A Middle East PhD Students International Conference & Poster Presentation:

State, Society and Economy in the Modern Middle East

7-8 May 2011
Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS
Middle East PhD Students International Conference
State, Society and Economy in the Modern Middle East

Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 May 2011
Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS

SATURDAY 7 May 2011

08:30–09:15 Registration

09:15 – 09:30 Welcoming Remarks

SESSION 1: 9:30–11:00

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre:

Panel 1: Iran – The Struggle for Democracy

Chair: Annabelle Sreberny, SOAS

- The Many Shades of Green: social welfare in Iran and the struggle for hegemony, Sarah Marusek, Maxwell School of Syracuse University, New York
- The Collective Action of Mujahedeen-e Khaq Organization (MKO): evolution, interests and current situation, Moisés Garduño, UAM (Madrid)
- Iranian Entrepreneurs: agents of democratization? Peyman Jafari, University of Amsterdam and International Institute of Social History

Room B102:

Panel 2: Women

Chair: Nadje Al-Ali, SOAS

- ‘She’ and the War: a feminine-Spanish-journalistic approach to the invasion of Iraq, Carmen Vidal Valiña, Universidad Complutense De Madrid and Spanish National Research Council
- Institutionalising Gender: women’s political participation in Jordan, Marta Pietrobelli, SOAS
- Neo-liberal Policies and Women Slum Dwellers in Turkey, Burcu Şentürk, University of York

11:00–11:30 Break
SESSION 2: 11:30–13:00  

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre:

Panel 3: Palestine-Israel

Chair: Sarah Stewart, SOAS

- *Imagining the ‘Other’?: a Palestinian perspective on Israeli identity*, Isabelle Hesse, University of York
- *The Middle East Conflict and its Displaced Persons – Arab and Jewish Refugees Issue Analysis and Future Prospects*, Lena Gorska, University Opole
- *The Palestinian Minority in Israel and the Middle East Peace Process*, Mazen Masri, York University, Toronto

Room B104:

Chair: Nadje Al-Ali, SOAS

Panel 4: Iraqi Migration to Syria – Political and Anthropological Perspectives

- *Syrian State Sovereignty in the Context of Iraqi Migration*, Sophia Hoffmann, SOAS

Room B102:

Panel 5: Saudi Arabia

Chair: Parvin Alizadeh, London Metropolitan University

- *Evaluating the Impact of Microfinance on Women’s Empowerment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*, Sarah Abudawood, SOAS

13:00–14:00  Lunch

SESSION 3: 14:00–15:30  

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre:

Panel 6: Kurds – Nationalism and Identity

Chair: Parvin Alizadeh, London Metropolitan University

- *Women and Nationalism: how women activists are changing the Kurdish conflict*, Massoud Sharifi Dryaz, École des hautes études en sciences sociales
• The Future of Rising Kurdish Nationalism in the Modern Middle East: comparative perspectives of Turkey, Israel and Iran, İzzettin Sümer, Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Çanakkale
• Kurdish Identity-Making: instruments and possibilities during the last 100 years in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey, Zoltán Egeresi, Corvinus University of Budapest

Room B102:

Panel 7: Community Development and NGOs
Chair: Charis Boutieri, King’s College London

• Tourism and Sustainable Community Development, Maryam Hamedi, London Metropolitan University
• ‘Helping Nature, Helping People’? Negotiating Local Development (through ecotourism) and Government in Dana Village, Jordan, Katharina Lenner, Freie Universität Berlin

Room B104:

Panel 8: Voice, Memory and Agency in Egypt (1882-1956)
Chair: Dina Matar, SOAS

• The Voice of ‘Antara - A Revolutionary Hero in 1882, Cairo, Adam Mestyan, CEU Budapest
• Unsung Heroes: reading the ‘Suez Crisis’ through the lyrics of ‘resistance’, Alia Mossallam, LSE
• ‘Amateur Modernity’ and Literary Translation in Early 20th Century Egypt, Nariman Youssef, University of Manchester

SESSION 4: 15:30–17:00 PANELS 9 & 10

Room B102:

Panel 9: Economics
Chair: Massoud Karshenas, SOAS

• The Political Economy of Investment Liberalisation in Syria, Linda Matar, SOAS
• Future Chances of Economic Integration in the MENA Region, Dániel Gugán, Corvinus University of Budapest
• Rentier States, Annika Kropf, University of Vienna

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre:

Panel 10: Turkey – Religion, Secularism and the State
Chair: Konrad Hirschler, SOAS

• From Islamic Radicalism to Islamic Capitalism: the rise of neo-Islamist bourgeoisie in Turkey, Ozlem Madi-Sisman, Bilkent University
• Islamic Business and the State: the cases of Turkey and Egypt, Evrim Gormus, University of Washington
*Compulsory Religion Education and Religious Minorities in Turkey*, Ayşe Seda Müftügil, University of Amsterdam

Brunei Suite:

**17:00–18:00** RECEPTION

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre:

**18:00–19:30**  **Keynote Speaker:** Hamid Dabashi, Columbia University, New York  
*Iran, the Green Movement and the Arab Revolutions*

Chair: Gilbert Achcar, SOAS
SUNDAY 8 May 2011

SESSION 5: 10:00–11:30        PANELS 11 & 12

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre:

Panel 11: Turkey – Power, Democracy and Religion

Chair: Stefano Taglia, SOAS

- A Closer Look at the Abolition of the Caliphate: how complex can religion and politics get? Gulay Turkmen, Yale University, New Haven
- Can the Pious Theorize?: liberal democracy, power and Muslim intellectuals in contemporary Turkey, Dunya Deniz Cakir, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- The Turkish party Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi (AKP, Justice and Development Party) and Local Politics in Anatolia, Charlotte Joppien, University of Hamburg

Room B102:

Panel 12: Refugees and Human Rights

Chair: TBC

- Iraqi Refugees, UNHCR, and the State: forced displacement and the reconfiguration of sovereignty in the Middle East, Perveen Ali, LSE
- Debating Family Law in Contemporary Iran: conceptions of Sharia and women's rights, Marianne Bøe, University of Bergen
- Freedom of Thought and Expression in Iran: a comparative study of the ICCPR, Islamic Law and Iranian laws, Nargess Tavassolian, SOAS

SESSION 6: 11:30–13:00        PANELS 13, 14 &15

Room B104:

Panel 13: Lebanon – the State, Civil War and Hezbollah

Chair: Randa Alami, SOAS

- The neoliberal restructuring of the state in post-civil war Lebanon, Hannes Baumann, SOAS
- Hezbollah's Autonomy and the Lebanese State, Jamil Mouawad, SOAS

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre:

Panel 14: Islam, the State and Ideology

Chair: TBC

- Islamic Nationalism Vs. Islamic Ummatism, Amjad Dajani, King's College London
- Why a “Rapprochement” or Some Sort of Collaboration Between Islamist and Leftist Groups in Lebanon and Palestine?, Joseph Daher, SOAS
- Headscarf or Turban?, Ibrahim Efe, Lancaster University
Room B102:

Panel 15: Security and Foreign Policy

Chair: Corinna Mullin, SOAS

- **State Identity and Foreign Policy in the Middle East: the Saudi-Iranian case**, Adel Al-Toraifi, LSE
- **Ambivalent Episodes in Iran’s Post-‘9/11’ Foreign Policy**, Ali Fathollah-Nejad, SOAS

13:00 – 14:30  Lunch

SESSION 7: 14:30-16:00  PANELS 16, 17 & 18

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre:

Panel 16: Iran – Culture and Politics

Chair: Hassan Hakimian, SOAS

- **Revolutions and Rough Cuts: Conceptualizing Women’s Bodies in Contemporary Iran**, Soraya Batmanghelichi, Columbia University, New York
- **Alienation or Belonging: the representation of cultural memory in contemporary literary texts by exiled Iranian Jewish women writers**, Jennifer Langer, SOAS

Room B102:

Panel 17: Kurds – Insurgency and Foreign Policy

Chair: Peyman Jafari, University of Amsterdam and International Institute of Social History

- **Primacy of Foreign Policy in Turkey’s Kurdish Reforms**, Mehmet Uğur Ekinci, SOAS
- **Kurdish Conflict and Building Peace in Turkey. The Limits of Neo-Liberal Pro-Islamist Politics**, Cuma Cicek, Sciences Po
- **From Denial to Insurgency: the PKK and the reconstruction of Kurdish identity**, Ahmet Hamdi Akkaya, Ghent University

Room B104:

Panel 18: Colonialism & Aftermath

Chair: Stefano Taglia, SOAS

- **Assyrian Colonial Encounters: the collective re-settlement of a community**, Fadi Dawood, SOAS
- **Imamic Yemen’s Sacred National Charter (1948): failed interpretations of an established social compact**, Fernando Carvajal, University of Exeter

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre:

16:00–16:15  CLOSING REMARKS
Middle East PhD Students International Conference
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Poster Presentations

Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 May 2011
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Poster Sessions:

1. Queering Potentialities of Gay Place-Making in Turkey, Haktan Ural, Middle East Technical University
2. Yilmaz Guney Cinema, Yildirim Uysal, Middle East Technical University
3. Ethnography of Everyday Life in the War-Stricken Areas of Beirut: local responsiveness to humanitarian intervention, Estella Carpi, University of Sydney
4. Human Rights, Shariah, and the Rule of Law in the Middle East: problems and prospects, Rawa Ghazy Almakky, Brunel University
5. Palestine: the brand-state solution, Kund Florian, National University of Singapore
6. Rain, Fertility – Death: the women in ritual and sacred places connected to feminine in southern Jordan, Päivi Miettunen, University of Helsinki
7. Environmental Awareness in Iran, Satoshi Abe, University of Arizona
8. Europeanisation of Migration and the Effects on Non State Actors: the Turkish case, Damla Bayraktar, Koç University
9. ‘The Negated Identity’: human rights and religious identity in contemporary Egypt, Daniele Bolazzi, King’s College London
10. The Amazigh Cultural Renaissance in Morocco: challenging the hegemonic Arab model, Cleo Jay, SOAS
11. Clash or Compromise? Mongol and Muslim law in the Ilkhanate (1258-1335), Florence Hodous, SOAS
13. Modern Symphonia: the new wave of Russo-Lebanese ecclesiastical relations, Alyn Desmond Hine, SOAS