



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

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

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# CONTENT

<b>Call for Papers &amp; Conferences</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Special issue of Mobilization: Memories and Movements .....	4
London School of Economics and Political Science Contentious Politics Workshop .....	5
Political Change and Territorial Conflicts in North Africa and Middle East .....	6
<b>Recent &amp; Forthcoming Books</b> .....	<b>7</b>
The Shah, the Islamic Revolution and the United States .....	7
Islamists and the Politics of the Arab Uprisings - Governance, Pluralisation and Contention.....	8
Jordan and the Arab Uprisings - Regime Survival and Politics Beyond the State .....	9
The Movements of Movements: Part 1: What Makes Us Move? .....	9
The Movements of Movements: Part 2: Rethinking Our Dance .....	10
Social Movements and Civil War: When protests for democratization fail .....	10
Where did the revolution go?: contentious politics and the quality of democracy .....	11
<b>Journal Articles &amp; other Academic Publications</b> .....	<b>11</b>
“This is our homeland”: Yemen’s marginalized and the quest for rights and recognition .....	11
Radicalization: A Relational Perspective .....	12
<b>News Pieces &amp; Commentary</b> .....	<b>12</b>
Iraq: Security Forces Fire on Protesters .....	12
After over 100 days of mass demonstrations, what's next for Gaza?.....	13
Why are Iraqis protesting? .....	13
Birzeit University condemns breach of academic freedom after academics forced to leave Palestine	14
'Resistance is female': Gaza women protest for their right of return.....	14
“A Watershed Moment in Palestinian History”: Interview with Jamal Juma’ .....	15
Morocco: public outrage over heavy prison terms for leaders of 'hirak' protest movement .....	15
'Kafala is slavery': Protesters march for domestic workers' rights in Lebanon.....	16
Gaza women fight for fairer, faster divorces.....	16
Unhappiness and Mohamed Salah’s Egypt .....	17
<b>Positions and Opportunities</b> .....	<b>17</b>
Teaching Fellow in Middle Eastern History, University of Sussex .....	17
Assistant Professor in Modern Middle East History, Smith College, MA .....	18
History Open Rank Professor, Middle Eastern History, Furman University .....	20
Assistant Professor of Sociology (five-year appointment), AUC .....	20
Professor (W 3) of Islamic History and Culture, Tübingen University .....	21
Journal of Global History, Call for Editors .....	22

# CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

## Special issue of Mobilization: Memories and Movements

Deadline: 1 January 2019

(Guest editors: Priska Daphi and Lorenzo Zamponi)

In recent years, movement scholars have become increasingly interested in the nexus between movements and memories. At the same time, memory studies are paying growing attention to agency, resilience and resistance lately. The 50th anniversary of 1968 movements around the world provides a good opportunity to bring the different strands of research on movements and memory together. Deepening our understanding of movements' legacies and relationships with the past is also gaining importance in the context of calls for widening the temporal lens in analyzing social movements and paying more attention to the historical embeddedness of protests. The journal Mobilization seeks contributions for a special issue on memories and movements, guest edited by Priska Daphi (Goethe University Frankfurt) and Lorenzo Zamponi (Scuola Normale Superiore). Mobilization will publish the special issue in December 2019.

For the special issue, we seek high-quality, original research articles from all disciplines that explore different dimensions of the interaction between memory and social movements. We welcome theoretical and empirical articles that address memories as outcomes of mobilization and/or as significant factors in shaping further mobilization. Central questions include, but are not limited to:

- How do social movements participate or intervene in public memories about past contentions and other historical events?
- How do social movements remember themselves or previous movements?
- How does the past and its public remembrance influence mobilization?

Manuscripts should be submitted through the Mobilization editorial web site. Please review our guidelines prior to submission. Please note in your cover letter that this manuscript is for our special issue on Memories and Movements.

Submissions are due January 1 2019 and potential authors must agree to submit any potential revisions within six weeks. Potential authors are encouraged to contact the special issue editors, [daphi@soz.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:daphi@soz.uni-frankfurt.de) & [lorenzo.zamponi@sns.it](mailto:lorenzo.zamponi@sns.it), with any questions in advance of submission.

Mobilization is the leading journal of research on social and political movements and other forms of contentious politics. Our goal is to advance the systematic, scholarly, and scientific study of these phenomena, and to provide a forum for the discussion of methodologies, theories, and conceptual approaches across the disciplines of sociology, political science, social psychology, communications, and anthropology.

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

## **London School of Economics and Political Science Contentious Politics Workshop**

Deadline: rolling

The LSE Contentious Politics Workshop invites researchers to present their ongoing work during the 2018-2019 academic year.

The workshop functions as a reading group for research students and faculty to discuss a relevant, pre-agreed text, as well as providing a seminar space to present ongoing research. We meet every Thursday from 1:00 to 2:00 pm during LSE term times over sandwich lunch provided courtesy of the Department of Government (please check our website for updates or join our mailing list to find out about the location of the meetings in a given term). The brevity of the sessions is chosen on purpose to enable more people to join over their lunch break. However, we tend to carry our discussions forward in an informal setting after the officially allotted time.

While two of us act as coordinators, there is no hierarchy in the workshop and our first session in every term is used to jointly decide what texts we want to read and discuss. This is not meant to be another “ready-for-consumption” format but a forum that reflects the interests of those who get involved and that develops together with them. So please always feel free make suggestions for readings or guest speakers!

### About the Workshop

The Contentious Politics Workshop is a forum for dialogue between research students and faculty, currently from anthropology, history, politics, and sociology with a shared interest in phenomena of political mobilisation outside and against the corridors of power. In our conceptualisation, contentious politics is a broad field ranging from traditional forms of collective action and labour mobilisation to popular resistance, armed struggle, social movements, uprisings and revolutions. We believe that this necessitates a mode of enquiry that is interdisciplinary, historicising, and spatially encompassing.

The workshop especially seeks to enable a discussion of contentious politics beyond the focus of classical "Social Movement Theory" research on well organised forms of mobilisation that “rationally” navigate a political field that is understood as liberal and democratic. We believe that, by broadening our purview theoretically as well as through empirical foci outside of Europe and North America, the field can move towards greater attention to issues that have thus far received less systematic treatment. These include, but are not limited to, (global) subaltern social groups, power in its hegemonic and discursive articulations, the role of intellectual labour, normative commitments and ideology, the formation and coherence of autonomous spaces, both materially and ideationally,

as well as of the actors that populate them, and questions of creative agency. Additional information including a description of last year's programme can be found on the workshop's website.

Members of all social science disciplines and constituent colleges of the University of London and further afield are welcome to join the workshop. We are an open forum and keen for you to get in touch with us if you are interested in attending or in presenting your work. Of course, you can also simply drop by and join one of our sessions to have a look. To be put on the mailing list and receive information about events and readings, please email Birgân Gokmenoglu (B.Gokmenoglu@lse.ac.uk) or Jann Boeddeling (j.boeddeling@lse.ac.uk).

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

## **Political Change and Territorial Conflicts in North Africa and Middle East**

University of Granada, 22-23 November 2018

Deadline: 5 September 2018

Causes and consequences of mutation, progression or stagnation in processes of political change and territorial conflicts are main research objects for studies on comparative politics. These questions also constitute principal theoretical and analytical challenges for area studies focused in MENA countries.

These topics are currently addressed by two research projects: "Persistence of authoritarianism and political change processes in MENA countries: consequences on political regimes and the international scene" – funded by Junta de Andalucía and coordinated by prof. Inmaculada Szmolka– and "Analysis of natural resources management and exploitation in conflictive scenarios: the case study of Western Sahara", funded by Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad and coordinated by prof. Raquel Ojeda. These projects prolong the academic trajectory initiated several decades ago by the Group for Research on Mediterranean Studies (GEIM) at the Universidad de Granada.

The II International Conference Political Change and Territorial Conflicts in North Africa and Middle East (CAPOLCOT II) results from a collaborative initiative of both research projects. It aims at approaching, exchanging and debating theoretical foundations, analytical resources and research results of studies on political change processes and territorial conflicts in MENA countries.

CAPOLCOT welcomes paper proposals focused on theoretical, methodological or empirical aspects of the following issues related to both political change and territorial conflicts.

- Civil society
- Elections
- Elites
- Ethnicity
- Foreign policy
- Gender
- Governance

- Institutions
- International relations
- Legislation and constitutions
- Political Change
- Political parties
- Political culture
- Political Regimes
- Religion
- Security
- Social movements
- Territorial Conflicts

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

## RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

### **The Shah, the Islamic Revolution and the United States**

Darioush Bayandor  
Palgrave, 2019

The Islamic Revolution in 1979 transformed Iranian society and reshaped the political landscape of the Middle East. Four decades later, Darioush Bayandor draws upon heretofore untapped archival evidence to reexamine the complex domestic and international dynamics that led to the Revolution. Beginning with the socioeconomic transformation of the 1960s, this book follows the Shah's rule through the 1970s, tracing the emergence of opposition movements, the Shah's blunders and miscalculations, the influence of the post-Vietnam zeitgeist and the role of the Carter administration. *The Shah, the Islamic Revolution and the United States* offers new revelations about how Iran was thrown into chaos and an ailing ruler lost control, with consequences that still reverberate today.

[Back to top](#)

# **Islamists and the Politics of the Arab Uprisings - Governance, Pluralisation and Contention**

Paola Rivetti and Hendrik Kraetzschmar (Eds)

Oxford University Press, 2018

What role does political Islam play in the genealogy of protests as an instrument to resist neo-liberalism and authoritarian rule? How can we account for the internal conflicts among Islamist players after the 2011/2012 Arab uprisings? How can we assess the performance of Islamist parties in power? What geopolitical reconfigurations have the uprisings created, and what opportunities have arisen for Islamists to claim a stronger political role in domestic and regional politics? These questions are addressed in this book, which looks at the dynamics in place during the aftermath of the Arab uprisings in a wide range of countries across the Middle East and North Africa.

1. Political Islam and the Arab Uprisings - Paola Rivetti and Hendrik Kraetzschmar
2. Participation not Domination: Morsi on an Impossible Mission? - Mariz Tadros
3. Governing after Protests. The Case for Political Participation in Post-2009 Iran - Paola Rivetti and Alam Saleh
4. The Group that wanted to be a State: The 'Rebel Governance' of the Islamic State - Truls H. Tønnessen
5. Islamic and Islamist Women Activists in Qatar Post-Arab uprisings: Implications for the Study of Refusal and Citizenship - Wanda Krause and Melissa Finn
6. Is Islamism Accommodating Neo-liberalism? The Case of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood - Angela Joya
7. A Critique from Within: The Islamic Left in Turkey and the AK Party's Neo-Liberal Economics - Nazli Çagin Bilgili and Hendrik Kraetzschmar
8. Rise and Endurance: Moderate Islamists and Electoral Politics in the Aftermath of the 'Moroccan Spring' - Mohammed Masbah
9. Does Participation Lead to Moderation? Understanding Changes in Egyptian Islamist Parties post-Arab Spring - Barbara Zollner
10. Islamist Political Societies in Bahrain: Collateral Victims of the 2011 Popular Uprising - Marc Valeri
11. Kuwait's Islamist Proto-parties and the Arab Uprisings: Between Opposition, Pragmatism and the Pursuit of Cross-Ideological Cooperation - Luciano Zaccara, Courtney Freer and Hendrik Kraetzschmar
12. Secular Forms of Politicised Islam in Tunisia: The Constitutional Democratic Rally and Nida' Tunis Anne Wolf
13. Political Parties and Secular-Islamist Polarisation in Post-Mubarak Egypt - Hendrik Kraetzschmar and Alam Saleh
14. The Complexity of Tunisian Islamism: Conflicts and Rivalries over the Role of Religion in Politics Francesco Cavatorta
15. The Reconfiguration of the Egyptian Islamist Social Movement Family after Two Political Transitions - Jérôme Drevon
16. Iraq's Shi'a Islamists after the Uprisings: The Impact of Intra-sectarian Tensions and Relations with Iran - Ibrahim al-Marashi
17. The Impact of Islamist Trajectories on the International Relations of the Post-2011 Middle East Katerina Dalacoura
18. Islamism in Yemen: From Ansar Allah to Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula - Vincent Durac
19. Sectarianism and Civil Conflict in Syria: Reconfigurations of a Reluctant Issue - Laura Ruiz de Elvira

Carrascal and Souhail Belhadj

20. Out of the Ashes: The Rise of an anti-Sectarian Discourse in post-2011 Iraq - Chérine Chams El-Dine

21. Conclusion: New Directions in the Study of Islamist Politics - Jillian Schwedler

[Back to top](#)

## **Jordan and the Arab Uprisings - Regime Survival and Politics Beyond the State**

Curtis R. Ryan

Columbia University Press, 2018

In 2011, as the Arab uprisings spread across the Middle East, Jordan remained more stable than any of its neighbors. Despite strife at its borders and an influx of refugees connected to the Syrian civil war and the rise of ISIS, as well as its own version of the Arab Spring with protests and popular mobilization demanding change, Jordan managed to avoid political upheaval. How did the regime survive in the face of the pressures unleashed by the Arab uprisings? What does its resilience tell us about the prospects for reform or revolutionary change? In *Jordan and the Arab Uprisings*, Curtis R. Ryan explains how Jordan weathered the turmoil of the Arab Spring. Crossing divides between state and society, government and opposition, Ryan analyzes key features of Jordanian politics, including Islamist and leftist opposition parties, youth movements, and other forms of activism, as well as struggles over elections, reform, and identity. He details regime survival strategies, laying out how the monarchy has held out the possibility of reform while also seeking to coopt and contain its opponents. Ryan demonstrates how domestic politics were affected by both regional unrest and international support for the regime, and how regime survival and security concerns trumped hopes for greater change. While the Arab Spring may be over, Ryan shows that political activism in Jordan is not, and that struggles for reform and change will continue. Drawing on extensive fieldwork and interviews with a vast range of people, from grassroots activists to King Abdullah II, *Jordan and the Arab Uprisings* is a definitive analysis of Jordanian politics before, during, and beyond the Arab uprisings.

[Back to top](#)

## **The Movements of Movements: Part 1: What Makes Us Move?**

Jai Sen (Ed)

PM Press, 2018

Our world today is not only a world in crisis but also a world in profound movement, with increasingly large numbers of people joining or forming movements: local, national, transnational, and global. The dazzling diversity of ideas and experiences recorded in this collection capture something of the fluidity within campaigns for a more equitable planet. This book, taking

internationalism seriously without tired dogmas, provides a bracing window into some of the central ideas to have emerged from within grassroots struggles from 2006 to 2010. The essays here cross borders to look at the politics of caste, class, gender, religion, and indigeneity, and move from the local to the global. Contributors include Taiaiake Alfred, Tariq Ali, Daniel Bensaïd, Hee-Yeon Cho, Ashok Choudhary, Lee Cormie, Jeff Corntassel, Laurence Cox, Guillermo Delgado-P, Andre Drainville, David Featherstone, Christopher Gunderson, Emilie Hayes, François Houtart, Fouad Kalouche, Alex Khasnabish, Xochitl Leyva Solano, Roma Malik, David McNally, Roel Meijer, Eric Mielants, Peter North, Shailja Patel, Emir Sader, Andrea Smith, Anand Teltumbde, James Toth, Virginia Vargas, and Peter Waterman.

[Back to top](#)

## **The Movements of Movements: Part 2: Rethinking Our Dance**

Jai Sen (Ed)

PM Press, August 2018

This collection provides a bracing window into some of the central ideas to have emerged from within grassroots struggles from 2006 to 2010. *Rethinking Our Dance*, the second of two volumes, offers a wide range of essays from frontline activists in Afghanistan, Argentina, Brazil, Niger, and Taiwan, as well as from Europe and North America that address the question, “What do we need to do in order to bring about justice and peace?” Contributors include Kolya Abramsky, Ezequiel Adamovsky, Oussenia Alidou, Samir Amin, Chris Carlsson, John Brown Childs, Lee Cormie, Anila Daulatzai, Massimo De Angelis, The Free Association, David Graeber, Josephine Ho, John Holloway, François Houtart, Jeffrey Juris, Michael Löwy, Tomás Mac Sheoin, Matt Meyer, Muto Ichiyo, Rodrigo Nunes, Michal Osterweil, Shailja Patel, Geoffrey Pleyers, Stephanie Ross, and Nicola Yeates.

[Back to top](#)

## **Social Movements and Civil War: When protests for democratization fail**

Della Porta, D.; Donker, T.H.; Hall, B.; Poljarevic, E.; Ritter, D.

Routledge, 2017

The main aim of this volume is to develop a theoretical explanation of the conditions under which and the mechanisms through which social movements’ struggles for democracy end up in civil war. While the empirical evidence suggests that this is not a rare phenomenon, the literatures on social movements, democratization and civil wars have grown apart from each other. At the theoretical level, *Social Movements and Civil War* bridges insights in the three fields, looking in particular at explanations of the radicalization of social movements, the failure of democratization processes and the onset of civil war. In doing this, it builds upon the relational approach developed in contentious politics with the aim of singling out robust causal mechanisms. At the empirical level, the research provides in-depth descriptions of four cases of trajectory from social movements for democratization

into civil wars: in Syria, Libya, Yemen and the former Yugoslavia. Conditions such as the double weakness of civil society and the state, the presence of entrepreneurs of violence as well as normative and material resources for violence, ethnic and tribal divisions, domestic and international military interventions are considered as influencing the chains of actors' choices rather than as structural determinants.

[Back to top](#)

## **Where did the revolution go?: contentious politics and the quality of democracy**

Donatella Della Porta

Cambridge University Press, 2016

Where Did the Revolution Go? considers the apparent disappearance of the large social movements that have contributed to democratization. Revived by recent events of the Arab Spring, this question is once again paramount. Is the disappearance real, given the focus of mass media and scholarship on electoral processes and 'normal politics'? Does it always happen, or only under certain circumstances? Are those who struggled for change destined to be disappointed by the slow pace of transformation? Which mechanisms are activated and deactivated during the rise and fall of democratization? This volume addresses these questions through empirical analysis based on quantitative and qualitative methods (including oral history) of cases in two waves of democratization: Central Eastern European cases in 1989 as well as cases in the Middle East and Mediterranean region in 2011.

[Back to top](#)

## **JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS**

### **“This is our homeland”: Yemen’s marginalized and the quest for rights and recognition**

Bogumila Hall

Arabian Humanities, 9/2017

Reflecting on the *muhammashīn's* distance towards the 2011 popular revolution, this article sets out to explore the complicated relationship between the Yemeni marginalized and the nation, and politics of the marginalized more broadly. I discuss how the rough boundaries of belonging and exclusion are drawn, and how they are negotiated in complex ways by the *muhammashīn*, who seek

better lives, rights and recognition as worthy human beings. Going beyond the dominant focus on subaltern oppositional subjectivities, this article points to the more nuanced acts of negotiations, whereby the dehumanized *muhammashīn* choose to declare themselves as loyal Yemenis and ideal citizens yearning to be incorporated into the body of the nation. Our reading of the revolutionary period from the perspective of its most vulnerable actors aims to contribute to the recent literature on the Arab uprisings, and to unearth the voices and meanings of the Yemeni marginalized, whose projects and aspirations remain largely invisible.

[Back to top](#)

## **Radicalization: A Relational Perspective**

Donatella della Porta

Annual Review of Political Science, Volume 21, pp. 461-474

Radicalization is a process of escalation from nonviolent to increasingly violent repertoires of action that develops through a complex set of interactions unfolding over time. Looking at radicalization mainly through the lenses of a relational approach, this article suggests that social movement studies allow us to bridge structural and agentic explanations in an analysis of the impact of political opportunities and organizational resources, as well as framing, in explaining forms of action and inaction. Available political opportunities influence the reactions of political actors in general to movement demands, thus affecting social movements' strategic choices. Moreover, the availability (or lack) of material and symbolic resources affects the choice of radical repertoire. Finally, organizational resources and contextual opportunities are framed differently by social movement actors, in some cases facilitating radicalization. At the individual level, different paths of radicalization are singled out.

[Back to top](#)

## **NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY**

### **Iraq: Security Forces Fire on Protesters**

Human Rights Watch, 24 July 2018

Iraq's security forces fired on and beat protesters in Basra governorate during a series of protests from July 8 to 17, 2018, Human Rights Watch said today. The largely Interior Ministry forces used apparent excessive and unnecessary lethal force against protests over water, jobs, and electrical power that at times turned violent. At least three demonstrators were killed and at least 47 wounded, including two children who were shot and one who was beaten with rifle butts. Human

Rights Watch investigated eight protests, in six of which security forces allegedly fired live ammunition, wounding at least seven protesters. They also threw rocks and beat at least 47 people, including 29 during or after arrest. Witnesses said that in five protests, demonstrators threw rocks, gasoline bombs, and burning tires at the security forces. Since July 14, authorities have severely limited internet access across much of central and southern Iraq. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## **After over 100 days of mass demonstrations, what's next for Gaza?**

Mersiha Gadzo & Anas Jnena  
Al-Jazeera, 20 July 2018

The Great March of Return movement has been the largest mass protest in the Gaza Strip in decades. Since March 30, demonstrators have gathered every week by the fence with Israel, calling for the right of return for Palestinian refugees to their lands, under UN Resolution 194, and demanding an end to the 12-year Israeli blockade. But peaceful protesting has come at a heavy cost. At least 140 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces since the Friday protests began. More than 16,000 others have been wounded. On May 14, Israeli snipers killed at least 60 Palestinians in a single day, and since then the demonstrations have dwindled, with some 5,000 protesters dispersed at several locations throughout the Strip. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## **Why are Iraqis protesting?**

Fanar Haddad  
Al-Jazeera, 19 July 2018

For the past two weeks, waves of mass protests have engulfed several of Iraq's southern governorates, spreading from Basra all the way to the capital, Baghdad. Summer protests are a fairly regular feature of the Iraqi political calendar, as the unbearable heat brings the public's long-simmering grievances to boiling point. However, this year's protests will likely cause Iraq's political classes more concern than usual. The root causes and triggers of the ongoing protests are not that different from previous years: lack of basic services (especially electricity shortages), corruption, and unemployment. In addition to the infernal heat, this summer has been marked by unprecedented water shortages. The ensuing public anger was exacerbated by 15 years of remarkable levels of waste and theft. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## **Birzeit University condemns breach of academic freedom after academics forced to leave Palestine**

Birzeit University, 12 July 2018

Since the beginning of the current academic year (2017-2018), scores of foreign passport holders, many of Palestinian origin but without residence documents, living and working in the occupied Palestinian territory have been denied entry in the country, or have had their visa renewal applications refused by the Israeli authorities. At Birzeit University alone, we have 15 foreign passport-holding faculty members whose requests for visa renewals have been refused or significantly delayed. These faculty members have full-time status, work in all the various faculties on our campus, and include senior faculty and department chairpersons. Our faculty who are currently under threat teach in the BA, MA, and Ph.D. programs at Birzeit University, are members of university committees, and serve the larger Palestinian community through public seminars and lectures. Already some professors have been forced to leave the country; including one from the Department of English and Literature, and a professor of European History at the Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute for International Studies who has devoted his entire academic career to Palestine and the university for the past four decades. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## **'Resistance is female': Gaza women protest for their right of return**

Maha Hussaini

Middle East Eye, 3 July 2018

Hundreds of Palestinian women and girls gathered on Tuesday near the eastern fence separating the coastal enclave from Israel, in what the organisers called the “Palestinian Women for the Return and Breaking the Siege” protest. In a press conference held in Gaza on Monday, the Higher National Commission of the Great March of Return and Breaking the Siege called on Palestinian women to “widely participate in the protest” and call for their right of return. “This event comes to support the Palestinian women who are still steadfast despite the siege. It holds a clear message: that no one can deny our rights, especially the right of return and our demands to lift the siege,” said Iktimal Hamad, the chairwoman of the commission's women's committee. Mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of those killed and injured during the Great March of Return protests, as well as female journalists and university students, held Palestinian flags and signs calling for the right of return and affirmed their willingness to keep the protests alive. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## **“A Watershed Moment in Palestinian History”: Interview with Jamal Juma’**

Ida Audeh

Mondoweiss, 29 June 2018

For weeks now, Palestinians everywhere have been galvanized by events taking place in the Gaza Strip, the site of weekly (since March 30) mass protests demanding the end of the siege and blockade of Gaza (in place now since 2007) and the right to return to the homes from which they or their elders had been kicked out. Dubbed the Great March of Return, Gazans have assembled as close as they can to the Israeli-designated buffer zone separating Gaza from Israel. Israeli soldiers at a distance, crouched behind earth barriers that they created in the days preceding the march, and at absolutely no danger of attack from the unarmed protestors, pick off demonstrators at their leisure. By June 14, at least 129 Palestinians had been killed and 13,000 injured; the dead included medics like the 21-year-old Razan al-Najjar and journalists including Yaser Murtaja—typically seen as off-limits in conflict zones but transformed by Israel into prime targets. On June 4, I spoke to Jamal Juma’, coordinator of the Palestinian Grassroots Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign, about the popular resistance in Gaza, the Trump administration’s policy toward the question of Palestine, and Palestinian options to chart a new course. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## **Morocco: public outrage over heavy prison terms for leaders of 'hirak' protest movement**

Africanews, 28 June 2018

Moroccans hit the streets of Casablanca on Wednesday to condemn heavy prison sentences handed down to leaders of a movement that agitated Morocco in 2016- 2017. The ‘hirak rif’ or the Rif movement is a popular protest movement that took place in the Berber-speaking Rif region in northern Morocco between October 2016 and June 2017, following the death of Mochine Fikri, a fishmonger who was crushed to death in a garbage truck after jumping the back. It follows confiscation of his allegedly illegal fish merchandise, which he was selling on the local market. At the end of a nine-month trial, leader of the movement Nasser Zefzafi and three of his compatriots were on Tuesday evening sentenced to 20 years in prison in Casablanca for “undermining state security.” *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## **'Kafala is slavery': Protesters march for domestic workers' rights in Lebanon**

Nicholas Frakes

The New Arab, 26 June 2018

Hundreds of people gathered in the streets of Beirut on Monday to march in support of domestic workers' rights in Lebanon. The demonstrators gathered at Dora Roundabout at 3pm to march to Sin el-Fil, a suburb east of Beirut, in protest of the supposed inaction by police and the Lebanese government in protecting the rights of domestic workers, who face increasing abuse by employers and recruitment agencies. This is the ninth year in a row that people of all ethnicities, majority of whom are Sri Lankan and Ethiopian, have gathered to protest the mistreatment of domestic workers. But according to some people, things have only become worse. The protesters demanded an end to the Kafala, or sponsorship, system, and for it to be replaced by a new system that guarantees workers the right to resign from their job, legally remain in Lebanese territory and be able to seek alternative employment. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## **Gaza women fight for fairer, faster divorces**

Ahmad Melhem

Al-Monitor, 14 June 2018

Rima from Gaza City has been struggling for more than 18 months to obtain her divorce papers from the Sharia Court. Six years ago, her husband left for Libya to work there, only to abandon her later on without divorcing her, leaving her with four boys and one little girl. The 45-year-old Gazan learned that her husband had married another woman in Libya when he sent the message through some Palestinians working there. Rima found herself in a miserable situation: With no money to support her children, she was dependent on the aid of her relatives. She applied for assistance from the Ministry of Social Development, which offers divorced women a \$200 monthly allowance. But as she is unable to provide divorce papers or proof of separation, she has gotten nothing so far. "I applied to the court more than a year and a half ago to obtain divorce papers from my absent husband. My case is still sitting on the shelf there. I also went to the Women's Health Center of the Culture and Free Thought Association, which engaged one of its lawyers to look into my case. They promised me that I will get the papers soon. I am still waiting," Rima told Al-Monitor. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## Unhappiness and Mohamed Salah's Egypt

Amro Ali

Mada Masr, 12 June 2018

"Unhappy is the land that breeds no hero," Andrea cries in the 1938 play, *Life of Galileo*, by German dramatist Bertolt Brecht, to which Galileo responds: "No, unhappy is the land that needs a hero." Egypt can be that unhappy land, a land where farewell parties have outstripped homecoming parties. Where a young female doctor laments she wants to leave because "to give birth to a baby here feels morally wrong, it feels sort of illegal." Where a juice seller sarcastically quips, "We no longer have time to think of anything else but survival, we don't even have time to contemplate suicide." When a country is mired in endless social and economic problems, and smothered in despair, the yearning grows for that *batal* (hero), that one human figure where all painful and complex abstracts will be realised within and resolved without. Something happened in Egypt that short-circuited a sport that is often treated by governments of all persuasions as a distracting bread and circus for the masses. Something interrupted the despotic drive to stamp out the uniqueness from the flow of Egyptian life. Enter Mohamed Salah armed with a moral code. *Continue reading [here](#)*

[Back to top](#)

## POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Teaching Fellow in Middle Eastern History, University of Sussex

Deadline: Closing date: 30 August 2018

School/department: School of History, Art History, and Philosophy (Department of History)

Hours: Part time (0.36 FTE)

Contract: Fixed term until 28 June 2019

Reference: 3584

Salary: Starting at £32,548 and rising to £38,833 per annum, pro rata

Placed on: 3 August 2018

Expected Interview date: To be confirmed

Expected start date: 17 September 2018

The Department of History at Sussex enjoys an international reputation for excellence in research, teaching, widening participation, and impact. Consistently ranked among the top History departments in the UK by university guides, it is one of the most distinguished and innovative departments in the country.

The successful candidate will have a proven track record in modern Middle Eastern History, with particular strengths in the history of Egypt in the 19th and 20th centuries. They will have core teaching expertise in the history of the late Ottoman Empire and the 20th century Arab Middle East. They will also be able to deliver more specialized courses in Islamic social and political history since 1900. You will be able to give lectures, teach seminars, supervise student dissertations, mark different kinds of academic assessment, and perform administrative tasks.

The University of Sussex operates a modular and semesterised teaching system: the teaching duties required of this post fall unevenly across the two semesters, with the bulk occurring in the Spring semester.

The successful candidate will join a thriving, collegial department with a strong commitment to interdisciplinary study, and an intellectually ambitious undergraduate and postgraduate student community. Ability to teach, good communication skills, and an ability to work productively as part of a friendly, team-oriented department are essential skills for this position.

To arrange an informal discussion about the post, please email the Head of History, Dr Chris Warne: [c.m.warne@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:c.m.warne@sussex.ac.uk)

#### How to apply

Download our academic post application form [DOC 301.50KB] and personal details and equal opportunities form [DOC 162.50KB] and fill in all sections.

Email your completed application, and personal details and equal opportunities form, to [hahprecruitment@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:hahprecruitment@sussex.ac.uk)

You should attach your application form and all documents to the email (don't use a web-based upload/weblink service) and use the format job reference number / job title / your name in the subject line.

You can also send your application by post to Human Resources Division, Sussex House, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9RH.

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

[\*\*Back to top\*\*](#)

## **Assistant Professor in Modern Middle East History, Smith College, MA**

Review of applications from 1 October 2018

The Program in Middle East Studies at Smith College invites applications for a full-time, tenure track position in modern Middle East History at the rank of Assistant Professor, to begin July 1, 2019. The successful candidate will teach four courses per year on the modern history of the Middle East and North Africa, including regular offerings of an introductory course on The Making of the Modern Middle East and a course on Women and Gender in the Middle East. A Ph.D. in History is expected by the time of appointment.

We seek a colleague engaged in learning, developing, and maintaining a dynamic, interdisciplinary curriculum that is responsive to the needs of Smith's diverse and talented student body. Candidates engaged in research that challenges existing periodizations of modern Middle East history, contributes to rethinking the geographies and the transregional flows that shaped territorial spaces within the Middle East over time, and/or engages creatively with underrepresented subjects and themes are especially welcome to apply.

Located in Northampton, MA, Smith College is the largest women's college in the country and is dedicated to excellence in teaching and research across the liberal arts. A faculty of outstanding scholars interact with students in small classes, as advisors, and through student-faculty research projects. The College is a member of the Five College Consortium with Amherst, Hampshire and Mt. Holyoke Colleges, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Students cross-enroll and faculty may cross-teach across the Five Colleges.

#### Application Instructions

Submit application at <https://apply.interfolio.com/53879> with a cover letter, curriculum vitae, a teaching statement, a research statement and three confidential letters of recommendation. Review of applications will begin on October 1, 2018.

Diversity and a culture of inclusion among students, faculty, administration, staff, and curriculum are crucial to the mission and values of Smith College. Smith welcomes applicants from a range of backgrounds including, but not limited to, those based on ability, age, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation and veteran status.

Smith is committed to providing an accessible application process for individuals with disabilities and encourages applicants to request any needed accommodation(s).

*EEO/Affirmative Action Statement:* Smith College is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, age, color, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or veteran status in the recruitment and employment of faculty and staff, and the operation of any of its programs and activities, as specified by all applicable laws and regulations. Women, minorities, veterans and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

More information and application [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

## **History Open Rank Professor, Middle Eastern History, Furman University**

Deadline: 28 September 2018

The Department of History at Furman University is seeking candidates for an open-rank, tenure-track position in any field of the history of the Middle East and the Islamic world.

The chronological and geographical focus remain open, but the department is particularly interested in candidates with the ability to teach survey courses in Middle Eastern history, with a preference for North African history. The successful candidate will have a Ph.D. in hand by the start of appointment and will be expected to become an excellent classroom instructor and student mentor, establish and maintain an active scholarly agenda, and be an enthusiastic contributor of service to the History department as well as to the University. Furman seeks candidates who can enrich the diversity of the academic community through their research, teaching, and/or service. The teaching load is 3-2.

Applicants must submit materials no later than September 28, 2018, through the Furman University website. The position will begin in August 2019. Preliminary interviews will be conducted remotely via videoconference in mid-October 2018.

Required Documents

1. Resume/CV
2. Cover Letter - The cover letter should include a description of how your teaching, scholarship, mentoring and/or service might contribute to a liberal arts college community that includes a commitment to diversity as one of its core values.
3. Three Letters of Recommendation (The applicant may directly upload letters of recommendation, submit them to Ms. Westmoreland via Interfolio, or have recommenders send them via email.)

Lilah Westmoreland  
Department of History  
Furman University  
lilah.westmoreland@furman.edu

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

[\*\*Back to top\*\*](#)

## **Assistant Professor of Sociology (five-year appointment), AUC**

Priority Deadline: 1 November 2018

The Department of Sociology, Egyptology and Anthropology (SEA) at the American University in Cairo (AUC) is seeking to recruit for a five-year position at the rank of Assistant Professor in the field of sociology beginning in the fall 2019. The teaching load is three courses per semester. Candidates with any area of expertise in the global south are encouraged to apply.

Requirements:

A PhD in sociology or a related discipline with the ability to teach and publish within the discipline of sociology. Commitment to teaching and engagement of students, as well as service to the university, particularly the

Additional Information:

Priority will be given to applications that are submitted by November 1, 2018. Informational interviews will be held at the annual American Sociological Association (ASA) meeting in Philadelphia, PA between August 11-14 and the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) meeting in San Antonio, TX between November 15-18. If interested in setting up an informational interview at ASA or MESA, please contact the SEA Department at [sea@aucegypt.edu](mailto:sea@aucegypt.edu). Formal interviews will be held in late November/early December.

Application Instructions:

All applicants must submit the following documents via the online system:

- (a) an updated CV;
- (b) a letter of interest detailing research and teaching experience;
- (c) a completed AUC Personnel Information Form (PIF);
- (d) names and contact information for at least three references familiar with the candidate's academic professional background;
- (e) one page statement on teaching goals and philosophy, including courses that the candidate would like to teach/develop;
- (f) one page statement on the candidate's research agenda and
- (g) a writing sample or publication.

Letters of reference may be sent directly by the referees to [sea@aucegypt.edu](mailto:sea@aucegypt.edu). Inquiries can be submitted through the on-line application system or by e-mail at [sea@aucegypt.edu](mailto:sea@aucegypt.edu).

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

[\*\*Back to top\*\*](#)

## **Professor (W 3) of Islamic History and Culture, Tübingen University**

Deadline: 31 August 2018

The Faculty of Humanities at Tübingen University invites applications for the position of a Professor (W 3) for Islamic History and Culture in the Department of Asian and Oriental Studies.

The applicant should be able to cover a broad spectrum of research and instruction in this subject area. She/he should have a research focus either on Islamic history or on literary and/or cultural studies. Good knowledge of Arabic and a second source language is expected. She/he will contribute to the department's curricula (BA, MA) as well as supervise PhD candidates. We also expect an interest in joining the in-terdisciplinary research activities within the department as well as with other departments at the university.

Requirements for appointment are: Professorship status or an equivalent qualification as well as extensive teaching experience. Tübingen University is particularly interested in applications from female candidates for this position and therefore strongly encourages women to apply. Applications from disabled candidates will be given preference if the qualifications of these candidates are identical to those of a non-disabled candidate. In line with its internationalization agenda, the university welcomes applications from researchers outside Germany.

Applications with the usual documents (Curriculum Vitae, references, list of publications and teaching experience, overview of research covered, authored books, up to 5 articles) should be sent to: Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Prof. Dr. Juergen Leonhardt, Keplerstrasse 2, D-72074 Tuebingen (bewerbung@philosophie.uni-tuebingen.de)  
Enquiries may also be directed to the Dean.

[Back to top](#)

## **Journal of Global History, Call for Editors**

Deadline: 30 September 2018

Professor William Gervase Clarence-Smith, Professor Barbara Watson Andaya, and Professor Merry Wiesner-Hanks will shortly be coming to the end of their tenure as editors of the Journal of Global History (JGH). Cambridge University Press, in collaboration with an Editorial Board search committee, is now inviting applications for their successor(s).

JGH addresses the main problems of global change over time, together with the diverse histories of globalization. It also examines counter-currents to globalization, including those that have structured other spatial units. The journal seeks to transcend the dichotomy between 'the West and the rest', straddle traditional regional boundaries, relate material to cultural and political history, and overcome thematic fragmentation in historiography. The journal also acts as a forum for interdisciplinary conversations across a wide variety of social and natural sciences.

Now in its 13th volume, JGH is recognised internationally as a leading venue for academic exchange around these themes. It has an Impact Factor of 0.952 and is currently ranked as the 4th highest impact journal in the 'History' category of the JCR. The Press is seeking an Editor, or team of Co-Editors, who can take on responsibility for JGH for an initial term of five years, ensuring the Journal continues to shape, reflect and develop this most vibrant of research fields.

Working with the support of a Managing Editor, and in collaboration with an international Editorial Board, editorial responsibilities will include:

- Shaping the strategic direction of the journal and defining editorial policy.
- Overseeing a rigorous, constructive and supportive peer review process.
- Making all final decisions on acceptance, rejection and revisions.
- Editing and proofing articles accepted for publication in the Journal.
- Proposing members to join an active advisory Editorial Board, and working closely with them

Please indicate in your application:

- Your experience publishing and researching in this field.
- Previous editorial experience or roles in academic administration.
- The breadth and scale of your academic network.
- Your historiographical vision for the Journal over the next five years; including:
  - o The Journal's identity within a rapidly developing field.
  - o Critical themes and subject matter.
  
- Your strategy for developing the Journal over the next five years; including:
  - o Supporting and attracting diversity.
  - o Organising and maximising the contribution of the Editorial Board.
  - o Ensuring academic quality and scholarly impact.
  - o Engaging with developments in scholarly communication and research practice.

Applicants can expect substantial administrative support, a small honorarium and funding for travel related to the Journal. It is not essential, but, where possible, please indicate the form and breadth of institutional backing that may be available to support you in this role.

Please direct applications and any questions in the first instance to Daniel Pearce, Publisher, Cambridge University Press ([dpearce@cambridge.org](mailto:dpearce@cambridge.org)).

***Back to top***