



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

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

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## FEATURED PUBLICATION

### **Israeli Practices towards the Palestinian People and the Question of Apartheid (pulled UNESWA Report)**

Richard Falk, Virginia Tilley  
E/ESCWA/ECRI/2017/1

This report concludes that Israel has established an apartheid regime that dominates the Palestinian people as a whole. Aware of the seriousness of this allegation, the authors of the report conclude that available evidence establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that Israel is guilty of policies and practices that constitute the crime of apartheid as legally defined in instruments of international law. The analysis in this report rests on the same body of international human rights law and principles that reject anti-Semitism and other racially discriminatory ideologies, including: the Charter of the United Nations (1945), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965). The report relies for its definition of apartheid primarily on article II of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (1973, hereinafter the Apartheid Convention).

Download the full report [here](#)

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## CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

### **Empire, Capital, and Transnational Resistance: Philosophical and Interdisciplinary Approaches**

13 – 15 September 2017

Centre for Applied Philosophy, Politics and Ethics (CAPPE), University of Brighton, UK

Deadline for abstracts: 10 April 2017

Keynote Speaker: John Chalcraft (LSE)

The past decade has witnessed widespread resistance to neoliberalism across the world. Unlike the anti-colonial revolts of the 1950s and 1960s, this resistance has tended either to fizzle out or to be appropriated by states. This conference considers recent forms of resistance to corporate, neoliberal and state power in the context of the post-colonial world. It looks towards the emergence of transnational forms of resistance linking different parts of the globe, exploring their limits and their potential.

The Centre for Applied Philosophy, Politics and Ethics at the University of Brighton welcomes interdisciplinary papers on any aspect(s) of such resistance from, among others, those working in philosophy, politics, ethics, area studies, global ethics, geography, cultural and critical theory.

Possible themes include:

- \* What is resistance?
- \* What is political action? What counts as political resistance?
- \* What is political about political philosophy and or politics?
- \* How should we understand 'the state', 'empire' and 'capital' in today's world?
- \* How does the changing relationship between state and corporation affect understandings of citizenship?
- \* What are the interrelations between corporate and disciplinary power?
- \* What is "the question of difference" in the neoliberal conjuncture?
- \* What relationships are there between neoliberalism and populism?
- \* Borders
- \* Rethinking 'colonialism'
- \* Trump, Brexit and the Right: implications for realignments of resistance

Please email ABSTRACTS, of no more than 300 words, for a 20-min. presentation, to Bob Brecher - R.Brecher@brighton.ac.uk -- by 10 April 2017.

The conference fee is £210. This includes refreshments, lunch on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and a buffet dinner on the Thursday evening. There are a limited number of places available for graduate students and for people who have no institutional affiliation at the reduced price of £105. Please indicate if you wish to be considered for one of these places when sending your abstract.

Please note: the conference fee does not include accommodation and, unfortunately, we are unable to offer travel grants or other forms of financial assistance. A limited amount of reasonably priced student halls of residence accommodation is available on a first come first served basis.

For further information about the conference and/or for updates please email Ian Sinclair: i.a.sinclair@brighton.ac.uk

*More information* [here](#)

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## **Shi'a politics in a changing Middle East**

13 October 2017

Workshop at George Washington University, USA

Deadline: 1 May 2017

Political science, media, and policy analysis of Islamist movements and the Middle East more broadly, often concentrate on Sunni movements. Shi'ite movements and ideas have also undergone significant changes in recent years. POMEPS, as part of its Islam in a Changing Middle East Initiative,

therefore invites proposals for short papers exploring questions related to Shi'a politics for a workshop to be held at George Washington University on October 13, 2017.

Questions to be explored might include, but are not limited to:

- the evolution of political ideas, institutions and movements in the Islamic Republic of Iran
- religion and education
- Iranian relations with Shi'ite movements and armed groups in other countries
- Shi'ite populations outside of Iran
- transnational Shi'ite movements
- Shi'ite political thought
- the dynamics of sectarianism.

The conference will be hosted in the Elliott School of International Affairs on October 13, 2017. Selected participants will be expected to circulate a short essay of approximately 2,000 words at least two weeks prior to the workshop. The workshop will discuss each paper intensively, and after revisions all papers will be published as an issue of the open access POMEPS Studies series. POMEPS will cover all travel expenses, and offer a modest honorarium.

To submit a proposal, please email Lauren Baker ([POMEPS.team@gmail.com](mailto:POMEPS.team@gmail.com)) a one paragraph description of the proposed paper and your CV in a single PDF by Monday, May 1, 2017.

Participants should be at least a degree candidate (i.e. ABD –(for those unfamiliar with the U.S. system, please note this means PhD candidates who have completed all coursework) or have a PhD in Political Science or related discipline.

*More information [here](#)*

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## **Law & Politics in Turkey: Reform, Authority and Emergency**

26-28 October 2017

Buffett Institute for Global Studies, Northwestern University, USA

Deadline: 1 June 2017

Turkey witnessed fundamental legal changes in the last two decades. Few aspects of the law were left untouched by reform packages enacted in the name of IMF conditionality, EU harmonization, or democratization. In addition to the changing laws and regulations, a series of institutional changes aimed to achieve a more efficient, transparent, democratic and accessible judicial system. All the reform waves, however, have ended in a spiral of authoritarianism, and eventually a dragging state of emergency. How did Turkey get here?

Answering this question requires scholars to (re)conceptualize the relationship between law and politics at this historical conjuncture. This conference undertakes this challenging task and intends to

trace the twisted path from reform to emergency. While we are interested in exploring the disintegration of the rule of law in the current moment, we would particularly like to untangle genealogies and everyday manifestations of reform, authority and emergency in legal spaces. More specifically, we would like to ask: How are legal reforms formulated, translated, and imagined at various levels of legal and state bureaucracy? How is authority understood and practiced in the courthouses and police stations? Do discourses of emergency blur the boundary between legal and extralegal? How does political authority reproduce itself through law and reform? And, what are some of the institutional, social, economic and ecologic limits of, and resistance to the mechanisms carved out against such authority?

We welcome empirically informed papers in the following areas: economic regulations and legal institutions in Turkish economy; urban, rural, and environmental regulations and disputes; gender inequality and gender based violence; legal ethnography and ethnographies of the state; human rights, freedom of expression, and police impunity.

The Keyman Program will be able to provide travel grants for participants. Please send your paper abstract of 350-450 words to [turkishstudies@northwestern.edu](mailto:turkishstudies@northwestern.edu) by June 1, 2017.

*More information* [here](#)

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## TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

### **The Edward W Said London Lecture 2017: Justice Not Revenge**

31 March 2017, 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Venue: BP Lecture Theatre at The British Museum, London

Speaker: Mahmood Mamdani

British Museum with the support of AM Qattan Foundation and London Review of Books

Internationally renowned academic and author Mahmood Mamdani presents this year's Edward W. Said London Lecture, examining the concept of revolutionary justice. will look at how South Africa's transition from apartheid presents a critique of the lessons that have been drawn from the Nuremberg trials – the post-war judgment of Nazi war criminals – which have been incorporated into the contemporary human rights movement and International Criminal Court. *More information* [here](#)

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## **Art as Defiance in the Middle East**

5 April 2017, 18:00 to 19:00

Venue: Chatham House, London, UK

Speakers: Bassem Deaibess, Lebanese musician; Socio-Political Commentator; Founder, Blaakyum band; Bashar Farhat, Syrian Medical Doctor; Poet; Writer; Larissa Sansour, Palestinian Visual Artist  
Chair: Dr Lina Khatib

The cultural and artistic domain is an active forum for political engagement in the Middle East. Many artists in the region are commenting on socio-political issues and making their voices heard through poetry, music and the visual arts. In doing so, they often encounter political oppression, social intolerance and economic hardship, as well as difficulties accessing an international audience for their work. This panel discussion presents artists from Palestine, Syria and Lebanon who will talk about their experience working and performing in the Middle East and the role that art and culture play as a form of protest in the Arab world. How much of an impact does conflict have on the lives and artistic output of artists? Can art bring about positive political and social change? *More information [here](#)*

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## **Contentious cultural politics in the Middle East**

18 April 2017, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Venue: Elliott School for International Affairs, 1957 E St NW, Washington, DC 20052, USA

Speakers: Laryssa Chomiak, Centre d'Etudes Maghrébines à Tunis; Lisel Hintz, Barnard College; Jillian Schwedler, Hunter College CUNY; Lisa Wedeen, University of Chicago

Moderated by: Marc Lynch, POMEPS Director

*More information [here](#)*

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## **Negri in Cambridge and London**

25 and 26 April 2017

Venue (25 April, 5.00pm-7.00pm): The Bateman Auditorium, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge

Venue (26 April): the School of Oriental and African Studies [SOAS, London

Speaker: Antonio Negri

On Tuesday 25 April the Italian political thinker Antonio Negri will be in Cambridge to deliver the first of two talks on the possibilities for a renewal of revolutionary thought and action. His chosen topic for the Cambridge talk is: "Post-operaismo or neo-operaismo". In this talk he will give a new reading of the development and ongoing validity of the "operaista" [workerist] tradition in Italian political thought, and will offer perspectives for the future of revolutionary activity in that vein. The meeting



will also mark the publication of his most recent collection of essays in English, entitled *Marx and Foucault* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2017) The speaker will be introduced by the translator of that volume, Ed Emery [SOAS]. The ensuing discussion will be introduced by Elisabetta Brighi [University of Westminster] The talk will be in Italian, but a translated abstract will be available. Discussion will be in Italian, French and English ADMISSION: For reasons of space we recommend that you book in advance *More information* [here](#)

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## ***Ḥukm al-Nās* (The Rule of the People?): Conceptualising the Collective in Egypt around 1900**

26 April 2017

Venue: Forum Transregionale Studien, Wallotstraße 14, 14193 Berlin

Speaker: Maha AbdelMegeed (Qatar, EUME Fellow 2016/17)

Moderation: Michael Allan (University of Oregon, EUME-CNMS Fellow of the AvH 2017-18)

*More information* [here](#)

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## **The Commander: Fawzi al-Qawuqji and the Fight for Arab Independence 1914-1948**

2 May 2017, 5:45 PM - 7:00 PM

Venue: Paul Webley Wing (Senate House), Wolfson Lecture Theatre, London, UK

Speaker: Laila Parsons, Institute of Islamic Studies (McGill University)

Chair: Charles Tripp, SOAS

Lecture by Professor Parson's on her latest book *The Commander: Fawzi al-Qawuqji and the Fight for Arab Independence 1914-1948* (Hill and Wang, 2016). Revered by some as the Arab Garibaldi, maligned by others as an intriguer and opportunist, Fawzi al-Qawuqji manned the ramparts of Arab history for four decades. In his most famous role, he would command the Arab Liberation Army in the Arab-Israeli War of 1948. Laila Parsons tells Qawuqji's dramatic story and sets it in the full context of his turbulent times. Following Israel's decisive victory, Qawuqji was widely faulted as a poor leader with possibly dubious motives. *The Commander* shows us that the truth was more complex: although he doubtless made some strategic mistakes, he never gave up fighting for Arab independence and unity, even as those ideals were undermined by powers inside and outside the Arab world. In Qawuqji's life story we find the origins of today's turmoil in the Arab Middle East. *More information* [here](#)

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## RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

### **Arab Subcultures: Transformations in Theory and Practice**

Sabry, Tarik, and Ftouni, Layal  
2017 - I.B. Tauris

What is 'Arab' about Arab subcultures? This is the first book to set out to delineate different ways of studying and theorising Arab subcultural groups and practices, including film, graffiti, music, live art performances, Arab techies and youth cultures. Contributors tackle a number of questions including: How is the study of Arab subcultures to be theorised? How are we to analyse such creative processes in a new worldliness characterised by trans-temporality and trans-subjectivity? Arab Subcultures effectively opens up a critical and interdisciplinary dialogue about Arab subcultures with different fields of enquiry, including anthropology, philosophy, art criticism and cultural studies, at the heart of which lies the key intellectual task of re-imagining the uneasy relation between aesthetics and politics in the age of revolutions.

### **Chapter12: Just a Bunch of (Arab) Geeks? How an elite of 'techies' shaped a digital culture in the Arab region and contributed to the making of the Arab uprisings"**

Della Ratta, Donatella, and Valeriani, Augusto

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## JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

### **Impact and significance of the 2016 'Campaign to Change the Male Face of Parliament' in Iran**

Rebecca Barlow, Fatemeh Nejati  
Social Movement Studies, Volume 16, 2017 - Issue 3, Pages: 361-368

Iranian women have never represented more than 5.9% of sitting parliamentarians in the Islamic Republic of Iran. This compares poorly with relevant regional and global averages. In the lead up to the 2016 parliamentary elections, the women's movement took action to address the low representation of women in the legislature by launching the 'Campaign to Change the Male Face of Parliament'. The Campaign did not reach its goal of achieving 50 seats for women in the 2016–2020 Parliament. It was also subject to some criticism for effectively (or apparently) legitimising what many women view as a broken form of government unable to promote and protect women's rights in any meaningful sense. However, the Campaign was an important exercise in democracy and had significant higher-order impacts on voter behaviour and women's capacities. Through personal communication with three Campaign activists, this profile provides an authoritative account of the

Campaign experience and its impact and significance for the future of women's empowerment in Iran.

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## **On the Breadline in Sisi's Egypt**

Neil Ketchley , Thoraya El-Rayyes

Middle East Report Online, 29 March 2017

On March 6, 2017, hundreds of local residents took to the streets of towns and cities in Upper Egypt and the Nile Delta after the Ministry of Supply cut their daily ration of subsidized baladi bread. By the following day, thousands were protesting in 17 districts across the country. In Alexandria, protestors blockaded a main road at the entrance of a major port for over four hours, while residents in the working class Giza suburb of Imbaba blocked the airport road. Elsewhere, women in the Nile Delta city of Dissuq staged a noisy sit-in on the tracks of the local train station, where they chanted, "One, two, where is the bread?" and called for the overthrow of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi's government. It was not long before the Arabic hashtag #Supply\_Intifada was trending on Egyptian Twitter. In a bid to curtail further mobilization, Egypt's military-backed government scrambled to restore residents' access to bread, and promised to increase the ration in areas that had seen protest. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## **The Walled-Off Hotel Controversy - How Banksy Universalizes the Palestinian Struggle**

Jamil Khader

Middle East Report Online, 22 March 2017

The British street artist known as Banksy is no stranger to controversy. His public art about capitalism, misogyny and racism always produces conversation. His newest installation in occupied Bethlehem, the Walled Off Hotel, is generating significant public debate about Palestine-Israel. According to different media reports, Banksy aims to focus attention on Israel's apartheid wall and, in the process, help inject some much needed resources into the besieged local Palestinian economy. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## **Islamism and social movements in North Africa, the Sahel and Beyond: transregional and local perspectives**

Aurélie Campana & Cédric Jourde

Mediterranean Politics, Volume 22, 2017 - Issue 1, Pages 1-15

Islamism has emerged as a major political force in the Middle East and North Africa after the Arab uprising. The rise of Islamism came as no surprise to scholars of the region and it emerged even in authoritarian countries where Islamist movements and organizations have been embedded in societies for decades. Since 2011, Islamist movements and parties have been in the driver's seat in some countries (Tunisia and Egypt), albeit for a short period of time, have become the official opposition in others (Mauritania), and have been amongst the leading armed groups in countries plagued by violent insurrections (Yemen, Syria, Libya). At the same time, West African states, especially those in the Sahel, faced significant social and political challenges, some of which were directly and indirectly related to those of their neighbours to the North and East. There too social movements, political parties and armed groups have been contesting incumbent regimes by invoking Islam. The interactions between the events that unfolded in Libya and Mali best epitomize the conflation of political upheavals that have rattled both sides of the 'Saharan sea'. In a nutshell, the fall of the Qaddafi regime and the de facto partition of Mali cannot be understood separately. Finally, on the other side of the Mediterranean, in western Europe, Islamist organizations have been flourishing in a context of growing challenges to the integration of Muslims. Movements born in and associated with Muslim countries, like the Muslim Brothers (*Al-Ikhwân al-Muslimîn*), *Hizb ut-Tahrir* and *Jama'at-i Islami*, have a well-established presence in several European countries, illustrating the transnational character of these organizations and the diffusion of different discourses about Islam, including radical ones.

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## **From Medicine to Mobilization: Social Service Provision and the Islamist Reputational Advantage**

Steven Brooke

Perspectives on Politics, Volume 15, Issue 1, pp. 42-61

Under what conditions can parties use social-service provision to generate political support? And what is the causal mechanism connecting social-service provision to citizen mobilization? I argue that service provision conveys to voters a politically valuable image of the provider organization's competence and probity, which is particularly valuable when information about parties and platforms is contradictory or poor. Support comes from an in-depth investigation into the medical networks of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood. I combine qualitative evidence, including fieldwork and interviews with Brotherhood social-service providers, with an original 2,483-person survey experiment of Egyptians. Respondents exposed to factual information about the Brotherhood's medical provision are significantly more likely to consider voting for the Brotherhood in elections. A causal mediation analysis, as well as qualitative evidence drawn from the survey instrument itself, supports the hypothesized mechanism by which respondents map the Brotherhood's compassion

and professionalism in the provision of medical services onto their views of Brotherhood candidates for elected office. Beyond adding to a growing comparative-politics literature on the politics of non-state social service provision, I identify why Egypt's current rulers have expended such effort to uproot the Muslim Brotherhood's nationwide network of social services.

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## Refugees and Displacement in the Middle East

Marc Lynch, Laurie Brand

POMEPS Studies 25: Refugees and Migration Movements in the Middle East

The Middle East has experienced a dramatic flood of refugees and forced migration over the last fifteen years. The UN High Commission on Refugees reports more than 16 million refugees and 60 million displaced persons around the world today, including asylum seekers and the internally displaced. The wars in Syria and Iraq have produced the greatest share of the Middle East's refugees in recent years, but many more have fled wars and failed states in Afghanistan, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. Neighboring states have faced severe challenges in absorbing millions of refugees, while North African states and Turkey have emerged as key transit hubs for refugee flows into Europe. To examine the situation of current refugees and exiles in and from the region, the Project on Middle East Political Science and the Middle East Studies Program at the University of Southern California with support from its Center for International Studies convened a workshop in February 2017 bringing together a dozen scholars from multiple disciplines. These scholars represent a new wave of scholars conducting original field research from refugee camps and communities in the Middle East, primarily in states bordering Syria and Iraq. Their research demonstrates the transformative impact on every aspect of politics, economies, societies and states of these massive forced population movements, both within and across borders. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## Protest and Informal Leadership in Syrian Refugee Camps

POMEPS Studies 25: Refugees and Migration Movements in the Middle East

Killian Clarke

Refugees are often seen as among the world's most marginalized and powerless groups. They typically face profound challenges to securing their basic livelihoods and live in states of precarious legal and political limbo, unclear of their rights and unable to formally influence the policies that affect them. Moreover, the conditions of their dispossession generally render them unable to engage in the types of informal political practices that less powerful groups often use to address collective grievances – things like protests, strikes, boycotts, and petitions. For refugees, the structural barriers to mobilization are usually prohibitively high. But occasionally refugees manage to overcome these barriers, confounding expectations that they will remain passive and quiescent. In this project I compare mobilization patterns among Syrian refugees living in camps in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey

in order to make sense of a surprising empirical puzzle. While in Lebanon and Turkey Syrian refugees have staged very few protests, more or less confirming what conventional wisdom and much academic scholarship predicts about refugee mobilization, in Jordan's Za'atari Camp refugee contention has been frequent and tenacious. What explains this striking variation in patterns of contention across these three countries? How have Za'atari's refugee communities managed to defy expectations about refugee mobilization? And what have been the effects of these protests on the camp's structures of governance and patterns of social life? *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## Trajectories of Activism among Syrian Refugees

POMEPS Studies 25: Refugees and Migration Movements in the Middle East

Rana B. Khoury

In the wake of multiple interstate conflicts through the 1990s, analysts came to associate refugees with violence and the spread of civil wars. Yet in six years of massive displacement from Syria, violence among refugees has been conspicuous in its absence. Indeed, case studies of refugee communities worldwide have indicated that refugees often engage in another form of politics: activism—non-routine and nonviolent action carried out on behalf of a cause (Martin 2007). Forms of refugees' activism may include civic organizing and advocacy, humanitarian relief, and political institution building, among other engagements—activities that impact communities on both sides of the border of a civil war state. Few quantitative studies capture this nonviolent form of political behavior, if any at the micro level—with good reason: activists typify a “hard-to-survey” population (Tourangeau 2014). Syrian activists in Jordan are hard to survey because there is no sampling frame of their population, their behavior is often informal and sometimes risky, and they are part of a displaced (mobile) population. Thus, to survey activist refugees in Jordan, I used a sampling and analysis method called respondent-driven sampling (RDS). *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

### Something to Resist With [Egyptian Prisons]

Ahmed Naji

LRB Blog, 31 March 2017

On my first day in prison, trying to make me feel better, my fellow inmates listed the advantages of our particular prison, and our particular ward: most of the inmates were senior civil servants,

businessmen, judges, police and army officers. Each ward can take sixty prisoners and the prison has nine wards. 'We're all respectable people,' my colleague said, 'and the administration here is respectable too.' I said nothing. 'And even Alaa Seif is here,' he said, 'in the ward across the corridor.' After years apart, Alaa and I were neighbours again. In 2006 I lived on Faysal Road, two streets away from him and his wife, Manal. Their house was a base for artists passing through Egypt, programmers, adventurers, bloggers and political activists. I used to visit all the time. A friendship grew that opened many doors for me. But eventually I left Faysal Road and Alaa left the country. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## **Jewish Group Releases Blacklist of U.S. Professors Who Back Academic Boycott of Israel**

Judy Maltz  
Haaretz, 30 March 2017

Barely three weeks after the Knesset passed controversial legislation that would deny entry into Israel to any foreigners who publicly support a boycott of the country, a small but vocal Jewish organization that fights anti-Israel activism on American college campuses published a list Wednesday of all the professors in the United States who have ever called for an academic boycott of Israel. The AMCHA Initiative, which operates out of the University of California Santa Cruz, unveiled several interactive maps designed to give viewers what it said was "the ability to visually understand the distribution and geographical patterns of anti-Semitic activity on U.S. college and university campuses." *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## **The military complex: Egyptians and the Stockholm Syndrome**

Amr Khalifa  
Middle East Eye, 29 March 2017

At the end of *The Godfather*, Michael Corleone, having reached the zenith of an American Mafia family is asked by his grief-stricken sister why he killed her husband. After his screaming sister leaves the room without an answer, his wife, Kay, asks again. He shirks her off, saying it is none of her business. But then he reconsiders. "This one time, I'll let you ask me about my affairs," he says. "Is it true?" she asks. Decisive and cold-blooded, he says, "No." They hug and she suggests they both need a drink. As she mixes pours the drink in the next room, his henchmen enters, having just murdered several of his opponents, kisses his hand and calls him "Don Corleone". Like Michael Corleone, the Egyptian army, as the supreme political entity in Egypt since 1952, has been lying to Egyptians. They lied in 1967, during the most devastating defeat in Egyptian history, and do the same now via an Abdel Fattah al-Sisi presidency. Just like Corleone's wife, Egyptians know they are being

lied to but continue in an abusive relationship. To understand Egypt's present situation, we must understand why. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## **Zamalek FC's hardcore fans: The journey of the Ultras White Knights**

Ahmed Abdel Gawad

Mada masr, 22 March 2017

It has been 10 years since the Ultras White Knights (UWK), an association of hardcore fans of Zamalek Football Club, was founded. Though they are of varying ages and come from different social classes and education, they are united in their unwavering support for their team. The UWK have remained committed, despite the team's financial and administrative problems over the last decade, proving their loyalty to the white-flagged club time and time again, even in defeat. They have been determined to attend matches in large numbers and well-organized formations, even at training sessions. This support is summed up in their renowned slogan, "We will remain loyal." The bond that binds them runs deeper than a love for football. The UWK are also known for the role they played in Egypt's January 2011 revolution, when they were a key part of confrontations with police, marches and sit-ins, with their well rehearsed chants and songs. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## **Sisi economics: Theatre of the absurd**

Amr Khalifa

Middle East Eye, 20 March 2017

Sacrifice, with victory as the supposed long-term goal, is central to both Egypt's military ethos and a central driver of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's economic mindset. In early November, when the Egyptian government devalued its currency, I spoke with economic experts who warned that it was a strategy that could result in explosive inflation. Could Sisi they wondered, counterbalance the pain with policies that would soften the blow? It was a gamble. Sure enough, in the intervening 16 weeks, Egypt has seen inflation zoom from 14 percent to over 30 percent by the end of February. And nearly five months later, though there have been some positives, the report card for Sisi's economic reforms is mostly cloudy, with chances of rain. In Egypt, the theatre of the absurd is not something you watch, it is something you live. Those awaiting economic revival with Sisi at the helm may as well be waiting for Godot. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## القمع ويعوقه الإفقار يدفعه جديد صعود: العمالية الحركة

Mostafa Bassiouny

openDemocracy, 19 March 2017

بأدر التي الإضراب محاولة فشل بعد بالإحباط أُصيبوا قد السابقة السنوات في المحلة غزل بشركة العمالية الحركة تابعوا من أن شك لا الماضي فبراير من السابع في الشركة مصانع من عددٍ عمالٍ إليها

في دخلوا الذين العمال عدد وبلغ اليوم، ذلك في العمل عن إضرابًا بالمحلة والنسيج للغزل مصر شركة في مصانع عدة عمال نظم فقد عليها تغلب التي المصانع وهي والفوط، والملايات الجاهزة الملابس مصانع في الإضراب وتركز عامل، آلاف أربعة نحو الإضراب، "أهم الستات فين الرجالة" الشهير الهتاف وردد العمال بدأته الذي 2006 ديسمبر إضراب الأذهان إلى أعاد ما النسائية، العمالة بعد خاصة الشركة، عمال من الاستجابة نفس يجد لم ولكن مجددًا، 2017 فبراير في ترديده إلى العاملات عادت الذي الهتاف وهو *Continue reading [here](#)* وتهددهن العاملات من لعددٍ الشركة إدارة استدعاء

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## Ethnography in a time of upheaval – Egypt before and after the ‘Arab spring’

Leila Zaki Chakravarti, Mona Abaza

openDemocracy, 18 March 2017

Mona Abaza (MA): *Your pre-Arab uprisings research is published as a formal, [in-depth ethnography](#) of a working garment assembly plant in Port Said. Yet your more recent work consists of shorter, what you call ‘ethnographic snapshots’ of daily life in Cairo before and after Egypt’s January 2011 revolution. How much of this shift in research approach is down to external factors relating to Egypt’s uprising, and how much of it is just a matter of personal development and preference?*

Leila Zaki Chakravarti (LZC): I don’t know of a single Egyptian who couldn’t tell you where they were at the time Tahrir Square erupted into revolution. I myself was in London, watching the astonishing scenes on TV. It wasn’t different from a time of war, when the homeland takes on a vivid, concrete presence in one’s overseas location. I was as confused as the rest of my friends (some of whom took the first flight home to become part of the change) over what to make of it all, and how far things might go. The repercussions of those heady days are still tangible in the lack of consensus and prevailing confusion over whether the events of January 25 constituted a popular revolt, or formed part of the wider regional agenda of political Islam, or were simply a soft military coup aimed at the ultimate preservation of the system. Even families are not able to reconcile their differences on these issues. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## **In troubled Hebron, an innovative programme of activism training brings new hope**

Badee Dwaik, Gilbert Ramsay  
openDemocracy, 17 March 2017

When an Israeli medic shot a wounded Palestinian teenager in the head, it was hard to imagine that the moment might represent a turning point for a troubled city in the epicentre of the wave of violence that swept Palestine and Israel last year. And yet, almost exactly a year on, the organisation that filmed the notorious incident is at the crest of an exciting new wave of creative resistance. Long a special case in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Hebron, the largest Palestinian city by population is also the only Palestinian city (other than East Jerusalem) in which Israeli settlements are located in the city centre. As such, Hebron represents the Israeli occupation with all its various logics of control in concentrated form. The historic high street and main commercial artery of Hebron – Shuhada Street – is now virtually a no-go area for Palestinians – as are its adjoining neighbourhoods, such as Tel Rumeida. The Shrine of Abraham – sacred for Muslims and Jews, and now partitioned between a mosque and a synagogue, has also become increasingly inaccessible to Palestinian worshippers as a result. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## **UN report confirms that Israel is guilty of apartheid, and endorses BDS**

Yara Hawari  
openDemocracy, 16 March 2017

The last few weeks have seen Israeli Apartheid Weeks (IAWs) take place across university campuses all over the world. In the UK alone events happened on over 30 campuses, as part of a global campaign to raise awareness to the apartheid reality in Palestine/Israel and to mobilise support for the growing Boycott Divestment and Sanctions Movement (BDS). Opposition and repression of these events came from above at the institutional and governmental levels. In an email sent to Nicola Dandridge, chief executive of Universities UK, Jo Johnson, Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation, warns against Israeli apartheid events and calls them anti-Semitic. Several events were cancelled by the administrations including at the University of Exeter and the University of Central Lancashire. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## How Egypt's Activists Became 'Generation Jail'

Joshua Hammer  
NYT, 14 March 2017

Every morning at 5:30, an alarm clock awakens Ahmed Maher from his mattress below a stairwell at his neighborhood police station in Cairo. An officer then escorts him to the toilet and signs a notebook that Maher carries, authorizing his release until 6 that evening. Maher walks a mile to his apartment — “It is my only exercise,” he said — in the Third Settlement, a grid of dun-colored tenements at the edge of the desert. After breakfast with his wife and two small children, he takes care of chores aimed at rebuilding his life — renewing his driver’s license, reactivating his cellphone; he visits friends and family and searches for a job in civil engineering, his occupation before he was clapped into prison. Whatever he does, he must be back at the police station before sundown. “Every second now is important,” said Maher, a slight 36-year-old with a full beard, large eyes obscured behind tinted yellow lenses and a gray woolen ski cap that covered his bald pate. “If I want to visit my mother in Maadi, I can spend three hours getting there and back.” The clock is ticking. “If I delay for 15 minutes, the police have the right to send me back to prison,” he said. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## The cleric and the president: Egypt's critical power struggle

Mai Shams El-Din  
Mada Masr, 12 March 2017

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Al-Azhar Grand Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayyeb settled a disagreement over verbal divorce in a recent meeting, but the accord does not signal an end to the ongoing struggle for power between the state and Egypt’s largest Islamic institution. Sisi met Tayyeb in the presidential palace in late February, praising the role Egypt’s top Islamic institution has played in fighting terrorism and religious extremism. The meeting came on the heels of a strong statement issued by Al-Azhar, rejecting Sisi’s suggestion to end verbal divorce amid a discussion of rising divorce rates. Verbal divorce refers to undocumented divorce, which is often used by men in an attempt to pressure women into giving up alimony rights. But Al-Azhar’s statement affirms that the practice is Sharia compliant. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## Democratic transition in Jordan

Noel Daniel Vig  
Le Courrier du Maghreb et de l’Orient, March 2017

If you go to prison in Egypt, you disappear. In Syria, you get tortured. In Jordan, they’ll ask you questions. This saying in the Middle-East carries with it some exaggerations, especially for the last

country. The picture isn't as rosy in the Jordanian penal system as it seems, highlighted by the 2006 Human Right Watch's report, stating that "*Jordan should end routine and widespread torture in its prisons*". Although the Jordanian penal system has its flaws, the state of human rights and democracy has gone through improvements during the last decades compared to most Arab countries. King Hussein's extensive political reforms in 1989 introduced a mostly free and fair election process to the lower house. It was accompanied with a degree of freedom of press, and economic reforms to better suit the globalised world order. These pro-democracy initiatives came a couple of months after an International Monetary Fund (IMF) bail-out and the protests against it. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## **Kurdistan (Syrie) – Femmes et démocratie, la double révolution du Rojava**

Shakour Bazez

Le Courrier du Maghreb et de l'Orient, March 2017

Rares sont les pays arabo-musulmans qui ont une constitution laïque, et les pays qui s'en sont dotés ne peuvent cependant pas freiner l'influence et l'ingérence religieuse dans les affaires de l'État. La motivation ne manque pourtant pas dans le sein des classes populaires désireuses d'échapper à des modèles de gouvernance archaïques. Les révoltes populaires (et les coups d'État militaires) se sont succédé dans l'histoire récente, souvent avec le dessein ou la prétention de bâtir un système laïc et de fonder une société nouvelle, dans les pays de traditions musulmanes. Mais ceux qui ont pris le pouvoir sont aussitôt retombés dans le même schéma qu'ils aspiraient à remplacer. Il y a tant de raisons à cette instabilité idéologique et politique dans les pays arabo-musulmans, mais une des raisons principales de cet échec n'est que rarement abordée dans les analyses : la dominance presque exclusive des hommes dans les mouvements d'opposition, l'absence de femmes et l'absence d'une vision nouvelle et radicale de la femme peuvent être autant d'éléments clés explicatifs des échecs répétés de parvenir au changement. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## **Démocratie... « Dégage ! »**

Tounès Thabet

Le Courrier du Maghreb et de l'Orient, March 2017

Quand la saison de la colère commence à gronder, le 17 décembre 2010 dans la ville de Sidi Bouzid, après qu'un jeune vendeur de fruits et légumes ambulant, Mohamed Bouazizi, s'est immolé par le feu, elle gagne les villes de l'intérieur, qui souffrent de marginalisation économique et sociale, d'un taux de chômage élevé touchant surtout les jeunes (dont 42% ont moins de 25 ans), et particulièrement les diplômés. Beaucoup de Tunisiens espèrent alors que l'ère de la dictature sera bientôt révolue et que le rêve commun d'une démocratie naissante se réalisera. Quatre semaines de manifestations continues s'étendent à l'ensemble du pays, malgré une répression policière sans

précédent. La contestation s'amplifie, l'indignation grandit devant l'arrogance de l'État qui répond à la protestation populaire par des tirs et de nombreuses arrestations. L'explosion de la colère résulte des disparités économiques et sociales entre les villes côtières et les régions de l'intérieur, de l'ouest et du sud, discriminées et où l'État n'investit pas, d'un sentiment amer d'abandon. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## **Apartheid / apartheid / [ ]**

Saree Makdisi

Johannesburg Workshop in Theory and Criticism, The Salon, Volume 2

Blankes/Nie Blankes. Jewish/non-Jewish. There are contemporary Israeli laws equivalent to all the major aspects of South African Apartheid legislation, and these are enforced with extreme violence. The most insidious difference between the two systems of discrimination, asserts Saree Makdisi, is that Israel and its many influential supporters deny that such unequal separate development is in any way racist, an assertion premised on the repudiation of the existence - let alone the rights - of 11 million Palestinians. How is this possible: this total refusal to entertain the facts and the evidence, reason, law and basic principles? Among the highlights of my recent trip to South Africa were a tour of the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg and a visit to the downtown neighborhood of Fordsburg with my close friends Hanif and Salim Vally (who grew up there during the Apartheid years - an experience that committed them both to the cause of justice), as well as a walk through the nearby half-demolished neighborhood of Fietas. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## **POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Lecturer (Teaching & Research) in Politics/ International Relations (up to 5 posts), University of Liverpool - School of Histories, Languages and Cultures**

Deadline: 12 May 2017

The School of Histories, Languages and Cultures wishes to appoint up to 5 Lecturers in Politics/International Relations. These appointments represent a significant investment in Politics at Liverpool, underpinned by high levels of recent growth in undergraduate and postgraduate student

numbers. The appointments are framed with respect to the department's ambitious future plans and reflect the strategic development of departmental, school, faculty and university research priorities.

You will have a PhD in Politics, International Relations or a related subject and a record of publications of international excellence. It is anticipated that 2 of these appointments will be in International Relations (IR) and 1 in Political Theory, however for the remaining posts, applications are encouraged from specialists in any sub-field of Politics or IR which link with our strategic research themes.

More information and application [here](#)

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## **Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Comparative Politics of the Middle East, SOAS, University of London - Department of Politics and International Studies**

Deadline: 26th April 2017

Please note that successful candidates who have not yet completed their PhD will be appointed on Grade 7 (£34,957 - £41,136 per annum inclusive of London Allowance), and regraded to Grade 8 on successful completion of their PhD.

### *The role and its responsibilities*

The Department of Politics and International Studies is looking to appoint a Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in the Comparative Politics of the Middle East and North Africa. The post is open with respect to intra-regional specialisation. Alongside teaching, your responsibilities will include supervising postgraduate and research students, contributing to programme development, and taking on routine administrative duties in the Department.

### *Skills and experience*

The Department invites applications from scholars who combine a strong disciplinary background in Political Science with substantive regional engagement.

The successful candidate should have a PhD in a relevant subject area, together with a track record of internationally excellent research and publication, and experience teaching courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Applications from early career researchers are also encouraged.

An ability to teach Methods, including both quantitative and qualitative, would be beneficial but not essential.

### *Further information*

Prospective applicants seeking further information may contact the Head of Department of Politics and International Studies, Dr Mark Laffey (email: [ml23@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ml23@soas.ac.uk), website: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/politics>).

As an employer of choice SOAS offers an extensive benefits package including:  
30 days holiday plus bank holidays and School closure days, pro rata for part time staff;  
Pension scheme with generous employer contribution;  
Various loan schemes including season ticket loan, IT equipment loan;  
Cycle to Work Scheme;  
Enhanced Maternity, Paternity, and Adoption Pay provisions, childcare voucher scheme, financial childcare support.

If you are interested in applying for this vacancy, please complete the short online application form, *and provide a copy of your CV and publications list*. Further information can be found in the Job Description and Person Specification, along with a full list of duties and responsibilities.

Closing date: 26 April 2017.

Completed applications must be received by 23:59 on the closing date to be considered.

Interviews will provisionally be held in the week commencing: 15 May 2017.

If you have any questions or require any assistance with regard to the application process, please contact [hr-recruitment@soas.ac.uk](mailto:hr-recruitment@soas.ac.uk).

*More information and application [here](#)*

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## **Assistant Professor, Middle Eastern History/ Political Science tenure-track position Rhode Island College**

Deadline: Position is open until filled

The Departments of History and Political Science invite applications for a tenure-track position at the rank of Assistant Professor with specializations in Middle Eastern History and Political Science. The primary department for the joint position will be the Department of History. Candidates will be expected to teach undergraduate and graduate courses in Middle Eastern, general education history, and undergraduate courses in Political Science including one course with an emphasis on International Non-Governmental Organizations.

The regular teaching load each semester should generally include two history courses and one course in the Political Science Department. Committee service for both the History and Political will follow the formula for the teaching load.

The joint appointment will gradually serve on College committees in consultation with both departments to ensure that the joint appointment is working no more than a single department appointment.

Rhode Island College, founded in 1854, is Rhode Island's oldest public institutions of higher education. The college serves approximately 9,000 students in vibrant programs in arts and sciences, business, and professional disciplines within a supportive, respectful, and diverse community. Dedicated faculty engage students in learning, research, and career attainment, and our innovative curriculum and co-curricular activities foster intellectual curiosity and prepare an educated citizenry for responsible leadership.

Persons from underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply.

The Doctoral degree is required for appointment and must be completed prior to the beginning of service. Final appointment is subject to available funding

Required qualifications: Ph.D. in History or Political Science; college level teaching experience; evidence of active research agenda; research specialization in Middle Eastern History and/or Political Science with a focus on the region.

Application deadline: Position is open until filled.

Candidates must apply on-line, using Rhode Island College's PeopleAdmin Applicant Tracking system.

IMPORTANT: For full job descriptions, which include additional responsibilities and requirements for the positions and application procedures, see our web site at <https://employment.ric.edu/>

*As an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity institution which values and is committed to inclusion and expanding the diversity of its faculty and staff, the College invites members of protected classes, including minorities and persons with disabilities, to identify themselves as such at the time of application.*

More information and application [here](#)

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## **Summer Internships at the Arab Studies Institute**

Deadline: rolling

The Arab Studies Institute (ASI) is now offering new internship opportunities that involve training and production at various levels in one of ASI's four organizations: Arab Studies Journal, Jadaliyya, Forum on Arab and Muslim Affairs, Quilting Point, and Tadween Press. The internships offered are in several areas, but we are particularly looking for the following:

- AREA (A): Research Associates for a project on knowledge production within academia, think-tanks, pop-culture, and the media.
- AREA (B): Editors and Copy-Editors with experience in editing and knowledge of the region (Arabic and English language).
- AREA (C): Reporters/Researchers for Jadaliyya (English and Arabic language).
- AREA (D): Audio/Video Editors and Producers



ASI is looking for candidates who are self-motivated, prone to collaborative efforts, and eager to develop their skills in a variety of respects. Despite specialization in particular areas, ASI interns will be trained to develop various sets of skills (including writing, type-setting, editing, networking, managing, and/or administrating), especially if they remain on board for more than one term.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Internships involve a ten- to fifteen-hour weekly commitment, mostly via cyber-space. Location of applicants need not be in Washington DC in most cases. Inquiries may be sent to: [info@ArabStudiesInstitute.org](mailto:info@ArabStudiesInstitute.org)

*More information and application [here](#)*

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## **MScT Scholarship in Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies at Edinburgh**

Deadline: 2 May 2017

The Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Edinburgh is delighted to invite applications for a fees only MSc Taught degree scholarship for any of its programmes (IMES, Middle Eastern Studies with (Advanced) Arabic, Advanced Arabic, Persian Civilisation).

The scholarship will be funded by IMES and will cover tuition fees at the Home/EU rate (£9,500 p.a. for 2017-2018). Applications for both the Scholarship and the MSc must be made by 2nd May 2017. Applications for the MSc can be made via the online admissions portal at the url address given below. Informal enquiries are welcome and should be directed to Professor Andrew Newman:  
[A.Newman@ed.ac.uk](mailto:A.Newman@ed.ac.uk)

The award will cover the UK/EU rate of tuition fee. A successful non-EU/overseas applicant will be liable for the difference between the UK/EU and overseas tuition fee rate.

Eligibility: The award is open to UK, EU and overseas students commencing an MSc degree in the academic year 2017-2018.

Only applications to year one of an MSc programme of study will be considered.

*More information and application [here](#)*

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