



Middle East  
Centre

# LSE MIDDLE EAST CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2015 | 16

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# Welcome

The past academic year in the Middle East Centre has been remarkably lively, rich and stimulating. The Centre's staff, fellows and many partners have worked exceptionally hard to deliver excellent research findings and activities, which are making a serious contribution to the understanding of our region and place the Centre at the heart of MENA work at LSE. We are delighted to have expanded our team of researchers and our partnerships with colleagues throughout LSE and across the region. The Centre has also increased its efforts to inform key policy debates on the region.

We welcomed four new post-doctoral researchers to the Centre. Valeria Cetorelli is working on the health of internally displaced persons in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, in partnership with the University of Dohuk. Cristina Moreno Almeida is playing a leading role in a project examining the relationship between participatory culture and digital media in four

Arab states. Aula Hariri's research on historical sociology and state formation in Iraq is closely tied to my own, while Aisha Al-Sarihi recently joined the Kuwait Programme to conduct research on low carbon economic transition in GCC states.

Four new projects commenced as part of the Centre's Academic Collaboration with Arab Universities Programme, which has now funded 19 projects. We were pleased to deliver a research tender for UNICEF's MENA office, in which we examined aspects of GCC states' welfare systems and foreign policies. Of our many events, one highlight was a workshop run by Filippo Dionigi in which perspectives of migration in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq were considered by academics and officials.

We have been delighted to support Jourie Kolthoum, Nader Andrawos and Amir Jabbarin, Master's students from the UAE, Egypt and Palestine, who received full funding through the Centre's Emirates Scholarships Programme.

The Centre continues to organise a large and very popular series of public events, as well as numerous smaller research-focused seminars. The publications programme is flourishing and 15 papers were published by the Centre over the year. Our communications work has notably expanded and intensified thanks to the allocation of greater resources and the hard work of the team.

We are also grateful to our many colleagues, partners and supporters and look forward to another busy and productive year in 2016-17.



**Toby Dodge**  
Centre Director

# About the Middle East Centre

The Middle East Centre builds on LSE's long engagement with the Middle East and provides a central hub for the wide range of research on the region carried out around the School. LSE is one of the world's leading social science institutions and comprises departments covering all branches of the social sciences. The Centre taps into this expertise to promote both public understanding and innovative interdisciplinary research on the region, with foci on history, political economy, society and international relations. The Middle East Centre was established in October 2010 with support from the Aman Trust and the Emirates Foundation.



## OBJECTIVES

- Promoting independent and critical research on the Middle East and North Africa;
- Fostering open and critical debate about the politics, societies and economics of the region;
- Disseminating knowledge about the Middle East through the Centre's lectures, web resources and publications and through LSE's community and media activities;
- Providing a rich research environment for scholars and students;
- Establishing and cultivating ties with scholars in Middle East and international institutions.

## FUNDERS

In 2015–16, the Centre's work was generously supported by:

- Emirates Foundation;
- The Aman Trust;
- The Leverhulme Trust;
- Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences;
- UNICEF;
- Chevron;
- Newton-Katip Çelebi Fund, British Council;
- LSE Knowledge Exchange and Impact Fund;
- The British Institute for Persian Studies.

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

LSE academics on the Management Committee provide advice on research strategy, general management and resource issues arising across the Centre, as well as progress on individual research themes and funded projects.

### Committee Members

**Dr Roham Alvandi**

Department of International History

**Professor Nigel Ashton**

Department of International History

**Dr Federica Bicchi**

Department of International  
Relations

**Dr John Chalcraft**

Department of Government

**Dr Katerina Dalacoura**

Department of International  
Relations

**Professor Toby Dodge**

Middle East Centre

**Professor George Gaskell**

Department of Psychological and  
Behavioural Science

**Dr Steffen Hertog**

Department of Government

**Professor Christopher Hughes**

Department of International  
Relations

**Robert Lowe**

Middle East Centre

**Dr Michael Mason**

Department of Geography and  
Environment

**Dr Kirsten Schulze**

Department of International History

**Dr Hakan Seckinelgin**

Department of Social Policy

## ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board provides independent, external and income-orientated advice to the Middle East Centre.

### Board Members

**Mustafa Abdel-Wadood**

The Abraaj Group

**Professor Lisa Anderson**

American University in Cairo

**Masood Ahmed**

International Monetary Fund

**Mohammad A.J. Al Fahim**

Al Fahim Group

**Dr Bassem Awadallah**

Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry

**Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber**

MBI Al Jaber Foundation

**Hind Bahwan**

Bahwan Cyber Technologies

**Sir John Jenkins**

International Institute for Strategic Studies

**Dr Maleeha Lodhi**

Pakistan Representative to the United Nations

**Ian MacDonald**

Chevron

**Azmi Mikati**

M1 Group

**Zaki Nusseibeh**

Presidential Court, UAE

**Ferit F. Sahenk**

Doğuş Group

**Dr Nasser Saidi**

Nasser Saidi & Associates

**Professor Avi Shlaim**

University of Oxford

**Professor Charles Tripp**

School of Oriental and African Studies

## LSE KUWAIT PROGRAMME

Established in 2007, the Kuwait Programme on Development, Governance and Globalisation in the Gulf States is a multidisciplinary global research programme based in the LSE Middle East Centre and directed by Professor Toby Dodge. The Programme funds systematic and practical enquiry into fundamental questions in the social sciences of relevance to the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

### Research Themes

- Kuwait and the Gulf in the shifting global economy;
- Massive capital flows, sovereign wealth funds;
- Carbon-heavy, resource-rich economic development;
- Health care and social welfare provision in Kuwait and health system innovation more generally;
- Education and human capital development in Kuwait;
- Water and resource management;
- Urban form, geography and sustainability.

The Programme organises public lectures, seminars and workshops, produces an acclaimed working paper series and develops academic networks between LSE and Gulf institutions. The Programme also hosts GCC nationals for short-term visiting fellowships at LSE.

The Kuwait Programme is funded by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences.



## People

With the Centre's work expanding, our team has continued to grow this year. We were delighted to welcome four new researchers to the Centre, bringing in fresh perspectives and specialised regional expertise.

The Centre also hosts Visiting Fellows and Professors running specific research projects in the Centre or spending a period of time at LSE in order to assist with research hosted elsewhere. Our Fellows are also appointed to recognise or enable contributions to the MEC from different sectors such as academia, journalism, government service and others.

## CENTRE STAFF

### **Professor Toby Dodge**

Centre Director

Toby is Director of the LSE Middle East Centre and Kuwait Professor in the Department of International Relations at LSE. His research concentrates on the evolution of the post-colonial state in the international system, with a main focus on the Middle East, specifically Iraq.

### **Robert Lowe**

Deputy Director

Robert is the Deputy Director of the Middle East Centre. He joined the Centre when it opened in 2010. Robert is responsible for running the Centre's operations, research activities, fundraising and development. His main research interest is Kurdish politics, with particular focus on the Kurdish movement in Syria.

### **Chelsea Milsom**

Projects Coordinator

Chelsea joined the Middle East Centre in November 2014. She studied Arabic at the University of

Edinburgh. Chelsea manages the Academic Collaboration with Arab Universities Programme as well as the annual Emirates scholarships for Master's and PhD students.

### **Emma Pearson**

Communications Coordinator

Emma joined the Centre in 2014 after completing her Master's degree in Middle East Politics at Birkbeck. She works on the Centre's communications and publication series. Emma is also Communications Coordinator at the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies.

### **Sandra Sfeir**

Centre Administrator

Sandra's main responsibility is running the Centre's events programme. She is also currently pursuing an MSc in Middle East Politics at SOAS, where she previously completed her BA in Politics and Economics.

### **Ian Sinclair**

Kuwait Programme Administrator

Ian is Administrator of the Kuwait Programme. He is responsible for the day-to-day administrative management of the Programme's operations and research activities.

### **Ribale Sleiman Haidar**

Communications Manager

With a background in design and development, Ribale manages the Centre's communications work and its research impact. She coordinates the Centre's publications series and blog. Ribale also runs the Centre's social media and web presence.

### **Kristin Baalman**

Communications Assistant

Kristin has recently completed her MA in Conflict, Security and Development at the Department of War Studies, King's College London. At the Centre, Kristin led the migration of the Centre database to a new software.

## RESEARCH STAFF

### **Aisha Al-Sarihi**

Research Officer

Aisha is Research Officer at the Kuwait Programme working on climate change in GCC States.

Aisha is also completing her doctoral thesis at the Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London.

### **Dr Valeria Cetorelli**

Research Officer

Valeria's research revolves around the political and social determinants of population health. She is currently working on a large-scale mortality and health survey among households displaced by Islamic State into the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

### **Dr Filippo Dionigi**

Leverhulme Early Career Fellow

Filippo researches the impact of the Syrian refugee crisis on Arab statehood from a comparative perspective. In addition, he leads a capacity-building project in collaboration with Tunis Business School. His book, *Hezbollah,*

*Islamist Politics and International Society*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in December 2014.

### **Dr Ferdinand Eibl**

Research Officer

Ferdinand is Research Officer at the Kuwait Programme, working on a research project aiming to place MENA-specific political economy issues in a wider comparative perspective. Ferdinand focuses specifically on the areas of distributive politics, social policies and crony capitalism in the MENA region.

### **Dr Fatima El-Issawi**

Assistant Professorial Research Fellow

Fatima is currently leading on a collaboration project looking at changes in media practices in traditional media industries in Morocco and Algeria. She has over 15 years of experience of covering the Middle East for international media, with a specific expertise in Iraq and Lebanon. Fatima is also media consultant for several media development and international agencies.

### **Dr Courtney Freer**

Research Officer

Courtney is Research Officer at the Kuwait Programme. Her research focuses on revising rentier state theory by examining the socio-political role played by Muslim Brotherhood affiliates in the so-called 'super-rentiers' of Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE.

### **Professor Fawaz Gerges**

Emirates Chair in Contemporary Middle East Studies

Fawaz is Professor of International Relations at LSE. He was also the Director of the Middle East Centre from 2010 until 2013. His most recent book, *ISIS: A History*, was published in April 2016 by Princeton University Press.

### **Dr Aula Hariri**

Research Officer

Aula researches the Historical Sociology of the Middle East. This research builds on her thesis which examined the role of the Iraqi Independence Movement on state formation between 1914–1958.

**Dr Steffen Hertog**

Associate Professor in Comparative Politics

Steffen is lead researcher on 'The Comparative Political Economy of the MENA Region' project in the Kuwait Programme. He is also Associate Professor in Comparative Politics in the Department of Government.

**Dr Zeynep Kaya**

Research Fellow

Zeynep is Research Fellow at the Centre and Research Officer at the LSE Centre for Women, Peace and Security. Zeynep is currently researching gender, displacement and the implementation of the 'Women, Peace and Security' agenda in Iraq.

**Dr Cristina Moreno Almeida**

Research Officer

Cristina is currently working on the project 'Personalised Media and Participatory Culture' based between the Centre and the Department of Media and Communications. Cristina's

research focuses on cultural studies, particularly examining youth, popular, urban and digital cultures and nationalism and transnational identities.

**Dr Aitemad Muhanna-Matar**

Assistant Professorial Research Fellow

Aitemad is currently conducting research on Salafist youth in Tunisia and the process of subjectification. Since the mid-nineties, she has garnered substantive academic and development research experience. She has also been an active research fellow and member of international research programmes, networks and think tanks.

**Dr Zlatko Nikoloski**

Research Fellow

Zlatko is a development economist leading a project on the prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors and access to, utilisation of and satisfaction with healthcare services in Kuwait.

# VISITING APPOINTMENTS

## Visiting Professors

- Professor Abdulkhaleq Abdulla
- Professor Madawi Al-Rasheed
- Professor Ali Ansari

## Visiting Senior Fellow

- Martin Howard
- Dr Mandy Turner

## Visiting Fellows

- Dr Pejman Abdolmohammadi
- Dr Mariam Alkazemi
- Dr Khalid Almezaini
- Dr Abeer Al-Najjar
- Dr Hessah Al-Ojayan
- Sharifa Alshalfan
- Dr Heba Elsayed
- Ginny Hill
- Dr Jonathan Hill
- Dr Zelal Başak Kızıllan
- Dr Rebecca Steinfield
- Dr Benedetta Voltolini
- Dr Karen E. Young

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*As a mass communications scholar, my work was enriched by the feedback provided by colleagues from other backgrounds – political science, international relations and economics – at the Centre. Their wonderful insights helped me approach my research from a more nuanced perspective. My time at the Middle East Centre was a satisfying intellectual experience and I hope for future collaboration.*

– Mariam Alkazemi, Visiting Fellow

# Research

The Middle East Centre conducts and facilitates original research on the politics, societies and economics of the region. Research is conducted by Centre staff, academics based in other LSE departments, and by Visiting Fellows.

Through the Emirates PhD Awards programme, the MEC also offers financial assistance to LSE PhD students in their final year, supporting fieldwork and original research.



## SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

This research network brings together academics and students undertaking research on the themes of social movements, mobilisation and contestation in the MENA. The objective is to provide a platform for driving forward intellectual development and cutting-edge research in the field. As part of the network, the Centre runs a listserv, organises seminars, and publishes working papers by leading researchers.

### Led by

Dr John Chalcraft, LSE Department of Government

## THE COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE MENA REGION

This project acts as a facilitator to re-energise comparative political economy research on the MENA region. It puts the region into wider comparative context in the developing world, not testing the applicability of wider political economy concepts in the MENA, but drawing on regional cases to generate theoretical innovation in comparative political economy. The project team is currently working on creating a new dataset on expenditures and development outcomes in MENA and Sub-Saharan African oil-rich states, spanning over five decades.

### Principal Investigator

Dr Steffen Hertog, LSE Department of Government

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As part of the project, two workshops were held in London (September 2015) and Kuwait (March 2016) bringing together leading academics and policy-makers in the fields of natural resources and development with regional expertise in both the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa.

## THE IMPACT OF THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS ON ARAB STATEHOOD

Dr Filippo Dionigi is carrying out a three-year research project studying the impact of the Syrian refugee crisis on Arab statehood mainly from an International Relations perspective. His research focuses on how Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq have coped with the influx of forced migrants generated by the Syrian crisis since 2011, and what consequences this process had on the state as an institution. The research is supported by the Leverhulme Trust.

### **Principal Investigator**

Dr Filippo Dionigi, LSE Middle East Centre

## CHALLENGES TO CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY IMPLEMENTATION IN THE GCC AND YEMEN

The GCC countries and Yemen submitted their Climate Action Plans ahead of the 2015 Paris Agreement. However, the implementation of these strategies is complicated by the uncertainty associated with their potential adverse impact on the local economies, which are reliant on fossil fuel export revenues. This research addresses the economic uncertainty associated with climate change policy implementation in the GCC.

### **Principle Investigator**

Aisha Al-Sarihi, LSE Middle East Centre

## ANALYTICAL SUPPORT TO UNPACK KEY DIMENSIONS OF GCC POLITICS, ECONOMY AND FOREIGN POLICY FOR UNICEF

The Middle East Centre carried out analytical work to help UNICEF unpack key aspects of the politics, economics and foreign policy of the GCC states. This research aimed to help UNICEF understand better how the GCC countries influence the operating environment for UNICEF country programmes in the region, and to inform programming, advocacy and fundraising approaches vis-à-vis the GCC countries.

### **Principal Investigator**

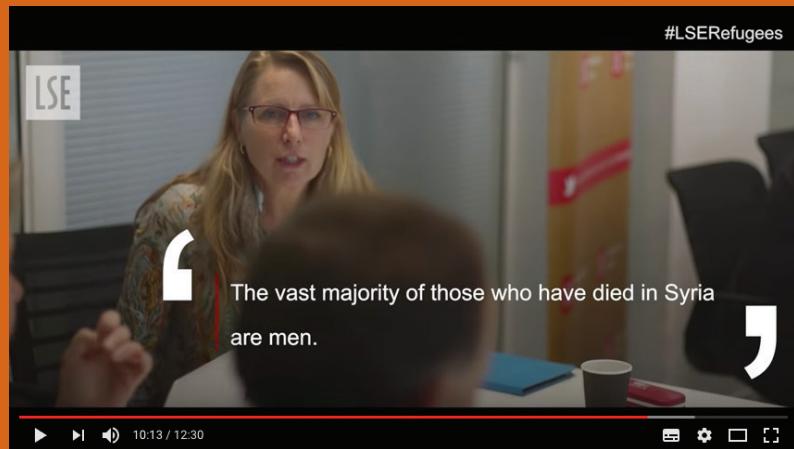
Dr Steffen Hertog, LSE Department of Government

## THE LONG-TERM CHALLENGES OF FORCED MIGRATION: PERSPECTIVES FROM LEBANON, JORDAN AND IRAQ

Efforts towards conflict resolution in Syria have made little progress, and 6 years on, the conflict has become protracted. The most effective way of tackling the refugee emergency is, first and foremost, by ending the conflict in Syria. Yet, while the crisis continues, it is crucial to explore new perspectives and stimulate debate on how to enhance the lives and conditions of refugees and host communities alike.

In a workshop held on 16–18 June 2016, the LSE Middle East Centre brought together a diverse group of people (policymakers from host states, representatives from international organisations, academics and NGOs practitioners) to explore the effects of the Syrian refugee crisis on Arab host states such as Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq.

Generously supported by the LSE Knowledge Exchange and Impact Fund, the workshop produced a video presenting key highlights as well as a collected papers volume, published in Arabic and English, and a list of key recommendations.



*Having been working in Jordan since May 2015 and having been involved with a couple of House of Lords enquiries on migration, I am very much only beginning to grasp the complexities of the subject and it was very useful for me to be able to listen to both academics and practitioners with such a wealth of experience.*

– Baroness Suttie, House of Lords



## KUWAIT PROGRAMME APPLIED RESEARCH GRANTS

After an open competitive process in 2015, the Kuwait Programme awarded two large grants for long-term applied research on Kuwait and the Gulf to LSE Cities and LSE Health.

### **Prevalence of Cardiovascular Risk Factors and Access to, Utilisation of and Satisfaction with Healthcare Services in Kuwait**

The project examines the causes of some of the most prevalent chronic diseases, paying particular attention to the diabetes/obesity/hypertension nexus, and studies the main determinants of the access to, utilisation of and satisfaction with the healthcare system in Kuwait.

#### **Principal Investigators**

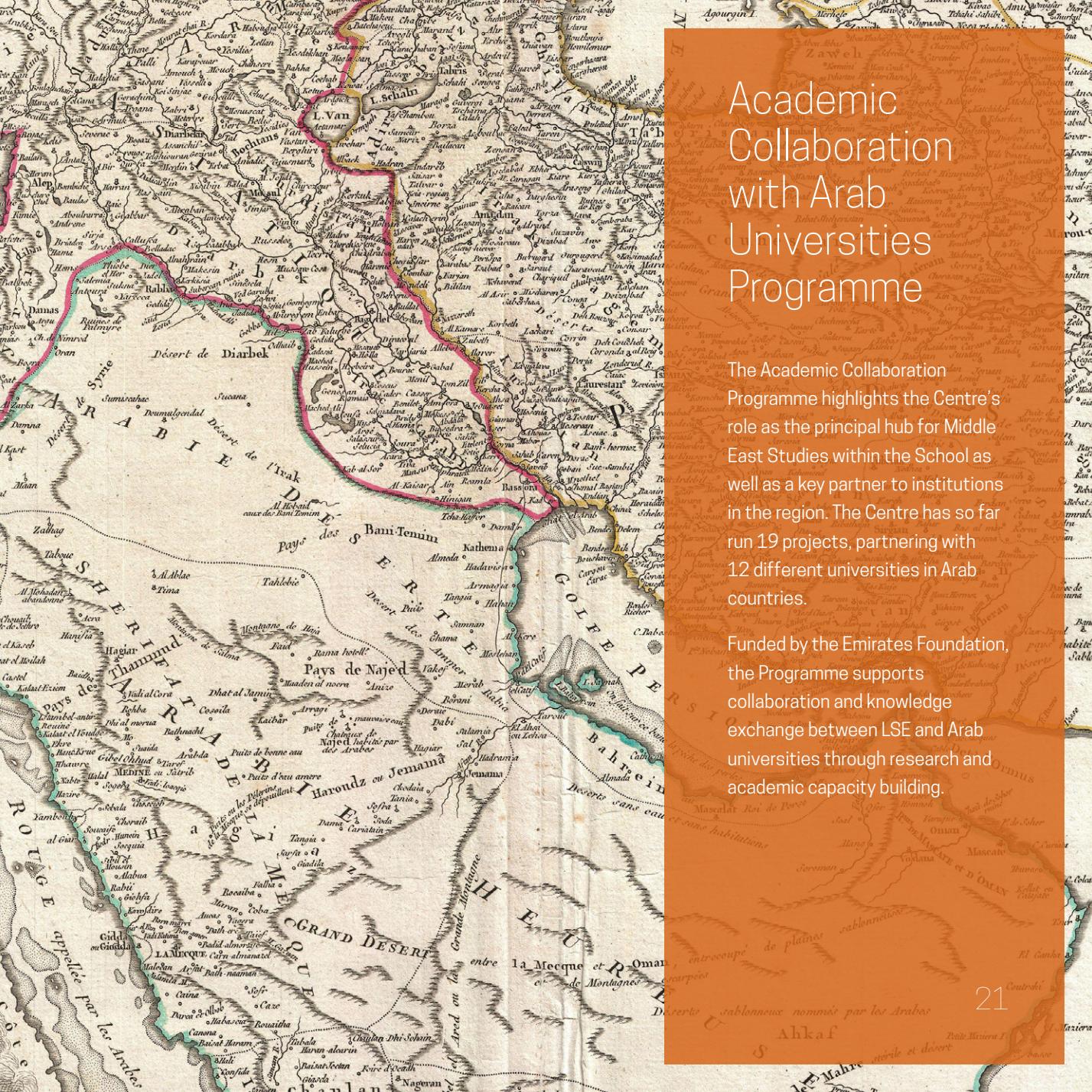
Dr Zlatko Nikoloski and Professor Elias Mossialos, LSE Health

### **Resource Urbanisms: Natural Resources, Urban Form and Infrastructure in the Case of Asia's Diverging City Models**

The project focuses on the case of two natural resources, land and energy, and explores their relationships with city form, urban dwelling and mobility. It analyses these relationships through a comparative case study approach, which considers extreme and divergent city models in Asia, looking at Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Hong Kong and Singapore.

#### **Principal Investigator**

Philipp Rode, LSE Cities



# Academic Collaboration with Arab Universities Programme

The Academic Collaboration Programme highlights the Centre's role as the principal hub for Middle East Studies within the School as well as a key partner to institutions in the region. The Centre has so far run 19 projects, partnering with 12 different universities in Arab countries.

Funded by the Emirates Foundation, the Programme supports collaboration and knowledge exchange between LSE and Arab universities through research and academic capacity building.

## PROJECTS

### **Trust, Constitution and the Process of Subjectification among Tunisian Youth**

This project aims to shed light on the factors that led to the political significance of youth movements in Tunisia and those that lead to political stability and instability. The project focuses on two aspects:

- Constitution-building in contemporary Tunisia and issues of trust among the political elite concerning the effectiveness of constitutionalism;
- Youth mobilisation as a crucial factor in understanding stability and security across the Middle East.

#### **Principal Investigators**

Dr Aitemad Muhanna-Matar, LSE Middle East Centre

Dr James Sater, American University of Sharjah

### **Advancing Research and Teaching in Political Economy in the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

The goal of this partnership is to enhance political economy teaching and research in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), which is carried out in two ways. The first involves teaching exchange trips between LSE and Birzeit University. The second involves academic research that fills an important gap in knowledge about the political economy of the oPt, and feeds into teaching on political economy research methods.

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In April 2016, Dr Jason Hickel, of the LSE Department of Anthropology, travelled to Birzeit University for the first of a series of teaching visits organised through the project. During his trip, Dr Hickel led workshops for MA and PhD students at Birzeit University and gave two public lectures.

### Principal Investigators

Dr Mandy Turner, LSE Middle East Centre

Dr Abdel Karim Barghouti, Birzeit University

### Policy Mobilities, Urban Politics and Assemblage in Lebanon

The project seeks to understand how international aid and policy mobilities affect, on the one hand, refugee policies and the delivery of shelter and services, and on the other hand, spatial planning and scales of urban governance in Lebanon.

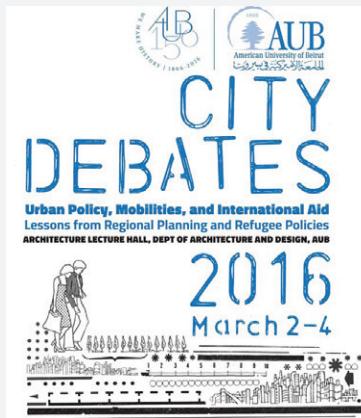
### Principal Investigators

Dr Romola Sanyal, LSE Department of Geography

Dr Mona Harb & Dr Mona Fawaz, American University of Beirut

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As part of the grant, the project part-funded the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary City Debates Conference hosted at AUB in March 2016. The Principal Investigators also presented their work at the conference.



## Enhancing Women's Rights after a Foreign Military Intervention: A Case Study of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

The project assesses the international community's efforts at institutional reconstruction in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), and its efforts to improve gender equality and stop gender-based violence. It also seeks to highlight social and legal barriers for women in influencing political decision-making processes and to examine the success of the UN specifically in mitigating the discrepancies between the priorities of political decision-makers and daily injustices suffered by women in the KRI.

### Principal Investigators

Dr Zeynep Kaya, LSE Middle East Centre

Dr Deniz Gokalp, American University in Dubai

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Dr Kaya has written a report assessing Iraq's National Action Plan. Published in Arabic and Kurdish, the report also offers recommendations to policymakers, international organisations and civil society organisations for the effective implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

## Capacity Building and the Educational Gap in Tunisia

The purpose of this project is to enhance the didactic capacity of Tunis Business School (TBS), University of Tunis, on the level of International Relations teaching. To do so, this project entails collaborative teaching and research development as well as capacity building components. It aims to strengthen the teaching, assessment and course development capacities of International Relations courses at TBS. It also aims to enhance the overall academic experience of TBS students and to contribute to developing their intellectual and critical thinking skills.

### Principal Investigators

Dr Filippo Dionigi, LSE Middle East Centre

Dr Corinna Mullin, University of Tunis

## **Mapping Foreign Policy in the GCC: Resources, Recipients and Regional Effects**

This project supports the creation of new scholarly work emerging from and about the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The project explores the foreign policy of the GCC states through investigations of the respective states' resources (financial and natural), recipients of economic aid and political support, and the regional effects of these policies.

### **Principal Investigators**

Professor Toby Dodge, LSE Middle East Centre

Dr Line Khatib, American University of Sharjah

Dr Khalid Al Mezaini, Qatar University

## **Women's Health in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: Inclusion and Exclusion**

The health-related impacts of the ongoing conflict in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) have significant gender associations, with Palestinian women suffering higher than expected rates of chronic diseases compared to women in comparable parts of the Arab world. The project addressed the implications of the variations in availability, accessibility and quality of women's health services, taking into account associated demographic, socio-economic and political factors.

### **Principal Investigators**

Dr Ernestina Coast, LSE Department of Social Policy

Professor Rita Giacaman, Birzeit University

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Three policy briefs were compiled, circulated and made available on the project's webpage. These analyse the self-rated health of 15–54 years old women, health problems they reported two weeks preceding the Family Health Survey in 2010, and the prevalence of reported anemia and its determinants among the group.

## Arab National Media and Politics: Democracy Revisited

This project examines the relationship between Arab traditional mass media and the political sphere within the remit of political change in the Arab world. Based on the international scholarly work on media and democratisation, this project investigates the role played by Arab national media in the process of democratisation of Arab political regimes. It also looks at the process of democratisation of national mass media in its evolution to embrace free and professional media industries.

### Principal Investigators

Dr Fatima El Issawi, LSE Middle East Centre  
Dr Bradley Freeman, American University in Dubai

## Examining Emirati Female Labour Force Participation and Entrepreneurship in the United Arab Emirates

This project investigates female labour force participation and entrepreneurship in the United Arab Emirates, taking into account themes of national culture, values, identity and heritage, which are not usually captured by conventional labour force surveys nor addressed systematically in the limited qualitative research available.

### Principal Investigators

Dr Berkay Ozcan, LSE Department of Social Policy  
Dr Gina Poncini & Dr Wifag Adnan, Zayed University

## Personalised Media and Participatory Culture

The project examines the role that the internet and digital networks can and do play in helping what might be characterised as traditional young Arab audiences to emancipate themselves from the gatekeeping functions of print and broadcast media, and to co-create their own media cultures.

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*While the Programme demands a good deal of commitment and oversight from the LSE partner, it yields rich rewards in relation to data and access to specialised fields...*

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*... On my project, the Middle East Centre facilitated the highest quality research at every stage through a systematic implementation of the proposal and careful management of the budget and personnel. I am thoroughly satisfied with the support you have given me as Principal Investigator.*

– Dr Shakuntala Banaji

### **Principal Investigators**

Dr Shakuntala Banaji, LSE Department of Media and Communications  
Dr Mohammed Ibahrine, American University of Sharjah

### **Mortality and Health Survey among Internally Displaced Persons in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq**

Following the ISIS onslaught in northern Iraq during the summer of 2014, nearly one million Yazidi, Christian and Muslim civilians were displaced into the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. This project aims to estimate death rates and health status of internally displaced persons (IDPs) using a retrospective household survey. The project findings will have important documentation functions for the international community and serve as inputs for the design of humanitarian relief strategies addressing the urgent health needs of IDPs in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

### **Principal Investigators**

Professor Tim Dyson, LSE Department of International Development  
Dr Nazar Shabila, Hawler Medical University

### **Ideas, Identity and Migration in the GCC**

This project explores linkages between the flow of people and ideas in the Gulf, with subsequent configurations of security, economic and political development policies in the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

### **Principal Investigators**

Dr Karen Young, LSE Middle East Centre  
Dr Robert Stewart, National Defense College in Abu Dhabi

## PROJECTS COMMENCING IN 2016/17

### **Integration in Global Value Chains as a Route to MENA's Economic and Social Development? Egypt's and Morocco's GVC Integration in a Changing Global Economy**

This project aims to examine the integration of non-oil MENA countries in global value chains and to explain the limited economic and social upgrading in GVC-integrated industries, focusing on three key developmental dimensions: economic upgrading, job creation and working conditions, and environmental upgrading/downgrading. This will be done by examining the cases of Egypt and Morocco.

#### **Principal Investigators**

Dr Shamel Azmeh, LSE Department of International Development  
Dr Abeer Elshennawy, American University in Cairo

### **(Re)imagining Young Muslim Women? Comparing Public Responses to Ms Marvel in non-Muslim (UK) and Muslim (UAE) Societies**

In both Muslim and non-Muslim societies, many of the choices that young Muslim women make are regarded as contentious. Into this highly charged identity politics, enters 'superhero' Kamala Khan. Created in 2013 for Marvel Comics, Kamala is a 16-year-old Muslim Pakistani-American girl living in New Jersey. This project compares the reception of Ms Marvel in non-Muslim majority (UK) and Muslim majority (UAE) societies. What effect has Ms Marvel had on prevailing attitudes towards the socially accepted role and status of young Muslim women? And does the effect differ as between the UK and UAE contexts?

#### **Principal Investigators**

Dr Jennifer Jackson-Preece, LSE European Institute  
Dr Badreya Al-Jenaibi, United Arab Emirates University

## **Complexity of Humanitarian Response to Internal Displacement in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq**

This project focuses on how the special territorial and governance status of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq influences the humanitarian response to Internally Displaced Persons in this region. It aims to understand the specific implications of Iraqi Kurdistan's status, examining national and international responses to the displacement crisis and the socio-political structure of the region.

### **Principal Investigators**

Dr Zeynep Kaya, LSE Middle East Centre

Dr Deniz Gokalp, American University in Dubai

## **The Regulation of Palestinian Everyday Life: An Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration and Development Engagement**

This project focuses on multi-layered regulatory frameworks and new systems of governance that manage the everyday life of Palestinians in the post-Oslo period. Palestinians are subjected to multiple regulatory frameworks and normative rules enacted by a variety of national and external actors and institutions. The research examines the way Palestinians are influenced and transformed by these complex regulatory and normative systems, and the ways Palestinians perceive, negotiate, manipulate and resist these frameworks.

### **Principal Investigators**

Professor Chetan Bhatt, LSE Centre for the Study of Human Rights

Dr Mudar Kassis, Birzeit University

# Publications

In the past year, the Centre's publication series continued to grow and flourish. Through the MEC Paper Series, original research by Centre staff, fellows and other academics is published. Eleven papers have been produced this year and another fifteen are in the pipeline for the coming year.

We also published three Collected Papers Volumes, bringing together contributions by participants at our workshops. In line with our efforts to inform key policy debates on the region, when relevant, our publications present key recommendations and analysis on their specialist topic.

## Taking Control of Water Resources

The Jordan Rift Valley is situated over the Eastern Water Basin. However, Palestinians in the area suffer from the lack of access to water due to Israeli restrictions and copious usage. They are only permitted to use 40% of the water in this basin or approximately 58 million m<sup>3</sup> of water per year (Ma'an 2007).

Most Israeli water drillings in the West Bank – 28 of the 42 drillings – are located in the Jordan Rift Valley. These drillings provide Israel with some 32 million m<sup>3</sup> a year, most of which is allocated to the settlements. The annual allocation of water to the area's 9,400 settlers, from the drillings, the Jordan River, treated wastewater, and artificial water reservoirs is 45 million m<sup>3</sup>. The water allocation to the settlements is almost one-third the quantity of water that is accessible to the 2.5 million Palestinians living in the West Bank (B'Tselem 2011).

Israel's control of the water sources in the area has caused some Palestinian wells to dry up and led to a drop in the quantity of water that can be produced from other wells and from springs. In comparison, in 2008, Palestinians pumped 31 million m<sup>3</sup>, which is 44 per cent less than Palestinians produced in the area prior to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement of 1995. Due to the water shortage, Palestinians have neglected farmland and switched to less profitable crops. In the Jericho governorate, the amount of land used for agriculture is the lowest among the Palestinian governorates in the West Bank; 4.7 per cent compared to an average of 25 per cent in the other governorates.

Israel's control of most of the land area also prevents equal distribution of water resources to the Palestinian communities in the area; it also prevents the movement of water to Palestinian communities outside the area. Water consumption in Bedouin communities is equivalent to the quantity that the UN has set as the minimal quantity needed to survive in humanitarian-disaster areas. Over the last four

decades, Israel has isolated 162 agricultural wells in the Jordan Rift Valley, prohibiting Palestinians from using them.

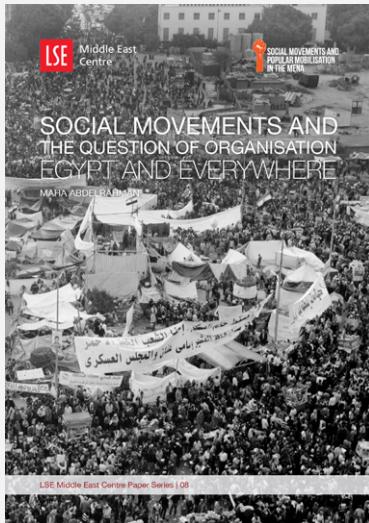
Furthermore, due to various Israeli restrictions, settlers in the Jordan Rift Valley, who cultivate around 27,000 dunams (6,672 acres) of land, consume about 41 mem of water per year. They mainly extract Palestinian water sources, in addition to restricting access to the Palestinians, to cultivate their land. In contrast, Palestinians cultivate about six times of the valley's land, consuming about 53,880 dunams of water per year, overall, settlers consume about six times more water than Palestinians (Ma'an 2007). Israel fully controls the Dead Sea and denies Palestinians rights to access its water, minerals and show

## Restrictions on Movement

A 2009 Israeli framework for easing restrictions in the West Bank was not implemented. In the Jordan Rift Valley, despite the security area, Israel still operates four check points in the Jordan Rift Valley – Tayasir, Hamra, Nafar, and Yitav. At these checkpoints, only vehicles that Israel recognizes as legitimate (idents of the area are allowed to pass (B'Tselem 2011)). These restrictions on movement prevent Palestinian life, since many of the local residents are situated in the area. These restrictions also prevent Palestinian residents from reaching their land to work and making income and making their land under (Ma'an 2007).

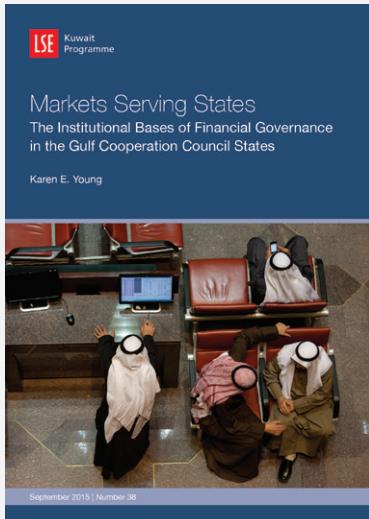
By surrounding the area with checkpoints, Israel is preventing access to the area and making it more difficult for Palestinians to secure their land.

## PAPERS



### **Social Movements and the Question of Organisation: Egypt and Everywhere** Maha Abdelrahman, September 2015

This paper considers the nature of activism and revolutionary process in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by examining some of the dilemmas involved in Egypt. It argues that the characteristics of horizontal networks of activism, especially the absence of centralised organisational structures, although well suited to the phase of mass protests in the lead-up to the ousting of Hosni Mubarak, can pose a challenge to the prospects of long-term revolutionary projects.



### **Markets Serving States: The Institutional Bases of Financial Governance in the Gulf Cooperation Council States**

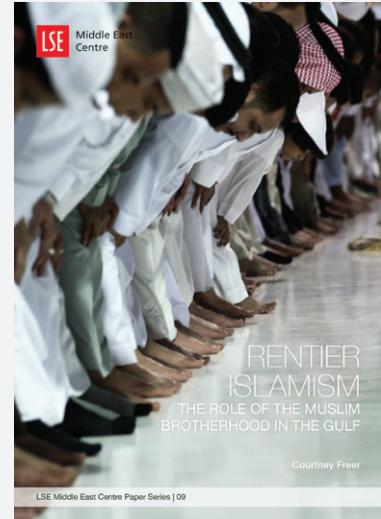
Karen Young, September 2015

Institutionalisation in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states is proceeding within the financial sector as a result of economic growth, rather than as a precursor or foundation of economic growth. This paper provides an overview of the architecture of financial governance in the GCC states, situating financial governance in the context of domestic state-building, global capital flows and energy markets.

## Rentier Islamism: The Role of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Gulf

Courtney Freer, November 2015

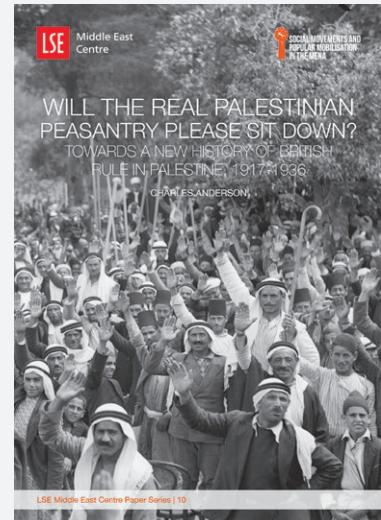
This paper discusses the degree to which Muslim Brotherhood affiliates in Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE influence political decision-making and how those governments have chosen to handle the Ikhwan. It provides policy recommendations to both regional and Western actors.

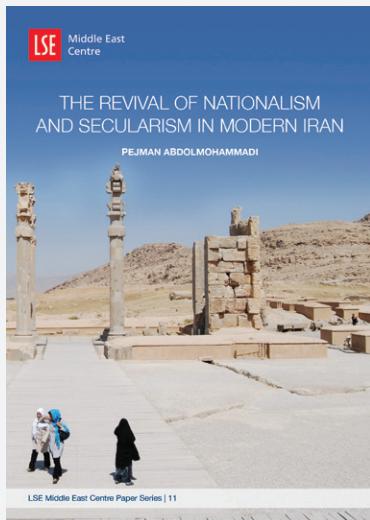


## Will the Real Palestinian Peasantry Please Sit Down? Towards a New History of British Rule in Palestine, 1917-1936

Charles Anderson, November 2015

Although the Arab countryside and its inhabitants have often received minimal or dismissive treatment in much of the scholarly literature, this paper argues that rural Arab struggles against political, social and economic dispossession were integral to the history of British Palestine. It surveys the history of peasant and rural resistance to colonial rule, policies and law in British Palestine before 1936.





## The Revival of Nationalism and Secularism in Modern Iran

Pejman Abdolmohammadi, November 2015

As the post-revolutionary generation of Iran has emerged into political awareness, there has been a revival of interest in democracy, nationalism, secularism and constitutionalism, and a heterogenic protest movement has gathered strength – particularly among young Iranians. This paper investigates those ongoing trends of secularisation and nationalism, as well as the response of the government.



## Is it Always Good to be King? Saudi Regime Resilience after the 2011 Arab Popular Uprisings

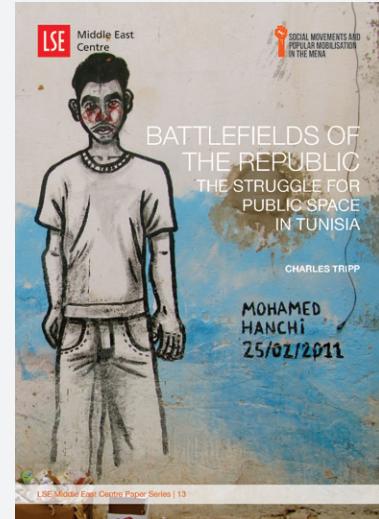
Madawi Al-Rasheed, December 2015

Although all Arab monarchies (GCC countries, Jordan and Morocco) witnessed varying degrees of mass protest during the Arab uprisings of 2011, none of the kings and princes has thus far been deposed. This paper analyses the conditions that helped maintain Saudi stability, attributing it to a combination of domestic and regional factors.

## Battlefields of the Republic: The Struggle for Public Space in Tunisia

Charles Tripp, December 2015

This paper argues that the Tunisian revolutionary moment of 2011 and its aftermath have opened up spaces capable of providing a framework for the agonistic politics associated with democratic possibility. Insurgent public space, an emerging plural public, as well as adversarial contests over the constitution of the republic display features that may help build 'conflictual consensus' as part of a democratic future.

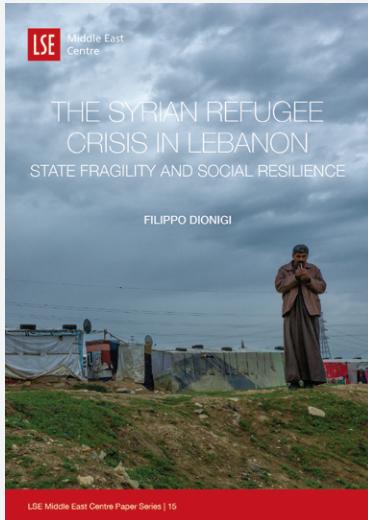


## Political Economy and Social Movement Theory Perspectives on the Tunisian and Egyptian Popular Uprisings in 2011

Joel Beinin, January 2016

Comparing the role of workers before, during and after the uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt demonstrates that the relatively successful installation of a procedural democracy in Tunisia owes a great deal to the movements of workers and the unemployed in the uprisings and to their organisational structure and political horizon.

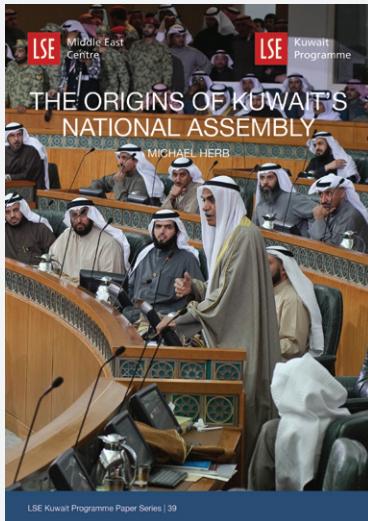




## The Syrian Refugee Crisis in Lebanon: State Fragility and Social Resilience

Filippo Dionigi, February 2016

Filippo Dionigi provides an account of the unfolding of the Syrian refugee crisis from the perspective of Lebanese political institutions. The paper maps political reactions to the crisis, and the role played by local administrations and international organisations. Based on these considerations, it proposes a set of possible courses of action to be undertaken by various stakeholders.



## The Origins of Kuwait's National Assembly

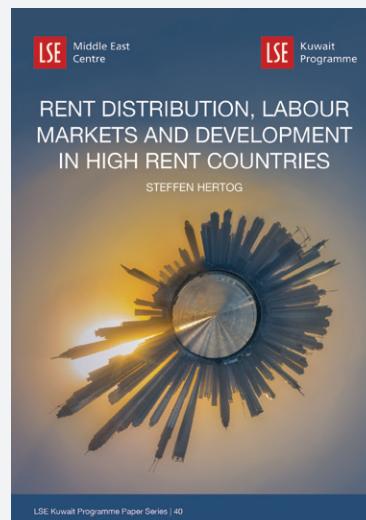
Michael Herb, March 2016

Why does Kuwait have a powerful national parliament while the other Gulf monarchies do not? Michael Herb argues that the Iraqi threat had a crucial role during two historical episodes: the writing of the constitution in 1962 and the restoration of the constitution after liberation from Iraqi occupation. He explores lessons learned from the Kuwaiti case for the prospects for reform in the other five oil-rich monarchies of the Gulf.

## Rent Distribution, Labour Markets and Development in High Rent Countries

Steffen Hertog, July 2016

This paper argues that hydrocarbon producers with high rents per capita constitute a specific category of rent-dependent countries, facing a set of development challenges that are not shared by mid-rent countries. The paper surveys patterns of rent distribution in high-rent countries, focusing on energy subsidies and excessive public employment, and analyses their developmental consequences. It proposes unconditional cash grants for citizens in combination with energy subsidy and public employment reform as a mitigation strategy to minimise negative effects of rent distribution.

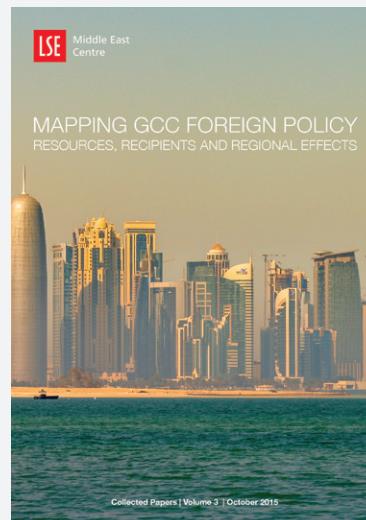


## COLLECTED VOLUMES

### Mapping GCC Foreign Policy: Resources, Recipients and Regional Effects

Karen Young (ed.), October 2015

This collected volume brings together papers presented in Doha in January 2015 at a workshop on 'Mapping GCC Foreign Policy: Resources, Recipients and Regional Effects'. The workshop analysed the increasingly interventionist GCC states' foreign policy.

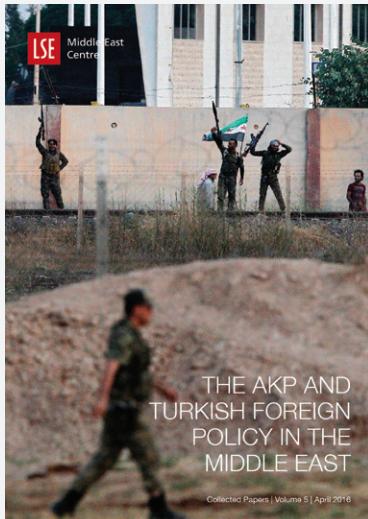




## The State of Democracy in Turkey: Institutions, Society and Foreign Relations

Katerina Dalacoura & Hakan Seckinelgin (eds.), December 2015

The major questions which surround the future of democracy in Turkey are about institutions and attitudes. The Middle East Centre and Contemporary Turkish Studies at LSE organised a panel discussion and a workshop on the state of democracy in Turkey on 19–20 March 2015. A selection of the papers presented was published.



## The AKP and Turkish Foreign Policy in the Middle East

Zeynep Kaya (ed.), April 2016

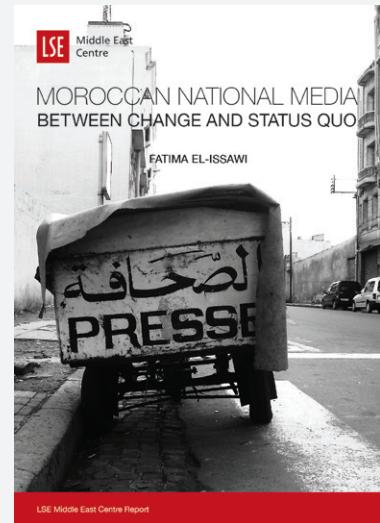
In December 2015, the MEC organised a workshop bringing together experts on Turkish domestic and foreign policy. The workshop explored the relationship between Turkish domestic politics and foreign policy in the midst of a period when both Turkey and the wider region are facing major challenges. This volume brings together a collection of papers presented at the workshop.

## REPORTS

### Moroccan National Media: Between Change and Status Quo

Fatima El-Issawi, April 2016

This report, part of the 'Arab National Media and Politics: Democracy Revisited' project, examines the relationship between Moroccan traditional mass media and the political sphere after the Arab uprisings. The report aims to extend and complement policy work on the impact of political change on the traditional national media, and on the role played by the national media in consolidating or weakening the democratisation processes.





## Events

In the academic year 2015-16, the MEC hosted 38 public events with over 2,700 attendees. The Centre's public lecture series is now very well established in the realm of Middle East studies and amongst the best at LSE; attendees are diverse, ranging from students to diplomatic representatives.

In addition to public-facing events, the Centre organises conferences, workshops and research seminars bringing together academics, practitioners and experts on a specific subject to present and discuss their research. All Centre events reach wide audiences through publications, podcasts and online social media activity.

## PUBLIC LECTURES AND SEMINARS

### September 2015

#### **The Evolution of Kuwaiti Democracy**

Marzouq Al-Ghanim, Speaker of the  
Kuwait National Assembly

#### **And What if one Spoke of the Land? Labour, Food and the Making of Space in Modern South Lebanon**

Martha Mundy, LSE; Rami Zurayk &  
Cynthia Gharios, AUB

### October 2015

#### **Other 'Gentrifications': Remaking Ras Beirut**

Fran Tonkiss, LSE; Mona Khechen,  
AUB

#### **Pursuing Atrocity Accountability in Syria**

Susan Lamb, Commission  
for International Justice and  
Accountability; Toby Cadman, 9  
Bedford Row International

#### **Algeria's Belle Epoque: Memories of the 1970s**

Ed McAllister, University of Oxford

#### **The Other Saudis: Shiism, Dissent and Sectarianism**

Toby Matthiesen, University of  
Oxford

#### **Why is Syria so Statist? Revisiting Ideas and Economic Change in Historical Institutionalism**

Daniel Neep, Georgetown University

#### **Britain's Inelegant Exit from Aden in 1967 and its Long-Term Impact on the Gulf Region**

Dennis Sammut, LINKS

#### **Between Hegemony and Resistance: Towards a Moral Economy of the Tunisian Revolution**

Sami Zemni, MENARG

### November 2015

#### **The Rise of Islamic State, the Future of Iraq, and the Risks to the Gulf States**

Toby Dodge, LSE

#### **Rentier Islamism: The Role of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Gulf**

Courtney Freer, LSE

#### **Women's Health in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: Inclusion and Exclusion**

Ernestina Coast, LSE; Rita Giacaman  
& Doaa Hammoudeh, Birzeit  
University

#### **GCC Intervention in Yemen: A Pathway to Peace and Security?**

Michael Stephens, Royal United  
Services Institute

### December 2015

#### **The State of Algeria: The Politics of a Post-Colonial Legacy**

Malika Rebai, National Graduate  
School of Political Science Algeria

#### **After the Nuclear Deal: Iranian Foreign Policy in the Middle East**

Dina Esfandiary, King's College  
London

#### **Revisiting the Arab Spring in Bahrain**

Abdulhadi Khalaf, Lund University

### January 2016

#### **Muted Modernists: The Struggle over Divine Politics in Saudi Arabia**

Madawi Al-Rasheed, LSE

**The Arab World at the Crossroads:  
Collapse or Reform?**

Shafeeq Ghabra, Kuwait University

**How the West Undermined  
Women's Rights in the Arab World**

Nicola Pratt, University of Warwick

**The Political Economy of Subsidy  
Reform in Egypt and Tunisia: The  
Untold Story**

Ferdinand Eibl, LSE

**International Military Intervention  
and the Politics of Iraq**

Toby Dodge, LSE

**February 2016**

**Democratisation in the Maghreb**

Jonathan Hill, King's College London

**EU Foreign Policy in the Middle  
East and North Africa: Lobbying,  
Networks and Framing**

Benedetta Voltolini, Maastricht  
University

**The Syrian Refugee Crisis and the  
Challenge to the Arab State**

Filippo Dionigi, LSE

**Beyond the 'Tunisian Exception':  
(Un)changing Politics and Social  
Movements**

Choukri Hmed, Paris Dauphine  
University

**March 2016**

**The Notion of Salafiyya: Between  
Saudi Arabia and Turkey**

Andrew Hammond, University of  
Oxford

**Alternative Universalisms?  
Contemporary Turkish Discourses  
on Culture in International  
Relations**

Katerina Dalacoura, LSE

**The GCC 'Welfare State' in the  
Era of Low Oil Prices: Implications  
for the Private Sector and Labour  
Markets**

Steffen Hertog, LSE

**Caravans, Conquests, and  
Crossings: Aesthetics of  
African, Arab, and Mediterranean  
Movement in Algerian Sufi Music**

Tamara Turner, King's College London

**Engineers of Jihad: The Curious  
Connection between Violent  
Extremism and Education**

Steffen Hertog, LSE; Diego  
Gambetta, European University  
Institute

**The Four Eras of Qatari Foreign  
Policy**

David Roberts, King's College  
London

**Political Stability of the Gulf in the  
New Oil Price Environment**

Steffen Hertog, LSE; Giacomo  
Luciani, Graduate Institute Geneva

**Why Some Contentious  
Movements Fail: The Case of the  
Syrian Opposition**

Jasmine Gani, University of St  
Andrews

**April 2016**

**The AKP and Turkish Foreign Policy  
in the Middle East**

Cengiz Çandar, Radikal; Zeynep Kaya,  
LSE

**Reassembling the Spatial: Place-  
and-World Making as Social  
Movement Practice in Jordan and  
Palestine**

Christopher Parker, Ghent University

**June 2016**

**Wars of the Wombs: Struggles  
over Abortion Policies in Israel**

Rebecca Steinfeld, Goldsmiths  
University

**Syrian Refugees in Lebanon: A  
Turning Point?**

Mireille Girard, UNHCR

**Moroccan National Media:  
Between Change and Status Quo**

Fatima El-Issawi, LSE

## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

### **From the River to the Sea: Taking the Pulse of Palestine-Israel 20 Years after Oslo**

2 September 2015

This workshop represented the culmination of two years of British Academy-funded research carried out by the Kenyon Institute. The project analysed the impact of 20 years of the Oslo framework on all those living between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, examining the achievements of the agreements and negotiations and economic protocols.

### **The AKP and Turkish Foreign Policy in the Middle East**

15 December 2015

This workshop examined Turkey's complex relationship with the Middle East in the midst of a period of significant transformation both in Turkey and the wider region.

### **The Long-term Challenges of Forced Migration: Perspectives from Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq**

16-18 June 2016

In this workshop, the LSE Middle East Centre brought together a diverse group of people (policymakers from host states, representatives from international organisations, academics and NGOs practitioners) to explore the effects of the Syrian refugee crisis on Arab host states such as Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq.

### **Rojava at 4: Examining the Experiment in Western Kurdistan**

19 July 2016

Four years on from the creation of the largely self-governing areas known collectively as Rojava, the MEC convened a workshop to examine the progress and nature of the project of Kurdish autonomous administration in northern Syria and its relationship to other Syrian and international actors.

# Emirates Scholarships

Supported by the Emirates Foundation, the Middle East Centre offers scholarships to both Master's and PhD students at LSE. The Emirates PhD Scholarship provides support for PhD research at LSE on Middle East topics. The awards, based on need and merit, provide support for students who are in the final stages of their doctoral degree. This year, six awards were granted.

For the second year running, the Emirates Master's Scholarship was offered to three Arab students pursuing their studies at LSE. This initiative aims at helping in the education and career development of Arab state nationals. It equips them with new skills to continue further in Higher Education and make meaningful contributions in the region.



## EMIRATES PHD SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS 2015-16

### **Pinar Dinc**

Department of Geography

Pinar's research focuses on the competition over collective memory and identity in contentious politics, by looking at the case of Dersim, Turkey.

### **Mohanad Hage Ali**

Department of Government

Mohanad's research focuses on nationalism and Islamic movements, proposing an alternative methodology in the study of political Islam.

### **Yasmine Laveille**

Department of Social Policy

Yasmine's PhD thesis studies how ordinary citizens' discontinuous activism is partly structured by the remote context and perceptions of Upper Egyptian identity, as well as how national events since the 2011 uprising have affected mobilisation in these provincial, rather rural areas.

### **Nawal Mustafa**

Department of International Relations

Nawal's research is concerned with explaining how and why revolutionary movements adopt nonviolent tactics of resistance and mobilise for self-limited democratic reform, taking Colonial Egypt as a case study.

### **Anastasia Nosova**

Department of Government

Anastasia's thesis intends to assess the current level of involvement of Kuwaiti business community representatives in politics, looking into the means of political influence and participation they utilise.

### **Bugra Susler**

Department of International Relations

In his research, Bugra looks at foreign policy cooperation between Turkey and the EU during the Arab Spring.

## EMIRATES MASTER'S SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS 2015-16

### **Nader Andrawos**

MSc Sociology

Nader graduated from the American University in Cairo with a BA in Economics and a minor in Anthropology. At LSE, he explored the complex relations between neoliberal development and state institutions from a theoretical and historical perspective.

### **Amir Jabbarin**

MSc Regional and Urban Planning  
Studies

Amir grew up in Jerusalem and graduated from Al-Quds Bard College. In his view, LSE was the perfect place to experience the educational atmosphere both inside and outside the classroom. After his studies, he aims to be involved in improving planning policies in Palestine.

### **Jourie Kolthoum**

MSc International Relations

Jourie is from the United Arab Emirates. She hopes to take what she will learn at LSE back to the UAE, in order to enter the diplomatic circuit and use her knowledge to contribute towards developing the country's foreign relations.

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*I would like to express my gratitude to both the Emirates Foundation and LSE for honouring me with this opportunity. None of the wonderful experiences that I have been living at this point in my life would have been possible without them.*

– Jourie Kolthoum

# Our Communications in Numbers

5,500 newsletter recipients



40,037 MEC Blog visits



+ %14



2015-16 10,200 followers

2014-15 8,100 followers

2,880 likes 2014-15



4,600 likes 2015-16



In 2015-16 our website received  
277,147 pageviews over  
121,755 sessions by  
69,716 users



%25.76 of our website visitors are from the MENA Region



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