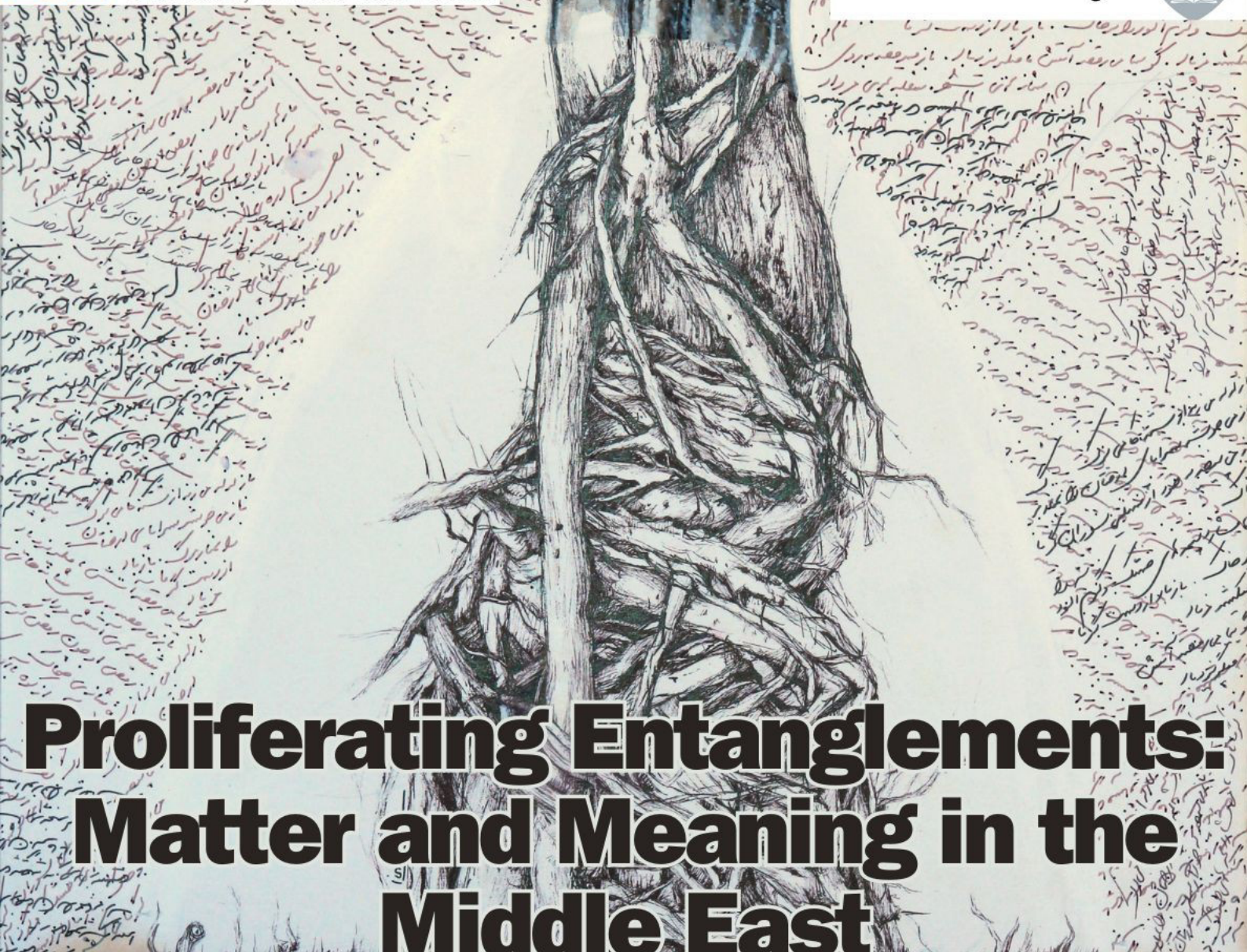




BRISMES

British Society for Middle Eastern Studies

Lancaster University



Proliferating Entanglements: Matter and Meaning in the Middle East

BRISMES ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1-3 JULY 2024



2024 BRISMES CONFERENCE

Proliferating Entanglements: Matter and Meaning in the Middle East

Conference Schedule

Registration

09:00 - onwards, Monday, 1st July, 2024
Margaret Fell Entrance Hall

(1A) Revolutions and Knowledge

Production in the MENA

11:00 - 13:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024
Bowland North Seminar Room 2

56 Mapping Methodological Nationalism in Middle Eastern Studies: Towards a Transnational Understanding of the 2011 Arab Uprisings?

Jonas Nabbe^{1,2}, Ward Vloeberghs¹, Maryse Kruithof¹

¹Erasmus University of Rotterdam. ²Alma Mater Studiorum - Universita di Bologna

397 Entanglement of Knowledge Production and Political Action: Post-2011 Tunisia as a Field of Study

Sofia Hnezla

University of St Andrews

338 A Tale of Two Revolutions: Syria's Missing Uprising and Subaltern Activity

Jack McGinn

London School of Economics and Political Science

195 Nahidh Hattar and the Origins of Jordanian Nationalism

Tariq Tell¹, Sally Cherara²

¹American University of Beirut. ²University of Sussex

(1B) Exploring Statelessness in the MENA

11:00 - 13:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 6

295 State, Crisis, and Exception: The Case of Turkey

Gonenc Uysal

Lancaster University

310 Stateless Subaltern Struggles in the Arabian Peninsula: On the Coloniality of International Human Rights on Statelessness

Nour Almazidi¹, Areej Alshammiry²

¹London School of Economics and Political Science. ²York University

279 Syria's Statelessness Landscape - Navigating an Increasingly Entangled World

Thomas McGee

University of Melbourne

(1C) Heritage, Archives and Memory Work

11:00 - 13:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 10

490 Heritage and its Politics: The Case of Downtown Cairo Post-2011 Revolution

Nihal Hafez

The Development Planning Unit, University College London

155 The Power of Dress: Symbolic Entanglements in Palestinian Thobs

Cailin Kwoh

Lund University

108 The Contentious Politics of Martyrdom in Contemporary Lebanon

Brontë Philips

King's College London

187 Palaces of Power in Tunis: Entanglements of Nation and State from Independence to Revolution

Dena Qaddumi

London School of Economics and Political Science

443 Spatializing Nationhood: Cultural Heritage Management and the Architectonics of Belonging in Silwan (East Jerusalem)

Dorota Golańska¹, Ewa Górka²

¹University of Lodz. ²Jagiellonian University

(1D) Women in Political Movements and Institutions

11:00 - 13:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 20

**10 Maternal Activism and Women's Movements in the Global South:
The Case of Saturday Mothers in Turkey**

Ipek Karaman-Yilmazgil

Bilkent University

**48 Gendering State-Islam: How State-employed Female Religious
Guides Enact Women's Rights and (Re)define the Private Sphere**

Johanna Kettenbach

Oslo University (UiO). Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)

**65 Revolution and Reform: Gender, Rural Health and the Practices of
Care**

Rebecca Irvine

Graduate Center, City University of New York

**194 "We Have Always Been Here": Historicising Conversational
Entanglements of Women in the Jordanian Islamic Movement**

Giulia Macario

Catholic University of Milan

(1E) Endangered Narratives in and about Palestine

11:00 - 13:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024
Bowland North Seminar Room 23

78 Palestinian Narrations from Gaza: Narrative Analysis

Hanaa Mustafa

University of Leeds

40 Ideological Squaring & Othering: Tools for the Silencing of Political Dissent

Sophia Butt

University of Birmingham

479 "Those Who Control the Past, Control the Future" - Agency and Narrative in Palestine/Israel's Conflict/Political Tourism Industry

Samuel Scanlon

University College Dublin

(1F) Musical Praxis and Aesthetic Agency across Middle Eastern Contexts

11:00 - 13:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024

Faraday Seminar Room 1

58 Syrian Musicians in Istanbul: Reconceptualising Aesthetic Agency Through Displacement

Dunya Habash

Faculty of Music, University of Cambridge

260 Exploring the Feminization of Tachelhit Language Transmission through Contemporary Amazigh Pop Songs

Ella Williams

University of Oxford

325 Entangled Dreams: Egyptian “New School” Rap and Subjectivation “in the Future Tense” amidst a Neoliberal Authoritarian World in the Making

Amr ABDELRAHIM

Sciences Po Paris - Centre d'études internationales (CERI). French Institute of International relations (Ifri)

396 Independent Songs in Qatar

Hamad Al-Mulla

Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

(1G) Peace Solutions and Political Processes in the MENA

11:00 - 13:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024
Faraday Seminar Room 2

134 A Peace Accord Exacerbating Discord: How Lebanon's Ta'if Peace Agreement Sparked Armed Conflict within Maronite Christian and Shia Muslim Communities

Wassim Mroueh

University of Edinburgh

402 Bottom-Up Transformative Justice: An Alternative to the Liberal Peace Paradigm in the Question of Palestine

Tamara Tamimi

Queen's University Belfast

483 Peacemaking and Counter-Peace Entanglement in the Oslo Peace Process

Sandra Pogodda

University of Manchester

(1H) Middle East Policy Debates: The Academy and the Limits of Influence

11:00 - 13:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024
Faraday Seminar Room 3

41 Middle East Policy Debates: The Academy and the Limits of Influence

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

This roundtable brings together scholars whose work sits at the intersection of academic and policy debates on the politics and international relations of the Middle East. The demonstration of 'impact' remains an enduring feature of university research strategies, despite the difficulties of quantifying and assessing the ability of academic research to influence the policy world. The unconscionable events taking place in Gaza, particularly in recent months, is a tragic case that shows the relative impotency of academic influence on policymakers. Here, we have seen Western governments acting in contravention of the vast majority of scholarly advice and expertise on the subject, including from esteemed scholarly societies such as BRISMES, with belated calls for ceasefire only coming after tens of thousands of civilian casualties. In a further blow to academic integrity, recent survey research from the US Middle Eastern Studies community has also shown how scholars are having to increasingly self-censor over the issue.

This session is not aimed at providing any kind of policy recommendations per se. While many of the contributors engage with the policy world and the output of leading thinktanks, it is important to acknowledge the sometimes problematic positionality of much of the influence game. Rather, it is our ambition to reflect on our respective experiences in this arena. In doing so, we aim to engage in a full and frank discussion about both the possibilities and limitations of scholarly engagement with a policy environment that continues to place state interests before those of humanity.

Chair

Edward Wastnidge

Open University. SEPAD

Position: Senior Lecturer in Politics & International Studies. Deputy Director SEPAD.

Participant

Aziz Alghashian

SEPAD, University of Lancaster. CARPO Bonn

Position: Fellow at SEPAD. Associate Fellow at CARPO Bonn

Cinzia Bianco

European Council on Foreign Relations

Position: Visiting Fellow ECFR

Ruba Ali Al-Hassani

Lancaster University, SEPAD

Position: Postdoctoral Research Associate

Simon Mabon

Lancaster University, SEPAD

Position: Chair in International Politics. Director SEPAD

Lunch

13:00 - 14:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024

County South Lecture Theatre

(2A) Historical Perspectives on Lebanese Politics

14:00 - 16:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 2

126 Michel Chiha, the National Pact, and the Repression of Identities in Lebanon's First Republic (1943-1976)

Borja Wladimiro Gonzalez Fernandez

Necmettin Erbakan University

227 Mandatory Lebanon and the Making of a Code of Obligations and Contracts, 1925-1932

Samir Saad

King's College, Cambridge

464 Organizing the Tobacco Intifada: A Social History of Peasant Activism in the South of Lebanon in the Shadow of the Global 1960s

Rossana Tufaro

Sapienza University of Rome

125 Between Islam and Socialism: The Intellectual Journey of Hussein Muruwwa

Abed Kanaaneh

Tel Aviv University

25 Feeling Lebanon's Thawra

Mohamad El Kari

(2B) Return of Objects, or Objects of Return? Meanings of Return in Material Heritage Research

14:00 - 16:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 6

33 Return of Objects, or Objects of Return? Meanings of Return in Material Heritage Research

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

This roundtable brings together meaning and matter by inviting interventions that examine the material archives of displacement and their potential role in a multi-layered process of return. It emerges from research carried out as part of the Occupation Debris project, which explores the meaning of excavated Palestinian objects in empowering displaced communities to reassert agency and cultural sovereignty over ancestral land. Through these objects, we explore the challenges of recovery, repatriation, and restitution of Indigenous material culture under conditions of settler colonial dispossession.

Rather than focus solely on the return of objects as a narrow matter of possession, we seek to understand and foreground the agency and cultural sovereignty of displaced communities, those who are often denied physical access to ancestral land and material culture. Contributors will consider not only how objects might be returned to their owners. Instead, we want to think about objects as return: that is, to address the ability of objects to facilitate a more profound and just process of repatriation and restitution. This consideration requires embracing the threat of

small objects, recognizing that objects of displacement intrinsically hold various memories and meanings for various stakeholders, and thus pose a political threat for both the settler and the native. Through this, we set out an analytical and methodological agenda for the potentials and pitfalls of material culture research and its vital solidarities with the needs of displaced communities.

Chair

Noam Leshem

Department of Geography, University of Durham

Position: Associate Professor

Participant

Yafa El Masri

Department of Geography, University of Durham

Position: Postdoctoral Research Associate

Rui G. Coelho

Department of Archaeology, University of Durham

Position: Assistant Professor

Molly T.B. Oringer

Department of Archaeology, University of Durham

Position: Postdoctoral Research Associate

Ramez Eid

University of Durham

Position: Research Associate

(2C) Silencing Palestine - Censorship and Repression in the Aftermath of 7 October

14:00 - 16:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 10

22 Silencing Palestine - Censorship and Repression in the Aftermath of 7 October

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

The roundtable will examine the intensified attacks on academic freedom and freedom of speech concerning Israel-Palestine in the aftermath of the 7 October Hamas attacks. These have included the cancelling of events, university investigations into staff and students following complaints about their expressions of solidarity with Palestinians and/or their criticisms of Israel, and the censorship of articles and op-eds.

These attacks have relied on a number of different justifications, including notions of safety, student welfare, as well as referring to the much-criticised IHRA definition of antisemitism. What is also alarming has been the increasing reference to counter-terrorism legislation and the Prevent Duty, with some staff and students even being arrested after their respective institutions have reported them to the police.

Indeed, university administrators have been amongst the main perpetrators of these attacks, after coming under pressure from the government, which, soon after the 7 October attacks, wrote to all Vice Chancellors warning them to be mindful of the Prevent Duty and that Hamas is a proscribed organisation.

The roundtable will discuss various dimensions of the crackdown and how we can resist it. It will discuss the policies and discourses used to justify censorship,

repression and other forms of silencing and how to resist these attacks, including building coalitions, working within trade unions and considering whether the law can be helpful.

Whilst the roundtable focuses on the UK, one of the speakers will discuss Germany and there will be an opportunity for people to share their experiences from other contexts.

Chair

Nicola Pratt

University of Warwick

Position: Professor of the International Politics of the Middle East

Participant

Maryam Aldossari

Royal Holloway University of London

Position: Senior Lecturer in Business and Management

Lewis Turner

Newcastle University

Position: Lecturer in International Politics of Gender

Mandy Turner

Security in Context

Position: Senior researcher

Sultan Doughan

Goldsmiths, University of London

Position: Lecturer in Anthropology

Hanan Toukan

Bard College Berlin, Germany

Position: Professor of Politics and Middle East Studies

(2D) Political Affects and Effects of Media Platforms and Coverage in the MENA

14:00 - 16:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024
Bowland North Seminar Room 20

77 Entangled Laughter: The Rhetoric of Humour in Arabic Comedy as a Counter-Narrative to Religious Extremism

Moutaz Alkheder

University of St Andrews. University of Edinburgh

377 Resilience as Life: Arab Journalists Reinventing Agency

Fatima el Issawi

University of Essex

427 Communicating Climate Change in a Resource Poor Country: The Case Study of Jordan

Marianna Poberezhskaya, Imad El-Anis

Nottingham Trent University

66 Pan-Arab News Satire: Transnational Critiques and the Contingency of Satire

Yazan Badran

Echo, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

70 No Sharp Turns: Neutrality in Jordanian Media Discourse on the 2022 Russia-Ukraine War

Jona Fras¹, Yousef Barahmeh²

¹University of Edinburgh. ²Isra University, Jordan

(2E) Entangled Practices and Discourses across the Ottoman Past

14:00 - 16:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 23

100 Al-Sallabi's Narrative on Ottoman History: A New Historical Perspective or a Roadmap for Political Islam

Muna Asenwar

University of Basel

140 19th Century Ottoman Arab Vilayets and North Africa: Practices of "Indirect Administration"

Fatih Ozcelik

Amasya University

214 Ahmet Cevdet Pasha (1823-1895) and Application of Tanzimat Reforms: The protégé issue at the Habsburg Ottoman border in the 1860s

Ismail Noyan

Simon Fraser University, Canada

215 Witches, Vampires, and Amulets: The Mental Worlds of Peasants in Early Modern Ottoman Odessa As Seen Through an Early Seventeenth-Century Provincial Jurisconsult's Fatwa Collection

Hüseyin Göcen

University of California, Davis

(2F) State- and Nation-Building Practices in the Middle East

14:00 - 16:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024

Faraday Seminar Room 1

208 The State in Lebanon's Consociationalism

Jad Baghdadi

University of Oxford

431 Nation-Building through Mandatory Military Service: Turkish and Emirati Case Studies

Berfin Necimoglu

King's College London. Arab Reform Initiative

380 "Chats with a Sacred Bee": Entomology, Apiculture, and the Shaping of Modern Egypt in the Early 20th Century

Israa Khalifa

University of Michigan

456 Autonomy and Integration: The Soft Undoing of the Nation-State in the Middle East

Jan Byczkowski

Non-affiliated

220 The Creation of the Batiha in the Early Islamic State

Ameena Yovan

University of Chicago

(2G) Resources, Infrastructures and Geopolitical Developments in the MENA

14:00 - 16:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024
Faraday Seminar Room 2

283 Entangled Realities of Energy Security in the Persian Gulf

Javad Keypour

Tallinn University of Technology, School of Business and Governance, Department of Law. Stockholm Environment Institute, Tallinn Center

57 Material Assembling and Imperial Interventions in Early Egyptian Railways

Xiaoyue Li

Tulane University

207 Building "Offshore": Exploring the Spatiality of Dubai's Free Zones

Florence Wolstenholme

Queen Mary University of London

460 Planning 'the Spirit of Bandung': Development, Urbanization, and the 5-year Plans of Nasser's Egypt

Salma Abouelhossein

Harvard University

387 The UAE's Ambitious Dual Role in Fossil Fuels and Renewable Energy

Gökhan Erel

Middle East Technical University

(2H) Yemen's Continued Conflict: Rebuffing the Narratives of the End in Sight

14:00 - 16:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024

Faraday Seminar Room 3

12 Yemen's Continued Conflict: Rebuffing the Narratives of the End in Sight

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

The year 2022 marked an apparent momentum in Yemen's peace processes with a UN-brokered ceasefire and the replacement of former President Hadi by the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC). The momentum was short-lived with the failed renewal of the truce and conflicting visions of the country's future within the PLC, yet some had accepted it as the end of the conflict. Meanwhile, conflict persists on the ground with actors continuing to commit widespread violations.

Some analysts describe the conflict as a proxy war based on sectarian challenges between the Iranian-backed Houthi group and the Saudi Arabia-supported Yemeni government (Krausen and Parker, 2020; Robinson, 2022). Nonetheless, a closer exploration of the conflict indicates the complex involvement of additional groups such as the southern separatists, civil resistance and independent resistance movements. These fractions are not new and highlight the historically rooted actors involved in the politics of Yemen.

The panel brings together a collection of papers on the challenges that persist in Yemen. In responding to the narratives on the 'end in sight', the papers will explore: the legitimacy of the growing internal actors; the Yemeni voices represented in the transitional justice debates; and the potential international response to a political resolution.

Chair

Amal Anaam

Durham University

Position: PhD Candidate

Participant

Amal Anaam

Durham University

Position: PhD Candidate

Sarah Alareqi

Durham University

Position: PhD Candidate

Benjamin Houghton

Durham University

Position: PhD Candidate

Tom Walsh

Northumbria University

Position: Lecturer of International Relations and Politics

Jia Liu

Durham University

Position: PhD Candidate

121 The United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia's War on Yemen

Benjamin Houghton¹, Tom Walsh²

¹Durham University. ²Northumbria University

122 How Local Transitional Justice is Understood in Contemporary Yemen

Sarah Alareqi

Durham University

235 China's Goals and Approaches to the Yemen War

Jia Liu

Durham University

369 War and Legitimacy: Yemen's Divided Communities

Amal Anaam

Durham University

(2I) Centering the Margins: Between Europe and the Middle East

14:00 - 16:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024

Faraday Seminar Room 4

28 Centering the Margins: Between Europe and the Middle East

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

This panel brings together a group of researchers who aim, in their respective fields, to center perspectives, methods, and modes of knowledge that have been historically relegated to the margins of Europe's scholarly traditions or obscured within the hegemony of its working paradigms. The presented case studies go beyond the notion of including certain voices predefined as marginal; instead, they expose the tacit operations of marginalization and hierarchization ingrained within structures, disciplines, and institutional practices of knowledge production about Islam, about Judaism, and the Middle East in Europe. In our pursuit, we attempt, on the one hand, to respond to Chakrabarty's call to "provincialize Europe" by historicizing the epistemic premises upon which its urge to know its others is based, and by situating its constitutive narratives of secularization, modernization, and progress in relation to their regulatory effects. On the other hand, we hope to reclaim "margins" as places of resistance (Hooks 1989). We seek to rehabilitate them as sites of counter-knowing, where peripherality is vindicated as a critical positionality that lays bare the limits of established methods, the hierarchies and exclusionary practices of academic disciplines, that scrutinizes the modalities of making and re-making the boundaries of Europe entrenched in the very acts of constructing knowledgeable others, of delineating what counts as proper knowledge in the first place. We aim to turn back the gaze at Europe as "a problem," as "a subject of power" (Anidjar 2013) while repositioning marginalized histories, narratives, and experiences as subjects of critical knowledge.

Chair

Iskandar Abdalla

Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Freie Universität Berlin

Position: Doctoral Fellow

Participant

Dina Wahba

RePlito, Freie Universität Berlin

Position: Postdoctoral researcher

Jan Jonathan Hirsch

Selma Stern Center for Jewish Studies, University of Potsdam

Position: Doctoral researcher

Imad Gebrayel

Humboldt University of Berlin

Position: PhD candidate

293 Moving Knowledge to and from the Margins

Dina Wahba

Freie Universität Berlin

252 Sonnenallee Speaks: Podcasting Fieldwork, Negotiating Refusal

Imad Gebrael

Humboldt University of Berlin

(2J) Women's Bodies, Rights and Agency

14:00 - 16:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024

Margaret Fell Meeting Room 1

11 Inflation Will Disappear when Women Veil: An Egyptian Embodied Genealogy

Hebatallah Tolba

University of East London

473 Reclaiming Women's Agency: Integrating Intersectionality in the Sectarian Discourse

Piet Wiersma

Università di Torino

244 The I, the We and the They: Exploring the Construction of Identity in Digital Gender Activism in the MENA Region

Bronwen Mehta

University of Warwick

172 Algerian Girls' Education and the French Colonial Policy: An Analysis of Girls' Schooling under the Colonial Project of Assimilation through French Education (1840 - 1870)

Ikram Bennai

University of Manchester

Tea & Coffee Break

16:00 - 16:30 Monday, 1st July, 2024

County South Lecture Theatre

Plenary (1): Gaza in the Face of Genocide

16:30 - 18:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024
Margaret Fell Lecture Theatre

Chair

Simon Mabon

Lancaster University

Position: Professor of International Politics. Director of SEPAD

Speakers

Mezna Qato

UCL

Position: Research Associate

Ziadah Rafeef

King's College London

Position: Senior Lecturer

Akram Salhab

Queen Mary University of London

Position: PhD Researcher

Malaka Shwaikh

University of St Andrews

Position: Associate Lecturer

Nimer Sultany

SOAS

Position: Reader

Welcome Reception and Presentation of BRISMES Service Award

18:00 - 19:00 Monday, 1st July, 2024

County South Lecture Theatre

(3A) Imperialism and the Production of Culture - The Politics of Race, Aesthetics and Institutions

09:00 - 11:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 2

5 Imperialism and the Production of Culture - The Politics of Race, Aesthetics and Institutions

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

In refusing the territorial logic of area studies, the papers in this panel attend to reconceptualised terms and new analytics to study imperialism and the production

of culture. The contributions draw on capitalism, war, occupation, institutionalisation and nation and state building processes. Examining the geo-temporal particularity of logics, aesthetics, epistemologies and structures within racial configurations of capitalism, the panel situates life, injury and death, labor, affect and movement in geographies of cultural production. Namely, manifestations of perversions in the Goethe Institute's cultural programming for evacuated Afghan 'Artists in Exile,' the potentialization of revolutionary aesthetics and the image of the Palestinian therein, political cartoons in Kuwait during the early oil industry in the Persian Gulf, the attempted erasure of Palestine in cultural projects in Jordan, and affective attachments in precarious times in a Lebanese-Syrian TV series. It asks how artists and cultural practitioners work and explores possibilities for liberatory art and aesthetics.

Keywords: aesthetics, art, coloniality, racial capitalism, infrastructure, war and occupation, revolution

Panel Conveners: Paniz Musawi Natanzi and Hanna Al-Taher

Discussant: Sophie Chamas

Chair: Marya Hannun

Chair

Marya Hannun

University of Exeter

Position: Post-Doctoral Researcher, MERIP

Sophie Chamas

SOAS University of London

Position: Lecturer in Gender Studies

Participant

Paniz Musawi Natanzi

Duke University Middle East Studies Center (DUMESC)

Position: Postdoctoral Associate

Sanabel Abdelrahman

EUME Fellow at Forum Transregionale Studien for 2023/2024

Position: Lecturer at Freie Universität Berlin

Faisal Hamadah

FASoS, Maastricht University

Position: Assistant Professor of Postcolonial Studies and Transnationalism

Hanna Al-Taher

University of Kassel. University of Dresden

Position: Doctoral Researcher. Lecturer

Sabiha Allouche

University of Exeter

Position: Lecturer, Middle East Politics

322 From Infiltrator to Surplus Population

Faisal Hamadah

Maastricht University

324 Performing and Silencing Palestine in Amman's Artistic and Political Landscapes

Hanna Al-Taher

Kassel University. Dresden University

328 Imperial Art Affairs and War: Afghan Artists, the Goethe Institute and Censorship in Germany

Paniz Musawi Natanzi

Duke University

329 Dis/Allowed Attachments in the Age of Forced Displacement

Sabiha Allouche

University of Exeter

331 Potentializing Aesthetics: Visualizing the Palestinian Revolutionary

Sanabel Abdelrahman

Freie Universität Berlin. EUME

(3B) International Actors and Changing Power Balance in the Middle East

09:00 - 11:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 6

102 Unravelling China's Rising Influence in the Middle East: Neoclassical Realist Perspectives

Niloufar Baghernia

The Australian National University

129 Uneven and Combined Development and Sociopolitical Transformation of the Mena Region

Faruk Yalvaç¹, Hikmet Mengüaslan²

¹Atılım University. ²Aydın Adnan Menderes University

385 The Impact of EU-funded Initiatives on Transforming Capabilities and Agencies in the MENA Region through Multi-Stakeholders Partnerships

Antonina Albanese¹, Giulia Tarantino²

¹Università degli Studi di Palermo. ²CESIE

166 Survival of the Damascus Regime: Bashar al-Assad, a Necessary Evil?

Mihai Cearpaic

SNSPA Bucharest

446 Omnialignment: Middle Eastern Countries' New Diplomatic Trends in the Background of Strategic Competition among Great Powers

Yu Yang Ge

School of Political Science & International Relations, Tongji University

(3C) Unveiling Narratives of Trauma in the MENA

09:00 - 11:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 10

452 Unveiling in Exile: The Biopolitics of Translating and (En)gendering Trauma in Iranian Women's Memoirs

Nasrin Ashrafi

KU Leuven, Belgium

403 Everything is Gone, Defeat, Betrayal: Narratives of Trauma, Collective Identity of the Dispossessed and Social Fragmentation in the Northern Hama Countryside (Syria)

Marie Kostrz

IHEID - Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland

201 A Contextual Approach to Treating Gendered Traumas: How did Egyptian Women Survivors Receive a Feminist Narrative Trauma Intervention?

Kholoud Saber BARAKAT

UCLouvain, Belgium

455 Unveiling the Trauma: The Artistic Representation of Iraqi Urbicide

Mustafa Wshyar

Cultural and Religious Studies Department, University of Lodz

(3D) Migration and Mobility Policies

09:00 - 11:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 20

321 Informal Labour of Afghan Migrants in Iran: An Institutional Study on the Role of Government Policies in the Emergence and Persistence of Waste Picking in Tehran

Mohamad Karimiansichani

Sharif Policy Research Institute (SPRI)

486 The Export of Caste: How Members of Oppressor Castes from India Replicate Caste Oppression in the Middle East's Gulf Cooperation Council

Chandni Sai Ganesh

Institute of Development Studies

313 Crazy Men in a Crazy World. Sense-making and Escape Through Mobility for Upper-Egyptian Workers in Cairo

Florian Bonnefoi

University of Poitiers (Migrinter). CEDEJ

45 Marriage Immobility: Towards Rethinking the Force/Voluntary Marriage Binary

Dina Taha

Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

(3E) Socio-Hydrologies across the Middle East

09:00 - 11:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024
Bowland North Seminar Room 23

444 Water Management in Iran: How to Reactivate Past Knowledge to Address Modern Issues?

Aida Tavakoli

LéaV - Laboratoire de recherche de l'École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Versailles. CY Cergy Paris - EDAHSS - Ecole Doctorale Arts Humanités Sciences Sociales

408 Colonial Legacies and Mimicry in the Global South: A Comparative Analysis of Ethiopian and Egyptian Discourse on the Gerd

Sara Elbanna

University of California, Los Angeles

71 A Political-Ecological Critique of Placemaking: Realizing Chitgar Lake as a Collectively Imagined Waterscape in Tehran

Leila Khodabakhsh

Catholic University of Eichstaett-Ingolstadt

174 Growing Capital in the Lakes: On the Shores and Inside the Water

Yasmine Hafez

SOAS University of London

34 Mediterranean Entanglements: Submarine Colonialism in Libya

Ada Lucia Ferraresi

University of Seville. DEEPMED project

(3F) Solidarity and Future-Making Practices for Palestine

09:00 - 11:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Faraday Seminar Room 1

372 Pro-Palestine Solidarity in Present-day Tunisia: The Resurgence of Anti-Imperialist/Anti-Colonial Discourses, Aesthetics and Cultural Practices

Alessia Carnevale

University l'Orientale, Naples

441 Palestinian Futurities: Rap, Hip hop and Future-making of Palestine

Felicia Campos

University of Edinburgh

96 From Greece to Palestine: 50 Years of Solidarity (1967-2017), Ruptures & Continuities

Christina Chatzitheodorou

University of Glasgow

336 Entangled Realities: Palestinian Theatres in Israel Amidst Cultural Resilience and Preservation Challenges

Noor Shihadeh

Oriente University (Naples)

(3G) Iran and Britain: Shifting Ties, Entangled Pasts

09:00 - 11:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Faraday Seminar Room 2

23 Iran and Britain: Shifting Ties, Entangled Pasts

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

Iran and Britain share a long and complicated historical relationship, stretching back to Geoffrey de Langley's embassy in 1291. Diverging away from well-received contributions of the Safavid era, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries saw Britain playing a mostly pernicious role in Iran, advancing an imperial agenda which often undermined Persian sovereignty. To this day, the complexity of these experiences contributes to a deep mistrust between the two states. Parallel to these politics of

amity and animosity, centuries of exchange between Britons and Iranians have also created bonds of culture extending beyond the limited scope of state interaction. This panel examines various dimensions of Anglo-Iranian ties from the 20th century onwards, focusing particularly on the intricacies of diplomacy and the soft-power created through these encounters. Papers provide insight into the shifting dynamics of the relationship between the two countries, starting with an inquiry into the long durée of intermittent diplomatic ties. Further, they expound some of the understudied instances of bilateral cultural exchange including the 1934 millenary celebrations of the Persian poet Ferdowsi held in London, the contribution of the Edinburgh scholar Laurence Elwell-Sutton to debates around Britain's oil policy in Iran in the early 1950s, and British Council's *English by Television* project in Iran of the late 1950s. These case studies will form novel contributions to the historiography, as each contributor opens new avenues of research, presents new primary source material, and suggests original ways to rethink the shifting ties and entangled pasts of Britain and Iran.

Chair

Olivia Glombitza

Autonomous University of Barcelona

Position: Adjunct Professor

Participant

Louise Kettle

University of Nottingham

Position: Assistant Professor

Khosrow Tousi

SOAS University of London

Position: PhD student

Robert Steele

Austrian Academy of Sciences

Position: Postdoctoral fellow

Darius Wainwright

University of Bristol

Position: Lecturer

222 Laurence Elwell-Sutton, British Academia and the Anglo-Iranian Oil Crisis of 1951-54

Robert Stee

Austrian Academy of Sciences

249 Presenting Britain to Iranians: The British Council, Television Iran and the British Council, 1958-59

Darius Wainwright

University of Bristol

323 The Ferdowsi Diplomacy: Poetical Politics of Interwar Anglo-Persian Relations

Khosrow Tousi

SOAS University of London

241 Resuming Anglo-Iranian Diplomatic Relations

Louise Kettle

Royal United Services Institute

(3H) Institutions and Technologies of the Late Ottoman Era

09:00 - 11:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024
Faraday Seminar Room 3

398 Mapping Student Experiences in Late Ottoman Istanbul: Galatasaray Mekteb-i Sultanisi and the Urban Life during the Hamidian Era (1876-1909)

Adile Sedef Dönmez

Koç University

492 Trouble of Marriage in the Time of War: Legal Regulation of Marriages in the Ottoman Empire (1914-1918)

Hakan Karpuzcu

Princeton University

420 Transportation, Roads and Political Ideologies: Legacies of Globalisation, Transportation and Capitalism in Late Ottoman Era

Sumeyye Kocaman

University of Oxford

(3I) Queerness and its Challenges in the MENA

09:00 - 11:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024
Faraday Seminar Room 4

237 Travelling Sex Panics

Sophie Chamas

SOAS University of London

256 Do Queer Arabs Need Saving?

Iskandar Abdalla

Berlin Graduate School for Muslim Cultures and Societies. Freie Universität Berlin

306 Perverts, Prostitutes, or Crossdressers: Queer Interventions in Archive and History-Writing in Iran

Niloofer Rasooli

ETH Zürich

366 Queer Framing of Muslims in Divided Cyprus: Elif Shafak's The Island of Missing Trees as a Case Study

Moh Zaimil Alivin

Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Edinburgh

383 Checkpoints as Cartographies of Queer Protests in Syria

Razan Ghazzawi

(3J) Ethnography as a Critical Tool for (Un)knowing MENA Economies: Currencies and Circulations

09:00 - 11:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024
Margaret Fell Meeting Room 1

17 Ethnography as a Critical Tool for (Un)knowing MENA Economies (1): Currencies and Circulations

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

Macro-economic analysis tends to dominate perspectives on the present conjuncture of 'crisis' across the MENA region. A burgeoning field of critical political economy offers vital analytical tools for understanding how and why contemporary MENA economies change, who benefits and who loses, and with what consequences. But in this series of panels we aim to highlight and extend the critical contribution of another body of scholarship, namely ethnographic approaches to (un)knowing MENA economies.

Ethnography enables understanding of how economies and crisis are experienced, structured, and reconfigured from below. It foregrounds an understanding of economies as plural, and challenges framings that neatly delineate 'the economy' from other spheres of life. This is so because, first, ethnography captures the diversity of actors and practices that co-constitute present-day economies, including those who operate outside the bounds of waged-work or formal legislative frameworks. Second, it draws attention to the multiple materialities, currencies and registers of value that animate everyday exchange, transaction and provisioning. And third, by

departing from stories that situate peoples' economic agencies in particular life worlds and livelihoods, the 'economic' is analysed as necessarily entangled with social, cultural and political relations and practices.

We thus present papers which engage in ethnographic research on MENA economies. We discuss the possibilities - and limitations - of ethnography and story-telling for offering new perspectives on how economic change or decline actually manifests; how it becomes lived, negotiated and contested; and how it translates into spatial, social, cultural and political transformations in diverse localities across the Arab-majority world.

Chair

Katharina Grüneis

University of Nottingham

Position: Research Fellow

Participant

Juliette Duclos-Valois

EHESS Paris

Position: Postdoctoral Researcher in Anthropology

Cybele Atme

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Position: PhD Candidate in Law

Harry Pettit

Radboud University Nijmegen

Position: Assistant Professor in Economic Geography

Jacob Cassani

University of Leeds

Position: Research Fellow in Geography

161 Limited Convertibility of Precautionary Savings and the Precariousness of Domestic Economies in post-2003 Iraq

Juliette Duclos-Valois

EHESS Paris

163 Civil Society Workers as Financial Experts? Improvisations during Lebanon's Financial Collapse

Cybele Atme

Erasmus University Rotterdam

164 The Politics of Cash Circulation in Beirut

Harry Pettit

Radboud University Nijmegen

152 The Market in Action: Bureaucracy, Power, and Vernacular Knowledge in the Economies of Za'atari and Azraq Camp

Jacob Cassani

University of Leeds

**(3K) Heritage and Imagination:
Makings, Limits and Repercussions**

09:00 - 11:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Margaret Fell Meeting Room 2

37 Heritage and Imagination: Makings, Limits and Repercussions

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

City-scapes across the world are filled with heritage sites, reminding us of the nation's valuable memories that may otherwise be forgotten. The mediums through which memories are protected vary from museums to city trailers, to community heritage projects and memorials. In addition to safeguarding the nation's history and memories, heritage sites touch feelings and stir emotions. They make their audience feel a certain way about their nation's past, present and future and situate the nation in the larger global scheme of matters. Stuart Hall explained that heritage was a living activity, and not implicated preserving the past but extended to the nation's image-making project of the present. This panel experiments with the borders of the national imaginaries and heritage-making processes – both cultural and geographical – to connect with diverse populations and their lifeworlds. As Hall argues, the heritage complexity with all its institutions, culture and art practices, configures into the imagination of those who it addresses.

This panel will further discuss how the imagination is shaped, negotiated and mobilized through political forces.

Chair

Sertac Sehlirkoglu

University College London

Position: Associate Professor

Participant

Merve Kayikci

KU Leuven, KADOC

Position: Postdoctoral Researcher

Sertac Sehlkoglu

University College London

Position: Associate Professor

Sultan Doughan

Goldsmiths University

Position: Lecturer

(3L) Intellectual Histories and Debates in the Islamic World

09:00 - 11:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Margaret Fell Meeting Room 3

229 Ethics, Subjectivity and Discursive Entanglement in Ahmad Amin's "Kitab Al-akhlaq"

Harald Viersen

Radboud University Nijmegen

333 Refutation or Separation? A Brief History of the Formation of Maktab-i Ma'ārif to its Development into Maktab-i Tafkīk

Amir Mohammad Emami

University of Exeter, PhD candidate

12 The Damascene Moment and the Islamic State

Tim Jacoby

University of Manchester

67 Making Up Madness: A History of Proto-Psychiatric Thought in Khedival Egypt, 1843 to 1892

Theo J. Rossi

Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge

210 Trade Tax (Zakāt al-‘urūd) as a Post-Prophetic Tax Category in Early Legal Writings

Belal Abbas

University of Nottingham

Tea & Coffee Break

11:00 - 11:30 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

County South Lecture Theatre

(4A) Palestine and Feminism

11:30 - 13:30 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 2

21 Palestine and Feminism

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

The Hamas attacks of 7 October 2023 and Israel's ensuing massive bombardment, destruction and total siege of the Gaza Strip (still ongoing at the time of writing) have once again raised questions about the relationship between feminism, empire and settler colonialism. Palestinian women's groups have called on women's organizations worldwide "[to speak up and rise up to support our struggle to end this genocide](#)". Yet, academic Maryam Aldossari has accused [western feminists of being indifferent to the suffering of Palestinian women trying to survive under Israel's bombs](#). Meanwhile, some commentators have questioned why feminists would care about Gaza given that Hamas is deemed to be against women's rights. More recently, at the time of writing, Hamas has been accused of perpetrating widespread sexual abuse as part of the 7 October attacks and Israeli officials have accused the UN of failing to condemn these atrocities. Yet, some have raised alarms about how these allegations are potentially being used to justify Israel's assault of the Gaza Strip. This roundtable will bring together a range of feminist scholars to further discuss the intersections of feminism, the Palestine question and anticolonial struggle more broadly. Some of the topics that will be considered include:

- Building transnational feminist solidarity with Palestinians
- Feminist approaches to imperialism, settler colonialism, war and occupation
- The gendered dimensions of Israel's settler colonialism, including military occupation, siege, war, violence and incarceration
- The experiences and agency of Palestinian women at the intersection of colonial violence and patriarchy
- Sexual violence as a weapon of war

Chair

Nicola Pratt

University of Warwick

Position: Professor of the International Politics of the Middle East

Participant

Maryam Aldossari

Royal Holloway University of London

Position: Senior Lecturer in Business and Management

Sara Ababneh

University of Sheffield

Position: Lecturer In International Relations

Afaf Jabiri

University of East London

Position: Senior Lecturer of Global Development Studies

Ashjan Ajour

University of Wolverhampton

Position: Lecturer in Sociology

Nadje Al-Ali

Brown University, located in Providence, Rhode Island, on lands that are within the ancestral homelands of the Narragansett Indian Tribe

Position: Director, Middle East Studies. Robert Family Professor of International Studies. Professor of Anthropology and Middle East Studies

(4B) Entangled Sovereignties: Claiming and Managing Natural Resources in Middle Eastern States

11:30 - 13:30 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 6

27 Entangled Sovereignties: Claiming and Managing Natural Resources in Middle Eastern States

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

This panel explores battles to claim and manage natural resources across the Middle East since the nineteenth century. Entangled sovereignties—Middle Eastern states, popular movements, communities, empires, and international institutions—shaped the discourse and practice of resource management, making natural resources central to territorializing nation-states and forging local political identities. The papers examine both the extraction of belowground resources—oil and minerals—and the manipulation of aboveground resources—water, agricultural land, and heritage. By reconsidering interactions and conflicts among national, imperial, and popular sovereignty, the papers intervene in larger debates on the nature of sovereignty as plural, hierarchical, and divisible beyond a narrow Westphalian definition.

Four presentations will guide this conversation. Guillemette Crouzet’s paper explores how Persia’s largest nomadic group, the Bakhtiari, reacted to the environmental and social changes brought by oil extraction. Mattin Biglari historicizes conceptions of sovereignty offered by those living and working with oil in Khuzestan, the Iranian region where oil nationalisation was implemented. Owain Lawson interrogates the conception of efficiency central to imperial and national efforts to assert territorial sovereignty and how it shaped opportunities for popular sovereignty, focusing on the development of Lebanon’s water resources. Finally, Zeinab Azarbadegan analyses Ottoman and Iranian photographic surveys of Iraq as strategies to make claims to sovereignty over the contested borderland. Together, these papers integrate environmental, visual, social, and legal historical methods to comprehensively reimagine modern sovereignty.

Chair

Owain Lawson

Cardiff University

Position: Lecturer in Environmental History

Participant

Owain Lawson

Cardiff University

Position: Lecturer in Environmental History

Zeinab Azarbadegan

St Antony's College, Oxford

Position: British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Guillemette Crouzet

European Research Institute

Position: Research Fellow, Department of History

Mattin Biglari

University of Bristol

Position: Lecturer in Asian and Middle Eastern Environmental History

240 Oil, Environment and Empire: The British and the Bakhtiari in Early Twentieth-century Persia

Guillemette Crouzet

European University Institute

239 The Two Tales of Sovereignty: Elite and Subaltern Perspectives of Iranian Oil Nationalisation

Mattin Biglari

University of Bristol

242 Wasted into the Sea: Sovereignty and Efficiency in Mandate Lebanon

Owain Lawson

Cardiff University

305 Picturing Sovereignty: Photography and Imperial Rivalries in Ottoman Iraq

Zeinab Azarbadegan

St Antony's College, Oxford

(4C) The Political Economy of Security, Development, and Political Participation in the MENA: How the West Gets it Wrong

11:30 - 13:30 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 10

42 The Political Economy of Security, Development, and Political Participation in the MENA: How the West Gets it Wrong

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

In the West, hegemonic interpretations of security, development, and political participation in the Middle East are driven by the interests and policies of Europe and the United States. Problematically, these also tend to dictate academic knowledge production through funding patterns driven by what is “policy relevant”. Certain framings have therefore come to dominate studies of the MENA, namely terrorism, underdevelopment, and sectarianism. This is cemented by the centrality of a few Western think-tanks (particularly, but not solely, through corraling “policy relevant” funding) which provide an echo chamber for Western policymakers. The risk of ignoring alternative, critical, viewpoints (especially from the region) has been shown very clearly in terms of Israel’s war on Gaza since October 2023 where Western universities, think-tanks, and policymakers have been exposed as seriously disconnected from their citizens and from other regions of the world in terms of understandings and responses.

This roundtable therefore brings together critical scholars whose research presents new twists on understanding the political economy of security, development, and political participation in the MENA. Collectively, their work analyses the materiality of patterns of intervention and domination and the role of new and conventional technologies across a range of international, regional, state, and non-state actors. Individually, they employ a diverse range of intellectual fields. The roundtable format is being used to promote dialogue between the participants as well as with the audience as we think through an approach that de-centres Western hegemonic interpretations by placing the region and its peoples at the core of analysis.

Chair

Mandy Turner

Security in Context

Position: Senior researcher

Participant

Miriyam Aouragh

University of Westminster

Position: Professor

Fabio Cristiano

Utrecht University, Netherlands

Position: Assistant professor

David Wearing

University of Sussex

Position: Lecturer

Rafeef Ziadah

King's College London

Position: Senior lecturer

Mandy Turner

Security in Context

Position: Senior researcher

(4D) Kinship, Gender and Intersectionality in MENA Politics

11:30 - 13:30 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 20

**458 The Intersectionality in the Israeli Military: Focusing on the
Experiences of Mizrahi Women.**

Yuki Sawaguchi

Hitotsubashi University

72 The Intersectional Crisis Implications of the Housing Crisis on Palestinian Women in Israel

Fahime Abbas

Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Adva Center

494 Ethics of Entanglement: The Kurdish Women Movement and Knowledge Production

Enas Ridha Azghar Al-Nidawi

Centre for Kurdish Studies, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter

448 “We Are All Cousins After All”: The Nexus Between Politics and Kinship in Revolutionary Tunisia

Ihsan Mejdi

Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter

(4E) Refugees and Humanitarian Governance

11:30 - 13:30 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 23

286 Gender, Race and Refugee Innovators: Humanitarian Governance and Entrepreneurial Masculinities

Lewis Turner

Newcastle University

114 Erasing 'the Rural' in International Aid Work

Hannah Owens

Royal Holloway University of London

31 Returning from Europe to the Camp? Barriers Faced by Yezidi IDPs Escaping Protracted Displacement in Iraqi Kurdistan

Aleksandra Jolkina

Cardiff University

(4F) Political Ideas, Theories and Traditions of/in the MENA

11:30 - 13:30 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024
Faraday Seminar Room 1

4 Three Concepts of Tolerance in 19th-Century Arabic

Wael Abu-Uksa

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

84 Growing an Idea : Rashid Rida Wayfaring Reformism

Ikrame Ezzahoui

Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne

360 "Decline" in the Writings of Fardid & Al-e Ahmad

Iqan Shahidi

University of Cambridge

170 "Do We Share Understandings?": On Abstraction and Justice in Islamic Perspectives

Shirin Boroomand

University of Bristol

(4G) Translating Culture, Literature and Language in the MENA

11:30 - 13:30 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Faraday Seminar Room 2

14 International Baccalaureate Schools, Bilingualism and a Generation Who is Incomprehensible to Their Parents

Fatemeh Faroughi

University of Debrecen

451 Challenges in Translating Countability between Arabic and English: An Empirical Inquiry into Negotiating Count vs. Mass with Generic Collective Nouns

Abdullah Thalji, Bilal Alderbashi

Isra University, Amman, Jordan

221 Nazik al-Mala'ika, the Free Poetess, as Presented in Two Translations by Emily Drumst and Abdulwahid Lu'lu'a.

Saraa Saleh

KU Leuven

(4H) Ethnography as a Critical Tool for (Un)knowing MENA Economies: Popular Economies and Worlds of Work

11:30 - 13:30 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Faraday Seminar Room 3

16 Ethnography as a Critical Tool for (Un)knowing MENA Economies (2): Popular Economies and Worlds of Work

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

Macro-economic analysis tends to dominate perspectives on the present conjuncture of 'crisis' across the MENA region. A burgeoning field of critical political economy

offers vital analytical tools for understanding how and why contemporary MENA economies change, who benefits and who loses, and with what consequences. But in this series of panels we aim to highlight and extend the critical contribution of another body of scholarship, namely ethnographic approaches to (un)knowing MENA economies.

Ethnography enables understanding of how economies and crisis are experienced, structured, and reconfigured from below. It foregrounds an understanding of economies as plural, and challenges framings that neatly delineate 'the economy' from other spheres of life. This is so because, first, ethnography captures the diversity of actors and practices that co-constitute present-day economies, including those who operate outside the bounds of waged-work or formal legislative frameworks. Second, it draws attention to the multiple materialities, currencies and registers of value that animate everyday exchange, transaction and provisioning. And third, by departing from stories that situate peoples' economic agencies in particular life worlds and livelihoods, the 'economic' is analysed as necessarily entangled with social, cultural and political relations and practices.

We thus present papers which engage in ethnographic research on MENA economies. We discuss the possibilities - and limitations - of ethnography and story-telling for offering new perspectives on how economic change or decline actually manifests; how it becomes lived, negotiated and contested; and how it translates into spatial, social, cultural and political transformations in diverse localities across the Arab-majority world.

Chair

Harry Pettit

Radboud University Nijmegen

Position: Assistant Professor in Economic Geography

Participant

Kevin Yildirim

University of Cambridge

Position: Research Fellow in Social Anthropology

Katharina Grüneis

University of Nottingham

Position: Research Fellow

José Ciro Martinez

University of York

Position: Lecturer in Politics and International Relations

May Tamimova

Leiden University

Position: Postdoctoral Researcher in Security and Global Affairs

159 Gambling at the Frontier: Speculation and Trafficking across the Western Mediterranean

José Ciro Martinez

University of York

160 Intimate Clientelism: Coercion and Friendship in the Streets of Lebanon's Tripoli

May Tamimova

Leiden University

151 From the Factory to Souk Al-Bengal: Ethnographic Detours and Seeing Multiple Economies

Katharina Grüneisl

University of Nottingham

149 Incomplete Forms of Knowing the State in Istanbul's Recycling Economy: Irregular Migrant Waste Pickers and Homemade ID Cards

Kevin Yildirim

University of Cambridge

(4I) Unsettling Time: A Roundtable Discussion

11:30 - 13:30 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Faraday Seminar Room 4

29 Unsettling Time: A Roundtable Discussion

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

This year's conference call asks us to consider not only the entanglements of relationships that constitute our world, but also, and through invoking Barad, to question settled and (un)settling notions of space, matter and time (or what Barad calls *spacetime matter*). In this panel, we want to reflect on what kind of work temporal imaginings play in approaching the Middle East. We recognise that this is not a new conversation. Scholars of the region have troubled the linear assumptions of historical time, the representation of the Middle East as out of time, the relations of power that create *stuckness* in time, and the dangers of certain desires for time (such as techno-futurism). In thinking with entanglements, we find an occasion to take stock of that intellectual lineage and ask more on ways of being in and out of time, speculate around temporality and activate hetero-temporality. If time is out of joint, what would it mean to work with this out-of-jointness in radical and emancipatory ways? What kind of ethos and politics would orient us to truly entangle past, present and future against foreclosure? What kinds of generative futurities might become possible?

Chair

Sophie Chamas

SOAS University of London

Position: Lecturer in Gender Studies

Participant

Hanna Al-Taher

University of Kassel. University of Dresden

Position: PhD Candidate, Lecturer and Researcher

Mohammed Ezzeldin

The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Position: Lecturer. Doctoral Candidate (History)

Nivi Manchanda

Queen Mary University of London

Position: Reader in International Politics

Lamia Moghnieh

Center for Culture and the Mind (CULTMIND), University of Copenhagen

Position: Postdoctoral Fellow

Aya Nassar

University of Warwick

Position: Postdoctoral Researcher (British Academy)

Sharri Plonski

Queen Mary University of London

Position: Senior Lecturer in International Politics

(4J) Diasporas in Cultural Productions

11:30 - 13:30 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Margaret Fell Meeting Room 1

281 A Taste of Home: A Study of Iranian Diasporic Food Memoirs

Raha Athari

Lancaster University

303 The Digital Azeemé: Online Food Groups and Diasporic Contestations of Cosmo-Multiculturalism

Fatima Bahja

University of Texas at Austin

489 Reorienting Iraqi Futures: A Decolonial Exploration of Home, Belonging, and Temporality in Iraqi Diaspora Cultural Productions

Hannah al-Khafaji

University of Exeter (at time of application)/ Independent Scholar (at time of conference)

359 "Fútbol Filastini" and "The Creator's Game": An Entanglement Sports as Decolonization in Palestine and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy

Kathryn Kalemkerian

John Abbott College

(4K) The Islamic Republic's Interpretation of Reforms: Implications for Iran's Future Power Structure

11:30 - 13:30 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024
Margaret Fell Meeting Room 2

13 The Islamic Republic's Interpretation of Reforms: Implications for Iran's Future Power Structure

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

The Islamic Republic's response toward internal dissent has been carried out by enacting more significant constraints and fewer reforms than the open political discourse after 1976 in Iran during the late Pahlavi era. Although the presidents in Iran have pursued strategies from soft to hard between hardliners and reformists, the overall response toward the internal demands and restrictions has been followed with fewer reformatations. The roundtable, firstly, will address Iran's interpretation of reforms and how the Islamic Republic deals with internal challenges. Secondly, how these understandings of making changes and the strategies to mitigate the threat posed by domestic unrest can shape the future of Iran. Given Iran's status in the region with its influence over the Middle East, it would be advantageous to the current body of the literature to gain insight into the officials' viewpoints on reforms and their reactions to the protests. The emergence of a militarised government in Iran as a reaction to the protests might significantly impact the region.

Chair

Niloufar Baghernia

The Australian National University

Position: PhD Candidate in International Relations

Participant

Niloufar Baghernia

The Australian National University

Position: PhD Candidate in International Relations

Mohammadhossein Bahojbshakourian

The Australian National University

Position: PhD Candidate in International Relations

Ali Seyedrazaghi

Lancaster University

Position: Teaching Fellow

BRISMES Annual General Meeting

13:30 - 15:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Margaret Fell Lecture Theatre

Please note that lunch will be served during the meeting.

(5A) (Anti-)Sectarian Tensions and Discourses in the Middle East

15:00 - 17:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 2

51 Assessing Shia-Sunni Sectarianism in the Caucasus Region

Aleksandre Kvakhadze

University of Birmingham

135 (Anti-)Sectarian Discourse and Political Institutions in Lebanon: A Quantitative Text Analysis of Hezbollah's al-Manar 2010-23

Kota Suechika

Ritsumeikan University

203 Protesting Sectarianism: Lebanon's Thawrat Tishreen

Jinan Al-Habbal

University of St Andrews

231 Lebanese Communists' Discussion on Islamist Forces during the Lebanese Civil War

Hideaki Hayakawa

Department of International Digital and Design Management, School of Management, Tokyo University of Science

449 Beyond Confessional Labels: Trans-Religiosity and the Modern Lebanese Political Elite

Taylan Paksoy

Bilkent University

(5B) Qassami Entanglements: The Cultural Wars of the Palestinian Resistance

15:00 - 17:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 6

1 Qassami Entanglements: The Cultural Wars of the Palestinian Resistance

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

The events of 7 October 2023 were both seismic and entangled: they rupture the world as we know it, and yet they emerge from, and exert their influence across a closely knit ensemble of things, words, ideas, images, cultural artifacts, and material realities: we look at the posterity and futurity of this ensemble through an emphasis on the cultural production of the Palestinian Resistance. We will not aim to offer a final or “authoritative” word on the meaning of 7 October—it remains premature to offer such analysis, but to situate it within the larger stream of precedent and antecedent history.

At the centre of our analysis is the figure of al-Mulatham: the masked man as a spokesperson for insurgency, a simulacrum and a radical aesthetic, a generative figure for insurgent discourse, a point of view, a cultural repository for the clandestine and the subversive, and a cultural currency that regulates the exchange of signs within the Palestinian liberation movement and beyond.

This panel presents our collective effort, as the core team of the Institute for De-Colonising Theory (IDCtheory) to theorize the entanglements of resistance from this watershed moment, and to think of its history and futurity.

In order to do so, we take a close look at the understudied archive of al-Qassam brigades propaganda—including speeches by its commanders and spokespersons, its videos, postcards, and posters. We read this visual archive against a larger stream of revolutionary and radical representations (both in the Palestinian and global contexts).

Chair

Ahmed Dardir

The Institute for De-Colonising Theory (IDCtheory)

Position: Co-founder

Participant

Karim al-Haies

The Institute for De-Colonising Theory (IDCtheory)

Position: Co-founder

Majd Khalid

The Institute for De-Colonising Theory (IDCtheory)

Position: Teaching Fellow

Hanine Shehadeh

The Institute for De-Colonising Theory (IDCtheory)

Position: Research Fellow

Ahmed Dardir

The Institute for De-Colonising Theory (IDCtheory)

Position: Co-founder

41 Allegories of Resistance, Aesthetics of Liberation

Karim al-Haies

The Institute for De-Colonising Theory (IDCtheory)

44 Insurgent Imagoes: Entanglement of (Mis)Recognition and the Ideology of al-Qassam

Ahmed Dardir

The Institute for De-Colonising Theory (IDCtheory)

43 The Impact of Qassam Brigades' Media Narratives on Language and Textual Representations Post-Gaza Genocide

Hanine Shehadeh

The Institute for De-Colonising Theory (IDCtheory)

42 When the Kufiyyah Speaks: A Social History of the Mask and the Men behind It

Majd Khalid

The Institute for De-Colonising Theory (IDCtheory)

(5C) Religion, Materiality and Aesthetics

15:00 - 17:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 10

277 The Body of the Shah: Entangled 'Alid Materiality in an Alevi/Bektashi Context

Hanni Bezem

University of Bayreuth

38 Belonging and Community Engagement of Young Second-Generation Muslim Immigrants: Mosques and Faith-Based Organizations

Aleezay Khaliq

George Mason University

47 Sign, Symbol, Letter: Tracing Abstraction in Arab and Amazigh Aesthetic Modernism(s)

Sheyda Aisha Khaymaz

The University of Texas at Austin

345 Luxurious Artifacts of an Ascetic Revolution

Elham Shahsavarzadeh

York University

(5D) Egyptians in Exile: Experiences and Transformations

15:00 - 17:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024
Bowland North Seminar Room 20

40 Egyptians in Exile: Experiences and Transformations

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

We aim in our panel to present the Egyptian exiles/diaspora as a phenomenon that needs to be addressed more as a part of the post-Arab Spring migration. This vast migration included main political actors (opposition) from different Arab countries who left and settled or trying to settle in new places across Europe. Many Egyptian activists left the country after the 2013 military coup toward destinations like Istanbul and Berlin. We aim to contribute to understanding the similar phenomena taking place as well in Egypt, in times of limited fieldwork possibilities.

We will be investigating the experiences and transformations of Egyptian exiles from an interdisciplinary perspective and based on fieldwork, mainly in Istanbul. Amasha examines the religious transformations of the exiled Egyptians within a wider phenomenon in the homeland. Abdin writes about the dreams and social interactions of Egyptian migrants in Istanbul. Agha analyzes the affects of remorse, ambivalence, and hope among the exiled Egyptian artists. Hisam investigates exiled young intellectuals and their intellectual becoming process.

Finally, we will try to provide a critical perspective aiming to understand the limitations in the literature and the particularities of the Egyptian exiles in Istanbul produced in a decade. We aim to offer some insights to understanding similar phenomena taking place as well in Egypt, in times of limited fieldwork possibilities.

Chair

Bilal Hisam

Central European University

Position: Sociology & Social Anthropology MA student

Participant

Omar Abdin

Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

Position: Researcher

Muhammad Amasha

Yale University

Position: Sociology PhD student

Mariam Agha

Ibn Haldun University

Position: Social Anthropology PhD student. Teaching & research fellow

Bilal Hisam

Central European University

Position: Sociology & Social Anthropology MA student

382 Bodies on the Move, Ideas on the Move: Exiled Egyptian Revolutionaries Revisiting Islam

Muhammad Amasha

Yale University

301 "What Happened and Why?": Egyptian Revolutionaries' Post-Arab Spring Orientation Toward Social Sciences in Exile

Bilal Hisam

Central European University

288 Egyptian Youth in Turkey: About the Centrality of the Dream and the Formation of Social Relations in Diaspora

Omar Abdin

Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

302 'The Ones Who Walk Away': An Ethnography of Exiled Egyptian Artists in Istanbul

Mariam Agha

Ibn Haldun University. The American University in Cairo

(5E) Scholarly Figures Across the Indo-Iranian World

15:00 - 17:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 23

7 Scholarly Figures Across the Indo-Iranian World

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

This panel sheds light on several literati, immigrants of Safavid Iran patronized by the Mughal Empire/Deccan sultanates in early modern India. These figures made lasting contributions to the literary and socio-religious culture of the Indo-Iranian world. The Persian and Arabic arts and letters that they composed in the tenth/sixteenth century onward reflect sophisticated expositions on philosophy, religion, and mysticism. While the migration of Iranian scholars to the Indian domain is widely recognized as a key development in Persianate literary culture, these figures have so far received scant academic attention. Presenters of the panel help mitigate this state of obscurity by considering several examples, including the apologetic treatise on *waḥdat al-wujūd* (*Raqā'iq al-ḥaqā'iq*) by Muḥammad Dihdār Shīrāzī (d.ca. 1607), an Iranian émigré and patron of the Ahmadnagar Sultanate; the scattered writings of occult figures, including Nuqṭavī adepts and followers of Āzar Kayvān (d.1618), on the pre-eminence of the Persian language; the Shi'i supplication commentary (*Riyāḍ al-sālikīn*) of Sayyid 'Alī Khān al-Madanī (d. 1708), an affiliate of the Quṭb Shāhī dynasty of Golkonda; and the universal history (*Rauzat ut-Tāhirīn*) of Ṭāhir Muḥammad Sabzawārī that conceived of its commissioner, the Mughal monarch Akbar, as a manifestation of the divine. Together, their works express regional diversities and dynamism in the overlapping political, cultural, and religious spheres between early modern Iran and India.

Chair

Andrew J. Newman

University of Edinburgh

Position: Personal Chair of Islamic Studies and Persian

Participant

Shaahin Pishbin

University of Chicago

Position: PhD Candidate

Gianni Izzo

University of Arizona

Position: PhD Candidate

Nariman Aavani

University of Chicago

Position: Postdoctoral Scholar

Justin Smolin

University of Chicago

Position: Postdoctoral Scholar

133 Shi‘i Psalms in India: Sayyid ‘Alī Khān al-Madanī’s (d. 1120/1708) Riyāḍ Al-sālikīn

Gianni Izzo

University of Arizona

212 Persian Occultism & Linguistic Theology in Akbar's India

Shaahin Pishbin

University of Chicago

223 Scholarly Networks Between Iran and India During the Mughal Period: Muḥammad Dihdār Shīrāzī (d. ca. 1607) on Waḥdat al-Wujūd

Nariman Aavani

University of Chicago

308 Political Incarnationalism in the Universal History of Ṭāhir Muḥammad Sabzawārī

Justin Smolin

(5F) The Idea of Home: Politics, Matter and Imaginaries (1)

15:00 - 17:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024
Faraday Seminar Room 1

9 The Idea of Home: Politics, Matter and Imaginaries (1)

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

This panel interrogates the material, political and cultural imaginary around the idea of home in the Middle East and North Africa. The idea of home is a fraught thing to desire, to lose, and to imagine. It is a privileged cornerstone of ontological security and one bounded within epistemological and affectual relationships. A home as many feminists have argued is geopolitical, and a privileged site through which to attend to productive and social reproductive labour. It can be a space of confinement as well as of aspiration. In the Middle East, a home appears to world politics sensibilities often as an object of destruction and violence, but also of resistance and alternative social imaginaries. Whether a target of violence, or a locus of resistance, an object of material compositions and/or an aspirational idea of belonging, a home in the Middle Eastern city (and beyond) acts as a site of anchorage of a relationship to the world and site from which to imagine its politics. How might we face up to the charge of thinking with, through and even beyond the pull of the home? How might home(s) imaginatively and materially be an overlooked archive of social reproduction? In this panel, we ask what would it mean to not just relate to home differently, but to interrogate our affectual attachment to the idea of home altogether? And who or what might be our guide in this endeavour?

Chair

Mai Taha

London School of Economics and Political Science

Position: Assistant Professor

Aya Nassar

University of Warwick

Position: Postdoctoral Fellow

Participant

Asma Abdi

University of Warwick

Position: Early Career Fellow (IAS)

Rosa Sansone

Boğaziçi University

Position: Lecturer

Aya Nassar

University of Warwick

Position: Postdoctoral Fellow

Mohamed El-Shewy

Newcastle University

Position: Research Associate

119 Navigating Geopolitics in and through Homes: The Case of Iran under the Sanction Regime

Asma Abdi

University of Warwick

204 At Home with The Prospect of Loss: Women, Evictions and Affective Work

Rosa Sansone

Boğaziçi University

105 "Explode your Old bathroom": Attachment, Scenes of Domesticity and the City

Aya Nassar

University of Warwick

106 Verticality as Power, Verticality as Powerlessness: In the Last Days of the City and Cairo in Modern Cinema

Mohamed El-Shewy

Newcastle University

462 History from Home as a Methodology

Nayera Soliman

Freie Universität Berlin. Center Marc Bloch

(5G) The 'Women, Life and Freedom' Movement in Iran: Context and Perspectives

15:00 - 17:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024
Faraday Seminar Room 2

199 Finding Equilibrium: Matter and Meaning of Being a Woman in Modern Iran

Zahra Tizro¹, Farhad Gohardani²

¹University of East London. ²GBS, Leeds

453 Period Pads on CCTV Cameras: A Case Study of Iranian Authorities Weaponisation of AI against Feminist Resistance.

Mariam Habib Matta

London School of Economics and Political Science

298 Islamic Conservatism, Compulsory Hijab, and Women's Right to Health (With a Focus on the Hijab and Chastity Bill in Iran)

Gelara Fanaeian

University of Bristol

52 The Emancipatory Sounds of the Imprisoned: Investigating a New Form of Resistance by Women Political Prisoners in Iran

Pegah Pezeshki¹, Mahsa Gholamalizadeh²

¹University of Warwick. ²University of Tehran

(5H) Entangled Crises in the MENA Region: States, Regimes and Populations (1)

15:00 - 17:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Faraday Seminar Room 3

4 Entangled Crises in the MENA Region: States, Regimes and Populations

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

Since the Covid pandemic, the crisis discourse has been at the forefront of global politics. This includes simultaneous or more precisely entangled crises. By entangled crises we mean the crises that create conjunctures in redefining the relations between institutions, state apparatuses, actors and groups. The Middle East and North Africa region has been governed by crises for decades preceding the pandemic, with consecutive economic, financial crises, sanitary among other crises. How are states mobilizing the crisis discourse in the region? What are the implications of this use on various stakeholders including the state, regime, elite, civil society and the population? This panel is gathers researchers to discuss the entangled crises that have become characteristic of the region and in respective states. We propose an overview of the entangled relations during times of crises, the changes they go through and the way these changes are introduced socially and/or institutionally. One of our points of focus is to present how the state speaks to the population and how

the respective populations hear/ perceive the state through the prism of crises and emergencies. We are presenting several different case studies from the region with the aim to highlight the comparative aspects between these case studies. Our work is based on ethnographic material, and qualitative research methods. This panel will include cases from: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia that are all based on extensive fieldwork research carried out by the participants, highlighting state-society relations' and entangled crises.

Chair

Sara Tonsy

DIRPOLIS Institute, Mesopolhis, IEP-Aix

Position: Postdoctoral researcher

Participant

Camille Abescat

DIRPOLIS, Sant'Anna, Pisa, Italy. CERI, Sciences Po, Paris

Position: Postdoctoral researcher

Thomas Serres

UC Santa Cruz

Position: Assistant professor in Politics

Pierre France

Mesopolhis / Université Aix-Marseille

Position: PhD candidate in Political Science

Nadia Hachimi-Alaoui

International University of Rabat. Center For Global Studies (UIR,Rabat)

Position: Professor

Dima Sajdeya

Collège de France/ Centre Thucydide - University Paris-Panthéon-Assas

Position: PhD in Political Science

88 State-Population Relation: The Case of the Wali in Casablanca, Morocco

Nadia Hachimi-Alaoui

International University of Rabat. Center For Global Studies (UIR,Rabat)

90 Citizenship, Electricity and the Relationship to the State in Lebanon in Times of Civil War: The Intricacy of a Not-so-obvious Tipping Point

Pierre France

Mesopolhis, Université Aix-Marseille

91 The Gaza Strip or an “Everlasting Crisis” for Egypt

Dima Alsajdeya

Collège de France. Centre Thucydide, Université Paris-Panthéon-Assas

93 Criticizing the Political Class, Redirecting Political Blame: The Crisis of Political Representation as a Discourse in Jordan

Camille Abescat

DIRPOLIS, Sant’Anna, Pisa, Italy. CERI, Sciences Po, Paris

363 Entrepreneurs in Crisis: A Comparison between Algeria and Tunisia

Thomas Serres

(5I) Cultural/Political Entanglements in a Revolutionary Age

15:00 - 17:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Margaret Fell Meeting Room 1

8 Cultural/Political Entanglements in a Revolutionary Age

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

This panel explores the question of entanglement in cultural productions during the 1960s and 1970s in the Middle East. The four papers survey Egyptian cinema, Palestinian films, and Afro-Asian film festivals. The first paper looks at a body of cinematic works by Palestinian, Arab, and other filmmakers aligned with Palestinian movements who forged a revolutionary future growing out of a critique of past failures. These films built upon the revolutionary praxis of the Palestinian left to posit the possibility of a liberated Palestine which in turn affected the ideological possibilities of these groups. The second analyzes political cinematic entanglements with the subject of Palestine in the 1970s via, more specifically, a trend of films that depict key events in Palestinian history as microcosms of the Palestinian struggle. It focuses on two films Ghaleb Shaath's *Land Day* and Borhan Alaouie's *Kafr Qassem* to illustrate this. The third paper engages with the concept of committed film (*multaziman*) when Egyptian cinema and politics became distinctly entangled with one another. The paper explores what socialist film could be and what a socialist film industry could do to transform Egyptian society. The final paper analyzes the first international film fest in Egypt and connects it to the history of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization as well as Cairo's role in decolonization networks under Nasser. Collectively, these papers interrogate the political, social, and cultural

possibilities that emerge from revolutionary cultural productions, how ideology informs art, and how in turn such cultural products direct ideology.

Chair

Viviane Saglier

University of St Andrews

Position: Lecturer

Participant

Jeremy Randall

The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Position: Associate Director, Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center

Tamara Maatouk

The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Position: PhD Candidate

Claire Begbie

Concordia University

Position: PhD Candidate

Sara Hussein

University of California, Los Angeles

Position: PhD Candidate

146 A Call for a Socialist Cinema: "We Have Been Making Socialist Films before Socialism!"

Tamara Maatouk

The Graduate Center, City University of New York

196 Cinema on Palestine in the 1970s: Entanglements of Revolution, Film, and Liberation

Jeremy Randall

The Graduate Center, City University of New York

234 Afro-Asian Cinema: The View From Revolutionary Cairo

Sara Hussein

University of California, Los Angeles

292 Event Films of Palestinian Resistance: Kafr Qassem and Land Day in 1970s Arab Cinema

Claire Begbie

Concordia University

(5J) Decolonizing Knowledge on Palestine/Israel: Is the Creation of an Alternative Academic Community Possible?

15:00 - 17:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Margaret Fell Meeting Room 2

44 Decolonizing Knowledge on Palestine/Israel: Is the Creation of an Alternative Academic Community Possible?

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

The production of knowledge about Palestine/Israel has long been a fraught contested terrain. This panel will address some of the key related topics and controversies, all related to the possibility of decolonizing knowledge. Is it possible to build a critical and anti-colonial intellectual community based on an integrated and relational study of Palestinian and Israeli histories and societies? How, if at all, could a Palestinian scholar engage in the study of law, gender, and human rights at the very heart of the Israeli hegemonic institutions? How would the growing involvement of Palestinian women in producing knowledge about Palestine/Israel shape the field?

Chair

Sonia Boulos

Nabrija University

Position: Associate Professor of International Human Rights Law

Participant

Sonia Boulos

Nabrija University

Position: Associate Professor of International Human Rights Law

Tamir Sorek

Penn State University

Position: Liberal Arts Professor

Rawia Aburabia

Sapir Academic College

Position: Assistant Professor

Areen Hawari

Mada al-Carmel

Position: Acting Director

477 Palestine/Israel Studies: Carving Out a New Intellectual Space

Sonia Boulos¹, Tamir Sorek²

¹Nabrija University. ²Penn State University

480 Researching from the Inside, Looking in from the Outside: An Epistemological Challenge to the De-Colonization of Family Law in Israel/Palestine

Rawia Aburabia

Sapir Academic College

481 Knowledge Production on Palestinian Women inside the Green Line: On the Question of Religion, Gender and the State

Areen Hawari

Mada al-Carmel

485 Colonial Gaze in Action: Torture by Israeli Soldiers of Palestinian Prisoners in Gaza

Isis Nusair

(5K) 1960s Art, Literature, and Thought in the Arab World

15:00 - 17:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Margaret Fell Meeting Room 3

34 1960s Art, Literature, and Thought in the Arab World

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

The global sixties were a foundational epoch in the social, political, and cultural history of the modern Arab world. This was expressed in the radical transformation in intellectual production. Politically, the June War sealed the fate of pan-Arabism and in its place came the question of the national liberation of Palestine. With the “New Left” just under formation, soviet-style Marxism and Comintern politics were superseded by theoretical innovation and militant cultural practices. Iltizām (commitment) was freed from the fetters of existentialist humanism and became the signifier of the recommencement of materialist tendencies. Literature gained a new valence in its appropriation of radically transformative social reality. Categories such as alienation, praxis, commitment, and freedom were suddenly reborn in a new Marxist humanist garb. While theoretical practice, steeped in attempts to theorize social reality, took stock of literature and art. In art, realism, as a method rather than a style, became the artistic handmaiden for the Palestinian Revolution. In this panel, the speakers will bring new light to the study of the sixties by speaking to the interconnectedness of struggle across art, literature, poetry, and theory.

Chair

Andrea Comair

Princeton University

Position: PhD student in History and Theory of Architecture

Participant

Natasha Gasparian

University of Oxford

Position: DPhil candidate in Contemporary Art History and Theory

Philip Raad

American University of Beirut

Position: PhD candidate in Arabic Literature

Abdallah El Ayach

Princeton University

Position: PhD student in History

Ziad Kiblawi

University of Oxford

Position: DPhil candidate in History

317 The Scandal of Abstraction: The Salon d'Automne and the Rise of "The New Sensibility" Movement, 1964-67

Natasha Gasparian

University of Oxford

318 Surplus and Otherness in Post-1960s Arabic Literary Form

Philip Raad

American University of Beirut

315 Structures of Experience in Decolonial Literature and Theory of the Arab World

Abdallah El Ayach

Princeton University

316 Towards a Category of Arab Marxist Humanism

Ziad Kiblawi

University of Oxford

Tea & Coffee Break

17:00 - 17:30 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

County South Lecture Theatre

Plenary (2): Keynote by Professor Salwa Ismail

17:30 - 18:45 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Margaret Fell Lecture Theatre

Dinner and Music

19:30 - 22:00 Tuesday, 2nd July, 2024

Barker House Farm

Please note that dinner must be booked in advance, but the music event is open to everyone.

(6A) Critical Approaches to Iranian Politics

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 2

413 "Ancient Partners, Old Friends": An Empirical Review of Sino-Iranian Rhetoric from 2013-2023

Anissa Ozbek

The Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University

33 A Constructivist Analysis of Basij Organisation's Identity in Iran

Hossein Mousavi

Royal Holloway, University of London

59 From Collaboration to Justice Seeking: Ups and Downs of the Iranian Family's Position towards Government

Alireza Delpazir¹, Fatemeh Sadeghi²

¹IOE, University College London. ²Institute for Global Prosperity, University College London

**330 Social Assistance Institutions in Iran and the Government
Retrenchment from Poverty Alleviation Policies**

Sara Shafikhani

London School of Economics and Political Science

**(6B) Symbolised Bodies and Gendered
Mobilisation Through Cinematic and
Digital Media Platforms**

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024
Bowland North Seminar Room 6

346 Heart-sick and Homesick: Screening Illness in Syrian Musalsalāt

Madonna Kalousian

King's College London

**394 Re-Embodiment as a Form of Refusal: The Power of Platformized
Bodies in Lebanon's 2019 Protest Movement**

Sinin Nakhle

University of Amsterdam

425 Gendered Mobilization and Digital Activism: A Critical Review of Feminist Organizing in Post-Revolutionary Egypt

Mariam Moussa

The American University in Cairo. London School of Economics and Political Science

340 Iranian Digital Feminism: Narratives, Activism, and Power Struggles on Digital Media Platforms

Mitra Shamsi

Center for Advanced Internet Studies (CAIS)

1 A Movie with a Happy Messy Ending: Mess as a Queer Tactic in Lebanese Cinema

Abed Al Wahab Kassir

Universidad Autonoma De Barcelona

(6C) Experiencing Settler Colonialism and Erasure in Palestine

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 10

20 Demographic and Spatial Erasure in Gaza through Exception The Case of Al-Shifa Hospital

Adel Ruished

SEPAD, Lancaster University

390 Safety and Dignity: Enhancing Unarmed Civilian Protection amongst Palestinians

Marwan Darweish¹, Mahmoud Soliman^{2,1}, Andrew Rigby¹

¹Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University, UK. ²Al Shmoa' Cultural Centre, Bethlehem, Palestine.

27 Entanglements of Life and Non-life: A Decolonial Reading of Palestine

Gonca Yalçın

University of Glasgow, Department of Theatre Studies

97 Bordering and Immobility: A Study of the Palestinian Body within the Settler Colonial Context in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)

Chloé Chbat

University of Manchester

(6D) Refugees Experiences

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 20

319 Exploring Bordering and Presenting of Diverse Refugee Populations in Amman, Jordan through Collaborative Visual Arts Workshops

Jessica Sullivan

University College London

423 Understanding Palestinian Refugee Preferences for Return: Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis of Associated Meanings and Reasoning

Areej Jafari

University of Exeter

73 (Un)Living between Two Lives: The Palestinian Refugees from Lydda

Rawan Nasser

The Harry S. Truman Research Institute, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

(6E) Judicial Practices and Politics in the Middle East

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 23

271 Court and Politics in Authoritarian Regime: Judicialization of the Social Movement Hirak el-Rif in Morocco

Mariam Benalioua

Sciences po Bordeaux - Les Afriques dans le Monde (LAM)

3 Lebanon's Parliament: Roles of MPs and Their Effect on Target Destinations

Meray Maddah

University of Konstanz

94 Criticizing the Political Class, Redirecting Political Blame: The Crisis of Political Representation as a Discourse in Jordan

Camille Abescat

DIRPOLIS, Sant'Anna, Pisa, Italy. CERI, Sciences Po, Paris

202 Untangling Legal Identity: Application of the Shari'a and the Struggle Against Legal Colonialism in 1970s and 1980s Egypt

Andreas Nabil Younan

University of Cambridge

64 "Long Live the Constitution!": Contacts, Connections and Personal Ties of the Iranian Constitutionalist Abroad (1908-1911)

Sara Zanotta

Università degli Studi di Pavia

(6F) The Idea of Home: Politics, Matter and Imaginaries (2)

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

Faraday Seminar Room 1

10 The Idea of Home: Politics, Matter and Imaginaries (2)

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

This panel interrogates the material, political and cultural imaginary around the idea of home in the Middle East and North Africa. The idea of home is a fraught thing to desire, to lose, and to imagine. It is a privileged cornerstone of ontological security and one bounded within epistemological and affectual relationships. A home as many feminists have argued is geopolitical, and a privileged site through which to attend to productive and social reproductive labour. It can be a space of confinement as well as of aspiration. In the Middle East, a home appears to world politics sensibilities often as an object of destruction and violence, but also of resistance and alternative social imaginaries. Whether a target of violence, or a locus of resistance, an object of material compositions and/or an aspirational idea of belonging, a home in the Middle Eastern city (and beyond) acts as a site of anchorage of a relationship to the world and site from which to imagine its politics. How might we face up to the charge of thinking with, through and even beyond the pull of the home? How might home(s) imaginatively and materially be an overlooked archive of social reproduction? In this panel, we ask what would it mean to not just relate to home differently, but to interrogate our affectual attachment to the idea of home altogether? And who or what might be our guide in this endeavour?

Chair

Aya Nassar

University of Warwick

Position: Postdoctoral Fellow

Mai Taha

London School of Economics and Political Science

Position: Assistant Professor

Participant

Mayada Madbouly

University of Groningen

Position: Postdoctoral researcher in Cultural heritage

Dina AbdelHafez

University of Sussex

Position: PhD Researcher

Shimaa El Sharkawy

Cairo University. Arab Forum for Alternatives

Position: PhD Researcher

Mai Taha

London School of Economics and Political Science

Position: Assistant Professor

111 Colours of Home (Economies and Displayed Materiality)

Mayada Madbouly

Groningen University

118 Ahlan w Sahlan. Please, Have a Seat: Domestic Interiors and the Postcolonial National Identity in Egypt between 1952-1981

Dina Abdelhafez

University of Sussex

117 A Home of One's Own: Spatial-Political Relations in Contemporary Feminist Egyptian Literature (The Case of The Hill's Musk by Sahar El Mougny)

Shimaa ElSharkawy

Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University. Arab Forum for Alternatives

110 Film as an Archive: Thinking through Labour, Social Reproduction, and the Home

Mai Taha

London School of Economics and Political Science

300 Communist Fugitives: Politics and Histories of Underground Activism in 1970s Egypt

Mohammed Ezzeldin

The Graduate Center, City University of New York

(6G) Solidarity, Trauma and Entangled Destinies in Palestinian Novels

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024
Faraday Seminar Room 2

436 Fractured Destinies: The Puzzling Case of the Missing Concerto

Paul Starkey

Durham University

50 Between the Wall and the World: Spatial, Temporal, and Subjective Entanglement in Isabella Hammad's Enter Ghost (2023)

Lindsey Moore

Lancaster University

145 Trauma as an Entanglement in Abulhawa's the Blue Between Sky and Water

Wael Salam

The University of Jordan

190 Walid Saif's The Palestinian Odyssey: A Postcolonial Reading of Ibn Khaldun's Notion of Asabiyyah and Palestinian Tradition

Tayseer Abu Odeh¹, Nour Hussein²

¹Al Ahliyya Amman University. ²University of Aberdeen

219 Demolition, Disability, Disposability: The Impacts of the Wars on Gaza through an Analysis of Susan Abulhawa's Novels

Maya Aghasi

American University of Sharjah

(6H) Narrating Post-Revolution and Social Change in the MENA

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

Faraday Seminar Room 3

123 Narrating Post-Revolution Egypt: Archiving Legal Battles Against Hegemonic Erasure and Silence

Reem Abuzaid

University of Warwick

290 Nostalgia on Display: Facebook, Middle-Class Yearning, and the (De)Politicized Imaginaries of 'Al-Zaman Al-Gamīl' in Post-Revolutionary Egypt

Nermin Elsherif

Utrecht University

415 Exploring Political Culture's Role in Change: Insights from Omani Contemporary Society

Corina Lozovan

Catholic University of Portugal

421 Exploring Bank Raids as a Form of Resistance in Lebanon

Yara Zebian, Rim Saab

University of Sussex

368 The End of Postcolonialism? Arab Perspectives on a Global Debate

Ali Sonay¹, Noureddine Wenger²

¹University of Bern. ²University of Basel

(6I) Conversations on Race, Racial Making, and Racism in Turkey: Past and Present

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

Faraday Seminar Room 4

31 Conversations on Race, Racial Making, and Racism in Turkey: Past and Present

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

There is a substantial body of literature on Turkish nationalism and its discriminatory and violent effects on the country's non-Turkish populations. However, the racist elements of Turkish nationalism have remained under-studied until recently. Nazan Maksudyan's intervention in the literature of Turkish nationalism famously addressed the centrality of race in Turkish imaginaries, which, as she successfully pointed out is the reason of the 'racism taboo' (Maksudyan 2021) in studies of Turkey, also as an epistemological issue. This has changed in the last couple of years; as notions of race and racism, formation of whiteness (Ünlü 2020), white privilege (Sehlikoglu 2023), and diverse forms of racial making and its relation to religious formations and imperial legacies (Yonucu 2024) have been used to critically analyse Turkey, the state of Turkish-ness and its Sunni-supremacism (Akyildiz 2022). This roundtable brings together scholars who have been studying race and racism in Turkey from diverse angles, conducting empirical work from disciplines of sociology, anthropology, and history, and analysing multiple modalities of racism in Turkey in relation to various populations in and outside Turkey, including its former Ottoman territories.

Chair

Deniz Yonucu

Newcastle University

Position: Lecturer

Participant

Sertac Sehlikoglu

University College London

Position: Principal Research Fellow

Kaya Akyildiz

Bahcesehir University

Position: Professor

Ezgi Guner

University of Edinburgh

Position: Postdoctoral Researcher

Mehmet Mashuq Kurt

Royal Holloway University of London

Position: Lecturer

(6J) MENA Uprisings in Context

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

Margaret Fell Meeting Room 1

379 Rural-Urban Relations in Syria: The 2011 Uprising and Beyond.

Wassim Naboulsi

University of St Andrews

412 Protesters as Momentary Leaders: Understanding the Strategic Use of Social Identities in Spontaneous Mobilization Calls Made on Live Television during the 2019 Lebanese Uprising

Rajaa Barbary

University of Sussex

419 Exploring Ideological Differences between Opponents and Supporters of Ruling Political Parties in the Context of the Lebanese 2019 Uprising

Rim Saab

University of Sussex

429 Between the Square and the Quarter: The Urban Logic of Violence in the Syrian Revolution

Kevin Mazur¹, Mutasem Abuzaid²

¹King's College London. ²University of Oxford

(6K) U.S. and the New Order in the Middle East After the 10/07 Attacks

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

Margaret Fell Meeting Room 2

15 U.S. and the New Order in the Middle East after the 10/07 Attacks

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

On October 7, 2023, Israeli retaliation against the Gazan population, which some international analysts have described as a massacre, genocide, or even ethnic cleansing, followed attacks by Palestinian armed national resistance groups under the leadership of Hamas. These recent events mark a new turning point in the history of the Palestinian/Israeli Question, specifically, and in power relations in the Middle East in general. The purpose of this panel is to map and analyze the main changes initiated and fueled by the 10/07 events. In light of recent discussions about the potential emergence of a post-American Middle East and the centrality of the Palestinian/Israeli Question in power relations in the region, the panel will discuss themes such as: the impacts of 10/07 on relations between Israel and Arab countries' signatory to the Abraham Accords; the influences of U.S. domestic politics on its

external actions regarding Israel and Palestine; the possibility of an anti-imperialist alliance led by BRICS countries; the role of Iraq in power struggles in the Middle East, focusing on its relations with the U.S. and Israel; and regional dynamics led by state and non-state actors in the "axis of resistance", particularly Iran, Hezbollah (Lebanon) and Houthis (Yemen), concerning the events of 10/07. These themes point to the restructuring of power relations among great powers in the Middle East, paving the way for discussions about new influential actors in the region, notably China.

Chair

Adam Hanieh

University of Exeter

Position: Professor of Political Economy and Global Development

Participant

Bruno Huberman

Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo

Position: Professor of International Relations

Reginaldo Nasser

Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo

Position: Professor of International Relations

Isabela Agostinelli

National Institute of Science and Technology for United States Studies (INCT-INEU)

Position: Researcher

Rodrigo Amaral

Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo

Position: Professor of International Relations

Arturo Hartmann

International Center for Arab and Islamic Studies at the Federal University of Sergipe (CEAI-UFS) and the National Institute of Science and Technology for United States Studies (INCT-INEU)

Position: Researcher

Karime Cheaito

Interinstitutional Graduate Program in International Relations "San Tiago Dantas" (UNESP, UNICAMP, PUC-SP)

Position: PhD Candidate

154 US, BRICS and Anti-Imperialism in the Palestine-Israel Question

Bruno Huberman

Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo

167 Reassessing the Abraham Accords After Gaza: Shifting Power Dynamics in the Middle East

Isabela Agostinelli dos Santos¹, Reginaldo Mattar Nasser^{2,1}

¹National Institute of Science and Technology for United States Studies (INCT-INEU), Brazil. ²Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC-SP), Brazil

168 Crossroads of Conflict: Analyzing Iraq's Political Stand and Paramilitary Actions in Response to the 2023 Gaza Crisis

Rodrigo Augusto Duarte Amaral

Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUCSP), Brazil

158 The "Axis of Resistance" and the Israel-Hamas War: An Analysis of Regional Dynamics Based on the Bloc's Actions

Karime Cheaito

San Tiago Dantas Postgraduate Program, São Paulo

245 Analysis of Ruptures in U.S. Internal Dynamics that Shape their Intervention over the Palestinian Question Caused by the Support of Israeli Attacks over Gaza

Arturo Hartmann

Center for Arab and Islamic studies at Federal University of Aracaju (CEAI-UFS)

(6L) The Feminist Roots/Routes of Decolonial Research in Western Academia

09:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024
Margaret Fell Meeting Room 3

2 The Feminist Roots/Routes of Decolonial Research in Western Academia

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

This roundtable provides a space for researchers to engage with decolonial feminist approaches to knowledge production in research practices in the MENA region. Questions concerning citation practices, research methods and ethics are central to decolonial methodological choices. Moreover, the impact of working in western institutions where colonial language, hierarchy of knowledge and staff tokenisation overshadows research practices. Based on their current research in Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon and their teaching experience in British academia, the roundtable participants partake in a discussion around these themes.

Within research practices, the roundtable first focuses on how decolonisation discourses, force everyone involved to reflect the same way assuming everyone has an equivalent relationship to coloniality. Then it will reflect on citation practices as a feminist tool of decolonising research, knowledge co-production and relational accountability. Moreover, decoloniality as a theoretical framework throughout research process and as an integral part in research methodology and methods. Within teaching experiences in the UK, the discussion moves to considering gender/sexuality studies in relation to the Middle East, as an 'exceptionalised' discipline. Afterwards, usefulness and limits of intersectionality as a framework and the importance of centring permanent war to teaching approaches.

Finally, decolonisation means the return of Indigenous land. In this context, the panellists query how can we decolonise knowledge operating in educational institutions that do not support the decolonisation of land. The roundtable discussants contend decolonisation of knowledge as a site for resistance beyond an appropriation of the term that turns it into a metaphor or a settler appropriation.

Chair

Afaf Jabiri

University of East London

Position: Senior Lecturer in Global Development

Participant

Hebatallah Tolba

University of East London

Position: Doctoral Candidate

Gabriella Ibba

University of East London

Position: Doctoral Candidate

Sabiha Allouche

University of Exeter

Position: Lecturer, Middle East Politics

Tea & Coffee Break

11:00 - 11:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

County South Lecture Theatre

(7A) Spaces of Encounter, Entanglement and Belonging in the MENA

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 2

373 Muslim Communities in Napoli at the Intersection of Subjects and Scales

Nicola Di Mauro

University of Naples "L'Orientale". Loyola University of Chicago - John Felice Rome Center

475 Bridging the Distance: Meaningful Integration of Intercultural Exchange between Arab and American Institutions

Nevine Abraham

Carnegie Mellon University

376 Walking and the Encounter: Interrupting the Everyday Rhythms of City Experience

Farah Aridi

Doha Institute of Graduate Studies

95 Walking the Wadi: Navigating and Narrating Beirut's Former Jewish Neighborhood

Molly Theodora Oringer

Durham University. University of California, Los Angeles

80 The Rentier State, Cultural Capital, and Elite Anglo-Jordanian Connections in the Late 1980s and Early 1990s.

Joseph Hearn

SOAS University of London

(7B) Settler Colonialism and Necropolitics in Palestine

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024
Bowland North Seminar Room 6

26 The Right to Blind

Lena Obermaier

University of Exeter

139 Laboratory Beyond the Metaphor: Killing Lab Palestine as a Node in a Global Network of Zones of Exception, (high-tech) Experimentation, and Necropolitics.

Jop Dispa, Friso van Houdt

Erasmus University Rotterdam

445 Dead Hostages and the Law: The (Il)legality of Withholding Dead Bodies by States - The Case of Israel

Muna Haddad

Queen Mary University of London

266 Israel's COGAT as the Humanitarian Face of Settler Colonialism

Pietro Stefanini

University of Edinburgh

(7C) The Role of Religious Institutions, Platforms and Leaders in MENA Politics

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024
Bowland North Seminar Room 10

35 Al-Azhar Re-Imagined: The Coercive Reinstitutionalization of the Ulama's Transnational Identity Under Nasser

Mohamed Mohamed

George Mason University. The George Washington University

36 The Influence of Marja At-taqlid on the Politics of Middle East

Akif Tahiev

Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity

349 "New Iranian Religiosities"? Evidence from the Iranian Evangelical and Neo-Zoroastrian Cases

Benedikt Römer

Bundeswehr University Munich

273 State Identity and Shia Narratives: Revival of Memories in Zoorkhaneh's of Iran

Selcen Pinar Akgul¹, Rügeyye Babazade²

¹Bayburt University, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Bayburt, Turkey. ²Istanbul University, Department of Persian Language and Literature, Istanbul, Turkey

262 The Organization of Islamic Cooperation as a Platform for Member States to Showcase and Negotiate "Official Islam": Analyzing Consensus and Rivalry

Fukiko Ikehata

Ritsumeikan University

(7D) Ethnic Minorities, Racial Discrimination and Resistance in the MENA

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 20

21 Black-Iraqis: From A Forgotten History To Contemporary Racial Discrimination

Sara Al Khashlok

London School of Economics and Political Science

23 Nationalists without Nationalism: The PYD's Identity-Building Strategies in Northeast Syria

Musa Akgul

Lancaster University

352 Using Human Rights to Gain International Standing: A Comparison of the Iraqi Ba’thist and Kurdish Nationalist Archives

Lily Hindy

University of California, Los Angeles

130 Turkish Nationalism, Everyday Life and Managing the Ethnoreligious Divide

Yesim Bayar

St. Lawrence University

430 Land of the Children: Race and Institutional Kidnapping in the Yemenite, Mizrahi and Balkan Children Affair in Israel

James Eastwood

Queen Mary University of London

(7E) Literary Traditions in the MENA

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 23

115 Swinging Identity: Sa’id al-Surayhī’s Tribute to His Childhood Neighborhood

Hasan Alsulami

Umm Al-Qura University

180 Whose Politics? Exploring the Political Commitment of the Egyptian Avant-garde in Relation to State and International Actors through the Third-worldist Trilingual Magazine Lotus and Experimental Magazine Gallery 68 (1968-1971)

Malak Abdelkhalek

King's College London

400 Boys and Girls of Our Age - A Meditation on Methodology and the Logics of Exchange and Entanglement

Susanne Abou Ghaida

Aix-Marseille University

491 Contending Citizenship and Belonging: The Entangled Existence of Copts in the National and Religious Discourses

Nevine Abraham

Carnegie Mellon University

(7F) The Idea of Home: Politics, Matter and Imaginaries (3)

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

Faraday Seminar Room 1

11 The Idea of Home: Politics, Matter and Imaginaries (3)

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

This panel interrogates the material, political and cultural imaginary around the idea of home in the Middle East and North Africa. The idea of home is a fraught thing to desire, to lose, and to imagine. It is a privileged cornerstone of ontological security and one bounded within epistemological and affectual relationships. A home as many feminists have argued is geopolitical, and a privileged site through which to attend to productive and social reproductive labour. It can be a space of confinement as well as of aspiration. In the Middle East, a home appears to world politics sensibilities often as an object of destruction and violence, but also of resistance and alternative social imaginaries. Whether a target of violence, or a locus of resistance, an object of material compositions and/or an aspirational idea of belonging, a home in the Middle Eastern city (and beyond) acts as a site of anchorage of a relationship to the world and site from which to imagine its politics. How might we face up to the charge of thinking with, through and even beyond the pull of the home? How might home(s) imaginatively and materially be an overlooked archive of social reproduction? In this panel, we ask what would it mean to not just relate to home differently, but to interrogate our affectual attachment to the idea of home altogether? And who or what might be our guide in this endeavour?

Chair

Asma Abdi

University of Warwick

Position: Early Career Fellow

Mai Taha

London School of Economics and Political Science

Position: Assistant professor

Participant

Omnia Khalil

City University of New York

Position: Lecturer

Asli Zengin

Rutgers University

Position: Assistant Professor

Hannah Owens

Royal Holloway, University of London

Position: Lecturer

Bayan Arouri

Tampere University

Position: Doctoral Researcher

Nidal Al Haj Sleiman

British Academy - School of Education, Ulster University

Position: Post-Doctoral Fellow

Jumana Al-Waeli

British Academy - School of Education, Ulster University

Position: Post-Doctoral Fellow

Reem Ben Giaber

UCL's Faculty of Education and Society (IOE)

Position: PhD candidate, Seminar Tutor, guest lecturer

211 Conscious Walking and Navigating Gendered Geographies in Cairo

Omnia Khalil

The City College of New York

116 Trans and Queer Home-Making in Istanbul

Asli Zengin

Rutgers University

258 "The Gable Roof I Have Been Always Drawing Came True!": Reflections on Homemaking and Belonging Practices in Syrian Refugee Women's Narratives in Camps

Bayan Arouri

Tampere University, Tampere Peace Institute (TAPRI)

183 Home-Making in the Internationalised University: A Theoretical and Personal Encounter through SWANA Forum for Social Justice

Nidal Al Haj Sleiman¹, Jumana Al-Waeli¹, Reem Ben Giaber²

¹British Academy - School of Education, Ulster University. ²UCL's Faculty of Education and Society (IOE)

112 Vernaculars of the Home: Gendered Relations of Infrastructure in Displacement

Hannah Owens

Royal Holloway, University of London

(7G) Contemporary Iranian Politics in International Perspective

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024
Faraday Seminar Room 2

327 Culture in Action: Strategic Culture and Iran's Intervention in Syria

Huseyin Faruk Simsek

University of Aberdeen

358 Entangled Nationalism. Iranian-Italian Encounters and the Revival of Italy's Far-Right Nationalist Project

Paola Rivetti

Dublin City University

104 Persian Supremacy and Iranian Nationalism in the Wake of the 2023 Israeli War on Gaza and the Palestinians

Paola Rivetti¹, Shirin Saeidi²

¹Dublin City University. ²University of Arkansas

(7H) Sovereignty, the State and their Discontents

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024
Faraday Seminar Room 3

39 Sovereignty, the State and their Discontents

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

Across 2023, politics across the Middle East became increasingly precarious. Despite initial diplomatic successes such as the Saudi-Iran normalisation agreement, the year became marked by a growing uncertainty, perhaps best seen in the events of October 7th and their aftermath. Across the region, the rhythms of political life became increasingly contested, amidst serious socio-economic challenges, democracy deficits, and increasingly authoritarian modes of rule. At the heart of this are states, claims to sovereignty and the socio-spatial reverberations of this discontent, many of which pull at the fabric of the state.

In this panel we reflect on the multiple ways in which states are contested and the conditions that give rise to such contestation. From competing claims to sovereign power to the emergence of powerful militias, regional currents, socio-economic pressures, powerful substrate identities, states face an array of complex challenges to their ability to regulate life. These challenges are often justified by claims to sovereignty or legitimate authority, yet the Weberian model so dominant in global politics is unable to adequately capture these dynamics.

This panel looks at the different ways in which states are contested, bringing together empirical and theoretical analysis to facilitate analysis of regional, national and local modes of contestation and their reverberations.

Chair

Edward Wastnidge

Open University

Position: Senior Lecturer

Participant

Simon Mabon

Lancaster University

Position: Professor of International Politics. Director of SEPAD

Ruba Al Hassani

Lancaster University

Position: Post-Doctoral Fellow

Jacob Eriksson

York University

Position: Lecturer

Erwin Van Veen

Clingendael

Position: Senior Research Fellow

253 Entanglement and Reconceptualizing the Iraqi State

Jacob Eriksson

University of York

411 Change but No Change: Understanding Street Protests in the Middle East

Erwin van Veen, Matteo Colombo

Clingendael - Conflict Research Unit

391 Raiding the Sectarian Citadel: Sovereignty, the State and the Protests of 2019

Simon Mabon

Lancaster University

393 Sovereignty as Existential: Epistemic Violence and Rhetorical Sovereignty in Iraq Discourse

Ruba Ali Al-Hassani

Department of Politics, Philosophy & Religion, Lancaster University

(7I) Contours of Resistance: Understanding Marginality through the Entanglement of the Political, Socio- Economic, and Spatial in Morocco

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

Faraday Seminar Room 4

18 Contours of Resistance: Understanding Marginality through the Entanglement of the Political, Socio-Economic, and Spatial in Morocco

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

This panel will explore how political, socio-economic, and spatial entanglements shape the everyday lives of marginalised people in Morocco. The focus is on understanding how social groups on the margins articulate grievances and assert political claims to secure their spatial, political, and socio-economic rights. Based on the cases of 1) Ul-'cha of women farmworkers and their ways of redefining politics, 2) the ways in which the lived experience of artists shape articulations of identity, class, and belonging in a marginalised mining region, 3) the eight-year protest camp of Imider that creates important shifts in forms of resistance and political subjectivity within Morocco's protest landscape (2011-2019) and, 4) the megaproject of Zenata as an urban planning regime that is built on the forced-displacement of local precarious communities and the ways in which the inhabitants contest such planning orthodoxies. This panel will adopt a relational approach to understand the ways in which global capitalism has had significant social and political transformations. These transformations have led to organised and persistent socio-economic precarity. Through these different cases, this panel will show how precarious and marginalised communities have contested these processes and participated in different forms of protest actions and enduring social movements.

Chair

Koeneraad Bogaert

University of Ghent

Position: Professor

Participant

Fayrouz Yousfi

University of Ghent

Position: PhD

Yasmine Zarhloule

Oxford University

Position: PhD

Cristiana Strava

Leiden University

Position: Assistant Professor

Soraya El Khalaoui

University of Ghent

Position: Postdoc

175 Al-'Ucha: Women Farmworkers Redefining Politics in a Precarious Time

Fayrouz Yousfi

Ghent University

177 Speculative Sustainability: Dispossession, Financialization, and Contested Green Urbanism in Contemporary Morocco

Cristiana Strava

Leiden University

178 The Imider Protest Camp: Resistance by Repossession and Lived Citizenship at the Global Margins of Moroccan Society

Koeneraad Bogaert¹, Soraya El Kahlaoui²

¹Ghent University. ²Ghent University

179 Everyday Life, Precarity, and the Mine as Departure Point

Yasmine Zarhloule

University of Oxford

(7J) Affective Witnessing: Feminist Activism and Narratives on Violence against Women in the Middle East

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

Margaret Fell Meeting Room 1

19 "Affective witnessing: Feminist Activism and Narratives on Violence against Women in the Middle East"

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

The Middle East has been witnessing a proliferation of feminist waves of activism particularly addressing violence against women. These feminist waves employ innovative tools, emphasizing digital activism, informal mobilization, and reclaiming the everyday as a site for resistance. Cumulatively the negotiated boundaries of women's political and social engagement showcase the potential of feminist solidarity. This wave of mobilization challenged established gender normative regimes paving the way for change. Building on literature that explore the global #MeToo movement (Chandra & Erlingsdóttir, 2021), affective witnessing (Richardson & Shankweiler 2021), feminist digital activism and patriarchy of the state, this panel explores how the transnational feminist movement counters prevailing truths via survivors' stories. It highlights diverse feminist modalities addressing gender-based violence while scrutinizing their capacity to disrupt dominant narratives on gender norms. Moreover, the panel explores alternative justice and complaint mechanisms, the connection between displacement and violence, mobilization within religious minorities, and the limitations of the justice system. The panel includes case studies from Egypt, Iran, Turkey, and Syrian displaced communities in Jordan, deploying quantitative and qualitative methods to explore feminist activism on gender based violence both offline and online. The panel's papers assert the transformative potential and possible limitations of these feminist waves of activism and help

understand the actors, narratives, tools and the backlash that the movement has been undergoing. The panel will be divided into two parts. The first part presents cases of digital activism and online mobilization while the second centralizes the interconnected offline resistance and backlash.

Chair

Reem Awny Abuzaid

University of Warwick

Position: PhD candidate

Participant

Amin Ataee

University of Tehran

Position: Researcher

Kholoud Saber Barakat

Université Catholique de Louvain

Position: Postdoctoral Researcher

Dina Wahba

Freie Universität Berlin

Position: Postdoctoral Researcher

Reem Awny Abuzaid

University of Warwick

Position: PhD Candidate

Stephanie Amin

EHESS - Cesor

Position: MA student

182 Disrupting the Hegemonic Construction of Gender Order through Informal Digital Activism on Sexual Violence in Egypt: Achievements, Potentials, and Limitations.

Reem Awny Abuzaid¹, [Dina Wahba](#)², [Kholoud Saber Barakat](#)³

¹University of Warwick. ²Freie Universität Berlin. ³The University of Louvain (UCLouvain)

228 Sally Zakhary and the Possibilities of Coptic Transnational Feminism Online

[Stephanie Amin](#)

Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS). Le Césor - Centre d'études en sciences sociales du religieux (EHESS-CNRS)

257 "We Solve it through our Ways": Insights on Agency and Solidarity in Syrian Refugee Women's Narratives on Sexual Harassment in the Camps

[Bayan Arouri](#)

Tampere University, Tampere Peace Institute (TAPRI)

191 Everyday Narratives on Intimate Partner Violence in Contemporary Turkey - Ethnographic Insights from Young Couples

[Karolin Tuncel](#)

University of Oxford

(7K) MENA's Constitutional Identities: Bridging Constitutionalism, Religion, and Society

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024
Margaret Fell Meeting Room 2

45 MENA's Constitutional Identities: Bridging Constitutionalism, Religion, and Society

Submission Type

Roundtable

Rationale

This roundtable examines the concept of constitutional identity in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. It seeks to understand whether this identity is mainly influenced by religious or national factors, and if there is an opportunity to blend these elements into a cohesive identity.

The discussion will focus on countries deeply divided by sectarianism. It aims to explore how sectarian identity often takes precedence over national identity in constitutional texts and to find ways for constitution drafters in the MENA region to develop identities that acknowledge both national and religious complexities, thus promoting unity and inclusiveness. A key part of the discussion will be the impact of religious institutions on political identities in the MENA region and their role, both formally and informally, in shaping constitutional identity since 2011.

Case studies from countries like Iraq and Lebanon will be examined, highlighting the challenges of merging diverse identities. The roundtable will also review developments in the region over the past 12 years to assess whether religious identity has dominated over constitutional identity.

Finally, the roundtable will consider strategies for constitution makers to address intersectional divisions, using lessons from global comparative experiences. This will segue into a discussion about the potential future influence of religion on societal life and identity in the MENA region.

Chair

Sanaa Alsarghali

An-Najah National University, Palestine

Position: Assistant Professor of Constitutional Law

Participant

Eleonora Bottini

University of Caen, France

Position: Professor of Public Law

Nathan J. Brown

George Washington University, USA

Position: Professor of Political Science and International Affairs

Stephane Lacroix

Sciences Po, Paris

Position: Associate Professor of Political Science

Tamara Khoury

Arab Association of Constitutional Law

Position: Executive Director

Simon Mabon

Lancaster University

Position: Chair in International Politics

(7L) States, Religion and Islamic Organisations in Perspective (1)

11:30 - 13:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024
Margaret Fell Meeting Room 3

9 When Religion Takes the Stage: How the Coup Regime Instrumentalized Religion in Securitizing the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt

Mehmet Rakipoglu

Dimensions for Strategic Studies. Batman University

437 The Transcendental and the Political: The Secular Dilemma in Narratives of the Muslim Brotherhood Members.

Doha Abdelgawad

University of Leeds

417 Encountering in the West: The Muslim Brotherhood and Milli Gorus

Fulya Atacan

Middle East Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science

Lunch Break

13:30 - 14:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

Please note that BRISMES will serve lunch on 1 and 2 July only.

(8A) States, Religion and Islamic Organisations in Perspective (2)

14:30 - 16:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

Bowland North Seminar Room 2

19 Statizing Islamic Charity: The Case of Bayt al-Zakat in Egypt

Neil Russell¹, Mohamed S. Mohamed²

¹Glasgow Caledonian University. ²George Mason University

236 The Uneasy Entanglement of Pre-Existing Identity Markers and a Refashioned Organisational Identity: The Case of Ennahda's Low System-ness in the Post-Specialisation Period (2016-2021)

Carmen Fulco¹, Mohammed Bushra²

¹King's College London. ²University of Otago

101 Redefining or Downgrading Religion? Making Sense of the State-led Process Reshaping Domestic Order and Belonging in Saudi Arabia

Javier Bordón

Lancaster University. SEPAD

(8B) Digital Practices and Entanglements

14:30 - 16:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024
Bowland North Seminar Room 6

442 The Fusion of Traditional Islamic Religion and Modern Elements in the Contemporary Middle East and North Africa

Ali Masawudu

University of Johannesburg

307 The Many Faces of Digital Authoritarianism: Online Censorship and Oppression after Lebanon's 2019 Uprising

Esther Schoorel

University of Amsterdam

450 Digital Entanglements: Redrawing the Boundaries of Archival Inquiry

Jessica Holland^{1,2}, Freja Howat³

¹Council for British Research in the Levant, UK. ²Arab Studies Institute, Washington DC, US. ³University of Sussex

(8C) International Entanglements in Middle Eastern Statecraft Processes

14:30 - 16:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024
Bowland North Seminar Room 10

230 Circumventing the Authoritarian Challenge: Lobbying and the Study of Middle Eastern IR

Karim El Taki

University of Groningen

7 Qatar's Strategy as a Small State: Examining the Türkiye Special Partnership

Ali Alotaibi¹, Mehmet Rakipoglu^{2,3}

¹Nottingham Trent University. ²Batman University. ³Dimensions for Strategic Studies

426 (De-)Globalizing the Gulf? How the GCC Governments are Managing Multipolarity amidst Great Power Rivalry

Mate Szalai¹, Tyler B. Parker²

¹Ca' Foscari University. ²University of Idaho

206 Turkey and North Africa: The Long Shadow of the Arab Spring and Strategic Entanglements

Eyup Ersoy

(8D) Discourses and Effects of Pandemics in the Middle East

14:30 - 16:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024
Bowland North Seminar Room 20

274 The Dynamics of Social Relationships Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic: Exploring Interactions Among Individuals and Diverse Groups in the Jordanian Labor Market

Mothana Almasri

Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

107 Between COVID-19 and the May 2021 Uprising - The Crisis-Ridden Economic Integration of the Palestinians in Israel

Dori Gilboa

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

432 Proving Intent while Palestinian: Palestinian Ethnographic Hearsay, The Wild Boar Pandemic, and the Weaponization of Nature at Times of Genocide

Saad Amira

Al Quds Bard College

(8E) Ethnic Minorities and Indigeneity in the Middle East

14:30 - 16:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024
Bowland North Seminar Room 23

193 Assessing the Applicability of the 'Neo-Millet' Concept to Church-state Relations in Jordan and Syria 2000-2010

Fiona McCallum Guiney

University of St Andrews

320 Exploring Ontological Assumptions of Mesopotamian Indigeneity: An Analysis of the Contested Definitions of Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities in the Middle East

Aynur Unal

Arden University

141 Indigenous Christians in the Gulf States: An Unlikely Expansion of the Field of Middle Eastern Christianity?

Anna Hager

University of Vienna, Austria

250 Out of the Genizah - From the Margins of Jewish Historiographies

Jonathan Hirsch

(8F) Radicalisation, Violence and Securitisation in the MENA

14:30 - 16:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024
Faraday Seminar Room 1

439 Ayatollah Sistani's Emotional Entrepreneurism During the Jihad Against ISIS 2014-2017

Ali Alsayegh

Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter

280 Beyond a Western Narrative of Terrorism: The Case of Egypt (1952-present) from a Postcolonial Perspective

Lujain Al-Meligy

King's College London

304 Working-Class Young Men as a 'National Threat': Securitising the Nation during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Morocco

Kaoutar Ghilani

University of Cambridge

39 Pathways to Violence: Understanding Radicalisation among Returnee F(T)Fs and Implications for Universal Jurisdiction Cases

Charles Hierons

Durham University

185 The Rise and Fall of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) in Libya: What Determines Their Fate?

Bilgehan Ozturk

SETA Foundation

(8G) Protests as a Vehicle for Political Change in the Middle East

14:30 - 16:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

Faraday Seminar Room 2

3 Protests as a Vehicle for Political Change in the Middle East

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

By many indicators, citizens across the Middle East face even greater socio-economic problems and governance inadequacies in 2023 than they did in 2011. These include increasing rates of poverty, inequality and corruption, a lack of decent quality jobs, skyrocketing cost-of-living, and limited civic rights. Rather than striving to meet the public demands that these problems give rise to, ruling elites across the region have

instead tended to cement their power base through repression, cooptation, and selective distribution of benefits. It is, therefore, no surprise that the region has seen its share of street protests – viewed as a basic indicator of citizen discontent – over the past years, most recently in Iran in late 2022 and early 2023.

The regularity of street protests in the Middle East in combination with the limited change they have brought about so far points to a need to pose deeper questions about how the social geography and the political settlement of different countries in the region influence the mobilization and de-mobilization of protests. And what are other forms of social mobilization (acknowledging that protests are just one form of social expression)? In recognition of such complexities, this panel examines the significant diversity concerning the intensity and nature of protest across the Middle East. Four case studies from Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq will offer comparative insights into street protests' meaning, relevance, and effectiveness in the Middle East.

Chair

Erwin Van Veen

Clingendael Institute

Position: Senior Research Fellow

Participant

Marsin AlShamary

Boston College

Position: Associate Professor

Hamidreza Azizi

German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)

Position: Visiting Fellow

Nancy Ezzeddine

Clingendael Institute

Position: Research Fellow

Matteo Colombo

Clingendael Institute

Position: Research Fellow

(8H) Afghanistan's Hazaras: History, Politics and Culture Locally and Beyond

14:30 - 16:30 Wednesday, 3rd July, 2024

Faraday Seminar Room 4

32 Afghanistan's Hazaras: History, Politics and Culture Locally and Beyond

Submission Type

Panel

Rationale

Hazaras are an ethnic community native to Afghanistan who have been marginalised and oppressed since the formation of the modern Afghan state. Hazaras have been othered due to their religious identity as Shia Muslims in a predominantly Sunni Muslim state, and their ethnicity. The community has always kept their resistance against such social relations alive to varying degrees. This culminated in the formation of the Hezb-e Wahdat (Unity Party) in 1989. This allowed for a growth in the political mobilisation and community consciousness among Hazaras to manifest.

In recent years, there has been a concerted effort among Hazaras in Afghanistan and the diaspora to positively affirm their ethnic identity, challenge dominant narratives about the history of Afghanistan and to promote Hazara causes and culture, such as the Hazara Culture Day in May, the annual Hazara Black Day in September and the death anniversary of Hazara political leader Abdul Ali Mazari in March. In turn, this burgeoning community consciousness is seeing multiple relational outcomes. These

include the promotion of Hazara history online, regular academic events about human rights violations against the community and the continued lobbying of politicians in the West.

This panel will therefore explore various facets of Hazara history, culture and politics. It will present alternative histories to dominant narratives of the Afghan state, unpack the memories of Hazara women and examine diaspora politics. This panel will focus on foregrounding the voices of a subaltern community which successive governments and regimes in Afghanistan have sought to silence and obscure.

Chair

Rabia Khan

University of Sussex

Position: Research Fellow

Participant

Bismillah Alizada

SOAS University of London

Position: PhD candidate

Rabia Khan

University of Sussex

Position: Research Fellow

Rahman Mohammadi

University of Oxford

Position: PhD candidate

Anis Rezaei

University of Oxford

Position: MPhil candidate

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Bismellah Alizada

SOAS University of London

268 'A New Era has Started': Exploring Hazara Diaspora Activism in the UK

Rabia Khan

University of Sussex

269 "Being Hazara Should no Longer be a Crime": The Formation of the Hazara Political Movement

Rahman Mohammadi

University of Oxford

270 Memory and Identity from the Standpoint of Hazara Refugee Women

Anis Rezaei

University of Oxford

(8I) Militancy and Resistance in Palestine

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Antonella Acinapura

University of Oxford

144 Unity Beyond Fractures: Palestinian Resistance as Interplay between Unity and Fracture

Anne de Jong

University of Amsterdam

98 Being a Young Adult in the Gaza Strip: Reclaiming Freedom, Land and Socio-Political Participation under Colonial Violence

Gabriella Ibba

University of East London

291 The Palestinian Revolution through the Lens of the 1970s' Documentary Filmmakers

Dalia Mostafa

Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar

(8J) Hegemonic Masculinity in the MENA: Between Aspiration and Peril

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Peter Cherry

British Institute at Ankara

232 Children, Coming of Age, and the Aspiration to Masculinity in the Short Stories of Yusūf Idrīs.

Abdullah Alahmari

School of Modern Languages, University of St Andrews

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Şefika Özer

Nottingham Trent University

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Gulriz Sen

TOBB University of Economics and Technology

265 'To be Libyan is to Live with Questions': Childhood in Libya's Neo-Patriarchy and the Stories We Tell Ourselves

Sam Naseem

Lancaster University