



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

Panel on "Violent Extremism in the Mediterranean: A Critical Approach" during the Conference of the Italian Society of Political Science (SISP), University of Salento, Lecce, 12-14 September 2019

Deadline: May 19th, 2019

After the 2011 uprisings, the attention towards security and terrorism highly increased in Mediterranean area leading to the spread of the concepts of 'Violent Extremism' and 'Radicalisation'. This panel aims to analyse critically the theoretical and practical dimension of PVE/CVE practices as well as the social movements and groups usually considered as 'Violent Extremist'.

In order to take part in the advertised panel, submit your abstract until 19 May 2019 by registering on <https://www.sisp.it/register> and choosing panel 13.3.

More information [here](#)

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Panels for the "26th International Congress of the German Middle East Studies Association (DAVO)" Combined with the Conference of the Section for Islam Studies of the Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft (DMG), Hamburg, 3-5 October 2019

Deadline: May 31st, 2019

Submission of papers are invited for the following open panels. Please send your abstracts (ca. 300 words) until 31 May 2019 to the respective organizer of the panel and to the Secretary General of the Congress, amke.dietert@googlemail.com

Rethinking the Process of "Normalization" of Islamist Parties in Light of the Models of "Civil State" and "Islamic Secularism"

Organizer: Alia Gana, CNRS, University of Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne, ganaalia0@gmail.com; Anca Munteanu, CNRS, anca.munteanu@gmail.com; Ester Sigillo, University of Florence, ester.sigillo@sns.it

One of the major transformations of the political landscape in Arab countries affected by the 2011 popular uprisings is the coming to power of Islamist parties, previously excluded from the institutional political game.

For the proponents of the "moderation" theory (Schwedler, 2007, 2011, 2013; Wegner et Pellicer 2009), one of the main analytical grids of the dynamics of political Islam, the political integration of Islamist parties, would lead them to carry out profound ideological

transformations, to reduce the religious dimensions of their political project and therefore would inscribe them in a process of "normalisation" (Roy, 2004) on the same way as other party organizations.

Thus, for example, the Islamist parties in power in Tunisia (Ennahdha) and Morocco (PJD) now advocate the need to distinguish between politics and religion, asserting the "civil" character of their parties and claiming their adherence to the "civil State" model. As proof of these transformations, they highlight the actions undertaken to separate political activities, affirmed as the exclusive domain of the party, from religious preaching activities, a mission assigned to associations specialized in this field.

On the other hand, with the rise of the concept of the civil State ("Dawla madanyia"), developed by Islamist thinkers (Raouf Ezzat, 2002), but also taken up by secular political currents, we are also witnessing the emergence of the notion of "Islamic secularism", the development of which also owes to the "feminist" currents within political Islam. The interest of the notion of Islamist secularism is that it would make it possible to integrate individual rights and women's rights and thus to distinguish the political project of Islamist parties from that of theocratic regimes, but without renouncing religious reference (Dayan-Hezbrun, 2015).

Closely related to the works of the ERC-funded project TARICA, this panel aims at bringing together papers that critically explore the process of "normalization" of Islamist parties. Drawing on a critical perspective of "moderation" (Schwedler 2007) and post-Islamism theories (Bayat 1996, 2012; Roy 1999), the purpose is to interrogate the notions of "civil State" and "Secular Islamism" and their role in the strategies of Islamist parties' political integration.

The problematics that guide the reflection proposed in this panel revolves around the following questions:

- How does the mobilization of the model of the civil State and the notion of Islamist secularism (and the way they are framed) best serve the political integration project of Islamist parties?
- How are the models of the civil State and Islamic secularism operationalized and concretely manifest in the forms of action and organization of Islamist parties?
- What effects do the mobilization of these models have on the processes of differentiation/separation between partisan action and religious preaching activities?
- What effects does the mobilization of the civil State and Islamist secularism models have on the redefinition of the relationship between the political and the religious spheres?

We invite proposals that explore these questions both theoretically and by mobilizing empirical research on Islamist parties in North Africa and the Middle East, including Turkey. Comparative approaches between one or more countries are encouraged.

South Yemen: Past, Present, and Future

Organizers: Abdulsalam al-Rubaidi, alrubaidi@forumluqman.org; Amira Augustin, Academic Forum Muhammad Ali Luqman, Berlin, info@forumluqman.org

Over the past decades, South Yemen has witnessed huge political transformations. In the 1950s, the harbor city of Aden was the second most frequented port in the world after New York. It had been used for almost 130 years as a British colonial bridgehead at the Gulf of Aden and at the strait of the Bab al-Mandab, which separates the Arabian Peninsula from East Africa.

In the 1960s, the population of South Arabia fought against British colonial rule, which ended in 1967. The only Marxist-oriented state in the Arab World emerged, i.e. the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY), which aimed at left-wing progressivity. However, this time was also marked by political instability emanating from the ruling unity party, the Yemeni Socialist Party. Yemeni unification in 1990 raised hopes for a prosperous future. Power in the state was equally shared between southern and northern politicians and bureaucrats in ministries.

However, the results of the 1993 elections shattered the power-sharing agreement, marginalized the Yemeni Socialist Party of the PDRY, and strengthened the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Iṣlāḥ) and, with them, tribal and Islamist elites of the north. As tensions soared, civil war broke out on 27 April 1994. The southern faction lost this war on 7 July 1994. The hopes for a prosperous future were dashed with this war that largely marginalized South Yemen and its population politically, economically, and socially.

The political instability in the Republic of Yemen in recent years gave rise to different identity groups and protest movements, such as the Southern Movement since 2007, i.e. an independence movement in the region of the former PDRY seeking the reestablishment of the state in its borders pre-1990.

Since 2014, the current war in Yemen has fragmented the country and deteriorated the living conditions for the population. Instability and an uncertain future overshadow the region. However, new forms of local governance and ruling, as well as new civil society activism have emerged to fight the eclipse of the state. When South Yemen was liberated from Houthi and Salih forces in mid-2015, films, literary publications and cultural clubs emerged in South Yemen. But since the UN-led peace process in 2015, South Yemeni stakeholders have been marginalized from the process and were not granted a seat at the negotiation table next to the Houthis and the Hadi government.

South Yemen is an area about which relatively little research has been undertaken. However, due to the current war in Yemen and its strategically important position at the Bab al-Mandab and the Gulf of Aden, its role is growing steadily. The panel will highlight this growing role and invites papers which offer insight into historical, political, economic, cultural, literary, and religious topics related to South Yemen.

Towards New Social Contracts in MENA Countries? Prospects for Economic and Social Policy Reform, better Governance and National Dialogues

Organiser: Markus Loewe, German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), Bonn, Markus.Loewe@die-gdi.de

Many scholars interpret the 2011 upheavals in the MENA as a sign of failure of the social contracts that MENA countries had developed after independence. All of these are based on the provision of generous social benefits by governments to citizens as compensation for the lack of political participation. However, with growing populations and declining state revenues, governments became less able to fulfil their contractual obligations and had to focus spending increasingly on strategically important social groups. The Arab uprisings in 2011 were thus an expression of discontent of citizens with a situation where governments provided neither political participation nor social benefits.

The question is what types of social contracts have emerged after the uprisings and what do these imply for the coming years.

The first part of the panel will deal with MENA countries that sustained their statehood (Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Algeria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia). It discusses, if governments of these countries have been able to refurbish the old social contracts or establish new ones. What is the content of the new social contracts? What are the deliverables of governments and citizens? Are the new contracts acceptable for citizens or are citizens likely to revolt again? Can we think of reforms that establish ‘better’ social contracts that is better for citizens yet acceptable for governments?

The second part of the panel will deal with MENA countries that have descended into civil wars (Yemen, Libya, Syria). It discusses the prospects of these countries establishing new social contracts that are acceptable for all major conflicting parties, at least for the short term. Is the formation of social covenants between the conflicting parties conceivable? Can a new social contract be set up building on these social covenants? Which internal and external actors have to be on board in such a process?

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New Book Series with Peter Lang Publishing, Titled “Culture, Society and Political Economy in Turkey”

Edited by:

Isabel David (Assistant Professor, Institute of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lisbon, Portugal)

Kumru F. Toktamis (Associate Professor, Pratt Institute, USA)

Dear friends and colleagues,

We are happy to announce the launching of a timely and much needed book series with Peter Lang Publishing, titled “Culture, Society and Political Economy in Turkey”.

Drawing from an experience of publication and from an academic network developed by the editors over the years, the series aims at launching new research on culture, society and political economy in Turkey from both established and emerging scholars, with the goal of shaping the field.

We are looking for original material from the areas of sociology, political science, anthropology, political economy and related fields, with a theoretical and empirical focus. As importantly, the series is also looking for translations from materials this far not accessible to the English-speaking audience.

Areas covered by the series include the following and related themes:

Minorities
Identity
Local politics
Resistance
Social movements
Political parties
Religious-secular divide
Religious orders
Gender
Diaspora
Popular culture
Methodology
Media
Labour relations
Economic developmentalism and sustainability
Populism
Corruption
State formation
Area studies
Regional politics in the Middle East

The series includes edited volumes and monographs, with 90,000-100,000 words, with 3 titles a year.

All manuscripts will undergo rigorous peer review in order to ensure the quality of the series.

Please send your carefully and professionally copy-edited manuscripts to both Isabel David (isabela_davidova@yahoo.com – preferred – or isabel.david@iscsp.ulisboa.pt) and Kumru F. Toktamis (kumru@pratt.edu).

We are excited to be editing a series which we will endeavour to make the reference in the field.

Sincerely,

Isabel David and Kumru F. Toktamis

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Call for Papers: Panel 8.6 Uses of ‘common sense’ in (re)ordering the Middle East, Sisp Conference, Lecce, 12-14 September 2019

Deadline: May 19th, 2019

Discrete concepts and notions to interpret the world tend to emerge at different points in time and circulate across think tanks and governmental circles, so becoming fashionable and (almost) impermeable to contestation. In a word, they become ‘common sense’ - what Hannah Arendt saw as the result of a “mysterious process” of consultations between the “statesman” and his “army of experts”. Once it is formed, the ‘common sense’ outlines the normative logic of decision-making in politics. However, action inspired by the ‘common sense’ oftentimes produces highly undesired outcomes and unintended consequences (insecurity instead of security; inequality instead of equality, etc.), leaving us in an explanatory vacuum. With this overarching problem in mind, in this panel we seek to explore the uses of ‘common sense’ in politics, with a focus on the Middle East. On the one hand, we are interested in exploring its role in military interventions aimed at ordering, bordering and othering the Middle East. On the other hand, we seek to investigate how actors that are negatively affected by the ‘common sense’ contest and fight it. Common-sense discourses can produce self-fulfilling prophecies and (geo)political theologies of chaos, violence and insecurity. Yet, as they oftentimes acquire an autonomous force, they can be ‘used’ by the powerful and well as the powerless. The ‘common sense’ then becomes the ‘paradigm’ against which various political actors mobilize rival visions of the political order. A key example is the assumption about the ‘sectarian’ character of Middle Eastern societies. Regardless of its interpretation in primordialist (‘sectarianism’) or constructivist (‘sectarianization’) terms, this narrative has informed and continues to inform discrete policies grounded in the unavoidability of religious/ethnic divides. In this context, what are the implications of the linguistic shift from factionalism, communitarism, confessionalism to sectarianism? Why has this assumption become so dominant? What does it capture? What does it obscure and leave aside? How do different actors use it and for what purposes? How do actors defy, hijack and subvert it?

This panel welcomes theoretical and empirical contributions on:

- the origin of common-sense narratives and their political uses;
- the strategies, practices and outputs of enforcing and contesting the ‘common-sense’ ;
- the use of ‘sectarianism’ and ‘sectarianization’ in (re)ordering the Middle East.

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Workshop: “Acts of Rebellions and Revolts in the Early Islamic Empire (600-1000)”, Leiden University, 7-8 November 2019

Deadline: May 1st, 2019

This workshop aims to examine the act of rebellion and its related categories (revolts, resistance, armed negotiation, contention) as moments of breakdown of social expectations

and dependency that were embedded in society. As such, we are mainly interested in the dynamics between social, political, and religious groups and institutions, how rebellions influenced the social and political structures of the caliphate, as well as its everyday life.

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TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

Travelling with Gramsci: capital and the afterlives of empire in Egypt and the Middle East

Thursday 02 May 2019 3:00pm to 4:30pm
RESEARCH CENTRES MEETING SUITE, 9TH FLOOR, PANKHURST HOUSE,
CLEMENT'S INN, WC2A 2AZ

Stuart Hall once wrote that we mustn't use Gramsci like "an Old Testament prophet who, at the correct moment, will offer us the consoling and appropriate quotation." Instead, we must 'think' our problems in a Gramscian way. What would it mean to 'think' some of the problems facing Egypt and the broader Middle East in a Gramscian way, and what are some of the challenges and productive encounters this might produce? This talk looks at how Gramsci has 'travelled' to the Middle East, and what made this travel possible. In particular, I trace some of the ways in which Gramsci's concepts have been thought with in contexts such as Egypt, and argue that the productive debates that have emerged around this suggest a continuing usefulness of Gramsci for scholars of the region. More importantly, I also argue that the particularities of capitalism in the colony and postcolony pose important challenges to prominent interpretations of Gramsci's work. I suggest that thinking about Gramsci through 'traveling theory' allows for both productive conversations as well as challenges to Eurocentric accounts of Marxist theory, and sheds light on some of the afterlives of empire in the Middle East.

Sara Salem (@saramsalem) is Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at LSE. Her main research interests include political sociology, postcolonial studies, Marxist theory, feminist theory, and global histories of empire and imperialism. Salem is an editor at the journal *Historical Materialism*.

John Chalcraft is Professor of Middle East History and Politics in the Department of Government at LSE and leads the Social Movements and Popular Mobilisation in the MENA Research Network.

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"L'après-Bouteflika": the Army, the People and the Prospects for Reform in Algeria

Friday 03 May 2019 1:00pm to 3:00pm

RESEARCH CENTRES MEETING SUITE, 9TH FLOOR, PANKHURST HOUSE,
CLEMENT'S INN, WC2A 2AZ

Since February 2019 and President Bouteflika's announcement that he intended to stand for a fifth term, hundreds of thousands of protesters have descended upon Algeria's streets to demand his resignation. In the face of pressure from the street and the army, Bouteflika, who suffered a debilitating stroke in 2013, finally stepped down after 20 years in power on 2 April. Ammar Belhimeur and Hugh Roberts, experts in Algerian constitutional law and its political regime, will explore the implications of 'L'Après-Bouteflika': the prospects that now exist for Algeria's political and economic future.

Ammar Belhimer is Professor of Public Law at the University of Algiers and Director of the Algerian Journal *Legal, Economic and Political Sciences*. He is Founder and Director of several newspapers, including *The Nation*, which was banned by the authorities in the 1990s. He is one of the leaders of the Algerian Journalists Movement, the first independent press union in the country. He is also the author of several books.

Dr Hugh Roberts, a specialist on North African and particularly Algerian history and politics, founded the Society for Algerian Studies in 1992. He was its Secretary from 1992 to 2001 and has been its Vice President since 2002. He is currently the Edward Keller Professor of North African and Middle Eastern History at Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts, having taken up this post in January 2012.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

From the River to the Sea: Palestine and Israel in the Shadow of "Peace"

Edited by Mandy Turner
Lexington Books (April 15th, 2019)

From the River to the Sea: Palestine and Israel in the Shadow of 'Peace' provides original analyses of how different coping strategies were developed as well as new forms of political expression, interaction, and mobilization since the 1993 peace deal between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel. Its premise is that an historical realism is essential in order to develop a route out of the post-Oslo impasse that extended and solidified the power imbalance under the auspices of 'peace'. The book includes chapters from experts across the disciplines of anthropology, economics, law, political science and sociology to map out and

critically assess the impacts and responses to this ‘peace’ in different geographical and political settings. These innovative analyses also investigate processes that might enable a future to be built based on greater equality and an end to the oppression and violence that currently exists between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea (and beyond).

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The Streets Are Talking to Me: Affective Fragments in Sisi's Egypt

Maria Frederika Malmstrom

University of California Press, 29 Oct 2019

This sophisticated book presents new theoretical and analytical insights on the momentous events in the Arab world that began in 2011 and, more importantly, life and politics in the Arab world in the aftermath of these events. Focusing on the qualities of the sensory world, Maria Frederika Malmström explores the dramatic differences after the Egyptian revolution and their implications on society--the lack of sound in the floating landscape of Cairo after the ouster of President Mohamed Morsi, the role of material things in the sit-ins of 2013, the military evocation of masculinities (and the destruction of alternative ones), how people experience pain, rage, disgust, euphoria, and passion in the body. While focused primarily on changes unfolding in Egypt, this is a study of how materiality and affect provide new possibilities for exploring societies in transition. A book of rare honesty and vulnerability, *The Streets Are Talking to Me* is a brilliant, unconventional, and self-conscious ethnography of the space where affect, material life, violence, political crisis, and masculinities meet one another.

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Politicising World Literature: Egypt, Between Pedagogy and the Public

May Hawas

Routledge, May 2019

Politicising World Literature: Egypt, Between Pedagogy and the Public engages with postcolonial and world literature approaches to examine the worldly imaginary of the novel genre and assert the political imperative to teaching world literature. How does canonising world literature relate to societal, political or academic reform? Alternating between close reading of texts and literary history, this monograph studies a corpus of novels and travelogues in English, Arabic, French, Czech and Italian to historicise Egypt's literary relations with different parts of the world in both the modern period and the pre-modern period. In this rigorous study, May Hawas argues that protagonists, particularly in times of political crises, locate themselves as individuals with communal or political affiliations that supersede, if not actually resist, national affiliations.

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No Exit: Arab Existentialism, Jean-Paul Sartre and Decolonization

Yoav Di-Capua

The University of Chicago Press, 2018

It is a curious and relatively little-known fact that for two decades—from the end of World War II until the late 1960s—existentialism’s most fertile ground outside of Europe was in the Middle East, and Jean-Paul Sartre was the Arab intelligentsia’s uncontested champion. In the Arab world, neither before nor since has another Western intellectual been so widely translated, debated, and celebrated.

By closely following the remarkable career of Arab existentialism, Yoav Di-Capua reconstructs the cosmopolitan milieu of the generation that tried to articulate a political and philosophical vision for an egalitarian postcolonial world. He tells this story by touring a fascinating selection of Arabic and Hebrew archives, including unpublished diaries and interviews. Tragically, the warm and hopeful relationships forged between Arab intellectuals, Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and others ended when, on the eve of the 1967 war, Sartre failed to embrace the Palestinian cause. Today, when the prospect of global ethical engagement seems to be slipping ever farther out of reach, *No Exit* provides a timely, humanistic account of the intellectual hopes, struggles, and victories that shaped the Arab experience of decolonization and a delightfully wide-ranging excavation of existentialism’s non-Western history.

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Epilogue: A Cosmic No Exit

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Women as Constitution-Makers: Case Studies from the New Democratic Era

Edited by Ruth Rubio-Marín, Universidad de Sevilla , Helen Irving, University of Sydney
Cambridge University Press, March 2019

That a constitution should express the will of 'the people' is a long-standing principle, but the identity of 'the people' has historically been narrow. Women, in particular, were not included. A shift, however, has recently occurred. Women's participation in constitution-making is now recognised as a democratic right. Women's demands to have their voices heard in both the processes of constitution-making and the text of their country's constitution, are gaining

recognition. Campaigning for inclusion in their country's constitution-making, women have adopted innovative strategies to express their constitutional aspirations. This collection offers, for the first time, comprehensive case studies of women's campaigns for constitutional equality in nine different countries that have undergone constitutional transformations in the 'participatory era'. Against a richly-contextualised historical and political background, each charts the actions and strategies of women participants, both formal and informal, and records their successes, failures and continuing hopes for constitutional equality.

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3. Re-living yesterday's battles: women and constitution-making in post-Saddam Iraq Noga Efrati
4. Women's participation in peace-building and constitution-making in Somalia Sakuntala Kadrigamar
5. Feminist legalism: Colombian constitution-making in the 1990s Julieta Lemaitre
6. Women and constitution-making in Turkey: from Ottoman modernism to a constitutionalism of women's platform Bertil Emrah Oder
7. Egypt's tale of two constitutions: diverging gendered processes and outcomes Mariz Tadros
8. Dialogic democracy, feminist theory, and women's participation in constitution-making Susan H. Williams.

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JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Negotiating statist neoliberalism: the political economy of post-revolution Egypt

Heba Khalil & Brian Dill

Review of African Political Economy, March 2019

This article explores the reproduction of Egypt's post-revolutionary political economy under the military regime. Through an examination of tax and fiscal policy, the authors argue that a strategic wedding of seemingly contradictory state types allows the current regime to create a hybrid they call 'statist neoliberalism'. The article argues that this hybrid form is not accidental, but is an intentional project that allows the state to sustain neoliberal reforms, whilst maintaining its long-standing control over society and the economy.

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Fortress America in the Middle East: Academic Freedom at the American University in Cairo

by Karim Maged Malak
Middle East Centre Blog

Most participants in the Egyptian student movement, since its reawakening in 2011 and despite its recent dismemberment, know the songs of al-Sheikh Imam and Ahmed Fu'ad Negm. These were the songs that formed the chants, demands, and expressions of the student movement. Yet how many know that one of the duo's songs targeting US President Richard Nixon landed them with a one-year jail sentence on the charge of 'insulting the President'? This was the first time in which Article 179 of the criminal code was applied as a result of embarrassment from mocking a foreign president. Egyptian President Anwar El-Sadat had wanted Nixon's 1974 visit to proceed smoothly, but the duo had ruined it by mocking Nixon's grandiose reception in Egypt, and in the midst of the Watergate scandal.

This was not the only time that a US dignitary's visit caused an outcry in Egypt. In 1910, Theodore Roosevelt scandalised his hosts when he denounced 'radical' Egyptian nationalists, and declared that self-rule would have to wait. His visit and speech at the King Fu'ad I University agitated nationalists and students to the point that the faculty distanced themselves from the visit. After the Egyptian monarchy was overthrown in 1952, the student movement would continue to play a predominant role up to the 1980s.

On 10 January 2019, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo appeared at the American University in Cairo (AUC) to give an important address. His visit was advertised the night before in a university-wide email, giving students little time to apply for a formal 'invitation'. On the day of Pompeo's visit, the university was closed for a portion of the speech, and turned into veritable fortress. AUC's administration deliberately sought not to have any visible opposition in the audience. The student protest movement that was so active at the time of the Iraq War, the Second Palestinian Intifada and in solidarity actions with other Egyptian universities, was stifled. With no faculty or students consulted, disgruntlement grew against the University's new president, Francis Ricciardone.

As a result, AUC's senate – which represents students, staff and faculty – passed a no-confidence vote against Ricciardone with a majority of 80 percent. Among the senate's grievances was continued intrusion in academic affairs by Ricciardone's administration. When AUC's board of trustees 'unanimously' voted to renew its confidence in Ricciardone, one AUC professor wondered whether certain reputable Egyptian members of the board of trustees had indeed voted in favour. Hafiz al-Mirazi, professor of practice at the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, posted the following question on his Facebook account:

Some of our colleagues have asked [the following question] in a well-intentioned manner: did indeed Dr. Ziad Bahi al-Din and Mr. Motaz al-Alfi vote in line with the rest of their foreign counterparts "without reservation and unanimously" to overrule the faculty's decision and confirm their confidence in Ricciardone? Or is it that the practices of the third world have found their way to this unaccountable body?

To my mind, Professor al-Mirazi's point about 'third world practices' of rigging votes to present a veneer of unanimity misses a larger point. Could it be instead the very opposite, that in fact AUC's own history and practices of American, and even Anglo-American colonial heritage, that hamper the university's climate of academic freedom? To answer that question a

closer look at Pompeo's visit to AUC, his speech and the history of universities in Egypt is in order.

More information [here](#)

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NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

'Guard your revolution': Sudan protests continue despite curfew

Al Jazeera

April 11th, 2019

Organisers of the months-long demonstrations that triggered the overthrow of Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir have urged pro-democracy supporters to protest against a military takeover, renewing their demands for a civilian-led government.

The appeal by the Sudanese Professionals Association (SPA) came late on Thursday as tens of thousands of protesters defied a nighttime curfew announced earlier in the day by General Awad Ibn Auf, who was sworn in as the head of a military council that replaced al-Bashir.

In a Twitter post, the SPA called on protesters to "gather now" and continue a days-long sit-in outside the army headquarters in the capital, Khartoum.

"Stay put and guard your revolution," it added. "To comply with the curfew is to recognise the clone rescue government."

The Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors said that at least 13 people were killed when security forces intervened in Thursday's protests.

They included two demonstrators in the capital Khartoum, the Committee said in a statement on Friday.

Since Saturday, at least 35 people have been killed in clashes with security forces, which have repeatedly tried to disperse the sit-in by force, it added.

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Newly graduated Kuwaiti engineers protest over no vacancies in KNPC

Kuwait Daily News
April 10th, 2019

A group of newly-graduated Kuwaiti engineers who passed the acceptance test of the Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation (KNPC), but who were rejected under the pretext of 'No Vacancies' have appealed to the Oil Minister Dr. Khalid Al-Fadhil and the Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, Hashem Al-Hashem to open the door for their appointment and be treated just like their fellow engineers.

Speaking to the protesters, MP Abdullah Al-Kandari, stressed, "It is time to accept the appointment of those who pass the test directly, and I hope there will be seriousness in addressing this issue in the sense that those who pass the tests are accepted directly rather than delaying their appointments."

He said that the message of the protesters will be delivered to the minister and the head of the KPC in this regard, hoping that "there will be serious interest and not just government assurances. Kuwait has a lot of talented people capable of working under all circumstances." He pointed out that "one of the most important elements of the unemployment crisis is the lack of a clear vision of the needs of the labor market, and the absence of coordination and cooperation between government agencies and educational institutions, represented by the Kuwait University and the Ministry of Higher Education.

The oil sector must preserve the national wealth and accept all applications of engineering graduates in general and petroleum in particular. "He stressed that it is time to take serious steps to alleviate the suffering of the sons and daughters of Kuwait."

He pointed out that he is surprised to see the oil sectors continuing to rely on expatriates and limit the acceptance of 90 Kuwaitis out of 200 who meet all the requirements and have passed all the tests, stressing that young people are the ones who carry the nation and build it on their shoulders and must be recruited to play their roles in the development and building of the homeland.

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Algerians take to the streets as anger mounts at interim leader

Al Jazeera
April 12th, 2019

Algerian police tried but failed to disperse protesters gathered for the first Friday protests since the announcement of presidential elections to succeed deposed leader Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

There was no violence as riot police, clad in helmets and carrying shields, attempted to clear the principal protest site outside the landmark main post office in central Algiers.

Dozens of police, in their first such operation at the site, were encircled by hundreds of demonstrators, protesting against alleged manoeuvring by the regime to stay in power.

The crowd, shouting "silmiya, silmiya" (peaceful, peaceful), cleared a path for the police to pull back as the demonstrators urged the officers to join their protest.

"We feel there is some tension this Friday, there are a lot of police," said Karima Bourenane, 36, who turned up with her daughter. "I hope the demonstration will stay peaceful."

Social media has helped drive mass protests which led to the end of Bouteflika's two-decade rule, have been filled with calls for an eighth consecutive Friday of demonstrations, this time under the slogan of "They will all leave."

Amel Boubekur, a research fellow at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS) based in France, told Al Jazeera from Algiers that there was no sign the country's interim leadership was ready to listen to the demonstrators.

"Since Bouteflika has stepped down, there has been temptation from the regime to repress the demonstrations. The protesters keep gathering in order to say no to repression," she said.

"Also it doesn't make sense for demonstrators to reach a solution within the current constitutional framework. They say this constitution is used by the regime to stay in power."

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Hundreds of Tunisia farmers, fishermen protest high prices outside parliament

Middle East Monitor
April 11th, 2019

Hundreds of members of the Tunisian Union of Agriculture and Fishing yesterday organised a protest outside the parliament headquarters in the capital, Tunis, against the high cost of agricultural produce and fuel prices, the Anadolu Agency reported.

Protesters demanded the Tunisian parliament and government take measures to reduce the prices of agricultural products like grains and milk and to reverse recent increases in fuel prices.

They explained that the expensive production costs have increased their losses and accumulated debts, threatening to take escalatory measures by halting production if their demands were not met.

"We organised a Day of Rage, because the farmer is no longer able to continue production under these circumstances and successive losses," said Abdel Majed Al-Zaar, the head of the Tunisian Union for Agriculture and Fisheries.

“The protest aims to protect the farmers, the consumer and the country’s economy and to ensure the sustainability of food security and employment,” he added.

Al-Zaar explained that the high fuel prices is negatively affected fishing which depends on fuel. Petrol prices in the country were raised in March.

The agricultural sector plays a vital role in the Tunisian economy, providing 8.15 per cent of GDP and contributing 16.3 per cent of the job sector.

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POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Leiden University

Application Deadline: April 24th, 2019

Due to the continued growth of our programme, we are looking to hire 5 assistant professors of political science. The appointment includes teaching introductory and advanced courses reflecting the candidate’s expertise, supervising MSc and BSc theses, conducting scholarly research, acquiring external research funding, and participating in the intellectual and administrative life of the Institute (i.e., department). It could also include teaching general introductory courses, working groups, and co-supervising PhD theses.

All applicants should be well trained in one or more of the major sub-disciplines of political science (or a cognate discipline) and in research methods appropriate to their field and interests; applicants trained in a cognate discipline must be able to demonstrate their familiarity with political science. All applicants must be qualified to teach in one or more of the following areas: international law, international political economy, global history, comparative public policy and policy evaluation; international environmental politics, international conflict resolution. Applicants who are also prepared to teach research design, qualitative or quantitative research methods should outline their relevant training and teaching experience in their applications.

REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must hold (or be near to completing) a PhD in Political Science or a cognate discipline.

Applicants must have a promising research agenda, some scholarly publications, teaching experience and good teaching evaluations.

Applicants must be able to teach in English; ability to teach in Dutch is a plus. Staff who do not speak Dutch upon appointment are required to progress steadily toward at least a B1 level (CEFR) through training financed by the institute.

Leiden University requires teaching staff to obtain the University Teaching Qualification (BKO). If the successful applicant does not already possess this qualification or its equivalent, s/he must obtain this qualification within two years.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The position starts as soon as possible, preferably by September 2019. The appointment will be made on a temporary contract of up to 3 years depending upon prior experience. A permanent appointment may be possible during or after the term of the initial contract, depending upon performance (including teaching, research and administration) and the budgetary situation of the Institute. The salary ranges from € 3,637 to € 4,978 gross per month (pay scale 11 in accordance with the Collective Labour Agreement for Dutch Universities).

Leiden University offers an attractive benefits package with an additional holiday bonus (8% of annual salary) and end-of-year bonus (8.3% of annual salary), training and career development. Our individual choices model gives you some freedom to assemble your own set of terms and conditions. Candidates from outside the Netherlands may be eligible for a substantial tax break. More at <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/working-at/job-application-procedure-and-employment-conditions>.

More information and application [here](#)

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Research Data Specialist, The Arab Barometer

The Arab Barometer is seeking a Research Data Specialist to assist with data collection, management, and analysis. The Arab Barometer is a nonpartisan research network that provides insight into the social, political, and economic attitudes and values of ordinary citizens across the Arab World. It's objective is to disseminate and apply survey findings in order to contribute to political reform and to strengthen institutional capacity for public opinion research.

The Research Data Specialist works in close collaboration with the Arab Barometer team including the project director, research associates, communication associate, graduate and undergraduate students, and research colleagues in the U.S. and the Middle East and North Africa.

****This position is located in Washington, DC. It is a two-year term position with possibility of renewal.**

More information and application [here](#)

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Research and Outreach Assistant, MENA Programme (Middle East and North Africa)

Deadline: May 10th, 2019

Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, is a world-renowned independent policy institute. Based in London, our mission is to help build a sustainably secure, prosperous and just world.

Chatham House work on the Middle East and North Africa focuses on the latest political, economic and security developments in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen, as well as trends in the Gulf states, Iran, and North African countries.

We are seeking a research and outreach assistant on a fixed-term one-year contract.

In this role you will be assisting researchers from across the Middle East and North Africa Programme at Chatham House in conducting background research for various projects and be responsible for coordinating outreach for these projects. Are you keen to engage with a broadening digital audience? You will also support our Arabic media engagement and profile through developing networks and engagements with journalists and outlets with Middle Eastern interest.

It is important to be passionate and knowledgeable about Middle Eastern affairs and able to contribute creative ideas to help broaden awareness around our research, events and world-class experts, encompassing a wide array of issues related to the MENA region.

We are an equal opportunity employer and value diversity at our organization. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, or disability status.

More information and application [here](#)

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Five Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Program “Europe in the Middle East – The Middle East in Europe”, Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin

Deadline: April 22nd, 2019

The fellowships are intended primarily for scholars in the humanities and social sciences who want to carry out their research projects in connection with the Berlin program, which seeks to rethink key concepts and premises that link and divide Europe and the Middle East. Applicants should be at the postdoctoral level and should have obtained their doctorate within the last seven years.

More information and application [here](#)

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Postdoctoral Research Fellow: Mediterranean Islamisms

Application Deadline: April 29th, 2019

The Alwaleed Centre at the University of Edinburgh seeks to appoint a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow to implement its research activities and contribute to its teaching and outreach programme.

The successful candidate will be expected to conduct research in the field of Islamist parties and movements' role in political governance in the contemporary Mediterranean region. Applications would be particularly welcome from candidates who demonstrate expertise in conducting comparative research on different aspects of contemporary politics and Islamism in the countries of the Mediterranean region.

The successful appointee will commence on 1st September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter.

This is a full-time (35 hours per week) fixed term position.

Salary: £33,199 to £39,609 per annum.

The closing date for receipt of applications is no later than 5 pm (GMT) 29th April 2019. We anticipate interviews will be held in June 2019, date to be determined.

Informal queries are welcome and should be sent via email for the attention of Professor Frederic Volpi, Alwaleed Director, Personal Chair of the Politics of the Muslim World, to llc@ed.ac.uk.

The School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures holds an Athena SWAN Bronze award, in recognition of our commitment to addressing an equalities, diversity and inclusion agenda.

More information and application [here](#)

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Postdoctoral Research Fellow: Grant Writing & Project Development (Globalized Muslim World)

Application Deadline: April 29th, 2019

The Alwaleed Centre at the University of Edinburgh seeks to appoint a Postdoctoral Research Fellow to develop its research activities to commence on 1st September 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The research focus of the position is on the contemporary politics and society of a globalized Muslim World.

This is a full-time (35 hours per week) fixed term position.

Salary: £33,199 to £39,609 per annum.

The closing date for receipt of applications is no later than 5pm (GMT) 29th April 2019. We anticipate interviews will be held in June 2019, date to be determined.

Informal queries are welcome and should be sent via email for the attention of Professor Frederic Volpi, Alwaleed Director, Personal Chair of the Politics of the Muslim World, to llc@ed.ac.uk.

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