THIS ISSUE: Environment • West Asia and the Global Environment Outlook
• Ocean acidification • The political ecology of virtual water in Palestine • The main challenge to Yemen’s future • The challenges of integrating off-grid electricity in Oman’s domestic sector • Sustainable energy planning in MENA • The evolution of the Nile regulatory regime • Khettara: a traditional yet viable irrigation option • PLUS Events in London
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This is the third issue of *The Middle East in London* in as many years that aims to highlight MENA’s environmental problems. As readers will know, the region has experienced heightened conflict and instability in recent years, which has arguably overshadowed other pressing challenges such as the state of its environment.

Reflecting the desire to address this imbalance, this was the theme of LMEI’s October 2016 conference marking SOAS’s Centenary this year. The MENA Environment Conference was a unique opportunity to bring together climate and natural scientists, environmental engineers, social scientists and policymakers from multidisciplinary backgrounds to focus on how to address and mitigate the region’s environmental challenges.

In this issue, we cover some of the subjects that were presented and discussed in this conference. In *Insight*, Iyad Abumogli discusses the 6th edition of the Global Environment Outlook, GEO-6, for West Asia. He provides an overview of the current state of the environment in the region and describes ways to reverse the perceived damaging trends.

Nathali Hilmi exemplifies the role of climate change on ocean acidification and its effects on MENA and highlights the importance of including both macroeconomic and microeconomic analysis when environmental issues are discussed. Maria Jesus Beltrán reflects on the complexities and political ecology of virtual water in Palestine, reminding us of the socioeconomic aspects of virtual water trade and how power relations affect it.

Helen Lackner reminds us that in addition to the devastating, ongoing war in Yemen, the country also suffers from depleted water resources that will jeopardize its future regardless of the outcome of the current conflict.

Maral Mahlooji writes about finding renewable energy alternatives for the fossil fuel-dominated energy sector in MENA countries. Currently only 6 per cent of the total electricity in this region is generated by renewables. She suggests that finding the most viable clean energy option is a site-specific task. Juman Al-Saqlawi sheds light on the potential possibility of relying on solar energy in Oman. She examines the challenges that this fossil fuel-dependent country faces to make significant reductions in its carbon emissions and provide alternative clean energies as a viable option for households.

Ahmed Tayia’s article is about one of the most important river basins in the world: the Nile Basin. He examines how transboundary cooperation has formed over centuries, and the role that historical beliefs and social institutions play in facilitating (or sometimes even hindering) the development of a functional system among different stakeholders in the Basin.

Anna Sowa tells us about khettara as a traditional system of irrigation that has been used in some MENA countries for centuries. She demonstrates this in the context of her short documentary film, *Aghbalou – The Source of Water*, that explores *khettara* in a small river oasis in the Todgha Valley in Morocco. We end with this piece which highlights and documents the local communities’ concerns about the future of their water security.

*Hamid Pouran, Hassan Hakimian, LMEI*
The Global Environment Outlook in its 6th edition, GEO-6 for West Asia, is part of a global process that aims to review and assess the state of the global environment, identify global and regional priorities, review policies and options, and to chart the outlook on priority environmental issues while also identifying emerging ones. The publication was launched in May 2016 during the second United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 2). It was the result of a scientifically-based global effort under the guidance of a High Level group from Governments and stakeholders, a Scientific Advisory Group and an Assessment and Methodology Group. In West Asia, 20 chapters were produced by lead authors, assisted by 36 thematic authors and 63 reviewers.

The GEO-6 Regional Assessment for West Asia covers the Mashreq countries (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Syria) and Yemen and the GCC countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates). It is guided by seven regional priorities: water, land, marine resources, biodiversity, air, climate change and waste management. These were identified by member states and stakeholders at the Regional Environmental Information Network (REIN) Conference held in Amman, 10-14 May 2015. Along with the identified regional priorities, two themes governed the West Asia assessment report: ‘peace, security and environment’ along with the ‘water, energy and food nexus’.

The environment is simultaneously threatened by and a cause for a lack of peace and security and increasing levels of conflicts. The war in Syria and the resulting mass displacement of people across the Middle East are having severe environmental impacts that are endangering the health of millions of people in the region. The regional refugee crisis is also having a profound impact on the environment in the region, in particular on environmental health. For instance poor waste management increases the likelihood of disease outbreaks. At the start of July 2015 there were an estimated 2.97 million refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Yemen and Iraq, generating an estimated total of about 1,440 tonnes of waste per day. In Lebanon alone, which has the highest per person concentration of refugees in the world, refugees generate about 15.7 per cent of the country’s total municipal solid waste per day.

The lack of regional cooperation on shared water resources and increased water demand and overexploitation of...
Only four out of twelve countries in West Asia are above the water scarcity limit of 1,000 m³ per person per year. Groundwater resources are major threats to the region. The overexploitation of groundwater resources throughout the Middle East region has resulted in a deterioration of water quality, seawater intrusion, the depletion and salinisation of aquifers, and rising pumping costs. Only four out of twelve countries in West Asia are above the water scarcity limit of 1,000 m³ per person per year. The absence of agreements on shared water resources, as well as the pollution of water bodies, complicates water management in the region. This results in food security issues, human health risks and socio-economic instability. Data sharing between countries is very limited. As a consequence, there exists no common understanding of the state and development of water availability, use and trends. This impedes the development of a common vision on shared water resource management.

One of the top environmental risk factors for human health in the region is air pollution. It is estimated that air pollution alone was responsible for more than 70,000 premature deaths in West Asia in 2010. Military operations during and after the Gulf War have increased sand and dust storms several times over resulting in both threats to human health and also socio-economic challenges. In both 2004 and 2008, the highest mortality rates among children under five years attributable to ambient air pollution were in Iraq and Yemen.

Maintaining nexus priorities has been highlighted as a challenge complicating environmental issues. Unsustainable consumption patterns threaten water, energy and food security. High population and urban growth rates combined with current consumption patterns compound pressure on the region’s limited land and water resources. West Asian countries in conflict or affected by sudden large influxes of displaced people face challenges to satisfy their energy needs. This increases deforestation and the exposure to air pollutants due to burning of materials such as plastics, tyres and other waste in uncontrolled conditions for heating purposes. The harsh climate in the Gulf countries causes high cooling demand throughout the year. This is compounded by huge energy waste caused by a mixture of low efficiency appliances, high living standards and an energy intensive lifestyle.

The continuous shrinkage of agricultural lands due to population growth, urbanisation, land degradation and desertification will jeopardise food security in the region, especially in the Mashreq countries and Yemen. Most coastal ecosystems in Arabia have been classified as vulnerable, having lost significant portions of their original extent, and are in need of further representation in the protected area network. Conflicts over land-use and general mismanagement have led to overgrazing, land degradation and ultimately desertification.

Waste management continues to be performed by localised initiatives. Regional municipal solid waste generation is increasing at about 3 per cent per year. More than 50 per cent of the municipal solid waste in the region comprises food waste. The problem is compounded because nearly 90 per cent of municipal solid waste in the Middle East is disposed of in unlined landfill sites; leachate from these sites is contaminating scarce groundwater resources and spreading disease.

The assessment report offers a visionary outlook scenario over the next 25 years, 10 years after the target date for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Adopting this positive vision, several outcomes can be achieved including: healthy people, clean water and good hygiene, green energy, responsible consumption and production, the mitigation of climate change impacts, the protection of marine life and the conservation of land resources and a level of regional cooperation working towards peace, justice and security for all. However, appropriate policies stressing good governance, regional cooperation, data availability and sharing, capacity development and the transition to an inclusive green economy will be needed to achieve the above scenario.

Addressing these interconnected vulnerabilities in effective, sustainable, socio-economic and environmental policies will reduce the impact of major environmental threats, such as climate change and natural hazards, and maintain good environmental health. Institutionalising these types of policies and regulatory frameworks can cause ripple effects across different sectors and lead to the greater well-being of society in West Asia.

Iyad Abumoghli is Regional Director and Representative for the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA) based in Bahrain.
At the 2015 summit in Paris (COP 21), updated policy recommendations for achieving sustainable development moved centre stage. This could be a particularly significant development for the countries of the Middle East and North African (MENA) region given that, after the Arab uprisings, they face challenging and profound changes in their social, political and economic structures and are experiencing a period of political and socio-economic transition.

The rapid urbanisation of the MENA region is arguably among the most likely causes for the increase in exposure of persons and economic assets to environmental disasters. Simultaneously, a recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has predicted that rising sea levels could affect millions of people in the MENA region. In Egypt, for example, according to a 2009 report of the Arab Forum for Environment and Development, a one-metre increase in sea level will affect 12 per cent of agricultural land and 3.2 per cent of the population.

Climate scientists and experts at the UN estimate that the MENA region is the second most affected by climate change in the world. In 2050, the region will likely face a 50 per cent decrease in the fresh water supply. The region as a whole will face a decrease in precipitation and an increase in water stress. IPCC experts forecast that global warming will cause both more frequent and intense extreme weather events such as droughts and torrential rains. Desertification will therefore increase, especially in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya. The deterioration of agricultural systems is a serious point of concern for Tunisia and Algeria, while the threat of rising water levels particularly affects Egypt.

This article will focus on one significant environmental risk: ocean acidification, the process through which the balance of global ocean chemistry is changing. Ocean acidification refers to a decrease in ocean pH resulting from the dissolution of additional CO₂ — primarily due to

Ocean acidification: is the environment of the MENA region already ruined?

Red Sea coral reef. Photograph by Hagainativ

Nathalie Hilmi, Alain Safa, Victor Planas-Bielsa and Mine Cinar look at the phenomenon of ocean acidification and what it could mean for MENA

Ocean acidification refers to a decrease in ocean pH resulting from the dissolution of additional CO₂, as a result of human activity, in seawater from the atmosphere
The Middle East in London

The increase in extreme events caused by small changes in global averages is highly nonlinear; in other words, the consequences of these small changes are not proportional to the amount of change. A 2 per cent decrease in mean pH for our benchmark process implied that the chance of an extreme event occurring was multiplied by 40. We observed that both variations of the mean and the volatility of the process played an important role in the increase of extreme events (in frequency and in magnitude).

When countries face economic crisis, environmental issues become secondary; but they should be considered in both their macroeconomic and microeconomic aspects. Local mitigating actions, such as marine protected areas, should be developed in addition to human adaptation solutions. The private sector should be involved in environmental actions too. The biobanking scheme (structured collections of biological samples and associated data, stored for the purposes of present and future research) can complete the credit-trading scheme with biodiversity credits. In the Ecosystem Marketplace, natural capital is considered as important as other forms of capital. As MENA countries are interested in being eligible to receive international funding, decision makers should establish the necessary structures, as recommended by international organisations, which play a key role in determining the criteria for funding and overseeing international efforts. The action plan must be established at the regional, national and also local levels. The UN's 2005 'The Hyogo Framework for Action', which was introduced to coordinate a holistic approach to reducing disaster losses, seems most appropriate to explain what is expected from the public sector from an international point of view. The attitudes toward resilience and/or increased adaptation are very important and MENA countries should consider the environment as their priority for the future.

Nathalie Hilmi joined the Centre Scientifique de Monaco as Section Head of Environmental Economics in 2010. Her research looks at the economic impacts of climate change and ocean acidification, the evaluation of ecosystem services and sustainable development policies.

Alain Safa is a Professor at the University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis and EDHEC Business School. He specialises in macroeconomics and international finance.

Victor Planas-Bielsa is an Applied Mathematician and Senior Scientist at the Centre Scientifique de Monaco. His work uses statistical modelling to understand and quantify the dynamic effects of climate change on biological populations.

Mine Cinar is Director of the Center for International Business and Professor of Economics at the Quinlan School of Business at Loyola University Chicago. Her research interests lie in economic development, international business, game theory and financial economics.

Humans' increasing need for energy and its production by burning fossil fuel – in seawater from the atmosphere. It threatens marine life, biodiversity, the food chain and ultimately the entire global ecosystem.

Today, the global average value of ocean pH is 8.1, decreasing from a value of 8.3 during last glacial era. If the current CO2 emission trends hold steady, the pH of the ocean is expected to reach 7.8 in year 2100. There have been a number of studies conducted that try to evaluate the impact acidification will have on different marine species – especially those for which calcification is important – with mixed results.

An extreme climate event is a localised (temporally and geographically) quantifiable event that passes a given threshold. The number of extreme events linked to climate change has increased in the last decades, and there is strong evidence that at least part of this increase is linked to human influence. Analyses of peaks and observations at the tails require specific statistic tools, as standard deviation is a good description of variability only in ‘normal’ or ‘central’ conditions. Extreme Value statistics (EVT) is a crucial tool for risk assessment and risk management.

We modelled the dynamic of the pH as an Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process, whose solution is well known when the parameters are stationary and the noise is Gaussian, and performed Montecarlo simulation to illustrate the effects that variations in the parameters may have on the probability that an acidification disaster occurs. This risk may be underestimated if one does not consider factors such as the long-term acidification trend and the increase in the volatility of pH variation.

Our numerical simulations show that the increase in extreme events caused by small changes in global averages is highly nonlinear; in other words, the consequences of these small changes are not proportional to the amount of change. A 2 per cent decrease in mean pH for our benchmark process implied that the chance of an extreme event occurring was multiplied by 40. We observed that both variations of the mean and the volatility of the process played an important role in the increase of extreme events (in frequency and in magnitude).

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The growth of Hurghada, Egypt on the coast of the Red Sea, 1985 (left), 2014 (right). The construction of hotels and other infrastructure has often involved the destruction of coral reefs along the coastlines. NASA Earth Observatory images by Jesse Allen and Adam Voiland using Landsat data from the US Geological Survey.

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Palestine is an emblematic place for studying power and water. The role of water in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has been analysed by many authors who argue that the asymmetric power of Palestine in the Oslo negotiations has ensured Israel’s domination over water allocation in Palestine. Studies have also shown the vital role trade has played in the survival of the Palestinian economy as well as the latter’s long-term dependence on Israeli policies. These studies, alongside those looking at Israeli imposed movement restrictions within the West Bank, illustrate the importance of Palestine’s agricultural sector for socio-economic development and poverty reduction within complex Israeli regulations that have ultimately undermined the development of Palestinian agriculture. Despite this exhaustive literature on Israel and Palestine, less attention has been paid to the interface between water, trade and agriculture, and the ways in which Israel may have controlled the virtual flows of water by controlling trade.

The concept of virtual water (VW), developed by Tony Allan, is useful for making this water-agriculture-trade relationship visible; it sheds light on agricultural trade flows in terms of water. Allan promoted the term to underline how water scarcity in Middle Eastern countries was being managed by importing VW in the form of agricultural products from the international market. The VW approach has been popularised, and numerous studies on the virtual water flows of economies worldwide have shown the increase in virtual water trade around the world. However, the studies undertaken to date on VW flows in Palestine do not present VW estimations within the wider institutional and political framework in which Palestine is immersed.

In light of these gaps, I propose that a political ecology approach to VW offers powerful theoretical bases to contextualise and politicise environmental knowledge. Political ecology scholars have shown that the management of water flows is not merely a technical field that can be addressed through scientific expertise because the social nature of water itself involves human values, behaviour and organisation. Political ecologists recognise the biophysical roots of environmental problems but also focus on the link between ecological problems and their political dimension, showing how socio-ecological conditions are sustained by and organised through both social and metabolic-ecological processes. In this vein, this article shows that the estimation of VW flows should be explained by considering the political, social and territorial implications of these flows; that is, who benefits and who suffers from VW flows, or non-flows? This approach means that VW flows are not just the flow of a resource; they are the manifestation of the political and social relations that exist between water, agricultural production and trade in the Palestinian Territories.

More than 20 years after the implementation of the Oslo Protocol the overarching objective of Israeli authorities to ensure control over the Palestinian Territories has taken the form of an imposed trade integration between these territories.

Virtual water (VW) flows should be explained by considering the political, social and territorial implications of these flows; that is, who benefits and who suffers from VW flows, or non-flows?
Like water itself, virtual water through trade is governed by relations of power

two countries. By ensuring that Israeli exports flow smoothly to Palestine while Palestinian exports to Israel and other countries are controlled, Israel pre-empts any possible competition between Palestinian and Israeli producers.

The agricultural sector has not been an exception; restrictions to land and water resources as a result of Israeli policies have had long-term implications for Palestinian agricultural production in general and for agricultural trade in particular. Thus, Palestinian dependency is rooted in relations of dependency between water, trade and agriculture. On the one hand, Israel's domination over water allocation and agricultural land in Palestine, together with control over Palestinian trade relations, has undermined Palestine's agricultural production capacities. On the other hand, Israel's movement restrictions on people and goods within the Territories and to the outside world have reduced the trade of agricultural products. I examined the material dimension of these dependency relations between water, trade and agriculture through analysis of the evolution of the VW agricultural flows of Palestine during the Post-Oslo trade regime (1997-2013) and the per capita agricultural VW imports and exports of the Palestinian Territories comparing to those of the adjacent countries (Israel, Jordan, and Egypt), and relating these VW estimations to their broader social and political context.

This contextualised analysis of the evolution of agricultural VW flows offers two key results. First, the controversial application of the Oslo Agreement has resulted in Israeli control over Palestinian trade and hence over VW flows, especially in agricultural products. Furthermore, the results suggest that Israeli control over agricultural VW trade keeps these flows at a very low level during the analysed period, and not only exports, but imports too, relatively speaking. The imposed trade integration between Israel and Palestine implies that Israel is also the main trade partner of Palestine in VW terms. Second, VW flows have not remained constant over time but have been profoundly affected by the political and social relations between Palestine and Israel. The main events I suggest had a causal effect on the scale of virtual flows were: (1) The signing of the Oslo agreement, evident in the remarkable increase in agricultural VW imports; (2) The outbreak and the end of the second intifada, since during the Second Intifada Palestinian agricultural VW exports and imports declined and the end of the Second Intifada meant a gradual recovery in trade and VW imports; and (3) a prolonged absence of rainfall that, in 2009, resulted in the decline of both agricultural VW imports and exports.

Ultimately the analysis of the agricultural VW flows in Palestine reveals that Palestinian dependence on VW imports is sustained by and organised through a combination of social processes on the one hand and metabolic-ecological processes on the other. The Oslo Accords reflect the unequal power relations between Israel and Palestine that constitute critical institutional and political processes. The environmental conditions, such as the average annual rainfall in Palestine, also play a key role to understand the complex processes that structure the water-agriculture-trade relationship that agricultural VW flows helps to illuminate. Only by considering the two dimensions together can we begin to understand the socio-natural relations that underpin and create flows, or non-flows of VW in Palestine.

Ever since Allan's pioneering work, the concept of virtual water has been used as an optimistic antidote to apocalyptic concerns for future water scarcity, especially in regions such as the Middle East. Allan argued that countries can, and already do, adapt through trade to scarcity, importing 'virtually' the water that they cannot get locally, although this is far from being sustainable. This is not however the end of the story. Like water itself, VW through trade is governed by relations of power. And such relations can determine access to VW as they determine access to freshwater, making less powerful countries or parties more vulnerable to water scarcity.

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Irrigation canal, Battir (Palestinian Territories), October 2012. Photograph by María J. Beltrán
As war intensifies and food becomes scarce due to the financial crisis, readers might think that environmental issues, water in particular, are the last of Yemen’s problems, especially after a season of good rainfall. However, regardless of the outcome of the current war, within a generation or so people will no longer be able to live in Yemen unless environmental issues are urgently addressed.

The shortage of water in Yemen is absolute: current annual use, at 3.5 billion m$^3$ exceeds renewable resources by 1.4 billion m$^3$. Put simply, one-third of the water used is mined from non-renewable fossil aquifers. With a population of 27 million people, per capita renewable water availability has dropped to less than 85 m$^3$, significantly below 10 per cent of the internationally recognised scarcity threshold (1,000 m$^3$). A World Bank report on ‘Assessing the Impacts of Climate Change and Variability on the Water and Agricultural Sectors’ in 2010 estimated that Yemen’s ground water reserves are likely to be depleted in about three decades (report no 54196 YE).

The replenishment to rainfall ratio is dropping just when demand is increasing due to the larger population’s domestic needs and the use of pumps for irrigation. More than 70 per cent of Yemen’s population is rural and depends, at least partly, on agriculture for their livelihoods. About 60 per cent of agriculture is rain-fed, so the unpredictability of rains has a major impact: violent and sudden rainfall damages crops, washes away topsoil, destroys wadi banks and reduces the replenishment of aquifers. Worsening water scarcity in the highlands is already leading to population movements: when wells dry up, people first purchase water from tankers which travel increasingly long distances at higher and higher cost. When this water runs out or people can no longer afford it, they move to stay with relatives where water is still available, returning home after good rains when the wells have filled. Eventually they move permanently.

The year 2015 will be remembered in Yemen not only for the start of the war but also as a unique one climatically: the country suffered not one, but two unprecedented and extremely violent cyclones in November: Chapala brought hurricane force winds of over 120 km/h, with 610 mm of rain in 48 hours (seven times the annual average) and displaced some 45,000 people, causing massive destruction on the ecologically unique

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Socotra island and in Hadramaut and Shabwa governorates. Barely a week later, Cyclone Megh even reached the highlands in Ibb governorate.

Three of Yemen’s major cities (Hodeida, Aden and Mukalla) are on the coast and their populations are increasing rapidly. Alongside fisheries communities, the urban populations face the prospect of rising sea levels, which threaten all coastal structures from landing sites for fish to urban facilities. They must already cope with saline intrusion into their hinterland aquifers resulting from over-exploitation. Rural-urban conflicts over access to water have already emerged, the most notorious example being the city of Taiz where the crisis has been acute since the early 1990s. There, the 46 per cent of households connected to the urban network received water only once every 60 days in 2013! Surprisingly, desalination has barely featured in Yemeni planning to date. The only project remains on the drawing board: the construction of a pipeline from a privately-owned desalination plant near Mokha to supply domestic water for Taiz.

Although water is the major environmental challenge, Yemenis have to face others: only 3 per cent of the country’s land is suitable for agricultural use, and 3-5 per cent of this is lost annually to wind and wadi bank erosion. Archaeological sites which today are deep in the deserts (Mareb, Shabwa, Baraqish) were irrigated agricultural areas a few centuries ago. Erosion is intensifying desertification on the edges of the Rub’ al Khali desert. The resulting lower crop yields and production exacerbate the need to import staples commercially or through food aid.

Those most exposed and vulnerable to environmental hazards are the rural poor and the coastal populations as was demonstrated so vividly by cyclone Chapala. While Yemenis have proved their resilience for centuries, this is weakening for poor people who have no protective buffer either in the form of savings or in stronger bodies. It is always the poor who suffer first and most from disasters. The poverty rate was 54 per cent in the 2010s and is now vastly worsened because of the war, but its fundamental causes include earlier inappropriate state and international funding agencies’ development policies as well as the country’s aridity and climate stresses.

Addressing Yemen’s environmental challenges is an absolute priority. This demands effective measures by a strong state committed to the welfare of all its citizens and able to resist the pressures of those who have exploited the resources for their personal, immediate benefit. Yemen’s diminishing water resources must be managed with extreme care: jobs requiring the minimum possible water must be created, implying major improvements in the educational system to qualify people. Coastal cities and other areas need desalination programmes; coastal infrastructures must be adapted to cope with rising sea levels. In the highlands water management must prioritise basic human needs, followed by those of livestock; this is the only way to enable people to remain in these beautiful, scenic areas. About 90 per cent of Yemen’s water is used in agriculture. This must be significantly reduced and therefore irrigated agriculture must be severely restricted. High-value, rain-fed and drought-resistant crops must be developed for people to live off local resources.

Some experts predict that Yemen needs a generation to solve its political problems. Unfortunately, Yemenis cannot wait that long. If nothing is done, much of the country will have run out of water by then, thus dramatically reducing the area suitable for human habitation. If environmental issues are not addressed, what will happen to Yemen’s 45 million people in 2035? Will most of them force their way into Saudi Arabia and Oman?

This article draws from my recent work ‘Climate Change and Security: Major Challenges for Yemen’s Future’ which appears in the forthcoming book Climate Hazard Crises in Asian Societies and Environments (Routledge, 2017) edited by Troy Sternberg.

Helen Lackner studied Social Anthropology at SOAS and has been working in rural development for four decades, including 15 years in Yemen. She has published books and academic articles and is finalising work on Yemen in Crisis: Autocracy, Neoliberalism and the Disintegration of a State to be published later this year by Saqi.
The word ‘sunshine’ conjures images of good weather and great holiday destinations, especially for those living within the boundaries of cold, rainy and gloomy London. But for those concerned with climate change, ‘sunshine’ brings solar energy to mind. Oman, a country with one of the highest levels of solar irradiation worldwide, has great potential for solar energy generation. Yet the country is not currently using this valuable and abundant resource.

Like most of its neighbours, Oman’s energy industry, and consequently its economy, is heavily reliant on fossil fuels. Oil exports are the major contributor to the country’s economy and imported natural gas is starting to contribute to its national energy supply portfolio. Over 50 per cent of the country’s oil exports go to China; this means Oman’s economy is highly dependent on one country. A high per capita carbon emissions and a fossil fuel-dependent economy make finding alternative and clean energy sources necessary for Oman.

The residential sector is the largest consumer of electricity in Oman, due to its large cooling requirements and the cheap, highly subsidised price. Given the declining cost of solar photovoltaics (PV), adopting solar energy seems a promising option for satisfying the rising demand of Oman’s domestic sector. However, one of the major issues with solar PV systems is the mismatch between the timings of peak supply and peak demand (that is, during day time when the highest amount of solar energy is generated, electric energy consumption is not at its highest level). Therefore, energy storage is essential to balance energy supply and demand. This storage capacity can be provided through the use of electrochemical batteries such as lead-acid batteries. Alternatively, the solar PV system could be connected to the electricity grid. PV systems that use batteries to store any excess electricity produced for use at later times are known as ‘off-grid systems’ while PV systems connected to the grid are known as ‘grid-connected systems’. Given the pros and cons of solar PV, is it reasonable for Oman to increase the share of solar energy in its electricity supply by using off-grid or grid-connected solar PV systems?

Oman has a high household electricity consumption

Electricity consumption per household in Oman is estimated to be 42 MWh per year. This is among the highest values in the world, making the country’s electricity consumption only comparable to other countries in the region such as Kuwait at 40 MWh and Qatar at 31 MWh. Even if the number were 50 per cent lower than its current value, at 21 MWh, the
Increasing the electricity price to a level lower than photovoltaic-successful countries such as Germany and Spain can make grid-connected photovoltaic systems viable in Oman.

Increasing the electricity prices makes grid-connected systems economically justified in Oman

At the current low electricity tariffs, grid-connected systems in the residential sector are commercially unviable in Oman. However, increasing the electricity price to a level lower than PV-successful countries such as Germany and Spain can make grid-connected PV systems viable in Oman.

The current potential for off-grid systems in Oman is questionable

Similar to grid-connected systems, at the existing low electricity tariffs off-grid systems are economically unjustified. However, unlike grid-connected systems, increasing the price of electricity would not make off-grid systems economically attractive. Using financial instruments and incentives such as grants and loans, the government can encourage the adoption of off-grid systems. Nevertheless, the practicality of achieving off-grid status given the current high residential electricity demand is questionable. To put things into perspective, an individual lead-acid battery has a capacity of about 2.4 kWh and may weigh between 70 kg and 80 kg per kWh. In order for an Omani household to be completely off-grid, and therefore only depend on solar PV and batteries, a battery size of 340 kWh is needed. This is equivalent to 141 batteries with a total weight of 23,800 kg. Storing so many batteries is very difficult. In addition, the need to cool these batteries to ambient temperature would result in increased energy demands, making this option impractical.

One might think of using batteries with a higher energy capacity, such as lithium ion batteries. In that case, approximately 57 batteries are need, weighing about 1,900 kg. These numbers are still too unreasonable to make off-grid systems practical, especially when considering the fact that lithium ion batteries tend to be 2.5 to 3 times more expensive than lead-acid batteries. Furthermore, lithium itself is a non-renewable, finite product which makes this option less attractive in the long term.

Off-grid systems can become viable in Oman with decreased residential energy demand, technology improvements and smart policies

The current residential electricity demand in Oman needs to drop in order to decrease the battery size needed for an off-grid system. This would reduce the amount of solar PV needed for an off-grid system, resulting in a smaller system size and cost. In addition, future research could lead to the development of electricity storage technologies that have a higher energy capacity. This, in turn, could decrease the system’s overall size, cost and energy needed for cooling, making off-grid systems more practical. Although there are technical and economic barriers to the implementation of residential rooftop PV systems, Oman could benefit from smart policies that facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy through the successful implementation of renewable energy systems. Unfortunately, to date, no such policies exist.

Juman Al-Saqlawi is a Doctoral Researcher at the Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London. The focus of her current research is to further the understanding of the potential of implementing solar technologies in the Omani residential sector.

Kaveh Madani is a Reader in Systems Analysis and Policy Reader at the Centre for Environmental Policy of Imperial College London with expertise in sustainable water, environmental and energy planning and management.

Niall Mac Dowell leads the Clean Fossil and Bioenergy Research Group at Imperial College. He is a Senior Lecturer in Energy and Environmental Technology and Policy at Imperial College London, a member of the Centre for Process Systems Engineering and the Centre for Environmental Policy.
Fossil fuels have been the dominant global sources of energy production since the 19th century. The combustion of these fuels accounts for the majority of global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, making the overuse and sometimes unregulated consumption of fossil fuels culpable for the enormous growth of carbon dioxide emissions. Thus, the energy sector has become the area of focus for mitigating climate change.

The Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) is falling victim to the impacts of climate change. As global temperatures increase, more extreme climate conditions are expected in a region that is already the hottest and driest on the globe. MENA is faced with the increasing pressure of its rapidly growing populations with increasing energy demand. The MENA countries struggle to meet the demand of their growing population while maintaining their energy export income. Many of the countries in the region have fossil fuel-based economies that have been hurt by the decreasing price of fossil fuels in the world. Furthermore, the concentration of economic operations in coastal locations and the high dependence on climate-sensitive agricultural activities has made the region highly vulnerable to climate change.

Part of the solution is a shift away from the dominant use of fossil fuels to the widespread use of renewable technologies. However, up until now, the integration of renewables in the MENA region has been slow; only 6 per cent of MENA countries’ power is produced by renewables, and hydropower accounts for 80 per cent of that share. The abundance of fossil fuels in MENA and their low associated costs has rendered many countries in the region apathetic: there is little to no drive to increase their share of renewable energies mainly due to the associated economic burden. This has led to a lack of adequate renewable energy laws, credible targets and valid roadmaps for energy policies in the region.

Under the international pressure on governments to establish reduced carbon emissions, some MENA counties have announced renewable targets. Morocco is planning to increase its renewable target to 52 per cent by 2030, with a combination of solar, wind and hydropower. Saudi Arabia has recently set a target of 9.5 GW of renewables by 2023. Algeria has raised its renewable electricity production share to 27 per cent, using wind, photovoltaic, thermal solar energy and a combination of biomass, geothermal and cogeneration energies. Tunisia is aiming to generate 30 per cent of its electricity from renewables by 2030, using wind and solar energies. While some of these targets are too ambitious, they demonstrate a political will in the region to incorporate renewables in energy policy.

Furthermore, MENA benefits from specific climatic and geographic settings suitable for the implementation of some renewable energies, such as solar and wind power. These technologies are known to be some of the best-developed renewables. Technological growth and advancement has led to a reduction in cost and increased the efficiency of such technologies, especially in the case of solar energy. Nevertheless, recklessly increasing the share of renewable energies can lead to suboptimal outcomes unless such increases are well planned and monitored.

There is no ‘one size fits all’ solution when it comes to choosing renewable technologies. Maral Mahlooji, Ludovic Gaudard, Bora Ristic and Kaveh Madani offer an approach to help countries choose wisely.

Sustainable energy planning in MENA: a system of systems approach

Ibrahimyah Wind Power Plant, 80 km north of Amman, Jordan. Great wind power potential exists in the region which is not yet fully exploited. Photograph by Ymousa

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Only 6 per cent of MENA countries’ power is produced by renewables, and hydropower accounts for 80 per cent of that share.
technologies and assuming such moves would secure a sustainable energy mix is naïve.

The alarming risks and irreversible damages of climate change have put pressure on MENA governments to decarbonise their energy portfolios. To develop a sustainable energy mix, which aims to satisfy the growing demand of energy while minimising the impacts on natural resources, it is vital to study the nexus of energy, water, climate, land and economy, while addressing the relevant technological uncertainties. The ‘System of Systems’ (SoS) framework is appropriate for evaluating the desirability of different energy sources across the MENA region in order to provide an appropriate solution or a pathway to revise the existing, unsustainable energy policies. The SoS approach helps us understand the overall efficiency of resource-use by appraising the trade-offs between the levelised cost of energy and its carbon, water and land footprints. When these four criteria (or sustainability indicators) are considered, the SoS framework suggests that there is no absolute best or worst energy technology. Assuming equal weights for the four indicators, nuclear and wind-onshore are the most desirable energies; large-scale hydropower and biomass, both highly promoted renewable energies in the region, are actually among the least desirable, while Wind Offshore, Solar Photovoltaic and Concentrated Solar Power have a moderate desirability where their appeal is more sensitive to resource availability.

Though biomass (electricity generated from renewable organic waste) and hydropower are currently among the few exploited renewable technologies of the MENA region, according to the SoS framework both of these energies are outperformed by conventional resources (such as natural gas and even oil). Currently hydropower has the greatest share of renewables in the region. However hydropower offsets the efforts of decarbonisation with high carbon emissions and leaves an intense water footprint. Hydropower then is imprudent in such a water scarce region. Similarly, biomass is seen as an inappropriate energy option for MENA due to its large water footprint.

The implementation of sustainable energy solutions is mainly site-specific. There is no universal energy solution that can be applied to every country to achieve energy sustainability globally. Thus, the desirability of energy sources must be evaluated based on the resources available (economic power, water availability, land availability and carbon emissions budget) in each country. When the four evaluation criteria are weighted according to resource availability, the differences between states’ resource availabilities will determine which technology is preferred. Generally, nuclear, wind-onshore and geothermal are the most desirable energy resources across MENA states when regional availability is taken into consideration. The desirability of other renewable and non-renewable technologies varies across the region. For example, wave and tidal is more desirable in Iran, Saudi Arabia and Oman as these countries have better economic resources and are therefore less sensitive to the cost in comparison to other states.

When viewed through a holistic nexus based on the SoS approach, not all renewable technologies are beneficial and effective in securing a sustainable future. Renewable and non-renewable technologies can both be desirable depending on regional conditions. Thus, there is a need for an energy supply portfolio where, instead of dependence on one source of energy, a range of energy technologies, both renewable and non-renewable, with variable shares are selected. This makes it easier for each country to reform their policies and strategies to address global warming, maintain energy security, and reduce the unintended consequences and impacts on their natural resources. If the governments can see the far-reaching consequences of their decisions beyond the immediate monetary cost, they can analyse the risks and develop a unique and truly sustainable energy portfolio for their country.

Maral Mahlooji is a PhD student at the Centre for Environmental Policy of Imperial College London. Her research is focussed on developing a system of systems framework to assess the sustainability of energy technologies.

Ludovic Gaudard is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Centre for Environmental Policy of Imperial College London. His research focusses on the management of risk and uncertainty in energy systems,

Bora Ristic is a PhD student at the Centre for Environmental Policy of Imperial College London. His research is focussed on how regulations affect the adoption of environmental technologies in the water sector.

Kaveh Madani is a Reader in Systems Analysis and Policy Reader at the Centre for Environmental Policy of Imperial College London, with expertise in sustainable water, environmental and energy planning and management.
Not many regions in the world can illuminate the complexity of water management in a transboundary and developing system better than the Nile River Basin. The water management challenges in this system have led to the emergence of new hydro-political relations that have destabilised the existing regime in the Basin. This regime includes not only the formal regulatory framework that has evolved gradually in the last two centuries, but also a system of historical beliefs and social institutions that have influenced relations among the Nile Basin countries. To overcome current challenges, the contemporary regime – including its historical social components and its formal components – should be gradually changed.

Both countries believe in their superior rights to the Nile water. Historically, unlimited use of Nile water by Egyptians has instilled in them a belief in their rights to the Nile. Likewise, Ethiopians believe that they have supreme rights over the Nile because its main source is located in their territory. Moreover, although the Ethiopian Church has been installed since its establishment as a bishopric of the Egyptian Coptic Church of Alexandria, Ethiopian-Egyptian relations witnessed severe Nile-religious tensions in the Middle Ages when Egypt became a Muslim-majority country with a Christian minority and Ethiopia became a Christian-majority country with a Muslim minority. This religious tension was intertwined with repeated threats from Ethiopians in the Middle Ages stating they would prevent the Nile flow to Egypt. Although these threats have yet to be carried out (if they even could be), they have influenced mutual perceptions of the two nations. And the contention over hydrological and religious links between the two countries has been transmitted to modern times.

On the other hand, the Nile and religion have also played a positive/neutral role in relations between Egypt and the other riparian countries. Until the 20th century, Egypt was the main consumer of the waters of the Nile while Sudan was only able to develop limited, primitive agricultural areas. The absence of competition between Egypt and Sudan over the Nile has allowed the river to function as a major waterway for commercial trips from north to south.

The Nile management regime includes a formal regulatory framework that evolved gradually in the last two centuries, and also a system of historical beliefs and social institutions that have influenced relations among the Nile Basin countries. To overcome current challenges, the contemporary regime – including its historical social components and its formal components – should be gradually changed.

Ahmed Tayia, Antonio Ramos Barrado, Fernando Alonso Guinea and Kaveh Madani examine some of the historic cultural components that hinder cooperation in the Nile Basin.
The uncooperative interactions between the riparian countries, especially Egypt and Ethiopia, reflect conflicting historical beliefs regarding ownership of the river

south and vice versa. This has led to the development of various commercial and social links among the people who lived in these territories. In addition, the diffusion of Islam into the territories of Sudan in the 19th century added another cultural link between the two nations. Contacts between Egypt and East African countries are relatively recent compared with its ancient, historical relations with Sudan and Ethiopia. The lack of contact allowed these societies to avoid any historical complexities in developing their modern hydrological relations.

Although a complex pattern of beliefs has affected historical relations among the Nile countries, until the end of the 19th century it neither affected the Nile flow nor the distribution of benefits of Nile water among the riparian countries; the pattern of distribution was subject to the topographic, hydrologic and climatic conditions of the Nile Basin. Nonetheless, these beliefs affected the interactions between these countries during the establishment of the modern governance regime of the Nile.

The establishment of this regime began with the British colonisation of Egypt in 1882 and then of Sudan in 1899. This colonisation brought with it significant British interest in the agricultural sectors of Egypt and Sudan. Thus, Great Britain played the lead role in establishing a framework to regulate the distribution of water benefits in the Basin. This regulatory framework was developed in two phases. The first phase led to a series of treaties that aimed at establishing a legal regulation of the distribution of Nile water among the riparian countries. The second phase sought to establish a technical and legal system of regulating Nile water to increase the efficiency of its use.

The first phase began after the colonisation of Egypt, with extensive diplomatic efforts by Britain to set up a comprehensive formal regulatory structure for the Nile. To achieve this goal, three treaties were developed by Britain and different interested parties in 1891, 1902 and 1929. The treaties guaranteed British interest in securing the water requirements of Egypt and Sudan. By concluding these treaties, Britain succeeded in establishing a legal, binding regime for the distribution of Nile water among riparian countries.

The second phase started with a series of studies by Egyptian and British experts. Egypt sought to set up water conservation projects inside and outside its borders to increase the usable water of the Nile. Thus, in 1949, the Egyptian government and the British administration in Uganda signed a treaty by which Egypt provided Uganda financial and technical support to build a dam at Owen Falls with the goal of securing hydropower for Uganda and water storage for Egypt. In parallel, efforts were exerted to develop a similar treaty between Egypt and Ethiopia to build a dam on the mouth of Lake Tana, but the negotiations failed as both countries believed in their superior ownership rights over the Nile.

After independence, in 1956 Egypt initiated the High Dam project to increase the usable water of the Nile and to generate hydroelectricity. The resulting additional usable water was to be shared by Egypt and Sudan via an agreement signed in 1959. Reacting negatively to the High Dam project, Ethiopia asserted its sovereign rights over the Blue Nile originating in its territories. Similarly, when Ethiopia declared its intent in the late 1970s to construct a dam on the Blue Nile, Egypt's reaction was negative.

Although the current deadlock in cooperation in the Nile Basin is mainly blamed on the lack of a robust and binding legal framework, one must not overlook its cultural roots. The uncooperative interactions between the riparian countries, especially Egypt and Ethiopia, reflect conflicting historical beliefs regarding ownership of the river; and relations have deteriorated to the extent that they ignore the potential for win-win resolutions. Unless the prohibitive cultural and legal constraints are gradually addressed, Nile-related cooperation between the two countries will be always challenging.

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Antonio Ramos Barrado is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Business at The Complutense University of Madrid. His expertise is in economic development and international economics

Fernando Alonso Guinea is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Business at The Complutense University of Madrid. His expertise is in international economics and economic integration

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The Nile River delta at night. This photograph was taken by an astronaut of the Expedition 25 crew (NASA Photo ID: ISS025-E-9858)
Khettara: a traditional yet viable irrigation option

Water scarcity has always been a challenge for MENA countries. These days ‘virtual water’ – the water used to create the goods and services that we consume and use – plays an important role in the region. Among the strategies available to mitigate MENA’s environmental challenges and to overcome barriers to sustainable development, relying on indigenous methods that have passed the test of time seems a viable option. In this regard, khettara (also known as qanat in other parts of MENA) is a prime example.

Centuries-old khettaras are still used as a traditional yet reliable system of irrigation in many places, including Morocco. This piece uses a case study, depicted in more detail in a documentary film entitled Agbalalou – The Source of Water, to further discuss the importance of this ancient technique of tapping groundwater. Agbalalou is a short documentary that takes audiences to a small river oasis on the southern slopes of the High Atlas Mountains in the Todgha Valley in Morocco to survey traditional irrigation practices while raising some important questions about water security.

Khettaras first emerged in present-day Iran, but they have been adopted throughout the entire MENA region since the 7th century. In Morocco, Marrakesh was originally dependent upon khettaras for its water supply: 600 of them fed the city and their remnants can still be seen in Marrakesh Oasis.

A khettara is defined as a number of wells linked by an underground tunnel that conducts water originating from an underground source further downstream. Since the tunnel’s slope is always smaller than the terrain above, the tunnel comes to the surface after several kilometres, after which it serves the purpose of irrigation. Khettara management requires a lot of collective labour, managed by the village’s taqbil, a traditional council with a khettara chief, amghar, who guards the work.

Morocco is among the world’s top 20 groundwater-irrigating countries – and groundwater-irrigated agriculture has been the main means of achieving food security.
While khettaras are not viable on a national level, they are crucial for the livelihoods of oasis populations.

result, groundwater levels in the southern Moroccan oases decreased by more than 20 metres in the last 25 years. Khettaras can be considered a sustainable technology; being gravity-driven and dependent on groundwater levels, they cannot deplete aquifers. As land and water are scarce, elaborate systems of water rights have been developed over centuries, which have been both a source of conflict and cooperation.

In recent decades, many factors have contributed to the deterioration of khettaras. These include developments in public water networks (mainly the construction of dams), the use of flood irrigation systems and artesian wells to water non-traditional imports (a phenomenon SOAS was aware of in the 1990s thanks to the book Qanat, Kariz and Khattara edited by Peter Beaumont, Michael Bonine and Keith McLachlan), as well as women's land and water inheritance rights (which caused high fragmentation in agriculture). In addition, severe climatic changes (which brought about a series of droughts in the 1970s and from 1995 to 2005) and the increase in individual irrigation through water pumps have also had an impact. To keep people from overusing water, villagers must apply for a permit from the administration, although this is impossible to regulate, with many choosing to install their own pumps for domestic use without official authorisation.

While khettaras are not viable on a national level, they are crucial for the livelihoods of oasis populations. As a farmer from the village of Akdim told me: ‘As long as there is water in the khettara, our lives are saved. There is enough water for everyone in the village. We're happy to have what we have. We get little but we spend little and our expectations from life are not big. I own maybe 0.5ha of land altogether… it's scattered all over the village. I grow all I need for my family: wheat... vegetables and alfalfa for my donkey and cow. We have extra income from my work on the construction and my sons' work in the silver mine, plus [the village] gets money from France for work on the khettara, so we can earn extra money from the khettara and from their fields.’

Indeed, scholars and locals agree: the villages that maintain khettaras are small islands of prosperity; and Akdim is one of them. Since 2006, thanks to regular rain in southern Morocco, the recharge rate of aquifers is increasing. In the oasis of Tafilalet, east of Todgha, as water tables are rising, communities are acting collectively to restore khettaras. The traditional amghar is now working with the younger generation to maintain the irrigation system. This new increase in the villages' hydraulic system allows for the resurrection of oasis agriculture and engages young, internal, rural-urban returned migrants who experienced unemployment.

As stated by Professor Thierry Ruf in the film, 'The only reason why khettaras are still functioning is because of the restrictions placed by the local community, which prevented conditions from worsening. They have prevented the use of water pumps and urbanisation in the catchment areas.' Certainly, farmers in the region are facing challenges, but the khettaras are places where people come to rebuild a feeling of solidarity. For several centuries, these societies have survived, overcome crises and re-formed their institutions, created shared rules and engaged in joint efforts, which have translated into the creation of a local identity. Therefore, not surprisingly, the community of Akdim receives a regular flow of remittances from their counterparts in Montpellier, who fundraise regularly towards the salaries of khettara workers back home.

There is something to be learned from the simple, supposedly 'uneducated' farmers in the village of Akdim: the precise engineering of khettaras and the hard labour behind it combined with the management and collective efforts to sustain it bear relevance to the rest of the MENA region (and anywhere else in the world). As it is essential to establish a ‘protection’ perimeter around the catchment area of khettaras in the village of Akdim, similar restrictions ought to be established on regional and national levels to prevent the over extraction of water. Not only is a technological transformation needed but, more importantly, a deep organisational restructuring is imperative. As the khettaras form a unique system of water mobilisation based on a strong local identity and feelings of solidarity, it could be possible to draw on the region's cultural and historic heritage to preserve its natural environment.

In the end, it all comes down to daily choices: living simple lives, pooling resources, sharing, helping each other – even from abroad – and thinking more carefully about our food consumption and consumerism. Although in the long run, the khettara is not a solution, there are a lot of lessons we can learn from the farmers in Akdim.

SOAS alumna Anna Sowa is the Co-founder of Chouette Films which draws stories from the third sector and the world of academia and merges them with the creative world to bring them to a wider audience. She is also a PhD candidate at the LFS/University of Exeter.

Barhali, Chief khettara maintenance manager, Akdim, 2013. Photograph by Chouette Films.
Democratic Transitions in the Arab World

Edited by Ibrahim Elbadawi and Samir Makdisi

In the wake of the unprecedented uprisings that swept across North Africa and the Middle East in late 2010 and 2011, there was much speculation that these events heralded the beginning of a new age of democratic transition across the region. The result of a four-year research project, this book offers a cross-country analysis of the dynamics of democratic transition and of the state of democracy and authoritarianism from Tunisia, Sudan and Egypt to Syria, Kuwait and Lebanon. Elbadawi and Makdisi identify specific economic, political and social conditions influencing the transition across the region and in each of the individual countries, as well as the requisite conditions for consolidating democracy once the process is initiated.


Lebanon and the Arab Uprisings: In the Eye of the Hurricane

Edited by Maximilian Felsch and Martin Wählisch

The Arab uprisings have put Lebanon under increased strain. While the revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt caused limited reverberations, the war in Syria echoed in the fine-tuned political and confessional balance of Lebanon. Over one million refugees, equal to one-quarter of Lebanon's population, have moved in from Syria. The country's economy and its already weak public infrastructure have been impacted heavily. Hizbullah's engagement in Syria has posed questions about Lebanon's disassociation policy. Terrorist attacks by ISIL and the growing risk of radicalisation across the confessional spectrum have left the country in a state of unease. This book provides a comprehensive overview of the current situation in Lebanon, and a detailed assessment of the difficulties which the country is currently facing.

June 2016, Routledge, £34.99 (eBook)

A Life in Middle East Studies

By Roger Owen

Roger Owen's first encounter with the Middle East was as a young soldier during his national military service in Cyprus from 1955-6. During this time, he visited Cairo, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Beirut before deciding to spend the rest of his academic and professional life at Oxford and Harvard Universities, where he taught, studied, made friends and tried to understand the region via its politics, economic life, history and popular culture. He decided to keep an almost daily journal recording his thoughts and feelings, and beginning in 1986 he was asked to write a regular op-ed column for the London and then Beirut-based Arabic newspaper Al-Hayat. This memoir is an attempt to record and to make sense of a life spent studying a culture very different from his own.

2016, Tadween Publishing, £15.46
Gateways to the World: Port Cities in the Persian Gulf
Edited by Mehran Kamrava

The Persian Gulf region has become home to some of the world’s fastest growing cities, many of them with global aspirations. Gateways to the World presents an in-depth, systematic, and multi-disciplinary approach to the study of these cities. It begins with a broader look at how the emergence and significance of cities along the Persian Gulf waterway should be contextualised. It then moves to historical examinations of the emergence of national borders and boundaries, how they became ‘port cities’ of various kinds, the semantics of studying them, and the meaning the glittering cityscapes and their remaining traditional neighbourhoods hold for the international political economy and for the identity of their residents. This book presents a comprehensive study of the nature and variety, the importance, and the domestic and international consequences of port cities along the Persian Gulf.

December 2016, Hurst, £25.00

Economic Welfare and Inequality in Iran: Developments since the Revolution
Edited by Mohammad Reza Farzanegan and Pooya Alaedini

This book examines economic inequality and social disparity in Iran, together with their drivers, over the past four decades. During this period, income distribution and economic welfare were affected by the 1979 Revolution, the eight-year war with Iraq, post-war privatisation and economic liberalisation initiatives carried out under the Rafsanjani and Khatami administrations, the ascendance of a populist economic platform under the Ahmadinejad administration, and the lifting of energy and financial sanctions under the Rouhani administration. Featuring a mix of scholars, including Iranian academics who experienced these changes and are publishing in English for the first time, this collection offers quantitative and descriptive studies of the country’s post-revolutionary economic development and disparities.

2016, Palgrave Macmillan, £86.00

Classical Poems by Arab Women: A Bilingual Anthology
Edited by Abdullah al-Udhari

Arab women poets have been around since the earliest of times, yet their diwans (collected poems) were not given the same consideration as their male counterparts’. Spanning 7,000 years, from the pre-Islamic to the Andalusian periods, Classical Poems by Arab Women presents rarely seen work by over fifty women writers for the first time. From the sorrowful eulogies of Khansa to the gleeful scorn of Wallada bint al-Mustakfi, this collection exclusively features the work of Arab women who boldly refused to be silenced. The poems are excursions into their vibrant world whose humanity has been suppressed for centuries by religious and political bigotry. With poems in both English and Arabic, this remarkable anthology celebrates feminine wit and desire, and shows the significant contribution Arab women made to the literary tradition.

January 2017, Saqi Books, £12.99
Today’s Turkey little resembles that of recent decades. Newfound economic prosperity has had many unexpected social and political repercussions, most notably the rise of the AKP and President Erdogan. Despite unprecedented electoral popularity, the conduct of the AKP has faced growing criticism: Turkey has yet to solve its Kurdish question; its foreign policy is increasingly fraught as it balances relations with Iran, Israel, Russia and the EU; and widespread protests gripped the country in 2013, as did an unsuccessful coup in 2016. Has this once promising democracy descended into a tyranny of the majority led by a charismatic leader? Is Turkey more polarised now than at any point in its recent history? These are among the questions at the heart of *The New Turkey and Its Discontents*.

November 2016, Hurst, £14.99

A new and innovative form of dissent has emerged in response to the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Dubbed ‘electronic jihad,’ this approach has seen organised groups of Palestinian hackers make international headlines by breaching the security of such sites as the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, AVG, Avira, Whatsapp and BitDefender. Though initially confined to small clandestine groups, ‘hacktivism’ is now increasingly being adopted by militant Palestinian parties, including Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, who have gone so far as to incorporate hackers into their armed brigades. *Digital Jihad* is the first book to explore this rapidly evolving and still little understood aspect of the Palestinian resistance movement. Drawing on extensive interviews with hackers and other activists, it provides a unique and fascinating new perspective on the Palestinian struggle.


“Constantinople in those days represented the bridge between East and West. The navel of the earth. A wondrous and fascinating place to live.” Victor Eskenazi, a Sephardic Jew from Constantinople, represented an ethnic and religious minority that thrived in the Ottoman Empire. The beginning of the 20th century was a critical period in Ottoman history, which saw the end of the Empire, defeat in WWI but also a colourful influx of victorious allied armies and White Russians fleeing the Revolution, contributing to the already cosmopolitan nature of the city. Eskenazi breathed the complex air of this budding new Turkey, with its ideals, contradictions and hopes. His memoir, which begins in Constantinople and travels across Europe during and after WWII tells the remarkable story of a family, poignantly capturing a moment in time which now exists only in memory.

April 2016, IB Tauris, £17.99
FEBRUARY EVENTS

Wednesday 1 February
5:00 pm | Journalism Cultures in Egypt and Lebanon: Role Perceptions, Practices and Ethics (Seminars) Zahera Harb (City University). Organised by: Centre for Media Studies, School of Arts, SOAS. Admission free. Room G3, SOAS. E sb127@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/media-studies/events/

Thursday 2 February
6:00 pm | Understanding Protest Environments beyond Opportunity and Threat (Lecture) John Chalcraft (LSE). Organised by: Department of Middle Eastern Studies (DMES), King’s College London. Chalcraft presents an alternative to conventional social movement theorising on political opportunity. A political extension of Gramsci’s writings on hegemony provides the conceptual framework. Research on movements in the MENA provide the main empirical base. Chair: Mayssoun Sukarieh (King’s College London). Admission free. Council Room (K2.29), King’s Building, King’s College London, Strand Campus, London WC2 2LS. E dmes@kcl.ac.uk W www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/sga/mems/events/events.aspx

Monday 6 February
6:00 pm | Monks, Magi and Mosques: Religion along the Silk Road (Lecture) Bishop Michael Nazir Ali. Organised by: Brunei Gallery, SOAS in conjunction with the London Middle East Institute (LMEI). SOAS. Lecture to coincide with the exhibition Embroidered Tales and Woven Dreams (see Exhitions p. 34). Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali is the President of the Oxford Centre for Training, Research, Advocacy and Dialogue (OXTRAD) and is the author of several books. Admission free. Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS. T 020 7898 4046 E gallery@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/lmei/events/

Friday 3 February
1:15 pm | From Development to Abandonment: An Analysis of the Evolution of Food Aid Practices in Sudan (Forum) Susanne Jaspars (SOAS Food Studies Centre). Admission free. Room 4426, SOAS. E jk2@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/foodstudies/forum/seminarfilm/


Tuesday 7 February
4.30 pm | Opportunities and Challenges for Young Female Entrepreneurs in Saudi Arabia (Lecture) Sara Alsarheef (Royal Holloway University of London). Organised by: LSE Kuwait Programme. Although Saudi women entrepreneurs are limited in movement, choices, and obliged to follow family rules, Alsarheef’s research shows that these women are still able to advance their careers within this framework. Chair: Courtney Frer (LSE Kuwait Programme). Admission free. Pre-registration required. Room 9.04, 9th Floor, Tower 2, Clement’s Inn, LSE. T 020 7955 6639 E i.sinclair@lse.ac.uk W www.lse.ac.uk/middleEastCentre/kuwait/

5:45 pm | Inter-Ethnic Marriages in a Divided Society: Palestinian-Jewish Families in Israel (Lecture) Maha Karkabi-Sabbah (Tel-Aviv University and Bar-Ilan University). Organised for full details please contact assistant@cbrl.org.uk W http://cbrl.org.uk/
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Dr Adam Hanieh
E: ah92@soas.ac.uk

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by: London Middle East Institute, SOAS (LMEI) and the Centre for Palestine Studies. Based on in-depth interviews Karkabi-Sabbah looks at how women in mixed families cope with the husband’s different culture, ethnicity and religion and whether Palestinian women cope with the husband’s different culture, ethnicity and religion differently than the Jewish women do. Part of the LMEI’s Tuesday Evening Lecture Programme on the Contemporary Middle East. Admission free. Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Paul Webley Wing (Senate House), SOAS. T 020 7898 4330/4490 E vp6@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/lmei/events/

6:00 pm | Labour Mobilization in Egypt after the 25th January Revolution (Lecture) Christopher Barrie (University of Oxford). Organised by: Department of Middle Eastern Studies (DMES), King’s College London. In the context of Egypt in the year of the 25th January Revolution Barrie addresses the value of understanding labour protest and strikes not as delimited domains of action but as parts of a wider universe of contentious politics. Chair: Michael Farquhar (King’s College London). Admission free. Nash Lecture Theatre (K2.31), King’s College London, Strand Campus, London WC2R 2LS. E dmes@kcl.ac.uk W www.kcl.ac.uk sspp/sga/mems/events/events.aspx

7:00 pm | Centenary Lecture: Claudia Roden, Food Writer and Author (Lecture) Organised by: SOAS. Join critically acclaimed food writer Claudia Roden for a talk about her own experiences researching food. Claudia Roden is the author of ten popular and critically-acclaimed cookery books. Admission free. Pre-registration required. Brunei Lecture Theatre, SOAS. T 020 7898 4054 E centenary@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/centenary/centenary-events/

7:00 pm | Architecture as Archive: Indian and Islamic Connections in Medieval Ethiopian Monuments (Lecture) Finbarr Barry Flood (William R Kenan Jr. Professor of the Humanities; Professor of Art History, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies; Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York). Organised by: SOAS in conjunction with the London Middle East Institute (LMEI), SOAS. Sponsoring by the Khalili Family. The Hadassah and Daniel Khalili Memorial Lecture in Islamic Art and Culture. Chair: Scott Redford (SOAS). Followed by a reception. Admission free. Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS. T 07714087480 E rosalindhaddon@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/islac/

Wednesday 8 February

6:00 pm | Gender Equality and the Quest for Statehood in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (Lecture) Zeynep Kaya. Organised by: LSE Middle East Centre. Kaya discusses why the mainstreaming of women’s rights in policy and law is more advanced in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) than in Iraq as a whole. Admission free. Pre-registration required. Room 9.04, 9th Floor, Tower 2, Clement’s Inn, LSE. T 020 7955 6198 E s.sfeir@lse.ac.uk W www.lse.ac.uk/middleEastCentre/

7:00 pm | Centenary Lecture: Claudia Roden, Food Writer and Author (Lecture) Organised by: SOAS. Join critically acclaimed food writer Claudia Roden for a talk about her own experiences researching food. Claudia Roden is the author of ten popular and critically-acclaimed cookery books. Admission free. Pre-registration required. Brunei Lecture Theatre, SOAS. T 020 7898 4054 E centenary@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/centenary/centenary-events/

7:00 pm | Architecture as Archive: Indian and Islamic Connections in Medieval Ethiopian Monuments (Lecture) Finbarr Barry Flood (William R Kenan Jr. Professor of the Humanities; Professor of Art History, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies; Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York). Organised by: SOAS in conjunction with the London Middle East Institute (LMEI), SOAS. Sponsoring by the Khalili Family. The Hadassah and Daniel Khalili Memorial Lecture in Islamic Art and Culture. Chair: Scott Redford (SOAS). Followed by a reception. Admission free. Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS. T 07714087480 E rosalindhaddon@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/islac/

Thursday 9 February

1:15 pm | The Library of Ashurbanipal, King of the World (Gallery Talk) Jonathan Taylor (BM). Organised by: BM. Admission free. Room 55, BM. T 020 7323 8299 E info@britishmuseum.org W www.britishmuseum.org

Saturday 11 February

7:30 pm | Hamza Namira – Honesty meets Audacity (Concert) Organised by: Marsm and sponsored by Alaraby TV Network. Doors open 7:30pm. Concert with the Egyptian composer, singer, and guitarist Hamza Namira. Described as the “new Sayed Darwish”, Hamza Namira is one of the most celebrated faces of modern Arabic music. Tickets: £25.00/£22.50. W www.eventbrite.co.uk Logan Hall, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL. E info@marsm.co.uk W http://marsm.co.uk/

Sunday 12 February

11:00 am | Digital Workshop: Amazing Animal Mummies Organised by: BM. Admission free. Samsung Centre, BM. T 020 7323 8299 E info@britishmuseum.org W www.britishmuseum.org

Monday 13 February

6:00 pm | The Splendid Suzanis of Central Asia (Lecture) Caroline Stone. Organised by: Brunei Gallery, SOAS in conjunction with the London Middle East Institute (LMEI), SOAS. Lecture to coincide with the exhibition Embroidered Tales and Woven Dreams (see Exhibitions p. 34). Caroline Stone has a long standing interest in textiles and between 1990 and 2000 she kept a shop selling antique textiles and lace in Seville, organised several exhibitions and wrote books on North African embroideries and Chinese shawls. Admission free. Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS. T 020 7898 4046 E gallery@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/lmei/events/

Tuesday 14 February

6:00 pm | What Can Theories of Contentious Politics Tell Us about the “Arab Spring”, and Vice Versa? (Lecture) Eitan Alimi (Hebrew University). Organised by: Department of Middle Eastern Studies (DMES), King’s College London. Alimi makes a case for the utility of the Contentious Politics research program—particularly its relational orientation—for fleshing out similarities between Arab and non-Arab episodes of popular contention. Chair: Stacey Gutkowski (King’s College London). Admission free. Anatomy Lecture Theatre (King’s Building), King’s College London, Strand Campus, London WC2R 2LS. E dmes@kcl.ac.uk W www.kcl.ac.uk/centenary-events/events.aspx
TUESDAY LECTURE PROGRAMME ON THE CONTEMPORARY
MIDDLE EAST SPRING 2017

7 February
Inter-Ethnic Marriages in a Divided Society: Palestinian-Jewish Families in Israel
Maha Karkaby Sabah (Tel-Aviv University and Bar-Ilan University)
Organised jointly with the Centre for Palestine Studies

14 February
Reading Week

21 February
The Palestinian Novel: From 1948 to the Present
Bashir Abu-Manneh (University of Kent)
Organised jointly with the Centre for Palestine Studies and the SOAS Palestine Society
Sponsored by Librarians and Archivists with Palestine (LAP)

28 February
The Importance of Marmaduke Pickthall
Peter Clark (formerly British Council)

7 March
Prozak Diaries: Psychiatry and Generational Memory in Iran
Orkideh Behrouzan (King's College London)
Organised jointly with the Centre for Iranian Studies

14 March
One and a Half Coup D'états: Politics of Fear in Erdogan’s Turkey
Mehmet Kurt (International State Crime Initiative (ISCI), Queen Mary University of London)

21 March
Lecture TBC
Cilja Harders (Free University of Berlin)
Organised jointly with the Centre for Gender Studies

25 April
Hadhramaut and its Diaspora: Yemeni Politics, Identity and Migration
Organised jointly with the Hadhramaut Research Centre

2 May
'The Commander', a political biography of Fawzi al-Qawuqji
Laila Parsons (McGill University)

TUESDAYS 5:45 PM
Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Paul Webley Wing (Senate House), SOAS
The Lectures are free and open to all.

For further information contact:
London Middle East Institute, SOAS University of London, MBI Al Jaber Building, 21 Russell Square,
London WC1B 5EA. T: 020 7898 4330 E lmei@soas.ac.uk W: www.soas.ac.uk/lmei/
Wednesday 15 February

6:30 pm | After the Revolutions: Arab Memory and Bewilderness (Lecture) Hisham Matar. Organised by: BRISMES in association with the London Middle East Institute, SOAS (LMEI), BRISMES Annual Lecture. Matar will offer a literary response to the present, reflecting on the seismic shifts experienced in the Arab region. He will be looking back, as well as casting forward towards shared yearnings for the future, the hopes and fears it engenders, and what this might reveal about the current imagination. Followed by a reception. Admission free. Pre-registration required W www.eventbrite.co.uk Alumni Lecture Theatre, Paul Webley Wing (Senate House), SOAS. T 020 7955 6553 E emma.pearson@brismes.org W www.soas.ac.uk/lmei/events/

7:00 pm | In the Picture: Not Far from the Black Flag (Talk) Organised by: Frontline Club and the Czech Centre London. From Mosul to Kirkuk, Sinjar, Kobani, North Syria, and elsewhere, Czech photojournalists Lekka Klicperová and Jarmila Štuková have been working tirelessly to document the fight against Daesh and capture individual experiences of civilians affected by conflict. Klicperová and Štuková share their recent work and discuss their experiences as female photojournalists working in Iraq and Syria. Tickets: £12.50/£10 conc. Frontline Club, 13 Norfolk Place, London W2 1QJ. T 020 7479 8940 E events@frontlineclub.com W www.frontlineclub.com

7:00 pm | The Iran-Iraq war as seen in Iranian films (Lecture) Kaveh Abbasian. Organised by: The Iran Society. Doors open 6:30pm. Admission free for Society Members plus one guest. Pre-booking required. Pall Mall Room, The Army & Navy Club, 36-39 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JN (Dress code calls for gentlemen to wear jacket and tie). T 020 7235 5122 E info@iranociety.org W www.iranociety.org / www.therag.co.uk

Tuesday 21 February

1:15 pm | The Safavids of Iran and Their Neighbours (Gallery Talk) Vesta Curtis (BM). Organised by: BM. Admission free. Room 68, BM. T 020 7323 8299 E info@britishmuseum.org W www.britishmuseum.org

5:45 pm | The Palestinian Novel: From 1948 to the Present (Lecture) Bashir Abu-Manneh (University of Kent). Organised by: London Middle East Institute, SOAS (LMEI), Centre for Palestine Studies and the SOAS Palestine Society. Sponsored by: Librarians and Archivists with Palestine (LAP). Lecture by Bashir Abu-Manneh on the subject of his book The Palestinian Novel: From 1948 to the Present (Cambridge University Press, 2016). What happens to the Palestinian novel after the national dispossession of the nakba, and how do Palestinian novelists respond to this massive crisis? Part of the LMEI's Tuesday Evening Lecture Programme on the Contemporay Middle East. Admission free. Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Paul Webley Wing (Senate House), SOAS. T 020 7898 4330/4490 E vp6@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/lmei/events/

Thursday 16 February

1:15 pm | Decorative Arts in Iran (Gallery Talk) Roberta Marin (Independent Speaker). Organised by: BM. Admission free. Room 34, BM. T 020 7323 8299 E info@britishmuseum.org W www.britishmuseum.org

5:45 pm | The European Discovery of Medieval Egypt (Lecture) Doris Behrens-Abouseif (SOAS). Organised by: MBI Al Jaber Foundation. Part of the MBI Al Jaber Foundation Lecture Series. Admission free. Pre-registration required. MBI Al Jaber Seminar Room, London Middle East Institute, SOAS, MBI Al Jaber Building, 21 Russell Square, London WC1B 5EA. E info@mbifoundation.com W www.mbifoundation.com

Wednesday 22 February

6:00 pm | Turquoise Tiles & Arabesque Curves (Lecture) Sussan Babaie (The Courtauld Institute of Art, University of Edinburgh). Organised by: Brunel Gallery, SOAS in conjunction with the London Middle East Institute (LMEI), SOAS. Lecture to coincide with the exhibition Embroidered Tales and Woven Dreams (see Exhibitions p. 34). Sussan Babaie is Reader in the Arts of Iran and Islam at The Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London. She has taught widely including at the University of Michigan and the Ludwig-Maximillian University in Munich. Admission free. Brunel Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS. T 020 7898 4046 E gallery@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/lmei/events/

Monday 20 February

6:15 pm | Categorisation of Mesopotamian texts: Terms and tablets (Seminar) Babette Schnitzlein (Warburg Institute). Organised by: The London Centre for the Ancient Near East. Admission free. Room B102, Brunel Gallery, SOAS. E mw41@soas.ac.uk W http://banelcane.org/ICANE/

7:00 pm | A Night of Coexistence & Music - David Broza and Mira Awad (Concert) Famous Israeli arab singer Mira Awad. Tickets: £3 and include sushi + 1 drink of choice at the bar. Venue TBC. W www.facebook.com/events/1323323171069290/

Friday 24 February

6:15 pm | Koudelka: Shooting Holy Land + Q&A (Documentary) Organised by: Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) and the Czech Centre. Dir Gilad Baram (2015), Germany/Czech Republic, 72 mins. Forty years after capturing the iconic images of the Soviet invasion of Prague in 1968, Magnum photographer, Josef Koudelka, arrives in Israel and Palestine. On first seeing the nine-meter-high wall built by Israel in the West Bank, Koudelka is deeply shaken and embarks on a four-year project in the region which will confront him once again with the harsh reality of violence and conflict. Tickets: £7 - £11. Cinema 1, ICA, 12 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH. T 020 7930 3647 E info@ica.org.uk W www.ica.org.uk

7:00 pm | Homeland Is... (Performance) Organised by: A M Qattan Foundation. Improvised sound performance "Homeland is..." by Asma Ghanem which seeks to render audible the stagnation in, and disillusionsment with, the Oslo peace process. Ghanem was shortlisted and won the Third Prize in the Young Artist of the Year Award 2016 (Pattern Recognition see Exhibitions p.
Saturday 25 February

11:00 am | SOAS Centenary Event - Celebrating Palestine
Organised by: Centre for Palestine Studies, SOAS. As part of SOAS Centenary celebrations a special cultural day focused on Palestine. Admission free. (Evening concert ticketed TBC). Brunei Suite and Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS. T 020 7898 4330 E vp6@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/lmei-cps/events/

1:15 pm | Nubian Pharaohs and Kings of Assyria (Gallery Talk) George Hart (independent speaker). Organised by: BM. Admission free. Room 65, BM. E info@britishmuseum.org W www.britishmuseum.org

Monday 27 February

5:45 pm | The City as Anthology: Visualizing Cultures of Literacy in Early Modern Isfahan (Seminar) Kathryn Babayan (University of Michigan). Organised by: Department of History, SOAS. Near and Middle East History Seminar. Admission free. Room B104, Brunei Gallery, SOAS. E rf26@soas.ac.uk / dm40@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/history/events/nmehistseminar/

6:00 pm | Democratic Transitions in the Arab World (Panel Discussion) Samir Maksoudi (American University of Beirut), Ibrahim El-Badawi (The Economic Research Forum for the Arab World, Iran & Turkey), Noha El-Mikawy (Ford Foundation). Organised by: London Middle East Institute, SOAS (LMEI). Panel discussion to mark the publication of Democratic Transitions in the Arab World (Cambridge University Press, 2017), edited by Ibrahim Elbadawi and Samir Maksoudi. The panel will address the dynamics of transition in the Arab world and the conditions for its success along with the factors underlying the Arab region’s long resistance to democracy. Chair: Hassan Hakimian (LMEI). Admission free. Alumni Lecture Theatre, Paul Webley Wing (Senate House), SOAS. T 020 7898 4330/4490 E vp6@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/lmei/events/

Tuesday 28 February

3:30 pm | Determining the Origin of Asylum Claimants through Language Analysis: The case of Arabic (Seminar) Chris Lucas (SOAS). Organised by: Department of Linguistics, SOAS. Admission free. Room S312, Paul Webley Wing (Senate House), SOAS. E cl39@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/linguistics/events/

4:30 pm | The Evolving Role of the Gulf States in the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict (Seminar) Suliman Al-Atiqi (University of Oxford). Organised by: LSE Kuwait Programme. As the Gulf states were not key belligerents in the Arab-Israeli wars, they have received far less research and media attention in the conflict. However, in recent years Saudi Arabia and Qatar have emerged as active players in mediation efforts. Chair: Courtney Freer (LSE Kuwait Programme). Admission free. Room 304, 6th Floor, Tower 2, Clement’s Inn, LSE. T 020 7955 6639 E i.sinclair@lse.ac.uk W www.lse.ac.uk/middleEastCentre/kuwait/

5:45 pm | The Importance of Marmaduke Pickthall (Lecture) Peter Clark (formerly British Council). Organised by: London Middle East Institute, SOAS (LMEI). Marmaduke Pickthall (1875-1936) is best known as a translator of the Holy Koran, but he was also a successful novelist, praised by E M Forster and D H Lawrence. Forgotten for two generations, he has been enjoying a revival. Peter Clark’s book on...
An intensive five-week programme which includes a choice of two courses: a language one (Persian or Arabic, the latter at two levels) and another on the 'Government and Politics of the Middle East' or 'Culture and Society in the Middle East'.

Beginners Persian (Level 1)
This is an introductory course which aims to give the students a reasonable grounding in the basics of Persian grammar and syntax as well as to enable them to understand simple and frequently used expressions related to basic language use. They will be able to hold uncomplicated conversations on topics such as personal and family information, shopping, hobbies, employment as well as simple and direct exchanges of information related to familiar topics. By the end of the course they will also progress to read simple short texts.

Beginners Arabic (Level 1)
This is an introductory course in Modern Standard Arabic. It teaches students the Arabic script and provides basic grounding in Arabic grammar and syntax. On completing the course, students should be able to read, write, listen to and understand simple Arabic sentences and passages. This course is for complete beginners and does not require any prior knowledge or study of Arabic.

Beginners Arabic (Level 2)
This course is a continuation of Beginners Arabic Level 1. It completes the coverage of the grammar and syntax of Modern Standard Arabic and trains students in reading, comprehending and writing with the help of a dictionary more complex Arabic sentences and passages.

To qualify for entry into this course, students should have already completed at least one introductory course in Arabic.

Government and Politics of the Middle East
This course provides an introduction to the politics of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. It gives an overview of the major political issues and developments in the region since the end of the First World War and addresses key themes in the study of contemporary Middle East politics, including: the role of the military, social and economic development, political Islam, and the recent uprisings (the 'Arab Spring').

Culture and Society in the Middle East
This course examines the major cultural patterns and institutions of the MENA region. It is taught through a study of some lively topics such as religious and ethnic diversity, impact of the West, stereotyping, the role of tradition, education (traditional and modern), family structure and value, gender politics, media, life in city, town and village, labour and labour migration, the Palestinian refugee problem and Arab exile communities, culinary cultures, music and media, etc.

Timetable
Courses are taught Mon-Thu each week. Language courses are taught in the morning (10am-1pm) and the Politics and Culture Courses are taught in two slots in the afternoon (2:00-3:20 and 3:40-5:00pm).

FEES
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Session (5 weeks)</th>
<th>Programme fee*</th>
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<tr>
<td>19 June-20 July 2017 (two courses)</td>
<td>£2,700</td>
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<td>(one course)</td>
<td>£1,400</td>
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* An early bird discount of 10% applies to course fees before 30 April 2017. A discount of 15% applies to SOAS alumni and 20% to SOAS students.

For more information, please contact Louise Hosking on LH2@soas.ac.uk. Or check our website www.soas.ac.uk/lmei
him, first published in 1986, was reissued and also translated into Arabic in 2015, and two other books have recently been published about him. Part of the LMEI’s Tuesday Evening Lecture Programme on the Contemporary Middle East. Admission free. Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Paul Webley Wing (Senate House), SOAS. T 020 7898 4330/4490 E vp6@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/lmei/events/

6:00 pm | Understanding the Political Economy of Violence in the Middle East (Lecture) Aedel Malik (University of Oxford). Organised by: Department of Middle Eastern Studies (DMES), King’s College London. Chair: Neil Ketcheley (King’s College London). Admission free. Anatomy Lecture Theatre (King’s Building), King’s College London, Strand Campus, University of London WC2R 2LS. E dmes@kcl.ac.uk W www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/sga/mems/events/events.aspx

7:30 pm | Elif Shafak: Three Daughters of Eve (Talk) Organised by: Southbank Centre. Hear author Elif Shafak discuss her novel The Three Daughters of Eve and the themes it explores, from the collision of tradition and modernity, to feminism and Islam. Following the story of three female friends, the novel ranges from Istanbul to Oxford, from the early days of their friendship to the repercussions of betrayal. Tickets: £8 (50% off conc.). Level 5 Function Room, Green side, Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX. T 020 7896 4200 W www.southbankcentre.co.uk

EVENTS OUTSIDE LONDON

Friday 3 February

5:00 pm | The Conflict in Yemen (Seminar) Rafat Al-Akhal (Blavatnik School of Government), Nawal Al-Maghafi (BBC Arabic) and Helen Lackner (St Antony’s College). Organised by: Middle East Centre, Oxford. Admission free. Investcorp Lecture Theatre, St Antony’s College, 68 Woodstock Road, University of Oxford, Oxford OX2 6JF. T 01865 284700 E mec@sant.ox.ac.uk W www.sant.ox.ac.uk/research-centres/middle-east-centre

Tuesday 7 March

5:15 pm | Putting Gender at the Centre: The Feminist Turn in the Kurdish Political Movement (Seminar) Nadje Al-Ali (SOAS) and Latif Ali (SOAS). Organised by: LSE Middle East Centre. Part of the Social Movements and Popular Mobilisation in the MENA Research Network. Al-Ali and Ali present their paper on ‘the Feminist Turn in the Kurdish Political Movement’, in which they critically explore the attempts by political activists and elected representatives of the Kurdish political movement in south-eastern Turkey (northern Kurdistan) to challenge patriarchal and masculinist ideology and practises. Admission free. Pre-registration required. Room 9.04, 9th Floor, Tower 2, Clement’s Inn, LSE. T 020 7955 6198 E s.sfeir@lse.ac.uk W www.lse.ac.uk/middleEastCentre/

5:45 pm | Prozak Diaries: Psychiatry and Generational Memory in Iran (Lecture) Orkideh Behrouzian (King’s College London). Organised by: London Middle East Institute, SOAS (LMEI) and the Centre for Iranian Studies. Lecture by Behrouzian on the subject of her book Prozak Diaries: Psychiatry and Generational Memory in Iran (Stanford University Press, 2016) in which she examines a cultural shift in how people interpret and express their feelings states, by adopting the language of psychiatry, and shows how experiences that were once articulated in the richly layered poetics of the Persian language became, by the 1990s, part of a clinical discourse on mood and affect. Part of the LMEI’s Tuesday Evening Lecture Programme on the Contemporary Middle East. Admission free. Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Paul Webley Wing (Senate House), SOAS. T 020 7898 4330/4490 E vp6@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/lmei/events/

6:00 pm | Women and Gender in the MENA (Lecture) Organised by: Department of Middle Eastern Studies (DMES), King’s College London and the British Council. Admission free. Safari Lecture Theatre (King’s Building), King’s College London, Strand Campus, University of London WC2R 2LS. E dmes@kcl.ac.uk

Friday 4 February

5:00 pm | Turkey after the July Coup attempt (Seminar) Caroline Tee (University of Cambridge), Cengiz Çandar (Al-Monitor) and Ceren Lord (Post-doctoral Researcher in Middle East Studies, SIAS). Organised by: Middle East Centre, Oxford. MEC Friday Seminar Series After the Arab Spring: A Region in Conflict. Chair: Laurent Mignon (St Antony’s College). Admission free. Investcorp Lecture Theatre, St Antony’s College, 68 Woodstock Road, University of Oxford, Oxford OX2 6JF. T 01865 284700 E mec@sant.ox.ac.uk W www.sant.ox.ac.uk/research-centres/middle-east-centre

Friday 10 February

5:00 pm | The Precarious State of Egypt under Sisi (Seminar) Lucie Rysova (Birmingham) and Reem Abou-El-Fadl (SOAS). Organised by: Middle East Centre, Oxford. MEC Friday Seminar Series After the Arab Spring: A Region in Conflict. Chair: Walter Armbrust (St Antony’s College). Admission free. Investcorp Lecture Theatre, St Antony’s College, 68 Woodstock Road, University of Oxford, Oxford OX2 6JF. T 01865 284700 E mec@sant.ox.ac.uk W www.sant.ox.ac.uk/research-centres/middle-east-centre

Friday 17 February

5:00 pm | Islam in Europe (Seminar) Nilsjör Göle (Director of Studies, CESPRRA, Paris) and Tariq Modood (Bristol). Organised by: Middle East Centre, Oxford. MEC Friday Seminar Series After the Arab Spring: A Region in Conflict. Chair: Tariq Ramadan (Professor of Contemporary Islamic Studies). Admission free. Investcorp Lecture Theatre, St Antony’s College, 68 Woodstock Road, University of Oxford, Oxford OX2 6JF. T 01865 284700 E mec@sant.ox.ac.uk W www.sant.ox.ac.uk/research-centres/middle-east-centre

Monday 20 February

2:00 pm | OXFAM and Gender Mainstreaming in Humanitarian Action: Lessons Learnt in the MENA Region (TBC) (Seminar) Organised by: Middle East Centre, Oxford. Admission free. Fellows Dining Room, St Antony’s College, 68 Woodstock Road, University of Oxford, Oxford OX2 6JF. T 01865 284700 E mec@sant.ox.ac.uk W www.sant.ox.ac.uk/research-centres/middle-east-centre

Wednesday 29 March

4:00 pm | Peace, War, and the Making of the Modern Middle East (Seminar) Organised by: Department of History, SOAS. Admission free. Room B104, Brunei Gallery, SOAS. E rf26@soas.ac.uk / dm40@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/history/events/mehistseminar/

MARCH EVENTS

Monday 6 March

5:45 pm | The ‘Mahdar Wars’: Jews, Shi’is, and the Public Sphere in Ilkhânid Baghdad (Seminar) Yoni Brack (Hebrew University of Jerusalem). Organised by: Department of History, SOAS. Near and Middle East History Seminar. Admission free. Room B104, Brunei Gallery, SOAS. E rf26@soas.ac.uk / dm40@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/history/events/nmehistseminar/

6:15 pm | Sharing and Controlling the Past: Communication Strategies from the 1920s’ Ur Excavations (Seminar) Agnes Henriksen (BM/UCL). Organised by: The London Centre for the Ancient Near East. Admission free. Room B102, Brunei Gallery, SOAS. E mw41@soas.ac.uk W http://bancanlmc.org/lcanse/  

6:45 pm | Islam and the West: The Reality and Myth of a Troubled Relationship (Talk) Christopher de Bellaigue. Organised by: Friends of Le Monde Diplomatique. Doors open 6:30pm. Writer and journalist de Bellaigue looks at the history of relations between Islam and the west, the causes of the current crisis and how the relationship may develop in the future. Tickets: £3/£2 conc. The Gallery, Alan Baxter & Associates LLP, 70/77 Cowcaddens Street, Farrington, London, EC1M 6EL E enquiries@mondediplofriends.org.uk W www.mondenkiplofriends.org.uk
Wednesday 8 March

6:00 pm | The Afghani, Kohistani and Swati Embroidered Tales (Lecture) Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood. Organised by: Brunei Gallery, SOAS in conjunction with the London Middle East Institute (LMEI), SOAS. Lecture to coincide with the exhibition Embroidered Tales and Woven Dreams (see Exhibitions p. 34). Admission free. Pre-registration required. British Academy, 10-11 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH. E assistant@cbrl.org.uk W http://cbrl.org.uk/

5:00 pm | Woman's Place: Gender Perspectives of Belonging and Destruction in Israel/Palestine (Talk) Hagar Kotef (SOAS). Organised by: Centre for Gender Studies, SOAS. Taking the feminist insight that home is a key political concept, this talk examines home-making—which is also a matter of nation-building and individual, as well as collective identities—in contexts of settler colonialism, specifically in Israel/Palestine. Admission free. Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS, E cgs@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/genderstudies/events/

6:30 pm | Centenary Lecture: Does Israel Fear Peace? Reflections on the Failures of International Law and Human Rights, and on Sources of Hope Organised by: SOAS and the Centre for Palestine Studies, SOAS. Centre for Palestine Studies Annual Lecture. Raja Shehadeh. The 1990s witnessed a number of hopeful events, including the fall of apartheid and the fall of the Berlin Wall. The same decade ushered in the seemingly eternal “interim agreements” between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization which allowed Israel to continue its occupation of Palestine under another name. Why did the resolution of longstanding injustices elsewhere fail to inspire the Israeli government to end the occupation of the Palestinian territories and what has Israel to fear in a lasting peace? Shehadeh is a writer and a lawyer who founded the pioneering Palestinian human rights organisation Al-Haq. Admission free. Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS. T 020 7898 4330 E vp6@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/lmei-cis/events/

Saturday 11 March

5:30 pm | Razor's Edge: The Legacy of Iranian Actresses (Documentary) Organised by: Centre for Iranian Studies, SOAS. Writer/Director/Producer: Bahman Maghsoudlou (2016), USA/Iran, colour & b/w, 127 mins. Razor's Edge looks at the often controversial role of women in Iranian cinema during the secular period from the 1930s to the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Through unprecedented access to the actresses and rare film clips of the works in which they appeared, film-maker Maghsoudlou examines the effect that occurs when women gain expression in a stridently patriarchal society. In Persian with English subtitles. Tickets: £5. T 020 7898 4330/4490 E vp6@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/lmei-cis/events/

Sunday 12 March

11:30 am | Istanbul: Proud History, Fearful Future? (Talk) Organised by: Southbank Centre. Part of WOW – Women of the World. Istanbul – also known as the ‘city of the world’s desire’ – has always been a place where stories and histories collide. But how have women shaped this city and how do women live there in today’s political climate? With Bettany Hughes, historian and author of Istanbul: A Tale of Three Cities and Elif Shafak, Turkish author and commentator. Tickets: Included in WOW Day/Three Day Pass: £50/£22 (50% off conc.). Weston Roof Pavilion, Level 6, Green side, Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX. T 020 7960 4200 W www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Monday 13 March


Monday 13 March

5:45 pm | An Unexceptional Governmental Tool: The State of Emergency in the Late Ottoman Cities (Seminar) Noémi Levy-Aksu. Organised by: Department of History, SOAS. Near and Middle East History Seminar. Admission free. Room B104, Brunei Gallery, SOAS. E r26@soas.ac.uk / dm40@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/history/events/mmehistseminar/

6:00 pm | Revolution and Authoritarianism in North Africa (Lecture) Frederic Volpi (St Andrews). Organised by: Department of Middle Eastern Studies (DMES), King’s College London. Chair: Ferdinand Eibl (King’s College London). Admission free. Council Room (King’s Building), King’s College London, Strand Campus, London WC2R 2LS. E dmes@kcl.ac.uk W www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/sga/mems/events/events.aspx

7:00 pm | Kamran Djam Annual Lecture at SOAS: Managing the Guarded Domains (Lecture) Abbas Amanat (Yale University),
Organised by: Centre for Iranian Studies, SOAS. First of two lectures by Abbas Amanat on *In Search of Modern Iran*, the second will take place on Tuesday 14 March. Amanat looks at what made the Safavid state declare Shi‘ism as the state creed and patronise a Shi‘i establishment and how in the four centuries since the rise of the Shi‘i state the Guarded Domains of Iran endured volatile nomadic powers in its periphery, meager economic resources, popular dissent, and inconsistencies within the structure of the state. Preceded by a reception at 6:00pm in the Brunei Suite. Admission free. Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS. T 020 7898 4330/4490 E vp6@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/lmei/events/ 7:00 pm | Kamran Djam Annual Lecture at SOAS: Paragons and Demons of Modernity (Lecture) Abbas Amanat (Yale University). Organised by: Centre for Iranian Studies, SOAS. The second of two lectures by Abbas Amanat on *In Search of Modern Iran*. Since the early nineteenth century various historical processes slowly unravelled the old imperial arrangement and exposed the Iranian state’s defects. Why did demands for popular sovereignty, which on occasions dislodge the old elites and transform the social order, also pave the way for the rise of arbitrary regimes? Admission free. Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS. T 020 7898 4330/4490 E vp6@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/lmei/events /

Tuesday 14 March

5:45 pm | One and a Half Coup D’états: Politics of Fear in Erdogan’s Turkey (Lecture) Mehmet Kurt (International State Crime Initiative (ISCI), Queen Mary University of London). Organised by: London Middle East Institute, SOAS (LMEI). Based on fieldwork on Islamist mobilisation in the Kurdish border areas of Turkey with Syria and Iraq, beginning with the Kobani Resistance in October 2014 to the post-coup environment in September 2016 Kurt’s talk will look at the pre and post-coup d’états environment in Turkey and will elaborate on the politics of fear in daily life, state crime and regional conflict. Part of the LMEI’s Tuesday Evening Lecture Programme on the Contemporary Middle East. Admission free. Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Paul Webley Wing (Senate House), SOAS. T 020 7898 4330/4490 E vp6@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/lmei/events/ 6:00 pm | Timurid Influences on Art and Conceptual Designs Across Central Asia and India (Lecture) Saqib Baburi. Organised by: Brunei Gallery, SOAS in conjunction with the London Middle East Institute (LMEI), SOAS. Lecture to coincide with the exhibition *Embroidered Tales and Woven Dreams* (see Exhibitions p. 34). Admission free. Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS. T 020 7898 4046 E gallery@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/lmei/events/ 7:00 pm | Moroccan Sisters (Lecture) Fadma Badr. Organised by: Department of Middle Eastern Studies (DMES), King’s College London. Using a multi-method approach Gorman explores how individuals construct Muslim identities vis-à-vis global norms and the actors that promote them. Chair: Carool Kersten (King’s College London). Admission free. Nash Lecture Theatre (King’s Building), King’s College London, Strand Campus, London WC2R 2LS. E dmes@kcl.ac.uk W www.kcl.ac.uk/sppp/sga/mems/events/events.aspx

Wednesday 22 March

3:00 pm | Studying Post-Independence State-Building: Some Preliminary Thoughts from Algeria (Seminar) Natalya Vince. Organised by: Department of Politics and International Studies, SOAS. Admission free. Room 4426, SOAS. E ra47@soas.ac.uk / me7@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/politics/events/ 3:15 pm | Girlhood Translated: Fénélon’s De L’Éducation des Filles (1687) as a Text of Egyptian Modernity (1901, 1909) (Seminar) Marilyn Booth (Oxford) and Kayla三星 (University of Liverpool) will be discussing his new book, *Citizen Hariri* - Lebanon’s Neoliberal Reconstruction (Hurst, 2017), a new political biography of the Titan of Lebanese politics, whose influential legacy continues to shape the Levant years after his assassination. Chair: Mark Geller (UCL). Organised by: Centre for Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies (CCLPS), SOAS. Admission free. Room B111, Brunei Gallery, SOAS. W www.soas.ac.uk/cclps/events/ 6:00 pm | The Phulkari Baghs (Lecture) Arjmand Aziz. Organised by: Brunei Gallery, SOAS in conjunction with the London Middle East Institute (LMEI), SOAS. Lecture to coincide with the exhibition *Embroidered Tales and Woven Dreams* (see Exhibitions p. 34). Aziz currently teaches Indian Art for the Postgraduate Diploma of Asian Art at SOAS and also a Doctorate candidate at the same institution. In addition, she is an art consultant and dealer and has most recently exhibited a joint Indian and Indigenous Australian show at Tribal Art London. Admission free. Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS. T 020 7898 4046 E gallery@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/lmei/events/ 6:00 pm | Is there such a thing as Medicine in the Bible? (Lecture) Mark Geller (UCL). Organised by: Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society (AIAS) and the Institute of Jewish Studies, UCL. Followed by refreshments. Admission free. JZ Young Lecture Theatre, UCL Anatomy Building, Gower Street, London WC1E 6XA. T 020 8349 5754 E sheilarford1@sky.com W http://aias.org.uk/ 6:30 pm | Water Futures: Temporality and Infrastructure in North Cyprus (Lecture) Rebecca Bryant (Hellenic Observatory, LSE). Organised by: LSE Chair for Contemporary Turkish Studies. Part of the Anthropology of Turkey and Beyond lecture series. Chair: Esra Özüyrek (LSE Chair for Contemporary Turkish Studies). Admission free. COW 1.11, LSE. T 020 7955 6067 E euroinstr.Turkish.Studies@lse.ac.uk W www.lse.ac.uk 5:30 pm | Detecting Migration in the Late Second Millennium Levant (Seminar) Pekka Pitkänen (University of Gloucestershire). Organised by: The London Centre for the Ancient Near East. Ancient Near East Seminars. Convenor: Mark Weeden (SOAS). Admission free. Room B102, Brunei Gallery, SOAS. E mw41@soas.ac.uk W http://banaalcane.org/icane/ 6:00 pm | Muslim Identity and the Global Order (Lecture) Brandon Gorman (SUNY - Albany). Organised by: Department of

Richard Wilding, Rawanduz, Return to Kurdistan, (see Exhibitions p. 34)
ac.uk/europeanInstitute/research/ContemporaryTurkishStudies/Home.aspx

**Tuesday 28 March**

**6:30 pm | Refugees and Displacement in the MENA (Lecture)** Organised by: Department of Middle Eastern Studies (DMES). King's College London and the British Council. Admission free. Safra Lecture Theatre (King's Building), King's College London, Strand Campus, London WC2R 2LS. E dmes@kcl.ac.uk W www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/sga/mems/events/events.aspx

**Friday 3 March**


**EVENTS OUTSIDE LONDON**

**Friday 3 March**

**5:00 pm | Tunisia (Seminar)** Rory McCarthy (Magdalen College, Oxford). Organised by: Middle East Centre, Oxford. MEC Friday Seminar Series After the Arab Spring: A Region in Conflict. Chair: Michael Willis (St Antony’s College). Admission free. Investcorp Lecture Theatre, St Antony’s College, 68 Woodstock Road, University of Oxford, Oxford OX2 6JF. T 01865 284700 E mec@ sant.ox.ac.uk W www.sant.ox.ac.uk/research-centres/middle-east-centre

**Friday 10 March**

**5:00 pm | Free Expression in the Gulf (Seminar)** Maryam al-Khawaja and Iyad el-Baghdadi. Organised by: Middle East Centre, Oxford. MEC Friday Seminar

**EXHIBITIONS**

Until 4 March | Silent Protest: Political Jewellery by Mahtab Hanna Interactive show that fuses wearable art with social commentary. Whether it is a totalitarian state or regime, the politics and counter politics of jewellery can represent the official and unofficial representation of power and struggle, and communication openly or covertly. Admission free. P21 Gallery, 21 Chalton Street, London NW1 1JD. T 020 7121 6190 E info@p21.org.uk W www.p21.gallery

Until 5 March | Beyond Boundaries: Art by Email Responding to an open call, Art by Email brings together the voices of 16 artists from five MENA countries who have submitted their artwork via email for inclusion in the exhibition. The artists were given the brief to not only share the realities of current situations in various countries such as Iran and Iraq but also the resilience, hope and creativity that thrives throughout the region. Admission free. Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP), West Bretton, Darton, Wakefield WF4 4LG. T 01924 832631 E info@ysp.co.uk W www.ysp.co.uk

Until 18 March | Pattern Recognition Young Artist of the Year Award 2016 (YAYA16). Newly commissioned work from the nine artists who are shortlisted for the 2016 edition of the Young Artist of the Year Award (YAYA 2016), open to Palestinian artists up to the age of 30, organised every two years by the A M Qattan Foundation. Straddling the grey zones between fact and fiction, original and copy, ruin and repair, the works re-imagine the mechanics of representation in the context of Palestine. Admission free. The Mosaic Rooms, A M Qattan Foundation, Tower House, 226 Cromwell Road, London SW5 0SW. T 020 7370 9990 E info@mosaicrooms.org W http://mosaicrooms.org/

Until 25 March | Embroidered Tales and Woven Dreams A colour-coded social history of the vast and geographically varied landscape, known as the ‘the Silk Road’, the exhibition examines the identity of the Central Asian, Middle Eastern and South Asian landscapes, through the heritage of their Embroidered Textiles and Costumes. See February and March Events on 6, 13 and 22 February and 8, 14 and 22 March for details of a series of talks that have been organised to coincide with the exhibition. Admission free. Brunei Gallery, SOAS. T 020 7898 4023/4026 E gallery@soas.ac.uk W www.soas.ac.uk/gallery/

Until 2 April | Iranian Voices: Recent Acquisitions of Works on Paper Made by Iranian artists of different generations and including a variety of media from collage to artist books and photography the narratives of the works on display highlight an engagement with Iranian history from the legendary tales of the Shahnameh to insights into the politics of recent decades. Admission free. Room 34, BM. T 020 7323 8299 E info@britishmuseum.org W www.britishmuseum.org

**Saturday 11 February**

Until 29 April | The Ocean Can Be Yours Exhibition showcasing Persian culture and its merged visual art and linguistic practice via the interpretation of international poetry through the lens of four Iranian artists. Afsoun, Ghalamdar, Jason Nounshin and Katayoun Rouhi explore a tradition rooted in their shared heritage and use it as the launch platform for diverse practices spanning performance and Calligraffiti to drawing and allegorical painting. Admission free. Saturdays and by appointment Monday to Thursday. Gerald Moore Gallery, Mottingham Lane, London SE9 4RW. T 020 8857 0448 / 020 7830 9327 E janet@janetradyfineart.com W www.geraldmooregallery.org / www.janetradyfineart.com

**Thursday 23 February**

Until 19 May | A Tale of Two Rivers: The Lower Wye and the Nubian Nile The Wye in Wales/England – what do they have in common? Herman Bell presents images and artefacts that link the two rivers and reflects on how the people of each river valley are dealing with threats to their environment. Admission free. Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies ‘The Street’, University of Exeter, Stocker Road, Exeter EX4 4ND. E m.j.williams2@exeter.ac.uk W http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/iais/events/exhibitions/

Until 29 April | Return to Kurdistan Exhibition of contemporary photographs of Iraqi Kurdistan and Northern Iraq by Gulan’s Creative Director Richard Wilding, alongside historical photographs taken in the 1940s by British photographer Anthony Kersting whose archive is held by The Courtauld Institute of Art’s Conway Library. The Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN. Admission free. E info@gulan.org.uk / kurdistan@courtauld.ac.uk W www.gulan.org.uk / http://courtauld.ac.uk/
SOAS, University of London, is pleased to announce the availability of several scholarships in its Centre for Iranian Studies (CIS).

The Centre, established in 2010, draws upon the range of academic research and teaching across the disciplines of SOAS, including Languages and Literature, the Study of Religions, History, Economics, Politics, International Relations, Music, Art and Media and Film Studies. It aims to build close relations with likeminded institutions and to showcase and foster the best of contemporary Iranian talent in art and culture.

MA in Iranian Studies

In 2012/13 CIS members successfully launched an interdisciplinary MA in Iranian Studies, the first of its kind, which will be offered again in 2016/17.

Thanks to the generosity of the Fereydoun Djam Charitable Trust, a number of Kamran Djam scholarships are available for BA, MA and MPhil/PhD studies.

For further details, please contact:

Scholarships Officer
E: scholarships@soas.ac.uk
T: +44 (0)20 7074 5091/ 5094
W: www.soas.ac.uk/scholarships

Centre for Iranian Studies
Dr Arshin Adib-Moghaddam (Chair)
E: aa106@soas.ac.uk
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MA in Iranian Studies
Dr Nima Mina (Department of the Languages and Culture of the Middle East)
E: nm46@soas.ac.uk
T: +44 (0)20 7898 4315
W: www.soas.ac.uk/nme/programmes/ma-in-iranian-studies

Student Recruitment
T: +44(0)20 7898 4034
E: study@soas.ac.uk
Kamran Djam Annual Lectures at SOAS (2017)

13 and 14 March 2017
Centre for Iranian Studies, London Middle East Institute

In Search of Modern Iran

Professor Abbas Amanat
Yale University

Lecture One: Managing the Guarded Domains
7.00pm, Monday 13 March Preceded by a reception at 6.00pm in the Brunei Suite

Lecture Two: Paragons and Demons of Modernity
7.00pm, Tuesday 14 March

Khalili Lecture Theatre
SOAS University of London, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG

Admission Free - All Welcome

Enquiries
Tel. No. 020 7898 4330 E-mail vp6@soas.ac.uk
Website www.soas.ac.uk/lmei-cis/events/