

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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FEATURED ITEMS

MESA letter to Abdel Fattah al-Sisi demanding full investigation of torture and murder of Giulio Regeni

Middle East Studies Association, Inerventions, February 4, 2016 Beth Baron and Laurie A. Brand

In the past cases, we have *respectfully requested* your attention to these matters in keeping with international norms regarding academic freedom, various provisions of Egyptian law, and international treaties to which your government is a signatory.

However, the climate of repression and intimidation in which our colleagues in Egypt – Egyptian and non-Egyptian—have tried to persevere in conducting their academic work has only continued to deteriorate. Indeed, Regeni's murder, far from an aberration, is in fact a predictable outcome of the progression of state repression of academics and students.

As a result, Giulio Regeni's case requires of us that in this letter we *demand* of your government, a full and impartial investigation of his death, and the arrest and prosecution of those responsible. *Continue reading here*

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

LSE Middle East Centre Paper Series | 13 | February 2016 Joel Beinin

Workers' movements contributed substantially to the 2011 popular uprisings in Tuni-sia, Egypt, Morocco and Bahrain. Comparing the role of workers before, during and after the uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt demonstrates that the relatively successful installation of a procedural democracy in Tunisia owes a great deal to the movements of workers and the unemployed in the uprisings and to their organisational structure and political horizon. Tunisian workers could compel the Tunisian General Federation of Labor (UGTT), despite the wishes of its pro-Ben Ali national leadership, to join them and the rest of the Tunisian people in a struggle against autocracy. Egyptian work-ers, on the other hand, were not able to force the Egyptian Trade Union Federation (ETUF) to support the uprising and had no national organisations and only weak links to intellectuals. Download here

MIDDLE EAST STUDIES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

November 17-20, 2016 Boston, Massachusetts

More information <u>here</u>

Deadline for applications: February 16, 2016

MESA is primarily concerned with the area encompassing Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan, Israel, Pakistan, and the countries of the Arab World from the seventh century to modern times. Other regions, including Spain, Southeastern Europe, China and the former Soviet Union, also are included for the periods in which their territories were parts of the Middle Eastern empires or were under the influence of Middle Eastern civilization. Comparative work is encouraged. Please visit: http://mesana.org/annual-meeting/member-calls.html for a list of member calls for participation (panel organizers looking for papers; paper presenters looking for panels).

[The following panels could be of particular interest to members of the SMPM in MENA listserv:]

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"Borders and Boundaries in the Mashreq"

Organizers: Matthieu CIMINO (Sciences Po, Oxford University), Daniel MEIER (CNRS – Grenoble) Deadline for online submission of your proposal is **February 10, 2016**

Since 2010, the Arab world is engaged in a major revolutionary process (Burgat, 2012) which resulted in an inflation of academic works investigating popular mobilization dynamics (Lynch, 2013), their religious and political dimensions (Hashemi, 2011), the role of social networks (Aouragh, 2015) or sectarian reverberations (Pizzo, 2015) of this global revolutionary process. However, on the margins of those heterogeneous socio-political approaches, the issue of borders/boundaries reconfigurations seem to have been neglected. Yet, the Arab revolutions and civil wars appear to have significantly redefined the political, social & identity boundaries in Arab societies. The scope of these effects ranges from state breakdown to refugee issues as well as local impacts on borderland communities or state borders strengthening.

This panel proposes a theoretical and empirical reflection on the impact of Arab revolutions on borders/boundaries in the Mashreq (Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine/Israel). Using multidisciplinary approaches (that ranges from political science to ethnography), multiple field researches, semi-structured interviews and historical research using new primary sources, it intends to propose new directions on the study of boundaries reconfigurations in the Mashreq. In this perspective, it aims to discuss theoretical framework pertaining to border studies to broaden the analytical tools when studying borderlines, borderlands, boundary communities as well as migrants/refugees issues.

Please feel free to contact us (<u>by February, 12th</u>) if you are interested in taking part so that we can "invite" you to submit an abstract. Matthieu Cimino (<u>matthieu.cimino@sciencespo.fr</u>), Daniel Meier (<u>daniel.meier@graduateinstitute.ch</u>).

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Beyond Nationalism: Clashing Identities between Islamism and Authoritarianism in the Post-Arab Spring

Following what was once hailed as an Arab 'Spring' or 'Arab Awakening', the Arab region has been plagued with violence, socio-political clashes and rising poverty. From a brutal civil war in Libya, Syria and Iraq to a clash between Islamist groups and the military in Egypt and rise of the so-called jihadist group IS (Islamic State), events in the region remain fluid and unpredictable. What is prevalent, however, is a conflict over identity, religion and social boundaries in the post-Arab Spring.

Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism (SEN) would like to invite contributions to a panel at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) conference taking place on November 17-20, 2016, in Boston.

Accepted participants will be invited to submit their full articles for consideration for a special issue on the SEN-MESA panel. Submissions should tackle questions related to emerging identities and social boundaries in the post-Arab Spring. What were the key events, discourses, ideologies, and (re)allocations of power rooted in the Arab Spring that encouraged the establishment of some social boundaries over others? Possible topics include but are not restricted to the following:

- Social and political conflicts over identity in the Arab region following the Arab 'Spring'.
- Existing and potential conflicts over religion between secularism, political and militant Islam, including the rise of militant groups such as ISIS.
- Human rights, particularly of minority groups, in the region following the Arab 'Spring'.
- Where does the question of nationalism in the Arab region stand today.
- The relationship between identity politics and socio-economic policies following the Arab 'Spring'.

Panel organizers welcome submissions of work in progress as well as contributions from established scholars, research students, post-doctoral fellows and lecturers in the early stages of their career. We invite scholars to submit an abstract between 250-500 words on the topic for consideration. If accepted, authors will be asked to edit their abstracts according to the submission guidelines of MESA for a collective panel submission before February 16, 2016.

Deadline for submission: February 09, 2016

Please send an abstract and a short bio (not exceeding 200 words) to dmansour@aucegypt.edu for consideration. Authors will be notified on the status of their submission on February 12, 2016.

OTHER CALLS FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

CfP: Violence and the Politics of Aesthetics: A Postcolonial Maghreb Without Borders

Abstract Deadline: 15 March 2016

This special issue explores questions concerning the politics and poetics of literary texts that respond to individual and collective experiences of suffering in the Maghreb and beyond. The greater Maghreb, extending from Egypt to Morocco and parts of sub-Saharan Africa, has been the site of dramatic socio-political upheavals, including colonization, revolution, dictatorial rule, civil strife, and the recent Arab uprisings. Periods of violence—such as the Years of Lead in Morocco (1956-1999), the Algerian war of independence (1954-1962) and the bloody civil war in the 1990s, Gadhafi's brutal rule of Libya (1969-2011), and Bourguiba and Ben Ali's reign over Tunisia have catalyzed the production of a vibrant literary oeuvre that bears witness to both the suffering and the resistance generated by these events. Moreover, the increase of illegal immigration, the rise of ISIS and the "defeat" of politicized groups (Tuareg) in countries coterminous to the Maghreb has has heightened the risks of trans-border violence, which targets vulnerable groups. While political transition and civil reconciliation initiatives in Morocco and Algeria have been conducive to the prosperity of testimonial literature in the past decade, the Arab uprisings have weakened the dictatorial grip and widened spaces for free speech, igniting a new wave of locally-published literary works by Maghrebi writers who narrate and reflect on the impact of these events for diverse communities across North Africa. Be they autobiographies, prison novels, testimonies, films, cartoons or poems, such works both document and theorize suffering. This special issue will reflect upon the myriad ways in which literature represents, contests, rewrites, accounts for, and transforms the sum of traumatic events lived in the Maghreb and beyond during the last fifty years. In the absence of independent institutionalized redress of the traumas engendered by this violence, literature and film provide an opportunity both to heal and to reassign responsibility for the exactions of the past, thus opening up new possibilities for literature to interrogate and rewrite historiography.

The papers accepted in this volume will raise questions concerning memory and suffering, novelistic production and trauma, incarceration and testimony, immigration and violence, literature and war, and political change through close study of literary and cinematic works. The issue also invites papers that address these issues and account for the linguistic (Amazigh, Arabic and French) and cultural complexity of Maghrebi literature. Abstracts should be no longer than 500 words. Please email abstracts to Jill Jarvis (jjarvis@princeton.edu) and Brahim El Guabli (bguabli@princeton.edu) by 15 March. Time line:

- First drafts of articles between 6000 and 7000 words, notes and biography included, are due by 15 July.
- Final articles due by 1 October.
- Volume will be sent to production due by 30 November.

After the Uprisings: Political, Economic, and Social Transformations in the Middle East and North Africa

31 May 2016 - Edinburgh

Deadline for submissions: 29 February 2016

Conference Chairs: Dr Ilia Xypolia, Dr Vera Lomazzi

Since December 2010, the Arab World has been undergoing a historical process of rapid and deep change in its political and social structures. Papers analysing any aspect of these transformations from any relevant field are welcome. The remit of the workshop is to bring together different perspectives on the changes that have taken place in the Middle East post-Uprisings, from diverse theoretical and disciplinary traditions.

The *ArabTransitions* project, headed by the University of Aberdeen, is organising a one-day conference in May 2016 to be held in Edinburgh as the culmination of a three year international research project on political and social transformations in the Arab world. Funded within the FP7 program of the European Commission, the project uses survey-based research to explore comparatively the beliefs, values, and behaviour with respect to political and social transformations in seven Arab countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq). The conference is open to academics, activists, trade unionists, practitioners, policy-makers, and NGOs who are engaged in research, advocacy, campaigns, and movements in the Arab world. Due to the inter- and trans-disciplinary nature of the project, contributions from a variety of academic disciplines, such as history, economics, political science, international relations, public policy, geography, philosophy, and sociology are highly encouraged. **Topics:**

- Key political, social, and economic transformations in the MENA region: major changes, their significance, and their implications for theoretical frameworks, analytical methods, as well as policy implications for stakeholders (governments. NGOs, IOs, etc.).
- National and regional trends: homogeneities and heterogeneities among MENA countries (pathways of socio-economic and political transformation, possible future trajectories).
- Roots of the Uprisings: long-term, structural factors and short-term triggers behind the upheaval in the Arab world.
- The generational gap: the role of youth and ICTs before, during, and after the Uprisings.
- Religion and political culture: the way the Uprisings and subsequent events affected Islamist movements and the relationship between politics and religion generally
- Europe and the Arab Uprisings: impact of the recent turmoil upon the role of EU relations.

Please send an abstract (max. 300 words) to p01kv4@abdn.ac.uk. Further enquiries may be directed to the conference organizers Dr Ilia Xypolia at: ilia.xypolia@abdn.ac.uk and Dr Vera Lomazzi at vera.lomazzi@abdn.ac.uk

More information <u>here</u>

From CONTESTED_CITIES to global urban justice - critical dialogues

July 4th - 7th 2016, Madrid

Deadline for abstract submission: 20 February 2016

The CONTESTED_CITIES CONFERENCE will be a forum of radical academics, practitioners and activists from different theoretical, disciplinary and geographical backgrounds coming together to probe the multiple forms of urban injustice that shape cities across the world. Cities have always been contested spaces in which struggles over different political visions of urban development, planning and life take place; yet urban contestation is increasing. In recent years this has been manifested through austerity urbanism, crisis politics and processes of financialisation. Millions of urban citizens are experiencing dispossession, displacement and expulsion on a daily basis; their 'right to the city' has been denied by diverse forms of neoliberal and authoritarian urban governance. At the same time there is growing global resistance and counter-strategies to these injustices, varying in form, scale and approach. The conference will develop counter-dialogues and perspectives, fighting against these injustices, in an attempt to think beyond neoliberalism.

The Conference will take place in Madrid (Spain). This city is at the heart of radical urban struggles; the centre of the 15-M movement. 15-M's urban and anti-capitalist demands shook the obsolete Spanish party-political system, creating a laboratory of contestation. Such new urban initiatives challenge the established order, and provide radical insights into alternative practices of everyday life. The conference will hear from first-hand experiences of this and other struggles for urban justice. The Conference will be structured around the following five streams:

- Concepts for critical urbanisms Beyond the new global urban question
- The global urban housing question
- New regimes of expulsion shedding light on the violence of displacement
- New forms and limits of gentrification
- STREAM 5: The new urban alternatives Social Movements:

Cities are contested spaces where actors in asymmetric power relations struggle over different conceptions of urban development, justice, planning and politics. By overtly rejecting the neoliberal rationale, grassroots movements aim to re-establish direct democracy and launch new approaches to commoning, social solidarity and alternative values that may crack capitalism.

This stream calls for papers on socio-spatial justice which address the questions below. In addition, it aims to explore the potential of audio-visual methodologies.

- 1) What does the right to the city, social and spatial justice mean in different socio-economic and political contexts?
- 2) How have collaborations between social movements and local governments brought about new urban policies and politics?
- 3) What is the emerging role for social movements in relation to local, regional and central governments in places in political transition?
- 4) How do anti-capitalist movements construct urban social spatial relationships?
- 5) What potential is there for visual methodologies and what challenges do they pose?

More information **here**

The "Dangerous Classes" in the Middle East and North Africa

Conference: 26 January 2017

Middle East Centre, St Antony's College, University of Oxford

Deadline for submission of abstracts is 30 June 2016.

The concept of the "dangerous classes" was born in mid-nineteenth century Europe and became famous after the publication in 1872 in New York of a book with the same title by the American social reformer Charles Loring Brace. The "dangerous classes," the lumpenproletariat of Marx and Engels, described all those who had fallen out of the working classes into the lower depths of the new industrial and urban social environments, and survived there by their wits and by various amoral, disreputable or criminal strategies. They included beggars and vagrants, gypsies, pickpockets and burglars, prostitutes and courtesans, discharged soldiers, ex-prisoners, tricksters, drug-dealers; the unemployed or unemployable, indeed every type of the criminal and marginal, and were drawn from among women as well as men, and juveniles as well as adults. Such representatives of the "dangerous classes" were well-represented in literature, notably by Zola, Dickens and Victor Hugo in the nineteenth century and Brecht in the twentieth, and in popular culture of all kinds.

The "dangerous classes," sometimes barely distinguishable from the new working class recently concentrated in the urban industrial centres, were a constant preoccupation of the emerging bourgeoisie. Fear of both permeated social policy, including among reformers, and was central to the establishment of new methods of control, policing and judicial, and even medical and psychiatric systems. Although the term fell into disuse in the twentieth century West, it is often argued that the concept remains embedded in elite discourses of connections between propertylessness, poverty, immorality, criminality and the "underclass."

This conference takes as its central theme this notion of the "dangerous classes" and invites abstracts examining its explanatory power when applied to the Middle East and North Africa in the period from around 1800 to the present. Topics include but are not limited to: narratives of the lives of members of the "dangerous classes"; the social conditions in which they emerged; their relationship with "respectable" society and especially with the police; their political inclinations and potential; the attitudes towards them of elites; their role in shaping elite formulations of systems and institutions of discipline and control, legal/judicial, prison/asylum, medical; notions of the biological basis of criminality; their representation in literature and in popular culture. Abstracts which examine both collectivities (eg lutis or baltagiya) as well as individual strategies, and colonial/imperial as well as indigenous discourses and policies are welcome.

Abstracts of papers of no more than two hundred and fifty words are invited for consideration for inclusion in the conference. Abstracts and enquiries should be addressed to Stephanie Cronin Stephanie.cronin@orinst.ox.ac.uk

More information here

TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

Gender in the Apocalyptic and Utopian Thinking of Daesh

8 February 2016, 6:00-8:00 pm

Location: King's College London, room: K2.31, Strand Building, 2nd Floor

Speaker: Katherine Brown, Birmingham University

Chair: Prof. Michael Kerr

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Book Launch: Gaza as Metaphor

17 February 2016, 7:00 pm

Location: The Mosaic Rooms, 226 Cromwell Road, London SW5 0SW

Speakers: Helga Tawil-Souri and Dina Matar

Edited by Helga Tawil-Souri and Dina Matar the publication offers perspectives from residents and observers, these essays touch on life and survival, the making of the Gaza Strip and its increasing isolation, the discursive and visual tools that have often obscured the real Gaza, and explore what Gaza contributes to our understanding of exception, inequality, dispossession, bio-politics, necropower and other terms which we rely on to make sense of our world. The contributors reveal the manner of Gaza's historical and spatial creation, to show that Gaza is more than simply a metaphor for far-away humanitarian disaster, or a location of incomprehensible violence — it is above all an inseparable part of Palestine's past, present, and future, and of the condition of dispossession. Editors Helga Tawil-Souri and Dina Matar will be in conversation with contributor Ilan Pappé offering a unique multi-perspective take on the real and symbolic significance of this war-torn exclave — cultural and emotional as well as political. More information here

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Lebanon and the 21st century: everyday life in times of permanent crisis

23 February 2016, 5:45 PM

Location: SOAS, Khalili Lecture Theatre

Speaker: Andrew Arsan, University of Cambridge

Lebanon has often been characterised as a country in permanent crisis, a brittle construct mined from within by sectarian strife and swaying in the winds of regional turmoil. It is not surprising, therefore, that much that is written on Lebanon tends to focus on the factional wrangling of its politicians and the implications of changing geopolitical forces on the country's delicate confessional system. This perspective, however, neglects the tactics ordinary Lebanese have devised to make do

with instability and to find a way to live, for better or worse with the enervating, exhausting realities of everyday life - from electricity shortages to traffic jams and trash crises. Drawing on his current research, Arsan's talk will provide a brief overview of some of these tactics, and suggest a few ways in which looking at Lebanon might shed light on the changing contours of the political in the early twenty-first century. More information here

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Authoritarian Urban Planning and The People's Response: Understanding the Protest in Gezi Park

3 March 2016, 5 pm

Location: Zentrum Moderner Orient, Kirchweg 33, 14129 Berlin, Germany

Speaker: Prof Dr Tarik Sengul (Middle East Technical University)

Part of ZMO's colloquium "The Future of the City: Contested Urbanism in Asia, Africa, and the Middle

East". Invitation & additional information TBA

More information <u>here</u>

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Why Some Contentious Movements Fail: the case of the Syrian opposition

Tuesday 15 March 2016, 5:15 pm

Location: Room 9.04, Tower 2, Clement's Inn, LSE
Speakers: Dr Jasmine Gani, University of St Andrews

Chair: Dr John Chalcraft, LSE

Jasmine Gani presents her paper, drawing upon a contentious politics framework to assess the successes and failures of the Syrian external opposition, represented by the Syrian National Coalition (SNC). She argues that the Coalition has been unable to coordinate coherent collective action against the Syrian regime for four reasons: a miscalculation of the nature of political opportunity presented by the early uprisings; the lack of a common purpose and identity among the disparate groups within and outside of the SNC; the lack of a contentious repertoire to learn from; and lack of a sustainable strategy.

The SNC's actions will be situated within the context of the Syrian regime's repressive tactics and the influx of foreign fighters- factors beyond the SNC's control which have played a significant part in its failings. Applying a contentious politics framework to this case will, it is hoped, contribute to a more rigorous analytical discourse of the Opposition's strategy, one that might foster a more robust repertoire for Syria's contentious social movements in the future. *More information & registration* here

RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

A History of the Modern Middle East: Rulers, Rebels, and Rogues

Betty S. Anderson 2016 (March) - Stanford University Press

A History of the Modern Middle East offers a comprehensive assessment of the region, stretching from the fourteenth century and the founding of the Ottoman and Safavid empires through to the present-day protests and upheavals. The textbook focuses on Turkey, Iran, and the Arab countries of the Middle East, as well as areas often left out of Middle East history—such as the Balkans and the changing roles that Western forces have played in the region for centuries—to discuss the larger contexts and influences on the region's cultural and political development. Enriched by the perspectives of workers and professionals; urban merchants and provincial notables; slaves, students, women, and peasants, as well as political leaders, the book maps the complex social interrelationships and provides a pivotal understanding of the shifting shapes of governance and trajectories of social change in the Middle East. Extensively illustrated with drawings, photographs, and maps, this text skillfully integrates a diverse range of actors and influences to construct a narrative of the region that is at once sophisticated and lucid. A History of the Modern Middle East highlights the complexity and variation of the region, countering easy assumptions about the Middle East, those who governed, and those they governed—the rulers, rebels, and rogues who shaped a region.

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Civil Society and Political Reform in Lebanon and Libya: Transition and constraint

Carmen Geha 2016 – Routledge

Lebanon and Libya have undergone critical political events in recent years. However, demands for reform from civic institutions during these transitions have not led to concrete political decisions. *Civil Society and Political Reform in Lebanon and Libya* reveals the deeply-entrenched historical patterns and elements of continuity that have led to path dependent outcomes in the political transitions of both countries. Motivated by personal experiences as an activist in Lebanon, the author draws together a wide range of data from participant observations, nation-wide surveys, interviews and focus groups in a careful analysis of these two civil society-led reform campaigns. The study demonstrates how the combination of weak states and power-sharing agreements marginalizes civic organisations and poses institutional constraints on the likelihood of reform.

Written by an active participant in the political events discussed, this book offers new insight into two countries which present comparable and informative case studies. As such, it is a valuable resource for students, scholars and policymakers interested in civil society, politics and reform in the Middle East and North Africa.

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Workers and Thieves: Labor Movements and Popular Uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt

Joel Beinin 2015 - Stanford University Press

Since the 1990s, the Middle East has experienced an upsurge of wildcat strikes, sit-ins, and workers' demonstrations. Well before people gathered in Tahrir Square to demand the ouster of Hosni Mubarak, workers had formed one of the largest oppositional movements to authoritarian rule in Egypt. In Tunisia, years prior to the 2011 Arab uprisings, the unemployed chanted in protest, "A job is a right, you pack of thieves!" Despite this history, most observers have failed to acknowledge the importance of workers in the social ferment preceding the removal of Egyptian and Tunisian autocrats and in the political realignments after their demise. In *Workers and Thieves*, Joel Beinin corrects this by surveying the efforts and impacts of the workers' movements in Egypt and Tunisia since the 1970s. He argues that the 2011 uprisings in these countries—and, importantly, their vastly different outcomes—are best understood within the context of these repeated mobilizations of workers and the unemployed over recent decades.

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#iranelection: Hashtag Solidarity and the Transformation of Online Life

Negar Mottahedeh 2015 - Stanford University Press

The protests following Iran's fraudulent 2009 Presidential election took the world by storm. As the Green Revolution gained protestors in the Iranian streets, #iranelection became the first long-trending international hashtag. Texts, images, videos, audio recordings, and links connected protestors on the ground and netizens online, all simultaneously transmitting and living a shared international experience. #iranelection follows the protest movement, on the ground and online, to investigate how emerging social media platforms developed international solidarity. The 2009 protests in Iran were the first revolts to be catapulted onto the global stage by social media, just as the 1979 Iranian Revolution was agitated by cassette tapes. And as the world turned to social media platforms to understand the events on the ground, social media platforms also adapted and developed to accommodate this global activism. Provocative and eye-opening, #iranelection reveals

the new online ecology of social protest and offers a prehistory, of sorts, of the uses of hashtags and trending topics, selfies and avatar activism, and citizen journalism and YouTube mashups.

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Sectarian Gulf: Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and the Arab Spring That Wasn't

Toby Matthiesen
2015 - Stanford University Press

As popular uprisings spread across the Middle East, popular wisdom often held that the Gulf States would remain beyond the fray. In *Sectarian Gulf*, Toby Matthiesen paints a very different picture, offering the first assessment of the Arab Spring across the region. With first-hand accounts of events in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait, Matthiesen tells the story of the early protests, and illuminates how the regimes quickly suppressed these movements. Pitting citizen against citizen, the regimes have warned of an increasing threat from the Shia population. Relations between the Gulf regimes and their Shia citizens have soured to levels as bad as 1979, following the Iranian revolution. Since the crackdown on protesters in Bahrain in mid-March 2011, the "Shia threat" has again become the catchall answer to demands for democratic reform and accountability. While this strategy has ensured regime survival in the short term, Matthiesen warns of the dire consequences this will have—for the social fabric of the Gulf States, for the rise of transnational Islamist networks, and for the future of the Middle East.

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Settlers in Contested Lands: Territorial Disputes and Ethnic Conflicts

Oded Haklai and Neophytos Loizides (Eds) 2015 - Stanford University Press

Settlers feature in many protracted territorial disputes and ethnic conflicts around the world. Explaining the dynamics of the politics of settlers in contested territories in several contemporary cases, this book illuminates how settler-related conflicts emerge, evolve, and are significantly more difficult to resolve than other disputes.

Written by country experts, chapters consider Israel and the West Bank, Arab settlers in Kirkuk, Moroccan settlers in Western Sahara, settlers from Fascist Italy in North Africa, Turkish settlers in Cyprus, Indonesian settlers in East Timor, and Sinhalese settlers in Sri Lanka. Addressing four common topics—right-sizing the state, mobilization and violence, the framing process, and legal principles versus pragmatism—the cases taken together raise interrelated questions about the role of settlers in conflicts in contested territory. Then looking beyond the similar characteristics, these cases also illuminate key differences in levels of settler mobilization and the impact these differences can have on peace processes to help explain different outcomes of settler-related conflicts. Finally,

cases investigate the causes of settler mobilization and identify relevant conflict resolution mechanisms.

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The Hizbullah Phenomenon: Politics and Communication

Lina Khatib, Dina Matar, Atef Alshaer 2014 - C Hurst & Co Publishers Ltd

Hizbullah is not only a leading political actor in Lebanon and a dynamic force in the Middle East, but it is also distinguished by a sophisticated communication strategy. From relatively humble beginnings in the 1980s, Hizbullah's political clout and its public perception have followed an upward trajectory, thanks to a political programme that blends military, social, economic and religious elements and adapts to changes in its environment. Its communication strategy is similarly adaptive, supporting the group's political objectives. Hizbullah's target audience has expanded to a regional and global viewership. Its projected identity, too, shifted from an Islamist resistance party opposed to Israel's presence in Lebanon to a key player within the Lebanese state. At the same time, Hizbullah's image has retained fixed features, including its image as an ally of Iran; its role as a resistance group (to Israel); and its original base as a religious party representative of the Lebanese Shiites. The authors of this book address how Hizbullah uses image, language and its charismatic leader, Hassan Nasrallah, to legitimise its political aims and ideology and ap- peal to different target groups.

Days of Revolution: Political Unrest in an Iranian Village

Mary Elaine Hegland 2013 - Stanford University Press

Outside of Shiraz in the Fars Province of southwestern Iran lies "Aliabad." Mary Hegland arrived in this then-small agricultural village of several thousand people in the summer of 1978, unaware of the momentous changes that would sweep this town and this country in the months ahead. She became the only American researcher to witness the Islamic Revolution firsthand over her eighteen-month stay. *Days of Revolution* offers an insider's view of how regular people were drawn into, experienced, and influenced the 1979 Revolution and its aftermath.

Conventional wisdom assumes Shi'a religious ideology fueled the revolutionary movement. But Hegland counters that the Revolution spread through much more pragmatic concerns: growing inequality, lack of development and employment opportunities, government corruption. Local expectations of leaders and the political process—expectations developed from their experience with traditional kinship-based factions—guided local villagers' attitudes and decision-making, and they often adopted the religious justifications for Revolution only after joining the uprising. Sharing stories of conflict and revolution alongside in-depth interviews, the book sheds new light on this critical historical moment.

Returning to Aliabad decades later, *Days of Revolution* closes with a view of the village and revolution thirty years on. Over the course of several visits between 2003 and 2008, Mary Hegland investigates the lasting effects of the Revolution on the local political factions and in individual lives. As Iran remains front-page news, this intimate look at the country's recent history and its people has never been more timely or critical for understanding the critical interplay of local and global politics in Iran.

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OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Reading Arendt in Tehran: on extraordinary democratic politics and the failure of revolutions

European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology, Volume 1, Issue 3, 2014 Lars Rensmann

This article seeks to understand the 2009 Iranian anti-government uprising through an Arendtian lens, and re-read Arendt's conceptions of power, civil disobedience and revolution in the light of this event. Generating non-institutionalized, non-regularized public spaces both within and beyond the limits of the established order, diverse communities reconstituted an Iranian multitude that temporarily shifted the power from the regime to the street. Arendt helps us understand both how this self-authorized and self-empowered multitude was able to recover democratic subjectivity and power under non-democratic conditions, and how the democratic uprising failed and the regime could crush it and consolidate its rule.

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Will the real Palestinian peasantry please sit down?: towards a new history of British rule in Palestine, 1917-1936

LSE Middle East Centre Paper Series | 10 | November 2015 Charles Anderson

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

Palestine. Peasant agency and unrest broadly shaped relations between the Arab population and the colonial state and played an important part in forging the rebellious course of the Palestinian national movement in the 1930s. Animated by the struggle to stay on the land and to reject their political and economic marginalisation, peasants and Bedouin resisted the colonial order and its agenda of supporting the Zionist project in both quotidian and spectacular fashions. At the everyday scale, they flouted or blunted British attempts to 'reform' the land regime, while more episodically they rose up in armed or violent insurrections. The British regime responded to the latter through collective punishment, which especially after 1929 came to increasingly characterise its approach to rural discontent and to the Palestinians writ large. As socioeconomic conditions worsened for the rural Arab majority during the first two decades of British rule (1917-36), the restive current that developed in the countryside helped to radicalise the Palestinian national movement while also bringing to the fore class tensions within Arab society. This set of relations culminated in the major peasant-led uprising known as the Great Revolt (1936-39) and the ensuing military suppression of Palestinian society and its independence movement.

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Post-Islamist Transformations in Morocco: Collaboration and Competition between Salafist Activists, Muslim Democrats, and Authoritarian Monarchy

Sociology of Islam, Volume 3, Issue 3-4, 2015, pages 125 – 145 *Jibreel Delgado*

This article explores the continuities and ruptures of modern Islamic social movements starting with the reformist *salafiyya* of Egypt, North Africa, and the Levant, moving through the Islamic political activism of the Muslim Brotherhood along with its various affiliated political parties in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and finally the radical Jihadist militant groups calling for armed insurgency in parts of the MENA as well as globally. After an extensive overview of the varied movements within Salafism in its global context, I will hone in on its articulation in Morocco, its relations with other Islamist movements, as well as with the Moroccan monarchical authoritarian system. I argue that in the wake of post-Islamist adopting of human rights discourse and notions of pluralism in the workings of the Justice and Development Party (PJD) government, the Salafi trend is also undertaking a transformation in Morocco. Placed in its historical and social contexts, however, I show that this trend has never been static and continues to change in relation to competing and collaborating Islamist trends as well as toward the Moroccan government.

Preconflict Mobilization Strategies and Urban-Rural Transition: The Cases of the PKK and the FLN/EZLN

Mobilization: An International Quarterly: September 2015, Vol. 20, No. 3, pp. 379-399. Francis Patrick O'Connor and Leonidas Oikonomakis

Armed movements are usually analyzed in the context of ongoing conflict, and much of the preceding mobilization and recruitment is often given far less attention. In this article, we assert that this period can be of critical relevance to subsequent movement trajectories. Analysis of the period antecedent to insurgency also facilitates a deeper contextualization of movement actors and their environments. We examine the period of preconflict mobilization for PKK and the FLN/EZLN, two movements of comparable interest due to their successful urban-to-rural transitions. We contend that the establishment of cross-class, locally based constituencies in both cases was critical to their consolidation as armed movements. We discuss the cases in relation to three main parameters: their immediate social environment, the role of the state, and the strategies adopted by the respective movements. *Download here*

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Not-So-Public Contention: Movement Strategies, Regimes, and the Transformation of Public Institutions in Brazil

Mobilization: An International Quarterly: March 2015, Vol. 20, No. 1, pp. 101-121. *Rebecca Tarlau*

This article examines how political regimes structure the strategies activists can effectively utilize to transform public institutions. Drawing on Tilly's concept of "regime space" as a combination of capacity and democracy, the author analyzes the Brazilian Landless Workers Movement's (MST) attempt to implement alternative pedagogies in public schools in two diverse contexts: the state of Rio Grande do Sul and the municipality of Santa Maria da Boa Vista, Pernambuco. In Rio Grande do Sul's high-capacity democratic regime, social movement repertories and partisan politics are effective in transforming schools for a decade, until a right-leaning mobilization ends these initiatives. In contrast, in Santa Maria's low-capacity nondemocratic regime, the MST engages in a Gramscian war of position and transforms public schools over multiple administrations. This comparison illustrates the relevance of subnational regimes in shaping contention, the strengths and weaknesses of diverse activist strategies, and the importance of not-so-public forms of contention in movement outcomes. *Download here*

Egypt's Silent Anniversary

Foreign Policy - January 25, 2016 David Kenner

The Egyptian government worked intensively to make sure that something important happened in Tahrir Square on Monday: nothing. On the fifth anniversary of the Jan. 25 protests that toppled former President Hosni Mubarak, traffic snaked through the square in downtown Cairo unimpeded. The only gathering was a small cluster of pro-government Egyptians, some holding signs adorned with President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's smiling face, organized to praise the police forces that were the loathed enemy of the protesters on Jan. 25, 2011. It was the first time since 2010 that Jan. 25 passed without demonstrations disrupting the normal pace of daily life. *Continue reading here*

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The Egyptian revolution: What went wrong?

AlJazeera English - 25 Jan 2016 Omar Ashour

"These kids [protesters] should be arrested in a matter of 24 hours. And we can get them by getting their mothers, their sisters, and their wives. Whoever tells me 'human rights', I will hit with my shoes ... my words are clear. We should get their mothers, their fathers and their wives" said the head of the human rights committee in the newly "elected" Egyptian parliament, the former judge Mortada Mansour. This was a few weeks ago. His words were already policies. Five years ago, the brutality of the security services sparked a challenge to the authoritarian regime of Hosni Mubarak: an uprising whose slogans were "bread, freedom, dignity, and justice". *Continue reading here*

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Hundreds Vanishing in Egypt as Crackdown Widens, Activists Say

New York Times - January 26, 2016

AMINA ISMAIL and DECLAN WALSH

Instead of being held in the formal legal system — where tens of thousands of people have been detained under Mr. Sisi — people like Mr. Khalil have disappeared into a network of secretive detention centers, run by the security forces, where they are held incommunicado, without charge or access to a lawyer, for weeks and sometimes months, according to the rights groups.

There, interrogators use the detainee's isolation and lack of legal protections to interrogate them harshly. Some have been forced to open their Facebook pages, and other social media sites, to identify friends and relatives. Many say they have been tortured.

The detainees are usually released within months or, like Mr. Khalil, charged with a crime — usually membership in the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, the accusation Mr. Sisi's government lays against many of its opponents. But others stay missing much longer, such as the political activist Ashraf Shehata, who disappeared in January 2014. And some turn up dead, their bodies dumped in morgues. *Continue reading <u>here</u>*

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The Impeccable Narrative Around Tunisian Workers' Syndicate

Jadaliyya - Jan 29 2016 Massimo Di Ricco

The below piece was written before the current wave of protests in Kasserine in the marginalized southern region of Tunisia. The protests, which soon expanded to the whole country, started after a young unemployed man climbed an electric power tower and was electrocuted. He was protesting in front of the local governorate after his name was removed from a list of possible jobs in the public administration. Five years after the ousting of Ben Ali, unemployment rates had risen especially in the South. In order to stop the protests, the Tunisian government announced a new employment scheme which is supposed to create 5000 new jobs. This piece is based on several interviews with the actual leadership of the Tunisian General Labor Union (UGTT), members of other Tunisian syndicates, and with local unionists. Interviews were conducted between 2014 and 2015 as part of a project on social movements in Tunisia after the 2011 uprising by the author and Erminia Chiara Calabrese. *Continue reading here*

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Portraits of Palestine's youth rebellion

The Electronic Intifada-28 January 2016 *ActiveStills*

For nearly four months, popular protests, violence and general unrest have buffeted the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, leading some commentators to suggest a third intifada or uprising. Most of this is driven by restive and young people tired of endless and evidently pointless negotiations between the Palestinian Authority and Israel that have brought no end to Israel's military occupation and only seen its illegal settlements expand.

"This is our land. We must do anything to free it from occupation," says Mahmoud, 26, from al-Azzeh refugee camp in the West Bank city of Bethlehem.

Mahmoud (not his real name, since Israel frequently arrests protesters) has been a regular participant in demonstrations against the military occupation, in which youth confront Israeli forces with stones and, less frequently, Molotov cocktails. The army tries to suppress these protests with tear gas, rubber-coated steel bullets and live ammunition.

Since the beginning of last October, which witnessed increased confrontation with the occupation, more than 160 Palestinians and approximately two dozen Israelis have been killed. A United Nations monitoring group recorded a weekly average of 1,000 Palestinian injuries at the hands of the Israeli army during the last quarter of 2015.

Approximately one-third of those Palestinians killed, and many of those injured, were hit by live ammunition while taking part in demonstrations or while they were in the vicinity of protests. *Continue reading <u>here</u>*

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The Arab Spring Is Not Dead

The World Post - Jan 14, 2016 Soumaya Ghannoush

As the flames ignited from the dusty town of Sidi Bouzid in central Tunisia spread from one Arab country to another, it seemed as if Arabs had finally emerged out of the long dark tunnel where they had been forced to dwell for decades.

But instead of the bright dawn of emancipation, progress and self-determination they fervently longed for, what awaited them was an inferno of chaos, civil war and a more brutal form of military dictatorship. Five years after its sudden eruption, what is left of what came to be known as the "Arab spring" today?

In Egypt, the military men have tightened their hold on power after toppling the country's first democratically-elected president. Next door in Libya, the 17 February revolution degenerated into armed conflict between countless warring factions and two rival governments in Tripoli and Tobruk, amidst a total collapse of state structures. *Continue reading <u>here</u>*

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The Arab Spring, five years on: A season that began in hope, but ended in desolation

Independent - 8 January 2016 Patrick Cockburn

Five years ago, waves of popular protest began to spread, thrillingly, across the Arab world. Is anyone better off as a result? Arab Spring was always a misleading phrase, suggesting that what we were seeing was a peaceful transition from authoritarianism to democracy similar to that from communism in Eastern Europe. The misnomer implied an over-simplified view of the political ingredients that produced the protests and uprisings of 2011 and over-optimistic expectations about their outcome.

Five years later it is clear that the result of the uprisings has been calamitous, leading to wars or increased repression in all but one of the six countries where the Arab Spring principally took place.

Syria, Libya and Yemen are being torn apart by civil wars that show no sign of ending. In Egypt and Bahrain autocracy is far greater and civil liberties far less than they were prior to 2011. Only in Tunisia, which started off the surge towards radical change, do people have greater rights than they did before.

What went so disastrously wrong? Some failed because the other side was too strong, as in Bahrain where demands for democratic rights by the Shia majority were crushed by the Sunni monarchy. Saudi Arabia sent in troops and Western protests at the repression were feeble. This was in sharp contrast to vocal Western denunciations of Bashar al-Assad's brutal suppression of the uprising by the Sunni Arab majority in Syria. The Syrian war had social, political and sectarian roots but it was the sectarian element that predominated. *Continue reading here*

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Tunisia unemployment protests spread to capital

Al Jazeera English - 22 Jan 2016 Al Jazeera Staff

Suicide attempts have been reported as protests spread to cities across Tunisia amid anger over unemployment. Protests over unemployment rates in Tunisia, which started in the western Kasserine province, have intensified and spread to other parts of the country.

Solidarity rallies were held in cities including Tunis, Sidi Bouzid and Gafsa on Thursday, with several reports of suicide attempts as frustration over the lack of jobs boiled over.

A policeman was reportedly killed when demonstrators overturned his car in the town of Feriana. Protests and clashes with security forces started in Kasserine on Saturday after the death of an unemployed man who was electrocuted on top of a power pole near the governor's office. *Continue reading here*

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Tunisia's Protests Are Different This Time

Bloomberg View - 5 Jan 31, 2016 Noah Feldman

Events in Tunisia look, on the surface, like a replay of 2011. A frustrated, unemployed man killed himself Jan. 17 in an act of protest that was intended to remind everyone of the self-immolation of a fruit seller that set off the Arab Spring. Protests then spread from city to city. They focused on rampant unemployment, which was one of the concerns of the protesters last time. Eventually, the government had to call a curfew to make the protests die down, which they eventually did.

Deeper down, the situation in 2016 is fundamentally different. The reason is democracy. There's no doubt that the Tunisian revolution, and the successful constitutional process that followed it, had

serious shortfalls. The greatest is unquestionably the lack of meaningful economic reform; the protesters are justified in their demands for transformation. *Continue reading <u>here</u>*

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Tunisia Sets Nationwide Curfew Amid Growing Unrest

New York Times - JAN. 22, 2016

CARLOTTA GALL and FARAH SAMTI

The Tunisian government imposed a nationwide curfew on Friday after protests against unemployment spread across the country and grew more violent, in an echo of the Arab Spring uprising five years ago.

The Interior Ministry announced the measure — a curfew from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. — on its Facebook page, warning of "danger to the security of the state and its citizens." A spokesman said violent jihadist groups could take advantage of the chaos created by the protests to cause more violence. Demonstrations have been growing all week, after an unemployed man died on Saturday in the western town of Kasserine. The man, Ridha Yahyaoui, 28, was electrocuted when he climbed a telephone pole in protest after seeing that his name was not included on a list of new public-sector jobs, his father told a local radio station. *Continue reading here*

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This uprising is about more than knives

The Electronic Intifada- 27 January 2016 Budour Youssef Hassan

When the "intifada of the knives" set off in October last year, Western reporters flooded in to Jerusalem to cover the new "escalation," interview people from "both sides of the conflict" and raise several variations of the old question: "Is this the beginning of a third intifada?" Inevitably, the journalists left once a massive crackdown significantly reduced the number of deadly attacks against Israelis in the city. It is an all too familiar pattern for Palestinians, who know by now that it's only "escalation" when there are dead or wounded Israelis. Deaths, injuries, arrests and home demolitions inflicted on Palestinians by Israel are deemed business as usual, not worthy of further inquiry.

The daily acts of collective punishment suffered by Palestinians in Jerusalem and their slow ethnic cleansing are too routine to be considered newsworthy.

The temporary checkpoints, closures and concrete blocks imposed during the crackdown may have gone and the numbers of Israeli troops on the streets may have been reduced. Yet the Israeli repression — and Palestinian resistance — remains. *Continue reading <u>here</u>*

POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Position of Sociology in American University of Beirut

The Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Media Studies at the American University of Beirut (AUB) invites applications for a full-time, open rank position in Sociology. All specialties are welcome but the department is particularly interested in applicants with expertise in economic sociology, political sociology and/or social movements relevant to the region. We expect candidates to be well grounded in sociological theory and able to teach both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. The position is to begin September 2016.

A Ph.D. in Sociology is required. Rank and salary are based upon qualifications and experience. Interested applicants should send a letter of intent, writing sample, CV, and three letters of reference to:

Patrick McGreevy
Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
American University of Beirut
as dean@aub.edu.lb

The Department will begin reviewing applications March 15, 2016, and continue until the position is filled .

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GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies - Prospective Doctoral Students

Deadline: 1 March 2016

The GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies / Leibniz-Institut für Globale und Regionale Studien is an independent social-science research institute based in Hamburg. It analyses political, social and economic developments in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East and combines this analysis with innovative comparative research in the fields of Accountability and Participation, Peace and Security, Growth and Development, and Power and Ideas across multiple levels of analysis.

The GIGA Doctoral Programme invites applications from Prospective Doctoral Students (Ref.-No. GIGA-16-01) to join the programme on 1 October 2016.

The GIGA Doctoral Programme is a three-year structured programme for junior academics, in which they can pursue their research and professional development, particularly in the field of comparative area studies (CAS). We strongly welcome international applications. The reconciliation of work and family life is of great importance to the institute.

GIGA doctoral students are fully integrated into the GIGA's research process with a view to achieving excellence, individually and collectively. The training programme fosters their engage-ment with the GIGA's unique CAS approach and provides them with the necessary methodologi-cal and soft skills to pursue a career in academia and beyond. Through academic exchanges and field work, GIGA Doctoral Students engage with the 'GIGA regions', build their own net-works, and collaborate with international experts. They are offered exposure to policy advice activities and expected to embrace the Leibniz Association's mission statement 'Theoria cum Praxi'. Doctoral degrees will be awarded by one of our partner universities, dependent upon the affiliation of the student's first supervisor.

Applicants are expected to fulfil the following criteria:

- An excellent grade point average and a final degree (masters or equivalent) in political science/international relations, economics, history or a related discipline.
- A high-quality project proposal that fits with the GIGA's research agenda. Priority will be given to projects with a cross-regional or a comparative area studies focus.
- Strong command of the English language (German is not a prerequisite).

Applications including:

- The GIGA DP application form, stating contact details of two reference persons,
- a letter of motivation, a research proposal of 2000 words max. and an additional academic writing sample,
- a CV and simple copies of degrees and academic transcripts (BA, Diploma, MA),
- proof of English language skills, and
- a statement about intended funding for the duration of three years

should be sent by 1 March 2016 to Gabriele Tetzlaff, GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Neuer Jungfernstieg 21, 20354 Hamburg, Germany. Email: jobs-dp@giga.hamburg (email applications are particularly welcome. If the size of your email exceeds a maximum of 10 MB, please split your application). The final admission to the programme is dependent upon the applicant's ability to provide proof of funding by the starting date, 1 October 2016.

More information <u>here</u>

W3 Professorship for Economics: Economy and Society of the Middle East - Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nuremberg

The Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology invites applications for a W3 Professorship for Economics: Economy and Society of the Middle East at the Institute of Economics (Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy) to be filled by the **earliest possible starting date**.

The successful candidate is expected to represent the field adequately in teaching and research. The readiness to cooperate with social scientists in the context of Middle East is expected. In addition to teaching undergraduates, the professorship involves teaching the MA degree programmes in Middle Eastern Studies and Development Economics & International Studies and directing the Centre for Iraq Studies. The successful candidate is also expected to collaborate on interdisciplinary research on the Middle East at FAU. Basic knowledge of Arabic and one other Middle Eastern language (Turkish or Persian) is desirable.

Prerequisites for the position are a university degree, university level teaching experience, a doctoral degree, and additional academic qualifications. These should be in the form of a Habilitation (post-doctoral thesis) or equivalent academic publications. The necessary qualifications may also have been acquired in a non-university context or through a junior faculty position (e.g. W1 Professor or Assistant Professor).

FAU expects applicants to become actively involved in the administration of academic affairs and welcomes experience in managing research projects and raising third-party funding. The University of Erlangen-Nürnberg pursues a policy of intense student mentoring and therefore expects its teaching staff to be present during lecture periods.

FAU is an equal opportunities and family-friendly employer and is also responsive to the needs of dual career couples. In order to increase the number of women in leading positions, we specifically encourage women to apply.

Please submit your complete application documents (CV, list of publications, list of lectures and courses taught, copies of certificates and degrees, list of third-party funding) to the dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology at FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg: Prof. Dr. Rainer Trinczek, Hindenburgstr. 34, 91054 Erlangen, by 18.03.2016. Please also send an electronic version to phil-dekanat@fau.de.