

**LONDON MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE**  
**School of Oriental and African Studies**

**A Middle East PhD Students  
International Conference &  
Poster Presentation:**

***State, Society and Economy  
in the Modern Middle East***

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**7- 8 May 2011**  
**Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS**

**Middle East PhD Students International Conference  
*State, Society and Economy in the Modern Middle East***

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

**SATURDAY 7 May 2011**

**08:30–09:15 Registration**

**09:15 – 09:30 Welcoming Remarks**

**SESSION 1: 9:30–11:00**

**PANELS 1 & 2**

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre:

**Panel 1: Iran – The Struggle for Democracy**

Chair: Annabelle Sreberny, SOAS

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

Room B102:

**Panel 2: Women**

Chair: Nadjé Al-Ali, SOAS

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

**11:00–11:30 Break**

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre:

**Panel 3: Palestine-Israel**

Chair: Sarah Stewart, SOAS

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

Room B104:

Chair: Nadjé Al-Ali, SOAS

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

- ***Decision Making in Conditions of Civil War***, Ali Ali, University of East London
- ***Religion as a Cultural Resource in the Lives of Palestinian Iraqis in Damascus***, Tahir Zaman, University of East London
- ***Syrian State Sovereignty in the Context of Iraqi Migration***, Sophia Hoffmann, SOAS

Room B102:

**Panel 5: Saudi Arabia**

Chair: Parvin Alizadeh, London Metropolitan University

- ***Exploring Foreign Language Anxiety in Saudi Arabia: a study of female EFL college students***, Taghreed M. Al-Saraj, Institute of Education, University of London
- ***Evaluating the Impact of Microfinance on Women’s Empowerment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia***, Sarah Abudawood, SOAS
- ***Developing State-Society Discourse in Saudi Arabia: the Saudi ‘National Dialogue’ and the role of King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue (KACND)***, Mark Thompson, University of Exeter

**13:00–14:00 Lunch**

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre:

**Panel 6: Kurds – Nationalism and Identity**

Chair: Parvin Alizadeh, London Metropolitan University

- ***Women and Nationalism: how women activists are changing the Kurdish conflict***, Massoud Sharifi Dryaz, École des hautes études en sciences sociales

- ***The Future of Rising Kurdish Nationalism in the Modern Middle East: comparative perspectives of Turkey, Israel and Iran***, İzzettin Sümer, Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Çanakkale
- ***Kurdish Identity-Making: instruments and possibilities during the last 100 years in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey***, Zoltán Egeresi, Corvinus University of Budapest

Room B102:

**Panel 7: Community Development and NGOs**

Chair: Charis Boutieri, King's College London

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

Room B104:

**Panel 8: Voice, Memory and Agency in Egypt (1882-1956)**

Chair: Dina Matar, SOAS

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

**SESSION 4: 15:30–17:00**

**PANELS 9 & 10**

Room B102:

**Panel 9: Economics**

Chair: Massoud Karshenas, SOAS

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

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre:

**Panel 10: Turkey – Religion, Secularism and the State**

Chair: Konrad Hirschler, SOAS

- ***From Islamic Radicalism to Islamic Capitalism: the rise of neo-Islamist bourgeoisie in Turkey***, Ozlem Madi-Sisman, Bilkent University
- ***Islamic Business and the State: the cases of Turkey and Egypt***, Evrim Gormus, University of Washington

- ***Compulsory Religion Education and Religious Minorities in Turkey***, Ayşe Seda Müftügil, University of Amsterdam

Brunei Suite:

**17:00–18:00 RECEPTION**

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre:

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

Chair: Gilbert Achcar, SOAS

**SUNDAY 8 May 2011**

**SESSION 5: 10:00–11:30**

**PANELS 11 & 12**

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre:

**Panel 11: Turkey – Power, Democracy and Religion**

Chair: Stefano Taglia, SOAS

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

Room B102:

**Panel 12: Refugees and Human Rights**

Chair: TBC

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

**SESSION 6: 11:30–13:00**

**PANELS 13, 14 & 15**

Room B104:

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

Chair: Randa Alami, SOAS

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

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre:

**Panel 14: Islam, the State and Ideology**

Chair: TBC

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

Room B102:

**Panel 15: Security and Foreign Policy**

Chair: Corinna Mullin, SOAS

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

**13:00 – 14:30 Lunch**

**SESSION 7: 14:30-16:00**

**PANELS 16, 17 & 18**

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre:

**Panel 16: Iran – Culture and Politics**

Chair: Hassan Hakimian, SOAS

- ***Revolutions and Rough Cuts: Conceptualizing Women's Bodies in Contemporary Iran***, Soraya Batmanghelichi, Columbia University, New York
- ***Alienation or Belonging: the representation of cultural memory in contemporary literary texts by exiled Iranian Jewish women writers***, Jennifer Langer, SOAS
- ***Reflections on the Iranian Presidential Institution, 1979-2009***, Siavush Randjbar-Daemi, Royal Holloway

Room B102:

**Panel 17: Kurds – Insurgency and Foreign Policy**

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

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

Room B104:

**Panel 18: Colonialism & Aftermath**

Chair: Stefano Taglia, SOAS

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

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre:

**16:00–16:15 CLOSING REMARKS**

**Middle East PhD Students International Conference**  
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**Poster Presentations**

**Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 May 2011**  
**Brunei Suite, SOAS**

**Poster Sessions:**

1. ***Queering Potentialities of Gay Place-Making in Turkey***, Haktan Ural, Middle East Technical University
2. ***Yilmaz Guney Cinema***, Yildirim Uysal, Middle East Technical University
3. ***Ethnography of Everyday Life in the War-Stricken Areas of Beirut: local responsiveness to humanitarian intervention***, Estella Carpi, University of Sydney
4. ***Human Rights, Shariah, and the Rule of Law in the Middle East: problems and prospects***, Rawa Ghazy Almakky, Brunel University
5. ***Palestine: the brand-state solution***, Kund Florian, National University of Singapore
6. ***Rain, Fertility – Death: the women in ritual and sacred places connected to feminine in southern Jordan***, Päivi Miettunen, University of Helsinki
7. ***Environmental Awareness in Iran***, Satoshi Abe, University of Arizona
8. ***Europeanisation of Migration and the Effects on Non State Actors: the Turkish case***, Damla Bayraktar, Koç University
9. ***'The Negated Identity': human rights and religious identity in contemporary Egypt***, Daniele Bolazzi, King's College London
10. ***The Amazigh Cultural Renaissance in Morocco: challenging the hegemonic Arab model***, Cleo Jay, SOAS
11. ***Clash or Compromise? Mongol and Muslim law in the Ilkhanate (1258-1335)***, Florence Hodous, SOAS
12. ***'Gunship Diplomacy': Iraq, Iran and the Shatt al-Arab crisis of 1969***, Bryan Gibson, LSE
13. ***Modern Symphonia: the new wave of Russo-Lebanese ecclesiastical relations***, Alyn Desmond Hine, SOAS
14. ***Reconciling Liberal Secularism and Traditional Religious Thought in North Africa: a comparative study of three intellectuals***, Kelly Al-Dakkak, St. Antony's College, University of Oxford