



Middle East
Centre

LSE MIDDLE EAST CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014



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.

The Middle East Centre works to enhance understanding and develop rigorous research on the societies, economies, politics and international relations of the region. The Centre promotes both specialised knowledge and public understanding of this crucial area and has outstanding strengths in interdisciplinary research and in regional expertise. As one of the world's leading social science institutions, LSE comprises departments covering all branches of the social sciences. The Middle East Centre harnesses this expertise to promote innovative multidisciplinary research and understanding of the region.

Activities

- 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 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 2012-2013, the Centre's work has been generously supported by:

- The Emirates Foundation
- The Aman Trust
- Oxfam GB
- Scholar Rescue Fund, Institute of International Education
- LSE Scholars at Risk
- Council for Assisting Refugee Academics
- The Abraaj Group
- Chevron
- The Foreign and Commonwealth Office

WELCOME

My first year as Centre Director has been a very busy, eventful and fruitful one. As the Centre continues to grow, with new members of staff joining our team, our activities are diversifying in terms of the subjects we are studying and the areas of the Middle East we are interacting with. Our events programme continues to prosper and our reach, in terms of the impact of our work, the attendance at our events and the readership of our publications, continues to expand. Our research collaboration programme with Arab Universities has received an overwhelmingly positive response and produced world-class research. It also continues to grow, with five new projects set to start this year, bringing more LSE colleagues into the Centre, raising the total number of projects led by the Centre up to 13.

In April, we organised the first LSE Middle East Alumni Forum in Dubai, which brought together the alumni community in the region with School Director, Craig Calhoun, and senior academics for a wide-ranging and stimulating discussion. Following on from that successful event, we will run yearly alumni meetings in Dubai as part of the LSE Global Forum series.

The New Middle East: Protest and Revolution in the Arab World, the Centre's first edited volume was published by Cambridge University Press earlier this year. It is the first comprehensive and interdisciplinary study to examine the causes, drivers, and effects of the events of the Arab Spring. Edited by Professor Fawaz Gerges, contributors included a mix of well-established academics and experts working on the region.

In addition to the book, our publications have dramatically expanded this year. We published a number of research papers as part of our MEC Papers Series, a further three events proceedings from our workshops and are currently finalising reports summarising the outcome of our collaborative research projects with Arab universities.

This year also marked the completion of our research project led by Dr Aitemad Muhanna-Matar and supported by Oxfam GB on 'Women's Political Participation across the Arab region: Mapping of Existing and New Emerging Forces in the Region'. After a year of fieldwork in 5 different countries (Egypt, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory, Tunisia and Yemen), the project culminated with the publication of a research paper by Dr Muhanna-Matar presenting the research findings.

Finally, we have also made major changes to our Emirates Scholarship Programme this year, launching a new Master's scholarship in addition to our final year PhD funding. This will allow us to offer financial support to up to three LSE students from Arab states who intend to focus their studies on the Middle East. This will be an excellent opportunity to bring into the School the best students from across the region, who would otherwise not have been able to pursue this life-changing opportunity.

Looking back over the past year's achievements, I am certain that next year at the Middle East Centre will be as, if not more, productive. With this in mind, I would like to thank the hard working and innovative staff of the Centre, the members of LSE faculty who support the Centre's work, the organisations who fund it and, most importantly, those who read our publications attend our meetings and benefit from our work.

Professor Toby Dodge

PEOPLE

Centre Staff

Professor Toby Dodge

Director

Toby Dodge joined the MEC as Director in September 2013. He is also Professor 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. His main publications include *Inventing Iraq: The Failure of Nation Building and a History Denied* (2005) and *Iraq: From War to a New Authoritarianism* (2013).

Robert Lowe

Manager

Robert Lowe has managed the Centre since it opened in 2010. He was previously Manager and Research Fellow, Middle East and North Africa Programme, Chatham House. His publications include Co-editor, *The Kurdish Policy Imperative* (2010); 'Kurdish Nationalism in Syria', in M. Ahmed and M. Gunter (eds.), *The Evolution of Kurdish Nationalism* (2007); and Co-editor, *Aid, Diplomacy and Facts on the Ground: The Case of Palestine* (2005).

Ribale Sleiman Haidar

Coordinator

Originally from Beirut, Ribale Sleiman Haidar moved to London in 2009 to pursue her Master's degree in Design for Development at Kingston University London. She joined the MEC in August 2011 after working for Climate Week, Britain's largest climate change campaign. Ribale runs the Academic Collaboration Programme with Arab Universities and the Centre's communications work.

Sara Masry

Administrator

Sara Masry joined the Centre in June 2013 after completing her Master's degree in International Studies and Diplomacy and her Bachelor's degree in Politics at SOAS. Prior to joining the MEC, Sara worked for the MENA Programme at Chatham House. Sara is mainly responsible for running the Centre's events programme.

Emma Pearson

Communications Assistant

After completing her Master's degree in Middle Eastern Politics at Birkbeck College, Emma Pearson joined the MEC to assist with the Centre's communications and events programme. She is also Communications Assistant at BRISMES, managing the Society's e-publications.

Dr Aitemad Muhanna-Matar

Research Fellow

Aitemad Muhanna-Matar joined the MEC in November 2012 to pursue her post-doctoral research on gender, religion and sustainable human development in the Gaza Strip. Today, her research concentrates on Salafist youth in Tunisia and the process of subjectification. Prior to that, she led the Centre's research on 'Women's Political Participation across the Arab Region', funded by Oxfam GB. Her book, *Agency and Gender in Gaza*, was recently published by Ashgate.

Dr Zeynep Kaya

Research Fellow

Zeynep Kaya is leading a research project investigating the role of international actors in enhancing women's rights after a military intervention, taking the Kurdistan Region of Iraq as a case study. Prior to that, she completed her PhD in International Relations at LSE. Zeynep is also working on her book, *The Idea of Kurdistan: International Norms and Nationalism*, for the University of Pennsylvania Press.

Dr Filippo Dionigi

Post-doctoral Researcher

Filippo Dionigi is Fellow at LSE and his research focuses on international norms and Islamist movements in the Middle East. He has completed his PhD in International Relations at LSE and is presently working on his book, *Hezbollah, Islamist Politics and International Society*. He has been awarded a three year Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship, and will be based full-time in the MEC from October 2014.

Professor Fawaz Gerges

Emirates Chair in Contemporary Middle East Studies

Fawaz Gerges is Professor of International Relations at LSE and holder of the Emirates Professorship in Contemporary Middle East Studies. He was also the Director of the Middle East Centre from 2010 until 2013. His most recent books are Editor, *The New Middle East: Protest and Revolution in the Arab World* (2013), and *Obama and the Middle East: The End of America's Moment?* (2013).

Visiting Appointments

Professor Madawi Al-Rasheed

Visiting Professor

Madawi Al-Rasheed joined the MEC as Visiting Professor in 2013. She is also Research Fellow at the Open Society Foundation. She was Professor of Anthropology of Religion at King's College London between 1994 and 2013. Her latest publications include *A Most Masculine State: Gender, Politics and Religion in Saudi Arabia* (2013) and *A History of Saudi Arabia* (2010).

Dr Malihe Maghazei

Visiting Fellow

Originally from Iran, Malihe Maghazei is an historian of the Middle East with focus on gender. Her research interests include gender and Islam, intellectual movements in Iran and modern Iranian history.

Dr Karen E. Young

Visiting Fellow

Karen Young was Assistant Professor of Political Science at the American University of Sharjah from 2009 to 2014. In 2013–14, she was an American Political Science Association MENA Fellow. Her research interests include Gulf Arab states' foreign policy, political economy of transition and identity and state formation. Her book, *The Political Economy of Finance, Energy and Security in the UAE: Between the Majilis and the Market*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in July 2014.

Dr Carly Beckerman-Boys

Visiting Fellow

Carly Beckerman-Boys is Visiting Lecturer at London City University. Her research interests include decision-making during the Palestine mandate, politics of the Israel–Palestine conflict, poliheuristic theory and third-party mediation. She is currently working on her book entitled *Foreign Policy Analysis: Concepts and Comparisons*, to be published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2016.

Dr Kristian Coates Ulrichsen

Visiting Fellow

Kristian Coates Ulrichsen researches Gulf politics and foreign policies at the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University in Houston. He is also Associate Fellow on the MENA Programme at Chatham House and an affiliate faculty at the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington. His latest book entitled *The First World War in the Middle East*, was published by Hurst in 2014.

Dr Mohammed Ibahrine

Visiting Fellow

Dr Mohammed Ibahrine joined the MEC as Visiting Fellow from the American University of Sharjah, where he is Assistant Professor of Mass Communication. While based at the Centre, he worked on his upcoming book on digital communication and socio-political change in the Arab world.

Dr Samer Kherfi

Visiting Fellow

Dr Samer Kherfi is Assistant Professor of Economics at the American University of Sharjah. His current research quantifies key socio-economic factors explaining why the labour market engagement of Emirati women is limited by international standards, despite heavy UAE reliance on foreign labour.

Silvia Colombo

Visiting Researcher

Silvia Colombo joined the MEC to complete her PhD research on Arab transitions. In addition to being a PhD candidate in political science at the Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane (SUM) in Florence, she is working as a research fellow at the Italian International Affairs Institute (IAI) in Rome.



“My first year as a Visiting Professor at the MEC was an inspiring time. A hub for academic debate and intellectual stimulation, the Centre is the perfect niche to develop ideas and debate them with a circle of outstanding global scholars; a peaceful island for academic research in the heart of a busy capital. Its team is both friendly and supportive and I look forward to another productive year.” – Professor Madawi Al-Rasheed (pictured)

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNANCE

Management Committee

The Management Committee provides advice on research strategy, general management and resource issues arising across the Centre, and progress on individual research themes and funded projects.

Management Committee Members

- Dr Roham Alvandi, 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, Department of International Relations
- 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.

Advisory Board Members

- 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
- Hind Bahwan, Bahwan Cyber Technologies
- Dr Maleeha Lodhi
- Azmi Mikati, M1 Group
- Arif Naqvi, Abraaj Capital
- Zaki Nusseibeh, Presidential Court, UAE
- Ferit F. Sahenk, Dogus Group
- Dr Nasser Saidi, Dubai International Financial Centre
- Professor Avi Shlaim, University of Oxford
- Professor Charles Tripp, School of Oriental and African Studies

EVENTS

In the academic year 2013/14, the MEC held 42 public lectures and welcomed over 4,500 attendees. The Centre's public lecture series is the leading events programme in the UK covering the social sciences of the Middle East and amongst the best at LSE; it is very well attended by different groups, ranging from students to diplomatic representatives. Building on this strong foundation of public-facing events, the Centre organised more conferences, workshops and seminars in the past year. Usually in a round-table format, these events bring together academics, practitioners and experts on a specific subject to present and discuss their research. All MEC events reach even wider audiences through publications, podcasts and transcripts available online.

LECTURE SERIES

Wednesday 2 October 2013

Startup Rising: The Entrepreneurial Revolution Remaking the Middle East

Christopher Schroeder

Monday 7 October 2013

A Most Masculine State: Gender, Politics and Religion in Saudi Arabia

Madawi Al-Rasheed, LSE

Wednesday 16 October 2013

The New Middle East: The World after the Arab Spring

Paul Danahar, BBC

Monday 21 October 2013

Modern Middle East Studies as a Distinct Intellectual Field

Professor Roger Owen, Harvard University

Wednesday 23 October 2013

UAE Foreign Policy before and after the Arab Spring

Dr Khalid Almezaini, University of Qatar

Wednesday 30 October 2013

Climate Vulnerability and Human Security in the Jordan River Basin

Dr Michael Mason, LSE

Monday 04 November

The Iraqi Constitution: Structural Flaws and Political Implications

Professor Saad Jawad, LSE

Thursday 07 November 2013

Beyond 'Strategic Depth': Islamism, Turkey's Foreign Policy and the Arab Spring

Dr Behlul Ozkan, Marmara University

Monday 11 November 2013

Re-Negotiating the Terms of EU-Israel Partnership: Normative Power and International Law

Charles Shamas, Mattin Group

Wednesday 13 November 2013

Turkey and Security Issues in the Middle East

Dr Giray Sadik, Yildirim Beyazit University

Wednesday 20 November 2013

The Strategic Significance of Changing Trade Patterns Between Asia and the Gulf

Professor Tim Niblock, University of Exeter

Friday 22 November 2013

The Syrian Civil War: The Resilience of Civil Society

Lina Sinjab, BBC

Monday 25 November 2013

Egyptian Foreign policy towards Israel under Mubarak: From Cold Peace to Strategic Peace?

Dr Amnon Aran, City University London

Wednesday 27 November 2013

Iranian Foreign Policy after the Election of Hassan Rouhani

Professor Anoush Ehteshami, Durham University

Monday 2 December 2013

US Foreign Policy and the Iranian Revolution: The Dynamics of Engagement and Strategic Alliance

Dr Christian Emery, University of Plymouth

Wednesday 4 December 2013

Protest and Revolution Across the Arab World: Reflections Three Years On

Professor Madawi Al-Rasheed, LSE; Dr John Chalcraft, LSE; Dr Ewan Stein, University of Edinburgh

Monday 13 January 2014

Syria's Age of Revolution: Peaceful Protest to Armed Struggle

Professor Yezid Sayigh, Carnegie Middle East Center

16,928 is the number of times Yezid Sayigh's talk was downloaded in January 2014.

It was the most downloaded event podcast for that month, outranking all other LSE events.

Thursday 16 January 2014

The Special Tribunal for Lebanon: A Critical Perspective

Dr Omar Nashabe, Lebanese American University

Monday 20 January 2014

Agency and Gender in Gaza: Masculinity, Femininity and Family during the Second Intifada

Dr Aitemad Muhanna-Matar, LSE

Wednesday 22 January 2014

Western Sahara: Stalemate and its Discontents

Dr Alice Wilson, University of Cambridge

Monday 27 January 2014

The People Want: A Radical Exploration of the Arab Uprising
Professor Gilbert Achcar, SOAS

Monday 3 February 2014

Libya: A Happy Ending that Wasn't
Dr Florence Gaub, EUISS

Wednesday 5 February 2014

BRISMES Annual Lecture: The Quest for Cultural Authenticity and the Politics of Identity
Professor Sami Zubaida, Birbeck University of London

Monday 10 February 2014

Israel: The Arab Spring, Domestic Politics and the Future of the Arab-Israeli Peace Process
Dr Ahron Bregman, King's College London

Wednesday 19 February 2014

Experiencing Revolution: The Case of Iran
Dr Naghmeh Sohrabi, Brandeis University

Thursday 20 February 2014

Labour Market Participation Among Palestinian Women: Religiosity or 'Rational Modernity'?
Dr Randa Nasser, Birzeit University

Monday 24 February 2014

Neoliberal Development in Palestine and the Regional Context
Dr Adam Hanieh, SOAS

Tuesday 25 February 2014

The Dialectics of the Arab Revolutions: 2011-2013
Professor Gilles Kepel, Sciences Po

Wednesday 26 February 2014

Qatari Foreign Policy and the Changing Regional Order in the Middle East
Dr Lina Khatib, Carnegie Middle East Center

Wednesday 5 March 2014

Diversified but Marginal: The GCC Private Sector as an Economic and Political Force
Dr Steffen Hertog, LSE

Monday 10 March 2014

Algeria and its Southern Neighbours: Turbulence in the Sahara
Dr Yvan Guichaoua, University of East Anglia; Imad Mesdoua

Wednesday 19 March 2014

Syria-Iraq Relations: From State Formation to the Arab Uprising
Professor Raymond Hinnebusch, University of St Andrews

Wednesday 30 April 2014

The Nazi-Soviet Pact in the Light of Transnational History: Persian Connections in German-Soviet Relations
Professor Jennifer Jenkins, University of Toronto

Thursday 1 May 2014

The New Middle East Cold War
Professor Gregory Gause, University of Vermont

Wednesday 07 May 2014

The Struggle for Iraq's Future
Zaid Al-Ali, International IDEA

Monday 12 May 2014

US-Iran Détente: Past and Present
Ambassador John Limbert; Dr Christian Emery, Plymouth University; Dr Roham Alvandi, LSE

Wednesday 14 May 2014

Bahrain: Strategies of Mobilisation and Domination
Dr Toby Matthiesen, University of Cambridge

Thursday 15 May 2014

The Macroeconomics of the Gulf
Raphael Espinoza, IMF

Thursday 22 May 2014

Oman's Foreign Policy Under Sultan Qaboos: Independent but to What Extent?
Dr Marc Valeri, University of Exeter

Monday 02 June 2014

Decoding Transition: The Case of Egypt
Professor Bahgat Korany, American University in Cairo

Wednesday 11 June 2014

Sufis in Algerian Politics: Thriving on the System's Contradictions
Dr Isabelle Werenfels, German Institute for International and Security Studies

Thursday 26 June 2014

Iraq: Causes and Consequences of the Present Crisis
Professor Toby Dodge, LSE; Ambassador Feisal Istrabadi, Indiana University; Dr Faleh Jabar, Iraq Institute for Strategic Studies

RESEARCH SEMINARS

Social Movements and Popular Mobilisation in the MENA

This seminar series forms part of a research theme led by Dr John Chalcraft (Department of Government) and Professor Fawaz Gerges (Department of International Relations). The LSE Middle East Centre has established a network, which aims at bringing together academics and students undertaking relevant research, driving forward intellectual development and cutting-edge research in the field. This network serves as a key hub for news, academic discussion and collaboration on social movements and popular mobilisation in the MENA region.

Wednesday 12 February 2014

The Politics of the Urban Everyday in the Arab Revolutions
Professor Salwa Ismail, SOAS

Tuesday 6 May 2014

New Social Movements and the Question of Organisation during Revolutionary Processes
Dr Maha Abdelrahman, University of Cambridge

Thursday 15 May 2014

Writing the History of Sectarianism in the Modern Middle East
Professor Ussama Makdisi, Rice University

Tuesday 20 May 2014

Will the Real Palestinian Peasantry Please Sit Down? Towards a New History of British Rule in Palestine, 1917–1936
Dr Charles Anderson, Georgetown University

Fellows' Seminars

Fellows' discussion seminars bring together researchers at the Middle East Centre to present and discuss their work in progress. These seminars provide an opportunity for academics to share their views on the research discussed and to provide essential feedback, as well as to learn about the latest research being generated by the Centre.

Wednesday 14 May 2014

Saudi Arabia: Researching Divine Politics in a Profane World
Professor Madawi Al-Rasheed

Tuesday 03 June 2014

The New Iranian Cinema
Dr Malihe Maghazei

Thursday 19 June 2014

Understanding the Role of International Actors in Enhancing Women's Rights after a Foreign Military Intervention: A Case Study of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq
Dr Zeynep Kaya

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Monday 30 September 2013

Contentious Politics in the Middle East

This conference brought together PhD students and young researchers in a series of panels to discuss their research around the topic of contentious politics in the Middle East. The conference sought to analyse the role and complexities of popular agency, without neglecting its interaction and negotiation with structural factors, through the framework of contentious politics and social movement theory.

Friday 29 November 2013

Women's Economic Empowerment in the MENA Region

Together with the Economic Research Forum from Cairo, the Middle East Centre hosted a workshop on the theme of female economic empowerment in the Middle East and North Africa. Participants presented their research and engaged in inter-disciplinary and inter-regional discussion.

Thursday 23 January 2014

Challenges to Citizenship in the MENA Region

This workshop addressed issues of citizenship in the Middle East and North Africa, bringing together academics from LSE and the American University of Sharjah (AUS) to present their research on the topic. Participants discussed the evolution of the concept of citizenship, as well as the multitude of challenges facing the MENA region with regards to legal citizenship, nationality and statelessness.

Friday 24 January 2014

Addressing the Demographic Imbalance in the Gulf States: Implications for Labour Markets, Migration, and National Identity

This workshop, led by Dr Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, centred on the topic of demography in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, addressing the shifting dynamics of the study of demographic issues in the region.

Wednesday 26 March 2014

The New Politics of Intervention of Gulf Arab States

This workshop addressed the broader trends in foreign policy and the regional power and global security framework of Gulf state intervention in recent years. Nine papers were presented to an audience that included academics based in the UK and the Gulf, members of think tanks and agencies, and civil servants.

Tuesday 27 May 2014

Statebuilding and Gender in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

This workshop was hosted by the University of Kurdistan–Hewlêr in Erbil as part of the Academic Collaboration research project between the LSE MEC and the American University in Dubai (AUD). The workshop assessed the attempts to improve women's status in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, the areas of progress and the problems that emerged in the context of statebuilding in Iraq.

Thursday 29 May 2014

Europe's Toolbox and Israeli-Palestinian Relations after the Kerry Effort: What Role for what Purpose?

Co-hosted with the European Council on Foreign Relations, this conference explored what policy options are available to Europe in a 'post-Kerry peace-plan' environment. A range of international specialists on the Israel-Palestine conflict and European foreign policy discussed the situation on the ground, what contributions Europe can make, and the choices facing EU member states.

Wednesday 25 - Thursday 26 June 2014

The Future of Iraq After the National Elections

In this timely workshop, leading experts on Iraq discussed the future direction of the country's politics, including electoral mobilisation, politically motivated violence and trends towards governmental and fiscal decentralisation. The interaction between these competing political logics is complex, and participants explored how they look set to drive Iraq deeper into violent instability.



from left to right:
Dr Nazand Begikhani,
Dr Nesreen Barwari and
Nigar Ahmed Mohammed
speaking at the UKH
workshop on 27 May 2014.

LSE MIDDLE EAST ALUMNI SYMPOSIUM 2014

Wednesday 30 April 2014, Dubai



The LSE Middle East Alumni Symposium is a new initiative taken by the School to build on its commitment and relationship with the region. On Wednesday 30 April 2014, LSE alumni gathered for the first LSE Middle East Alumni Symposium in Dubai. This event was a great opportunity to connect senior LSE academics to graduates of the School.

The Symposium was chaired by Arif Naqvi, LSE alumnus and chairman of the MEC Advisory Board, and generously supported by The Abraaj Group. Professor Craig Calhoun led the discussion on Middle Eastern prospects in facing global challenges. Professor Danny Quah then concentrated on the role of the GCC in a leaderless world and Professor Toby Dodge analysed the regional balance of power after the Iraqi Elections.

The presentations were followed by an engaging discussion, which was continued during the drinks reception.



After the event, LSE UAE Alumni Association committee member Diego Lopez said: 'We are very grateful to the Middle East Centre for the organisation of the first LSE Middle East Alumni Symposium, along with The Abraaj Group. Having the Director and two prominent professors from the School speaking to us about global economics and politics was a great showcase. The fact that 300 people attended, half of them LSE alumni, gives an idea of how much we can still achieve as a group in the UAE. We look forward to working with the Middle East Centre again next year to make the event even better and bigger!'

lseuae.com | lseuae@gmail.com

RESEARCH

As part of the Academic Collaboration with Arab Universities Programme, the MEC is currently running eight research projects led by LSE academics from five different departments. This programme highlights the role played by the Centre as the principal hub for Middle East studies within the School as well as a key partner to institutions in the region.

The programme aims to support collaboration and knowledge exchange between LSE and Arab universities through collaborative research or academic capacity building. Four of the projects funded in the first round of awards in 2011 are nearing completion. These are:

- Transboundary Climate Security: Climate Vulnerability and Human Security in the Jordan River Basin (in collaboration with Birzeit University)
- The Palimpsest of Agrarian Change (in collaboration with the American University of Beirut)
- Contemporary Challenges Resulting from the Demographic Profile of GCC States: Labour Markets, Migration, and National Identity (in collaboration with the United Arab Emirates University)
- LSE Academic Collaboration with the American University of Sharjah (AUS)

In the second round of funding in 2013, four new projects were supported.

Trust, Constitution and the Process of Subjectification among Tunisian Youth

This project aims to shed light on the complex factors that led to the political significance of youth movements in Tunisia and the complex factors that lead to political stability and instability. It explores the outcomes of the subjectification process in terms of possibilities of combining youth sacred meanings and practices of freedom and social justice with the hegemonic secular meanings and practice of citizenship.

Principal Investigators

Dr Aitemad Muhanna-Matar (LSE Middle East Centre)
Dr James Sater (American University of Sharjah)

Gentrification and Neighbourhood Change in Ras Beirut

Gentrification, a set of urban processes including physical upgrading, a change in the character of a place, and displacement of vulnerable, less well-off residents and businesses, is transforming the physical and social fabric of Ras Beirut, the neighbourhood surrounding the American University of Beirut. During the Lebanese Civil War (1975 – 1990), the neighbourhood sustained serious damage, destroying its cosmopolitan status of previous years. For some years after the end of hostilities, Ras Beirut still stood in a state of deterioration and disinvestment until more recently, when real estate capital started flowing into this quarter, with its combination of devalorised building stock and desirable views of the AUB campus and the Mediterranean.

This research aims to investigate patterns of social, economic and physical change in Ras Beirut through theoretically-informed empirical fieldwork. It seeks to develop a research-based strategy responding to processes of neighbourhood change through interdisciplinary analysis, scholarly and public debate.

Principal Investigators

Dr Fran Tonkiss (Department of Sociology and LSE Cities)
Professor Cynthia Myntti (American University of Beirut)

Understanding the Role of International Actors in Enhancing Women's Rights after a Foreign Military Intervention: A Case Study of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

This research addresses the role of international intervention in contributing to the deteriorating status of women in Iraq, based on studies that show that the rate of violence against women in Iraq is increasing. Although the situation of women in Iraqi Kurdistan has been considered 'relatively better off' in comparison to women in the rest of Iraq, women in this region have also suffered equally dramatic forms of subordination before and after the invasion.

Principal Investigators

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

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

The long-running and ongoing conflict in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) has had a large impact on the quality of life and wellbeing of Palestinians. A study conducted following the 2008–2009 war on Gaza revealed poor health-related quality of life (QOL) among adults, with significant associations between low QOL and war-related factors such as distress, insecurity and suffering, with women reporting worse QOL scores compared to men. Based on the limited evidence available therefore, Palestinian women suffer higher than expected rates of chronic diseases compared to women in comparable parts of the Arab World. The research 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.

Principal Investigators

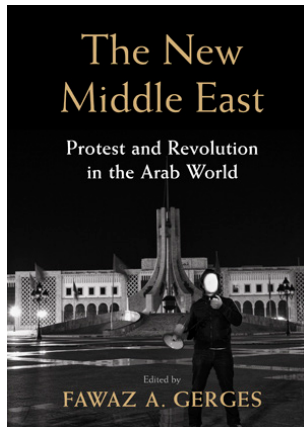
Dr Ernestina Coast (Department of Social Policy, LSE)
Professor Rita Giacaman (Institute of Community and Public Health, Birzeit University)

PUBLICATIONS

The past year was pivotal in the establishment and growth of the Centre's publications. In addition to the publication of the MEC's first flagship book, *The New Middle East: Protest and Revolution in the Arab World*, the LSE MEC Paper Series was launched, through which original research by Centre staff, fellows and other academics is published. So far, three papers have been produced and another seven are in the pipeline for the coming year.

Workshop Proceedings and Collected Papers have also been established to promote the findings of the growing number of research seminars and specialised workshops organised by the Centre. Published directly after an event, Workshop Proceedings provide a timely and brief reporting of the discussion. Collected volumes bring together all the papers presented in full to offer a more detailed and comprehensive analysis.

BOOKS

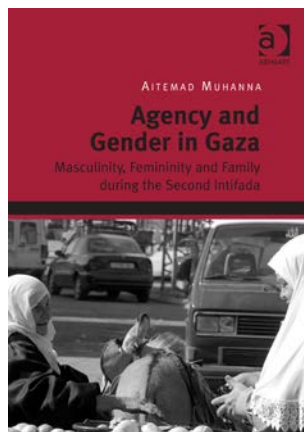
**The New Middle East: Protest and Revolution in the Arab World**

Professor Fawaz A. Gerges (ed.), Cambridge University Press, 2014

The New Middle East is the first comprehensive and interdisciplinary study to examine the causes, drivers, and effects of the events of the Arab Spring on the internal, regional, and international politics of the Middle East and North Africa. Fawaz Gerges and a team of leading scholars investigate specific conditions, but also highlight broader connections between individual case studies and systemic conditions throughout the Arab world, which include the crisis of political authority, the failure of economic development, and new genres of mobilisation and activism, especially communication technology and youth movements.

Contributors:

Sadik Al-Azm, Madawi Al-Rasheed, Atiaf Alwazir, Madawi Al-Rasheed, Atiaf Alwazir, Lisa Anderson, Mohammed Ayoob, Federica Bicchi, Valerie Bunce, John Chalcraft, Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, Juan Cole, Philippe Droz-Vincent, Anne Gough, Ali Kadri, Karim Mezran, Roger Owen, William B. Quandt, Avi Shlaim, John T. Sidel, Charles Tripp, Gabriele Vom Bruck, Benjamin Wiacek, Sami Zubaida and Rami Zurayk.

**Agency and Gender in Gaza: Masculinity, Femininity and Family during the Second Intifada**

Dr Aitemad Muhanna-Matar, Ashgate, 2013

Drawing on rich interview material and adopting a life history approach, this book examines the agency of women living in insecure and uncertain conflict situations. It explores the effects of the Israeli policy of closure against Gaza and the resulting humanitarian crisis in relation to gender relations and gender subjectivity. An empirically grounded examination of the attempt to maintain the meaning of social existence through the preservation of socially constructed images of masculinity and femininity, this book is of interest to social scientists with interests in gender studies, masculinities and the sociology of the family.

Professor Toby Dodge's book *Iraq: From War to a New Authoritarianism*, was selected by *The Economist* as one of the Books of the Year in 2013. *The Economist* noted: 'Toby Dodge... offers a clear, concise and unsparing view of Iraq's continuing agony. A tale worthy of Shakespeare.'



PAPER SERIES**The Iraqi Constitution: Structural Flaws and Political Implications**

Professor Saad N. Jawad, November 2013

Ten years after the US invasion, and following three rounds of elections, Iraq is one of the most dangerous, unstable and corrupt countries in the world. Deep structural, legal and political failings of the Iraqi constitution, for which both US officials and Iraqi politicians bear responsibility, have contributed greatly to this failure. The hasty way the constitution was drafted, the many unhelpful external interventions, the absence of Iraqi constitutional expertise and the sidelining of Sunni Arab representation have all contributed to the precarious situation in Iraq in the subsequent eight years. The constitution's vagueness and ambiguity has hindered its application and has been a major factor in maintaining the chaotic situation that pervades most of Iraq.

**The Emerging Interventionists of the GCC**

Dr Karen Young, December 2013

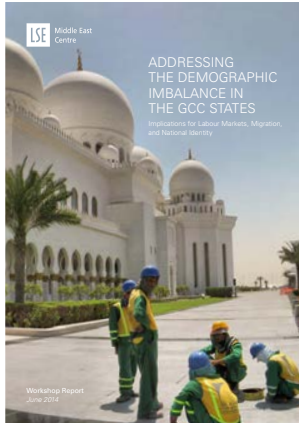
There is a shift occurring within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in which new regional leaders are emerging, buoyed by a decade of unprecedented wealth generation from the 2000s commodities boom and increased foreign investment. Specifically, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have emerged as activist states in their interest and willingness to intervene both militarily and financially in the politics of neighbouring Arab states. This paper argues that shifts in leadership at the national levels have coincided with larger trends in the regional and international economy which have enabled different, yet assertive, interventionist foreign policies to emerge from Qatar and the UAE. The result is a moment of financial and military interventionism unprecedented in Arab Gulf politics.

**Trends in Contemporary Conscious Music in Iran**

Dr Malihe Maghazei, June 2014

This paper studies the growing trends in conscious music in Iran, which emerged in the 1990s. It provides a brief historical overview of changes in conscious music in Iran since the Constitutional Revolution of 1905. Within the context of the current status of music in the country, the research focuses on three conscious trends: rock, fusion and classical Persian music. This music, which is part of a broader intellectual and artistic wave, represents the needs and views of a diverse young population as well as society as a whole. Based on interviews with musicians and content analysis of lyrics, the paper highlights the dominant concerns and lyrical themes within each trend as well as the commonalities.

WORKSHOP REPORTS



Addressing the Demographic Imbalance in the Gulf States: Implications for Labour Markets, Migration, and National Identity

June 2014

This report contains the proceedings from a workshop organised by the LSE Middle East Centre and led by Dr Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, which examined demography in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. The event took place on 24 January 2014 and hosted six speakers from the Gulf and Europe who addressed the shifting dynamics of the study of demographic issues in the GCC states.



The New Politics of Intervention of Gulf Arab States

July 2014

This report is the outcome of a workshop held on 26 March at the LSE Middle East Centre. Nine papers were presented, discussing the following issues: The use of complex realism in assessing Gulf foreign policy; State formation and militarisation; The role of the GCC: identity, cohesion, and foreign relations; Case studies: Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE; Gulf interventionist foreign policies.



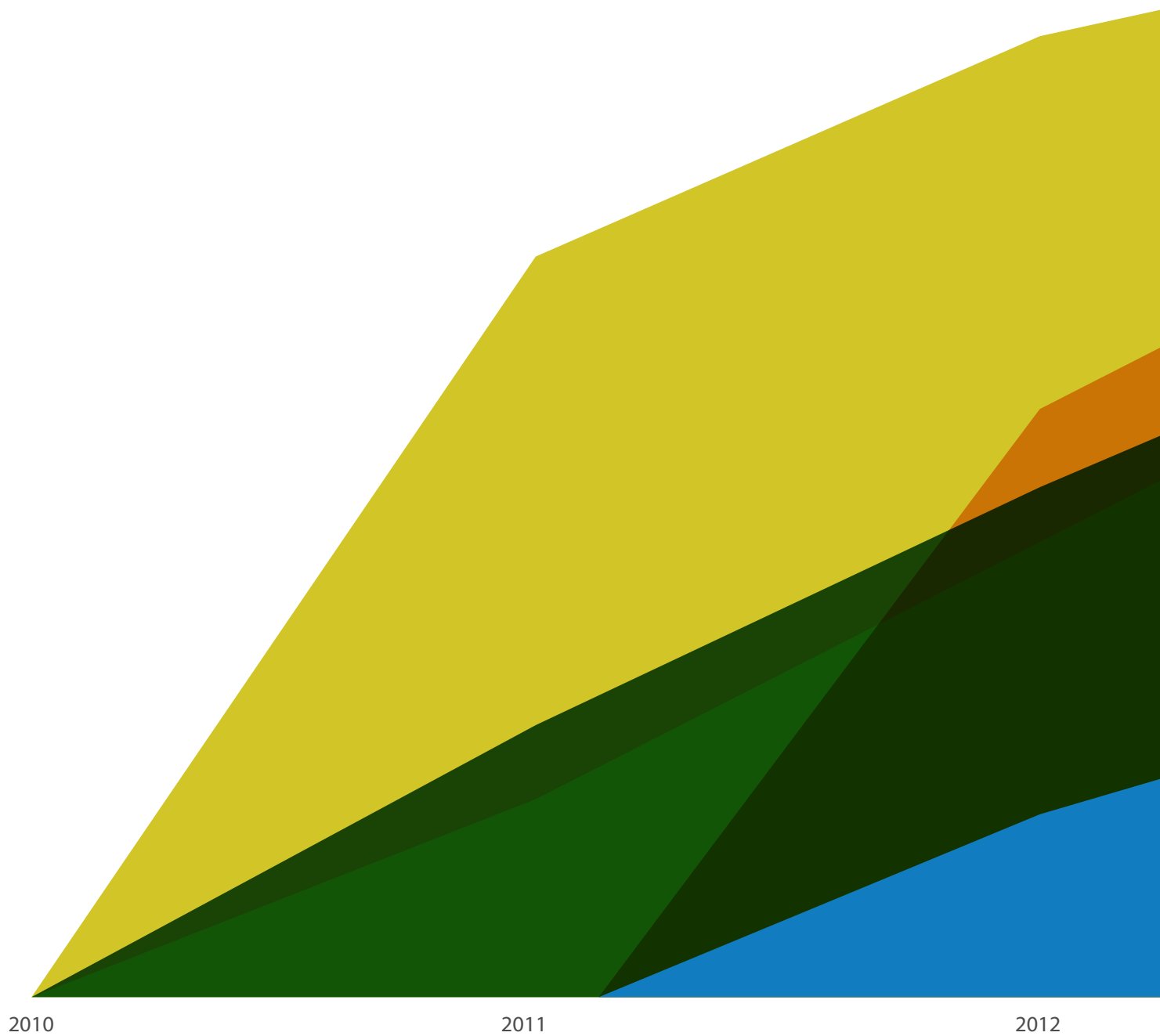
Statebuilding and Gender in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

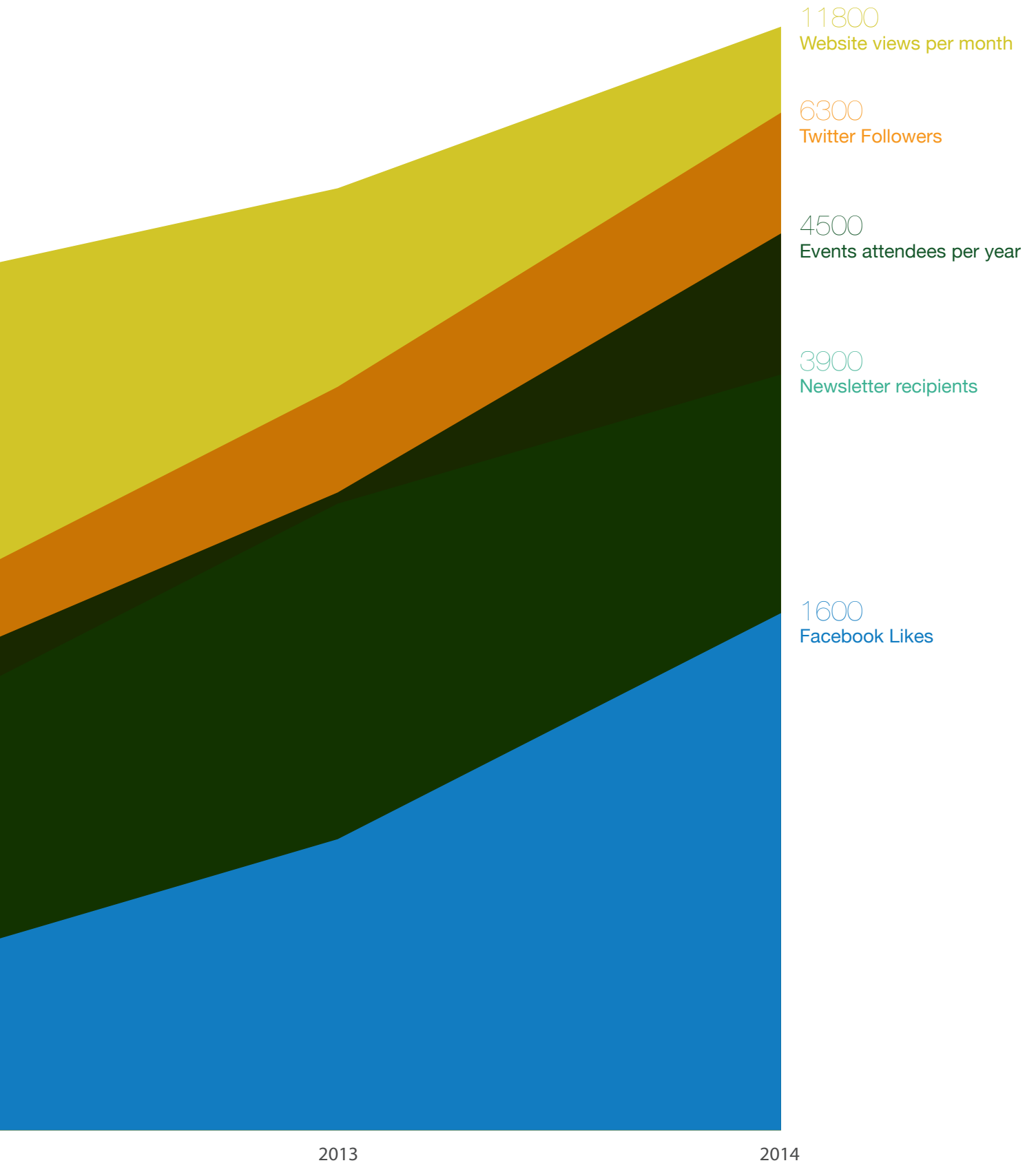
July 2014

This report features the proceedings from a workshop held at the University of Kurdistan-Hewlêr in Erbil on 27 May 2014 as part of the Academic Collaboration research project between the LSE Middle East Centre and the American University in Dubai. The workshop focused on the relationship between international actors in institutional reconstruction and gender relations in Kurdistan Iraq since 2003.

OUTREACH

The Middle East Centre's outreach activities are diverse and far-reaching. Through co-hosting events, offering research grants and promoting work happening around the School on the region, the Centre has established itself as the hub for Middle East studies at LSE. The Centre's public events series brings thousands of visitors into the School every year. Those who do not attend in person have access to blog posts, podcasts and events proceedings. The Centre also uses social media outlets to connect with followers around the world. With the expansion of its research and its publications outputs, the MEC's outreach activities have achieved excellent growth and impact.





SCHOLARSHIPS

In its fourth year, the LSE Middle East Centre Emirates PhD Scholarship Programme offered funding to five LSE PhD students researching the Middle East. These awards, based on need and merit, provide support for students who are in the final stages of their doctoral degree.

This year, the MEC also launched a new Master's Scholarship programme aimed at students from Arab states who wish to pursue their studies at LSE. This is a new initiative which hopes to help in the education and career development of Arab state nationals who qualify for postgraduate study at LSE but who are unable to cover the cost.

LSE MIDDLE EAST CENTRE EMIRATES PHD SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS 2013/14

Mark Kersten, Department of International Relations

Justice in Conflict - The International Criminal Court in Libya and Northern Uganda

Mark's work focuses on the nexus of international criminal justice and conflict resolution. Specifically, he examines the effects of the International Criminal Court on peace processes and negotiations in northern Uganda and Libya. Mark is also the creator and author of the blog *Justice in Conflict*.

Suzanne Morrison, Government Department

The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement: Contentious Politics in Palestine and Beyond

Suzanne conducts research on the Palestinian movement for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS). In 2012, she was a research fellow at the Kenyon Institute in Jerusalem and conducted field research in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory.

Navid Nekouei, Government Department

Popularisation of Factional Politics in Islamic Republic of Iran

Navid's main area of research is the relationship between society, political elites and factional politics in contemporary Iran. His thesis examines how the evolution of factional groups has been conditioned by elite perceptions of societal demands and shows how these groups were forced to seek electoral popularity to support their struggles within the institutions of the Islamic Republic.

Alaa Tartir, Department of International Development

Criminalising Resistance, Entrenching Neoliberalism: The Fayyadist Paradigm in Occupied Palestine

Alaa examines the style of governance and statebuilding project in the occupied Palestinian territory between 2007 and 2013. He examines the transformations that occurred in security and economy, as well as the broader dynamics of resistance against Israeli military occupation. Alaa is also Program Director of al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network and Research Fellow at the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute.

Tobias Thiel, Department of International History

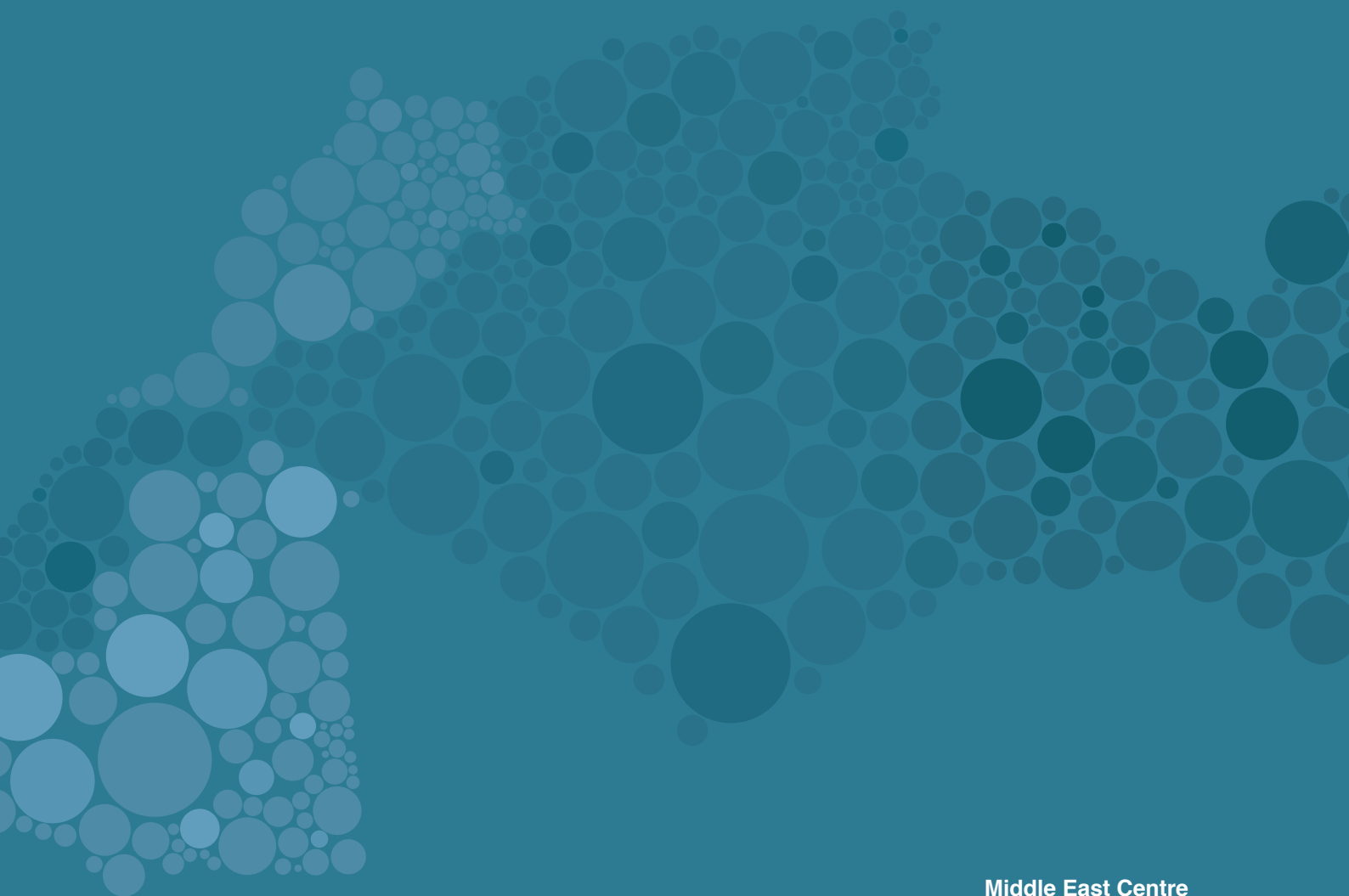
Yemen's Quest for Modern Statehood: Contentious Politics, Collective Memory, and Political Violence in Post-Unification Yemen

Tobias' dissertation focuses on contentious politics, collective memory and political violence in post-unification Yemen. He spent three years conducting field research in Yemen from 2010 to 2013. His main research interests are social movements, political violence and the MENA region.

Dr Yaniv Voller, Emirates Award winner for 2010/2011 and LSE PhD graduate in International Relations was awarded a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship at the University of Edinburgh in 2013. His book, entitled *The Kurdish National Liberation Movement in Iraq: From Insurgency to Statehood*, will be published by Routledge in September 2014.

LSE MIDDLE EAST CENTRE EMIRATES MASTER'S SCHOLARSHIP

This new initiative offers financial support to students from Arab states who are studying for a Master's degree at LSE and who intend to focus their studies on the Middle East. Each scholarship has a value of £30,000, which will cover full tuition fees with the remainder available to support living expenses in London. Three scholarships are offered each year. In keeping with the aims of the Scholarship Programme, these awards will equip Arab nationals with new skills to continue further in Higher Education and make meaningful contributions in their home countries.



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