



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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CONTENT

Call for Papers & Conferences	4
Special Issue "Contemporary Politics of the Middle-East and North-Africa"	4
"Authoritarianism, Digital Dissidence and Grassroots Media in the Middle East and North Africa region"	4
Affect and Violence: Gendering the Middle East	5
Conference: "Regime-Critical Media and Arab Diaspora: Challenges and Opportunities post-Arab Spring"	6
Call for Abstracts: WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST- March 2021	7
Talks & Other Events	8
The Political Ecology of Crisis and Revolt: Rural Development, Agrarian Change and the Environment in Egypt.....	8
Human Rights in North Africa after the Arab Uprisings.....	9
Petitions and Calls for Solidarity	10
SOLIDARITY WITH THE WOMEN OF SUDAN.....	10
Recent & Forthcoming Books	11
Civil Society in Algeria: Activism, Identity and the Democratic Process	11
Journal Articles & other Academic Publications	11
Left-wing populism within horizontal and vertical politics: the case of Kurdish-led radical democracy in agonistic pluralism	11
Hegemony and the Interest of Egypt's Business Elite in Post-Mubarak Press	12
Marginalizing Revolutionaries in Egypt's Civil State Debate	12
News Pieces & Commentary	13
Algeria: how peaceful protests can change a troubled nation	13
Morocco: Police use water cannon on protesting teachers	13
Syrians protest as Hezbollah urges resistance over US Golan move	14
Rights groups urge UN to protect Palestinians on 'Great March' protest anniversary	15
Sudanese protest for unemployed as anti-Bashir movement continues	15
Positions and Opportunities	16
Call for Papers - 2019 Prize for Best Article.....	16
Nominations for Book Awards and other Awards of the Middle Studies Association (MESA) 2019	17
Joint Visiting Fellowship - Brookings Doha Center and Qatar University	17
Postdoctoral Scholar for Research on "History of the Global South (including Middle East)", Florida State University	18
Visiting Assistant Professor of the History of the Modern Middle East	19
The Richard Gillespie Mediterranean Prize for Early Career Researchers	19

THE AHMED SEDDIQI ENDOWED CHAIR IN GULF AND MIDDLE EASTERN
STUDIES..... 20

CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

Special Issue "Contemporary Politics of the Middle-East and North-Africa"

Deadline: September 30th, 2019

Special Issue Information

The Middle-East and North Africa (MENA) is a region that is defined, among other things, by historical, political, social, cultural, and religious considerations. Mainly, it is the political structures and international relations of the countries in this region that define it. The “Arab Spring”, which started in late 2010, affected almost all of the countries in the region—not only Arab countries—either in the protests that were held, government changes, a government that was overthrown, or a civil war involving other countries. Thus, it is of utmost importance to explore the contemporary political changes of the MENA region.

The Special Issue “Contemporary Politics of the Middle-East and North-Africa” intends to explore any aspect of the contemporary politics of MENA, broadly defined. For this purpose, Societies invites articles that deal either with internal political considerations and the governmental systems of one of the countries in the region, or comparisons between different countries, or focusing on the international relations of any of the countries. Case studies are encouraged to focus on countries in North Africa—Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, and Tunisia; the Arabian Peninsula and the Persian Gulf—Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen; and the Levant—Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestinian Authority, Syria, and Turkey.

More information [here](#)

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

"Authoritarianism, Digital Dissidence and Grassroots Media in the Middle East and North Africa region"

Deadline: April 1st, 2019

Call For Papers (CfP)

Special Issue Cyber Orient

Online Journal of the Virtual Middle East

Autumn/Winter Issue 2019

Understanding intricacies of rapidly changing digital geographies and landscapes is increasingly important in Middle Eastern Studies. The purpose of this Special Issue is to provide the state-of-the-art on digital dissidence and creative resistance in the MENA region. Since 2011, digital dissidence has forged a parallel on-line universe. Digital dissidence and creative resistance went hand in hand with the rise and fall of Arab blogospheres, grassroots media centers and hackers collectives that popped all over the MENA region, opposing authoritarian state structures and oppressive groups. Anti-colonial and anti-authoritarian digital resistance can be found in the context of Israel/Palestine, Iran, Syria, Egypt, Turkey and Sudan, against autocratic governments, colonial occupiers and extremist Islamic groups.

Resistance ranges from dissident bloggers to grassroots digital video media centres, cyber-activists, open source activists and the general public using social media. Technological savviness allowed young Arab dissenters to evade state controls and circumvent censorship. At the same time, the internet provided states with means to implement close surveillance leading to the arrest, incarceration and execution of dissidents, such as the leading Palestinian-Syrian open source developer, Basel Khartabil. The processes are similar to a race between a hare and a turtle, where an internet savvy younger generation from the region continuously has to keep up before the authoritarian states and other repressive actors, catch up with them. Every day they need to change tactics to communicate with each other, crossing geographical boundaries, often with Arab and non-Arab activists outside the region. Creative dissidence is also seen in the digital memorialisation of conflict and digital geographies. The use of YouTube in Syria has led to an escalation and acceleration of audiovisual information about the Syrian war and consequently led to a digital memorialisation of the conflict. These developments beg deeper reflection on how memories of conflict have become publicly and collectively owned, shared and mediated in the digital space. But also how we should define the virtual? Where is the boundary between a physical, offline reality and a digital online reality in cyberspace? What role do algorithms play in the representation of digital geographies of colonialism and conflict?

More information [here](#)

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

Affect and Violence: Gendering the Middle East

Deadline: April 30th, 2019

Gender Studies 2019 Conference: On Violence

24th of October – 26th of October 2019

University of Helsinki, Finland

We welcome paper proposals for the Gender Studies 2019 Conference: On Violence. The Call is open until the 30th of April, 2019. We warmly invite scholars from a variety of locations in the Global North and South to participate in the discussions on violence.

The aim of the proposed workshop is to explore the role of emotions and affect in (re)presenting, normalizing and shaping the contours of gender and violence in reference to the Middle East and North Africa in particular and the global south more broadly. There has been a good deal of scholarly attention in recent years to affects around conflict, disaster, vulnerability and trauma, but largely in relation to Euro-American perspectives and theorisations. This workshop aims instead to engage with the ways in which emotional framings of violence and gender in the MENA region are shaped by the co-constitution of local and global, West and non-West, and the historical and the everyday within transnational contexts. We encourage submissions which examine in what ways the geopolitics of nationalism, (in)security, conflict and crisis in the region reinforce or complicate gendered and racialised discourses, and how the tasks of solidarity are rendered more complex and layered as a result. These concerns may be shaped by attention to the broader context of the

role of epistemic violence in constructions of the region, in the biopolitics and necropolitics of managing the life and death of populations.

We welcome papers which speak to these or related issues. Contributions may address the role of affect in, for example, orientalising and racialising regimes of grievability and vulnerability; emotional narratives of gendered violence in online and/or offline popular culture, including visual mediations of violence; banal and ordinary framings of violence and gender vis-à-vis singular moments of crisis and rupture; non-Western security imaginaries; violence in collective memory and narratives of trauma; diasporic and migratory geographies of affect, gender and violence.

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Conference: “Regime-Critical Media and Arab Diaspora: Challenges and Opportunities post-Arab Spring”

Deadline: May 15th, 2019

Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies,
University of Copenhagen, Denmark, 5-6 September 2019

Middle East or in diaspora has greatly changed and their contributions have taken on a new significance.

Hence, the overall questions are: how do regime-critical media produced for the Middle Eastern or North-African audiences meet new challenges and opportunities? How do Middle Eastern and North-African diaspora groups mobilize politically and engage in transnational political activities? How does the audiences’ use of regime-critical media influences political action formation in diaspora?

We invite conference papers that examine the regime-critical media produced both in and outside the Middle East, and/or how media practices of Middle Eastern and North-African political activists in diaspora contribute to political transformation. The conference aims at exploring and discussing the potentially wide variations in regime-critical media and the Arab diasporas’ practices of using them. Both theoretical and empirical contributions are welcome.

The conference welcomes papers on any of the following – or allied – topics or themes:

Regime-critical media in the Middle East and North African countries:

- The history (and developments) of Arab critical media
- Politicization of critical media after the 2011 Arab Spring
- Social media in light of political repression
- Critical media coverage of social movements
- Critical media censorship and ownership
- The performing of conflict by critical media
- Violence and affective media events
- Audio-visual modalities of critical media
- Art, creativity, alternative features of critical media

- Virtual mobility and glocality of critical media
- The legal framework of Arab media
- The future of Arab critical media

Political activism and media users of regime-critical media:

- Media practices in the diaspora
- Media and migrationhood
- Practices of citizen journalism
- Political activism in digital media
- Cyber activism post-Arab Spring
- Transnational media practice
- Mediatized negotiations and contestations of current developments
- Connective and collective action formations
- Electronic armies (committees) on social media

Abstract Submission

The deadline for submitting proposals for individual papers is May 15. Please submit a title and abstract of about 250 words, in addition to your name, institutional affiliation and contact information.

Please send your abstracts or any enquiries to mediasp@hum.ku.dk

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Call for Abstracts: WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST- March 2021

Deadline: October 30th, 2019

The Association for Middle East Women's Studies (AMEWS) is pleased to invite submissions of abstracts for an international conference on gender and women's studies in the Middle East in the second week of March 2021 in Beirut, Lebanon, in partnership with local universities (American University of Beirut and Lebanese American University). This is the first AMEWS conference in the Middle East. The conference engages scholars from multiple locations in and outside of the region, on the cutting-edge topics propelling research on gender and women's studies in the Middle East and with populations in the diaspora. The call is open to the broad range of topics on gender and women's studies in the social sciences and humanities: politics, economics, history, sexualities, culture, arts, digital humanities and so forth. The abstracts will be reviewed and thematically organized. There may be invited speakers and sessions. AMEWS expects to be able to fund the travel, accommodations and catering for the majority of the participants, with funding priority going to those residing in the Middle East. Several products are planned, including publications and engagements with NGO's and other local organizations committed to gender issues.

For more information about AMEWS, see: <http://amews.org/> and The Journal of Middle East Women's Studies, <https://www.dukeupress.edu/.../journal-of-middle-east-womens-...>

If you are interested in participating, please send an abstract (250 words) on a topic of your interest - include in the abstract why you believe this is a pressing topic.

Abstract template:

Name:

Discipline:

Affiliation :

Email:

Snail Mail:

Title of paper :

Abstract of 250 words.

Please send your abstracts to Angie Abdelmonem :angie.abdelmonem@asu.edu

The deadline for sending abstracts is October 30, 2019.

Planning Committee: Fatima Sadiqi, Chair; Hanadi Al-Samman, Angie Abdelmonem, Louise Cainkar, Amaney Jamal, Suad Joseph

More information [here](#)

[*Back to top*](#)

TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

The Political Ecology of Crisis and Revolt: Rural Development, Agrarian Change and the Environment in Egypt

12 April 2019, 3-5PM

Wijnhaven

Turfmarkt 99

2511 DP The Hague

This panel examines the intersection between the environment and rural development in Egypt. Often environmental issues in Egypt have been neglected as a result of the conflict and instability that has afflicted the region in recent years. Within academic and policy studies the ecology is sometimes treated as separate to the region's politics and economics. Rather than posit the environment as a separate sphere to the region's social characteristics, the ecology should be seen at the core of such issues.

The lineages of the revolutions that have taken place across the region can be partly traced to the dual crises that have taken place within the rural economy and environment. Food insecurity, drought, land degradation, the dispossession of small farmers and poverty have all manifested themselves in the social movements and revolt that are sometimes portrayed as exclusively urban in origins.

The aim of this panel is to draw together themes of rural development and environment in order to illustrate the centrality of these issues to the region's current predicament. It seeks to bring together researchers from academia and NGOs in order to convey their individual perspectives and draw links between them in order to ask the question of: What is the political ecology of rural crisis and revolt in Egypt?

About the speakers

Dr. **Christian Henderson** is assistant professor in Middle East studies at Leiden Institute for Area Studies at Leiden University. His research focusses on agrarian change, political economy and political ecology of the Gulf states and wider Middle East.

Noor A. Noor is an Egyptian environmentalist, educator and musician, with a particular interest in biodiversity conservation through policy, communications and innovation. Between 2012 - 2018, Noor was the Executive Coordinator at *Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE)*, an NGO working to conserve Egypt's nature and to promote its sustainable use.

Saker El Nour is an associate researcher at *UMR Développement & Sociétés (IRD - University Paris 1)*. In 2013 he awarded a doctorate in sociology from Paris Nanterre University with his dissertation entitled “*Contemporary poverty dynamics in rural Egypt. Case study of Nazlet Salmân*”.

Yasmine Moataz Ahmed is a postdoctoral teaching fellow at the Core Curriculum Office of The American University in Cairo. She earned her PhD in social anthropology from the University of Cambridge, where she wrote her dissertation on perceptions of the state and citizenship practices in rural Egypt.

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Human Rights in North Africa after the Arab Uprisings

Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 2 PM
Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33, 14129 Berlin, Germany

The popular uprisings in the Middle East and North African (MENA) region, which started in Tunisia in December 2010 and spread across region, were mainly driven by the failure of the state to respect, protect and ensure human rights. The uprisings were assumed to have provided a context for the re-articulation of human rights in the region. Could these expectations be met after eight years of uprisings? How did the uprisings impact human rights discourses and practices of the countries which have been suspected of being incapable of adjusting international human rights norms? This presentation looks at human rights developments in three major North African countries undergoing transition through the course of uprisings, namely Tunisia, Egypt and Morocco. By addressing the legal and institutional reforms, it covers the challenges and opportunities of human rights protection that these countries face during the transitional process.

MELEK SARAL is a Marie Curie Research Fellow at SOAS School of Law working on a project entitled “Human Rights in Post-Uprisings Middle East: Emerging Discourses and Practices in Egypt and Tunisia.” Before that, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the URPP Asia and Europe, University of Zurich. Melek received her PhD from the University of Munich. She studied political science, law, and history at the University of Munich, the University of Bradford, and the European University Institute.

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

PETITIONS AND CALLS FOR SOLIDARITY

SOLIDARITY WITH THE WOMEN OF SUDAN

As the world celebrates International Women History Day on March 8, The Human Rights Task Force of the Association for Middle East Women's Studies (AMEWS), an affiliate of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), stands in solidarity with the women of Sudan, who have been at the forefront of the protests that started December 2018 and continue to this date. While Sudanese women and men initially protested the rise of the prices of basic commodities, such as bread and gas, protestors now demand an end to the rule of the National Congress Party (NCP). The NCP has been in power for the last three decades, during which the majority of the people of Sudan have faced oppression, militarization, and social, economic and political exclusion. The regime in power has been particularly oppressive and violent toward women and girls in all parts of Sudan, including through rape as a tool of war, and through its infamous 'Public Order' and criminal law provisions that restricted women's freedom of movement and imposed a dress code on women. The regime particularly targeted low-income women such as street vendors, and women in historically marginalized areas of Sudan such as Darfur, Southern Kordofan, and the Blue Nile.

Women in Sudan continue to lead and to protest despite the regime's use of excessive force, sexual violence against women and other forms of torture. Detainees include key figures in the women's movement. Associations and Movements from across the Middle East, Africa, and globally, including the Middle East Studies Association of North America and the African Studies Association of North America, in addition to over twenty organizations from across the Middle East and Africa, have condemned this violence. In January 2019, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet also condemned the Sudan regime's excessive use of force against detainees and has asked that the regime respects its people's rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Sudanese protestors have marked March 7 as a day to recognize and celebrate the bravery and heroism of Sudanese women. We take this opportunity to express our support for the rights of all Sudanese, especially women and men to peaceful assembly and protest, and we honor their dreams and aspirations for social, economic, and political change and social justice, gender equality, freedom, prosperity, and human rights. And we call for the immediate release of all detainees, especially women and academics. The African Studies Association has issued a statement concerning freedom of expression in Sudan; and twenty-two African and Middle Eastern human rights associations issued a statement condemning the use of force against protestors.

Please read the following petition and sign if you agree with the content:

<https://www.change.org/p/activists-solidarity-with-the-people-of-sudan-december-2018>

In solidarity,
The AMEWS Human Rights Task Force

[Back to top](#)

RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Civil Society in Algeria: Activism, Identity and the Democratic Process

Jessica Ayesha Northey
I.B. Tauris, 2018

Are new forms of activism emerging in Algeria? Can civil society effect political reform in the country? The violence between radical Islamists and the military during the Algerian civil war of the 1990s led to huge loss of life and mass exile. The public sphere was rendered a dangerous place for over a decade. Yet in defiance of these conditions, civil society grew, with thousands of associations forming throughout the conflict. Associations were set up to protect human rights and vulnerable populations, commemorate those assassinated and promote Algerian heritage. There are now over 93,000 associations registered across the country. Although social, economic and political turbulence continues, new networks still emerge and, since the Arab revolts of 2011, organised demonstrations increasingly take place.

Civil Society in Algeria examines these recent developments and scrutinizes the role associations play in promoting political reform and democratization in Algeria. Based on extensive fieldwork undertaken both before and after the Arab Spring, the book shows how associations challenge government policy in the public sphere. Algeria is playing an increasingly important role in the stability and future peaceful relations of the Middle East and North Africa. This book reveals the new forms of activism that are challenging the ever-powerful state. It is a valuable resource for Algeria specialists and for scholars researching political reform and democratization across the Middle East and North Africa.

[Back to top](#)

JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Left-wing populism within horizontal and vertical politics: the case of Kurdish-led radical democracy in agonistic pluralism

Omar Tekdemir
Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies
Volume 21, 2019 - Issue 3

In the post-political period, the Kurdish-led Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) has offered a radical democratic political project by adopting a left-leaning populism to challenge the political establishment (elites) through the construction of a new concept of 'the People' (underdog) in a new political grammar. This article outlines the feasibility of applying Laclau's populist discursive in analysing the notion of radical democracy, which is conceptualized in terms of Mouffe's agonistic approach, as a 'real' alternative in the organic crisis of the 'new Turkey'. The inclusive populism of the HDP mobilizes the collective passion in politics, with its common affects, in order to create a counter-hegemonic bloc. This

left-wing populist ontology aims to reform the existing democratic institutions in terms of an egalitarian and libertarian rhetoric to challenge the Justice and Development Party's (AKP) right-wing conservative populism that has recently transformed into authoritarianism, majoritarianism and illiberalism in the post-democracy era.

[Back to top](#)

Hegemony and the Interest of Egypt's Business Elite in Post-Mubarak Press

Maher Hamoud
New Middle Eastern Studies
Vol 9, No 1 (2019)

This article aims at critically analysing the hegemony of Egypt's business elite and the private press they own following Mubarak's fall. Hegemony requires the exercise of power to maintain consent under changing conditions such as the 2011 uprising and the 2013 military coup. This study answers the question of "why and how Egypt's business elite controls the post-Mubarak press?". Situated within the interdisciplinary domain of "critical political economy of communication", this article focuses on the two most popular privately-owned newspapers al-Masry al-Youm and al-Watan. Interviews with high-profile sources have been conducted and embedded into the research. Findings show that the Egyptian private press, particularly in the post-Mubarak era, is closely controlled by the business elite in favour of their interests, and indirectly in favour of the political elite – whether civilian or military. The sector's hegemonic position was briefly shaken by the 2011 uprising, then quickly maintained and reinforced before the 2013 coup.

[Back to top](#)

Marginalizing Revolutionaries in Egypt's Civil State Debate

Shaimaa Magued
Peace Review: A Journal of Social Justice
Volume 30, 2018 - Issue 4: SYMPOSIUM: RELIGION IN WAR AND PEACE IN AFRICA

After President Hosni Mubarak was overthrown on February 11, 2011, competing narratives emerged about the Egyptian civil state during the formulation of the 2012 and 2014 constitutions. Arguably, the army's political domination and the Islamic–secular rivalry were behind the marginalization of young activists, militants in social movements, and many other civilians known as revolutionaries who took part in the January 25 Revolution, during the formulation of both constitutions.

The following offers two new perspectives in the analysis of peaceful democratic transition in Egypt after the revolution. First, it relies on the analysis of the different actors' discourses about civil state in order to show how both constitutions overlooked the revolutionaries' vision and impeded peaceful democratic transition. Second, it addresses the civil state debate on which writings related to democratic transition in the Middle East remained silent and

rather focusing on military–Islamist relations, the political economy of post-revolutionary regimes, and alliance shifts in foreign policy.

[Back to top](#)

NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

Algeria: how peaceful protests can change a troubled nation

Abdelbaqi Ghorab
The Conversation
March 26th, 2019

Peaking after Friday prayers, streets across Algeria have been flooded with protesters demanding change in recent weeks. They are demanding an end to the 20-year rule of president Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who has now pledged – not entirely convincingly – to stand down.

Whether genuine change will now come remains to be seen. But what is most notable about this mass “hirak” (the Arabic word for “movement”) is both its distrust of any politician who seeks to speak on behalf of the protesters – and its rejection of violence.

The importance of these two factors is grounded in the long struggle the nation has faced. Algerians, although determined and hopeful, are well acquainted with the dangers of striving for a change of this magnitude. Their shared past offers many lessons about nation building, many of which came at a heavy price.

Experts are divided over the definition of a “nation”, but many agree that two factors are important. On one hand, a collective memory serves as a record of the triumphs and failures from which the nation derives its lessons. On the other, imagination helps to instil a deep bond between the nation’s different members and cultivate an enveloping sense of community. Both of these factors have played a role in Algeria’s ongoing quest for nationhood.

Continue reading [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Morocco: Police use water cannon on protesting teachers

The Maghreb Times
March 25th, 2019

Thousands of teachers are demanding pay rises – and defying government demands to return to the classroom or face the sack.

Sunday’s march in Rabat, Morocco’s capital city, came a day after police used water cannon to disperse teachers who were sleeping outdoors in protest.

The teachers marched from the education ministry to the front of parliament – and demanded permanent contracts that deliver civil service benefits including a better retirement pension.

Some of them shouted slogans such as “this is a corrupt country” and “we are ruled by a mafia” – and urged Prime Minister Eddine El Othmani to resign.

The government insists that teachers on temporary contracts have the same starting salary as those employed permanently, which is about 5,000 dirhams (£395) a month.

However, many protesters are demanding that their monthly pay is raised by 1,500 dirhams (£118) per month.

The government has warned that teachers face the sack unless they return to the classroom.

Continue reading [here](#)

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

Syrians protest as Hezbollah urges resistance over US Golan move

Al Jazeera

March 26th, 2019

Thousands of Syrians have staged protests across different cities against US President Donald Trump's formal recognition of Israel's sovereignty over the occupied Golan Heights, a move that has sparked global concern and a call for "resistance" from Lebanon's Hezbollah.

Men and women carrying Syrian and Palestinian flags and banners reading "Golan is Syrian" marched through the southern city of Sweida in Syria on Tuesday, according to state-run SANA news agency, as Imad Sara, the country's information minister, called for a "strong response" and at a rally in Damascus.

Protests also took place in southern Deraa, about 20 kilometres from the Golan Heights, and in northern Aleppo, as well as Homs and Hama in the country's centre.

"We are here to condemn Trump's Golan decision," said Mohammad Shaaban, a protester in Aleppo. "The Golan is Arab and Syrian whether they like it or not."

Trump's move on Monday made the US the first country to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan, which was captured from Syria in a 1967 war and regarded by the rest of the international community as occupied territory.

Syria has called the move "blatant aggression".

Amid growing condemnation, including from a number of US's European allies, the leader of Hezbollah said the decision proves "resistance, resistance, and resistance" was the only way to retake lands occupied by Israel.

In a televised speech on Tuesday, Hassan Nasrallah described Trump's move as "a crucial turning point in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict", which "deals a knockout punch" to peace in the region.

Continue reading [here](#)

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

Rights groups urge UN to protect Palestinians on 'Great March' protest anniversary

Middle East Eye
March 27th, 2019

Almost 20 Palestinian rights groups – both regional and international – urged the United Nations to protect Gazans who participate in the anniversary of the “Great March of Return” protests this coming Saturday.

In a letter sent to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday, the groups warned that Israel “will once again resort to lethal and other excessive force, including live ammunition, to suppress the protests”.

“We urge the UN to take meaningful action to prevent further unnecessary loss of life and injury by the Israeli occupying forces, which entails individual criminal responsibility and may amount to international crimes,” the letter read.

They went on to issue an 11-point list of recommendations for the UN, including beefing up monitoring of Israel’s use of force on the protests, demanding accountability and making sure Israel adheres to the Geneva Convention.

Continue reading [here](#)

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

Sudanese protest for unemployed as anti-Bashir movement continues

Middle East Eye
March 17th, 2019

Sudanese protesters demonstrated in solidarity with the country's unemployed on Sunday as their protest movement against President Omar al-Bashir, fuelled by economic crisis, continued.

The calls for Bashir to step down have continued since December, when anger over rising living costs and austerity measures spread across the country.

On Sunday protesters in the capital Khartoum and its twin city of Omdurman, across the Nile, were tear-gassed by security forces, according to onlookers.

Organisers of the protest movement had called the rallies in support of "jobless people" in the country.

"I'm unemployed and my present job is to overthrow the regime," a protester wrote on his t-shirt as he participated in a Khartoum rally.

Unemployment in Sudan has increased in recent years and is currently around 20 percent, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Continue reading [here](#)

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

POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Call for Papers - 2019 Prize for Best Article

Contemporary Levant
Deadline: July 1st, 2019

We are pleased to announce the call for papers to enter CBRL's Prize for Best Article for our international peer-reviewed journal, Contemporary Levant, is now open. Last year's prize was awarded to Ann-Christin Wagner, former PhD candidate in social anthropology at the University of Edinburgh. The award recognises excellent research and scholarship that engages with current and emerging issues in the Levant that advances our understanding of the region. For more information about the aims and scope of the journal please see [here](#).

A committee from CBRL and the editorial board of Contemporary Levant will select the best article from submissions; the article will be published in the October 2019 edition of Contemporary Levant. The prize winner will receive £100 plus a one-year membership to CBRL. The prize winner will be presented with a certificate of recognition at the CBRL annual general meeting held in December.

Eligibility: this is an open call. We are looking for original unpublished articles from scholars in different stages of their careers and from different disciplines: anthropology, sociology, politics, religion and theology, language and linguistics cultural studies, modern history, social geography, media, film studies and literature.

Submission: articles between 8,000 and 10,000 words (including abstract and footnotes) should be submitted as an electronic version to Dr Alice Stefanelli:
contemplevant@cbri.org.uk

Continue reading [here](#)

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

Nominations for Book Awards and other Awards of the Middle Studies Association (MESA) 2019

Deadline: April 1st, 2019

The Middle Studies Association annually recognizes outstanding contributions in scholarly achievement, mentoring of students and faculty, service to the profession, innovations in undergraduate education and teaching, and academic freedom.

MESA has three book awards: The Albert Hourani Book Award recognizes the very best scholarship in Middle East studies; The Nikki Keddie Book Award focuses on exceptional scholarship in religion, revolution, and/or society. The Fatima Mernissi Book Award is given to the best work in studies of gender, sexuality, and women's lived experience.

In addition to its three book awards, MESA also administers two biennial book awards in the areas of Iranian studies (Houshang Pourshariati Iranian Studies Book Award) and economics/economic history/political economy (Roger Owen Book Award).

Through its Mentoring Award, MESA recognizes exceptional contributions retired faculty have made to the education and training of others. The Jere L. Bacharach Service Award recognizes the contributions of individuals through their outstanding service to MESA or the profession. As part of its commitment to nurturing young scholars, MESA established the Graduate Student Paper Prize to recognize outstanding graduate student research. The Undergraduate Education Award recognizes outstanding scholarship on teaching or other material contributions to undergraduate education in Middle East Studies.

MESA's awards programs encourage the very best work in the field of Middle East studies.

Continue reading [here](#)

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

Joint Visiting Fellowship - Brookings Doha Center and Qatar University

Deadline: May 2nd, 2019

About the Brookings Doha Center

Established in 2008, the Brookings Doha Center (BDC) is an overseas center of the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. As a hub for Brookings scholarship in the region, the BDC advances high-quality, independent research and policy analysis on the Middle East and North Africa. In 2011 the Brookings Doha Center launched a joint Visiting Fellowship with Qatar University (QU).

Joint Visiting Fellowship

Over the course of a 9-month period, the fellow will teach up to two courses at Qatar University and have the opportunity to conduct original research of their own. The 9-month period covers two academic semesters at Qatar University. The joint fellow is expected to author a policy briefing on her/his area of focus, to be published by Brookings. Candidates with a focus on the Gulf region are particularly encouraged to apply.

Responsibilities

Teaching (60%)

- Teach a semester-long seminar (16 weeks) at Qatar University on a topic of her/his own choosing. This may be one of the courses currently offered in the QU Gulf Studies Program (History, Political Science, Economics, International Relations, Education, Law), or a related subject as defined by the Visiting Fellow.
- Teach 1-2 courses, which are typically discussion-based, enabling the fellow to develop and refine her/his ideas and research in an academic setting.

Research, Writing, and Outreach (40%)

- Undertake original research and writing on a topic of their choosing.
- Produce one policy briefing (3,000 to 3,500 words) on a policy-relevant issue.
- Produce regular op-eds and blogposts both for Brookings and other media outlets.

Provide media commentary and expertise.

More information [here](#)

[*Back to top*](#)

Postdoctoral Scholar for Research on "History of the Global South (including Middle East)", Florida State University

Deadline: April 26th, 2019

History of the Global South, conceptualized as regions inclusive of Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Pacific Islands, and the Middle East (Topical and chronological fields are open, with a preference for candidates whose research and teaching focus on decolonization, history of capitalism, ecology, environment, gender and sexuality, migration, science and technology, and spatial history): The Department of History at Florida State University invites applicants for a two-year (two consecutive 12 month contracts), full-time, non-tenure track, non-renewable position at the rank of Postdoctoral Associate. Ph.D. required and must be in hand at time of appointment. The appointment will begin in August of 2019. Salary and benefits are competitive. The position carries a teaching load of two courses per semester-one large survey as well as a smaller lecture course or undergraduate seminar. Please direct questions to search committee chair, Prof. Robinson A. Herrera, at rherrera@fsu.edu.

HOW TO APPLY

If qualified and interested in a specific job opening as advertised, apply to Florida State University at <https://hr.fsu.edu>., then click on Job Opportunities; the job ID is 44963. If you are a current FSU employee, apply via myFSU>Self Service. Applicants are required to complete the online application with all applicable information. Applications must include all work history up to ten years, and education details even if attaching a resume.

The following is required to be considered: Submit in a single PDF a cover letter and curriculum vitae. Three letters of recommendation should be requested electronically. Please refer to the Request Letters of Reference section in the FSU job ad.

More information [here](#)

[*Back to top*](#)

Visiting Assistant Professor of the History of the Modern Middle East

The Department of History at Western Washington University
Application Review: Begins April 15th, 2019

About the Position

One-year Visiting Instructor/Assistant Professor of History beginning on September 16, 2019, through June 15, 2020. The position is open to historians of the Middle East.

Responsibilities:

The successful candidate will teach seven courses over three quarters.

Required Qualifications

ABD in History or related field, by September 15, 2019

Ability to teach 300/400 level courses in candidate's area of specialization; as well as HIST 384- Palestine, Zionism, and Israel; HIST 499-Historical Research; and two of the following 200-level courses: HIST 287-Introduction to Islamic Civilization; HIST 288- History of the Modern Middle East; HIST 232- History of the Jews before the Modern era; HIST 233- History of the Jews in the Modern Era.

Preferred Qualifications

Ph.D. in the history of the modern Middle East, or related field

Demonstrated potential for effective teaching

Demonstrated potential to work effectively with a diverse campus community, including potential and commitment to cultivating learning environments that are equitable and inclusive of students with diverse social identities and backgrounds

More information [here](#)

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

The Richard Gillespie Mediterranean Prize for Early Career Researchers

Mediterranean Politics is pleased to announce the launch of the Richard Gillespie Mediterranean Prize for the best research article on the contemporary social and political dynamics of the Mediterranean region published in the Journal by an early career researcher. The winning article will be selected by an international Prize Committee appointed by the Editorial Board. The winner will earn a £250 prize and a one-year free subscription to the journal.

We welcome contributions on politics and international relations as well as economics, human geography, sociology, anthropology and other relevant disciplines in the humanities and social sciences.

Examples of themes that are, *inter alia*, of interest to *Mediterranean Politics* include: foreign-policy making in the Mediterranean region, conflicts in the Mediterranean region, Southern European politics, migration/ borders/ exile and refugees policy in the Mediterranean region, transitional justice, memory in the Mediterranean region, global powers in the Mediterranean,

revolution & insurgency, gender politics/policies in the Mediterranean, (this list is not exhaustive).

Criteria of Eligibility:

- Be a PhD student or an early career scholar (2 years maximum after a PhD)
- Submit a single-authored article or a co-authored article, provided all the authors fulfil the eligibility criteria.
- Follow the publishing guidelines of Mediterranean Politics

More information and application [here](#)

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

THE AHMED SEDDIQI ENDOWED CHAIR IN GULF AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

University of Sharjah

Application Deadline: April 25th, 2019

The College of Arts and Sciences at American University of Sharjah invites applications for the Ahmed Seddiqi Chair in Gulf and Middle Eastern Studies, an endowed full-time faculty position in the Department of International Studies at the rank of Professor or Associate Professor. We seek an accomplished scholar and educator who has distinguished himself/herself in the field as evidenced by a sustained research and teaching record. The successful candidate will be expected to establish an internationally recognized research program; initiate collaborations among faculty, researchers and students; excel at teaching and mentoring students; offer a wide range of courses in Gulf and Middle Eastern Studies; and demonstrate leadership in service within the department and the university.

The Ahmed Seddiqi Chair will be provided with additional funds to support his/her research activities, to hire student research assistants, and to participate in regional and international conferences in the area of Gulf and Middle Eastern Studies.

Successful candidates will have a PhD in an area related to Gulf and/or Middle Eastern Studies, a strong record of scholarship with an active and ambitious research agenda as well as a record of excellent teaching. All faculty members in the Department of International Studies are expected to contribute to a range of faculty- and student-oriented service activities that contribute to maintaining a vibrant interdisciplinary department.

As a university formed on the American model and with English as the language of instruction, American University of Sharjah gives priority to candidates who have substantial experience in American models of higher education.

Application materials must include a letter of application, research and teaching statements, curriculum vitae, and names and contact information of three references. Please apply online at <https://acg-apps1.aus.edu/cas/empapp/apply.php?p=INT-19-01>. Initial screening of applications will begin immediately and continue until an appointment is made. For full consideration, materials should be provided by April 25, 2019.

American University of Sharjah is a not-for-profit, independent, coeducational institution of higher education formed on American models but thoroughly grounded in Arab culture. Located in University City, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (about 15 km from Dubai), AUS offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs to approximately 5,200 students from more than 90 nations. English is the language of instruction and the workplace. For more information about the College of Arts and Sciences, please visit <https://www.aus.edu/cas>

AUS was recently named by Times Higher Education as hosting the most internationally diverse student body in the world, reflecting a dynamic and cosmopolitan metro area that includes abundant opportunities for travel, entertainment, cultural experiences and natural beauty.

More information and application [here](#)

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