

# JESSICA WATKINS

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Middle East Centre  
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## EDUCATION

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- Feb 2015      Doctor of Philosophy, Department of War Studies, King's College London (KCL); 'Policing Disputes: Power and Social Order in Jordan.' Supervisors: Claudia Aradau & Yezid Sayigh. Passed no corrections.
- Sep 2010      MA Research, Department of War Studies, Kings' College London. Distinction.
- *Core Modules:* Theory and Methodologies of the Social Sciences; Applied Social Science – Research Design & Project Management; Qualitative Research Methods; Quantitative Methods for Social Science Research; History of Warfare.
- Sep 2006      MA International Relations, Department of War Studies, KCL. Distinction.
- *Core Modules:* Concepts and Methods in International Relations; Theories of International Relations; Human Rights and Migration; Human Rights in a World of States; Comparative Civil Wars; Dissertation: 'Security Sector Reform in Iraq: Private Military Services and the Reformulation of State Sovereignty'
- Jun 2002      BA (with Honours), Oriental Studies with French, Cambridge University, 2/1.
- *Core Modules:* Arabic language; Post-colonial Arabic Literature; History and Politics of the Modern Middle East; 18<sup>th</sup> Century French Literature; French Language; Medieval Islamic Thought; Dissertation: 'Mastering a Myth: The Arab/Berber Policy in French Colonial Morocco'.

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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- Sep 2020-Present      Guest teacher for the IR100 course on theories and methods of international relations for the 1<sup>st</sup> year BSc degree at **LSE**.
- Jul 2017 – Present:      Postdoctoral Research Officer at the **Middle East Centre, London School of Economics (LSE)**. I work on the **Conflict Research Programme**, a three year programme sponsored by the UK Department of International Development (DFID). Currently I am running a project on local policing in Iraq post-ISIL, supervising 6 local researchers in Anbar & Ninawa, and co-organising a cross-cutting theme project on local governance in post-conflict zones.
- May 2015 – Aug 2017:      Second marker for the MA programme at the **Department of**

## **Defence Studies, King's College London.**

- Sep 2015 – Dec 2015: Teaching Fellow for the **International Development Institute, King's College London**. Taught four first year undergraduate seminar classes for the BA modules *Social and Political Analysis of Emerging Economies* and *History of the Global Economy*.
- May 2014 – July 2015: MENA Research Associate specialising in the Levant & Iraq, **Risk Advisory Group**, London. Provided clients with daily written and oral assessments on political and security risks affecting the region.
- Sep 2012 – Mar 2013: Graduate Teaching Assistant for BA module *War in the International Order* (International Relations Theory), **the War Studies Department, King's College London**. Taught two second year undergraduate seminar groups. Conducted summative and formative assessments of coursework.
- Sep 2012 – Mar 2013: Co-organizer of a seminar series for PhD students on the practicalities of fieldwork, data collection and analysis for **King's College London** Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Doctoral Training Centre (KISS DTC).
- Dec 2007 – Sep 2009: Middle East Research Assistant, and subsequently Policy Associate Analyst, **the Rand Corporation**, Santa Monica, California, & Cambridge, UK. Collaborated on a range of interdisciplinary classified and unclassified research projects for US government and non-governmental clients. Specialised focus on Iraqi politics, Middle East security sector and salafi-jihadi militant movements.

## **OTHER EMPLOYMENT**

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- Jun – Dec 2007 &  
Sep 2004 – Aug 2005: Civilian Arabic-English translator, media analyst and cultural advisor for British forces in Iraq.
- Nov 2002 – Aug 2004: Middle East & North Africa Analyst, UK civil service.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Peer Reviewed Articles and Chapters:**

- *Forthcoming* (Sept 2020), Watkins, J. 'Identity Politics, Elites and Omnibalancing: Reassessing Arab Gulf State Interventions in the Uprisings from the Inside Out' *Journal of Conflict, Development and Security*, 20(5).

- Watkins, J. (2020). 'Iran in Iraq and the limits of 'Smart Power' in the Face of Public Protest'. LSE Middle East Centre Peer reviewed Publication. <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/105768/>).
- Watkins, J., (2020), Combating domestic abuse in Jordan from the top-down: liberal and/or democratic statebuilding? *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, 14(3): 389-409.
- Watkins, J., (2019) 'Satellite Sectarianisation or Plain Old Partisanship: Inciting Violence in the Arab Mainstream Media', LSE Middle East Centre
- Watkins, J, (2014), 'Seeking Justice: Tribal Dispute Resolution & Societal Transformation in Jordan'. *International Journal for Middle East Studies (IJMES)*, 46(3): 31-49.
- Wehrey, F., Kaye, D. D., Watkins, J., Martini, J., & Guffey, R. A. (2010), *The Iraq Effect: The Middle East after the Iraq War*, the Rand Corporation, Santa Monica. (Authored chapter on the spread of terrorist trends & ideology from Iraq to the surrounding region).
- Gompert, D., Kelly, T., & Watkins J., (2010) *Dangers Ahead: A Framework for Analyzing Iraq's Internal Security and Stability*, MG-911-OSD, the Rand Corporation, Washington DC
- Stearns Lawson, B., Kelly T. K., Parker, M., Watkins, J., Colloton, K, (2011), *Reconstruction under Fire: Case Studies and Further Analysis of Civil Requirements*, the Rand Corporation, Washington DC.

### **Books in Preparation for Publication**

- I have just resubmitted a draft of my book manuscript ('Creating Consent in an Illiberal Order: Policing Disputes in Jordan'), to Cambridge University Press after receiving Revise and Resubmit feedback.

### **Journal Articles in Preparation for Publication:**

- Journal article: 'Centre & Periphery in the anatomy of a post-conflict 'local' agreement: the case of Yathrib', submitted August 2020 to the *Journal of Peacebuilding*. Currently under review.
- Journal article: 'The Ebbs and Flows of Iran's War of Position in Post-Ba'athist Iraq', work in progress, due to submit in December 2020 to the *European Journal of International Relations (EJIR)*.
- Journal article: 'Reconciliation and the Business of War in Post-Baathist Iraq', work in progress based on a submission to Rudaw for an edited collection of essays their annual conference in Erbil, to be expanded for submission to the *Journal of Conflict and Cooperation*.

- Journal article: ‘The Arab Spring in the Genealogy of Weak States’, work in progress for submission to *The Journal of International Security*.

### Book Reviews:

- Watkins, J. (2020). *Media persuasion in the Islamic State*: by Neil Krishan Aggarwal, Columbia University Press, 2019, 264 pp., 65.00/£54.00(cloth); 64.99/£ 54.00 (ebook), ISBN 9780231182386; 9780231544122.
- Watkins, J. (2020). *Culture, time and publics in the Arab world: media, public space and temporality*: by Tarik Sabry and Joe F. Khalil (eds). London and New York, Bloomsbury Publishing, IB Tauris, 2019, 224 pp.,£ 63.00/85.50(cloth);£22.99/ 20.81 (paperback), ISBN 9781788311915; 9781788311922.
- Watkins, J., (2016), ‘Police Encounters: Security and Surveillance in Gaza under Egyptian Rule’, Ilana Feldman. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2015, *The Journal of Policing and Society*, 26, No. 06, (2016). Pp. 729-733.

### Selected invited online submissions:

- Watkins, J. (2020) ‘From Green to Blue? Local Policing in Iraq Post-ISIL’ LSE Middle East Centre. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mec/2020/07/08/from-green-to-blue-local-policing-in-iraq-post-isil/>
  - Watkins, J. & Hasan, M. (2020), ‘Iraq’s Popular Mobilisation & the Covid-19 Pandemic: A new raison d’être?’ <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mec/2020/04/29/iraqs-popular-mobilisation-forces-and-the-covid-19-pandemic-a-new-raison-detre/>
  - Watkins, J. (2020), ‘Iran in Iraq: Soft Power after Soleimani’, <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mec/2020/01/08/iran-in-iraq-soft-power-after-soleimani/>
  - Watkins, J. (2019) ‘Iran in Iraq. Hard and Soft Power Strategies under Sanctions and Public Censure’. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/crp/2019/08/05/iran-in-iraq-hard-soft-power-strategies-under-sanctions-public-censure/>
  - Watkins, J. (2019). ‘What to Expect from the Post-Pan-Arab Media’, Conflict Research Programme Blog, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019, <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/crp/2019/01/23/what-to-expect-from-the-post-pan-arab-media/>
- Watkins, J. (2018). ‘Policing and Protection for Syrian Refugees in Jordan’, Sada Middle East Analysis, Carnegie, <https://carnegieendowment.org/sada/77511>
- Watkins, J. (2018), ‘Beyond Sectarianism: Transnational Identity Politics and Conflict in the Modern Middle East’, Middle East Centre blog, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/crp/2018/11/07/beyond-sectarianism-transnational-identity-politics-conflict-in-the-modern-middleeast/>

- Watkins, J. (2018), 'Tribes and Tribalism in a Neoliberal Jordan', Middle East Centre blog, 16 July 2018, <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mec/2018/07/16/tribes-and-tribalism-in-a-neo-liberal-jordan/>
- Watkins, J., (2013), 'Jordan's Refugees: Breaking the Back of the Kingdom?', article for the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR), September 2013, online as of January 2015 at: <http://icsr.info/2012/07/jordans-refugees-breaking-the-back-of-the-kingdom/>
- Watkins, J. (2010), *Security Sector Developments of the British Colonial Middle East and their Legacies*, commissioned by the Arab Reform Initiative as part of their series on Security Sector Reform efforts in the Arab World. Available online as of March 2017 at: <http://www.arab-reform.net/en/node/581>

## **GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS & PRIZES**

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- Jun 2015: First Runner-Up for the Leigh Douglas Memorial Prize for the best PhD dissertation on a Middle Eastern topic in the Social Sciences or Humanities awarded by a British University (£150).
- Jun 2015: Awarded the 2015 'Elsevier Outstanding Thesis Prize' – one of 15 prizes awarded across all faculties at King's College London (£100 plus journal subscription prize).
- Jun 2013: £400 from War Studies Department, KCL, travel fund to undertake fieldwork in Jordan.
- Oct 2009 – Sep 2013: £63,200 '1+3' funding for tuition and maintenance from the ESRC for completion of MRes and PhD.
- Feb 2011 – Sep 2012: £6,400 from the ESRC for maintenance and transport costs of fieldwork in Jordan.
- Oct 2012: £750 research training support grant from the War Studies Department, KCL, for transcription expenses.

## **SELECTED CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS**

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- 7 Dec 2020 Invited panellist to speak about regional drivers of sectarianisation in the Middle East for workshop co-hosted by 'the Legitimacy and Citizenship in the Arab World' project at London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and the 'Sectarianism, Proxies & De-sectarianisation' (SEPAD) project at Lancaster University.

- 7 Oct 2020 'Community Policing in Jordan after the Uprisings: Refugees, Representatives, and Re-imagined Communities': panel presentation for Middle East Studies Association (MESA) annual conference.
- 30 Jul 2020: 'Iran in Iraq', Paper launch webinar run by the Middle East Centre. <https://soundcloud.com/lsemiddleeastcentre/iran-in-iraq-the-limits-of-smart-power-amidst-public-protest>
- 9 Oct 2019: Local Peace Processes: the Case of Yathrib, Iraq, presented at Joint Analysis Workshop hosted by the Political Settlements Research Programme & the British Academy.
- 25 June 2019: Statebuilding, Hybridity & Aid Dependency in Jordan's Campaign against Domestic Abuse' presented at BRISMES annual conference, Leeds.
- 16 May 2019: 'Geo-political Polarisation and Sectarianism in the Pan-Arab Media' presented at FCO workshop at Whitehall on the Arab media.
- 30 Nov 2018: Middle East Centre launch of the Conflict Research Programme, London School of Economics.
- 13 Jun 2018: 'Tribes & Tribalism in a Neoliberal Jordan', presented at: *Tribe & State in the Middle East* workshop, Middle East Centre, London School of Economics.
- 31 May 2018: 'Pan-Arab media, covering conflict and securitizing sect in Syria: the case of Al-Jazeera', presented at *Hate Speech as Political Communication and Practices* conference, Centre for Global Media and Communication, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).
- 24 Nov 2015: 'Proximity & Distance: Ethnographic Research in Contexts of Conflict & Insecurity' presented at *KCL Social Science Festival Roundtable*, London.
- 31 Oct/1 Nov 2015: 'Community Policing and Creating Consent in Jordan', presented at *Early Career Middle Eastern Studies Network Conference*, Exeter University, UK.
- 19 Jun 2012: Speaker at 'Doctoral Fieldwork in Developing and Transitional Countries' workshop, organized by King's Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Doctoral Training Centre, London, UK.
- 11 Apr 2012: 'The History of the Public Security Directorate in Jordan', Guest Speaker at the Centre for British Research in the Levant (CBRL) in Amman, Jordan.
- 4-5 Nov 2010: 'Middle Eastern Security Services under British Colonialism: Sowing the Seeds of Insecurity?' Invited speaker at an *Arab Reform Initiative* Conference, Casa Arabe, Madrid, Spain.

9 Mar 2009: Co-presenter of 'The Iraq Effect' Rand research project findings to US Pentagon client in Washington DC, US.

## **LANGUAGES**

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Arabic (fluent in written translation, highly competent and able to conduct interviews in spoken); French (fluent); Farsi (beginner); Spanish (beginner).

## **REFEREES**

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**Professor Toby Dodge** (Current line manager at LSE), Director of the Iraq Programme for the Conflict Research Programme, the Middle East Centre, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE. [B.T.Dodge@lse.ac.uk](mailto:B.T.Dodge@lse.ac.uk)

**Dr. Michael Mason** (Director of the Middle East Centre at LSE), the Middle East Centre, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE [M.Mason@lse.ac.uk](mailto:M.Mason@lse.ac.uk)

**Dr. Yezid Sayigh** (PhD supervisor); Senior Associate, Carnegie Middle East Centre, Emir Bechir Street, Lazariéh Tower, Bldg. No. 2026 1210, 5th floor, Downtown Beirut P.O.Box 11-1061 Riad El Solh, Lebanon. [ysayigh@carnegie-mec.org](mailto:ysayigh@carnegie-mec.org)

**Professor Charles Tripp** (PhD examiner); Professor of Politics with reference to the Middle East, SOAS, University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, [ct2@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ct2@soas.ac.uk)