

Digest of Current Publications and Events

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CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

Contributions for an Edited Book on “Egypt in Focus: Creativity in Adversarial Contexts”

Deadline: August 1st, 2019

Guest Editors:

Nevine El Nossery (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Shereen Abouelnaga (Cairo University)

The current socio-political situation in Egypt raises fundamental questions about the state of the arts and the future of literature and culture in the country. While the first years after the 2011 Egyptian Revolution witnessed the emergence and flourishing of new literary and artistic expressions (auto-fictional blogs, music festivals, protest songs, slam poetry, documentaries, photographs, TV talk

within society, and constrained by the culture, society, politics and economy of the day or, in other words, by the surrounding power structure.

Beyond the agency-structure divide, the 'agency debate' has also involved a variety of other issues: the definition of transformative agency or the identification of the social group better placed to be the engine of change or, in other words, to 'make history' ranging from elitist or statist views to the bottom-up approaches of subaltern studies, passing by the 'modernising role' attributed to the middle class or the vanguard role of the industrial proletariat.

In Africa, since the start of the decolonisation processes in the 1950s, intellectuals have been concerned with the necessity to conceptualise political agency and the contribution of Africans to history, along with their struggles to achieve emancipation. The debate on agency has been recently revamped on the political and intellectual agendas of the African continent, following the mass popular upsurge in North Africa, despite - or maybe because - of the counter-revolutions or of the (perceived?) failure to significantly transform their respective political systems.

The International Doctoral Workshop The question of agency in African Studies aims at tackling the 'agency debate' through different disciplinary approaches in social sciences and humanities. In particular, we aim at investigating three sets of interrelated questions: What is transformative agency? Who are the transformative agents? How do they act?

More information [here](#)

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5th Annual European Symposium on Turkey: The Concept of Culture and its Politicization in Turkey and the Diaspora

November 29-30, 2019

Deadline for submissions: June 12, 2019

Even though in its core the emergence of 'Modern Turkey' could be considered a cultural revolution, some discourses on culture as well as fundamental transformations in the field of culture can arguably be traced back to the late Ottoman period. This symposium inquires the ways in which the concept of culture and the idea of its homogeneity featured in late Ottoman and Turkish discourses. It seeks to unearth the methods culture was and is used as a tool for implementing and legitimizing a political project. Yet, the imposition of, for example, the humanist cultural project in the 1930s and 40s never was all-encompassing nor uncontested by members of the multiethnic and -religious society. Even in today's Turkey in which the implementation of a new political regime has had massive repercussions for the functioning of institutions and the relationship between state and

International Forum: "Today's Islamic Feminisms: National and Transnational Perspectives"

Fez (Morocco), 7-9 June 2019

Modern Islamic feminisms seek equality in Muslim family laws and revisit the fiqh-based background of these laws from within Islam. National, transnational, individual-base, and network-based, these feminisms constitute a genuine social movement and have resulted in knowledge-production and policy-based analyses. The Forum will reflect on today's overall status of Islamic feminism.

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Call for Papers: Post-sectarian politics? The transformation of sectarian political identities in the Middle East

University of Cambridge, January 24th, (n)2.3132t

in 2020 that facilitates dialogue and collaboration among scholars, artists, activists, and cultural organizers working in the region.

The event is free and open to the public. Lunch and coffee/refreshments will be served.

romanticise traces of this violent past, the panel will present new research and tools of investigation that engage deep colonial fault lines in Lebanon, Syria and Palestine today.

Speakers:

Helene Kazan, Vera List Center Fellow on Art and Politics, New School, New York

Adriana Qubaia-Ova, Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Gender Studies, Central European University

Precarious Teachers Strike for Public Education in Morocco

Zakia Salime

May 2nd, 2019

MERIP

Over the past three years, striking and demonstrating teachers have mobilized against their new precarious status as contract-labor under government privatization reforms implemented in 2016. The teachers' struggle is bound up in the broader fight by Moroccan unions against the government's neoliberal reforms targeting the public sector as a whole. Whether these protests will renew the momentum of the 2011 February 20 movement will depend upon the government's response and the ability of the protesters to sustain and broaden the scope of their mobilization.

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PETITIONS

Letter to Israel Studies Journal: Concerns regarding the "Word Crimes" special issue

To the editorial board of the Israel Studies Journal: Israel Studies is a much respected scholarly journal which is affiliated to and sponsored by the Association for Israel Studies (AIS). Since its establishment in 1996, Israel Studies has published numerous important contributions from hundreds of scholars. The journal has done much to advance knowledge, understanding, and discussion of contemporary Israel. It has long established its reputation for publishing excellent scholarship in the field. For this reason, we were dismayed by the journal's last special issue (volume 24, no. 2), which fell far short of standards expected of academic journals. As scholars involved in Israel Studies through teaching, research, and professional affiliation, we are writing to voice our concerns about this issue, which we believe has done serious damage to the reputation of the journal, and could reflect badly on the field.

Sign the petition [here](#) and see signatories [here](#).

Yet, while a shaky calm has returned to Gaza, those who lost loved ones in the recent Israeli air raids are in mourning, their lives changed forever. Several members of three families, including a pregnant woman, were killed during the escalation.

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'I was free, even though I

In 2019, the SSA seeks submissions for the most outstanding book published between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, and the most outstanding article or book chapter published between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019.

In order to be considered for the prize, candidates must join the association. Information about the Syrian Studies Association is available at the following website: <http://www.ou.edu/ssa/index.html>

Submissions in languages other than English are welcomed.

We are also seeking to employ one PhD candidate on a part-time basis (65%). The position will be tenable for four years subject to satisfactory progress in the first year. Candidates should indicate their envisaged advisor at a German university (preferably Berlin and surroundings). Candidates who are neither native German nor English speakers will need to provide proof of proficiency in English (usually TOEFL 100 or IELTS 7,0, or an equivalent test).

**PhD Studentship in the Project “Creating an Alternative Umma:
Clerical Authority and Religio-Political Mobilisation in Transnational
Twelver Shiism”, University of Birmingham**

Deadline: June 3rd, 2019