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CfP: Research in Times of Change and Uncertainty: Europe, the Middle East, and Beyond ..... 3

# The Past in the Present of the Middle East

15-16 April 2016

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre

Council for British Research in the Levant in association with the London Middle East Institute

A two-day conference organised by the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL) and the London Middle East Institute to showcase the work of CBRL and its partners in the region. The conference will present sessions on a number of themes linking the past to the present day in the Middle East.

Cultural heritage in conflict

Cultural heritage, society and economics

Britain and the Levant: Cult2 5023u(e e)-3(co)- CQ()-3(M)-3(i)13(s)C] TJETBT1 0 0 1 294.53 502.75 Tm[(g )(m)

European project itself. At the same time, non-state actors, such as Daesh, are well positioned to confront the perceived and long-established paradigm of security in Europe since the end of the II World War.

The Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies and the Politics Department of the University of Exeter will be holding a conference to address this current state of uncertainty in Europe, the Middle East and world, and to understand how we, as researchers, should conduct our work within these complex dynamics.

The conference is open to all researchers working in the humanities and social sciences, including, but not limited to:

- Anthropology
- Archaeology
- European Studies
- Gender studies
- History
- International relations
- Islamic and religious studies
- Language and Literature
- Law
- Migration studies
- Political economy
- Political science
- Political theory
- Public policy
- Security and Strategic Studies
- Sociology

Those interested in presenting a paper at the event are required to submit a 200-300 word abstract and a short biography (through the provided application form) by 11 April 2016 to



11. Exploring the Impact of Reforms to the Moroccan Vocational Education System: A Policy Analysis  
Brahim Boubarbat and Daniel Egel
12. After the Arab Spring: Reform, Innovation and the Future of Youth Employment  
Tarik Yousef and Edward Sayre

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## Popular Contention, Regime, and Transition - Arab Revolts in Comparative Global Perspective

Eitan Y. Alimi, Avraham Sela, and Mario Sznajder (Eds)  
2016 (August) – Oxford University Press

Through a diverse array of case studies from countries around the world, this volume places the Arab Spring uprisings in comparative perspective, demonstrating the similarities and parallels between contentious events in democratic and authoritarian-like regimes. Leading scholars in the fields of political science, sociology, and international studies discuss topics such as the set of initial conditions involved in the protest, prospects of contention, and forms of protest, as well as the role of historical legacies, regime responses, the military, social polarization, and external factors in the divergent outcomes of protest. By situating the study of contention in authoritarian and semi-authoritarian regimes in comparative perspective, *Popular Contention, Regime, and Transition* generates powerful insights into the impetus, dynamics, and consequences of contention in all contexts.

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Mario Diani and Caelum Moffatt
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Analysis of Egypt (2011) and Iran (1977-1979)

Karen Rasler

PART III: BETWEEN TRANSITION AND CONTENTION

9. Regime Transitions, Anti-dictatorship Struggles, and the Future of Protest in Democratizing Settings

Vincent Boudreau

10. Chile's Winter of Discontent: Is Protest Achieving Deeper Democratization?

Mario Sznajder

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CONCLUSION

The Arab Revolts in Comparative Historical Perspective

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## Civil Resistance in the Arab Spring - Triumphs and Disasters

Edited by Adam Roberts, Michael J. Willis, Rory McCarthy, and Timothy Garton Ash



# Challenging Neoliberalism at Turkey's Gezi Park - From Private Discontent to Collective Class Action

Gürcan, E., Peker, E.

2015 – Palgrave Macmillan

In *Challenging Neoliberalism at Turkey's Gezi Park*, Gürcan and Peker explore the events of May 31, 2013, when what began as a localized demonstration against the demolition of Gezi Park, a public park in Istanbul turned into a nationwide protest cycle with an unprecedented form and scale never before seen in Turkey's history.

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Introduction: Neoliberal Globalization, State Intervention, and Collective Action

1. New Social Movement Theories and Their Discontents
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5. Forging Political Consciousness at Gezi: The Case of "Disproportionate Intelligence"
6. Looking Ahead: "Gezi Spirit" and Its Aftermath

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# Social Movements in Egypt and Iran

Tara Povey

2015 – Palgrave Macmillan

The contemporary movements seen on the streets of the Middle East today have their roots in a rich history of social and political struggle in the region. Since the 1990s, large-scale social movements have mobilised millions in opposition to authoritarian regimes often backed by the West. In Egypt, diverse movements opposed the Mubarak regime and its dependence on the US, and have gone on to fight for further transformative change. In Iran, an Islamic reform movement, women's movement and democracy movement has challenged the undemocratic and exclusivist nature of the Islamic state since the 1990s. This book analyses the reform movement in Iran and the groups and





authorities violently put down the peaceful uprising, leading to thousands of arrests, hundreds of injuries, and dozens of deaths. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## Egypt Running on Empty

MER277, Winter 2015

Joshua Stacher

An authoritarian regime may be unpopular, even loathed, but at least it has rules. The rules may bear little resemblance to the law, but relations between state officials and society come to have a predictable rhythm. People understand where the red lines are, and they can choose to stay within them or to step across. Egypt does not work this way under the field marshal who became president, 'Abd al-Fattah al-Sisi. Nearly three years since the military coup that brought Sisi to power, not only are the red lines blurred, but the unconsolidated regime itself is so fuzzily defined that Egyptians doubt it is one coherent entity. The security forces seem to have slipped the leash of the executive branch. As one journalist told me in Cairo, "You never know which security branch it is any more. The only thing that's clear is that Sisi does not control them. It's unpredictable and unsettled. That's what makes everything dangerous. You can't see it coming." *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## Hope without Illusion: Ten Signs of Change in Egypt

Jadaliyya, 14 March 2016

Abdelrahman Mansour and Mohamed Aboelgheit

Egyptians occupying streets, blocking traffic, and chanting patriotic slogans: Contrary to conventional wisdom, these images became part of Egypt's contemporary political arena well before the January 2011 Revolution. We saw them on multiple occasions in 2006, 2008D3(caff)3(4 508.13 Tm[(le )8(o)-5(cc)9(asio)-2(n)3

## [Egypt:] Attempts to disperse large protest by taxi drivers against Uber & Careem unsuccessful

Mada Masr, 9 March 2016

Police fired warning shots in the air on Tuesday in an attempt to disperse dozens of disgruntled taxi drivers in Giza, where they were protesting against international companies Uber and Careem. A number of taxi drivers threatened to stage an open-ended sit-in if private companies are permitted to continue with what they describe as “unfair competition.” Several rows of white taxis were lined up in Giza blocking traffic on Tuesday. Police fired blank shots into the air in an attempt to get drivers to move their vehicles, the Masr al-Arabiya news portal reported, adding that there were minor scuffles, but no serious injuries. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## [Egypt:] Doctors won't give up

Al-Ahram Weekly, Issue No.1287, 17 March, 2016

Reem Leila

Hundreds of doctors staged a protest on 12 March in front of the downtown headquarters of the Doctors Syndicate against the “continuous brutality” of the police against doctors. Doctors held banners decrying the assault by policemen on two doctors at Al-Matariya Hospital and demanded that the officers be tried “to preserve the dignity of doctors”. Others called for legislative protection for healthcare facilities, which also criminalises assaults against doctors. The doctors also chanted slogans demanding protection while on duty and called for enforcing legislation which would better secure hospitals against assaults. In late January, two policemen were detained after they assaulted two doctors at Al-Matariya Hospital for reportedly refusing to sign forged papers. The policemen, however, were released within 24 hours, angering doctors across the country. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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## The Muslim Brotherhood: Falling apart at the seams

Al-Ahram Weekly, Issue No.1287, 17 March, 2016

Amany Maged

Despite attempts on the part of some Muslim Brotherhood leaders to halt the movement's disintegration, the Jordanian chapter of the Brotherhood has announced that it no longer has any links with its mother organisation. The break, first mooted a year ago, was formalised during a recent meeting of the Jordanian Brotherhood's Shura Council. Though the Brotherhood in Jordan espouses the same ideology as the Egyptian organisation, the decision to break ties with the Muslim Brothers in Egypt appears to have been motivated by apprehensions that the organisation in Jordan could face the same fate as its Egyptian counterpart and end up being labelled as a terrorist group by the Jordanian government. *Continue reading [here](#)*

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[Lebanon:] Garbage Politics

## Policing neoliberalism in Egypt: the continuing rise of the 'securocratic' state

Third World Quarterly, February 2016

Maha Abdelrahman

This article examines the increasing power of the police, their centrality to the reproduction of the neoliberal global order and their dynamic relationship with various elements of the ruling elite. It focuses on the case of the post-2011 uprising in Egypt to examine how the police institution has taken advantage of the uprising to increase its power and relative autonomy. The article demonstrates the centrality of the police to the Sisi regime's efforts at reducing political discourse to an inflated and simplistic concept of 'security' in an attempt to establish its long-term legitimacy.

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## Decentralising authoritarianism? The international intervention, the new 'revolutionaries' and the involution of Post-Qadhafi Libya

Mattia Toaldo

Small Wars and Insurgencies 27, No.1 (2016)

In 2011, Libya became the only country of the Arab Uprisings where NATO and the Arab League intervened militarily, ostensibly to protect the civilian population, but in reality in support of the opposition National Transitional Council. This article argues that, since 2011, Libya has transitioned from Qadhafi's centralised authoritarianism to a new decentralised authoritarianism where multiple centres of power coexist and sometimes overlap, while leaving room only for formal democratic institutions. This is the result of decisions taken by the 'revolutionaries' after the overthrow of the dictator, and a consequence of long-standing features of the Libyan state and society.

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## Doctoral research fellowship in contemporary Middle East Studies

A PhD Research Fellowship in contemporary Middle East Studies is available at the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages (IKOS), University of Oslo. The person appointed will be affiliated with the Faculty's organized research training. The academic work is to result in a doctoral thesis that will be defended at the Faculty with a view to obtaining the degree of PhD. Read more about the doctoral degree. The appointment is for the duration of three years.

