



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POPULAR MOBILISATION IN THE MENA

Digest of Current Publications and Events

Editor: Iman Dawood (i.s.dawood@lse.ac.uk)

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CONTENT

Call for Papers & Conferences.....	3
Call for Applications: Values and Status Negotiation: Media in the Middle East and North Africa	3
Talks & Other Events	4
Women in Revolutionary Egypt (and beyond)	4
Recent & Forthcoming Books	5
Anatomies of Revolution.....	5
The Levant Express: The Arab Uprisings, Human Rights, and the Future of the Middle East	5
Journal Articles & other Academic Publications	6
Vulnerability as a politics of decolonial solidarity: the case of the Anarchists Against the Wall	6
State formation as an outcome of the imperial encounter: the case of Iraq.....	6
News Pieces & Commentary.....	7
Normalizing the military judiciary: How the constitutional amendments bring the Armed Forces into Egypt’s judicial system	7
The project of Mashrou’ Leila	8
Who will be Tunisia's next president? Here's the shortlist	9
Jailed Saudi activist 'told to deny torture in release deal'.....	9
'Rabaa massacre': Calls for justice remain six years on.....	10
Censorship Feared Under Turkey's New Rules for Online Broadcasts	11
PETITIONS	11
Petition for ASA Membership Vote on BDS Resolutions	11
Positions and Opportunities	12
Assistant-Level Faculty Position in the Social Sciences with a focus on Muslim Societies.....	12
Research Assistant, Middle East Centre, LSE.....	13
Bita Daryabari Assistant or Associate Professor of Iranian Studies - Department of Near Eastern Studies.....	13
Yale University, History Assistant/Associate/Full Professor, Modern Middle East History.....	14
Post-doc Fellowships for Research on Egyptian History since 1800, Durham University	15
3-Year Postdoctoral Position with Focus on Social Media and Political Hostility, Department of Political Science, University of Aarhus	15

CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

Call for Applications: Values and Status Negotiation: Media in the Middle East and North Africa

BASEL, 18-19 October 2019

Deadline: August 23rd, 2019

The Inter-University Doctoral Cooperation in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies (MUBIT) is pleased to hold its 7th Annual Doctoral Workshop at the University of Basel between October 18th-19th, 2019. The Workshop is entitled "Values and Status Negotiation: Media in the Middle East and North Africa" and will be offered by our guest lecturer Dr. Roxane Farmanfarmaian (University of Cambridge).

In this workshop, students will engage with understandings of the media in the Middle East and North Africa from the perspective of the role media plays in society, and the position it commands in relation to power. This re-conceives the study of media as a political project on grounds that the media reflects the society that produces it and operates as a socially symbolic resource. Values and Status Negotiation is therefore a framework for understanding the media from the inside, and in terms of their own environments. In today's increasingly polarized political atmosphere, scholarly interrogation of the media's rights and appropriate roles in social context is increasingly relevant, and we seek applicants whose work sets out to discover how these are understood, rationalized, exercised, negotiated and found appropriate and useful within different social milieux. Those interested in the practices and power of media across platforms, within both the private and public spheres, who seek fresh approaches to the media's engagement with audience norms and historical experiences from perspectives that arise from within the Middle East and North Africa, are particularly encouraged to apply.

Related questions that this workshop will explore include:

1. Defining Free Expression and the Meaning of a Free Media
2. Conceptualizing the Profession of Media and its Instrumental Role in Society
3. The Relationship between Local, Regional and International Media
4. How has the Role of Media changed since the Arab Uprisings?

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

TALKS & OTHER EVENTS

Women in Revolutionary Egypt (and beyond)

Date: August 26th, 2019

Time: 5:30-7:30pm

Location: Kevin Lee Room, Quadrangle, The University of Sydney

A conversation between Prof Shereen Abounaga (Cairo University) and Lucia Sorbera (The University of Sydney)

The event is co-hosted by the Laureate Program in International History and the Department of Arabic Language and Cultures

Abstract

In the wake of the 2011 uprisings across the Arab world, the French political philosopher Geneviève Fraisse claimed that: “The issue of women's rights in the Arab revolutions echoed the history of Western democracy, which has little inclination to synchronize gender equality with revolutionary dynamics” (2012). The tension between feminism and revolution in Egypt was highlighted by Margot Badran, who pointed to the exclusion of women from the political struggle (2014). Shereen Abounaga’s *Women in Revolutionary Egypt* (American University in Cairo Press, 2016) explores the ‘gender paradox’ of the uprisings and zooms in on how gender came to be rethought, reimagined, and contested in post-Mubarak Egypt. This seminar takes the opportunity of Prof. Abounaga’s visit to Sydney to discuss her work in the context of the longer history of feminist Egyptian and international historiography on women and revolutions. We will look at how the study of feminist history questions the broader relationship between women and revolution, history and memory, between top-down politics and the micro-politics of everyday life, raising questions whose relevance goes far beyond revolutionary Egypt. This is a discussion that will be of interest to feminist and international historians more generally.

Shereen Abounaga biography

Shereen Abounaga is a Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Cairo University and is a feminist literary critic who focuses specifically on gender, using the lens of socialist feminism. In the contemporary context of globalization and neo-liberalism, she is now engaging the field of cultural/gender studies with inter/transcultural encounters in literature and the arts. Her Arabic books include: *A Passion of Difference: Readings in Selected Feminist Texts* (1997); *Feminist or*

Womanist?(2001); Nation in the Narration of Arab Women Writers (2003); and Intellectuals in the Transitional Phase of Egypt (2014). In English she has published Women in Revolutionary Egypt: Gender and the New Geographics of Identity (2016, AUC Press) and several articles. Forthcoming is her book about motherhood as a comparative tool of gender construction in the global South and North. She is a member of the editorial board of New Perspectives on Theory/ Culture/ Politics (Centre for Critical and Cultural Theory, Cardiff University) and the chair of the Naguib Mahfouz Medal Award.

More information [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

RECENT & FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Anatomies of Revolution

George Lawson
Cambridge University Press, July 2019

Recent years have seen renewed interest in the study of revolution. Spurred by events like the 2011 uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East, the rise of Islamic State, and the emergence of populism, a new age of revolution has generated considerable interest. Yet, even as empirical studies of revolutions are thriving, there has been a stall in theories of revolution. Anatomies of Revolution offers a novel account of how revolutions begin, unfold and end. By combining insights from international relations, sociology, and global history, it outlines the benefits of a 'global historical sociology' of revolutionary change, one in which international processes take centre stage. Featuring a wide range of cases from across modern world history, this is a comprehensive account of one of the world's most important processes. It will interest students and scholars studying revolutions, political conflict and contentious politics in sociology, politics and international relations.

[Back to top](#)

The Levant Express: The Arab Uprisings, Human Rights, and the Future of the Middle East

Micheline R. Ishay
Yale University Press, August 2019

The enormous sense of optimism unleashed by the Arab Spring in 2011 soon gave way to widespread suffering and despair. Of the many popular uprisings against autocratic regimes, Tunisia's now stands alone as a beacon of hope for sustainable human rights progress. Libya is a failed state; Egypt returned to military dictatorship; the Gulf States suppressed popular protests and tightened control; and Syria and Yemen are ravaged by civil war. Challenging the widely shared pessimism among regional experts, Micheline Ishay charts bold and realistic pathways for human rights in a region beset by political repression, economic distress, sectarian conflict, a refugee crisis, and violence against women. With due attention to how patterns of revolution and counterrevolution play out in different societies and historical contexts, Ishay reveals the progressive potential of subterranean human rights forces and offers strategies for transforming current realities in the Middle East.

[Back to top](#)

JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Vulnerability as a politics of decolonial solidarity: the case of the Anarchists Against the Wall

By Teodora Todorova

Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power

July 29th, 2019

The contemporary turn to the settler-colonial framework has allowed an emerging and growing generation of activist-scholars working on Palestine-Israel to think about decolonisation as an alternative to the official conflict-management-focused peace process. This framing has allowed for the articulation of a range of rich and complex discussions concerning the making and unmaking of settler-indigenous relations in Palestine-Israel, as well as the possibility for decolonial cohabitation. This paper's contribution to this ongoing conversation is to theorise the ways in which the widespread adoption of the settler-colonial framework by Israeli and international solidarity activists active in the nonviolent struggle against the West Bank Separation Wall has contributed to the evolution of a praxis of decolonial solidarity articulated through the strategic mobilisation of vulnerability vis-à-vis the violence, repression and dispossession of the settler-colonial state.

[Back to top](#)

State formation as an outcome of the imperial encounter: the case of Iraq

Aula Hariri

This article employs a postcolonial historical sociological approach to studying state formation in Iraq between 1914–24. In doing so, it synthesises insights from the ‘historical’ and ‘imperial’ turns in International Relations (IR), to understand the state as a processual and relational entity shaped by the imperial relations through which it emerged. Drawing on the case of Iraq, this article demonstrates how British imperial relations (‘international’) interlaced with anti-colonial struggles (‘domestic’) to foster a historically specific pattern of Iraqi state formation. In making these claims, this article contributes to bridging IR’s analytical divide between ‘international’ and ‘domestic’ spaces, while undermining IR’s universalist assumptions about the ‘spread’ of the state from Europe to the Arab world. Rather, this article demonstrates that the imperial encounter was constitutive of the type of state that emerged, thereby highlighting the agency of anti-colonial struggles in producing historically specific patterns of state domination.

[Back to top](#)

NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

Normalizing the military judiciary: How the constitutional amendments bring the Armed Forces into Egypt’s judicial system

By Rana Mamdouh

Mada Masr

August 7th, 2019

The day after a set of controversial constitutional amendments were approved in a national referendum in April, the Minister of Justice sent three laws to the heads of Egypt’s judicial bodies.

The first two bills regulate how the heads of the country’s top judicial bodies are selected — namely the Supreme Constitutional Court, the Administrative Prosecution Authority, the State Lawsuits Authority, the Court of Cassation, and the State Council — as well as the military judiciary.

The third law establishes a Council of Judicial Bodies, headed by the president and comprised of the heads of various judicial agencies, and also includes the head of the military judiciary.

Justice Minister Mohamed Hossam Abdel Rahim included a letter with the three bills addressed to the head of each body asking them to offer their opinion on the draft laws. According to a judicial source, at least one of the judicial heads responded, inquiring into the reasons for the military judiciary being included in the bills. The minister responded by saying that the laws are an implementation of Article 185 of the amended Constitution.

The first two laws were eventually ratified by President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on June 26, while the third law to establish a Council of Judicial Bodies was postponed by Parliament, pending the selection of new judicial heads by the president.

According to a number of judges and legal experts who spoke to Mada Masr on condition of anonymity, the constitutional amendments and the ensuing legislation entrench the Armed Forces firmly within Egypt's judicial system, bestowing more authority on what is already the most powerful actor in the country. The changes also greatly expand the application of military trials for civilians, essentially normalizing what was once an exceptional practice.

Continue reading [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

The project of Mashrou' Leila

By Ahmed Wael

Mada Masr

August 12th, 2019

Lebanese rock band Mashrou' Leila was supposed to perform at the Byblos International Festival in Lebanon on August 9. However, the concert was halted after a campaign led by the Maronite Church accused the band of insulting the Christian faith. Last month, a lawyer filed a separate complaint calling for the government to prosecute the band for insulting religion and spreading homosexuality. Online, there are various smear campaigns against the band.

On July 30, the band released a statement in response to the concert's cancellation that described the series of summer happenings as "shocking events" and attempted to counter some of the lies and misrepresentations circulating around them. For example, some falsely claimed that their name, Leila, refers to the "the night of eternal oppression." The band's name, which for some brings to mind the name of Qays' lover in old Arabic poetry, is said to date back to the night of the band's first ever concert at the American University in Beirut in 2008.

On their website, the band says they are born out of a nocturnal encounter. The band chose to spell their name as 'Leila' instead of 'Leilah,' the latter being the Arabic word for night, while the former, pronounced the same, is a female name. The name Leila is perhaps more romantic, but also more playful as it suggests different meanings. This playfulness will remain with the band and its growing sound.

In the statement, the band felt obligated to provide an explanation for the meaning of two of its songs, asnam(idols) and djin ,from their 2015 album ibn al-leil (son of the night), which were removed in July from the band's official Youtube channel. While the band didn't explicitly outline the meaning lyrics to their 50-song catalogue, they noted the difference between literal meanings of words and how they can be read in the context of art.

Continue reading [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Who will be Tunisia's next president? Here's the shortlist

By Ahlem Mimouna
Middle East Eye
August 14th, 2019

Tunisia's electoral authority announced on Wednesday a shortlist of 26 candidates eligible to run to become the country's second democratically elected leader since the 2011 revolution.

The race had initially been scheduled for 17 November but was brought forward after the death of President Beji Caid Essebsi last month.

Nearly 100 applicants filed to participate, but only 26 have met the requirements with 71 rejected. The full list is [here](#).

In addition to being a Tunisian citizen, a candidate must be at least 35 years old, have the signature of 10,000 citizens or 10 members of parliament or 40 elected municipal leaders, and must deposit just over \$3,400 at the country's treasury.

Anis Jarbaoui, a member of Tunisia's electoral commission, said many of the contenders filed applications that were incomplete.

"There are many controversial applications, some people just wanted to be part of the electoral buzz," he said.

Rejected candidates will have the opportunity to appeal until 31 August when a final list is announced. Campaign activities are set to run from 2 to 13 September, ahead of polls on the 15th.

Continue reading [here](#)

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

Jailed Saudi activist 'told to deny torture in release deal'

Al Jazeera
August 14th, 2019

Prominent Saudi women's rights activist Loujain al-Hathloul has rejected a proposal to secure her release from prison in exchange for a video statement denying she was tortured in custody, her family has said.

"The Saudi state security has visited my sister in prison recently. They have asked her to ... appear on video to deny the torture and harassment," her brother Walid al-Hathloul said on Twitter on Tuesday. "That was part of a deal to release her."

There was no immediate reaction from Saudi authorities.

Hathloul, who recently marked her 30th birthday in jail, is among around a dozen prominent female activists who are currently facing trial after being detained last year, just as Saudi Arabia ended a ban on women driving cars, for which many of the detainees had long campaigned.

Al-Hathloul was among a few detainees who accused interrogators of torture and sexual harassment, a charge vehemently denied by the government.

Continue reading [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

'Rabaa massacre': Calls for justice remain six years on

Al Jazeera

August 15th, 2019

Six years ago, Egyptian security forces killed hundreds of supporters of Mohamed Morsi, the country's first democratically elected president, in what was one of the deadliest days for demonstrations in Egypt's modern history.

The violent dispersal of the sit-ins at Cairo's Rabaa al-Adawiya and al-Nahda squares on August 14, 2013, resulted in the death of at least 900 people and the wounding of more than 1,000, according to Amnesty International.

The bloody crackdown came weeks after Morsi was overthrown in a military coup led by then-army chief and current President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in July 2013 following mass demonstrations.

Egypt's security forces maintain some of the demonstrators were armed and there were "terrorists" among their numbers.

Despite a wealth of evidence implicating the Egyptian army and police in killing the people protesting against Morsi's overthrow, no one has ever been brought to trial and the Egyptian government has yet to transparently investigate the massacre.

Continue reading [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Censorship Feared Under Turkey's New Rules for Online Broadcasts

By Carolyn Komatsoulis

VOA News

August 3rd, 2019

Turkish media freedom advocates are raising alarms about newly announced government powers to license, inspect and possibly censor online broadcasts in the country.

The new regulations for the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK), the government's media regulator, were published this week in Turkey's Official Gazette.

Among other things, the rules would impose licensing requirements and fees and allow the RTÜK to suspend programs and cancel licenses as sanctions for not complying with the rules.

The regulations were drafted a year ago, said Yaman Akdeniz, a law professor at Istanbul Bilgi University whose expertise is online censorship.

The move has potentially broad implications, he said, because anyone can transmit content on the internet these days. About 2 in 5 people in Turkey say they get most of their news online, a Reuters Institute report found.

'Censorship regime'

Considering the country's history of blocking or punishing journalists and dissidents online, the new rules are "not a licensing regime, it's a censorship regime," Akdeniz said.

"This is what happens in Turkey. We are talking about the country which blocks access to the Wikipedia platform for over two years," he said.

One uncertainty about the regulations is how they will affect Netflix, the BBC, the Voice of America and other news and entertainment organizations that broadcast internet and mobile content in Turkey.

Continue reading [here](#)

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

PETITIONS

Petition for ASA Membership Vote on BDS Resolutions

We, the undersigned, support the following Resolutions being sent to the general ASA membership

for a vote:

Whereas, the vast majority of Palestinian civil society have called on the international civil, academic, and cultural communities to engage in non-violent pressure on Israel until it complies with International Law and Universal Principles of Human Rights by meeting three demands: 1) Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands [occupied in 1967] and dismantling the Wall, 2) Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and 3) Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194, [1]

And Whereas, since 1948, Israel has systematically expelled Palestinians and ethnically cleansed Palestinian land, creating the largest refugee community in the world, [2] And Whereas, the ASA Code of Ethics encourages us to respect people's rights, dignity, and diversity, be socially responsible in striving to "be aware of situations that may result in harm to individuals, groups, or communities," and use our "knowledge and skills to advance the cause of human rights worldwide," [3]

For the rest of the petition, and to sign the petition [click here](#).

POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Assistant-Level Faculty Position in the Social Sciences with a focus on Muslim Societies

Application Deadline: August 15th, 2019

Assistant-Level Faculty Position in the Social Sciences with a focus on Muslim Societies

Stanford University invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor faculty position focused on the culture, economics or politics of Muslim societies. We especially welcome applications from scholars who are studying Muslim societies in Iran and Central Asia, as well as South, Southeast and East Asia.

The successful applicant for this position will be appointed in one of the following departments within the School of Humanities and Sciences: Anthropology, Communication, Economics, Political Science, or Sociology. The successful applicant will have teaching and advising responsibilities in their home department and will also be expected to contribute to the Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies' curricular and outreach efforts.

Applicants should provide a cover letter including a brief statement of research interests, a curriculum vitae including list of publications, and one recent writing sample. Applicants should arrange to have three letters of reference submitted to [AcademicJobsOnline.org](https://academicjobs.stanford.edu).

More information and application [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Research Assistant, Middle East Centre, LSE

Deadline: September 15th, 2019

The LSE Middle East Centre is seeking to hire a Research Assistant to provide research and administrative support for a major new research project, **Managing Religious Diversity: The Muhasasa Ta'ifia in Iraq, 2003–2018**, led by **Professor Toby Dodge**.

Hours: Part time (2.5 days per week), 12 month fixed-term

Pay: Competitive, not less than £30,029 pa (pro rata)

Start Date: As soon as possible

Closing Date for Applications: 15 September 2019 (23.59 UK time)

Candidates should have:

- An ability to carry out detailed research in Arabic and English
- Knowledge of the field of Middle East studies
- Experience of project administration
- Experience of financial administration

We offer an occupational pension scheme, generous annual leave and excellent training and development opportunities.

Please note that this role is not eligible for Tier 2 sponsorship from the School. All candidates will need to have the right to work in the UK.

More information and application [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Bitia Daryabari Assistant or Associate Professor of Iranian Studies - Department of Near Eastern Studies

Deadline: December 15th, 2019

The Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of California, Berkeley seeks applications for a position in Iranian Studies at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor, with an expected start date of July 1, 2020.

Applications are encouraged from scholars with rigorous training in the languages and cultures (textual and/or material) of Iran (broadly defined) and with a research specialization within the period from antiquity to the advent of Islam. Preference will be given to individuals whose research has strong philological and/or material cultural foundations.

We encourage applications from individuals who will contribute to diversity in higher education. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are core values at UC Berkeley and the Department of Near Eastern Studies. Our excellence can only be fully realized by faculty, students, and staff who share our commitment to these values. Successful candidates for our faculty positions will demonstrate evidence of a commitment to advancing equity and inclusion.

Basic Qualifications:

PhD or equivalent international degree, or enrolled in a PhD or equivalent international degree-granting program at the time of application.

Preferred qualifications:

*Mastery of relevant primary source languages or material cultures in a field of Iranian Studies.

*Philological and/or material cultural methods as foundation of research. Research in any period period from antiquity to the advent of Islam.

When applying, applicants will be asked to provide contact information for referees. Applicants at the Assistant Professor level must then request letters through the application system. For the applicants at the Associate Professor level letters will be required for the finalists. Additional writing and teaching materials will be solicited for finalists. All letters will be treated as confidential per University of California policy and California state law. Please refer potential referees, including when letters are provided via a third party (i.e., dossier service or career center), to the UC Berkeley statement of confidentiality (<https://apo.berkeley.edu/ucb-confidentiality-policy>) prior to submitting their letters.

Applications must be received by December 15, 2019. Please direct inquiries to: nes@berkeley.edu.

More information and application [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Yale University, History Assistant/Associate/Full Professor, Modern Middle East History

Review of Applications begins: October 15th, 2019

The Yale University Department of History intends to make an appointment in Modern Middle East history to begin on July 1, 2020. The successful candidate may be appointed at the rank of full or associate professor with tenure, or at the rank of untenured assistant professor. Applications are invited from senior scholars who have demonstrated exceptional scholarship and teaching as well as leadership in their field. Applications are also invited from early-career historians with strong potential for achievement in scholarship and undergraduate and graduate teaching. We welcome applications from historians currently teaching at other universities, as well as from recent PhDs and those who expect their PhD or equivalent degree by the time of appointment. Yale University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Yale values diversity among its students, staff, and faculty and strongly welcomes applications from women, underrepresented minorities, protected veterans, and persons with disabilities. All applicants should submit a letter of application, C.V., a statement of research interests, a statement of teaching interests, and a chapter length writing sample prepared for anonymous reading at <http://apply.interfolio.com/66542>. Letters of reference are not required at this initial stage but may be requested later. Please contact Dana Lee (dana.lee@yale.edu) with any questions.

More information and application [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

Post-doc Fellowships for Research on Egyptian History since 1800, Durham University

Deadline: September 30th, 2019

The Mohamed Ali Foundation supports research which should focus on the history of the Islamic World, of Egypt and of the Mohamed Ali Family in particular, especially the period of reign of Khedive Abbas Hilmi II (1892-1914).

More information and application [here](#)

[Back to top](#)

3-Year Postdoctoral Position with Focus on Social Media and Political Hostility, Department of Political Science, University of Aarhus

Deadline: September 15th, 2019

Department of Political Science at Aarhus BSS, Aarhus University invites applicants for a 3-year postdoctoral position offering applicants an exciting opportunity to join a research project with a focus on political hostility on social media.

The starting date is January 1, 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The research project

The position is related to a research project led by Professor Michael Bang Petersen and is housed at the Department of Political Science, Aarhus University. It is part of the ROPH project (Research on Online Political Hostility), funded by 15.7 million DKK by the Carlsberg Foundation. The ROPH project seeks to identify the causes, consequences and potential counter-strategies related to online political hostility and gathers researchers from the fields of political psychology, evolutionary psychology, radicalization research, media science and physics.

Job description

The advertised position involves:

- (a) combining and analyzing survey data and Twitter data to understand the effects of exposure to hostile news and comments and
- (b) designing and implementing interventions against hostility on the Twitter platform.

Research will primarily be carried out collaboratively with other project members but there will also to some extent be opportunities for pursuing independent work within the focus of the project. The project includes funding for research assistants, data collection, traveling and workshops. In addition to the outlined research tasks, the position entails teaching equivalent to one course per year. Depending on the applicant's prior teaching experience and the need for the applicant's teaching capacity in the relevant years, a one-year extension in return for additional teaching is negotiable. This extension will be decided by the Department Chair no later than one year after employment.

Your qualifications

Applicants are expected to hold – or be close to completing – a PhD in relevant areas within political science, communication, psychology or cognitive science. In addition to an interest in conducting collaborative research within the focus area of the project, applicants must demonstrate knowledge of social media research, the ability to collect and conduct automated analyses of social media data, have an excellent command of spoken and written English, and preferably have experience with publishing in international, peer-reviewed journals.

Interested candidates should provide a short research proposal (max. 3 pages), outlining potential avenues for research related to the focus of the position. Please see the section below about Application procedure for the further requirements for the application.

More information and application [here](#)

[Back to top](#)