



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

Feminism in the MENA region: Women's Rights in a Post-Globalist World

March 20-21, 2019

Ibn Tofail Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences- Kenitra, Morocco

Deadline: January 30th, 2019

The issue of women's rights and gender equality has always been crucial in the process of democratization and social development. Changes in gender dynamics are often seen as a reliable indicator of political and social change, with the growing empowerment of women considered as an essential component of any effective and sustainable development policy.

It is fair to say that some significant advances have been achieved over recent years in the Middle East and North Africa thanks to the collective efforts of civil associations, women's groups, and political parties, which have campaigned for gender equality. The reform of the family code or the '*Moudawana*' in Morocco was, for instance, an important measure that signaled the readiness of public authorities to pass specific legislation designed to address gender inequality issues. However, civil associations and women's groups still continue to mobilize to ensure that laws pertaining to the rights of women are properly and diligently enforced, or even extended. Other pending issues such as domestic and sexual violence, sexual harassment, and inheritance law, have also been raised and discussed, generating a heated but necessary debate, and underlining the belief among activists that further progress is needed and expected.

Feminism is one of the biggest social movements of this century and it involves various ideological, social and political beliefs. Women in the MENA region have made great strides in the fight for equality, they have been allowed to drive in Saudi Arabia, granted equal inheritance rights in Tunisia and offered legal protection from "acts considered forms of harassment, aggression, sexual exploitation or ill treatment" in Morocco. Indeed, their situation seems to be much better in North Africa because of culture, the mainstream religious interpretations, the proximity to Europe, and also the colonial experiences. On the other hand, the process of liberation seems to be too lengthy in the Middle East due to cultural norms and tribal culture. However, women in North Africa continue to stare down great obstacles in the fight to achieve true gender equality as the pace of the reforms introduced by their governments just inaugurate a long journey to full equality.

Today the gender situation in the MENA countries is complex as legal provisions do not always apply to all and in all cases nor do they reflect the actual commitment of officials and ordinary citizens. While there is reliable evidence that men and women of all age groups are engaging with changing attitudes and practices, more conservative sections of society are also undermining, with more or less effectiveness, the dynamic towards social change and gender equality. Furthermore, popular perceptions of gender attitudes among people of the region as well as their sensitive character tend to make it more challenging to gauge such a process of change.

This conference aims to bring together researchers and academics to shed light on some of the practices that affect women's status and share their insights into a range of issues relating to feminist perspectives on women's lived experiences and the advocacy struggles initiated. By identifying emerging social trends and practices, and examining specific facets of gender relations, participants will contribute to a better understanding of this strategic area of social life.

Submission Guidelines

Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals for individual papers. **Submissions** are due **January 30, 2019**. Paper abstracts must be no more than **300 words** and submitted as a Microsoft Word or PDF file. The submission must include the title, the presenter's name, affiliation, email address, as well as a short biography. Please submit your abstracts to takamul.menaproject@gmail.com. Review results will be communicated via E-Mail by **February 10, 2019**. All abstracts and all paper presentations **must be in English**. Please, do not hesitate to submit your inquiries to tayebi@takamulcentre.com or to belhabibs@gmail.com.

More information [here](#)

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Young Scholars Conference

Application Deadline: January 31st, 2019

Center for the Study of Social Movements, University of Notre Dame

May 3rd, 2019

In conjunction with the presentation of the John D. McCarthy Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Scholarship in Social Movements, The Center for the Study of Social Movements at Notre Dame will be hosting the tenth annual "Young Scholars" Conference on May 3, 2019. The recipient of the McCarthy Award, Suzanne Staggenborg, will be in attendance and other senior scholars visiting Notre Dame for the award presentation will serve as discussants for the conference.

We would like to invite 12 advanced graduate students and early-career faculty to present a work solidly in-progress at the conference, enjoy an opportunity to discuss their work with some of the leading scholars in the field, and meet others in the new cohort of social movement scholars. Conference attendees will also be invited to the McCarthy Award Lecture and the award banquet on May 4, 2019. The Center will pay for meals, up to three nights lodging, and contribute up to \$500 toward travel expenses for each of the conference attendees.

The Center will select invitees from all nominations received by January 31, 2019. Nominations will be accepted from ABD graduate students and those who have held their Ph.D.s less than two years. Nominations must be written by the nominee's faculty dissertation advisor (or, if the advisor is unavailable, a suitable substitute familiar with the nominee's research). Nominations should include:

1. A letter of nomination.
2. The CV of the nominee.
3. A one-page abstract of the work to be presented.

Nominations should be sent via email to Rory McVeigh, Director of the Center for the Study of Social Movements, rmcveigh@nd.edu.

More information [here](#)

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Call for Papers: Special Issue: Remembering the 'Arab Spring' Ten Years on Reflections on its Transnational Impact on Journalism

Deadline: April 30th, 2019

The year 2020 will mark the 10th anniversary of the 'Arab Spring,' a term normally associated with major citizen uprisings across North Africa and the Middle East, sparked by the self-immolation of Tunisian street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi. Street demonstrations and popular protests spread to other countries including Bahrain, Egypt, Libya and several others. Since 2010, sporadic, copycat, online-driven movements have also emerged in much of the developing world (Wei, 2016) with citizens taking a leading role in gathering and producing news while demanding a greater voice in determining their social and political destinies, raising hopes of greater political inclusion and freedom, including press freedom. How has the advent of technologically-inspired 'Arab Spring' protests combined to railroad changes not just in contemporary digital journalism but also in 21st century digital activism across the Global South? In what ways do activists and journalists in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Latin America relate to each other in terms of techniques, tactics and ethics in their fields? In marking the 10th anniversary of the 'Arab Spring,' we also ask whether the "revolutions" have inspired fundamental changes in the ways in which journalists and activists operate, questioning whether they face operational obstacles and if so, counter-questioning whether freedom of speech has regressed to pre-revolution conditions?

The 'Arab Spring's' perceived influence as a political point of departure for activists throughout the developing world has triggered increasing global debates with some doubting the assumed contributory role of social media and citizen journalism towards democratization (Loader and Mercea, 2012). In fact, repeated calls for rethinking journalism have gathered pace in the aftermath of the 'Arab Spring' (Peters and Broesma, 2012, 2016). As citizen accounts were broadcast unedited on global news channels such as Al Jazeera English, many predicted the possible transformation of journalism while others speculated on how news organisations would intergrate social media content into mainstream news material. In what ways then has the 'Arab Spring' transformed digital

journalism practices in non-Western societies in general? What evidence is there to show in the wake of the ubiquitous protests that journalism and equally activism have dynamised and evolved? What contributory role has diverse computer networking technologies in the wake of the 'Arab Spring,' made to the contemporary conceptualisation and theorisation of both digital journalism and digital activism? Also, in what ways can the widespread practice of digital journalism be traced and credited to the 'Arab Spring?'

With citizens 'empowered' to report and disseminate information (Bosch, 2017), what has deterred activists in other regions of the world from repeating the 'successes' recorded in the Middle East? Better still, how closely related has journalism become to activism in the aftermath of the mass protests? Ten years on, with citizen media equally

flourishing across the 'developing' world, questions are being asked not only about the ability of technology-powered media instruments to provoke social and political revolutions but also how social media, which in 2000 was praised as a democratizing platform in the Middle East, has not helped remove tyranny in many parts of the world. Limited or no access to web and mobile platforms has also stalled potential transition to the much hyped technological evolution in the poorer regions of the world leaving many struggling to understand the real essence and potential of digital technologies.

Seeking empirical accounts that examine the democratising potential of digital journalism within non-Western societies, this special edition seeks to reconceptualise digital journalism and digital activism 10 years after the 'Arab Spring' in order to examine how it facilitated changes, if any, in both fields. What is its legacy insofar as activists and journalists are concerned? We also seek to interrogate the impediments and restrictions on journalism as an agent of change questioning whether and in what ways the 'Arab Spring' advanced political and social openness in the aforementioned regions. For this thematic issue, all submissions investigating the changing relationship between digital activism and journalism are welcome, including those not particularly making reference to the Arab Spring. These include but not limited to papers addressing questions such as:

What new forms of digital activism continue to emerge and how do these relate to, impact or affect digital journalism?

How do contemporary digital journalism and digital activism compare to traditional forms of journalism and activism?

How did the 'Arab Spring' transform contemporary activism and journalism?

How did the 'Arab Spring' facilitate changes in the transformative relationship between digital activism and digital journalism?

In what ways did the 'Arab Spring' advance discussions and conversations on the "death of journalism" while promoting talk of "revolutionalising political protests?"

Information about Submissions

Proposals should include the following: an abstract of 500-750 words (not including references) as well as background information on the author(s), including an abbreviated bio that describes previous and current research that relates to the special issue theme. Please submit your proposal as one file (PDF) with your names clearly stated in the file name and the first page. Send your proposal

to the e-mail address bruce.mutsvairo@uts.edu.au and saba.bebawi@uts.edu.au by the date stated in timeline below. Authors of accepted proposals are expected to develop and submit their original article, for full blind review, in accordance with the journal's peer-review procedure, by the deadline stated. Articles should target 7,000 words in length. Guidelines for manuscripts can be found [here](#).

Timeline:

Abstract submission deadline: 30 April 2019

Notification on submitted abstracts: 30 May 2019

Article submission deadline: 30 November 2019

More information [here](#)

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International Conference on Palestine: The Struggle for Palestine: History, Geopolitics, and Future Prospects

March 16th-March 19th, 2019

Sabahattin Zaim University, Istanbul, Turkey

Day 1: Saturday, March 16, 2019

Welcoming Session (30 min.): 16:30-17:00

Plenary Session (120 min.): 17:00-19:00

The Tragedy of Palestine: Challenges and Responses

[3 speakers, 25-28 min. each]

Plenary Addresses

John Mearshimer, University of Chicago, USA

Ilan Pappé, University of Exeter, UK

Haneen Zoabi, MP, Joint List, Knesset

Day 2: Sunday, March 17, 2019

Session I (105 min.) 9:30-11:15

Exploring Liberation Theology in the Palestinian Struggle

[3 speakers, 18-20 min. each]

Marc Ellis, Baylor University, USA

Ulrich Duchrow, University of Heidelberg, Germany

Farid Esack, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Session II (105 min.) 11:45-13:30

Framing the Palestinian Issue: Historic, Legal, and Political Perspectives

[3 speakers, 18-20 min. each]

Norman Finkelstein, Academic and Author

John Quigley, Ohio State University

Noura Erakat, Georgetown University

Session III (60 min.) 15:00-15:50

Keynote Address (25 min.): Can a Settler-Colonialist State Survive in the 21st Century?

Joseph Massad, Columbia University

Session IV (140 min.) 16:10-18:30

Open Discussion [each panel is 70 min.]

Panel 1: Mearsheimer, Zoabi, Finkelstein, Masaad, Ellis

Panel II: Pappe, Quigley, Erakat, Esack, Duchrow

Day 3: Monday, March 18, 2019

Session V (105 min.) 9:30-11:15

Future of the Palestinian Nationalist Movement in a Changing Regional Landscape

[3 speakers, 18-20 min. each]

Majed Kayyali, Institute of Palestine Studies

Haider Eid, Al-Aqsa University, Gaza

Islah Jad, Birzeit University, West Bank

Session VI (105 min.): 11:45-13:30

Discoursing the Palestinian Narrative: The 1948 Forgotten Palestinians, Palestinians Under Occupation, The Refugees & The Palestinian Diaspora

[3 speakers, 18-20 min. each]

Mohannad Mustafa, Haifa University

Helga Baumgarten, Birzeit University

Nadia Hijab, Al-Shabaka

Session VII (105 min.) 15:00-16:45

The Current Status and Future Prospects of the Right of Return, Settlements, and Jerusalem

[3 speakers, 18-20 min. each]

Mouin Rabbani, Institute for Palestine Studies

Richard Falk, University of California, Santa Barbara

Berdal Aral, Istanbul Medeniyet University

Session VIII (75 min.) 17:15-18:30

The Struggle for Palestine: Empowerment Strategies

[2 speakers, 18-20 min. each]

Sahar Francis, Addameer

Mona El-Farra, Institute for Middle East Understanding

Day 4: Tuesday, March 19, 2019

Session IX (105 min.) 9:30-11:15

Reports from the Front

[6-8 min. each on Palestine Advocacy and/or BDS in different countries

Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Malaysia, India, South Africa, Latin America, US, UK, France, Germany

Session X (105 min.) 11:45-13:30

Confronting Zionism, The Lobby, and Normalization: Geopolitical Perspectives

[3 speakers, 18-20 min. each]

Ali Abunimah, Electronic Intifada

Ramzy Baroud, University of California, Santa Barbara

Sami Al-Arian, IZU

Session XI (60 min.) 15:00-15:50

Keynote Address: BDS: A Strategy for Global Solidarity

Omar Barghouti, Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel and BNC

Session XII (135 min.): 16:15-18:30 [each panel 65 min.]

Conflict & Struggle: Means and Outcomes Open Discussion with Speakers

Panel I: Kayyali, Rabbani, Baroud, Mustafa, Baumgarten, Jad

Panel II: Barghouti, Hijab, Eid, Francis, El-Farra, Abunimah

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Social Movements and Nonviolent Protest: Resistance and Its Repression in Illiberal Democracies, East and West

San Diego State University

May 10-11, 2019

Abstract Deadline: January 31st, 2019

Join us for the third Mobilization-SDSU conference on Social Movements and Nonviolent Protest: Resistance and Its Repression, Illiberal Democracies East and West, May 10-11, 2019!

The third conference at San Diego State University is planned as an informal and friendly gathering to present your current work, discuss it with others, network, and, generally, ponder the new directions in which our field is heading. Plenary sessions will emphasize the dark dance between the resistance and the state in illiberal democracies, broadly defined. For open-call sessions, your research on a variety of topics relevant to the social movement and nonviolent resistance fields are invited.

The last year's conference was a great success: 100 attendees, 92 presenters, 24 paper sessions, and four engaging plenary sessions. We invite all our colleagues studying social movements to our third gathering. Hotel rooms are available in historic Old Town San Diego, an easy trolley ride to the university and a 10-minute ride to San Diego's scenic harbor, Seaport Village, and Gas Lamp Quarter.

To present a paper, participants must submit their abstract and register by January 31, 2019. When the registration date closes, organizers will place papers in appropriate thematic sessions. In addition to the conference theme of Resistance and Repression in Illiberal Democracies, East and West, research papers for the open-submission sessions are welcome on a variety of topics trending in our field.

Our vision is an informal and friendly space for researchers in our field to gather annually and discuss their work. In addition to this year's focus on illiberal democracies, we welcome papers on topics such as:

- Strategies of protest and resistance
- Trends in social movement research
- The analysis of contemporary movement tactics
- Social media and digital technologies
- Tactical variation and outcomes
- Crossnational and historical analysis of protest
- Collective identity and identity movements
- And more, depending on submissions

Organizers will accommodate submissions by assigning registrants' papers to thematic sessions. We look forward to another engaging and collegial gathering this year.

Please pay your nonrefundable registration fee with submission of the abstract to reserve a slot for your paper. Registration of \$95.00 includes breakfasts, lunches, coffee breaks, a reception dinner on Friday night, and a 2019 online subscription of Mobilization (a \$49.50 value). Please note that we intend to make completed papers available to attendees, and to post them prior to the conference. Please commit to submitting a completed paper by May 1, 2019.

More information [here](#)

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“The Ties that Bind”: Mechanisms and Structures of Social Dependency in the Early Islamic Empire, 2-6 December 2019

Abstract Deadline: January 31st, 2019

Leiden University

As part of the ERC-funded project, “Embedding Conquest, Naturalising Muslim Rule (600-1000)”, at Leiden University, this conference aims to bring together both senior and junior scholars to present research which illuminates the structures and mechanisms that allowed the early Islamic empire to function. The period to be focused on at the conference is roughly focused on is roughly 600-1000 CE.

Structures and mechanisms

The papers should describe the way that local and regional elites were both embedded in larger structures of power and dependency, and employed specific mechanisms to achieve their goals. By structures, we refer to frameworks such as administration, tax-collection, political networks, religious communities, legal systems, social conventions and patronage networks. By mechanisms, we refer to specific instances which establish relationships between actors, including documentary cultures, mechanisms of social integration and embedding (such as oaths, contracts, pledges, marriage, inheritance and succession conventions), mechanisms of social exclusion (such as ostracism, imprisonment, excommunication) and so forth.

Papers may deal with mechanisms and structures that hold the empire together, or examine the fissiparous and centrifugal forces that tend in the opposite direction. Moments of crisis and breakdown are understood as particularly useful both illuminating the precise nature of structures and mechanisms and they are contested, renewed or replaced.

Local and regional elites

In focusing on local and regional elites, we aim to understand how the authority and power of the caliphate was actualized within the daily lives of the empire's inhabitants. This focus cements a shift in recent years to thinking about the caliphate as a multipolar entity, rather than a pyramidal hierarchy of power (Neff and Tillier), and as a set of relationships and interfaces between actors whose influence derives from being embedded in a particular local context, and power-brokers at the centre of the empire (Paul, Heidemann) . This conference aims to push the field further, by inviting participants to dissect with greater precision the specific structures, mechanisms, behaviours, strategies and conventions that enabled key stakeholders to achieve goals which shaped the lives of the inhabitants of the empire.

Source material will be open to presenters, but we particularly welcome papers that combine literary sources with documentary and material sources.

In addition to the presentation of papers, invited presenters will be encouraged to prepare visualizations of the structures and frameworks that they perceive in their materials, to be discussed in a separate session. These visualizations might be formed in terms of networks, hierarchies, blocs, or other models of conceptualizing the relationships between the diverse stakeholders in the empire.

One of the outcomes of the ERC project, Embedding Conquest, will be an edited volume which records the results of this and other conferences. Participants may be invited to submit their contribution as part of the edited volume. If you will be unable to contribute your research to this volume, then please signal that when you submit your abstract.

Papers will be 30 mins with 15 for Q&A. Participant may also be requested to participate in additional discussion and visualization sessions.

Please send an abstracts of around 300 words to e.p.hayes@hum.leidenuniv.nl by January 31st 2019.

Travel and accommodation will be subsidized.

More information [here](#)

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Workshop on Youth Politics in the Middle East in Amman, Jordan on June 19-20, 2019

Deadline: February 15th, 2019

Nearly two-thirds of the population of the Middle East and North Africa is under 29 years of age, of which half is under 15. What does being young in the contemporary Middle East mean? The Arab Spring led many scholars to celebrate young citizens as leading the fight against marginalization and repression through activism, protest, and voting. But young people also played key roles in stabilizing authoritarian regimes through loyal citizenship and pro-regime mobilization, have been enlisted to fight the region's civil wars, and have suffered dislocation and displacement. Youth may have a common generational identity, but they face widely diverse challenges, and they express political values and mobilize for change differently based upon country, class, gender, sect, and the urban-rural divide. How does youth matter for the politics of MENA, and how should we study these implications? This workshop aims to move beyond simplistic descriptions of youth in the Middle East in favor of richer scholarship that takes young people seriously as social actors, and explores how their cultural, educational, economic, and local experiences intersect with politics and political struggle.

To explore these questions, the Project on Middle East Political Science invites proposals for participation in a workshop to be held in Amman, Jordan on June 19-20, 2019.

The workshop will revolve around the discussion of short papers of approximately 2000 words, circulated at least two weeks prior to the workshop. The workshop will discuss each paper intensively, and after revisions all papers will be edited and published as an issue of the open access POMEPS Studies series. Participants should be at least a degree candidate (i.e. ABD –for those unfamiliar with the U.S. system, please note this means PhD candidates who have completed all coursework) or have a PhD in Political Science or related discipline. All travel expenses will be covered.

Proposals should include a one paragraph summary of the paper and a CV. Proposals must be submitted via this link by February 15, 2019. If you have problems with the form, please email Nora Palandjian at nora.pomeps@gmail.com.

More information [here](#)

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TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

The Fred Halliday Memorial Event: the Arab Uprisings and the future of revolution

Monday 04 February 2019 6:30pm to 8:00pm
LSE, CLM.6.02, Clement House, London

For this year's Fred Halliday Memorial Event, the speakers will explore the shifting character of revolution through the prism of the 2011 Arab Uprisings.

We are living in a new age of revolution. Revolutions are everywhere: on the streets of Kobane, Caracas, and Tehran, in the rhetoric of groups like Podemos and Black Lives Matter, and in the imaginaries of popular culture, from Star Wars to Hamilton. Yet contemporary revolutions often appear more as minor disturbances than as projects of deep confrontation and systemic transformation – ‘small r’ revolutions next to the ‘big R’ Revolutions associated with France, Russia, China, and other major uprisings.

Eight years on from the revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt, Syria and elsewhere, what can be said about how these uprisings came about, how they were novel, and what balance-sheet can be drawn up of their successes and failures? Most importantly, what do they tell us about the current – and future – place of revolution in world politics?

Professor Salwa Ismail is Professor of Politics and International Studies at SOAS. Her latest book is *The Rule of Violence: Subjectivity, Memory and Government in Syria* (Cambridge, 2018).

Dr George Lawson is an Associate Professor of International Relations at LSE. His latest books are *Anatomies of Revolution* (Cambridge, 2019); *Global Historical Sociology*, edited with Julian Go (Cambridge, 2017); *The Global Transformation*, with Barry Buzan (Cambridge, 2015).

Dame Minouche Shafik is Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science.
More information [here](#)

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Truth for Giulio Regeni

Renew the Demand that Egypt Must Investigate Giulio Regeni's Torture & Murder in Cairo in
February 2016
February 2nd, 2019
Meet at the Egyptian Embassy: 26 South Street, London, W1K 1DW

With the 3rd anniversary of the disappearance and death of Giulio Regeni coming up, Amnesty International is organising a couple of events including a vigil outside the Egyptian embassy at 12 noon on Saturday 2 February. Meet at the Egyptian Embassy.

More information email Hugh.sandeman@amnesty.org.uk

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Decolonisation and radical solidarity: Transnational feminism and the postcolonial project

31 January 2019, 5-7PM

Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS, London

This talk by Sara Salem explores the question of transnational feminist solidarity in the particular historical moment of decolonisation. I explore how radical and alternative notions of transnational feminism were developed and explored during this historical moment, that transcended categories of class, race, nation, and gender. I show how feminists negotiated tensions between nationalism and feminism; nationalism and internationalism; and feminism and race/empire. Through these negotiations, we see the emergence of a radical and anti-colonial form of transnational feminism that can give us a new lens through which to understand decolonisation and the postcolonial era.

Bio:

Sara Salem is an Assistant Professor in Sociology at the London School of Economics. Sara's research interests include political sociology, postcolonial studies, Marxist theory, feminist theory, and global histories of empire and imperialism. She has recently published articles in journals such as *Signs*; *Interventions: A Journal of Postcolonial Studies*; *Review of African Political Economy*; and the *European Journal of Women's Studies*, among others.

More information [here](#)

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Arab Film and Video Manifestos: Forty-Five Years of the Moving Image Amid Revolution

By Kay Dickinson

Palgrave, 2018

Arab Film and Video Manifestos presents, in their entirety, five key documents that have fundamentally shaken up and helped change the face of image culture in the Middle East and beyond. The book collects together, for the first time, these influential, collectively written calls and

directives that span a fifty-year period and hail from a range of different countries. Each urges a radical rethinking of film and video's role in culture, its relation to politics, and its potential to instigate profound change. Kay Dickinson carefully positions the manifestos within their broader socio-historical contexts and provides supplementary reading and viewing suggestions for readers who cannot access Arabic-language sources.

Table of Contents:

- 1) Why the Manifesto?
- 2) The Naksa's New Cinema: New Cinema Group, "Manifesto of New Cinema in Egypt" (1968)
- 3) Cinematic Third Worldism: "Resolutions of the Third World Filmmakers Meeting" (Algeria 1973)
- 4) Cinema Within Armed Struggle: "Manifesto of the Palestinian Cinema Group" (1972) and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, "The Cinema and the Revolution"
- 5) "The Images are the Revolution's": Mosireen, "Revolution Triptych" (2013)

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Whisper Tapes: Kate Millett in Iran

Negar Mottahedeh
Stanford University Press
February 2019

Kate Millett was already an icon of American feminism when she went to Iran in 1979. She arrived just weeks after the Iranian Revolution, to join Iranian women in marking International Women's Day. Intended as a day of celebration, the event turned into a week of protests. Millett, armed with film equipment and a cassette deck to record everything around her, found herself in the middle of demonstrations for women's rights and against the mandatory veil.

Listening to the revolutionary soundscape of Millett's audio tapes, Negar Mottahedeh offers a new interpretive guide to Revolutionary Iran, its slogans, habits, and women's movement—a movement that, many claim, Millett never came to understand. Published with the fortieth anniversary of the Iranian Revolution and the women's protests that followed on its heels, *Whisper Tapes* re-introduces Millett's historic visit to Iran and lays out the nature of her encounter with the Iranian women's movement.

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JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Supporting political debate while building patterns of trust: the role of the German political foundations in Tunisia (1989–2017)

Pietro Marzo

January 2019

Middle East Studies

This article focuses on a specific aspect of the international context surrounding the Tunisian transition to democracy. Through the case of the German political foundations in Tunisia, this study argues that the country's journey to democracy has not been an exclusively domestic affair, but has also been the product of the engagement of international actors and their interplay with domestic groups. Building on evidence from semi-structured interviews and data triangulation the article shows that since the late 1980s four German political foundations operating in Tunisia created platforms for 'political debate' – alternative to the regime's but not subversive – and encouraged political training. The article posits that initially the German political foundations helped Ben Ali's regime in the making of a 'façade liberalisation', while in the long run their activities generated unintended consequences that in part undermined its 'authoritarianism upgraded'. The article demonstrates that their longstanding presence on the ground allowed the German political foundations to develop patterns of trust with and between political and civil groups, ultimately improving the capacity of their action after the revolution.

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'More powerful than politics': Affective magic in the DIY musical activism after Egypt's 2011 Revolution

Darci Sprengel

Volume 38, Special Issue 1 (Music and Magic) January 2019, pp. 54-72

With a return to authoritarian rule only a few years after the initially successful 2011 revolution, some Egyptian DIY musicians have made it a point to avoid the political. These musicians consider the ordinary politics of discursive critique and public protest to be ineffective and have opted to continue the revolution by appealing to the ineffable properties of listening as a less ideologically driven way to produce social change. This article explores how and why the sonic ineffable is believed to be a more utopian form of politics. It argues that mobilizing 'magic' is a particularly positioned solution to political failure that obscures the relations of power it perpetuates. Building from 30 months of ethnographic research conducted in Egypt among DIY musicians between 2010 and 2017, it avoids a romanticisation of the ineffable, showing instead how utilising the ambiguity between the conscious and subconscious aspects of sonic experience is a political tool not removed from power.

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Beyond elections: perceptions of democracy in four Arab countries

Andrea Teti, Pamela Abbott, & Francesco Cavatorta
Democratization, January 2019

This article draws on public opinion survey data from Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, and Jordan to investigate first, whether a “demand for democracy” in the region exists; second, how to measure it; and third, how respondents understand it. The picture emerging from this analysis is complex, eluding the simple dichotomy between *prima facie* support and second order incongruence with democracy, which characterises current debates. Respondents have a more holistic understanding of democracy than is found in current scholarship or indeed pursued by Western or regional policymakers, valuing civil-political rights but prioritizing socio-economic rights. There is broad consensus behind principles of gender equality, but indirect questions reveal the continuing influence of conservative and patriarchal attitudes. Respondents value religion, but do not trust religious leaders or want them to meddle in elections or government. Moreover, while there is broad support for conventionally-understood pillars of liberal democracy (free elections, a parliamentary system), there is also a significant gap between those who support democracy as the best political system in principle and those who also believe it is actually suitable for their country.

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NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

Bahrain: Unabated Repression

Free Speech and Association, Dissidents Under Attack
January 17, 2019
Human Rights Watch

(Beirut) –Bahrain cracked down on peaceful dissent during 2018, virtually eliminating all opposition, Human Rights Watch said today in releasing its World Report 2019. No independent media were allowed to operate in the country in 2018, and ahead of parliamentary elections in November, parliament banned members of dissolved opposition parties from being able to run. Peaceful dissidents were arrested, prosecuted, ill-treated, and stripped of citizenship.

“The Bahraini authorities have demonstrated a zero tolerance policy when it comes to free media, independent political thought, and peaceful dissent,” said Lama Fakhri, deputy Middle East and North

Africa director at Human Rights Watch. “Despite the stream of arrests and convictions of dissidents, Bahrain’s allies have failed to use their influence to improve Bahrain’s rights record at home or abroad.”

In the 674-page World Report 2019, its 29th edition, Human Rights Watch reviewed human rights practices in more than 100 countries. In his introductory essay, Executive Director Kenneth Roth says that the populists spreading hatred and intolerance in many countries are spawning a resistance. New alliances of rights-respecting governments, often prompted and joined by civic groups and the public, are raising the cost of autocratic excess. Their successes illustrate the possibility of defending human rights – indeed, the responsibility to do so – even in darker times.

In the days leading up to the November parliamentary elections, the government detained a former member of parliament, Ali Rashed al-Asheeri, after he tweeted about boycotting the elections. He was released on bail three days after the election. On November 4, the Bahrain High Court of Appeals overturned the previous acquittal of a prominent opposition member, Sheikh Ali Salman, sentencing him to life in prison on espionage charges. Salman is the leader of Bahrain’s largest political opposition group, al-Wifaq, which was outlawed in 2016.

Nabeel Rajab, one of Bahrain’s preeminent human rights defenders, completed a two-year prison term for “spreading false news” in June. He then immediately began a five-year prison term for his tweets criticizing alleged torture in Bahrain’s Jaw Prison and the Saudi-led military campaign in Yemen. Duaa al-Wadaei, wife of a prominent exiled activist, Sayed Ahmed al-Wadaei, was sentenced to prison in absentia on March 21 for allegedly insulting an officer at the Manama airport in 2016.

In September, three female human rights defenders held in the Isa Town Prison, Hajer Mansoor Hasan, Najah Yusuf, and Medina Ali, said that prison officials assaulted them and restricted their family visits, phone calls, and time spent outside of their cells. The National Institution for Human Rights dismissed these allegations.

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Egypt court renews detention of woman jailed over torture claims in BBC report

Ahram Online
January 17, 2019

A Cairo criminal court accepted on Thursday an appeal by the prosecution against a previous court decision to release Mona Mahmoud, also known as Um Zubaida, who was jailed for spreading false news.

The court has renewed her detention for 45 days.

Um Zubaida made headlines after a 2018 interview with the BBC where she said that her daughter had been tortured and disappeared by security services.

On Tuesday, a criminal court ordered Um Zubaida's release after nearly one year in detention on charges including "publishing and broadcasting false news that could harm the country's national interests" and joining an illegal group, in reference to the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood.

The charges arise from the woman's claims during an interview with the BBC that her daughter, Zubaida, had not been seen since 2017 after being apprehended by security forces, and that she was tortured in detention during her previous stint in custody.

Her account was part of a short documentary and online report by the BBC on what it said were cases of forced disappearances and torture carried out by Egyptian security forces.

Um Zubaida's daughter appeared shortly after the BBC's report and denied being tortured or abducted.

Egyptian authorities have described the BBC report as full of lies and unsubstantiated allegations, prompting the State Information Service (SIS) to urge officials to boycott the public broadcaster until an apology is published.

The BBC was briefly taken to court, facing a threat of having its bureau shut down in Cairo; however, the Cairo Court of Urgent Matters ruled that it lacks jurisdiction over the matter in June 2018.

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Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe: British mother ends hunger strike in Iranian prison

Zamira Rahim

January 17, 2019

The Independent

British mother [Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe](#) has ended her hunger strike after staff at the Iranian prison where she being held allowed her to resume medical treatment.

The 40-year spent three days without food to protest about prison officials refusing to allow her to see a doctor to examine lumps in her breast and other health issues, but she will now be allowed to resume treatment at outside hospitals, her husband [Richard Ratcliffe](#) said in a statement.

The announcement came after human rights experts at the [United Nations](#) (UN) warned [Iran](#) that its refusal to provide healthcare to Ms Zaghari-Ratcliffe may amount to torture.

"The authorities must urgently address the violations that are the basis of their hunger strike protest, including denial of appropriate treatment and care, which may well amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, or even torture," the group of six experts said.

After she announced the strike, guards cancelled her weekly phone calls with her family and reduced her food rations.

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Hezbollah, Fateh Movement Reiterate Resistance against Zionist Occupation

Al Manar

January 17, 2019

Hezbollah Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem received on Thursday Palestine's Fateh Movement delegation as the meeting tackled the conditions in Gaza and the West Bank, the Zionist assaults, the construction of more Zionist settlements, and the Judaziation project.

Fateh delegation included the member of the central committee Azzam Al-ahmad, the movement's secretary in Lebanon Fatehi Abou Al-Ardat, Palestinian ambassador to Lebanon Ashraf Dabbour, and the meeting was also attended by Hezbollah Palestinian Relations official former MP Hasan Hoballah.

The two sides hailed the heroic acts of the Palestinian people and the Return Protests, stressing steadfastness and resistance till liberating all the Palestinian territories and prisoners from the Zionist occupation.

Hezbollah and Fateh also highlighted the importance of maintaining the Palestinian unity internally and in the refugee camps in Lebanon, reiterating confronting the so-called "deal of the century" which threatens the Palestinian cause.

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Huge public sector strike paralyses Tunisia

January 17th, 2019

Al Araby Al Jadeed

A public sector strike brought Tunisia to a standstill on Thursday as workers heeded calls from a [powerful trade union](#) to stay home over demands for wage hikes and economic reforms.

Across the country, schools were closed, public offices shuttered, and transport paralysed after calls for a 24-hour strike by the Tunisian General Labour Union (UGTT).

Only one flight took off from the international airport in Tunis, the transport ministry told *AFP*.

The UGTT had addressed its call to the country's 677,000 civil servants and 350,000 employees of state-owned companies, who make up nearly a quartre of the [Tunisian workforce](#).

Protesters took to the streets of the capital chanting "the Tunisian people do not accept humiliation", criticising Prime Minister Youssef Chahed for bowing to reforms dictated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Some held portraits of IMF chief Christine Lagarde, with a bright red "X" painted over her face.

Tunisia is seen as having had a relatively smooth democratic transition since the 14 January 2011 toppling of president Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali after 23 years in power.

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POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS AWARDS 2019

Deadline: January 31st, 2019

The Board of the Union Académique Internationale invites applications from Early Career Researchers in the Humanities and Social Sciences (as broadly defined) for two awards of €6000 each for a period of two years (2020-2022) as part of the Union's Centenary Celebrations in 2019. Applications are open to researchers who are holders of a Doctor of Philosophy Degree awarded no earlier than 1st January 2011. The two awards are intended to be grants-in-aid to individual research scholars with a strong research record and an innovative research project with prospects of international collaboration.

More information and application [here](#)

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Postdoctoral Fellowship in Middle East Studies at Yale University

Review of Applications Begins: February 15th, 2019

The Council on Middle East Studies (CMES) at the MacMillan Center invites applications for an anticipated post-doctoral position at Yale University for the 2019-2020 academic year. The availability of the position will be confirmed by March 2019, at which time we will notify all applicants. This is a one-year position, renewable for a second year pending satisfactory review. The Council invites applications from across the social sciences and humanities with a focus on North Africa, the Levant, or the Arabian Peninsula. Candidates must have research and teaching experience relevant to any period from early modern to contemporary (1500 - present).

The Post-Doctoral Associate will teach one course during the year, preferably in the Fall semester, convene the Middle East Studies Colloquium, and assist the chair of the Council with programming. Associates are expected to be in residence from August 2019 to May 2020 and take an active role in the activities of the Council on Middle East Studies.

We will begin accepting applications immediately with review beginning February 15, 2019 and continuing until the selections are final.

Qualifications

Requirements include a viable research project and teaching an undergraduate seminar in the field of specialization. All applicants should have in-depth knowledge of at least one Middle East-related language; be fluent in English; and must have completed the PhD by the time of appointment.

Application Instructions

Applicants should submit a cover letter; a one-page description of research plans; a draft of a course syllabus and a title and brief summary of a second course; a CV; and two letters of reference.

All information from the applicant should be submitted electronically through Interfolio.

Please contact Cristin Siebert by email, cristin.siebert@yale.edu, for any questions related to the application process. You may visit the CMES website here: <http://cmes.macmillan.yale.edu/>

More information and application [here](#)

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Jahangir and Eleanor Amuzegar Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies

Deadline for Applications: February 15th, 2019

The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, in conjunction with the Program of Iranian Studies, at UCLA, invite applications for a postdoctoral position in the history and culture of modern Iran, effective July 1, 2019.

The full-time postdoctoral position, housed in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, may be renewed for a second year, subject to satisfactory performance and funding. Postdoctoral fellows are to teach one or two course(s) during the academic year, while pursuing their own research, and participating in the activities of the Department, the Program of Iranian Studies, the Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World, as well as other affiliated departments and centers. Postdoctoral fellows are also expected to organize—provided funding is available—academic events within their field of specialty under the aegis of the Program of Iranian Studies.

The Amuzegar Postdoctoral Fellowship aims at promoting the work of exceptional scholars at an early stage of their careers whose presence at UCLA would strengthen the study of modern Iran. Applicants from all fields of humanities and social sciences are encouraged to apply. The Department is particularly interested in candidates whose research and teaching engage broader cultural and intellectual traditions, are transdisciplinary in scope, and grounded in philological expertise and archival work.

Applicants are required to have completed their PhD before the beginning of their tenure at UCLA. Preference is given to candidates who have obtained their doctoral degree more recently. Postdoctoral fellows may not hold concurrent fellowships or positions during their appointment.

Applicants should apply online via UCLA Academic Recruit at this link.

Deadline for applications is February 15, 2019 and the Search Committee will begin reviewing the applications on March 1st.

More information and application [here](#)

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Academic Coordinator II-Center for Middle Eastern Studies

UC Berkeley

Deadline: January 30th, 2019

About the Center for Middle Eastern Studies

The CMES is a federally-designated Title VI National Resource Center at University of California, Berkeley. CMES is an interdisciplinary hub for Middle Eastern studies across disciplines and departments on campus and in the Bay Area. Each year the CMES provides direct support to students and faculty; contributes funds to departments to ensure the teaching of Middle Eastern languages and area studies courses; organizes an interdisciplinary lecture, workshop, and film series; hosts visiting

scholars; organizes trainings on teaching about the Middle East for graduate students, K 14 and community college educators; and collaborates with local, national, and international partners on scholarly initiatives related to the Middle East.

The Position:

The Vice Chair works closely with the CMES Chair to develop the near and long-term intellectual vision of the CMES and help shape Middle Eastern studies at UC Berkeley. The Vice Chair position is central both to the everyday function and the future growth of the CMES.

Key Responsibilities:

- Leads the CMES's formal development efforts, including regular donor stewardship and cultivation, managing the external advisory board, managing alumni relations, and other fundraising activities.
- Works with the Chair to develop a strategic plan for the CMES, with the aim of elevating the profile of Middle Eastern studies on campus and beyond, including internationally.
- Assists the Chair in curating academic programming and implementing CMES's mission as a Title VI National Resource Center.
- Identifies grant opportunities, coordinates grant-writing and grant-reporting.
- Works with Events Coordinator on strategic communication campaigns.
- Manages Visiting Scholars Program.
- Oversees Stevens Global Ambassadors Project.
- Fulfills certain duties of the CMES Chair when they are unavailable.

Basic Qualifications (required at time of application):

- M.A. or equivalent international degree.

Additional Required Qualifications (by start date):

- 1-3 years fundraising experience, preferably in an educational setting.
- Willingness and ability to travel both domestically and internationally.

Preferred Qualifications:

- M.A. or equivalent international degree in Middle Eastern Studies.
- Ph.D. or equivalent international degree in fields of Near Eastern Studies, History, International Relations, Anthropology, Sociology, Geography, Political Science, or any discipline with a regional focus on the Middle East and North Africa.
- Fluent written and oral communication skills in English.
- Near native-level written and oral communication skills in at least one of the four major Middle Eastern languages, viz. Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, or Turkish.
- Interpersonal skills to work effectively with faculty, staff, students, visiting scholars, community groups, and foundation program officers.
- Experience living and/or working in the Middle East.

This is a one-year renewable, full-time (100%) position with a starting salary range commensurate with experience. UC Berkeley also offers an extensive benefits package; more detail can be found here: <https://apo.berkeley.edu/resources/benefits-and-retirement>

To apply, please upload your most recently updated Curriculum Vitae (required), a cover letter (required), 1-2 page writing sample (required) and contact information for 3 references (required) to: <https://aprecruit.berkeley.edu/apply/JPF01988>

We will seek your permission before contacting your references.

The position will remain open until filled. The anticipated start date of this position is January 2, 2019.

Please address inquiries to Mary Matambanadzo marymkm@berkeley.edu.

More information and application [here](#)

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