



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

CfP: A Century of Youth Engaging Politics in the Arab World

Deadline for abstracts: 23 September 2016

A workshop to be held at the University of Manitoba

16-19 May 2017

Organizers: Jennifer Dueck (University of Manitoba) and Peter Wien (University of Maryland)

This workshop seeks papers that will present nuanced explorations of the history of politically-motivated youth movements in the Arab world since the First World War. We would particularly like to situate youth movements and mobilization within their wider political and socio-cultural contexts. These may be colonial, post-colonial or indeed non-colonial.

One underlying objective is better to understand how the concept and practice of political youth mobilization translates across regions and nations, and to explore different frameworks for categorization and comparison of youth movements in general.

Proposals might include:

- National or trans-national case studies of the political significance of a specific youth movement.
- Discourse of youth engagement in politics and the uses of such discourse.
- Tactics of mobilization and recruitment, including outreach and forms of wider community engagement.
- Political opposition and competition between different youth communities
- Positioning in opposition to a generational “other”
- The role of trans-national networks and migration patterns in youth mobilization

The primary focus will be on the Middle East and North Africa region, but we also strongly encourage colleagues who work on Arab populations in the global diaspora to submit proposals. While this is primarily a workshop for historians, interdisciplinary papers that take a historical approach are also very welcome. Paper abstracts (no more than 500 words) and a brief CV should be sent to Jennifer Dueck (University of Manitoba) and Peter Wien (University of Maryland) by 23 September 2016. Please note that paper presenters will be expected to submit their papers for pre-circulation to workshop participants in advance of the workshop. The organizers are able to cover reasonable travel, accommodation and meal costs for all participants.

Please email your submissions to Jarislowsky.Chair@umanitoba.ca. If you have any questions, please contact the organizers Jennifer Dueck and Peter Wien at Jennifer.Dueck@umanitoba.ca and peter.wien@gmail.com.

More information [here](#)

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TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

Dissent and Censorship in a Changing Turkey

13 September 2016, 7:00 PM

Venue: Front Line Club, 13 Norfolk Place, London, W2 1QJ

As unrest escalates in Turkey — a country that once prided itself as being a beacon of secularism and stability in the Middle East – writers and journalists are facing a crackdown on press freedom, including jailing, blackmail and the forceful takeover of major news platforms. After a Turkish court ruled in March that *Zaman*, an opposition newspaper critical of president Erdoğan, should be run by appointed trustees, the offices were raided and tear gas and rubber bullets were used to dispel protesters. Local journalists continue to face extreme intimidation, threats and charges of espionage. Restrictions on press freedom reflect similar treatment within civil society groups, which are widely seen as losing independence from the government. The recent attempted military coup led to further attacks on journalists, raising international concerns that Turkey has become an increasingly perilous place for writers and reporters. While Erdoğan maintains that the press in Turkey is among the most free in the world, human rights organisations warn that freedom of expression is under ever-growing threat. We will be joined by prominent Turkish writers, along with media monitoring experts, to discuss their work in the context of the new dangers faced by writers and journalists in Turkey today.

Full panel published soon.

Speakers:

Ece Temelkuran is one of Turkey's best known novelists and political commentators and her work has been published in several languages. Her books have explored highly controversial topics in Turkey, including Kurdish and Armenian issues and women's rights. She is a winner of Turkish Journalist of the Year, the PEN for Peace Award and the Freedom of Thought Award from the Human Rights Association of Turkey. Temelkuran was a victim of coordinated social media abuse for two years following her criticism of Turkey's ruling AKP government.

More information & registration [here](#)

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Palestine Ltd: Neoliberalism and Nationalism in the Occupied Territory

Toufic Haddad

Oktober 2016 - I B Tauris

Since the 1993 Oslo Accords, the Occupied Palestinian Territory has been the subject of extensive international peacebuilding and statebuilding efforts coordinated by Western donor states and international finance institutions. Despite their failure to yield peace or Palestinian statehood, the role of these organisations in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is generally overlooked owing to their depiction as tertiary actors engaged in technical missions. In *Palestine Ltd.*, Toufic Haddad explores how neoliberal frameworks have shaped and informed the common understandings of international, Israeli and Palestinian interactions throughout the Oslo peace process. Drawing upon more than 20 years of policy literature, field-based interviews and recently declassified or leaked documents, he details how these frameworks have led to struggles over influencing Palestinian political and economic behaviour, and attempts to mould the class character of Palestinian society and its leadership. A dystopian vision of Palestine emerges as the by-product of this complex asymmetrical interaction, where nationalism, neo-colonialism and 'disaster capitalism' both intersect and diverge. This book is essential for students and scholars interested in Middle East Studies, Arab-Israeli politics and international development.

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Tribes and Politics in Yemen – A History of the Houthi conflict

Atef Alshaer

September 2016 - Hurst C & Co Publishers

Tribes and Politics in Yemen tells the story of the Houthi conflict in Sa'dah Province, Yemen, as seen through the eyes of the local tribes. In the West the Houthi conflict, which erupted in 2004, is often defined through the lenses of either the Iranian-Saudi proxy war or the Sunni-Shia divide. Yet, as experienced by locals, the Houthi conflict is much more deeply rooted in the recent history of Sa'dah Province. Its origins must be sought in the political, economic, social and sectarian transformations since the 1960s civil war and their repercussions on the local society, which is dominated by tribal norms. From the civil war to the Houthi conflict these transformations involve the same individuals, families and groups, and are driven by the same struggles over resources, prerogatives, and power. This book is based on years of anthropological fieldwork expertise both on the ground and through digital anthropological approaches. It offers a detailed account of the local complexities of the Houthi conflict and its historical background and underscores the absolute imperative of understanding the highly local, personal, and non-ideological nature of internal conflict in Yemen.

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Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement

Angela Davis

2016 – Haymarket Books

In these newly collected essays, interviews, and speeches, world-renowned activist and scholar Angela Y. Davis illuminates the connections between struggles against state violence and oppression throughout history and around the world. Reflecting on the importance of black feminism, intersectionality, and prison abolitionism for today's struggles, Davis discusses the legacies of previous liberation struggles, from the Black Freedom Movement to the South African anti-Apartheid movement. She highlights connections and analyzes today's struggles against state terror, from Ferguson to Palestine. Facing a world of outrageous injustice, Davis challenges us to imagine and build the movement for human liberation. And in doing so, she reminds us that "Freedom is a constant struggle."

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OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Sisi's New Prisons

Omar Robert Hamilton

LRB Blog, 14 July 2016

I hadn't seen Alaa for two years. Two years since we stood at his father's funeral on the marble stairs of Omar Makram mosque. Two years since he was muscled by plainclothes police into an unmarked car back to prison. My cousin has been in prison for almost as long as Sisi has ruled Egypt. He was sentenced to five years for organising a protest. This month I was allowed to visit him.

Torah prison complex is built like a medieval fortress city. An outer wall rings a vast area that includes several prisons of varying horror, administrative buildings, farmland, a police academy and, now, a courthouse. We carried bags heavy with food and clean clothes up to the prison walls. We waited with the other visitors in the dusty runnels beside the cement blast walls for the man in black uniform to drop his leg and let us pass. We sat on the metal seats of a brightly painted road train dragged by a tractor into the penal complex. 'This is new,' my aunt Laila said, gesturing at a grey concrete wall. 'I think it's maximum security.' The train lurched forward. No one knows how many political prisoners there are in Egypt. The human rights advocate Gamal Eid estimates there are 60,000. In 2013, before Sisi came to power, Egypt's total prison population, according to a US State Department human rights report, was 62,000. So new prisons are being built, but the arrests are not stopping and the overcrowding is lethal. Last year 137 people died in prison. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Troublesome Thugs or Respectable Rebels? Class, Martyrdom and Cairo's Revolutionary Ultras.

Carl Rommel

Middle East-Topics & Arguments 6, 33–42.

This ethnographic article explores the politics of Egypt's Ultras football supporters. The Ultras have frequently been heralded as some of the Egyptian Revolution's most prominent rebels, in particular, after the Port Said stadium massacre in February 2012, when 72 Ultras members were killed. However, this essay focuses on an earlier phase of violent clashes in central Cairo when the Ultras were highly ambivalent about the ongoing protests. As the article shows, the fan groups were hesitant to join the demonstrations, which at the time were heavily associated with "thuggery" (balṭaga). Only after the death of one of its members did the Ultras whole-heartedly. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Beyond the Logic of State Protection: Feminist Self-Defense in Cairo after the January 25 Revolution

Susana Galán

Kohl: a Journal for Body and Gender Research, Vol. 2, no. 1, Summer 2016

the aftermath of the January 25 Revolution, self-defense tactics became popular against the fear of disorder and the increase of public sexual violence in Cairo. In this article, I examine a number of examples of self-defense invoked by public and private actors after the 2011 Revolution, and differentiate between two types of practices. The first, articulated around the right of legitimate self-defense recognized in the Egyptian penal code, aim to maintain or to restore the established order through the identification of an Other that embodies a threat to the self, property or community. In contrast to this, radical modes of self-defense endeavor to subvert the given order by disrupting the gendered logic of masculinist and state protection and promoting horizontal relations of care and solidarity. Drawing on data generated through interviews with members of the initiative OpAntiSH and the collective WenDo, this article explores the importance of strategies and communities of autonomous self-defense in Egypt in relation to legal and policy measures adopted against sexual harassment by El-Sisi's regime since 2014. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Kurdistan – Le « moment kurde »

Rodrigue Nana Ngassam

Le Courrier du Maghreb et de l’Orient No 25, June, 2016

La question kurde ! Elle revient en force, à l’heure d’un dénouement possible du conflit qui oppose la Communauté internationale à l’État islamique (EI). Le Moyen-Orient traverse en effet un « moment kurde ». Entré dans une période d’importantes instabilités depuis les soulèvements de 2011, le Moyen-Orient fait face à de nouvelles fractures. Face à cette situation particulièrement sombre, le problème kurde s’est à nouveau posé et a rapidement pris de l’ampleur. La reconfiguration géopolitique en cours au Moyen-Orient précipite les chances des Kurdes d’aboutir à l’indépendance. Les conditions y sont favorables et les aspirations légitimes ; mais reste à surmonter les nombreux défis qui divisent le peuple kurde lui-même, depuis déjà près d’un siècle. Dépendants pour leur avenir des différents États dans lesquels ils sont partagés et de la communauté internationale, les Kurdes peuvent-ils espérer un Kurdistan véritable ? *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Kurdistan – Reportage exclusif – Le bal des vampires : PDK, AKP... et DAESH

Pierre Piccinin da Prata

Le Courrier du Maghreb et de l’Orient No 25, June, 2016

Le serpent kurdo-turco-sunno-chiite qui s’enroule sur lui-même en Irak et en Syrie pourrait rapidement dissiper le mythe d’un Kurdistan prêt à tout pour son indépendance, y compris à lâcher ses alliés occidentaux dans leur lutte contre l’État islamique. Entre mythe et glamour, les héros médiatiques de l’Occident prendraient alors du plomb dans l’aile, sur quelques malentendus... On sait le rôle essentiel que les désormais célèbres Peshmergas, les combattants kurdes, jouent dans la guerre que le monde (presque) entier livre à l’État islamique (EI), « DAESH » selon l’acronyme du nom arabe de l’organisation qui s’est emparée d’une bonne moitié de l’Irak et de près des deux tiers de la Syrie où elle a implanté la capitale, ar-Raqqqa, d’un nouvel État, islamique, ainsi de facto imposé à la face de la Communauté internationale médusée. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Syria – A “New” Defeat of a Sunni Conservative Uprising

Noel Daniel Vig

Le Courrier du Maghreb et de l’Orient No 25, June, 2016

During the Assad family dynasty, the current civil war isn’t the only one that threatened the Alawi power. The Muslim Brotherhood has been a legitimate political actor in Syria even before the French mandate ended in 1945. The Brethren, or it’s other name, the Syrian Ikhwan have been competing

with the Bath party, and its ideology since the 1920s. Firstly by their respective youths clashing on the streets of Lattakia and Damascus, later in quasi-democratic elections, and finally with arms. What is now being called by the majority of analysts a sectarian civil war, has been ongoing for almost a century with periods of crisis and calm between the two sides. There are two events, which stand out during the long time rivalry between political Islam represented by the Muslim Brotherhood and the Pan-Arab nationalism of the Syrian Baath party. The first one is the Ikhwan insurgency starting in 1970's, which ended with the Hama massacre in 1982, and the second is the current civil war. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Palestine – Révolutions arabes : les Palestiniens attendent toujours !

Ziad Medoukh

Le Courrier du Maghreb et de l'Orient No 25, June, 2016

Le « Printemps arabe » fut, pour les Palestiniens, l'occasion d'un immense retour à l'espoir, après des décennies d'abandon par les peuples frères et la dégradation progressive d'une situation devenue sans issue face au grignotage systématique des terres palestiniennes par la politique de colonisation galopante mise en œuvre par le gouvernement israélien. Ainsi, les despotes alliés soumis aux diktats de l'Occident renversés, l'émergence de démocraties arabes promettait aux Palestiniens le retour d'une politique solidaire à leur égard. Mais les révolutions arabes, qui se ont eu lieu au Maghreb comme au Machrek sous leurs formes multiples, ont-elles abouti à des résultats concrets et à un changement pour des populations arabes assoiffées de liberté ? La vague de contestation radicale qui s'est levée dans plusieurs de ces pays contre l'injustice, pour la démocratie, pour un changement de pouvoir et de régime, et pour la justice sociale surtout, a-t-elle donné des fruits ou non ? *Continue reading [here](#)*

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The hidden triumph of the Egyptian revolution

Amro Ali

openDemocracy, 25 January 2016

A message to the revolutionaries of Egypt: you can no longer recognise your pre-2011 self. To those who cast doubt on the success of the Egyptian revolution. Step back, look around you, and reflect for a moment. As a result of the revolution, your social relations have been dramatically reconfigured. You have made new friends of strangers. You speak a new political language never known before. Your relationship to the state and public has been redefined. You have been involved in an unprecedented archival culture that narrates everything that has been happening. For every document, photograph and video will aid the next generation in resuming where you have finished off. For you cannot move forward without defining your relationship to the past. Every document, photograph and video will aid the next generation in resuming where you have finished off. Your

understanding of history has been permanently altered. The 2011 revolution ruptured the political and social timeline giving you a new source of historical legitimacy. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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[Egypt:] Protesters behind bars

Khaled Dawoud

Al-Ahram Weekly, Issue No.1304, 21 July, 2016

Three-year prison sentences against 10 demonstrators opposed to the government's maritime border agreement with Saudi Arabia will further inflame the heated debate over the deal. Eight opposition parties, a dozen human rights organisations and over 150 political figures signed a statement on Monday "denouncing" what they described as "harsh" three-year prison sentences and fines of LE 100,000 imposed on 14 July by a Cairo court against 10 demonstrators arrested three months ago while protesting the controversial maritime border agreement signed with Saudi Arabia in April. The sentences have undermined hopes that the confrontation between the government and its opponents over the border deal would give way to calm. The deal, signed during a visit by King Salman of Saudi Arabia to Egypt on 5 April, gives control of the strategic Red Sea islands of Tiran and Sanafir to Saudi Arabia. Lawyers say they will appeal the sentences. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Turkey through the Looking Glass

Ayşe Zarakol

LRB Blog, 3 August 2016

Since the failed coup attempt on 15 July, two distinct narratives about Turkey have emerged. Talking to Turks and non-Turks about the coup increasingly resembles travelling between parallel universes. Outside Turkey, most observers have focused on the way President Erdoğan and the AKP government have handled the aftermath of the coup, rather than the coup attempt itself. The indiscriminate violence of the coup, the killing of hundreds of civilians, the bombing of parliament have all quickly faded from view. Instead, opinion pieces in newspapers around the world have drawn attention to the likelihood, if not the inevitability, of Erdoğan's taking the opportunity to eliminate his opponents and move the country towards full-blown authoritarianism. A three-month state of emergency was declared the Wednesday after the coup, giving Erdoğan the power to issue decrees with the force of law. He has already said that the state of emergency may be extended as necessary. The first emergency decree closed (and confiscated the property of) 15 universities, 1043 primary and secondary schools, 1229 civil society associations, 35 medical centres and 19 labour unions. The second emergency degree dealt with military personnel and shut down 131 media outlets. So far, 18,044 people have been detained, 9677 have been arrested and 49,211 have had their passports revoked. About 1700 military personnel have been dishonourably discharged; 134 generals and admirals are under arrest. Tens of thousands of government workers have been fired.

All university deans were forced to resign and 2239 academics are under investigation. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Protesters, Police Clash at Israeli Arab Village Set to Be Razed for Jewish Town

Almog Ben Zikri
Haaretz, 31 July 2016

Three Israeli policemen and a civilian were injured in protests that erupted on Sunday as bulldozers moved onto the site of an unrecognized Arab village Israel plans to tear down to make way for an authorized Jewish community. Six protesters, among them, two minors, were taken into police custody. Protesters tried to disrupt the work of Israeli bulldozers and earth removal equipment which began digging a boundary close to the site of Umm al-Hiran homes destined for removal. Rabbi Arik Ascherman, president of Rabbis for Human Rights, and Israeli Arab activist Salim Abu Alkayan were among those arrested. Abu Alkayan's son Ra'ad Abu Alkayan told Haaretz that "new heavy equipment" was brought to the site on Sunday morning to mark off territory around the village. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Palestinian prisoners strike as protests grow against ICRC family visit cutbacks

Samidoun, July 29, 2016

Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails engaged in a one-day mass hunger strike on Thursday, 28 July in protest of the International Committee of the Red Cross' cuts to prisoners' family visits, from twice monthly to once monthly, a cutback that began in July 2016. Palestinian prisoners and their families have engaged in a series of protests against the ICRC visit cutbacks, which mirror Israeli policies that seek to deny family visits and bar prisoners' family members from seeing them. Palestinians from the West Bank, excluding Jerusalem, must apply for special permits, a process facilitated by the ICRC, in order to visit their family members. These permit requests take months and are frequently denied; when visits actually take place, they are a full-day process with lengthy checkpoint waits, searches, hours in hot prison waiting rooms, and sometimes visit denials that take place on the spot. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Men in Iran are wearing hijabs in solidarity with their wives who are forced to cover their hair

Heather Saul

The Independent, 28 July 2016

The campaign against enforced hijab in Iran has seen women defying morality police in public and even shaving their hair. Now men are also joining the fight. Men in Iran are wearing hijabs in a display of solidarity with women across the country who are forced to cover their heads in public. Wearing a headscarf is strictly enforced by so-called 'morality police' in Iran and has been since the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Women who do not wear a hijab or are deemed to be wearing 'bad hijab' by having some of their hair showing face punishments ranging from fines to imprisonment. State-funded adverts appearing on billboards in Iran present those who do not cover their hair as spoiled and dishonourable. Women are also told that by not complying, they are putting themselves at risk of unwanted sexual advances from men. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Jordan: 'We are tired of living like the dead'

Areej Abuqudairi

Al Jazeera English, 30 July 2016

Amid economic decline and high unemployment, resentment is building among the country's youth. In the Jordanian town of Dhiban, tension boils beneath the temporarily calm surface. Over the past couple of months, clashes have erupted between police and protesters, with military tanks rolling along the town's winding roads. Young men set up a tent where they demonstrated for weeks while negotiating with officials and tribal leaders in the hope of securing jobs. The protest camp was stormed last month, with Jordanian forces firing tear gas to disperse demonstrators; 28 men were reportedly arrested. While the tent is now gone, frustration is still boiling among the young men of Dhiban. "We are tired of living like the dead after working so hard to study and learn," protest spokesman Sabri Mashaaleh told Al Jazeera. The 29-year-old holds a bachelor's degree in counselling from the University of Jordan, but five years after graduating, he has still not secured a full-time job. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Lebanon: Beirut protesters decry racism toward Syrians

Zena Tahhan

Al Jazeera English, 19 July 2016

Activists say discrimination has heightened in recent weeks and Syrians are being blamed for the city's woes. Protesters took to the streets of Beirut to march against racism toward Syrian refugees,

which they say has been growing in recent weeks. At least 200 people gathered on Monday in an anti-discrimination protest in the Lebanese capital under the banner "all against racism". Chanting slogans such as: "The refugee was killed the first time when he ran away from the war, don't kill him again with your racism" and "Politicians who incite hatred must be held accountable", they marched from the ministry of foreign affairs to the interior ministry. "Everybody in the Lebanese establishment is bigoted and racist beyond belief," Kareem Chehayeb, a 24-year-old political activist who attended the protest, told Al Jazeera. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Egypt: Arab Foundation records 199 protests in the first quarter of this year

Arab Trade Union Confederation, 22 Jul 2016

Egypt – Arab foundation for civil society and human rights support issued a report showing the numbers and reasons behind all protests took place in Egypt during the three months of April and May, and June 2016. Executive Director of the Foundation Sharif Helaly said that the three months have seen 199 protest between vigils and sit - ins and strikes and marches, April saw the highest protests reached 86 in protest, followed by the month of June at a rate of 75 protests, while May had the least number of protests reached 38. Total numbers of labour protests in the three months reached 57, 16 protests in April 14 protests in May, and 27 protests in June, and came 28.6% of the total protests in this period. While the protests held by people reached 23 protests in three months, which is 11.5% of total protests June was the highest with 9 protests, then 8 protests in April, and 6 protests in May. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Egypt: Security Forces Disperse Protest Against 'Enforced Disappearances

Aswat Masriya, 25 July 2016

Security forces dispersed a protest on Monday organised by more than a dozen women demanding to know the whereabouts of their children who were allegedly "forcibly disappeared". The women were protesting in front of the headquarters of the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) in Giza. According to a source within Giza Security Directorate, the women were holding banners including pictures, names of their children and the dates of their alleged disappearance. The protesters presented their demands to the NCHR however they are yet to receive any information about their children, said the source. The women were also directed to lodge their complaints to the complaints office affiliated with NCHR, the source added. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Engineering an uprising: what the democracy rallies in Turkey tell us

Beatrice White

openDemocracy, 3 August 2016

Since this initial mobilisation and the thwarting of the coup, the Turkish government has done all it can to sustain the momentum behind what it describes as a kind of popular uprising. A striking feature of the aftermath of the attempted coup in Turkey are the mass gatherings and demonstrations that have been taking place on a nightly basis in towns across the country. But what has spurred people to take to the streets in such numbers? And how is the government's narrative of traitors and infiltrators, in opposition to defenders of democracy, likely to shape future developments in Turkey? Whereas significant incidents, such as the spate of recent terrorist attacks, have generally been met by an immediate media blackout in Turkey, this time the media clearly had a crucial role to play. It was in a live broadcast on CNN Turk that President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan launched his appeal for people to take to the streets to 'defend their democracy', as the military coup attempt was unfolding on July 15th. The call was made via mobile application Facetime and was then widely disseminated via social media – an irony given Erdoğan's well-known aversion to such platforms. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Turkey: of coups and popular resistance

Spyros A. Sofos

Open Democracy, 21 July 2016

The construct of '*the people*' thrives on and demands homogeneity of values and unity of purpose and banishes diversity and difference to the realm of the evil '*other*'. The morning of Saturday 16 July, the sun rose over a different Turkey. During the night, a group of armed forces officers attempted an ill-fated coup d'état. The coup involved a fairly limited but efficiently deployed number of units and military hardware. A few fighter jets and helicopters, several armoured vehicles and tanks. Although manpower and materiel came from several locations in the country, the main thrust of the military takeover was focused in Istanbul and especially Ankara, where key state institutions are located. Targets involved the headquarters of the General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces, the National Intelligence Organization, the Police, the Parliament, the Presidential Palace, Istanbul's Ataturk Airport and the Bosphorus Bridges. The coup forces started arresting top military officers, and seizing TV stations. As a small number of F16s flew over the two cities, and a helicopter raid to the Marmaris hotel where President Erdoğan was spending his holidays was unfolding, the Armed Forces website featured a statement declaring that a "Peace Council" had taken control to restore democracy, human rights and "peace at home" – a reference to the founders of the Turkish Republic cornerstones of modern Turkey's orientation. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Arab Awakening Lead Editor (openDemocracy)

Deadline: Tuesday 16th August 2016 at 10 am (BST)

openDemocracy is looking for a skilled editor to lead and manage the Arab Awakening project, providing a space for pluralist debate on the Middle East for experts and young writers alike, before a global audience. openDemocracy is an independent, not-for-profit, global media platform whose mission is to challenge power and inspire change through tenacious reporting, thoughtful analysis and democratic debate. Arab Awakening is a space dedicated to pluralist debate in a context of scholarly expertise, on an independent global platform, for talented young Arabs and Africans in the MENA region.

The purpose of the role is to editorially lead and manage the Arab Awakening project in meeting publishing, partnership, engagement and social media goals. This is a part time role, working three days per week on a six month contract.

The main responsibilities are:

- Commission, edit, write and publish high quality online articles and other formats of content, in English and Arabic, for the Arab Awakening project, to include managing available commissioning budgets.
- Manage the curation and design/layout of the Arab Awakening section and pages.
- Build the audience for Arab Awakening in the MENA region and globally, through social media, network cultivation, outreach and other engagement strategies.
- Working with the Commissioning Editor, manage the Middle East Forum project to meet the project's objectives and achieve positive outcomes for the funder.
- Propose ideas, strategy and supporting narrative for the future expansion of MEF project and the section.
- Contribute to grant reports and fundraising applications and activity as required.
- Manage communications with authors, regular contributors, funders and partners.
- Leadership in setting and maintaining editorial standards, from house style to high-quality editing.
- Mentoring and line-managing the Commissioning Editor.

We need someone who is passionate about good communication and its potential to change the world. You must be fluent in English and Arabic, able to write and edit to high standards in both languages and have at least 2 years' experience of editing, commissioning and managing editorial production processes. To apply, please send a covering letter outlining how you are suitable for the role and a brief CV to recruitment@opendemocracy.net

More information [here](#)

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Said Foundation Scholarships Programme for Oxford and Cambridge

Deadline: 1 November 2016

The Said Foundation offers a number of full - cost postgraduate scholarships annually at Oxford and Cambridge universities to outstanding individuals who demonstrate the potential to become leaders and innovators of change. Scholarships are offered for one year and two year postgraduate courses and for doctoral research (DPhil/PhD). There are no restrictions on academic subjects but priority will be given to candidates who can demonstrate that their subject will enable them to contribute to the development of their home country.

For DPhil/PhD scholarships, priority will be given to candidates who hold a teaching post at a university in their home country and who can clearly demonstrate the need for the proposed research in their home country. Scholarships are offered for postgraduate study only. Applications for undergraduate study cannot be considered.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR 2017/18

- Applications are restricted to candidates who are Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian or Palestinian nationals ordinarily resident in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine or Israel ;
- Priority is given to candidates permanently living in the Foundation's target countries. The Foundation will, however, consider Syrians residing elsewhere due to current circumstances in Syria;
- Priority is given to applicants who have not previously had the opportunity to study outside of their home country;
- Evidence of proficiency in English must be provided and must be at the level required by Oxford or Cambridge;
- Applicants must hold a first degree of a high enough standard to indicate that they are likely to complete their proposed course of study at Oxford or Cambridge successfully;
- Applicants cannot be considered if they have not followed the proper application procedures for Oxford or Cambridge and completed the Foundation's online scholarship application form; 2
- Successful applicants are required to sign a binding undertaking to apply the skills and knowledge they have gained in one of the Foundation's target countries (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine) on completion of their course;
- Applicants are required to demonstrate that they have the potential to be leaders in their field.

More information [here](#)

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Managing Editor (50%) - Institute for Social Movements (ISB) of the Ruhr University Bochum, Germany

Deadline: 29 August 2016

Ruhr University Bochum (RUB) is one of Germany's leading research universities. Our Research School is an international college for structured doctoral and post-doctoral research in the life sciences, natural sciences, engineering, the humanities and social sciences.

The Institute for Social Movements (ISB) of the Ruhr University Bochum is looking for a Managing Editor with 19,915 hours per week (payment according to German public service scale - E 13 TV-L = monthly gross income before taxes 1760-2540 € dependent on personal requirements). The Managing Editor will be responsible for institute's journal *Moving the Social*. The position will be permanent.

The ISB is a central research unit of the Ruhr University focussing especially on comparative and contemporary history of social movements (with a particular focus on the Ruhr). The institute has published the journal since 1977. Since 2012 the journal is published in English and under the title *Moving the Social: Journal of Social History and the History of Social Movements* with two issues per year. The Managing Editor will be responsible for article submissions, organising the peer reviews, communication with the publisher and authors, editorial work (including language editing), and the online website of the journal. Depending on the available time budget, the Managing Editor will also support the publication of the ISB's English-language book series.

The key selection criteria are: 1) an excellent MA/ MSc degree in History, Social Sciences or a related subject, and 2) excellent English language skills. It is desirable (but not essential) for English native speakers to have some knowledge of the German language. An interest in Social History and the history of social movements will be an advantage.

RUB is an equal-opportunity employer, and seeks to enhance a fair gender distribution in all job categories and at all levels. RUB welcomes applications from female applicants and persons with a disability.

Applications should be send per mail by 29 August 2016 to: Professor Stefan Berger, Institute for Social Movements, Clemensstrasse 17-19, 448789 Bochum. For enquiries please contact: stefan.berger@rub.de.

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Assistant Professor in Modern Middle Eastern History (tenure-track) - University of Massachusetts Amherst

Deadline 14 October 2016

The University of Massachusetts Amherst is one of the major public research universities in America. Nestled in idyllic Amherst, Massachusetts, the campus is consistently ranked among the top public research universities in the nation, and offers a rich cultural environment in a rural setting close to major urban centers.

The Department of History at the University of Massachusetts Amherst invites applications for a position in Modern Middle Eastern History. The appointment will be at the Assistant Professor level, tenure track, beginning Fall 2017. We are seeking talented applicants qualified for an assistant professor position. Under exceptional circumstances, highly qualified candidates at other ranks may receive consideration.

The successful candidate will be expected to teach a wide range of undergraduate courses on the Modern Middle East, including large introductory and upper-level courses intended for general students, History majors and Middle East Studies majors. The new hire will be expected to collaborate on academic initiatives for the study of the Middle East and North Africa at UMass and in the Five Colleges. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Requirements:

A Ph.D. in History or a closely related/relevant field is required at the time of hire, September 1, 2017.

To apply submit the following materials: a cover letter, curriculum vitae, a writing sample of no greater than 40 pages in length (as PDF) and the names and email contact information for three references online at <https://umass.interviewexchange.com/jobofferdetails.jsp?JOBID=74277>.

Applicants should apply by the priority deadline of October 14, 2016, in order to ensure consideration.

The Search Committee will conduct interviews at the MESA annual meeting.

The University is committed to active recruitment of a diverse faculty and student body. The University of Massachusetts Amherst is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer of women, minorities, protected veterans, and individuals with disabilities and encourages applications from these and other protected group members. Because broad diversity is essential to an inclusive climate and critical to the University's goals of achieving excellence in all areas, we will holistically assess the many qualifications of each applicant and favorably consider an individual's record working with students and colleagues with broadly diverse perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds in educational, research or other work activities. We will also favorably consider experience overcoming or helping others overcome barriers to an academic degree and career.

More information [here](#)

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