



Middle East
Centre

A wide-angle photograph of a city, likely Tehran, Iran, with a dense urban landscape in the foreground and a massive, snow-capped mountain range in the background. A highway with traffic and a pedestrian bridge are visible in the lower part of the image. A dark blue semi-transparent box is overlaid on the bottom right, containing the title text.

LSE MIDDLE EAST CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2016 | 17

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WELCOME

2016–17 has been a landmark year for the Middle East Centre as it marked our first full review by LSE's Research Committee. Six years after the Centre's establishment, it has been a fulfilling task to examine and reflect on the Centre's development over this time. The hard work of the Centre's staff, fellows and many partners has been recognised and strongly praised by the Research Committee's findings that the Centre is 'undertaking excellent research and engagement' and congratulating it 'for securing a diverse funding stream and a wide-ranging research portfolio'.

In May, we were delighted that LSE Interim Director, Professor Julia Black, and incoming LSE Director, Dame Minouche Shafik, were able to welcome the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences to the School. Following a successful 10-year agreement, the Foundation has committed to fund the research activities of the Kuwait Programme in the Middle East Centre until 2022. We look forward to fostering enduring academic partnerships between LSE and a number of Kuwaiti universities that will deliver world-class, innovative research.

The Middle East Centre was part of a successful bid to the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) to fund a four-year Conflict Research Programme. The Centre, in collaboration with Iraqi academic institutions, will carry out research on the drivers of conflict in Iraq and across the MENA region.

The Centre's Academic Collaboration with Arab Universities Programme continues to thrive and has now funded 26 projects in partnership with 16 Arab

universities. Eight new research projects began this year. This enhanced research portfolio makes a serious contribution to the understanding of our region and places the Centre at the heart of MENA work at LSE. In particular, the Centre has now developed substantial research capacity in issues including displacement, conflict, gender, political economy, media and health.

We are very pleased to have expanded our team of researchers and our partnerships with colleagues throughout LSE and across the region. A number of talented colleagues joined the Centre over the year; Aisha Al-Sarihi, Haneen Naamneh, Monica Ibrahim, Stella Peisch, Kyra Luchtenberg and Jessica Watkins. The Visiting Fellowship programme has also brought a number of academic experts to the Centre. We have also been delighted to work with six young scholars who have received funding through the Centre's Emirates Scholarships Programme.

The Centre continues to organise a large and very dynamic series of public events, and we have also increased our commitment to specialist research workshops. The reach of our communications and outreach activities continues to expand, especially through our innovative use of video and audio materials.

The Centre team is very grateful to our many colleagues, partners and supporters and we look forward to another dynamic, stimulating and productive year in 2017–18.

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 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 events, digital 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 colleagues in Middle East and international institutions.

FUNDERS

In 2016–17, the Centre's work was generously supported by:

- Emirates Foundation
- The Aman Trust
- The Leverhulme Trust
- Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences
- UK Department for International Development
- Chevron
- LSE Knowledge Exchange and Impact Fund
- IGA–Rockefeller Fund
- The British Institute for the Study of Iraq

CENTRE STAFF

Aisha Al-Sarihi

Research Officer, Kuwait Programme

Aisha's research addresses the economic uncertainty associated with climate change policy implementation in the GCC, in particular Oman and the UAE.

Dr Valeria Cetorelli

Research Officer

Valeria's research revolves around the political and social determinants of population health. She is 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. He previously led an MEC capacity-building project in collaboration with Tunis Business School.

Professor Toby Dodge

Centre Director

Toby is Director and Kuwait Professor, Middle East Centre. He is also a professor in the Department of International Relations. 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.

Dr Fatima El-Issawi

Assistant Professorial Research Fellow

Fatima leads a collaboration project with the American University of Dubai looking at changes in media practices in traditional media industries in Morocco and Algeria.

Dr Courtney Freer

Research Officer, Kuwait Programme

Courtney's 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. Her next research project will investigate the role of tribes in Gulf state politics.

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 in Iraq between 1914 and 1958.

Monica Ibrahim

Research Assistant

Monica provides research support for the project, 'Personalised Media and Participatory Culture'. She recently completed her MSc in Media and Communication at LSE.

Dr Zeynep Kaya
Research Fellow

Zeynep is researching gender, displacement and the implementation of the 'Women, Peace and Security' agenda in Iraq as well as the drivers of conflict in Iraq. She is also a researcher at the LSE Centre for Women, Peace and Security.

Robert Lowe
Deputy Director

Robert is responsible for running the Centre's operations, staffing, research activities, fundraising and development. His main research interest is Kurdish politics, particularly in Syria.

Kyra Luchtenberg
Research Assistant

Kyra provides research support for the Conflict Research Programme on Iraq. She is also studying for a Master's in Conflict Resolution at King's College London.

Chelsea Milsom
Projects Coordinator

Chelsea manages the Academic Collaboration with Arab Universities Programme as well as the annual Emirates scholarships for Master's and PhD students. She studied Arabic at the University of Edinburgh.

Dr Cristina Moreno Almeida
Research Officer

Cristina's research focuses on cultural studies, particularly examining youth, popular, urban and digital cultures and nationalism and transnational identities. She is working on the project 'Personalised Media and Participatory Culture'.

Dr Aitemad Muhanna-Matar
Assistant Professorial Research Fellow

Aitemad is conducting research on 'Resilience Mechanisms to Gender Identity Crisis and the Link to Radicalisation: A Comparative Case Study of Displaced Syrian Refugees in Jordan and Lebanon'. She has previously worked on Salafism in Tunisia and women's political participation in the Middle East.

Haneen Naamneh
Research Assistant

Haneen is conducting research on the project 'The Regulation of Palestinian Everyday Life', run in collaboration with Birzeit University. She is also completing her PhD in the Department of Sociology at LSE.

Emma Pearson
Communications Coordinator

Emma completed a Master's in Middle East Politics at Birkbeck, University of London. She works on the Centre's communications and publication series. Emma is also Communications Coordinator at the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies.

Stella Peisch

Projects Assistant

Stella provides support to the Centre's research projects. She is also completing her MSc in International Development at LSE. Her previous work experience has been in research organisations in the Middle East, as well as in breaking news analysis.

Sandra Sfeir

Events Coordinator

Sandra runs and promotes the Centre's large public events programme, including lectures and workshops. She is also currently pursuing her MSc in Middle East Politics at SOAS, where she previously completed her BA in Politics and Economics.

Ian Sinclair

Kuwait Programme Administrator

Ian is responsible for the administrative management of the Kuwait Programme's operations, budget and research activities. He has worked for the Kuwait Programme since 2008.

Ribale Sleiman Haidar

Communications Manager

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

Dr Jessica Watkins

Research Officer

Jessica joined the Centre in 2017 to work on the Iraq component of the Conflict Research Programme. Her doctoral thesis at King's College London examined policing and social order in Jordan and she has previously worked as an Arabic translator in Iraq and a research analyst on Iraqi politics.

VISITING APPOINTMENTS

Visiting Professors

- Professor Madawi Al-Rasheed
- Professor Ali Ansari
- Professor Yoav Peled
- Professor Umut Ozkirimli

Visiting Senior Fellows

- Professor Abdulkhaleq Abdulla
- Dr Ian Black
- Dr Abeer Al-Najjar
- Martin Howard
- Dr Rima Sabban
- Dr Mandy Turner

Visiting Fellows

- Dr Pejman Abdolmohammadi
- Dr Bader Al-Hashel
- Dr Hessah Al-Ojayan
- Sharifa Alshalfan
- Dr Shamel Azmeh
- Ginny Hill
- Dr Jonathan Hill
- Dr Zelal Kizilkan
- Dr Ruth Mabry
- Dr Karen E. Young

I want to thank the whole team for all the support provided during my stay at LSE. I had a wonderful and productive time. I appreciated the warm welcome received during my initial days when I felt like a fish out of water and thoughtful advice and suggestions for my research as my work progressed.

– Ruth Mabry, Visiting Fellow

GOVERNANCE

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School of Oriental and African Studies



RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Middle East Centre conducts and facilitates original research on the politics, societies and economics of the Middle East and North Africa. Research is conducted by Centre staff, academics based in LSE departments and by Visiting Fellows. Through the Emirates PhD Awards programme, the Centre also offers financial assistance to LSE PhD students in their final year, supporting fieldwork and original research.

Conflict Research Programme: Iraq and the Wider Middle East

The Conflict Research Programme is funded by the UK Department for International Development to provide research and policy advice on how the risk and impact of violent conflict might be more effectively reduced through development and governance interventions. The programme examines contexts in Africa and the Middle East where state authority is contested and where state-building projects are manifestly failing. Key sites of research will include the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Somalia, South Sudan and Syria.

The Middle East Centre is leading the research on Iraq and on wider Middle East drivers of conflict. Our partner in Iraq is the Institute of Regional and International Studies at the American University of Iraq Sulaimani.

MEC Project Team

Professor Toby Dodge, Dr Zeynep Kaya, Dr Jessica Watkins and Kyra Luchtenberg, LSE Middle East Centre

Resilience Mechanisms to Gender Identity Crisis and the Link to Radicalisation: A Comparative Case Study of Displaced Syrian Refugees in Jordan and Lebanon

This project studies the link between gender identity crises and Islamic radicalisation within the context of displacement. Dr Muhanna-Matar is conducting fieldwork with Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon to examine how gender reconfiguration, as a means of resilience when livelihoods are threatened, may create a crisis of gender identity whereby both men and women feel demoralised by the change in gender norms. The research will also examine the link between the gender identity crisis and the return to discursive tradition and religion as a means of resilience. This project is funded by the IGA–Rockefeller Fund.

Principal Investigator

Dr Aitemad Muhanna-Matar, LSE Middle East Centre

Internal Displacement and the Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Iraq

Supported by the LSE KEI Fund, this project aims to bridge the gap between policies and implementation through engaging with displaced women and local researchers in Iraq in order to increase awareness of the participation of women in decision-making. Run in partnership with American University of Iraq Sulaimani, the project helps develop policies on women's participation in conflict-related situations by assessing the Iraqi National Action Plan on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and making recommendations for its revision.

Principal Investigator

Dr Zeynep Kaya, LSE Middle East Centre

Approaching Iraqi History: Challenges and Prospects

Funding from the British Institute for the Study of Iraq is supporting a conference to be held in Iraq in partnership with Kufa University. Academics from Iraqi, UK and other universities will consider the challenges and prospects of writing about Iraqi history, including the role of Iraqi sources, logistical and ethical considerations, and the methodological and epistemological challenges.

Principle Investigator

Dr Aula Hariri, LSE Middle East Centre

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 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



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 26 projects, partnering with 16 different universities in Arab states. Funded by the Emirates Foundation, the Programme supports collaboration and knowledge exchange between LSE and Arab universities through research and academic capacity building.

ONGOING PROJECTS

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

The health-related impacts of the ongoing conflict in the occupied Palestinian territory 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 addresses 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. The final paper, 'Age of despair or age of hope? Older Palestinian women's perspectives on health in midlife', was published in the journal *Social Science & Medicine*.

Principal Investigators

Dr Ernestina Coast, LSE Department of Social Policy
Professor Rita Giacaman, Birzeit University

Policy Mobilities, Urban Politics and Assemblage in Lebanon

This project seeks to understand how international aid and policy mobilities affect refugee policies and the delivery of shelter and services, and also spatial planning and scales of urban governance in Lebanon. In May 2017 a workshop held at LSE focused on 'Strategies for Futures: Interrogations of Governance in the Contemporary Urban World'. Dr Romola Sanyal has published project findings in an article for the journal *Geoforum* entitled 'A No-Camp Policy: Interrogating Informal Settlements in Lebanon'.

Principal Investigators

Dr Romola Sanyal, LSE Department of Geography
Dr Mona Harb & Dr Mona Fawaz, American University of Beirut

Capacity Building and the Educational Gap in Tunisia

This project enhances International Relations teaching capacity at Tunis Business School, University of

Tunis, through collaborative teaching and research development as well as capacity-building components. The project helped establish a Master's programme in International Relations at the University of Tunis. In March 2017, fifteen students on the programme travelled to London to attend lectures at universities and to gain experience at UK NGOs.

Principal Investigators

Dr Filippo Dionigi, LSE Middle East Centre
Dr Corinna Mullin, University of Tunis

Arab National Media and Politics: Democracy Revisited

This project examined 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 investigated the role played by Arab national media in the process of democratisation in Morocco and Algeria.

Principal Investigators

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

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

The partnership enhances political economy teaching and research in the occupied Palestinian territory through teaching exchanges between LSE and Birzeit University and through research on the political economy of the oPt, which in turn feeds into teaching on political economy research methods. Four LSE academics have made teaching visits to Birzeit and the PIs have presented their findings at the British International Studies Association conference.

Principal Investigators

Dr Mandy Turner, LSE Middle East Centre
Dr Tariq Dana, Birzeit University

Examining Emirati Female Labour Force Participation and Entrepreneurship in the UAE

This project investigates female labour force participation and entrepreneurship in the UAE, 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.

Both in terms of research and teaching, this project is a significant step towards developing the discipline of political economy in Palestinian universities. Our graduate students have hugely benefited from lectures delivered by LSE academics visiting Birzeit University, and the research team produced several papers, which were presented at international conferences and seminars.

– Tariq Dana, Birzeit University

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 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. With the help of research assistants in Tunisia, Jordan, Morocco and the UAE the research team generated publications and held a large conference at LSE in June 2017.

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

Nearly one million civilians were displaced into the Kurdistan Region of Iraq after the summer of 2014. This project aims to estimate death rates and health status of internally displaced persons (IDPs) using a retrospective household survey. The project findings 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. The research team has published a number of papers in the journals *Conflict and Health*, *PLOS ONE*, *Foreign Affairs* and *BMJ Global Health*.

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 links 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

Egypt and Morocco's Global Value Chains Integration in a Changing Global Economy

By studying the cases of Egypt and Morocco, this project examines the integration of non-oil MENA countries in global value chains and explains 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.

Principal Investigators

Dr Shamel Azmeh, LSE Middle East Centre
Dr Abeer Elshennawy, American University in Cairo

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

Many of the choices that young Muslim women make are regarded as contentious. This project compares the reception of the Ms Marvel comic figure in non-Muslim majority (UK) and Muslim majority (UAE) societies. It examines the effect Ms Marvel has had on prevailing attitudes towards the socially accepted role and status of young Muslim women.

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 status of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq influences the humanitarian response to Internally Displaced Persons in the region. It examines national and international responses to the displacement crisis and the socio-political structure of the region. In May 2017, the team organised a training course on responses to internal displacement crises at the American University of Iraq Sulaimani.

Principal Investigators

Dr Zeynep Kaya, LSE Middle East Centre
Dr Deniz Gokalp, American University in Dubai

The Regulation of Palestinian Everyday Life

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. 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. The project team provided an ethnography training course for 18 students at Birzeit University in January–April 2017. With the knowledge gained from the training, the students are undertaking fieldwork for the project.

Principal Investigators

Professor Chetan Bhatt, LSE Centre for the Study of Human Rights
Dr Mudar Kassis, Birzeit University

PROJECTS COMMENCING IN 2017–18

Preventing Statelessness among Migrants in North Africa and their Children

This project investigates identification needs of Sub-Saharan African and other migrants in North Africa, particularly focusing on children born outside the country of nationality of their parents. Identification needs are examined in order to give guidance on providing birth registration and other forms of identification to prevent and reduce current and future statelessness.

Principal Investigators

Dr Bronwen Manby, LSE Middle East Centre
Dr Usha Natarajan, American University in Cairo
Dr Mohamed Kachani & Dr Malika Benradi, Association
Marocaine d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les
Migrations

Shedding Light on Yemen's Forgotten Crisis: A Nationally Representative Survey

This project will conduct a nationally representative survey to measure the health status and most pressing needs of the Yemeni population in the current humanitarian crisis. It also aims to enhance technical expertise at Sana'a University in the design, implementation and analysis of population-based surveys.

Principal Investigators

Dr Valeria Cetorelli, LSE Middle East Centre
Dr Antelak Almutawakel, Sana'a University

An Investigation of Individual Palestinian Expectations and Attitude Change in Response to Conflict in the Palestinian Territories

This research will study the impact of exposure to violence on individual expectations about the future and the inclination to cooperate with others using studies on two Palestinian populations, one living in the Palestinian territories and the other in the UAE. It will combine quantitative survey evidence and state-of-the-art experimental games with Palestinians to study how early life experiences of conflict shape expectations and attitudes towards cooperation across age cohorts and over time.

Principal Investigators

Dr Ben Groom, LSE Department of Geography and Environment
Dr Guy Burton, Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government, Dubai

Identit(ies) and Heritage in the UAE: Examining the Roles of Kinship, Family and the State

This project examines the tensions (or lack thereof) in state versus family formulations on identity in the Gulf states. Taking into account the distinctive set of circumstances in the UAE, this project is the first of its kind to examine the interplay between how the state perpetuates heritage and identity and the ways in which families and tribes have historically done so.

Principal Investigators

Dr Courtney Freer, LSE Middle East Centre
Dr Rima Sabban, Zayed University



KUWAIT PROGRAMME

Established in 2007, the Kuwait Programme is a world-leading hub for research and expertise on Kuwait. The Programme is the main conduit through which research on Kuwait at the School is facilitated, expanded and promoted. The Programme is funded by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences and directed by Toby Dodge, Kuwait Professor.

Challenges to Climate Change Policy 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 impacts 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.

Principal Investigator

Aisha Al-Sarihi, LSE Middle East Centre

Qabila in the 21st Century: The Role of Tribes in the Domestic Politics of the Gulf

This research project analyses the political role of tribes within Gulf societies, often described as intensely tribal. It seeks to answer critical questions about the degree to which tribes hinder or advance popular participation in government, as well as to reveal how and to what extent tribes exert domestic political power.

Principal Investigator

Dr Courtney Freer, LSE Middle East Centre

The Comparative Political Economy of the MENA Region

This project aims to re-energise comparative political economy research on the MENA region. It puts the region into wider comparative context in the developing world, drawing on regional cases to generate theoretical innovation in comparative political economy. The project team has created a new dataset on expenditures and development outcomes in MENA and Sub-Saharan African oil-rich states, spanning five decades.

Principal Investigator

Dr Steffen Hertog, LSE Department of Government

Utilising Applied Behavioural Research to Execute Subsidy Reform in Kuwait

This project aims to identify methods of applied behavioural research through which Kuwait's government can successfully implement sustainable economic reform. It analyses why current government subsidies are unsustainable and assesses the likelihood of long-running and recording fiscal deficits.

Principal Investigator

Dr Hessah Al-Ojayan, LSE Middle East Centre

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 & Professor Elias Mossialos, LSE Health

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

This 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

wells, reconditioning
deep wells near springs
which prevents water
fields;

or by imposing high
fees for sheep cross an Is-
raeli border are forbidden
to do not have a Jor-
dan ID, address on their ID,
or lands;

regional markets to

lands has greatly
shrunk grazing areas in

of Animal Livestock in the Jordan Rift Valley (2000-2010)



The Israeli Civil Administration has closed an area of 240,000 dunums of natural grazing in the Jordan Rift Valley under the pretext of wildlife protection, although this 'closed area' is used for military training, by the Israeli army, resulting, in the burning of thousands of pastoral dunums per year. Moreover, Israeli settlers have directly targeted Palestinian citizens in the Jordan Rift Valley by a series of measures, notably limiting the grazing areas, burning fields, attacking shepherds and their communities with the declared aim of forcing them to leave. These Israeli practices have led to a decline of grazing in the Jordan Rift Valley. And as farmers have increasingly used fodder as a substitute for natural grazing areas, production costs have increased and animal husbandry has declined (Ma'an 2011). Figure 4.4 illustrates the decline in Palestinian livestock numbers.

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 m³ 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 m³ 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 m³. 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 m³, 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 on the side of the area. Water consumption in Bedouin communities is equivalent to the quantity that has set at the minimal quantity needed to sustain humanitarian-disaster areas. Over the last

decades, Israel has isolated the Jordan Rift Valley using them.

Furthermore, due to the 27,000 dunums (641 men of water access to the Palestinian water supply, contrast, the Palestinians of the valley's year. Overall, water than fully controls rights to a

Restrictions

A 2009 strict Jordan area-dan Yit ve is

PUBLICATIONS

In the past year, fifteen publications were released by the Centre. The Centre publishes its renowned Paper Series, in which peer-reviewed papers allow the dissemination of the work of Centre staff, fellows and other researchers at LSE. Our reports and event proceedings provide policy recommendations and timely analysis based on a research project or workshop supported by the Centre.



The EU's Engagement with 'Moderate' Political Islam: The Case of Ennahda

Silvia Colombo and Benedetta Voltolini, July 2017

This paper focuses on the European Union's engagement – or lack thereof – with Islamist political parties in North Africa following the Arab uprisings. By delving into the case of Tunisia's Ennahda, it shows that the party's growing moderation trajectory has been matched by a greater pragmatic engagement by the EU during the period 2011–16.



Yemen's Urban–Rural Divide and the Ultra- Localisation of the Civil War

Ginny Hill, July 2017

The majority of Yemenis live in rural areas, yet policy-oriented research and media reporting on the current conflict tend to focus on the situation in major cities. On 29 March 2017, the LSE Middle East Centre convened a workshop to explore the scale of need of Yemen's population, and to look at the extent to which rural and urban livelihoods were directly affected by the fighting as well as changing market conditions.



Ontology and Methodology in the Study of the Resource Curse

Michael Herb, June 2017

Michael Herb argues that natural resource rents affect political outcomes through different channels, with varying impact and even direction of effect. This complexity is very difficult to capture in a large quantitative model. This paper argues that careful case studies are a more suitable way to advance our knowledge of the resource curse.



From passion to activism? The politics, communications, and creativity of participatory networks in the MENA region

Shakuntala Banaji and Cristina Moreno Almeida, June 2017

This report argues that despite the many benefits and opportunities brought about by social media for young MENA citizens, class-based digital divides exist, scepticism of new media persists, and online state surveillance and harassment remain widespread. The report focuses on case studies from four countries – Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and the UAE – which embody contrasting histories and types of governance, as well as variable internet penetration rates and population income levels.



A Quest for Significance: Gulf Oil Monarchies' International 'Soft Power' Strategies and their Local Urban Dimensions

Steffen Hertog, March 2017

GCC monarchies have been using their wealth to buy the accoutrements of 'good citizenship' and 'progressiveness' in the international arena through costly projects. The paper explains how this reflects a desire to comply with Western defined norms and tastes to gain international recognition, shows how they reflect broader patterns of segmented state building in the Gulf, and explores some of the social tensions they create.



Gender and Statehood in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Zeynep Kaya, February 2017

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq has made greater strides towards gender equality than the federal government of Iraq, with women's rights activism and some policymakers' willingness to realise change playing an important role. However, discriminatory rules and practices still exist. This paper argues that the Kurdistan Region's policies of gender equality are linked to its dependence on multilateral organisations and Western states, as well as its government's aspiration to gain international legitimacy for statehood. Long-term international involvement in the Kurdistan Region has strengthened Kurdish autonomy, integrated international actors into administrative, political, economic and social life, and created the perception that external connections are helping the Region achieve its ultimate goal of independence.



Algerian National Media: Freedom at a Cost

Fatima El-Issawi, February 2017

This report on Algerian national media and political change is part of the 'Arab National Media and Politics: Democracy Revisited' project, examining the relationship between Arab traditional mass media and the political sphere within the broad subject area of political change in the Arab world. Based on a series of around 30 in-depth qualitative interviews conducted with journalists and media stakeholders in Algeria, as well as analysis of media regulation and individual case studies, this report looks at the role played by national media – radio, television and print – in widening, or restricting, public debate under a competitive authoritarian system.



Social Harmony: An Iraqi Perspective

Lukman Faily, November 2016

This report examines the three foundational pillars of Iraqi society, culture, state and religion, exploring who has power and who has authority within this framework. It then focuses in detail on each of the requirements for social harmony within Iraq and questions whether nation-building can be done prior to or in parallel with state-building. The paper ends by highlighting solutions for the way forward.



Iran's Eleventh Presidential Election Revisited: The Politics of Managing Change

Ali Ansari, November 2016

The election of Hassan Rouhani to the Presidency of the Islamic Republic in 2013 signalled for many a popular rejection of the politics of confrontation endorsed by his predecessor Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and support for greater liberalism at home and internationalism abroad. With his first term coming to an end and an agreement reached on Iran's nuclear programme, this paper revisits the 2013 presidential election campaign and argues that the process retained much of the intricate management of previous elections.



Theorising Revolution, Apprehending Civil War: Leftist Political Practice and Analysis in Lebanon (1969–79)

Fadi Bardawil, October 2016

In the wake of the Arab popular uprisings, this paper revisits the thought of an earlier generation of revolutionaries. Unlike those today, who are united by the desire to overthrow authoritarian regimes but who come from competing ideological universes and conceptions of the political, this earlier generation of militants grounded political practice in a thick Marxist theoretical language.



Treating the Oil Addiction in Kuwait: Proposals for Economic Reform

Hessah Al-Ojayan, September 2016

In 2015, for the first time in 16 years, Kuwait reported a fiscal deficit of 2.71 billion Kuwaiti Dinars (USD 9.4 billion). The deficit was exacerbated by weakness in crude prices and mounting supply–demand imbalances in the global oil market. It is critical that Kuwait reacts with a fiscal contingency plan to avoid the uncertainties and volatility of depending primarily on oil to fund government activities. This paper highlights the current economic condition and fiscal needs of Kuwait, as well as to propose a set of potential mitigating strategies for the government to consider.



Women, Peace and Security in Iraq

Zeynep Kaya, August 2016

Iraq is the first country in the Middle East to launch a national plan to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325. This plan is an important and timely policy indicating the government's commitment to the 'Women, Peace and Security' agenda. The current plan runs until 2018 and a revision should follow. This report offers recommendations for the next steps. INAP is a tremendously important development for Iraqi women and it is crucial to build on the positive momentum it has generated.



Rojava at 4: Examining the Experiment in Western Kurdistan

Robert Lowe, August 2016

In July 2012, Kurds in northern Syria began taking control of territory. This led to the creation of the largely self-governing areas known collectively as Rojava (Western Kurdistan), and a new experiment in local government which has deep significance for Syrian, Kurdish, Middle Eastern and international geopolitics. Four years on from this unprecedented development, the LSE Middle East Centre convened a workshop on 19 July 2016 to examine the progress and nature of the Rojava project.



The Long-Term Challenges of Forced Migration: Perspectives from Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq

September 2016

In a workshop held on 17–18 June 2016, the LSE Middle East Centre brought together policymakers, representatives from international organisations, academics and NGO practitioners to explore the effects of the Syrian refugee emergency on Arab host states such as Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. This volume brings together a set of papers presented at the workshop. It also presents a list of key recommendations relevant for all stakeholders and agreed upon by participants.



تحديات الهجرة القسرية على المدى الطويل: وجهات نظر من لبنان والأردن والعراق

سبتمبر ٢٠١٦

خلال ورشة عمل عقدت في ١٨-١٧ يونيو عام ٢٠١٦، جمع مركز الشرق الأوسط صناع قرار، وممثلين عن المنظمات الدولية وأكاديميين وعاملين في المنظمات غير الحكومية للبحث في الآثار المترتبة على حالات طوارئ اللاجئين السوريين على الدول العربية المضيفة مثل لبنان والأردن والعراق. هذا الكتاب يضم مجموعة الأوراق التي قدمت في ورشة العمل بالإضافة إلى قائمة توصيات مهمة اتفق عليها المشاركون موجهة لجميع أصحاب المصلحة.

تحديات الهجرة القسرية على المدى الطويل

وجهات نظر من لبنان والأردن والعراق



EVENTS

In the academic year 2016–17, the MEC hosted 39 public events, attracting over 3,400 participants. The Centre also organised workshops and research seminars bringing together academics, practitioners and experts. All Centre events reach wide audiences through publications, podcasts, videos and social media.

PUBLIC LECTURES

September 2016

Cities and the New Climate Economy: on the Role of Urban Form and Transport

Philipp Rode, LSE Cities

Politics after Islamism: the Changing Rhetoric of Conservatism in the Gulf

Ahmed Dailami

October 2016

Violence and the City in the Modern Middle East

Nelida Fuccaro, SOAS; Ulrike Freitag, Zentrum Moderner Orient; Rasmus Christian Elling, University of Copenhagen

The Fight Against ISIS: Kurds on the Front Line

Lahur Talabany, Zanyari Agency

Politics in Modern Arab Art

Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi

The Role of the Gulf in a Changing World

Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani, Former Prime Minister of Qatar

Let's Rock/Rap it! Music as Collective Action: The Case of the Arab Spring

Amina Boubia, Sciences Po CERI

Popular Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East

John Chalcraft, LSE

Looking Forward: Iranian Politics after the May 2017 Presidential Election

Evaleila Pesaran, University of Cambridge and Pejman Abdolmohammadi, LSE Middle East Centre

November 2016

Yemen: A Battle for the Future

Ginny Hill, LSE Middle East Centre; Baraa Shiban, Reprieve; Helen Lackner, SOAS

Revisiting Rouhani's Election: The Politics of Managing Change in Iran

Ali Ansari, University of St Andrews

The Religionisation of Israeli Society

Yoav Peled, Tel Aviv University; Horit Herman-Peled, Oranim Academic College

Algerian Nationalism and Berber Identity

Marisa Fois, University of Geneva

Social Harmony: An Iraqi perspective

Lukman Faily, Senior Advisor to Haider al-Abadi

Oil and the Transformation of Urban Life in Kuwait

Farah Al-Nakib, American University of Kuwait

Respondent: Philipp Rode, LSE Cities

The Effects of Saudi-Iranian Rivalry on the Regional Security Complex

Matteo Legrenzi, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

December 2016

A 'Revolutionary Education'? Algeria, West Africa, and the Postcolonial Politics of Islam

Andrew Lebovich, Columbia University

January 2017

Documenting Genocide: Survey Evidence on ISIS Violence against Yazidis

Valeria Cetorelli, LSE

Revolution and Authoritarianism in North Africa

Frederic Volpi, University of St Andrews

Middle East Careers

Nick Alton, FCO; Dania Akkad, Middle East Eye; Courtney Freer, LSE; Mina Toksoz, University of Manchester and Chatham House; Anna Chernova, Oxfam UK

The Politics of Selective Liberalisation: Cronyism and Trade Protection in Egypt

Ferdinand Eibl, King's College London

Quest for Authority: The Presidency and its Standing in the Islamic Republic

Siavush Randjbar-Daemi, University of Manchester

The Merchant Elite and Parliamentary Politics in Kuwait: the Dynamics of Business Political Participation in a Rentier State

Anastasia Nosova, LSE



February 2017

Gender Equality and the Quest for Statehood in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Zeynep Kaya, LSE

Arab National Media and Political Change

Fatima El-Issawi, LSE

'This is our Call of Duty': Ideology, History and Resistant Videogames in the Middle East

Dima Saber, The Birmingham Centre for Media and Cultural Research

Opportunities and Challenges for Young Female Entrepreneurs in Saudi Arabia

Sara Alshareef, Royal Holloway University of London

The Evolving Role of the Gulf States in the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

Suliman Al-Atiqi, University of Oxford

Where are the Women in Today's Islamic World?

Elif Shafak

The intellectual atmosphere at the LSE Middle East Centre is electrifying. The room was jam-packed for the panel discussion on our book. The staff were enormously helpful from start to finish. I was almost late for the event because I couldn't tear myself away from the MEC Paper Series!

– Danny Postel, University of Denver

March 2017

Putting Gender at the Centre: The Feminist Turn in the Kurdish Political Movement

Nadje Al-Ali, SOAS; Latif Tas, SOAS

Iran and the Nuclear Programme: A Political and Technical Assessment

Aniseh Bassiri Tabrizi, Royal United Services Institute

Dispelling Stereotypes: Women's Rights in the Gulf States

Lulu al-Sabah, Abolish Article 153 and Hatoon al-Fassi, Qatar University

April 2017

The Evolution of Ennahdha in Tunisia: In Conversation with Sheikh Rached Ghannouchi

Sheikh Rached Ghannouchi, Ennahdha

The Paris Climate Change Agreement and the GCC: Challenges and Opportunities

Aisha Al-Sarihi, LSE

May 2017

Insurgent Cohesion and Collapse in Syria: A Social-Institutionalist Explanation

Thomas Pierret, University of Edinburgh

Sectarianization: Mapping the New Politics of the Middle East

Nader Hashemi, University of Denver; Danny Postel, University of Denver; Madawi Al-Rasheed, LSE; Toby Matthiesen, University of Oxford; Eskandar Sadeghi-Boroujerdi, University of Manchester

The Calculus of Dissidence: The Socialist Forces Front and the Failure of Opposition in Algeria

Hugh Roberts, Tufts University

Vision 2030 and Saudi Arabia's Evolving Social Contract

Courtney Freer and Dr Steffen Hertog, LSE

June 2017

Task Force on the Future of Iraq: Achieving Long-Term Stability to Ensure the Defeat of ISIS

Toby Dodge, LSE; Nussaibah Younis, Chatham House;
Christine van den Toorn, American University of Iraq
Sulaimani

WORKSHOPS

Resource Urbanisms in Kuwait

28 September 2016

Held in Kuwait, this half-day event explored how natural resources, urban form and infrastructure affect each other and potentially lead to the establishment of divergent forms of urbanism.

Legal Inequities for Women in the Middle East

23 March 2017

This one-day workshop brought together experts from throughout the Middle East and Europe to discuss instances of gender inequity perpetuated by existing legal systems in the region.

Yemen's Urban–Rural Divide and the Ultra-Localisation of the Civil War

29 March 2017

Three years since the start of the war in Yemen, Ginny Hill convened a workshop to explore the scale of need of Yemen's population, and to look how rural and urban livelihoods were being affected by the fighting as well as changing market conditions.

Energy Pricing Reform and the Design of Compensation Schemes in the MENA Region

31 March 2017

Held jointly with the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, the focus of this workshop was energy subsidies in the MENA region. Participants included leading academics and researchers working on energy subsidy issues and policy leaders from the Gulf region.

Strategies for Futures: Interrogations of Governance in the Contemporary Urban World

24 May 2017

As part of her MEC collaboration project, Romola Sanyal organised this workshop to examine how assemblages of finance, aid, flows of people, ideas and expertise reconfigure urban spaces.

The Arab Spring and the Academy: Studying the Maghreb in the Wake of the Protests

25 May 2017

This workshop led by Jonathan Hill saw scholars engage in 'rethinking' the study of North Africa in the wake of the MENA uprisings of 2011, revising and reassessing their own preconceptions about the region's political development, as well as challenging the resurgent 'paradigm of authoritarian resilience'.

Globalisation and the Transition to Modernity in the Middle East and South Asia, 1600–1914

19–20 June 2017

Gagan Sood in the LSE Department of International History and Coşkun Tuncer from UCL organised this workshop on the transition to modernity in the Middle East and South Asia by re-examining their history between 1600 and 1914 from a novel perspective that is avowedly regional and takes globalisation seriously.





EMIRATES SCHOLARSHIPS

Supported by the Emirates Foundation, the Middle East Centre offers scholarships to LSE PhD and Masters students based on need and merit. The Emirates PhD Scholarship provides support for students researching the Middle East who are in the final stages of their doctoral degree. The Emirates Master's Scholarship is awarded to three students from Arab states and aims at helping in their education and career development.

PHD SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS 2016–17

Andrew Delatolla

Department of International Relations

Andrew's research interests include sociological perspectives on state formation, state building and development with particular focus on 19th and early 20th century Turkey, Lebanon and Syria.

Harry Pettit

Department of Geography & Environment

Harry's research focuses on the tormented pursuit of the 'good life' among a group of lower-middle class young men in Cairo, specifically focusing on how the global city keeps them attached to the hopeful meritocratic notion that it is realisable.

Moritz Schmall

Department of Government

Moritz's research explores tax collection in Egypt from historical, ethnographic and political economy perspectives. It aims at contributing to the literature on 'states at work' and on the politics behind the discrepancies between laws on paper and in practice.

MASTER'S SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS 2016–17

Faisal Alkhatib

MSc Philosophy and Public Policy

Faisal is from the UAE. His main research interest is in the underlying philosophical issues behind policy making and their effects on society.

Maya Mamish

MSc Social and Cultural Psychology

Maya is a psychology graduate from Syria. Her research examines the experiences of young people who fled their homes during the war in Syria.

Nur Turkmani

MSc Comparative Politics

Nur is a Lebanese-Syrian graduate from the American University of Beirut. Her research focuses on gender and popular politics in the Middle East, with an emphasis on the prospects for secular democratisation in Lebanon.

OUR COMMUNICATIONS IN NUMBERS



Through our newly launched YouTube channel, we published

17 interviews and
lecture recordings

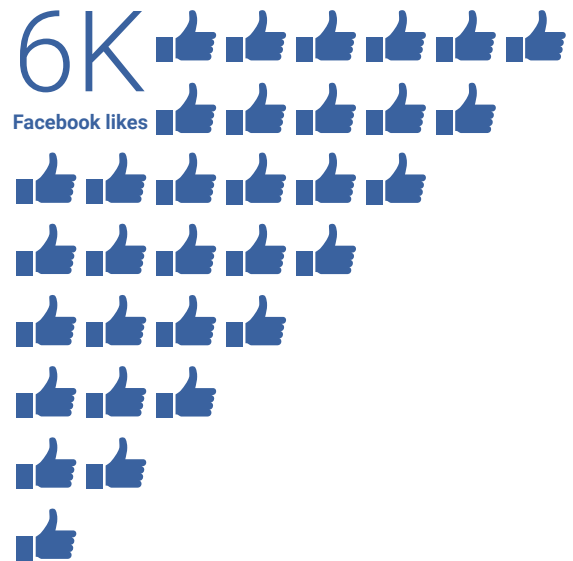
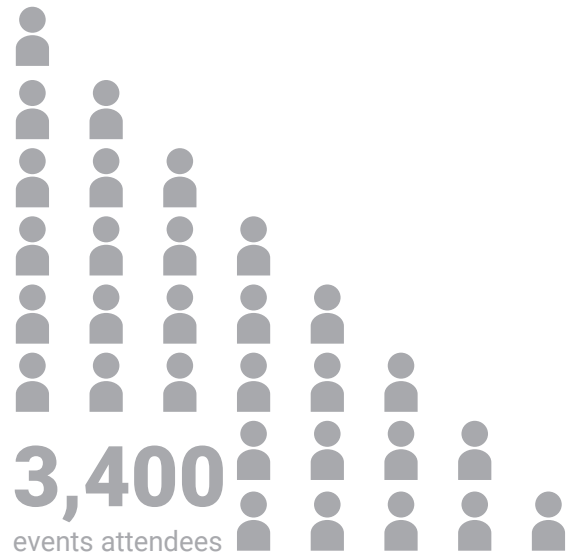
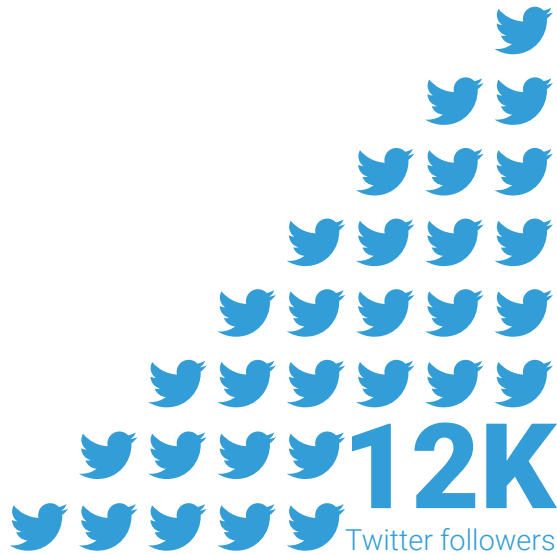


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Skyline view of Tehran and the Alborz Mountains, Iran
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