

# Nordic Society of Middle Eastern Studies

## Formations of Middle Eastern Subjectivities

Cultural Heritage, Global Structures and Local Practices

### **Program**

**The Tenth Nordic Conference on Middle Eastern Studies**  
**Centre for Contemporary Middle East Studies**  
**22-24 September, 2016**  
**University of Southern Denmark**  
**Odense, Denmark**

The conference is supported and/or co-organized by the following institutions: Centre for Contemporary Middle East Studies (University of Southern Denmark), Center for Middle Eastern Studies (Lund University), Danish Council for Independent Research, Danish Institute in Damascus, Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies (University of Copenhagen), Faculty of Humanities (University of Southern Denmark), The Finish Institute in the Middle East, Inspiring Denmark, Institute for History (University of Southern Denmark), Odense Municipality.

# **Program at a Glance**

## **Thursday, 22 September**

8:30 – 16:00 Registration

11:15 – 12:00 Welcome and Technical Information

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

### Panel Sessions

13:00 – 14:30 T1

14:45 – 16:15 T2

16:30 – 18:00 T3

18:15 – 19:30 Dinner

20:00 – 21:30 Keynote Roundtable (Area Studies) – Keynote Lecture I (Ingolf Thuesen)

## **Friday, 23 September**

8:30 – 16.00 Registration

### Panel Sessions

8:30 – 10:00 F1

10:15 – 11:45 F2

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

Panel Sessions

13:00 – 14:30 F3

14:45 – 16:15 F4

16:30 – 18:00 F5

18:15 – 19:30 Dinner

20:00 – 21:30 Keynote Roundtable (Subjectivities) – Keynote Lecture II (Walter Armbrust)

## **Saturday, 24 September**

8:30 – 12:00 Registration

Panel Sessions

9:00 – 10:30 S1

10:45 – 12:15 S2

12:15 – 13:15 Lunch

13:30 Meeting of the Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies

## **Keynote Roundtables, Keynote Lectures and Exhibition:**

*On Thursday, 22 September 2016 at 20:00 – 21:30:*

1) **Keynote Roundtable:** “The Middle East Area Studies Controversy in Context: Discussing Different Cultural-Institutional Perspectives” (Room O100).

**Chair:** Morten Valbjørn (Aarhus University).

**Panelists:** Pinar Bilgin (Bilkent University, Ankara), Waleed Hazbun (American University of Beirut), Matteo Legrenzi, (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice), and Emma Murphy (Durham University).

2) **Keynote Lecture:** “Cultural Heritage in the Middle East under Fire” by Ingolf Thuesen (University of Copenhagen) (Room O99).

*On Friday, 23 September 2016 at 20:00 – 21:30*

1) **Keynote Roundtable:** “Modern Subjectivity Formation, Islamic Traditions and the Good Life” (Room O99).

**Chair:** Kirstine Sinclair (University of Southern Denmark).

**Pannelists:** Mervat Hatem (Howard University), Dietrich Jung (University of Southern Denmark), Samuli Schielke (Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin), and Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen (University of Copenhagen).

2) **Keynote Lecture:** “Egypt in the Age of Trickster Politics” by Walter Armbrust (St. Antony’s College, Oxford) (Room O100).

## **“Sidewalk Stories” – Women in Cairo's Public Spaces**

*A Photography Exhibition about Women in Cairo's Public Spaces and How They Confront Sexual Harassment* – which will be displayed in the conference area:

The exhibition developed from two workshops that three students of Marburg University organized in May 2015 in Cairo. One of the workshop's participants, Sarah Seliman, a Cairene visual artist became the photographer and curator of this exhibition. So far, the exhibition has been showed in Egypt (Cairo, Alexandria and Qena) and in Germany (Marburg, Berlin and Hamburg).

[sidewalkstoriescairo@gmail.com](mailto:sidewalkstoriescairo@gmail.com) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sidewalkstoriesegy/>

## Panel Sessions:

You will find the room for the respective session at the end of the headline in brackets

## Thursday

### T 1: 13:00-14:30

#### **T 1/A: Constructing Muslim Identities: Norm Formation and Images of the Enemy (O99)**

Chair: Kirstine Sinclair (SDU).

‘Martyr Wife’ or Muhajirah: The Muslim Woman in Danish Salafi Jihadism on Social Media, Sara Jul Jacobsen (Roskilde University).

Poster Children of Integration and the Question of Being a Good Muslim in Denmark, Sofie Pedersen (SDU).

#### **T 1/B: Re-examining the Middle East Exploring Crises and Continuity (O96)**

Chair: Leif Stenberg (Lund University).

Has the Media’s Representation of Refugees Contributed to a Rise in Anti-Immigrant Feelings? Joseph O’Connell (Lund University).

Jordanian Civil Society Organizations vis-á-vis the State – Change or Continuity? Liza Lunstroo (Lund University).

The Role of Information Technologies in the Middle East. Zaruhi Baghdasaryan (Lund University).

“We drink a Lot of Tea and They Drink a Lot of Coffee. There’s no Similarity between Us:” Exploring the Perceptions of Syrian Refugees by Turkish Housewives in Gaziantep, Giedré Dainelyte (Lund University).

### **T 1/C: Inter-disciplinary Explorations into Shia/Sunni Sectarianism I (O95)**

Chair: Morten Valbjørn (Aarhus University).

Sectarianism and the Transformation of Modern Sunni-Islam, Martin Thomas Riexinger (Aarhus University).

The Universalism and Shi'i Particularisms of Iran's Muslim Unity Discourse, Elvire Corboz (Aarhus University).

Sectarian Anti-Sectarianism in Kuwait, Thomas Brandt Fibiger (Aarhus University).

### **T 2: 14:45-16:15**

#### **T 2/A: Regimes for Handling the Palestinians (O99)**

Chair: Anders Persson (Copenhagen University).

Building Palestine: Technical Achievements and Political Failures, Anders Persson (Copenhagen University).

The Contribution of the Political Mobilization of the Palestinian Diaspora to the Redefinition of the Swedish Mainstream and the Homeland Politics through Transnational Network, Fanny Christou (Lund University).

Taming Palestinian Male Youth Through UN-Schooling, Nina Gren (Lund University).

#### **T 2/B: How it Feels to Live in the Arab World Five Years after the Arab Spring (O98)**

Chair: Stephan Guth (University of Oslo).

Arabic Fiction Five Years after the “Arab Spring,” Stephan Guth (University of Oslo).

Social Media Five Years after the “Arab Spring”—Some General Remarks, Albrecht Hofheinz (University of Oslo).

Crime, Gender and Public Morality “Narratives” in 2016 Egypt, Elena Chiti (University of Oslo).

The Parallel Media: Comments on Political and Social Life on YouTube Channels, Mohab Mohamed (University of Oslo).

### **T 2/C: Law as Politics and Politics as Law in the Middle East (O96)**

Chair: Rania Maktabi (Østfold University College, Norway).

Female Lawyers, Gendered State Laws, and Political Reform, Rania Maktabi (Østfold University College, Norway).

Lawyering Ideals and the Turkish State Security Courts, 1973-1977, Joakim Parslow (University of Oslo).

Contestations around Family Law in post-2011 Egypt, Monika Lindbekk (University of Oslo).

Muslims and Sinners. The Ibadī Conception of Sunnis, Knut S. Vikør (University of Bergen).

### **T 2/D: Inter-disciplinary Explorations into Shia/Sunni Sectarianism II (O95)**

Chair: Morten Valbjørn (Aarhus University).

Thinking about Sectarianism: the Case of Syria, Raymond Hinnebusch (University of St. Andrews).

Beyond the Beyond(s) – On the (Many) Third Way(s) Beyond Primordialism and Instrumentalism in the Study of Sectarianism, Morten Valbjørn (Aarhus University).

Aspects of Influence and Interference in the Middle East: Iran's Policy in Post-Occupation Iraq, Ali Granmayeh (University of London).

## **T 3: 16:30-18:00**

### **T 3/A: Roundtable: The Turbulent World of Middle East Soccer (O99)**

Chair: Jens Sejer Andersen (Danish Institute for Sports Studies).

James Dorsey (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore).

Dag Henrik Tuastad (University of Oslo).

Charlotte Lysa (University of Oslo).

Henrik Brandt (Danish Institute for Sports Studies).

### **T 3/B: Pluralism of Lebanon (O98)**

Chair: TBC

Sunni Islamist Violence in Lebanon in the Shadow of the Syrian Uprising (2011-2015): The Triumph of the Sectarian Rationale, Tina Gade (University of Oslo).

Christian Parties and the Question of Presidency in Lebanon, Hannu Juusola (University of Helsinki).

The End of Militia Rule? Forming a Joint Palestinian Security Force in the Refugee Camps of Lebanon, Erling Sogge (University of Oslo).

### **T 3/C: Critical Perspective on the Arab Spring (O96)**

Chair: Mark Levine

Is the EU Policy Towards its Arab Mediterranean Neighbors one of the Main Reasons behind the Arab Spring and the ongoing Crises? Marianne Laanatza (Lund University).

Political Legitimacy and Celebrity Politicians: Tony Blair as Middle East Envoy 2007-2015, Annika Bergman Rosamond (Lund University).

Do Emotions Effect the EU's Agency and Identity? The Case of the EU's Engagement in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Ali Bilgic (Bilkent University) and Michelle Pace (Roskilde University).

### **T 3/D: Salafi Subjectivities and Local Practices of Othering (O95)**

Chair: Emin Poljarevic (Qatar University).

Othering and Religious Subjectivities in the Muslim Bosnia, Emin Poljarevic (Qatar University).



Social Media Communication of Salafis in the Syrian Armed Conflict, Annabelle Böttcher (FU Berlin and SDU).

Internal “Othering” in Contemporary Swedish Puritan Salafism, Susanne Olsson (Stockholm University).

# Friday

## F 1: 8:30-10:00

### F 1/A: Middle Eastern Pragmatism and the Islamic State (O99)

Chair: Cindy May and Amir Kamel (King's College London).

Deterioration in the Sinai and Stability in Cairo, Cindy May (King's College London).

Pragmatism Continued: Iran's Response to DAISH, Amir Kamel (King's College London).

Buying, Borrowing, and Renting Alliances: the Gulf States and Non-State Actors, David Roberts (King's College London).

### F 1/B: Contemporary Turkish Politics (O98)

Chair: Paul Levin, Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies (SUITS).

A Revolution of Lawyers: Turkey's 1960 Coup and the Law Professors, Joakim Parslow (University of Oslo).

The Conspiracy Behind the Conspiracy: Political Communication and Conspiracy Theories in Turkish Politics, Matthew Goldman (University of Washington).

The Rights of Others: Liberal Intellectuals and the Turkish Public Sphere, Andrea Karlsson (Lund University).

Policing the Public Sphere: Online Media Engagement in Turkey and China, Pontus Wallin (Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul).

### F 1/C: Women's Activism and Gender Issues (O97)

Chair: Annabelle Böttcher (FU Berlin and SDU)

Islam, Pluralization, Gender: The Tunisian Movement an-Nahḍa, Rasmus Brandt (Zürich University).

Challenges and Possibilities of Intergenerational Feminist Activism, Emma Sundkvist (Lund University).

Women's Participation in the Public Sphere in Egypt, Imad Rasan (Lund University).

**F 1/D: Beyond Established Meta-Geographies: Trans-Regional Connections Transcending the Arab World and the Middle East I (O96)**

Chair: Steffen Wippel (Philipps University of Marburg).

Tangier (Morocco), New Infrastructures and the Emergence of Trans-Regional Connections, Steffen Wippel (Philipps University of Marburg).

Transregional Connections and Challenges for Social Science Research, Claudia Derichs (Philipps University of Marburg).

Heterarchy, Connectivity and Locality: Emerging Forms of Political Organization from Libya to Northern Mali, Thomas Hüsken (University of Lucerne).

**F 2: 10:15-11:45**

**F 2/A: Rethinking about “transnational Islamic activism” (O99)**

Chair: TBC

A Transnational Network in Local Context: The Cairo Branch of the International League of Islamic Literature as a Case Study, Giedrė Šabasevičiūtė (Oriental Institute (ASCR), CEDEJ).

Synchronous Economic and Symbolic Circulations: Transnational Islamic Business Networks as channels of Norm Diffusion, Dilek Yankaya (Sciences Po, Paris).

Explaining the Role of Transnational Linkages in the Indonesian Salafi Publishing Industry, Zoltan Pall (National University of Singapore).

**F 2/B: Minorities in MENA (O98)**

Chair: TBC

The Survival of Minorities in Turbulent Environments: The Case of the Druze in Syria, Assem Abi Ali (Ruhr University Bochum).

Armenian Properties, Turkish Courts: A Case of Minority Legal Mobilization, Matthew Goldman (University of Washington-Seattle).

Mobilization of the Kurdish Diaspora in the Wake of the War in Syria, Anne Sofie Schøtt (University of Copenhagen).

### **F 2/C: Palestine (O97)**

Chair: Sorana-Cristina Jude (Aberystwyth University)

Rocking the Campus: Students Politics and the Palestinian Inner-Strife, Ido Zelkovitz (University of Haifa).

Between a Stone-Thrower and a Soldier: Emotions in and about the Israel/Palestine Conflict, Sorana Jude (Aberystwyth University).

Why Has the Hamula Been Sustained? Revisiting “Arab Border Villages in Israel”, 50 years after Its Publication, Dag Tuastad (University of Oslo).

Walking through Occupation: Everyday Palestinian Experiences on Mount Scopus, Somdeep Sen (University of Copenhagen).

### **F 2/D: Beyond Established Meta-Geographies: Trans-Regional Connections Transcending the Arab World and the Middle East II (O96)**

Chair: Steffen Wippel (Philipps-Universität Marburg).

The Trans-Regional Connections of Islamic Finance, Heiko Schuss (Abdullah Gül University, Kayseri).

New Cultural Cartographies: Sharjah Biennial and the Politics of Artistic Knowledge Production in the UAE, Danijel Čubelić (Heidelberg University).

Ontological Challenges: Spirits as a Resource to Determine Cultural Areas, Dieter Haller (Ruhr-Universität Bochum).

### **F 3: 13:00 – 14:30**

#### **F 3/A: Roundtable: Transnational Knowledge Relations for Addressing Middle East Crises (O100)**

Chair: Rasmus Gjedssø Bertelsen (UiT).

Rasmus Gjedssø Bertelsen, UiT-The Arctic University of Norway.

Neema Noori, University of West Georgia.

Aurore Belfrage, Partner & Head of Entrepreneurship and Investment MENA, Your Middle East.

Jean-Marc Rickli, King's College (Qatar).

Shahamak Rezaie, Roskilde University.

### **F 3/B: Fields of Intimacy in the MENA (O98)**

Chair: TBC

Ammani Youth Negotiations of Courtship at the Intersections of Romance and Subjectivity, Sandra Nasser El-Dine (University of Tampere).

Between the Self and the New Normal: The Motivational Narratives of Lebanese Cosmetic Surgery Recipients, Soraja El-Dine (University of Helsinki).

### **F 3/C: After the Arab Uprisings: Socio-Economic Challenges for the Arab Middle East (O99)**

Chairs: Martin Beck (SDU), and Thomas Richter (GIGA German Institute for Global and Area Studies).

The Re-politicization of Corruption in the Arab world: A View from Bottom-up and Top-down, Martin Beck (SDU).

Behind the Barrier: Cronyism and Trade Policies in Pre- and Post-Revolutionary Egypt, Ferdinand Eibl (LSE Middle East Centre).

A New Social Contract for the Middle East and North Africa, Markus Loewe (German Development Institute).

Geostrategies and the Resource Curse in the Middle East: Cracks in the Regional System Post-Arab Uprisings, Thomas Richter (GIGA German Institute for Global and Area Studies).

### **F 3/D: Networks and Circulations in the Middle East and South Asia (O96)**

Chair: Richard C. Martin (Emory University).

The Neo-Liberal and the Personal Islamic Twists in the Debate on Modern Muslim Gender Subjectivities in Post 2011 Egypt, Mervat F. Hatem (Howard University, Washington DC).

The Rise of ‘Traditional Islam:’ Modern Muslim Religious Subjectivities in the Early Twenty-First Century, Mark Sedgwick (Aarhus University).

Muslim Subjectivities within Global/local Structures of Higher Education: Exploring Muslim Students’ Formation of Selfhoods in India, Gry Hvass Pedersen (SDU).

## **F 4: 14:45-16:15**

### **F 4/A: Diaspora & Migration Politics in the Middle East - Regional and International Perspectives (O99)**

Chair: Gerasimos Tsourapas (University of Birmingham) and Peter Seeberg (SDU).

Labor Migrants as Political Leverage? Population Mobility and Coercion in the Arab World, Gerasimos Tsourapas (University of Birmingham).

Jordanian National Resilience and International Security. The Strategic Role of Refugees and Migrants in Jordan’s Foreign and Security Policy Relations, Peter Seeberg (SDU).

Transnational Governance? State Institutions and the Emigrants – The Cases of Turkey and Algeria, Inga Brandell (Södertörns högskola).

From Refugees to Migrant Workers? Employment and Livelihoods for Syrians in Jordan, Lewis Turner (SOAS, University of London).

### **F 4/B: Foreign Fighters and the “Islamic State” (O96)**

Chair: Leif Stenberg (Lund University).

Join IS and be a real Muslim man/woman! Mehmet Ümit Necef (SDU) and Henriette Frees Esholdt (Copenhagen Business School).

Why Western Muslim Women Join ISIS?": A Feminist Analysis, Martina Castaldini (Lund University).

Motivations for Young Muslim Fighters from Georgia to join the Islamic State, Giorgi Modebadze (Lund University).

Hypersecuritization: Or How the Islamic State Manages the Savagery, Maysam Behravesh (Lund University) & Hossein Aghaie (Dokuz Eylül University).

**F 4/C: The Use of Heritage and Museums to Face Socio-Economic Transformations of Middle Eastern Societies (O97)**

Chair: Virginia Cassola (Ecole du Louvre-Université de Lorraine).

Museums and tourism in Saudi Arabia: towards a sustainable economy?, Virginia Cassola (Ecole du Louvre-Université de Lorraine).

Managing Architectural Heritage in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Analysing Local and National Prerogatives, Sarah Khazindar (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne).

Traditional Olive Oil Production Technology: Towards Introducing Industrial Aspect to Palestinian Cultural Heritage, Maissoun Sharkawi (Université de Lorraine/Hiscant-MA).

**F 4/D: Egypt – “Various” (O98)**

Chair: Dalia Abdelhady (Lund University)

Masculinity, Securitization and the Military: A Semiotic Analysis of Egyptian Online Press, Joel Abdelmoez (Stockholm University).

Broadcasting from Exile: Egyptian opposition TV after the Arab Spring, Ehab Galal (University of Copenhagen).

Preserving “the Egyptian identity” - High Culture in the Aftermath of the Egyptian Revolution in 2011, Liina Mustonen. (European University Institute).

**F 5: 16:30-18:00**

**F 5/A: Minority Issues and Cultural Transformation (O99)**

Chair: TBC

The Transcaspian Safe-haven and Tsarist Designs over Iran and beyond: Russia and the Baha'is of Iran in late 19th Century, Soli Shahvar (The University of Haifa).

Middle Eastern Immigrants' Portrayal of Culture and Identity in Europe, Paivi Miettunen (Lund University).

War, Memories and Little Waterfall; a Syrian Village that is no more, Joshka Wessels (Independent Researcher).

### **F 5/B: Borders in MENA (O96)**

Chair: Morten Valbjørn (Aarhus University).

Border Creation in the Syrian Desert after the First World War, Magnus Halsnes (University of Bergen).

Dis/bordering Middle Eastern Identity Notes on Nationalism and the Challenge of Theory, Kamal Sbiri (Ibnou Zohr University).

State-less Statecraft in the West Bank: A Research Agenda, Somdeep Sen (University of Copenhagen) and Michelle Pace (University of Roskilde).

### **F 5/C: Gender Issues (O97)**

Chair: TBC

The Unveiling of Egyptian Women, Asmae Badr Ibrahim (University of Copenhagen).

Representing 'the Middle East Women': The Limits of 'Veil', 'War', and 'Violence', Nil Uzun Weidner (Rutgers University).

Whose violence? Critical reflection on Violence Against Women in the aftermath of the Egyptian revolution, Bogumila Hall and Liina Mustonen (European University Institute).

### **F 5/D: Refugees (O98)**

Chair: Dalia Abdelhady (Lund University).

Syrian Refugees in Lebanon: Precarity of Legal Status, Maja Janmyr (University of Bergen).

Seeking rights: Palestinian Refugees' Search for a Better Life, Tiina Järvi (University of Tampere).



# Saturday

## S 1: 9:00 – 10:30

### S 1/A: Literature (O99)

Chair: TBC

Cultural Memory and Place in Lebanese War Literature, Kifah Hanna (Trinity College).

From Mercy to Maternal Womb: A "Purely Fictional" Franco-Moroccan Novel about the Prophet Muhammad, Ruth Roded (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem).

### S1/B: Mixed Panel I (O98)

Chair: TBC

Sectarian Influenced Environmentalism in Lebanon, Laura Wickström (Åbo Akademi University).

Nonviolence as Methodology and Ideology in Wartime Lebanon, Magnus Dølerud (University of Bergen).

Qiyas Regarding of Usury (Riba in Relation to Bank Loans), Rayan Sobhi (Baka Al-qarbiyh, Israel).

Social and Economic Potential of Rainwater Harvesting in Ethiopia, Mohammed Sadame Yimer (Pan African University Institute) & Khaldoon A. Mourad (Lund University).

### S 1/C: Finding Their Place: Muslims and New Mosques in Denmark (O97)

Chair: Kirstine Sinclair (SDU).

Minority Making: How Mosques Shape Muslims, Kirstine Sinclair (SDU).

“Plague over Denmark”: Understandings of Contagious Illness and Healing among Danish Muslims and Politicians, Christian Suhr (Aarhus University).

Imams as Brokers and Gate-keepers of Mosques in Denmark, Niels Valdemar Vinding (Copenhagen University).

Muslim Graveyards in Denmark. Religious Language Practices in the (Hidden) Periphery, Helle Lykke Nielsen (SDU).

**S 1/D: Iranian International Relations (cancelled)**

**S 1/E: Negotiating Authority in Contemporary Shi'ite Thought and Practice (O96)**

Chair: David Thurffjell (Södertörn University).

The Rise of the Madahs: Charismatic Authority in the Islamic Republic, David Thurffjell (Södertörn University).

Challenging the Khomeini Doctrine, Mohammad Fazlhashemi (Uppsala University).

Authorization from Imperfection: The Muqallid's Relation to the Marja, Thomas Fibiger (University of Aarhus).

**S 2: 10:45 – 12:15**

**S 2/A: Mixed Panel II (O97)**

Chair: TBC

Cairo in Transformation: Memory, Art, and Urban Space, Sarah H. Awad (Aalborg University).

Public Space as Abstraction and Source of Agency: Formation of Novel Solidarities in Contemporary Istanbul, Pekka Tuominen (University of Helsinki).

Islamist Organizations between the "Periphery" & "Center:": The Muslim Brotherhood (MB) & Partai Islam Se-Malaysia (PAS), Bader Al-Saif (Georgetown University).

Reclaiming Public Space through Cultural Practices, Reza Arjmand (Lund University) and Laleh Foroughanfar (Lund University).

**S 2/B: Women, Employment and the Public Sphere (cancelled)**

### **S 2/C: Gulf Region (O99)**

Chair: Martin Hvidt (SDU).

Qatar 2022: How a Football-Nation Was Designed, Charlotte Lysa (University of Oslo).

The Silence of the Dhows. Dubai's Creation of a Maritime Past, Anke Reichenbach (Zayed University).

Voices of Peace through Arts in the UAE: Middle Eastern Studies Students' Perceptions of Islam, Pamela Chrabieh (American University in Dubai).

The Subjectivity of Decision Making and Governance Structures in UAE, Martin Hvidt (SDU).

### **S 2/D: Negotiating Authority in Contemporary Shi'ite Thought and Practice (O96)**

Chair: David Turfjell (Södertörn University).

Practicing Authority: Producing Islamic Knowledge among Twelver Shi'ite Youth Associations in Oslo, Ingvild Flakerud (Oslo University).

Views on Social, Political and Religious Authority among Shi'ite Populations in the Middle East and beyond, Johan Gärde (Ersta Sköndal University).

### **13:30 Meeting of the Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies (O99)**

## **Special Consecutive Series of Panels on Friday and Saturday: The State and its Limits after the Arab Uprisings**

Chair: Mark LeVine, Donatella Della Ratta, Sune Haugbølle (UC-Irvine; KU; Roskilde University)  
(Room: O95)

The purpose of this “track” within the Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies conference is to bring together leading scholars of the state in the context of the Middle East and North Africa with theorists at the cutting edge of research into the performance and epistemologies of government to explore how viewing the state as an “effect of power” can produce innovative and important new knowledge about the histories, natures, causes and dynamics of the Arab uprisings and the still inchoate transformations in political subjectivities and technologies of rule they herald.

### **F 1/X: Locating the State Five Years into the Uprisings: Logics and Practices of Statecraft and Their Relationship to Civil Societies and “Humanitarianism.”**

This panel explores how the nature and functioning of the state has changed across the region in the wake of half a decade of protests, uprisings, revolutions and war. Based on Tim Mitchell's seminal foucauldian exploration of the “limits” of the state, participants are encouraged to think about and discuss how the boundaries between state and society have been redrawn, both internally and discursively from the outside, as various dynamics have brought state forces into more open conflict with citizens and each other. At the same time as the state's basic topography and functioning have been challenged, civil society has been powerfully affected, particularly by a combination of intense crackdowns, cooptation and broadly jihadi insurgencies that challenge the most basic conception of humanitarian law and action. How these dynamics impact the imagination of the state is also a subject of this panel.

### **F 2/X: Genealogies of National Security, Including the Deep State, Transnational Agendas, and the Roles of Deniability, Secrecy and Criminality as Core Elements of Governmentality.**

This panel explores how national security as a concept and practice has changed in the wake of the uprisings, and how these changes either fit within the contours or challenges those of the post-9/11 state discourse both globally and within each country. We also explore how the “deep state” has contracted or expanded its activities in this period through the discourse of security, and how the often criminal behavior of states, and especially their security and intelligence services, impacts this dynamic.

### **F 3/X: Imperial Debris and Neoliberal Presents—The Deep Historical Roots of Present-Day Policies of Marginalization.**

This panel focuses on achieving the deepest possible historical analysis of roots of the policies that led to the uprisings, focusing on how the “authoritarian bargain” that for so long helped define Arab politics broke down with the rise of neoliberalism, the relationship of this process to older, colonial era dynamics, and how the relationship between imperial pasts and neoliberal presents impacts the dynamics of the current moment.

#### **F 4/X: Repertoires of Resistances State-Ness (anti-state Vocabularies).**

This panel explores how resistance emerges, is constructed, counter-acted by and produces new forms of state power. Our fundamental question is to what degree resistance is part of larger processes of various social/political systems functioning as states. We further explore how anti-state vocabularies actually transform into modes of resistance on the ground and what repertoires become apparent that help both citizens supporting revolution and states opposing the process share a common platform of meaning even if such common understandings enable greater, not less violence or at least confrontation.

#### **F 5/X: Bodies on the Line – The Manner in Which Bodies are Produced, Circulated, Excepted, Killed and Rendered Useful in the Post-Uprisings Environment.**

This panel looks at the micro-physics of revolutionary resistance, focusing on how the successful repression or cooptation of resistance impacts individual citizens in their most intimate self-conceptions and actions. Does a reinforced state power discipline people in new ways? What does reinforced or re-imposed dominance look like after organized resistance has become futile, or in the wake of fratricidal civil war?

#### **F 6/X: State of Statelessness—The Politics and Ramifications of Recognition and Refusal of Various Communities. How the Creation of New Large Diaspora/Migrant/Refugee Communities is Changing Both Political Subjectivity and Technologies of Statecraft.**

This panel explores how the turn towards ethnic and religiously grounded wars between states and part of their citizenry or by various groups involved in civil wars and conflicts in the Arab world have impacted the creation of refugee crises and how the creation of large new communities in both the Arab/Muslim world (especially Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey) and Europe is changing the nature and meaning of “statelessness.” We ask: “Is there something worse than statelessness today, and if so, what is it?”

Transportation between Odense and University of Southern Denmark

We have organized a bus shuttle, see the last page. In addition you can take buses 41/42 leaving from the main station. The precise schedule for these local buses are as follow:

#### **Thursday and Friday:**

Departures from Odense at 07:24, 07:40, 07:48. After this: every 15 minutes at 03,18, 33, 48  
Departures from SDU: Every 09, 24, 39, 54. After 18:00 every 20, 50, After 20:20 every 20.

#### **Saturday:**

Departures from Odense at 07:26 and 08:26; after this: every 11, 41, and 56.  
Departures from SDU: every 13, 28, 43; after 17:00 every 13; after 19:00 every 21.



We have arranged a shuttlebus to the university in the morning and back to the city centre hotels after the conference programme is over.

If you need to go between the city centre and the university at any other time you can use Bus 41 and 42 (18 min. busride).

*Pick-up / Drop - off point 1:* **Odense Teater, Jernbanegade 21**

**Time of departure Friday and Saturday morning: 7.45 am. Arrival SDU 8.15 am.**

*Pick-up / Drop - off point 2:* **The Old train station, Østre Stationsvej 33**

**Time of departure Friday and Saturday morning: 7.50 am. Arrival SDU 8.15 am.**

*Pick-up / Drop - off point 3:* **Radisson Blu H.C. Andersen Hotel, Claus Bergs Gade 7**

**Time of departure Friday and Saturday morning: 7.58 am. Arrival SDU 8.15 am.**

**The busses depart from SDU Thursday and Friday evening at 21.45 pm.**