alternative Futures and Popular Protest Conference will be held on 15-17th April 2019 at the University of Manchester, UK. From 1995 to 2018 this hugely successful series of international conferences has been organised by Colin Barker and Mike Tylesley at Manchester Metropolitan University. Colin and Mike are now retired, and so we are very pleased to be able to move the conference less than half a mile down Oxford Road, where it will now be organised by an AFPP Organising Committee, largely based in the Sociology Department at UoM.

The Conference rubric and structure will remain much as in previous years. The aim is to explore the dynamics of popular social movements, along with the ideas which animate their activists and supporters and which contribute to shaping their fate. Reflecting the inherent
cross-disciplinary nature of the issues, previous participants (from over 60 countries) have come from such specialisms as sociology, politics, cultural studies, social psychology, economics, history and geography. The Manchester conferences have been notable for discovering a fruitful and friendly meeting ground between activism and academia.

Call for Papers
We invite offers of papers relevant to the conference themes. Papers might address such matters as:

- contemporary and historical social movements and popular protests
- social movement theory
- utopias and experiments
- ideologies of collective action
- social movements and everyday politics

To offer a paper, please send a title, abstract (max 300 words) and 4-6 keywords to the organisers at afpp@manchester.ac.uk including ‘ABSTRACT SUBMISSION’ in the email subject field.

If your abstract is accepted we will also ask you to supply a written paper in advance of the conference, which will be distributed to all participants in advance. Ideally, this would take the form of a fully-referenced working paper, of 6-8,000 words in length in MS Word .docx, Adobe .pdf or compatible format. However, some speakers have submitted different kinds of documents in the past (e.g. extended notes; powerpoint slideshows and so on). We are open to the submission of such documents instead of a working paper as long as they successfully communicate the main argument and evidence base for your paper to a scholarly audience and without the need for specialist software.

Arrangements & Fees
The conference will run from lunch-time Monday 15th April until after lunch on Wednesday 17th April 2019 at The Manchester Meeting Place, Sackville St, Manchester M1 3AL. Registration fees cover participation, three lunches and coffee breaks. Fees are set at:

- Full rate: £150
- PGR/precarious: £90

The ‘PGR/precarious’ fee is intended for doctoral students and those on short term contract work where there is no access to discretionary funds for conferences. Conference participants will also be invited to dine together at two local (and not too expensive) restaurants on the two conference evenings with payment to be made directly at the restaurants.

More information [here](#)

Call for Applicants: Lebanon Doctoral Dissertation Summer Institute (Beirut, 17-28 June 2019)

Program Dates: 17-28 June 2018 (Beirut, Lebanon)
Application Deadline: 15 January 2018
The Arab Studies Institute (ASI) and AUB’s Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES) are pleased to announce the fourth annual Doctoral Dissertation Summer Institute on Lebanon, to be held 17-28 June 2019. The program aims to provide a framework for facilitating and advancing rigorous inter-disciplinary doctoral dissertation research on Lebanon.

Scholarly literature on Lebanon is seldom fully integrated into the graduate coursework of PhD students focusing on the Middle East and North Africa. Furthermore, such students rarely find themselves at institutions with access to a scholar of Lebanon to fulfill the role of course professor, academic advisor, field examiner, or dissertation committee member. These dynamics are particularly important given the frequent and problematic ways that historical and contemporary political, economic, social, and cultural dynamics in Lebanon are exceptionalized vis-à-vis the comparative study of societies in general and the Middle East in particular.

By bringing together PhD students of various disciplinary training and topical foci, this program creates a space to interrogate, modify, and develop critical approaches to the study of Lebanon. Central to this process is increasing students’ familiarity with the contours of knowledge production as well as field research in Lebanon.

The goals of the doctoral dissertation summer workshop include:

- Deepening participants’ theoretical and empirical foundations;
- Introducing applicants to the main questions and methods of various disciplines;
- Facilitating logistical preparation for archival and other forms of research fieldwork;
- Fostering the development of a doctoral dissertation research and writing community;
- Expanding critical knowledge production on Lebanon.

A cohort of PhD students, representing an array of disciplines, research agendas, and institutional affiliations, will be chosen from an open pool of applicants through a competitive selection process.

**Relevant Dates**

- Application Deadline: 15 January 2019
- Admission Notification: 15 February 2019
- Participant Confirmation Deadline: 1 April 2019

**Cost of Attendance**

There is no participation cost other than international travel and local accommodation. The Arab Studies Institute (ASI) and Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES) are covering the costs associated with the implementation of all summer institute activities, including most related local meals and local transportation, as well as a one-year research affiliation with CAMES. Please note each accepted participant is responsible for funding and securing their international airfare, entry visa, and local accommodation. The co-directors of the summer institute will provide participants with information on reserved accommodations available at a special group rate.
Eligibility
In order to apply and be considered for admission into the doctoral dissertation summer institute, individuals must fulfill the following criteria:

1. Currently enrolled in an accredited doctoral program of any university around the world (including those residing in Lebanon, or enrolled at a university in Lebanon). Please note: applicants can be based in humanities or social science divisions of their academic institutions, and can be seeking a discipline-specific or interdisciplinary degree.
2. Advanced to candidacy or ABD (i.e., have formally defended their dissertation research proposal and passed their general and/or qualifying exams) by no later than 1 June 2019.
3. Possess advanced Arabic proficiency in reading and speaking and intermediate Arabic proficiency in writing.

Application Materials
Application Deadline: 15 January 2019
Notification of Decision: 15 February 2019
All applicants must submit the following materials via email to Lebanon.Dissertation@gmail.com:

1. Cover Letter (must include reasons for applying to the workshop; summary of research agenda; description of academic preparation; and mention of prior experience in the region and/or Lebanon).
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV), which must be current and up-to-date.
3. Letter of Recommendation from Primary Advisor and/or Dissertation Chair.
5. Completed Academic and Language Training Form (click here to download).

Schedule and Preliminary Program
Participant Arrival: Sunday, 16 June 2019
Summer Workshop: Monday, 17 June – Friday, 28 June 2019
Participant Departure: Saturday, 29 June 2019
Program: The institute program will begin on 17 June 2019 and end on 28 June 2019. It will be comprised of eleven working days and one day off. Each working day will be made up of three components: seminar discussion, state-of-the-field lecture, and site visit. The seminar will be based on a pre-circulated inter-disciplinary reader, and will be facilitated by the institute co-directors, Ziad Abu-Rish and Nadya Sbaiti. The lectures will be given by invited established scholars, highlighting the current state of academic literature on Lebanon in a given discipline (e.g., history, political science, and anthropology) or topic (e.g., urban studies, political economy, and migration). Key in this respect will be how that literature has changed over the past few decades in terms of questions, theoretical frameworks, and methodologies. Site visits will include archives, libraries, and research centers, as well as walking tours and public events. Such visits will be conducted in collaboration with local researchers, practitioners, and activists. For the previous years’ readers, lecture series, and site visits, please visit our website.
Organizers
This doctoral dissertation summer workshop is being organized under the auspices of the Arab Studies Institute in partnership with the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies. It is co-convened and co-directed by Ziad Abu-Rish and Nadya Sbaiti.

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Panel on "Movements and Resistance Paths in Contemporary Algeria", SeSaMO Conference
University of Turin, 31 January - 2 February 2019
Deadline: October 31st, 2018

This panel welcomes interdisciplinary papers on resistance paths and revolutionary movements in contemporary Algeria - cultural, religious, political, juridical, institutional - stressing, in particular, the riots of 2010-2011’s legacy on on-going mobilization.

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Workshop: "Connected Histories: Decolonization and the 20th Century"
Yale University, 26-27 April 2019
Deadline: November 1st, 2018

Keynote Speaker: Professor Barbara Keys (University of Melbourne)
In the past few years, the project of writing global history has become increasingly celebrated. Many historians argue for the utility and indeed necessity of globalizing history. Others still remain concerned about what a global optic can occlude.

This conference invites senior and emerging scholars to interrogate what the “global turn” can offer to histories of decolonization and anti-colonial thought in the twentieth century. This would involve moving beyond the direct connections between colony and metropole and to think about other connected and conceptual geographies and terrains. We understand decolonization to encompass not only the formal transference of powers, but also the larger processes by which individuals and societies confronted the legacy and violence of empire – in political memory, intellectual thought, and public history.
The planning committee therefore invites papers on the following topics:

- Intellectual genealogies of revolutionary and counter-revolutionary ideas, as well as their transmission across space and time
- Decolonization and its transnational debates
- Connected visions of violence
- Public memory and the legacy of empire
- Law, Legality and Decolonization
- Nodes, networks and hubs of transnational/trans-imperial activism
- Gender and internationalism
- Transnational efforts to challenge the global “color line”
- Transnational histories of the counter-revolutionary right
- Mapping international connections: prospects and possibilities from the Digital Humanities
- Methods in global intellectual and cultural history

We are especially interested in papers that challenge the boundaries of older geographies, inviting projects that offer new ways to connect the history of the Global South to that of Europe and North America; move between and across different imperial spaces and work through alternate transnational fields such as literature, art and the law. Projects that emphasize the lateral connections within and across Asia, Latin America, Africa, and the Caribbean are also encouraged.

The conference will be based on a colloquium model. It will include a keynote address, a plenary lecture, and five thematic panels. Thematic panels will be decided upon the shared interests of the participants.

We will cover accommodation and food while at New Haven. We also have some funding support available for domestic and international travel.

**Deadline for abstract submissions: November 1, 2018**

**Email submissions to:** connectedhistoriesyale2019@gmail.com

Questions? Email charlotte.kiechel@yale.edu or zaibunnisa.aziz@yale.edu

More information [here](#)

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5th China and The Middle East and North Africa Conference
Northwest University, Xi’an, 16-18 May 2019
Deadline: April 15th, 2018

We invite submissions on the following and related topics: Political Economy of the Middle East; Nationalism and Nation-State; Political Parties; Environmental Issues; Social Movements; Religion and Politics; Gender Issues in the Middle East; Israeli-Palestinian Conflict; etc.

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Annual Meeting of the French Colonial Historical Society on "Order and Disorder in the French Colonial Empire"
University of Sherbrooke (near Montreal), 13-15 June 2019
Deadline: November 1st, 2018

The 45th Annual Congress of the French Colonial Historical Society (FCHS) will be held at the University of Sherbrooke, Longueuil Campus (two metro stations from the city of Montreal) from Thursday, June 13 to Saturday, June 15, 2019.

This year’s conference theme is « Order and Disorder in the French Colonial Empire », which invites participants to consider principles, institutions, and strategies that ensured the establishment and maintenance of colonial order but also contestations and resistances which sometimes led to its collapse.

The Society encourages students, scholars, and educators from all disciplines to submit proposals. Papers may be delivered in English or French. Individual paper proposals should include a 200-word summary, as well as the title of the paper, presenter’s name, institutional affiliation, e-mail address, phone number, and a brief C.V. (1 to 2 pages). All components of the proposal should be integrated into a single file MS-Word document.

Proposals for complete panels or round tables will contain the same information for each participant, as well as a title for their panel/round table. Please also provide contact information and a short C.V. for the moderator if one is included in the proposal. The program committee will assist in locating moderators, if necessary. Please indicate in your proposal whether audiovisual equipment is required for your proposal.

Individuals wishing to moderate a session should send a statement of interest that included research specialization, contact information, and a brief C.V. Individual and panel proposals should be submitted via email before November 1st, 2018 (deadline) to frenchcolonial2019@gmail.com.
The FCHS depends on membership dues. All conference participants (presenters and moderators) must pay both the 2019 membership fee and the conference registration fee upon acceptance as a participant in the annual meeting. Unfortunately, the FCHS does not have funds to subsidize scholars’ participation at the meeting. Graduate students, however, may apply for the Shorrock Travel Award; details are provided on the FCHS website (the application must be sent with the proposal).

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11th Nordic Conference on Middle Eastern Studies: “Breaking and Creating Boundaries in the Middle East”

Helsinki, Finland, 14-16 August 2019
Deadline for submitting proposals for a roundtable or a pre-organized panel is 15 January 2019.
Deadline for individual papers and posters is 15 February 2019.

The Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies (NSM) (http://thenordicsociety.se), the University of Helsinki and the Finnish Institute in the Middle East (http://www.fime.fi/) are pleased to announce the call for papers for the Eleventh Nordic Conference on Middle Eastern Studies. The conference is the 20th anniversary celebration of NSM, which is an independent non-profit association for scholars in the Nordic countries working on the Middle East. It covers all subjects in the humanities and social sciences, from antiquity to the present day. The NSM conference takes place every third year in one of the Nordic countries, and is also open for participants beyond the Nordic countries. This time the theme for the multidisciplinary conference is “Breaking and Creating Boundaries in the Middle East”.

The Middle East and North Africa have been going through a tumultuous process of change since the uprisings of 2011. In the process, many old social, political and even physical boundaries have been crossed, broken or re-created. The concept of “boundaries” now plays a significant role in social sciences and humanities. In addition to actual physical boundaries, the concept is also related to the study of identity, religion, gender, immigration, minorities and many other phenomena. Paper proposals are encouraged to explore and discuss the social, political, geographical, religious boundaries from all fields and disciplines of the Middle Eastern studies, including – but not limited to – the following fields: Middle Eastern history, anthropology, religion, politics, sociology, language, and literature. Also papers on other relevant themes pertinent to current Middle Eastern Studies are welcome.

Keynotes
The confirmed keynote speakers are Professor Sari Hanafi (The American University of Beirut), Professor Lara Deeb (Scripps College) and Professor Gareth Stansfield (University of Exeter).
Abstract Submission

The deadline for submitting proposals for a roundtable or a pre-organized panel is 15 January 2019.

For a roundtable, please submit a proposal comprising an abstract of about 150 words on the theme as well as the names and institutional affiliations of convener, chair, and panelists. For pre-organized panels, please submit a proposal comprising the names and institutional affiliations of convener, chair, and panelists, as well as title and abstract of about 150 words for the panel itself and for each paper presented. A pre-organized panel consists of a chair plus 3-4 panelists with single papers.

The deadline for submitting proposals for individual papers and posters is 15 February 2019. Please submit your name, institutional affiliation and the title and abstract of your paper not exceeding 150 words.

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TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

Conference: "No Country for Anthropologists? Contemporary Ethnographic Research in the Middle East"

University of Zurich, 1-3 November 2018

Bringing together anthropologists from Egypt, Europe, Iran, Lebanon, Pakistan, Turkey, the United States, and other countries, this conference debates the following questions: What are the obstacles to do ethnography in the contemporary Middle East? What do they teach us about the current role and the future possibilities of anthropology?

For program and more information here

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London Palestine Film Festival
16th - 28th November 2018 | various locations | London

Creating a stimulating platform that brings together filmmakers, scholars and the public in order to encourage crucial dialogue regarding Palestine’s film industry, its culture and its politic, this film festival features many fascinating feature films and documentaries.

More information here

Middle East Careers - Round Table Event
University of Manchester | 8 November 2018

BRISMES and the University of Manchester are hosting a careers evening for students interested in or working on the Middle East. There will be a panel discussion with professionals from different sectors including academia, business and the diplomatic service, followed by a networking reception where students will have the opportunity to question the panelists informally.

The event is free and open to all, but registration is required.

More information here

RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Hezbollah Mobilisation and Power
Aurélie Daher
January 2019-Hurst

Almost thirty years after its foundation, Hezbollah remains an enigma. Is it an Islamist terrorist group dedicated to destroying Israel or the first Arab national resistance to have ever defeated Tel Aviv’s troops? Should we look at it as a patriotic and respectable party or a
fascist network at the centre of Lebanese political life? Hezbollah intrigues all the more for the difficulty involved in studying it. Its weakening, if not demise, has been announced many times since its inception in the early 1980s. But the fact is that Hezbollah has never stopped growing in power, on the national stage as well as in a regional context.

This book has three purposes. It first gives a clear definition of Hezbollah, presenting a thorough history of the party, describing its established internal structure, and the scope of its social and political action. It then explains the evolution of the party’s mobilisation. Finally, it illustrates another path, political but mainly identity-related — that of the Shiite community, today the main constituent of Lebanese society.

This rigorous and richly documented study, drawing on primary sources and hundreds of interviews with members, executives and officials of the party, unveils new aspects of this organisation, of the ‘Hezbollah phenomenon’ and of Lebanese politics of the last two decades.

Human Rights and Agents of Change in Iran: Towards a Theory of Change

Editors: Barlow, Rebecca, Akbarzadeh, Shahram
Palgrave, 2018

This volume extends debates on the interaction between universal human rights and the political experiences of Iranians, through a conceptual analysis of ‘theories of change’. It assesses the practical processes by which individuals, organizations and movements can reform or impact the structural, theological and political challenges faced in the Iranian context.

Routledge Handbook of Minorities in the Middle East

Editor: 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.

1. Introduction: Reclaiming "Minorities" in the Middle East
   Paul S. Rowe

Section One: Majority-Minority Relations in the Middle East
2. Religious Minorities in the Diversity of Islamic Thought
   David D. Grafton
3. Balancing Identities: Minorities and Arab Nationalism
   Noah Haiduc-Dale
4. The Praxis of Islamist Models of Citizenship in a Post-Arab Revolt Middle East: Implications for Religious Pluralism
   Mariz Tadros
5. Minorities, Civil Society, and the State in the Contemporary Middle East: a Framework for Analysis
   Paul Kingston

Section Two: Religious Minorities
6. Tracing the Coptic Question in Contemporary Egypt
   Vivian Ibrahim
7. The Maronites
   Alexander D. M. Henley
8. Palestinian Christians: Situating Selves in a Dislocated Present
   Mark Daniel Calder
9. Persistent Perseverance: a Trajectory of Assyrian History in the Modern Age
   Sargon George Donabed
10. Christians from a Muslim Background in the Middle East
Duane Alexander Miller
11. The Yezidis: an Ancient People, Tragedy, and Struggle for Survival
Birgül Açikyildiz-Sengül
12. The Mandaeans in Iraq
Shak Hanish
13. Bahá’ís in the Middle East
Geoffrey Cameron with Nazila Ghanea
14. The Alawites of Syria: the Costs of Minority Rule
Leon T. Goldsmith
15. Particularism versus Integration: the Druze Communities in the Modern Middle East
Yusri Hazran
16. Alevis in Turkey
Ali Çarkoğlu and Ezgi Elçi
17. The Samaritans
Monika Schreiber
18. Shi’i Minorities in the Arab World
Laurence Louèr

Section Three: Ethnic Minorities
19. The Kurds in the Middle East
David Romano
20. Armenians in the Middle East: from Marginalization to the Everyday
Tsolin Nalbantian
21. The Palestinian Minority in the State of Israel: Challenging Jewish Hegemony in Difficult Times
Aviad Rubin
22. The Bedouin in the Middle East
Sarab Abu-Rabia-Queder
23. The Berbers (Amazigh)
Bruce Maddy-Weitzman

Section Four: Emerging Issues and Minorities in the Middle East
24. Sitting at the Crossroads: Sexual Minorities in the Middle East
Merouan Mekouar and Jean Zaganiaris
25. Minorities and Armed Conflict in the Middle East
Paul S. Rowe
26. Middle Eastern Minorities in Diaspora
Andreas Schmoller
27. Middle Eastern Minorities and the Media
Elizabeth Monier
28. Western Advocacy on Behalf of Religious Minorities: Practical Reflections
Chris Seiple and Andrew Doran

Bibliography
Politics of a garbage crisis: social networks, narratives, and frames of Lebanon’s 2015 protests and their aftermath

Carmen Geha
Social Movement Studies, October 24, 2018

Lebanon’s century-old sectarian framework maintains a system of governance through networks of clientelism and a commitment to fostering co-existence through the patronage of political leaders. Lebanon’s dire socio-economic conditions, coupled with long periods of deadlock, renders formal opposition almost impossible. However, looking at activism through the lens of social networks paints a different picture of how movements, both in times of mobilization and in during periods of abeyance, can create narratives and frames that sustain a loosely organized informal political opposition both on the streets and in the ballot box. This article focuses on the protest movements that arose in Lebanon in 2015 as a reaction to a mounting garbage crisis known as the hirak (the movement). The hirak is analyzed here as having passed through three stages of mobilization: (1) mobilization during the protests of summer 2015, (2) abeyance following September 2015, and (3) its remobilization during the 2016 municipal elections. Analysis of the second phase will provide evidence of how social networks allowed the movement’s framing to survive by creating narratives in abeyance when activists could deliberate and re-strategize. The article contributes to the study of social movements in abeyance as well as to the study of Arab countries that did not experience mass uprisings. By focusing on frames in abeyance, the Lebanese case helps expand the theoretical and practical framework of how narratives substantiate frames and help connect the dots between various episodes of mobilization.

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Between rebellion and uprising intersecting networks and discursive strategies in rebel controlled Syria

Teije H. Donker
Social Movement Studies, October 23rd, 2018

In the article I explore how, at the individual level, participation in multiple networks opens up questions regarding the classification of social activism. The central contention is that as mobilization networks increasingly intersect, explicit discursive designations of activism (being ‘political’ or ‘nonpolitical, social’) by individual activists becomes more prevalent. I substantiate this argument with an in-depth exploration of the Syrian uprising. I show that as two distinct networks—one that emerged around nonviolent activism, another that emerged around a violent uprising—increasingly intersected, activists began to use specific discursive
strategies. On the one side, a strategy emerged that emphasized the nonpolitical nature of mobilization, distancing activism discursively from intersecting networks. On the other side, a strategy emerged of politicizing collective identities, thereby bridging discursively various mobilization networks. The article thereby adds to existing studies on the intersection between network structure and individual activism. The analysis builds on more than a hundred primary sources from various rebel groups and relevant local actors in addition to thirty interviews with relevant players among activist, rebel and public services organizations.

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Opportunity Without Organization: Labor Mobilization In Egypt After the 25TH January Revolution


Prevailing understandings of labor protest and strikes take as their focus stable democratic settings where autonomous trade union structures are an established component of the organizational resources available to workers. We extend the analysis of labor mobilization to a radically different context: Egypt in the year of the January 25th Revolution, when workers mobilized en masse in the absence of union leadership. For this, we use a catalogue of 4,912 protest events reported in Arabic-language newspapers. Our findings point to the importance of cross-sectoral demonstration effects in contexts of political disorganization—local and national mobilization advancing both labor and nonlabor demands inspired subsequent labor protest. This speaks to the value of understanding labor protest and strikes not as delimited domains of action but as parts of a wider universe of contentious politics. In addition, state-level signals of opportunity and shifts in economic conditions are also found to pattern the incidence of labor mobilization.

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The military and the state in Egypt: class formation in the post-Arab uprisings

Angela Joya
British Journal of Middle East Studies
October 14, 2018
Since the revolution of 2011, the Egyptian military has emerged as agent of capital accumulation, engaging with international financial institutions and global investors, and simultaneously reorganizing the various fractions of the ruling class inside Egypt. While the military had established a significant degree of influence in the economy prior to the revolution, it has become increasingly active in the political realm raising alarms about the democratic possibilities in Egypt. While these concerns have been highlighted in the literature, there is still a lack of research that examines how the military has evolved into a dominant economic and political actor in the context of the current global economy. Using class analysis, I reinterpret the military’s role as an emerging dominant fraction of the ruling class under the contemporary phase of neoliberal development. As such, its ascension to power does not signify a threat to economic liberalization, but is rather an attempt to secure the conditions of its further expansion.

Mobilization structures and political change in an authoritarian context: the national association for change as a case study (2010–2011)
Shaimaa Magued
The Journal of North African Studies

In spite of the eruption of numerous public protests in contestation of the Hosni Mubarak regime since 2004, it was only with Khalid Said’s death that public protests gained momentum. The torture to death of the young Alexandrian man by police officers incited rage among youth on social media where pictures of his disfigured face went viral. Although it was not an unprecedented case of violation, this study argues that Khalid Said’s death was a transformative event that enabled Mohamed ElBaradei’s National Association for Change to provide the necessary mobilisation structures for youth protests. The NAC mobilised opposition groups and movements, fuelled by a shared grievance over the death of Said, into protests calling for Mubarak’s ouster. While the literature has mainly focused on how mobilisation structures would develop into a successful collective action in democratic regimes, this study introduces transformative events as the reason behind the success of mobilisation structures in an authoritarian environment. By perceiving a shared grievance among youth, who were highly identified politically with Mubarak’s opponents, and capitalising on a political opportunity to call for the fall of authoritarianism, transformative events led to collective action. This study relies on a qualitative research methodology based on exhaustive semi-structured interviews conducted by the author with 25 NAC members from December 2011 until August 2012 in Cairo.
Readings: Uprisings, Resistance, and Popular Mobilization in the Middle East and North Africa

Asef Bayat and the Middle East Studies Pedagogy Initiative (MESPI)
October 16th, 2018

Building from John Chalcraft’s previous installment, we are excited to announce the second of an ongoing series of Essential Readings on the Arab Uprisings and revolution, ahead of the eighth anniversary of their launching in Tunisia in December 2010.

Introduction

Middle East studies has traditionally paid more attention to the elite power than the people in subverting that power. The recent Essential Reading compiled by Lisa Anderson in Jadaliyya guides us to a fine collection of publications on the states and regimes in the Middle East since the 1970s. However, serious works on contentious politics, social movements, and resistance in the region have been quite recent. Yet within a relatively short period, some significant historically-sophisticated and theoretically-informed works have appeared that goes beyond approaching contentious politics simply in terms of “riots,” “mob action,” or mere religious reaction. They include regional and historical surveys, country studies, analyses of particular movements or acts of contention. Given that I am constrained by the limited (eight to ten) essential and representative titles, some important works might have been omitted here. My emphasis is more on studies with regional scope rather than single country monographs; attention is also paid to theoretical contributions that are drawn on the experiences of the Middle East and North Africa. Finally, these publications are all in English language which inevitably excludes non-English scholarships which may be as valuable and insightful. I have looked at scholarship on contentious politics in terms of three repertoires: uprisings and revolutions, social movements, and everyday politics and resistance.

Uprisings and Revolutions

The Iranian revolution of 1979, the rise of radical Islamism, and then the Palestine intifada instigated some important studies on large scale political contentions. Ervand Abrahamian’s Iran Between Two Revolutions (Princeton University Press, 1982) remains a far-reaching study of the social and political processes that led up to the Iranian revolution of 1979. Abrahamian’s older and short essay “Crowd in the Persian Revolution” (Iranian Studies, 1969) also remains a classic in the study of popular revolt in the Middle East. Charles Kurzman’s The Unthinkable Revolution (Harvard University Press, 2004) is an excellent intervention not only in the mode of popular mobilization, but especially in showing how the Iranian revolution, indeed any revolution, could not be planned and executed. The Palestinian intifada against the Israeli occupation also inspired important studies. An early solid analysis offered by Joost Hiltermann in Behind the Intifada: Labor and Women’s Movements in the Occupied Territories (Princeton University Press, 1993) discusses the modes and forces of the first Palestinian uprising that began in 1987.

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NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

Saudi dissident YouTube star defiant after Khashoggi murder

Al Jazeera
October 25, 2018

Saudi dissident satirist Ghanem Almasarir, whose social media mockery of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman gets millions of hits, said he is undeterred by Jamal Khashoggi's murder.

Speaking at a protest on Wednesday outside the Saudi embassy in London, Almasarir said Khashoggi's slaying had shown the wider world a darker side to the power wielded by Prince Mohammed.

"If they are not held accountable, they will continue to do it," the 38-year-old told AFP news agency, adding that many Saudi dissidents living in the UK were "afraid right now to leave their houses".

Riyadh faces growing incredulity over its explanations around the killing of Khashoggi, a Washington Post contributor and critic of Saudi policies.

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Iraq PM Adel Abdul Mahdi sworn in amid bickering over cabinet

Al Jazeera
October 25, 2018

Iraq's new Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi was sworn in on Wednesday but could not announce the full cabinet after legislators failed to reach a consensus on key postings, including interior and defence.

Abdul Mahdi was initially expected to nominate a full 22-member cabinet, including the defence and interior ministers.

But legislators from Moqtada al-Sadr’s bloc Sairoon, Abadi's Nasr Alliance, Vice President Iyad Allawi's Wataniya, and Sunni Muslim blocs left the room before voting due to disagreements.

"We decided to withdraw from the session, because we are not satisfied with the rest of the cabinet candidates," said Nasr legislator Ali Sined. "It's enough to approve 14 ministers."
Under Iraq's constitution, Shia, Sunnis, Kurds and other minorities must all be represented. Parliament will reconvene on November 6 to vote on the remaining eight ministers, Speaker Mohammed al-Halbousi said.

The unruly parliamentary session underscored the difficulties faced by Abdul Mahdi, 76, as he seeks to build consensus over his cabinet.

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Economic researcher, print house owner accused of spreading false news handed 4-day detention orders

Mada Masr
October 23rd, 2018

After copies of his book were confiscated last week, prosecutors handed a four-day detention order to economic researcher Abdel Khaleq Farouk on Monday, as well as to Ibrahim al-Khateeb, the owner of the press which was printing the book, according to lawyer Ali Attia.

Farouk was arrested from his home on Sunday and taken to Shorouk Police Station, according to his wife Naglaa Salama.

In a televised interview on October 16, Farouk said that security forces seized 200 copies of his most recent book from the Al-Ittihad Printing Press in the Dar al-Salam area of Cairo, where they were being stored ahead of the publication’s release. Farouk stated that Khateeb, Al-Ittihad’s owner, was also arrested despite having obtained the proper permits for printing the book.

One hundred and eighty-five of the confiscated copies were presented as evidence during Monday’s investigation of Farouk, which, according to Attia, began at 4 pm and dragged on for almost eight hours before south Cairo prosecutors decided to hand him a four-day detention order.

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Islamophobia is preventing the empowerment of Muslim women repressed by political agendas

The Conversation
September 3rd, 2018

For many, Muslim veiling represents the oppression of women in Islam. The head and/or face veils are a frequent topic of debate, which suggests that “saving” Muslim women from their oppressive religion is a moral duty of the West.

But focusing on the (in)visibility of women in Islam does not help the cause of empowering women in Muslim societies. Looking through the lens of Islamophobia, all Muslim societies are seen the same, where women are subjected to the same oppression. However, the contrasting examples of Saudi Arabia and Turkey show that this could not be further from truth. Muslim women are fighting for their rights, but are being held back by political moves.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is one of the most religious countries in the Middle East and yet the denial of basic women’s rights is down to a unique combination of Wahhabi culture as well as Sharia (Islamic law). The women who live there are some of the most voracious Muslim campaigners, but it is the laws of the land that they fight, not their religion.

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PETITIONS AND CALLS FOR SOLIDARITY

British PhD student Matthew Hedges confined in UAE – Petition

To add your name to the petition please email: Ms. Daniela Tejada (Matt’s wife) directly at: dtejada@outlook.com

Open letter to the UAE: Release Matthew Hedges

22 October, 2018

We, the undersigned, call for the immediate release of Matthew Hedges, a PhD student in the School of Government and International Affairs (SGIA), Durham University. Matt was arrested on 5 May 2018 at Dubai International Airport as he was leaving the UAE. Matt was in the UAE to conduct a series of interviews for his PhD thesis which examines the role of
civil-military relations in the UAE post-Arab spring. He had permission to be there and to meet and interview officials with knowledge of civil-military relations in the Emirates. For almost six months, Matthew has been held in solitary confinement at an undisclosed location in Abu Dhabi. He has had extremely limited access to British consular authorities and access to legal representation was only granted a week ago. Information about his case and the reasons for his detention were withheld from his family, Durham University and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. It is only in the last week that the UAE authorities have charged Matthew with gathering information to share with a foreign agency – the British intelligence. This charge is totally without foundation.

Matthew’s physical and mental health have deteriorated. He was forced to sleep on the floor for the first four and a half months after his arrest, denied access to regular showers and prevented from receiving any reading material that might help allay his mental anguish. Since his detention, it has come to light that Matthew suffers from anxiety and depression; amongst other worrying symptoms, he has expressed suicidal thoughts in the brief communications he has had with his wife. The conditions in which he has been kept are degrading and inhumane and violate all internationally accepted practices over the detention of individuals.

We call upon the Emirati authorities to release Matthew Hedges without delay. Not only is he an innocent man being held unjustly, but it also places into question existing and future academic ties between the UK and the UAE. British scholars can no longer regard the Emirates as a safe place for legitimate academic research, despite the efforts of the UAE government to encourage educational exchanges between UK institutions and the UAE. By his unjustified detention, prolonged arrest in solitary confinement, lack of access to proper legal advice and limited consular access, Matthew’s rights have been and continue to be denied by the UAE authorities.

1. Professor Clive Jones, Durham University
2. Professor Emma Murphy, Durham University
3. Professor Anoush Ehteshami, Durham University
4. Professor David Held, Durham University
5. Emeritus Professor Tim Niblock, University of Exeter
6. Professor Marc Valeri, University of Exeter
7. Professor Michael Winter, University of Exeter
8. Professor Sabina Leonelli, University of Exeter
9. Professor Claire Dunlop, University of Exeter
10. Professor Isabelle Engeli, University of Exeter
11. Professor Brian Rappert, University of Exeter
12. Professor Jeroen Gunning, King’s College London
13. Professor Charles Tripp, SOAS University London
14. Professor Nadje Al-Ali, SOAS University London
15. Professor Lynn Welchman, SOAS University London
16. Professor Beverly Milton-Edwards, Queen’s University Belfast
17. Professor Yvonne Galligan, Queen’s University Belfast
18. Professor Cathal McCall, Queen’s University Belfast
19. Professor Pamela Abbott, University of Aberdeen
20. Professor Roger Sapsford, University of Aberdeen
22. Professor Sari Hanafi, American University of Beirut
23. Professor Miguel Hernando de Larramendi, Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha
24. Professor Ferran Izquierdo Brichs, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
25. Dr Gertjan Hoetjes, Durham University
26. Dr Eva-Maria Nag, Durham University
27. Dr John Heathershaw, University of Exeter
28. Dr Lise Storm, University of Exeter
29. Dr Irene Fernandez-Molina, University of Exeter
30. Dr Ross Porter, University of Exeter
31. Dr Sajjad Rizvi, University of Exeter
32. Dr Claire Beaugrand, University of Exeter
33. Dr Stephane Baele, University of Exeter
34. Dr Gregorio Bettiza, University of Exeter
35. Dr Nils-Christian Bormann, University of Exeter
36. Dr Katharine Boyd, University of Exeter
37. Dr Ross Carroll, University of Exeter
38. Dr Stephen Greasley, University of Exeter
39. Dr Jack Griffiths, University of Exeter
40. Dr Lise Herman, University of Exeter
41. Dr Keith Howe, University of Exeter
42. Dr Steven Kapp, University of Exeter
43. Dr Susan Kelly, University of Exeter
44. Dr Joel Krueger, University of Exeter
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46. Dr Bice Maiguashca, University of Exeter
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69. Dr Craig Larkin, King’s College London
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85. Dr François Burgat, IREMAM
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87. Dr Fatih Dazi-Heni, Sciences Po
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90. Dr Elvira Sánchez Mateos, Universitat de Barcelona
91. Dr Aurèlia Mañé Estrada, Universitat de Barcelona
92. Dr Laura Feliu, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
93. Dr José Luis Villanova, Universidad de Girona
94. Dr Ana Ballesteros Peiró, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
95. Dr Ana I. Planet, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
96. Dr Ángeles Ramírez Fernández, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
97. Dr Héctor Grad, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
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103. Dr Miguel Ángel Manzano Rodríguez, Universidad de Salamanca
104. Dr Helena de Felipe, Universidad de Alcalá
105. Dr Ignacio Álvarez-Ossorio Alvariño, Universidad de Alicante
106. Dr Beatriz Tomé-Alonso, Universidad Loyola Andalucía
107. Dr Bosco Govantes, Universidad Pablo de Olavide
108. Dr Thierry Desrues, Instituto De Estudios Sociales Avanzados (IESA)-CSIC
109. Dr Maria Cardeira da Silva, Universidade Nova de Lisboa
110. Dr Francesco Vacchiano, Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa
111. Dr Luis Melián Rodríguez, Independent researcher
112. Dr Marta Saldaña, Independent researcher
113. Dr Naomí Ramírez Díaz, Independent researcher
114. Dr Lila Lamrani, Independent researcher
115. Mr Matteo Capasso, University of Durham
116. Mr Jeremy Wildeman, University of Durham
POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

A Position in Comparative Politics of the Middle East at the American University in Cairo, Egypt

Deadline: Priority will be given to applications received by November 30, 2018. Position is open until filled.

About AUC:
Founded in 1919, AUC moved to a new 270-acre state-of-the-art campus in New Cairo in 2008. The University also operates in its historic downtown facilities, offering cultural events, graduate classes, and continuing education. Student housing is available in New Cairo. Among the premier universities in the region, AUC is Middle States accredited; its Engineering programs are accredited by ABET, its Chemistry program is accredited by the Canadian Society for Chemistry, and the School of Business is accredited by AACSB, AMBA and EQUIS. The AUC Libraries contain the largest English-language research collection in the region and are an active and integral part of the University’s pursuit of excellence in all academic and scholarly programs. AUC is an English-medium institution; eighty-five percent of the students are Egyptian and the rest include students from nearly ninety countries, principally from the Middle East, Africa and North America. Faculty salary and rank are based on qualifications and professional experience. According to AUC policies and procedures, faculty are entitled to generous benefits.

Job Description:
The Department of Political Science invites applications for a position in Comparative Politics with emphasis on the Middle East starting Fall 2019. The position is on a five-year fixed-term contract. Teaching responsibilities will include a combination of courses at the BA and MA levels in comparative politics of the Middle East, introduction to political science, research methods, and comparative theory. Responsibilities will also include administering...
the Joint MA program in Comparative and Middle East Politics and Society (CMEPS) between AUC and the Institute of Political Science at the University of Tubingen in Germany. The search committee is eager to review applications of individuals with demonstrated excellence in teaching, an accomplished and active research agenda, and an interest in living and working in the Middle East.

Requirements:
PhD is required at the time of appointment. Successful candidates should have an ongoing program of research and publication. Teaching experience is required. Responsibilities include undergraduate as well as graduate teaching, an active program of research and publications, and service to the Department and the University.

More information and application [here](https://www.auc.edu)

**Assistant Professor of Sociology, American University in Cairo (AUC)**

Deadline: Priority will be given to applications that are submitted by November 1, 2018.

Job Description:
The Department of Sociology, Egyptology and Anthropology (SEA) at the American University in Cairo (AUC) is seeking to recruit for a five-year position at the rank of Assistant Professor in the field of sociology beginning in the fall 2019. The teaching load is three courses per semester. Candidates with any area of expertise in the global south are encouraged to apply.

Requirements:
A PhD in sociology or a related discipline with the ability to teach and publish within the discipline of sociology. Commitment to teaching and engagement of students, as well as service to the university, particularly the sociology program and the department, are necessary, as well as an active research agenda.

Additional Information:
Priority will be given to applications that are submitted by November 1, 2018. Informational interviews will be held at the annual American Sociological Association (ASA) meeting in Philadelphia, PA between August 11-14 and the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) meeting in San Antonio, TX between November 15-18. If interested in setting up an informational interview at ASA or MESA, please contact the SEA Department at sea@aucegypt.edu. Formal interviews will be held in late November/early December.

Application Instructions:
All applicants must submit the following documents via the online system:
(a) an updated CV; (b) a letter of interest detailing research and teaching experience; (c) a completed AUC Personnel Information Form (PIF); (d) names and contact information for at least three
least three references familiar with the candidate's academic professional background; (e) one page statement on teaching goals and philosophy, including courses that the candidate would like to teach/develop; (f) one page statement on the candidate’s research agenda and (g) a writing sample or publication. Letters of reference may be sent directly by the referees to sea@aucegypt.edu. Inquiries can be submitted through the on-line application system or by e-mail at sea@aucegypt.edu.

More information and application here

Three Assistant / Associate Professors in Comparative Study of Modern Arab Politics and Society, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Deadline: January 18th, 2019 @ 4PM

The faculty members will conduct research and teach courses in the contemporary Middle East and North Africa. Preference will be given to applicants with area expertise who conduct research using Middle East languages, particularly Arabic. The faculty member will be part of an interdisciplinary group affiliated with the Arab Politics and Society cluster hiring initiative.

More information and application here

Assistant Professor in Middle East Studies and Gender & Women’s Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Deadline: The deadline for assuring full consideration is November 15, 2018, however positions will remain open and applications may be considered until the position is filled.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is seeking to hire a faculty member to conduct research and teach courses in gender/women's studies as it relates to the contemporary Middle East and North Africa, with a preference for the Arab Middle East. Preference will be given to applicants with area expertise who conduct research using Middle East languages, particularly Arabic. The tenure home will be in the Department of Gender and Women's Studies with joint appointments possible in other units. Candidates must have a Ph.D. by the start of the appointment. The appointment is expected to begin in August 2019.
The faculty member, whose training may be in one of the humanities or social science disciplines or in a gender/women's studies department, will be part of an interdisciplinary group affiliated with the Arab Politics and Society cluster hiring initiative and is expected to participate in the development of the cluster and its activities, including collaborating with the other cluster faculty and with colleagues in the Middle East Studies Program. Faculty positions include a commitment to the important functions of research, instruction, and outreach, as well as professional and university service as appropriate to faculty rank.

Overall, three candidates will be recruited in this Cluster: 1) Gender/Women's Studies [PVL # 95025](this particular search), 2) Political Science [PVL # 94569], and 3) History [PVL # 94576]. These positions are part of the UW's Cluster Hiring Initiative (https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/cluster-hiring-initiative/), designed to foster innovative, outstanding research programs that will stimulate productive interactions among faculty and students interested in research across the campus and to expand interdisciplinary research.

More information and application [here](https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/cluster-hiring-initiative/)

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**Assistant Professor of History, Pennsylvania State University**

Deadline: open until filled

The History program at the Abington College applications for a full-time, tenure-track faculty position to begin fall 2019. We welcome applications from historians with a specialization in the Global South, any period. Candidates with a focus on the Islamic World or Latin American/Caribbean History are especially encouraged to apply. Candidates must have completed the Ph.D. in History, or expect to do so by the time of appointment.

More information and application [here](https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/cluster-hiring-initiative/)

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**Fellow for the Middle East, Rice University**

Deadline: The hiring committee will begin reviewing applications on **November 15, 2018**. Applications will continue to be reviewed until the position is filled.

The position will be responsible for producing original, substantive, policy-relevant research to bring together diverse viewpoints addressing the issues of women, human rights and displaced people in the Middle East. PhD in a field related to the study of the Middle East,
gender issues, or human rights issues such as political science, policy studies, gender studies or sociology.

More information and application here

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