



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

Conference: Alternative Strategies for Realizing Justice in Palestine

Date: 13-15 December 2015

Organized by: Institute of Law at Birzeit University; Trans-Arab Research Institute; Mada al-Carmel; the Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem; Stop the Wall; and the Arab Studies Institute at George Mason University.

Day One

Location: Ambassador Hotel, Jerusalem, Palestine

Keynote speaker: Noura Erakat, *Assistant Professor, George Mason University*

Roundtable One: **Focus on Jerusalem**

Lead Discussant: Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, *Director of Gender Studies, Mada Al-Carmel*

Discussants:

- o Joseph Schechla, *Coordinator, Habitat International Coalition's Housing and Land Rights Network*
- o Walid Atallah, *Chairperson, Department of Humanities, Bethlehem University*
- o Bernard Sabella, *Professor of Sociology, Bethlehem University*
- o Kutaybah Odeh, *Bustan Cultural Center– Silwan*

Day Two

Location: Institute of Law at Birzeit University, Annex, Room 243, Birzeit University, Birzeit, Palestine

Roundtable Four: **Economic & Popular Resistance**: 2:15pm - 3:45pm

Lead Discussant: Samia Botmeh, *Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Institute of Women's Studies, Birzeit University*

Discussants:

- o Sobhi Samour, *Researcher, MAS-Palestine*
- o Linda Tabar, *Visiting Assistant Professor of International Studies, Trinity College*
- o Nora Lester Murad, *Co-Founder, Aid Watch*
- o Jamal Jumaa, *Coordinator, Stop the Wall Campaign*

Roundtable Five: **International Solidarity**: 4:00pm - 5:30pm

Lead Discussant: Omar Barghouti, *Co-Founder, BDS Movement*

Discussants:

- o Haidar Eid, *Professor, Al-Aqsa University, Gaza*
- o Cecilia Baeza, *Professor at the Institute of International Relations of the PUC-São Paulo, the Catholic Pontifical University of São Paulo*
- o Kristian Davis Bailey, *Journalist and Activist, Black Lives Matter*
- o Ingrid Jaradat, *International Relations and Advocacy Advisor, Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem*

Day Two

Day Three

Location: Al Ein Hotel, Nazareth

Roundtable Six: **Struggle from Within:** 10:30am – 12:00pm

Lead Discussant: Suhad Bishara, *Senior Attorney and the Head of the Land and Planning Unit, Adalah – Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel*

Discussants:

- o Yousef Jabareen, *Joint Arab List*
- o Hanin Zoabi, *Joint Arab List*
- o Raef Zreik, *Lecturer, Carmel Academic Center*
- o Huda Abu-Obeid, *Human Rights Activist*

What are the costs and benefits of participation in the Israeli legal and political system? How can Palestinian citizens of Israel take part in the struggle of the Palestinian people for justice and liberation? What strategies for engagement have proven successful, and which have fallen short of expectations? At various points in our national struggle, the initiative for achieving justice has shifted from the diaspora, in the days of a vibrant PLO, to the OPT's, in the first intifada. Is it conceivable that Palestinian citizens of Israel could be the next to provide leadership to the nation as a whole? What would be the benefits from and obstacles to such a development?

More information [here](#)

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Call for Papers: Edited Volume “Creative Resistance: Political Humour in the Arab Uprisings”

Based on the contributions of a conference held at Cologne University, we are editing a volume on the role of political humour and satire in the Arab uprisings. In order to enlarge the regional scope, we invite further contributions focusing on the Arab Gulf States, the Maghreb and Iraq. We are interested in research that addresses the following questions in regard to literary and cultural production as well as social media: How can mocking the ruler or representatives of the ruling class be an effective instrument of resistance? Did the functions and forms of political humour change during the protests? How have iconic, textual, acoustic and actionist elements been used to develop creative resistance as a subversive strategy to foster social, cultural and political change?

Deadline for submitting abstracts: 15 January, 2016.

Deadline for submitting articles: 31 March, 2015.

Contact: Sabine Damir-Geilsdorf (s.damir-geilsdorf@uni-koeln.de), Stephan Milich (smilich@uni-koeln.de), Institute of Oriental Studies, Cologne

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CfP: (Conflicting) political ontologies and implications for transformative action

27-28th of May 2016

Department of Sociology, University of Ljubljana

Deadline for submissions is 15th January 2015

The Critical Political Economy Research Network (CPERN) @European Sociological Association (ESA) is inviting paper submissions for our two-day conference, hosted by the Institute for Labour Studies in cooperation with the Slovenian Sociological Association and the Department of Sociology at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana on 27th-28th of May 2016.

Ontology is often overlooked in discussions about political thought and action. Several emerging debates reflect different and conflicting positions that are often either assumed, invisible or intentionally opaque. Breaking down the apparent barriers between philosophy and theory and theory and action, we welcome discussions on ontologies of power and transformative action. Critical realists have long demanded that ontology is taken seriously and have encouraged discussion as to how 'reality' conditions action. New materialist and anti- and post-capitalist debates tease out the assumptions across Marxism and poststructuralism, and demand new ways of thinking about specific thought formations, ethical and moral frameworks. The current crisis has forced us to think, explore, and practice multiple ways of organising, resisting and building prefigurative practices. Understanding ontology not only as a philosophical standpoint but also as a myriad of calls for action will allow us to understand how people organise and what motivates us to do so/prevents us from doing so, and to initiate new ways of communicating and reflecting on our own ontological praxis. We are keen to receive paper proposals which focus on exploring political and social ontologies for transformative action. Some of the topics we would like to invite in particular are:

- Ontologies of capitalist spheres of production, trade and finance
- Ontologies of praxis in trade unions, social movements and new Left political parties/platforms
- Anarchism, feminism, new materialism and Marxism - ontological friends or foes?
- The materialities of ecological challenges
- The political economy of migration and human trafficking
- Building tomorrow's future today (with yesterday's historical conditions) - Prefigurative practice and its relationship to time, space and capitalism
- Damaged lives, intensified precarisation and horizontalist escapes
- Reclaiming the Caliban and the Witch: social reproduction as a source of value-creation

We are interested in all of the above plus more, and wish for the conference to cover a wide range of topics. As such, we seek contributions from scholars and activists with an interest in political economy research, regardless of their disciplinary affiliation and whether they are in academia or not. We also hope to attract a diverse range of participants, from a variety of countries and backgrounds. To this end, limited funds will be available for assisting PhD and early career scholars (who cannot get other sources of funding), especially those from Southern, Central and Eastern Europe, with their travel and accommodation costs (please inform us if you may require help with funding when you send us your abstract).

There is no fee for attending and participating in the workshop. The workshop language will be English. Abstracts of around 250 words should be submitted to cpern@criticalpoliticaleconomy.net by no later than the 15th of January 2016. The applicants will be informed of the selection committee's decision by 31st of January 2016.

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Call for Papers: BRISMES Annual Conference 2016: 'Networks: Connecting the Middle East through Time, Space and Cyberspace'

13 - 15 July 2016, University of Wales Trinity St David, Lampeter Campus

Deadline for paper and panel proposals is 19 February 2016

The 2016 BRISMES Annual Conference will explore the theme of networks in the Middle East, encouraging proposals for papers and panels that approach the theme in innovative ways. The conference organisers encourage submissions that highlight the connections between the Middle East and other areas of the globe, as well as ties within the region, be they between individual countries or between sub-regions. In addition, we warmly encourage proposals on any topic related to Middle Eastern Studies, regardless of its fit with the theme. Our aim is to encourage dialogue between scholars studying the Middle East and North Africa from all disciplines.

Within the overall theme of 'Networks: Connecting the Middle East through Time, Space and Cyber Space', papers and panels addressing historical or contemporary aspects of the following subthemes are particularly welcome:

- Trade, transport and financial networks: ancient and modern economic collaborations and enterprises.
- Geographical networks in urban, regional and international contexts.
- **Political and social networks:** ruling elites, structures of government, networking in minority and majority contexts, diaspora communities and **social movements**.
- Migration networks: migrants' routes, communications and integration.
- Cultural networks: connections within art, architecture, literature, film and music.
- Linguistics and etymological connections and language development.
- Virtual networks: social media, gaming and global communications networks.
- Networks within religion: religious communities (ancient and modern), interfaith connections, religious authority and evolving theological interpretations.
- Networks in radicalisation and counter-radicalisation.

Proposals for complete panel sessions are particularly welcome.

Paper and panel proposal forms are downloadable below. Please [email](#) the completed forms before **5pm on 19 February 2016**.

More information [here](#)

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Workshop: Pahlavi Iran, 1941-1979: A Global History Workshop

Deadline: 1 February 2016

19 May 2016

London School of Economics and Political Science

We seek applications from advanced graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and non-tenured faculty working on all aspects of Iran's global history in the Pahlavi era from 1941 to 1979. Papers could examine Iran's place and impact in the world, or the impact of global forces within Iran itself. We welcome submissions on a variety of topics spanning the cultural, diplomatic, intellectual, political, and social history of late Pahlavi Iran, with a common focus on global issues, forces and questions that transcended Iran's borders. We particularly welcome submissions in three broad areas:

- the international and transnational relations of Pahlavi Iran;
- oil, development, and modernisation in Pahlavi Iran;
- **ideas, culture, and dissent** in Pahlavi Iran.

Workshop participants will receive feedback at the closed-door workshop from three commentators: Roham Alvandi, Associate Professor of International History at the LSE; Houchang Chehabi, Professor of International Relations and History at Boston University; and Cyrus Schayegh, Associate Professor of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University.

Applicants should submit a 300-word abstract and CV by email to the workshop convenor, Dr Roham Alvandi (r.alvandi@lse.ac.uk) by 1 February 2016. Abstracts should indicate what sources your paper will draw on, as well as the global dimensions of your research. We anticipate selecting nine workshop participants, each of whom will receive funding for return economy air or train travel to London, and one night's hotel accommodation. Participants will be asked to submit an 8,000-word working paper ahead of the workshop in London. Following the workshop, having received feedback on their work, participants will be invited to revise and resubmit their papers for publication as an edited collection.

More information [here](#)

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TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

Book talk: Popular Protest in Palestine: The Uncertain Future of Unarmed Resistance

Date: 26 January, 5:45 PM

Location: Khalili Lecture Theatre SOAS Campus, Russel Square, London

Speaker: Marwan Darweish (Coventry university) and Andrew Rigby (Coventry university)

More information TBA

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Popular Protest in Palestine: The Uncertain Future of Unarmed Resistance

Marwan Darweish and Andrew Rigby

2015 – Pluto Press

Popular Protest in Palestine provides an overview and analysis of the role and significance of unarmed civil (popular) resistance in the Palestinian national movement. The main focus is on the contemporary popular resistance movement in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), but it is prefaced by a historical review of the thread of unarmed civil resistance that has run throughout the history of the Palestinian liberation struggle. It informs a contemporary readership about this under-emphasised dimension of the Palestinian struggle, arguing that at the present juncture the popular resistance movement, especially in the West Bank, is the most significant form of struggle against the ongoing occupation. Popular Protest in Palestine also addresses the international dimensions of the Palestinian struggle, focusing in particular on the BDS campaign, the role of international solidarity activists in the OPT and beyond, and the changing forms of engagement developed by international agencies seeking to work on the roots of the conflict whilst fulfilling their humanitarian aid mandates.

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Bread from the Lion's Mouth: Artisans Struggling for a Livelihood in Ottoman Cities

Edited by Suraiya Faroqhi

2016 – Berghahn

The newly awakened interest in the lives of craftspeople in Turkey is highlighted in this collection, which uses archival documents to follow Ottoman artisans from the late 15th century to the beginning of the 20th. The authors examine historical changes in the lives of artisans, focusing on the craft organizations (or guilds) that underwent substantial changes over the centuries. The guilds transformed and eventually dissolved as they were increasingly co-opted by modernization and state-building projects, and by the movement of manufacturing to the countryside. In consequence by the 20th century, many artisans had to confront the forces of capitalism and world trade without significant protection, just as the Ottoman Empire was itself in the process of dissolution.

PART I: ARTISANS OVER THE COURSE OF TIME

Chapter 1. Tracing Esnāf in Late Fifteenth-Century Bursa Court Records

İklil Erefe Selçuk

Chapter 2. The Art of the Potter in Ottoman Hungary

Geza David and Ibolya Gerelyes

Chapter 3. Damascene Artisans around 1700

Colette Establet

Chapter 4. Mapping Istanbul's Hammams of 1752 and their Employees

Nina Ergin

Chapter 5. Surviving in Difficult Times: The Cotton and Silk Trades in Bursa around 1800

Suraiya Faroqhi

Chapter 6. The Shoe Guilds of Istanbul in the Early Nineteenth Century: A Case Study

Nalan Turna

PART II: INTRA-GUILD PROBLEMS

Chapter 7. Blurred Boundaries between Soldiers and Civilians: Artisan Janissaries in Seventeenth-century Istanbul

Gülay Yılmaz

Chapter 8. Rich Artisans and Poor Merchants? A Critical Look at the Supposed Egalitarianism in Ottoman Guilds

Eunjeong Yi

Chapter 9. Gedik: What's in a Name?

Onur Yıldırım – Seven Ağır

Chapter 10. Punishment, Repression and Violence in the Marketplace: Istanbul, 1730-1840

Engin Deniz Akarlı

PART III: ARTISANS CONFRONTING THE MODERNIZING STATE

Chapter 11. Some observations on Istanbul's artisans during the reign of Selim III (1789-1808)

Betül Başaran and Cengiz Kırılı

Chapter 12. Out of the Frying Pan, Into the Fire: Protest, the State, and the End of the Guilds in Egypt

John Chalcraft

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Social Movement Studies in Europe: The State of the Art

Edited by Olivier Fillieule and Guya Accornero

2016 – Berghahn

Bringing together over forty established and emerging scholars, this landmark volume is the first to comprehensively examine the evolution and current practice of social movement studies in a specifically European context. While its first half offers comparative approaches to an array of significant issues and movements, its second half assembles focused national studies that include most major European states. Throughout, these contributions are guided by a shared set of historical and social-scientific questions with a particular emphasis on political sociology, thus offering a bold and uncommonly unified survey that will be essential for scholars and students of European social movements.

Foreword - *James Jasper*

Introduction: “So many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable”: *European Social Movement Research in Perspective*

Olivier Fillieule and Guya Accornero

PART I: EUROPEAN SOCIAL MOVEMENT IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Chapter 1. The European movements of '68: Ambivalent theories, ideologically-built memory, exciting puzzles...

Erik Neveu

Chapter 2. Mobilizing for democracy: The 1989 protests in Central Eastern Europe

Donatella della Porta

Chapter 3. A long awaited homecoming: The labour movement in social movement studies

Karel Yon

Chapter 4. Beyond party politics: the search for a unified approach. Research on radical right-wing movements in Europe

Manuela Caiani and Rossella Borri

Chapter 5. Fields of Contentious Politics: Migration and Ethnic Relations

Manlio Cinalli

Chapter 6. Quiescent or Invisible?: Precarious and Unemployed Movements in Europe

Marco Giugni and Jasmine Lorenzini

Chapter 7. From antiglobalisation to Global Justice Movement: The Waterloo's European battle

Isabelle Sommier

Chapter 8. From Political Process to Collective Identity Construction: Theoretical and Comparative Perspectives on the European Environmental Movement

Maria Kousis

Chapter 9. From Grassroots to Institutions: Women's movements studies in Europe

Laure Bereni and Anne Revillard

Chapter 10. A profusion of uneven researches: Indignados and Occupiers in Europe

Héloïse Nez

PART II: NATIONAL CASES

Chapter 11. 'No Longer The Poor Relation?': Social Movements Studies in Britain

Brian Doherty, Graeme Hayes and Christopher Rootes

Chapter 12. Precarious Research in a Movement Society: Social Movement Studies in Germany

Sebastian Haunss

Chapter 13. Politics and People: Understanding Dutch Research on Social Movements

Jan Willem Duyvendak, Conny Roggeband and Jacqueliën van Stekelenburg

Chapter 14. From Splendid Isolation To Joining the Concert of Nations: Social Movement Studies in France

Olivier Fillieule

Chapter 15. Internationalization with limited domestic recognition: Research on social movements in Italy

Lorenzo Bosi and Lorenzo Mosca

Chapter 16. The land of opportunities?: Social movement studies in Switzerland

Philip Balsiger

Chapter 17. Studying movements in a movement-become-state: Research and practice in postcolonial Ireland

Laurence Cox

Chapter 18. Successful Social Movement Outcomes without Social Movements?: Research on Swedish Social Movements and Swedish Social Movement Research

Abby Peterson

Chapter 19. Is Spain still different?: Social Movements research in a belated western European Democracy

Eduardo Romanos and Susana Aguilar

Chapter 20. Revolutionary or mild-mannered?: Social movements and social movements studies in Portugal

Guya Accornero

Chapter 21. From the Centre to the Periphery and back to the Centre: Social movements affecting social movement theory in the case of Greece

Kostis Kornetis and Hara Kouki

Chapter 22. A militant rather than scientific research object: Social Movements Studies in Turkey

Ayşen Uysal

Chapter 23. From democratization to internationalization: Studying social movements in Hungary

Aron Buzogany

Chapter 24. From was there or wasn't there to is there or isn't there: Social movements in pre- and post-December 1989 in Romania

Laura Nistor

Chapter 25. Social Mobilization and the Strong State from the Soviets to Putin: Social Movements in the Soviet Union and Russia

Alfred Evans and Laura Henry

Conclusions: Social Movement Studies in Europe: Achievements, Gaps, and Challenges

Dieter Rucht

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Made In Egypt: Gendered Identity and Aspiration on the Globalised Shop Floor

Leila Zaki Chakravarti

2016 – Berghahn

This ground-breaking ethnography of an export-orientated garment assembly factory in Egypt examines the dynamic relationships between its managers – emergent *Mubarak-bizniz* (business) elites who are caught in an intensely competitive globalised supply chain – and the local daily-life realities of their young, educated, and mixed-gender labour force. Constructions of power and resistance, as well as individual aspirations and identities, are explored through articulations of class, gender and religion in both management discourses and shop floor practices. Leila Chakravarti's compelling study also moves beyond the confines of the factory, examining the interplay with the wider world around it.

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OTHER PUBLICATIONS

New Paradigms of Popular Sovereignty in the Wake of the Arab Uprisings

Special Section Arab Studies Journal, VOL. XXIII, NO. 1, *Edited by Paul Amar*

New Paradigms of Popular Sovereignty in the Wake of the Arab Uprisings
Special Section Editor Paul Amar

State, Sovereignty, and Labor Movements in Algeria: Autonomous Unions Take Action
Hocine Zobiri

Making Spaces for Communal Sovereignty: The Story of Beirut's Dalieh
Abir Saksouk-Sasso

Evicting Sovereignty: Lebanon's Housing Tenants from Citizens to Obstacles
Nadine Bekdache

The Gendering of Spaces and Institutions of Islamic Sovereignty in Contemporary Sudan
Akram Abdel Gayoum Abbas

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Trade Unions and Dictatorship in Egypt

Jadaliyya, Aug 31 2015

Brecht De Smet and Seppe Malfait

In November 2012 Morsi issued a constitutional declaration, which put his decisions above the law and shielded the Islamist dominated Constituent Assembly from dissolution by the courts. A wave of demonstrations by supporters and opponents followed the audacious move, and did not end until Morsi's downfall. Opposition groups ranging from liberals and leftists to *fuloul* (remnants of the Hosni Mubarak regime) joined forces against what they saw as an emergent Muslim Brotherhood dictator(ship). In April 2013, *Tamarod*, a self-proclaimed grassroots movement, reported that it succeeded in gathering millions of signatures on a petition demanding Morsi's resignation and early presidential elections. As Morsi defiantly clung to power, millions took to the streets on 30 June 2013. The generals proclaiming themselves as the protectors of that movement, ousted Morsi, and deflected popular mobilization by instituting a top-down transitional framework that gave them the upper hand. That development was consistent with previous political patterns since the ouster of Mubarak. The divisive question of transition has been used to contain politics within a state-led process to the marginalization of bottom-up street and workplace politics. How have these developments impacted on the labor struggle and the independent trade unionism that blossomed after the 2011 uprising? *Continue reading [here](#)*

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The Rise and Fall of Uncivil Society? Salafism in Tunisia After the Fall of Ben Ali

Middle East Institute, Oct 06, 2015

Francesco Cavatorta

Salafism became a prominent framework of social and political mobilization because its discourses led many young people to believe that democratic transition was not inclusive of Islam in its vision of a future Tunisia. A democratic, liberal and secular Tunisia was not the revolutionary end product that Salafists had envisaged. Such a Tunisia, to which even the Islamist party al-Nahda had committed, would simply replicate the social and economic divisions created under Ben Ali, which was unacceptable. In addition, and probably more significantly, the new system would also permit a far greater degree of pluralism in terms of freedom of expression, opening the way to the questioning of religion and its precepts. Finally, the new democratic Tunisia would adopt political rules that would, in theory, allow for the passing of legislation that might counter Shariah law, and this was strongly objectionable. In short, Salafism became the ideological framework through which many disenfranchised young people could challenge the new post-revolutionary institutional order, defy generational hierarchies, acquire social status in their communities and, also, 'be cool'. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Syrian activists are repairing the fabric of civil society, even as it comes undone

Opendemocracy, 13 November 2015

Hania Mourtada

Syria has seen the emergence of a powerful culture of resistance, from subversive graffiti to makeshift hospitals, which continues to operate despite the violent and politically fractured terrain. With the advent of the Syrian uprising in 2011, the monopoly over political truth-telling shifted away from the established dissident man of letters, whose voice remained largely silent in the context of the revolution. Instead, it fell to the average Syrian, who has no impressive credentials to speak of, but is in possession of a laptop and a strong desire to transgress the arbitrary red lines drawn by the Syrian authoritarian regime. When Bashar al-Assad took over the reins, the proliferation of cultural spaces operated as a safety valve that served to contain dissidence rather than to encourage it. An evident complaisance settled in; the emergence in the public sphere of poetry clubs functioned as an outlet for dissidence. For example, Bayt al-Qasid—the House of Poetry—a platform for young poets, used to host weekly readings before the uprising, but it was constantly under the surveillance of the "mukhabarat" (the security services). *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Social resistance to IS in Syria: the case of Daraa

Opendemocracy, 19 November 2015

Rim Turkmani

The conflict in Syria has left society deeply divided. The political fault-line is not the sole issue that has polarised society: the crisis has also awakened old dormant disputes, such as the Kurdish/Arabic sectarian tensions and other inter-tribal disputes. Many of these disputes are identity-related, which is a typical characteristic of such wars where identity becomes a means for social mobilisation... The "new war" situation has also weakened social cohesion. Areas that maintained a strong sense of social cohesion, such as in Daraa, are far more resistant to the infiltration of both JAN and ISIL.

Continue reading [here](#)

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Police arrest unemployed postgraduates protesting near Tahrir Square

Mada Masr, November 30, 2015

Editors

Police forcefully dispersed a protest by hundreds of unemployed postgraduates on Sunday afternoon as they approached Tahrir Square in downtown Cairo, making several arrests. For several months, unemployed Masters and PhD holders have been demanding jobs in the public sector, holding occasional protests outside the Cabinet building and meeting with government officials to present their demands. Lawyers from the Association of Freedom of Thought and Expression (AFTE) reported that as many as 30, possibly more, were arrested shortly after the protest was disbursed. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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“There is Hope”: Lebanon’s Protests and the Future of the Anti-Corruption Movement

Foreign Policy Journal, November 23, 2015

Oliver Berthoud

For now the demonstrations are continuing and there is still limited optimism that their demands will be addressed. As Lebanon’s youth continue to demonstrate, there has been limited support from the general population. Do ordinary Lebanese really want to change the political status-quo? “There is hope.” The words were written on the placards and shouted in the crowd. These were Lebanon’s demonstrators, the same ones who months before had been chocking on tear gas shot at them for expressing their opinion. In the evening of October 29, however, the mood was different, the police lining the road were few and the protesters jubilant. The 3,000 strong crowd called out to residents waving from their houses: “come down from the balcony, your people are here!” *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Who Stinks? Social Protests and Political Change in Lebanon

Carnegie Middle Center in Beirut, November 10, 2015 (Video)

Round Table: *Samer Annous, Samer Frangie, Ghida Frangieh, Hussam Itani, Diana Moukalled*

This summer’s ‘You Stink’ demonstrations in Lebanon began as a response to the garbage crisis that was overwhelming the country. The movement attracted Lebanese people from different regions, economic backgrounds, and sects to the common cause. For many, ‘You Stink’ presented an

opportunity to revive a civic movement against rampant corruption in the country. Yet in the past few weeks, the movement seems to have lost its momentum. The Carnegie Middle East Center brought together a panel of civil society, legal, and media experts to analyze the larger context of this movement and explore its potential for realizing political and social change. *Watch [here](#)*

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Alternative Strategies for Realizing Justice in Palestine

Jadaliyya, Dec 01 2015

George Bisharat

We now have more than two decades of empirical evidence that the peace process, as practiced so far, is not a viable path to justice for the Palestinian people. We also have sufficient evidence that the current Palestinian leadership has little incentive to change its course, least of all by adopting strategies that empower its constituent base. It is therefore contingent upon those concerned with Palestinian rights, and with justice more generally in Israel/Palestine, to formulate alternative strategies for achieving liberation and establishing a just society for all people entitled to live in the country, including Palestinian refugees. In recent years, Palestinians have developed two alternative approaches that have proven more promising than U.S.-brokered negotiations and have gained considerable global support. One is the civil society-driven BDS movement. The other is a multilateral approach to diplomacy based on moves through the UN General Assembly and other international bodies that are relatively less hostage to U.S./Western dominance. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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New Wars and Autonomous Self-Defense

Jadaliyya, Nov 18 2015

Nazan Üstündağ

[First,] I will address th[e] concept of new wars. I will explain how both a biopolitical and a necropolitical logic underline these wars. Different from territorial wars between states that Clausewitz characterized as politics with violent means, the biopolitical and necropolitical logics of war transform war into a permanent state of affairs whereby politics become an extension of war, rather than vice versa. Second, I will discuss how Turkey is increasingly becoming a playground for these new wars, and how Kurds and women in particular are being targeted by both the Turkish state and the Islamic State, transforming Kurds' public and private lives into spaces of death and violence. Finally, I will talk about the concept of autonomous self-defense as developed by the Kurdish Liberation Movement to counter such attacks. Autonomous self-government and self-defense are hotly debated issues among oppositional circles in Turkey, especially in the aftermath of the Gezi events and the Rojava experience in Syria. Many cities in the southeast of Turkey—that is, northern

Kurdistan—have declared autonomous governments and created self-defense structures in the last couple of months, and have in turn come under state attack, as a result of which more than one hundred civilians were killed. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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Lebanese Independence Day: Protests instead of parades

Albawaba news, November 22nd, 2015

Y.R.

Demos organized by syndical, political and civil society groups replaced Sunday the traditional Independence Day military march, which was not held for the second consecutive year due to the continued presidential void. Kataeb Party's student department staged a march from the party's headquarters in Saifi to Beirut's Martyrs Square, where Kataeb's protesters passed by the rallies organized by the We Want Accountability and You Stink civil society campaigns. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Summer Academy: Reconfiguring the (Non-)Political. Performing and Narrating Change and Continuity

28 August to 04 September 2016 in Tunis

Deadline for applications: 29 February 2016

Chaired by: Michael Allan (University of Oregon), Laura Ruiz de Elvira (ERC WAWAW/IREMAM), Andrea Fischer-Tahir, Malte Hagener, Felix Lang, Rachid Ouaisa, Friederike Pannewick, Achim Rohde, Christoph Schwarz, Steffen Wippel (all from Philipps-Universität Marburg), Karima Darèche, Imed Melitti (IRMC, Tunis), Habib Kazdaghli, Mouna Tekaya (UMA, Tunis), and Georges Khalil (Forum Transregionale Studien / EUME, Berlin)

24 doctoral and postdoctoral scholars from different countries and academic backgrounds will be given the opportunity to present and discuss their current research in an international and multi-disciplinary context. The Summer Academy is designed to support scholarly networks and contribute to closer ties between research activities in and outside Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. In order to promote intensive debate and encourage new perspectives, the Summer Academy is structured around four main elements: presentations of individual research projects in small groups,

working group sessions for the participants, general lectures, and panel discussions open to a wider public.

The Summer Academy focuses on changing notions of 'the political' (in the broad sense of the French term 'le politique'), seeing it as part of transformative processes and power struggles in the MENA region in recent years. Political and social struggles involving various players defined through their ideological, regional, generational, ethnic and/or confessional background do not necessarily lead to comprehensive transformations of the political system or state institutions. However, such processes may even descend into civil war, as we are witnessing in an increasing number of MENA countries since 2011. Just the same, it is important to note that previously excluded political actors are now entering the stage, coming up with and practicing new forms of activism, developing new forms of agency, proposing alternative political projects, finding new ways of narrating experience, and envisioning different prospects for their lives.

The Summer Academy addresses doctoral and postdoctoral researchers from the social sciences and the humanities, who wish to present their ongoing projects in a comparative perspective in relation to the questions raised above. **Participants receive a stipend covering travel and accommodation.** Favoring a strong focus on agency, close reading of texts, and empirical research, the Summer Academy aims at a fruitful theoretical reflection on notions of 'the political'/'the non-political'. The program pursues an interdisciplinary approach that includes perspectives informed by sociology, human geography, history, cultural studies, literature, media and art, social anthropology, economics, political science, and educational studies. The researchers' work should be clearly relevant to the themes of the Summer Academy. While it will focus on the MENA region, transregional comparative approaches are especially encouraged. The working language is English; selected panels may be conducted in French and Arabic.

Applications should be submitted in English and consist of

- a curriculum vitae
- a three- to five-page outline of the project the applicant is currently working on, with a brief summary thereof,
- the names of two university faculty members who can serve as referees (no letters of recommendation required).

Send by email as ONE PDF file or in ONE WORD document. The application should be received by 29 February 2016, addressed to: reconfig@staff.uni-marburg.de

More information [here](#)

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Queens University Belfast: Funded Postgraduate Research Studentships Commencing September 2016

Deadline for these applications is 29th January, 2016.

For students wishing to apply for School-based funding for postgraduate research degrees beginning in September 2016, the School is pleased to announce a number of funding opportunities for PhD students beginning September 2016. We welcome student proposals in a wide range of scholarly areas, with particular emphasis on the following:

Security, Borders and Migration

Terrorism & Conflict

EU Governance

Comparative Politics / Political Behaviour and Parties

Middle Eastern Politics & Islam

Ethics & Public Policy

Political Economy of Risk

Contemporary Irish History and Politics

The Faculty Of Arts, Humanities & Social Science invites applications for PhD Studentship Awards, funded by Northern Ireland's Department of Employment and Learning (DEL), available for full-time PhD research commencing in autumn 2016. A total of 36 PhD studentships are available and they will be awarded on a competitive basis to outstanding applicants who have: an excellent undergraduate degree; a Master's degree in a relevant subject completed, or are due to complete by September 2016; an original and exciting research proposal that will contribute to the further enhancement of areas of research strength in the Faculty. The studentships are available to UK and other EU and EEA nationals, however specific eligibility criteria apply. For example, for UK Based students, each award will cover approved tuition fees and maintenance payments for three years, whereas EU and EEA students are eligible for fees only.

More information [here](#)

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LSE Middle East Centre Emirates Master's Scholarship 2016/17

Deadline for applications is 29th April 2016

The LSE Middle East Centre Emirates Scholarship offers financial support **for students from Arab states** studying for a Master's degree at LSE and who intend to focus their studies on the Middle East. The programme is funded by the Emirates Foundation. The scholarship has a **value of £30,000** which will cover full tuition fees with the remainder available to support living expenses in London.

Three scholarships will be offered each year. The scholars will also be affiliated to the Middle East Centre for the duration of their degree and will be encouraged to participate in the Centre's research activities. The scholarship will cover the tuition fees for any one year full-time Master's programme at LSE (taught or research).

Applicants must be from the following countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine (West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen. Students who pursued

their undergraduate studies in the countries listed above (not necessarily their own) will be given priority.

Applicants must intend to focus their studies on the Middle East (defined here as the countries listed above plus Turkey, Iran and Israel). Students will be asked to show that they will focus their studies on the Middle East through the modules they choose to enrol in or through their dissertation topic. Examples of relevant modules include the following (this list may not be exhaustive):

- IR419 International Relations of the Middle East
- **GV4F2 Popular Politics in the Middle East**
- GV4G5 The History and Politics of the Modern Middle East
- IR481 Europe, the US and Arab-Israeli Relations
- EU461 Economic History of Southeastern Europe and the Middle East, 1820-1970
- EU438 Turkey: Political Economy and European Integration
- HY435 Political Islam: From Ibn Taymiyya to Osama bin Laden
- HY440 The Emergence of Modern Iran: State, Society and Diplomacy
- IR461 Islam in International Relations: From Al-Andalus to Afghanistan

The selection of successful candidates will be made based on: 1. Merit, 2. Need, 3. Career Plans. All three criteria will be given equal importance. A selection committee of 5 LSE Academics (from 4 different departments) will select the successful candidates based on the 3 criteria. Selection for this scholarship will take place between May and July and we will notify the successful recipient(s) by the end of July. If you have not heard from the Financial Support Office by the end of July, you must assume your application has been unsuccessful. We will notify successful applicants only. More information [here](#)

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