

Islamists and Local Politics Workshop

Participants

Program on Governance and Local Development, Gothenburg
Project on Middle East Political Science
June 13-15
Brastad, Sweden



Yasmina Abouzzohour

University of Oxford

Yasmina Abouzzohour, B.A. (Hons) Columbia University, is a DPhil candidate in Politics at the University of Oxford. Her research interests include Arab authoritarian resilience, non-rent accommodation, and post-colonial political thought in the Maghreb. At Columbia, Yasmina researched Moroccan and Saudi regime reactions to the recent uprisings, as well as the renewal of Pan-arabism during the Arab Spring. Her current work is a post-Arab Spring analysis of the endurance of Arab monarchies, with a focus on Morocco and Oman.



Olabanji Akinola

University of Guelph, Canada

Olabanji Akinola is a PhD candidate in the department of political science, University of Guelph, in Ontario, Canada. His research interests straddle topics relating to African politics, governance, and socioeconomic development. He is the author of “Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria: Between Islamic Fundamentalism, Politics and Poverty,” *African Security*, 8.1 (2015). He holds an MA in political science and international development from the University of Guelph and an MA in International Studies from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland.



Lindsay Benstead
Portland State University

Lindsay J. Benstead is an Associate Professor of Political Science in the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University, Contributing Scholar in the Women's Rights in the Middle East Program at Rice University, and Affiliated Scholar in the Program on Governance and Local Development (GLD) at the University of Gothenburg and Yale University. She served as Kuwait Visiting Professor at SciencesPo in Paris (fall 2016). Benstead has conducted surveys in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Jordan and contributes to the Transitional Governance Project. Her research has appeared in *Perspectives on Politics*, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, *Governance*, and *Foreign Affairs*. She holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Political Science from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and served as a fellow at Yale University and Princeton University.



Steven Brooke
University of Louisville

Steven Brooke is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Louisville and an Associate Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Middle East Initiative. His research interests include authoritarianism and democratization, political parties, and Islamist movements, which he examines through qualitative, spatial, and experimental methods. In addition to currently writing a book on the Muslim Brotherhood's social service networks from the 1970s until 2013, he is currently studying the early history of the Muslim Brotherhood (with Neil Ketchley), spatial relationships between houses of worship and voting (with Tarek Masoud), the diffusion of protest and quiescence following the Arab Spring (with Mazen Hassan), and advertising in Islamic magazines during the 1970s (with Aaron Rock-Singer). He received his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin in 2015.

Janine Clark
University of Guelph, Canada

Janine Clark is an Associate Professor of political science at the University of Guelph. Her research interests focus on politics in the Middle East, particularly the countries of Egypt, Yemen, Jordan, Lebanon and, most recently, Morocco and Tunisia. Her research interests include Islam and politics, NGOs and civil society, informal and formal women's networks, and the municipal impacts of decentralization. She is the author of *Islam, Charity and Activism* (Indiana University Press, 2004), a comparative project examining Islamic charities and the role they play in the recruitment for moderate Islamist movements and parties in Egypt, Yemen and Jordan. Her current research on decentralization is funded by a SSHRC Standard Research Grant.



Margot Dazey

Trinity College, University of Cambridge

Margot Dazey is a PhD student at the Department of Politics and International Studies, looking at Islamic revivalist activism in France, under the supervision of Dr. Sara Silvestri. Through an ethnographic approach, Dazey intends to study how Islamic reformist narratives and practices are actively reworked in the Muslim-minority settings of French cities. More specifically, she would like to provide a demystified and refined account of these organizations' history by analyzing biographical trajectories, ordinary discourses and daily activities.



Mujtaba Ali Isani

University of Muenster, Germany

Mujtaba Ali Isani is a PhD candidate and Research Fellow at the Religion and Politics Excellence Cluster at the University of Muenster. In November 2016, he was DAAD Sponsored Visiting Guest Researcher at the German Jordanian University in Madaba, Jordan and in March 2017, a DAAD sponsored Visiting Guest Researcher at the Lebanese American University in Byblos, Lebanon. His articles have been published in the Journal of Common Market Studies, Political Research Quarterly and the International Political Science Review. His research has received the Francis R. Aumann Award and the Pi Sigma Alpha Award for best paper by a graduate student and has been featured in various news outlets in Germany such as Die Welt. His research interests span several subfields in political science including comparative politics, Middle East Politics, international security, public opinion, Islamist politics, local government politics in Pakistan, patron-client relations, religion, gender, and political methodology. Over his graduate career he has developed an interest in a variety of topics, which is reflected in the breadth of his research.



Kristen Kao

University of Gothenburg

Kristen Kao received her PhD in 2015 from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the Program on Governance and Local Development (GLD) at the University of Gothenburg. Kristen's dissertation investigates the effects of electoral institutions on tribal voting behavior, ethnic clientelism, and authoritarian rule in the Middle East, where she spent over two years conducting fieldwork. Her broader research interests include the study of electoral authoritarianism, clientelism, ethnic politics, survey methodology, field experiments, politics of the MENA region, and voter behavior. Her research has received funding from the National Science Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, the American Political Science Association, the National Security Education Program, the American Center of Oriental Research, and the Project on Middle East Political Science, among others.

Neil Ketchley

King's College London

Neil Ketchley is a Lecturer in Middle East Politics at King's College London. A political sociologist of the modern Middle East and North Africa, he has primarily written about two topics: the 25th January Egyptian Revolution and political Islam. His latest book, *Egypt in a Time of Revolution: Contentious Politics and the Arab Spring* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming) uses a combination of qualitative and quantitative evidence to examine the causes and the consequences of the 25th January Revolution. Ketchley is currently working on a new book (with Steven Brooke) on the social origins of political Islam. At King's College, Ketchley has co-convened the MA core course on Middle East politics and also teaches an undergraduate paper on social movements and a graduate paper on collective protest in the Middle East. He received his PhD in Political Science from the London School of Economics and was a Hulme Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Brasenose College, University of Oxford from 2014-2016.



Ellen Lust

University of Gothenburg

Ellen Lust is the Founding Director of the Programs on Governance and Local Development at Yale University (est. 2013) and at the University of Gothenburg (est. 2015), and Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg. She also serves as a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Project on Middle East Democracy in Washington, DC. She received her M.A. in Modern Middle East and North African Studies (1993) and PhD in Political Science from the University of Michigan (1997). She held faculty positions at Rice University and Yale University, and was a visiting scholar at the Institute of Graduate Studies (Geneva, Switzerland) and the Straus Institute at NYU. Ellen has conducted fieldwork and implemented surveys in Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia. She has authored numerous books and articles, including most recently, *Trust, Voice and Incentives: Learning from Local Successes in Service Delivery in the Middle East and North Africa*, (Washington, DC: World Bank, 2015) in collaboration with Hana Brix and Michael Woolcock. Her current research is aimed at developing local governance indicators and examining the role of social institutions in governance. She was a co-founder of the Transitional Governance Project, a founding associate editor of *Middle East Law and Governance*, and has served as an advisor and consultant to such organizations as the Carter Center, Freedom House, NDI, UNDEF, UNDP, USAID, and the World Bank. Foundations such as the Hicham Foundation, National Science Foundation, Social Science Research Council, and the Swedish Research Council have supported her work.



Marc Lynch

Project on Middle East Political Science

Marc Lynch is professor of political science and international affairs at George Washington University and is the founder and director of the [Project on Middle East Political Science](#). He is also a non-resident senior associate at the [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#) and a contributing editor at the [Monkey Cage](#) blog on the Washington Post. He is the co-director of the [Blogs and Bullets](#) project at the [United States Institute of Peace](#). In 2016, he was named an [Andrew Carnegie Fellow](#). His most recent book is *The New Arab Wars: Anarchy and Uprising in the Middle East* (PublicAffairs, 2016) and he has also authored, *The Arab Uprising: The Unfinished Revolutions of the New Middle East* (PublicAffairs, 2012) and *Voices of the New Arab Public: Al-Jazeera, Iraq, and Middle East Politics Today* (Columbia University Press 2006). Lynch graduated from Duke University (BA), and received his MA and PhD in Government from Cornell University. He taught at Williams College from 1997-2007, and joined the faculty of The George Washington University in 2007. Lynch blogged as [Abu Aardvark](#) for seven years before joining Foreign Policy as a blogger and columnist, and from 2009-2014 edited The Middle East Channel.



Melissa Marschall

Rice University

Melissa Marschall is a professor of political science at Rice University and a Rice faculty scholar at the Baker Institute Center for the Middle East. Her research focuses on urban politics and policy, education policy, political behavior and representation mostly in the U.S., but also in Turkey. Her book, *Choosing Schools: Consumer Choice and the Quality of American Schools* (coauthored with Mark Schneider and Paul Teske) was recipient of the Policy Studies Association Aaron Wildavsky Award for the Best Policy Book in 2000-2001. She is PI of the Local Elections in America Project (LEAP), funded by The National Science and the Ken Kennedy Institute of Information Technology at Rice University. Marschall created the Urban Lab Program at Rice University and has taught a lab course on urban politics and policy in Istanbul since 2011. She also teaches courses on urban politics, education policy, comparative urban politics & policy, and research methods. Marschall received her M.A. in political science and international relations from Boğaziçi University in Istanbul and her PhD in political science from SUNY Stony Brook.



Marwa Shalaby

Rice University

Marwa Shalaby is the fellow for the Middle East and director of Women's Rights in the Middle East Program. Her research is in the field of comparative politics and research methodology, with a concentration on Middle Eastern politics, gender politics and democratization. Her ongoing research investigates the dynamics of female political representation in the MENA region. She is the PI for the Gender and Elections in the Middle East Project (GEMEP) and a Carnegie Corporation-funded project on establishing pluralistic political systems in the Arab world. Her

research is also supported by the Women's Rights in the Middle East Endowment, the Boniuk Institute and the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy at the American University of Beirut. Shalaby graduated with honors from Al-Azhar University in Cairo, with a bachelor of arts. She also studied at the American University in Cairo and the Sorbonne in Paris before heading to the United States to earn her doctorate from the University of Houston.



Asya el-Meehy

United Nations-ESCWA

Asya El-Meehy is Governance and Public Administration Officer at the United Nations-Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. She holds a Ph.D. in comparative politics from University of Toronto and a MA in political science from McGill University. She specialized in political economy, social rights, social mobilization, and local governance in the Middle East. She was recently a visiting scholar at University of California Berkeley's Center for Middle East Studies and has previously taught at UC Berkeley, Wesleyan and Arizona State University. Her publications have appeared in academic journals, edited books and United Nations studies.



Yuree Noh

University of California, Los Angeles

Yuree Noh is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Political Science at UCLA. She specializes in comparative politics of the countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Noh's dissertation explores electoral institutions and gender politics in a cross-national analysis accompanied by case studies on Algeria and Kuwait. She is also working on additional projects examining topics ranging from Islamist parties to international sanctions. Noh earned her B.A. in political science and economics, with a minor in Arabic from Washington University in St. Louis, where she received an undergraduate research award to conduct research in Lebanon. I also spent a semester abroad at the American University in Cairo. Her research has been funded by the Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) and the Baker Institute Center for the Middle East at Rice University.



Mara Revkin

Yale University

Mara Revkin is pursuing a PhD in political science at Yale University and a J.D. at Yale Law School, where she is a Resident Fellow with the Abdallah S. Kamel Center for the Study of Islamic Law and Civilization. Mara's research focuses on governance and lawmaking by insurgent groups in civil wars and weak states, with a regional specialization in Middle Eastern and Islamic legal systems. Her work draws on a range of techniques including ethnographic and archival methods, computer-

assisted analysis of Arabic language data, and survey-based experiments. She has conducted fieldwork most recently in the Sinai Peninsula, southeastern Turkey, and Iraqi Kurdistan. After receiving her B.A. in Political Science and Arabic from Swarthmore College, Mara was a Fulbright Fellow in Jordan and Oman and a Junior Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where her research focused on the Arab Spring and al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). She also served as Assistant Director of the Atlantic Council's Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East before beginning graduate school in 2012.



Hillary Wiesner

Carnegie Corporation of New York

Hillary Wiesner is Program Director for Transnational Movements and the Arab Region at Carnegie Corporation of New York. The program supports the activity, connection, and impact of social science and humanities expertise in the Arab region to work on critical topics shaping the future of the region. She previously served as Senior Executive Officer and Secretary of the Directorate of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, and as the first Director of Programmes of the Vienna-based intergovernmental Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue. She holds a BA in religion from Harvard, an MA from the University of Chicago on the Ancient Mediterranean World, and a PhD from Harvard's Committee on the Study of Religion. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and serves on boards of AMIDEAST, the Peace and Security Funders Group, and George Mason University's Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies.

Evren Celik Wiltse

South Dakota State University

Evren Celik Wiltse is an Assistant Professor of political science at South Dakota State University. She specializes on political economy of development and democratization, how state policies help or hinder development prospects, social actors that push for greater transparency, and gender aspects of development and democratization. Her book, *Democratic Reform and Consolidation: The cases of Mexico & Turkey* (ECPR Press, 2015) compares the century long modernization, development and democratization adventures of Mexico and Turkey. Wiltse received her BA and MA from Bogazici University and her PhD: University of Massachusetts-Amherst.



Diana Zeidan

École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS)

Diana Zeidan is a PhD candidate in Development Studies at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris. She holds a Masters in Political Sciences from Saint-Joseph University in Beirut and a Masters in Comparative Development Studies from EHESS. Her broad research agenda focuses on the global politics of development in conflict and post-conflict contexts, and Islamist political activism in local politics and development. She is particularly interested in the

questions related to the deployment of development policies in post-war Lebanon and the “making of politics” through the aid system in Lebanon. Her doctoral study explores the intersections between Islamic developmentalism, municipalisation, and international cooperation partnerships in South Lebanon. Diana Zeidan has also been actively involved in the management and implementation of development projects in South Lebanon.