



# **SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA**

## **Digest of Current Publications and Events**

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## Conferences & Calls for Papers

- [Call for Papers: Gramsci in the Middle East and North Africa](#), 9-10 May 2022, LSE
- [Call for Papers: 'Counterterrorism' and Human Rights, Twenty Years after 9/11](#), Rowaq Arabi
- [Call for Papers: Perspectives on Governance by Non-State Armed Actors](#), May 24, 2021, Workshop Series "Debating Transnational Governance
- [Call for Papers: Panel 3.10 Framing \(in\)security in the Middle East and North Africa: old trends and new challenges compared](#), 9-11 September, SISP Conference 2021
- [Call for Papers: 'Sects and the City II'](#), SEPAD, 26<sup>th</sup> of July, University of Lancaster
- [Call for Papers: Politics from below, Institute for Protest Research in Berlin](#), 31<sup>st</sup> May
- [Call for Papers: Authoritarian Moments: Configurations, Forms, and Practices of Authoritarianism](#), 7-10 September, 2021

## Online Events

- [Virtual IAS Festival: Gaza: Arts of Resilience and Hope in the Midst of Despair](#) (May 5<sup>th</sup>)
- [Online Roundtable and Book Launch: "The Arab and Jewish Questions: Geographies of Engagement in Palestine and Beyond" with Bashir Bashir, Leila Farsakh, Moshe Behar, Nadia Fadil, University of Manchester](#) (May 5<sup>th</sup>)
- [Online Lecture "Women and Public Space in Turkey. A Gendered History of Modernity, Urban Experience and Everyday Participation" by Selda Tuncer \(Yüzüncü Yıl University, Van\), Leibniz Zentrum Moderner Orient](#) (May 6<sup>th</sup>)

## Recent & Forthcoming Books

- [Islamic Feminism and the Discourse of Post-Liberation The Cultural Turn in Algeria](#), by Marnia Lazreg
- [Frontline Syria: From Revolution to Proxy War](#), by David L. Phillips

## Journal Articles & Other Academic Articles

- [Decolonizing Knowledge Production: a Practical Guide](#), by Louis Yako
- [Social Media and Contentious Politics: Revisiting the Debate a Decade after the Beginning of the Arab Uprisings](#), by Enrico De Angelis and Yazan Badran
- [Political conjuncture, intended audience and the 'Historiography' of the Kurdistan Workers' Party \(PKK\) terrorist organisation](#), by Ercan Karakoç and İlcut Taha Taslı
- [From jihad to resistance: the evolution of Hamas's discourse in the framework of mobilization](#), by Imad Alsoos
- [Kurdish cross-border trade between Syria and Turkey: the socio-political trajectories of Syrian Kurds](#), by Cemal Ozkahraman

## News Pieces & Commentary

- [What's wrong with Jordanian media?](#), Open Democracy
- [Happy is the one who says 'I am a Turk': the story of an oath](#), Open Democracy
- ['Palestinians must be protected': UN warns of rise in Israeli settler attacks](#), Middle East Eye
- [Biden urged by lawmakers to pressure Saudi Arabia into ending Yemen blockade](#), Middle East Eye
- [Italy's senate votes to give citizenship to jailed Egyptian activist Patrick Zaki](#), Middle East Eye
- [Turkish writer Ahmet Altan released from prison: Lawyer](#), Al Jazeera
- [Rights advocates: Patriarchy governs new personal status bill](#), Mada Masr
- [The Bread and Freedom Party: A leftist opposition party in post-coup Egypt](#), Mada Masr

## Positions & Opportunities:

- [Associate Professorship in the History and Politics of Iran](#), University of Oxford
- [Visiting Assistant Professor in the Arabic Language, Middle East and South Asia Studies Program](#), Wake Forest University, North Carolina

CFC: PRESENTERS FOR BERLIN IPB/DVPW COLLOQUIUM ON "POLITICS FROM BELOW" -  
SUBMISSION OF IDEAS UNTIL: 20 APRIL

Dear all, at the Institute for Protest Research in Berlin (ipb) we are in the process of planning the Spring/Summer 2021 "Politics from below" colloquium. The biannual colloquium was created in 2011 by the DVPW Working Group on Social Movements and has been organized as a cooperative project by different institutions since then. It provides a space to discuss research projects, article drafts and manuscripts with a focus on collective political action. This includes the topics of political mobilization, protest, social movements, and revolutions. Thereby, we intend to create a forum for peer exchange among the scattered researchers of politics from below and to provide a space for disciplinary discussion. Due to the pandemic situation, the colloquium is currently held via videosoftware BigBlueButton/Zoom

I will be chairing a session on 31 May 2021 on the meta topic of *"movement/protest/revolution research a decade after the 2011 upheavals"*. What lessons can be drawn for the study of mobilisation processes from the last decade of protest in the MENA region? What premises have to be rethought? And where does this leave us as regards understanding the more recent popular protests in Lebanon, Algeria, Sudan or Iraq?

Should you have ongoing or recently published work related to these or neighbouring questions and would like to discuss your work within the frame of the colloquium, please feel free to reach out! (jj.grimm@fu-berlin.de) Presented texts may be draft chapters or articles, book manuscripts or recently published books, as well as research proposals at the post-doctoral level.

**CALL FOR PAPERS: AUTHORITARIAN MOMENTS: CONFIGURATIONS, FORMS, AND PRACTICES OF AUTHORITARIANISM**

Part of the MANCEPT Workshops 2021, which will be held online from Sep. 7-10, 2021

*Convenors:* Verena Frick (Goettingen) and Felix Petersen (Jerusalem)

*Confirmed Key Note Speakers:* Jan-Werner Müller (Princeton), Annelien De Dijn (Utrecht), William Scheuerman (Indiana)

**WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION**

Twentieth-century political thought was built on the fundamental consensus of a deep ideological and systematic opposition between democracy and authoritarianism. Thinkers from different theoretical backgrounds, including Karl Popper, Judith Shklar, Isaiah Berlin, Hannah Arendt, or Karl Loewenstein, agreed on the basic assumption that liberal society can be defined ex negativo from its confrontation with authoritarianism. By contrast, recent diagnoses surrounding the ubiquitous crisis of democracy – for instance, concepts such as illiberal democracy, authoritarian liberalism, authoritarian constitutionalism or electoral authoritarianism – nurture the impression that this demarcation line becomes increasingly blurred.

For the purpose of illustration, take the following three examples: (1) Constitutionalism was for a long time considered a genuine feature of democratic regimes. Recent scholarship on

authoritarian constitutionalism, however, argues that constitutions can matter under non-democratic government as well (Frankenberg/Alivar Garcia 2019; Ginsburg/Simpser 2013). (2) The example of Hungary, once the paragon of post-socialist transitions and now a self-declared illiberal democracy, shows that before a democracy will become fully authoritarian, it might turn into an illiberal regime that limits basic rights and political pluralism, while free elections are still held and certain elements of democratic government are intact (Scheppelle 2018; Pap 2018; Buzogany 2017). (3) Critics of European austerity politics frequently refer to the European Union as being a liberal authoritarian regime enhancing individual rights and economic prosperity at the expense of democratic self-government (Wilkinson 2019; Somek 2015; Streeck 2015).

In view of these developments, political theory should not collapse into epistemological relativism or draw the conclusion that every political regime is a hybrid regime. Rather, these observations underscore, first, that authoritarian configurations, forms and practices occur in democratic and non-democratic contexts, and, secondly, that institutional constructions and practices that are meant to facilitate political legitimacy under democracy can serve undemocratic regimes as well. The workshop builds on this diagnosis and explores possibilities of theorising and analysing contemporary and historical “authoritarian moments” within and beyond liberal democracy.

Contributions are invited to examine the current authoritarian challenge to political theory and to question the usefulness and adequacy of its inherited conceptual framework for capturing the complex configuration of authoritarianism and democracy. For instance, what distinguishes current authoritarianism from its historical predecessors and in how far do we need new theories and concepts to capture current authoritarian moments? Which narratives occur in order to justify authoritarian politics and how do they relate to established notions of democracy? Does the current institutional shape of liberal democracy itself give rise to authoritarian politics? And which authoritarian traits exist already within democracy? In asking such and related questions, the workshop seeks to move the important debate on democracy and its (inherent) relation to authoritarianism onto a new terrain. Workshop contributions from a range of disciplines are welcome, including political theory and philosophy, political science, law, economics, sociology, and cultural studies.

They can address (but are not limited to) the following dimensions:

- Traditions and transformations: Contributions can study the history of authoritarian political thought and its relation to democratic thinking, focus on the sticky features of authoritarianism that persist throughout history, or explore the genuine characteristics of current authoritarianism in comparison to historical manifestations.
- Ideologies: Like every political authority, authoritarian systems have to justify their rule and give reasons for obedience. Contributions can explore changing legitimacy-narratives of authoritarian politics and their ideological grounding, focus on the mimicry of democracy in modern history and the language of authoritarianism, or examine new narratives (or the reformulation of old narratives) to legitimize non-democratic ideas and practices.
- Institutions: Constitutions can matter irrespective of the political regime and elections are held in authoritarian and democratic regimes. In this context, contributions can study the new authoritarian institutionalism, focus on differences and similarities of democratic and non-democratic institutions (and institutional theory), or explore why current authoritarian regimes seek to ground their legitimacy in constitutions and what role law and constitution play in the consolidation of authoritarian rule.

- Authoritarianism and democracy: Democracy is always at risk to collapse into authoritarianism. Contributions can focus on the intersection of authoritarianism and democracy by exploring borderline phenomena like militant democracy or state of exception, exploring seemingly a-democratic institutions like bureaucracy and their relationship to democracy, taking so-called authoritarian liberalism to address the impact of neoliberalism on democracy, or examining current contestations of the liberal script more broadly.

## **APPLICATION**

To submit a paper, please send a 300-500 words abstract until 15th May to:

**verena.frick@uni-goettingen.de**

and

**petersen.felix@gmail.com**

Registration opens in May. All participants must register in order to attend.

This year's fees are:

Academics: £45

Graduate Students, retirees, and unaffiliated attendees: £20

Non-speaker/non-presenting attendees: £15

For graduate students, a small number of bursaries will be available. Please indicate in your abstract whether you intend to apply for a bursary.