

JESSICA WATKINS

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EDUCATION

- Feb 2015 Doctor of Philosophy, Department of War Studies, King's College London (KCL);
'Policing Disputes: Power and Social Order in Jordan.' Supervisors: Claudia Aradau & Yezid Sayigh. Passed no corrections.
- Sep 2010 MA Research, Department of War Studies, Kings' College London. Distinction.
- *Core Modules:* Theory and Methodologies of the Social Sciences; Applied Social Science – Research Design & Project Management; Qualitative Research Methods; Quantitative Methods for Social Science Research; History of Warfare.
- Sep 2006 MA International Relations, Department of War Studies, KCL. Distinction.
- *Core Modules:* Concepts and Methods in International Relations; Theories of International Relations; Human Rights and Migration; Human Rights in a World of States; Comparative Civil Wars; Dissertation: 'Security Sector Reform in Iraq: Private Military Services and the Reformulation of State Sovereignty'
- Jun 2002 BA (with Honours), Oriental Studies with French, Cambridge University, 2/1.
- *Core Modules:* Arabic language; Post-colonial Arabic Literature; History and Politics of the Modern Middle East; 18th Century French Literature; French Language; Medieval Islamic Thought; Dissertation: 'Mastering a Myth: The Arab/Berber Policy in French Colonial Morocco'.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- Sep 2020-Present Guest teacher for the IR100 course on theories and methods of international relations for the 1st year BSc degree at **LSE**.
- Jul 2017 – Present: Postdoctoral Research Officer at the **Middle East Centre, London School of Economics (LSE)**. I work on the **Conflict Research Programme**, a three year programme sponsored by the UK Department of International Development (DFID). Currently I am running a project on local policing in Iraq post-ISIL, supervising 6 local researchers in Anbar & Ninawa, and co-organising a cross-cutting theme project on local governance in post-conflict zones.
- May 2015 – Aug 2017: Second marker for the MA programme at the **Department of**

Defence Studies, King's College London.

- Sep 2015 – Dec 2015: Teaching Fellow for the **International Development Institute, King's College London**. Taught four first year undergraduate seminar classes for the BA modules *Social and Political Analysis of Emerging Economies* and *History of the Global Economy*.
- May 2014 – July 2015: MENA Research Associate specialising in the Levant & Iraq, **Risk Advisory Group**, London. Provided clients with daily written and oral assessments on political and security risks affecting the region.
- Sep 2012 – Mar 2013: Graduate Teaching Assistant for BA module *War in the International Order* (International Relations Theory), **the War Studies Department, King's College London**. Taught two second year undergraduate seminar groups. Conducted summative and formative assessments of coursework.
- Sep 2012 – Mar 2013: Co-organizer of a seminar series for PhD students on the practicalities of fieldwork, data collection and analysis for **King's College London** Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Doctoral Training Centre (KISS DTC).
- Dec 2007 – Sep 2009: Middle East Research Assistant, and subsequently Policy Associate Analyst, **the Rand Corporation**, Santa Monica, California, & Cambridge, UK. Collaborated on a range of interdisciplinary classified and unclassified research projects for US government and non-governmental clients. Specialised focus on Iraqi politics, Middle East security sector and salafi-jihadi militant movements.

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

- Jun – Dec 2007 &
Sep 2004 – Aug 2005: Civilian Arabic-English translator, media analyst and cultural advisor for British forces in Iraq.
- Nov 2002 – Aug 2004: Middle East & North Africa Analyst, UK civil service.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Articles and Chapters:

- *Forthcoming* (Sept 2020), Watkins, J. 'Identity Politics, Elites and Omnibalancing: Reassessing Arab Gulf State Interventions in the Uprisings from the Inside Out' *Journal of Conflict, Development and Security*, 20(5).

- Watkins, J. (2020). 'Iran in Iraq and the limits of 'Smart Power' in the Face of Public Protest'. LSE Middle East Centre Peer reviewed Publication.
<http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/105768/>).
- Watkins, J., (2020), Combating domestic abuse in Jordan from the top-down: liberal and/or democratic statebuilding? *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, 14(3): 389-409.
- Watkins, J., (2019) 'Satellite Sectarianisation or Plain Old Partisanship: Inciting Violence in the Arab Mainstream Media', LSE Middle East Centre
- Watkins, J. (2014), 'Seeking Justice: Tribal Dispute Resolution & Societal Transformation in Jordan'. *International Journal for Middle East Studies* (IJMES), 46(3): 31-49.
- Wehrey, F., Kaye, D. D., Watkins, J., Martini, J., & Guffey, R. A. (2010), *The Iraq Effect: The Middle East after the Iraq War*, the Rand Corporation, Santa Monica. (Authored chapter on the spread of terrorist trends & ideology from Iraq to the surrounding region).
- Gompert, D., Kelly, T., & Watkins J., (2010) *Dangers Ahead; A Framework for Analyzing Iraq's Internal Security and Stability*, MG-911-OSD, the Rand Corporation, Washington DC
- Stearns Lawson, B., Kelly T. K., Parker, M., Watkins, J., Colloton, K., (2011), *Reconstruction under Fire: Case Studies and Further Analysis of Civil Requirements*, the Rand Corporation, Washington DC.

Books in Preparation for Publication

- I have just resubmitted a draft of my book manuscript ('Creating Consent in an Illiberal Order: Policing Disputes in Jordan'), to Cambridge University Press after receiving Revise and Resubmit feedback.

Journal Articles in Preparation for Publication:

- Journal article: 'Centre & Periphery in the anatomy of a post-conflict 'local' agreement: the case of Yathrib', submitted August 2020 to the *Journal of Peacebuilding*. Currently under review.
- Journal article: 'The Ebbs and Flows of Iran's War of Position in Post-Ba'athist Iraq', work in progress, due to submit in December 2020 to the *European Journal of International Relations* (EJIR).
- Journal article: 'Reconciliation and the Business of War in Post-Baathist Iraq', work in progress based on a submission to Rudaw for an edited collection of essays their annual conference in Erbil, to be expanded for submission to the *Journal of Conflict and Cooperation*.

- Journal article: 'The Arab Spring in the Genealogy of Weak States', work in progress for submission to *The Journal of International Security*.

Book Reviews:

- Watkins, J. (2020). *Media persuasion in the Islamic State*: by Neil Krishan Aggarwal, Columbia University Press, 2019, 264 pp., 65.00/£54.00(cloth); 64.99/£ 54.00 (ebook), ISBN 9780231182386; 9780231544122.
- Watkins, J. (2020). *Culture, time and publics in the Arab world: media, public space and temporality*: by Tarik Sabry and Joe F. Khalil (eds). London and New York, Bloomsbury Publishing, IB Tauris, 2019, 224 pp., £ 63.00/85.50(cloth); £22.99/ 20.81 (paperback), ISBN 9781788311915; 9781788311922.
- Watkins, J., (2016), 'Police Encounters: Security and Surveillance in Gaza under Egyptian Rule', Ilana Feldman. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2015, *The Journal of Policing and Society*, 26, No. 06, (2016). Pp. 729-733.

Selected invited online submissions:

- Watkins, J. (2020) 'From Green to Blue? Local Policing in Iraq Post-ISIL' LSE Middle East Centre. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mec/2020/07/08/from-green-to-blue-local-policing-in-iraq-post-isil/>
- Watkins, J. & Hasan, M. (2020), 'Iraq's Popular Mobilisation & the Covid-19 Pandemic: A new raison d'être?' <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mec/2020/04/29/iraqs-popular-mobilisation-forces-and-the-covid-19-pandemic-a-new-raison-detre/>
- Watkins, J. (2020), 'Iran in Iraq: Soft Power after Soleimani', <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mec/2020/01/08/iran-in-iraq-soft-power-after-soleimani/>
- Watkins, J. (2019) 'Iran in Iraq. Hard and Soft Power Strategies under Sanctions and Public Censure'. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/crp/2019/08/05/iran-in-iraq-hard-soft-power-strategies-under-sanctions-public-censure/>
- Watkins, J. (2019). 'What to Expect from the Post-Pan-Arab Media', Conflict Research Programme Blog, 24th January 2019, <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/crp/2019/01/23/what-to-expect-from-the-post-pan-arab-media/>

Watkins, J. (2018). 'Policing and Protection for Syrian Refugees in Jordan', Sada Middle East Analysis, Carnegie, <https://carnegieendowment.org/sada/77511>

- Watkins, J. (2018), 'Beyond Sectarianism: Transnational Identity Politics and Conflict in the Modern Middle East', Middle East Centre blog, 7th November 2018. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/crp/2018/11/07/beyond-sectarianism-transnational-identity-politics-conflict-in-the-modern-middleeast/>

- Watkins, J. (2018), 'Tribes and Tribalism in a Neoliberal Jordan', Middle East Centre blog, 16 July 2018, <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mec/2018/07/16/tribes-and-tribalism-in-a-neo-liberal-jordan/>
- Watkins, J., (2013), 'Jordan's Refugees: Breaking the Back of the Kingdom?', article for the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR), September 2013, online as of January 2015 at: <http://icsr.info/2012/07/jordans-refugees-breaking-the-back-of-the-kingdom/>
- Watkins, J. (2010), *Security Sector Developments of the British Colonial Middle East and their Legacies*, commissioned by the Arab Reform Initiative as part of their series on Security Sector Reform efforts in the Arab World. Available online as of March 2017 at: <http://www.arab-reform.net/en/node/581>

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS & PRIZES

- Jun 2015: First Runner-Up for the Leigh Douglas Memorial Prize for the best PhD dissertation on a Middle Eastern topic in the Social Sciences or Humanities awarded by a British University (£150).
- Jun 2015: Awarded the 2015 'Elsevier Outstanding Thesis Prize' – one of 15 prizes awarded across all faculties at King's College London (£100 plus journal subscription prize).
- Jun 2013: £400 from War Studies Department, KCL, travel fund to undertake fieldwork in Jordan.
- Oct 2009 – Sep 2013: £63,200 '1+3' funding for tuition and maintenance from the ESRC for completion of MRes and PhD.
- Feb 2011 – Sep 2012: £6,400 from the ESRC for maintenance and transport costs of fieldwork in Jordan.
- Oct 2012: £750 research training support grant from the War Studies Department, KCL, for transcription expenses.

SELECTED CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS

- 7 Dec 2020 Invited panellist to speak about regional drivers of sectarianisation in the Middle East for workshop co-hosted by 'the Legitimacy and Citizenship in the Arab World' project at London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and the 'Sectarianism, Proxies & De-sectarianisation' (SEPAD) project at Lancaster University.

- 7 Oct 2020 'Community Policing in Jordan after the Uprisings: Refugees, Representatives, and Re-imagined Communities': panel presentation for Middle East Studies Association (MESA) annual conference.
- 30 Jul 2020: 'Iran in Iraq', Paper launch webinar run by the Middle East Centre.
<https://soundcloud.com/lsemiddleeastcentre/iran-in-iraq-the-limits-of-smart-power-amidst-public-protest>
- 9 Oct 2019: Local Peace Processes: the Case of Yathrib, Iraq, presented at Joint Analysis Workshop hosted by the Political Settlements Research Programme & the British Academy.
- 25 June 2019: Statebuilding, Hybridity & Aid Dependency in Jordan's Campaign against Domestic Abuse' presented at BRISMES annual conference, Leeds.
- 16 May 2019: 'Geo-political Polarisation and Sectarianism in the Pan-Arab Media' presented at FCO workshop at Whitehall on the Arab media.
- 30 Nov 2018: Middle East Centre launch of the Conflict Research Programme, London School of Economics.
- 13 Jun 2018: 'Tribes & Tribalism in a Neoliberal Jordan', presented at: *Tribe & State in the Middle East* workshop, Middle East Centre, London School of Economics.
- 31 May 2018: 'Pan-Arab media, covering conflict and securitizing sect in Syria: the case of Al-Jazeera', presented at *Hate Speech as Political Communication and Practices* conference, Centre for Global Media and Communication, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).
- 24 Nov 2015: 'Proximity & Distance: Ethnographic Research in Contexts of Conflict & Insecurity' presented at *KCL Social Science Festival Roundtable*, London.
- 31 Oct/1 Nov 2015: 'Community Policing and Creating Consent in Jordan', presented at *Early Career Middle Eastern Studies Network Conference*, Exeter University, UK.
- 19 Jun 2012: Speaker at 'Doctoral Fieldwork in Developing and Transitional Countries' workshop, organized by King's Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Doctoral Training Centre, London, UK.
- 11 Apr 2012: 'The History of the Public Security Directorate in Jordan', Guest Speaker at the Centre for British Research in the Levant (CBRL) in Amman, Jordan.
- 4-5 Nov 2010: 'Middle Eastern Security Services under British Colonialism: Sowing the Seeds of Insecurity?' Invited speaker at an *Arab Reform Initiative* Conference, Casa Arabe, Madrid, Spain.

9 Mar 2009: Co-presenter of 'The Iraq Effect' Rand research project findings to US Pentagon client in Washington DC, US.

LANGUAGES

Arabic (fluent in written translation, highly competent and able to conduct interviews in spoken); French (fluent); Farsi (beginner); Spanish (beginner).

REFEREES

Professor Toby Dodge (Current line manager at LSE), Director of the Iraq Programme for the Conflict Research Programme, the Middle East Centre, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE. B.T.Dodge@lse.ac.uk

Dr. Michael Mason (Director of the Middle East Centre at LSE), the Middle East Centre, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE M.Mason@lse.ac.uk

Dr. Yezid Sayigh (PhD supervisor); Senior Associate, Carnegie Middle East Centre, Emir Bechir Street, Lazariéh Tower, Bldg. No. 2026 1210, 5th floor, Downtown Beirut P.O.Box 11-1061 Riad El Solh, Lebanon. ysayigh@carnegie-mec.org

Professor Charles Tripp (PhD examiner); Professor of Politics with reference to the Middle East, SOAS, University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, ct2@soas.ac.uk