

# Digest of Current Publications and Ever

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# CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

The Iranian Revolution as a World Event





Professor Ramin Jahanbegloo (Jindal Global University, India) on "Muhammad Ali Foroughi"  
Professor Homa Katouzian (St Antony's College, Oxford) on "Sadeq Hedayat"  
Professor Ali Ansari (St Andrew's University) on "Nationalism"  
Professor Haideh Moghissi (York University) on "Iranian Women"  
Professor Farhad Khosrokhavar (EHESS, France) on "Shariat and Jala'Al Ahmad"  
Professor Touraj Atabaki (IISH, Amsterdam) on "Iranian Marxist Intellectuals"  
Professor Farzin Vahdat (Vassar College, USA) on "Islamic Thinkers"

Admission: £10 standard; £5 students (proof of students status required). The registration fee includes lunch and refreshments.

*More information [here](#)*

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## Annual Palestine Research Seminar

SOAS University of London

27 February 2019

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## 5th China and The Middle East and North Africa Conference

Northwest University, Xi'an, China

May 16, 17 and 18, 2019

Abstract Deadline: April 15, 2019

Co-Sponsored by Chinese Journal of Middle East Studies

Shanghai University, People's Republic of China

<http://en.shu.edu.cn/>

Cappadocia University, Republic of Turkey

<https://www.kapadokya.edu.tr/english/>

### Description and Objectives:

We organized four very successful academic conferences on this topic in collaboration with Beijing University, on March 17, 2015; Qatar University, on March 23, 2016; Shanghai University, on June 8, 2017; and Nevsehir Haci Bektas Veli University Cappadocia University on June 20, 2018. This year, we will have 5th China and the Middle East Conference in Xi'an, May 16, 17 and 18, 2019.

We therefore invite submissions on the following and related topics:

Political Economy of the Middle East

Nationalism and Nation-State

Political Parties

Environmental Issues

Social Movements

Religion and Politics

Gender Issues in the Middle East

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict





kept their religion, while the Iranians largely converted to Islam but maintained their own language. The case of the multicultural Ottoman Empire and the ways of communication and cultural transfer within this state, which involved diverse ethnic and religious groups, represents another interesting topic. Shifts in language and communication are often examined through social networks analysis, which today is a growing methodological approach in various disciplines to study contacts between individuals and/or organizations. By analyzing the properties between units of contact and within them, phenomena may be described as relational. Recent manifestations of social media provide ample opportunities for empirical linguistic observations.

The transfer of ideas and ideology can be studied within the context of relations between the Middle East and North Africa and other world regions (Europe, other areas of Asia, Sub Saharan Africa and the Americas) in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. It implies not only the way of adopting and developing different political or social ideas (republicanism, socialism, modernity, etc.) but also the reflection of these ideas in special terminology of local and borrowed origin. Colonial and postcolonial interactions, which included institutionalized violence as a language of perceived cultural superiority, as well as intercultural exchange and its rejection, represent important issues to discuss. Political theory and research on the colonial relationships in the region open a diversity of contact forms: assimilation, hybridization, economic integration, clash of different systems of values, etc. The significant issue of cultural identity in the colonial and postcolonial eras involves the concept of orientalism and its reconsideration.

We are seeking articles from different disciplines that involve the Near and Middle East and North Africa, including linguistics, history, comparative literature, sociology, political science, and others. Papers challenging specific hypotheses or frameworks are particularly welcome. Summarizing, we accept papers that address the following issues within the geographical area under discussion:

- language contacts
- interaction of living and classical languages
- impact of language contacts on different aspects of culture
- forms of colonial and postcolonial interaction
- instruments of cross-cultural exchange
- transfer of the ideas and ideologies
- social network analysis

Papers presenting new, original research findings on the issue's topic will be published in the journal's



In *The Rule of Violence: Subjectivity, Memory and Government in Syria* (Cambridge University Press, 2018), Salwa Ismail examines the centrality of violence to the Asad regime's mode of governing Syria over a forty-year period. Drawing on extensive fieldwork carried out in Syria between 2005 and 2011 and on interviews with Syrians inside and outside Syria, a key question Ismail asks is how the regime's practices of violence—both spectacular and routine—were formative of Syrian political subject(t)-3.9(r)9 0.001i oa we

desired by the wealthy and the destitute frequented by the rich and the penniless. [...] This is the progress of “Westernized” [arbiyya] Beirut, its nobility and its urbanism, Beirut hates stagnation and always walks, a step forward and twenty steps backwards”.

In these words, he summarised the impact of global changes on Beirut during the 1920s and 1930s. The musical scene reflected the image of a city entering modernity and presenting itself as an open and cosmopolitan one, with a particular inclination towards Western culture. Beirut opened gradually to the entertainment world of two major capitals: Cairo and Paris. On the one hand, the establishment of the French mandate (1920) affected Beirut's musical life, provoking a growing tendency for the westernization of entertainment venues, ways of consuming music, as well as artistic and cultural tastes. While the arrival of Egyptian singers and vaudeville troupes to the Levantine city invaded the dramatic scene, which was deeply



## JOURNAL ARTICLES & OTHER ACADEMIC ARTICLES

### Understanding Arab civil society: functional validity as the missing link

Carmen Geha  
British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies  
February 2018

The study of civil society in the Arab region has been riddled with normative expectations largely derived from the experiences of civil society in other countries. While the region continues to endure a democratic deficit, it is also home to myriad civil society organizations working on a range of issues. The missing link when theorizing about Arab civil society has been in considering its functional validity in the eyes of the activists themselves. This article utilizes insights from focus groups with activists in Tunisia, Libya, Lebanon, Kuwait, Iraq and Syria to propose a typology of the functional validity that civil society offers to Arab activists. Despite the criticisms that the concept of civil society has faced in the region, activists continue to find validity in the work they are doing. The typology proposed here presents a fivefold validity of action through neutrality, mobilization, democratic claim, access to funds, and representation for civil society activists. By bringing in empirical evidence from the activists themselves we can move away from normative expectations about civil society towards a better understanding of the various functions that civil society organizations are fulfilling in different contexts across the region.

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### Magical realism and metafiction in Post-Arab spring literature: narratives of discontent or celebration?

Abida Younas  
British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies  
September 2018

My study is an attempt to examine recent developments in Arab Spring fiction by Anglo-Arab immigrant authors. Instead of conforming to the traditional narrative modes and strategies, post-Arab Spring literature provides a bitter evaluation of the so-called Arab Spring and deconstructs the revolutionary rhetoric that heralds a new era for the Arab world by producing a counter-narrative. The selected novels, Karim Alrawi's *Book of Sands* and Youssef Rakha's *The Crocodiles*, use peculiar strategies to portray the fractured and cryptic realities of the Arab world. Written within the framework of realism, utilizing the literary strategies of postmodern literature, these writers unsettle the boundaries of literary genres and give rise to diverse phenomenal trends in Arab fiction. Using magical realism, Alrawi expands the traditional realist narrative style by blending realist elements with magical. By employing metafiction, Rakha formally exhibits the precarious scenario of the Arab world. Drawing on the theory of Magical Realism and Metafiction, these works are investigated in order to emphasize how this new writing reflects the unstable reality of the Arab Spring.

While it is too early to discern the characteristics of Post Spring literature, my research is a contribution to developing a framework in which to do so

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## Pleading for a place in modern Egypt: negotiating poverty and patriarchy, 1908 –1913

Hoda. A. Yousef  
British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies  
July 2018

This paper examines the petitions of a poor woman, Jalila, for opportunities and property from the Egyptian government between 1908 and 1913. Her interest in procuring a 'place' for her sons and her family in modernizing Egypt reflects the ways in which non-elites were able to participate in and move within the major physical and discursive public spaces of the era. This study argues that even those at the very edges of society were not categorically marginalized; rather, they were negotiating the dominant spatial hierarchies of their time in attempts to better their circumstances. This ability to navigate and participate in the prevailing discussions and institutions of the time demonstrates that even the most marginalized elements of Egyptian society were quite integrated into the project of 'modern Egypt', even if they did not always reap its benefits.

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## From local revolutionary action to exiled humanitarian work: activism in local social networks and communities' formation in the Syrian post-2011 context

Laura Ruiz de Elvira



characterized by fluidity, the sudden pluralization of the political arena and the need to negotiate space and resources with multiple 'players.'

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## New Social Movements: The Case of Youth's Political Project in Egypt: Comparing the 1919 and 2011 Revolutions

Dina ElSharnouby

Middle East Law and Governance, Volume 10, Issue 3, 2018

With the 2011 Revolution in Egypt, new forms of social mobilization and new possibilities for political interaction surfaced. The manifestation of these events suggested a different understanding of politics among particularly revolutionary youth. How do their values and practices affect political imaginaries? How are those imaginaries different from previous revolutionary struggles? This article highlights the political projects of the 2011 revolutionary youth versus previous revolutionary struggles by looking at youth activists and the case of the leftist Bread and Freedom party. Contrasting the Revolution of 1919 to 2011 in Egypt reveals a renewed call to social justice imagined to be practiced through the state and state institutions while minimizing ideology and a singular leadership in their mobilization strategies. Drawing on fieldwork done in 2014 and 2015, this paper suggests that the 2011 political project from youth's perspective is about the importance of political practices of social justice over an ideology.

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## Morocco's Hirak movement and legacies of contention in the Rif

Anne Wolf

The Journal of North African Studies

October 25, 2018

In August 2018, King Mohammed VI released 188 detainees linked to the ~~Hirak~~ ~~Shalbi~~ (Popular Movement), which for over a year has led protests in Morocco's marginalised Rif region in the north of the country. The Hirak emerged in mid 2017 out of a wider protest movement sparked by the gruesome death of a fish seller in the Rif's coastal town of Al Hoceima; in November 2016 Mouhcine Fikri was crushed to death by a rubbish truck as he tried to rescue the fish catch the police had confiscated from him ~~on the grounds~~ that he did not possess a fishing licence. This triggered major protests in the Rif and, in solidarity, demonstrations were organised in other regions and by the Moroccan diaspora community abroad. The protests in the Rif have continued ever ~~since~~ ~~and~~ soon widened their focus as they began to encompass the larger political and economic grievances of the region. Hirak activists

presented a list of key demands to the authorities, which included the establishment of a hospital, university, infrastructure projects and the demilitarisation of the Rif, demands that reflected the disenchantment in the region over its longstanding marginalisation from the rest of the country.

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## NEWS PIECES & COMMENTARY

### Matthew Hedges' wife slams UK inaction as lecturers vote for UAE boycott

November 22<sup>d</sup>, 2018  
Middle East Eye

Lecturers union members at Birmingham University vote to refuse work at the university's Dubai campus in wake of conviction

The wife of imprisoned British PhD student Matthew Hedges has blamed the UK government for failing to help her husband, a day after he was sentenced to life in prison in the United Arab Emirates.

Speaking to the BBC Today programme on Thursday, Daniela Tejada said that the British had been too fearful of upsetting their ties with their close ally.

"I got the impression that they were putting their interests with the UAE above a British citizen's rightful freedom and his welfare and his right to just a fair trial, just to freedom," she said.

"They were stepping on eggshells instead of taking a firm stance."

Hedges, 31, has lived in the UAE on and off since he was nine years old. He was in Dubai researching the UAE's foreign and internal security policies. He was originally arrested in May and spent months in solitary confinement with little consular access or contact with family members.

In a verdict that shocked his family, he was sentenced to life in prison on Wednesday for "spying", after a five minute hearing during which no lawyer was present.

Following the verdict, UK Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said he was "deeply shocked" by the sentence, while Prime Minister Theresa May said she was "deeply disappointed" and had instructed the foreign office to "continue to press this matter at the highest level with the Emiratis".

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## Thousands protest Tunisia's public sector cuts

Al Jazeera

November 22<sup>d</sup>, 2013

Tunisian civil servants have gone on strike around the country to protest the failure of

Cavusoglu said on Tuesday he did not receive assurances on the extradition issue after meeting with his US counterpart Mike Pompeo and US national security adviser John Bolton during a visit to Washington.

Trump: US not considering Fethullah Gulen's extradition to Turkey  
"But we have given this list of the people that we request the US to extradite," Cavusoglu said.

US President Donald Trump "asked Erdogan to send that list and I gave that list to both Pompeo and ambassador Bolton," he said.

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## POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Postdoctoral position in Mediatized Diaspora : Contentious Politics  
among Arab Media Users in Europe

Application deadline 25-

Place of Employment and Work: The place of employment and daily work is Department of CrossCultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen.

#### Qualification requirements

In order to be considered for the position applicants must have research qualifications at least corresponding to what can be achieved as part of a successfully completed PhD within a relevant field.

- x A PhD in CrossCultural Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Media Studies, Arab Studies, Anthropology or equivalent research experience.
- x Research experience in media or political activism in the Middle East or in Arab diaspora communities in Europe.
- x Experience in qualitative and interview based research.
- x Good organizational skills and a structured approach to fieldwork.
- x Excellent English skills written and spoken.
- x Advanced knowledge of either Arabic or French.

Desirable experience and skills:

- x Research based knowledge on Tunisia or the Arab Spring.
- x Knowledge of Danish language.

*More information and application [here](#)*

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## Professorship in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies

Bern University, Faculty of Humanities.

Application deadline: November 30, 2018.

The Institute seeks a scholar with a very good knowledge of the field as a whole and excellent proficiency in at least one language of the MENA region. In their own research, applicants should have historical expertise (preferably in political, social or economic history) oriented towards questions of the present, as well as a high degree of theoretical competence that also informs their teaching.

#### Tasks

Depending on his or her formal qualifications, the successful applicant will be employed as assistant professor with tenure track, as associate professor or as full professor. An assistant professorship requires an outstanding PhD and a second, advanced research project. Candidates for an associate or full professorship are required to have a habilitation thesis or



## Head of Programs for the New Arab Centre for Research, London

The centre concentrates on the study of the Arab region, bilateral-British relations and broader Arab-European ties. The centre will hold academic conferences and run research projects. Candidates should have a PhD in the social sciences from a reputable academic institution and experience in social science research.

More information and application email [admin@arabcentre.org.uk](mailto:admin@arabcentre.org.uk)

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## Dean of School of Humanities and Social Sciences, American University in Cairo

Application deadline: 01/31/2019

The American University in Cairo invites applications and nominations for the position of Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. The School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HUSS) is made up of nine departments: Applied Linguistics; Arabic Civilizations; Arts; English and Comparative Literature; History; Philosophy; Political Science; Psychology; and Sociology, Egyptology and Anthropology. The School offers 35 degrees and diplomas at the undergraduate and graduate level, and boasts world-class faculty who produce groundbreaking research and provide the finest liberal arts education in the region. Among the school's strengths are its state-of-the-art facilities for study and creative work in theatre, music and the visual arts, the only counseling psychology training clinic in the region, and two internationally recognized periodicals: Cairo Papers in Social Sciences and Alif: Journal of Comparative Poetics. HUSS upholds and shares AUC's commitment to the principles of academic freedom and freedom of expression.

We are searching for a dean with vision, imagination, and energy, possessing strong oral, written, and interpersonal communication skills. The candidate should be knowledgeable about and interested in developments in the arts, humanities and social sciences around the world. As the school's chief academic and administrative officer, the dean should be a practiced and collaborative manager, working closely with other senior administrative officers to enhance programs both within the school and across the university. Responsibilities include coordinating, evaluating and improving curricula and programs; recruiting new faculty; promoting excellence in instruction and research; determining resource priorities and preparing the school's budget; and representing the school and its faculty to other divisions of the university and to the broader public. Strengths in support of the school's fundraising efforts will be considered an asset.

### Requirements:

The successful candidate must have a doctoral degree in a discipline in the Humanities or Social Sciences (or comparable terminal degree in the Arts), ideally eight years of relevant



administrative experience, and a record of recognized scholarly research and teaching accomplishments sufficient to merit appointment as a full professor in one of the school's departments. Candidates must be enthusiastic about the prospect of living and working in Egypt. Salary and benefits are competitive, based on qualifications and professional experience.

**Additional Information:**

Confidential review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

**Application Instructions:**

All applicants must submit the following documents via the online system: a) an updated C.V.; b) a letter of interest; c) names and contact information for at least three references

3. Chairperson of the Department of Arabic Language and Literature College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences: see  
<http://www.sharjah.ac.ae/ar/academics/Colleges/ahss/dept/ad/Pages/default.aspx>

4. Chairperson of the Department of Sociology College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences: see  
<http://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/academics/Colleges/ahss/dept/sd/Pages/default.aspx>

5. Chairperson of the Department of International Relations College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences: see  
<http://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/academics/Colleges/ahss/dept/IR/Pages/default.aspx>

Review of applications will begin on November 15, 2011, and continue until the position is filled.

For further information contact Marwa Saeed Khamis [mkhamis@sharjah.ac.ae](mailto:mkhamis@sharjah.ac.ae)

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## Faculty Positions in Politics and International Relations/Comparative Politics, Doha Institute for Graduate Students

Application Deadline: December 31, 2018

Successful candidates will have a Ph.D. in Political Science from an internationally recognized university. Successful candidates will have a Ph.D. in Political Science from an internationally recognized university.

sample, and three letters of recommendation) should be sent by December 2018  
to: