

Social Justice in the Arab World since 2010: Changing conditions, mobilizations, and policies



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In this joint conference organized by the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut (AUB), and the Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice at Princeton University, we seek to assess social movement changes and emerging social justice policies, or the lack thereof, in the Arab world since 2010 - at both the national and local policy levels. We are particularly interested in examining local dynamics to learn about changes in people's everyday living conditions since 2010, how people organize and mobilize to express their grievances and seek to promote policy changes, and whether any measurable or meaningful changes in state policies related to social justice demands have occurred.

We have accepted papers from researchers working throughout the Arab world who can clarify developments in areas that include the evolution of social inequalities; organized and informal social and political protest movements; citizen grievances and social justice demands; new forms of organization and activism; roles of trade unions and professional associations; reform of state institutions; decentralization and the role of local authorities; and changes in people's living conditions since 2010.

Agenda

Thursday, February 2, 2017 | Issam Fares Institute Building - AUB

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| 9:00 – 9:30
Auditorium | <p>Opening & Welcoming Remarks
 Tarek Mitri, Director, Issam Fares Institute, American University of Beirut
 Amaney Jamal, Director of the Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, Princeton University
 Leila Kabalan, Program Coordinator, Social Justice and Development Policy in the Arab World, Issam Fares Institute, American University of Beirut</p> |
| 9:30 – 10:15
Auditorium | <p>Universal Human Rights and Social Justice vs. Diversity and Self-Determination: Can they be Reconciled?
 Stephen Macedo, Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Politics, Princeton University</p> |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | Coffee Break |
| 10:30 – 12:30
Auditorium | <p>Trends, Constraints, and Grievances in the Arab Region
 Moderator: Nasser Yassin, Director of Research, Issam Fares Institute, American University of Beirut</p> <p>Popular Grievances in the Arab Region: Evaluating Explanations for Discontent in the Lead-up to the Uprisings
 Nisreen Salti, Associate Professor of Economics, American University of Beirut
 Melanie Cammett, Professor of Government, Harvard University</p> <p>Economic Growth, Youth Unemployment, and Political and Social Instability: A Study of Policies and Outcomes in Post-Arab Spring Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia, 1990-2013
 Heath Prince, Research Scientist, University of Texas at Austin
 Amna Khan, Deputy Project Director for the Center for Advanced Studies in Energy, Islamabad, Pakistan
 Yara Halasa, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University</p> |



Youth-Focused Active Labor Market Programs in a
Constraining Welfare Regime: A Qualitative Reading of
Programs in Egypt

Ghada Barsoum, Assistant Professor, American University
in Cairo

The Rule of Law in the Arab Gulf: Vectors of Social Change
and Consolidation

David Mednicoff, Director of Middle Eastern Studies,
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch Break

13:30 – 15:30 **Polls, Data, and Changing Attitudes from the Arab Region**
Auditorium Moderator: **Charles Harb**, Professor of Social Psychology,
American University of Beirut

Why do Jordanians Prefer Shia over Sunni Refugees? A
Conjoint Experiment on Sectarian Bias among
Ordinary Citizens

Michael Robbins, Project Director, Arab Barometer

Religion, Trust, and Other Determinants of Muslim Attitudes
toward Gender Equality: Evidence and Insights from 54
Surveys in the Middle East and North Africa

Mark Tessler, Samuel J. Eldersveld Collegiate Professor,
University of Michigan

Hafsa Tout, Research Assistant, University of Michigan

Religious Identities, Measurement, and Attitudes toward
Regime Type in the Arab World

Sabri Ciftci, Associate Professor, Kansas State University

F. Michael Wuthrich, Visiting Assistant Professor, University
of Kansas

Ammar Shamaileh, Assistant Professor, University of
Louisville

Citizens and Security Threats in the Middle East:
Perceptions and Consequences

Ishac Diwan, Chaire Socio-économie du Monde Arabe, Paris
Sciences et Lettres, France

Irina Vartanova, Saint Petersburg Higher School of
Economics, Russia

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 **Session A** - Conference room (4th floor)

Parallel Sessions

Tunisia Today: Politics, Protests, and Partisans

Moderator: **Rania Masri**, Associate Director, Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship, American University of Beirut

The Political Behavior of Economic “Outsiders”: Informal Labor, Unemployed Graduates, and the Roots of Social Discontent

Helen Milner, Professor of Politics and International Relations, Princeton University

Amaney Jamal, Professor of Politics, Princeton University

Chantal Berman, PhD Candidate, Princeton University

University Graduates and Inhabitants of Marginalized Regions: Explaining the Weakness of Unemployed Activism in Tunisia

Samiha Hamdi, PhD Candidate, University of Languages and Human Sciences of Sfax, Tunisia

Irene Weipert-Fenner, Research Fellow, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, Germany

16:00 – 17:30 **Session B** - Auditorium

Parallel Sessions

Expectations and Disappointments in Post-Uprisings Arab World

Moderator: **Rim Saab**, Assistant Professor of Psychology, American University of Beirut

A Case for Chaos; Thresholds of Violence and Meaning in Egypt after 2011

Habiba Al Awady, University Fellow and Researcher, Anthropology Department, American University in Cairo

Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow: Social Justice and the Rise of Dystopian Art and Literature Post-Arab Spring

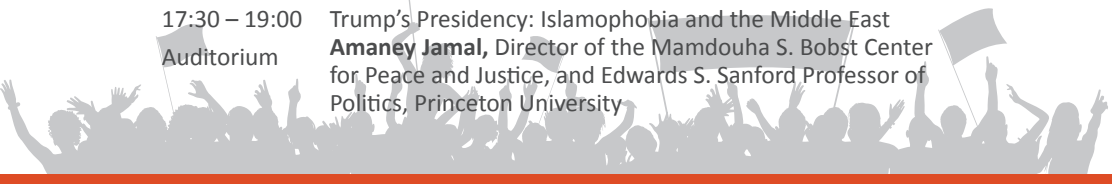
Sarah Marusek, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

The Politics of Hope and Disappointment in Post-Uprising Egypt

Nermin Allam, Postdoctoral Fellow, Princeton University

17:30 – 19:00
Auditorium

Trump’s Presidency: Islamophobia and the Middle East
Amaney Jamal, Director of the Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, and Edwards S. Sanford Professor of Politics, Princeton University



Friday, February 3, 2017 | Issam Fares Institute Building - AUB

- 9:00 – 9:45 The University as a Model for a Fair and Just Society
Auditorium **Fadlo R. Khuri**, President, American University of Beirut
- 9:45 – 10:00 Coffee Break
- 10:00 – 12:00 **Gender Activism: Case Studies from the Region**
Auditorium Moderator: **Leila Kabalan**, Program Coordinator, Social Justice
and Development Policy in the Arab World, Issam Fares
Institute, American University of Beirut
- Queer Politics and Social Justice in Palestine
Sa'ed Atshan, Assistant Professor of Peace and Conflict
Studies, Swarthmore College
- Resilience, LGBT, and Space: Tunisian and Lebanese Youth
Activists' Rights and Struggles
Arnaud Kurze, Assistant Professor, Montclair State University
- Participation in Political Protests and Young People's Views on
Gender Equality in Egypt
Rania Roushdy, Senior Program Manager, Poverty, Gender and
Youth Program, Population Council
Maia Sieverding, Assistant Professor of Public Health Practice,
American University of Beirut
- Public Spaces and Women in Egypt: Contemplating between
Constitutions
Magda Shahin, Director of Prince Alwaleed Center for
American Studies and Research, American University in Cairo
Yasmeen Ghazaly, Research Assistant, American University in
Cairo
- 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch Break

13:00 – 15:00

Auditorium

Institutional, Political, and Social Changes in Post-Revolution Egypt

Moderator: **Dina El-Khawaga**, Director, Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship, American University of Beirut

Does Egypt Want Change? Implicit Attitudes Towards an Authoritarian Regime

Daniel Tavana, PhD Candidate, Princeton University

Rory Truex, Assistant Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University

Institutional Reform in Post-Revolutionary Egypt

Mustapha El Sayyid, Affiliate Professor, American University in Cairo

Policy Change and Popular Mobilization for Equitable Basic Education in Egypt

Hania Sobhy, Academic Coordinator, Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW), Germany

Peasants' Mobilizations in Egypt. From Direct Action to Unionization: The Role of NGOs, Solidarity Activists and Intellectuals in Rural Struggles, 2010-2015

Francesco Des Lellis, PhD Candidate, Università L'Orientale, Naples, Italy

15:00 – 15:30

Coffee Break



15:30 – 17:30 **Session A** - Conference room (4th floor)

**Parallel
Sessions**

Social and Political Mobilizations in Yemen and Algeria

Moderator: **Sarah El Jamal**, Research Assistant, Issam Fares Institute, American University of Beirut

The Role of Social Movements in Achieving Social Justice in Yemen

Faisal Mahboub, PhD Candidate in Political Sciences, Tunis El Manar University, Tunisia

The Political Engagement of the Algerian Youth

Mustapha Omrane, Researcher, Centre de recherche en économie appliquée pour le développement, Algeria

“Mahgourin Fi Bled El Bitrol”: Mobilizing for Social Justice in South Algeria

Naoual Belakhdar, Research Associate, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

15:30 – 17:30 **Session B - Auditorium**

**Parallel
Sessions**

Grassroots Mobilizations and Political Ideologies in Lebanon and Iraq

Moderator: **Rayan El-Amine**, Assistant Director, Issam Fares Institute, American University of Beirut

The Lebanese Power Structure and its Impact on the Effectiveness of Grassroots Mobilizations: Lessons from the Labor Movement

Rossana Tufaro, PhD Candidate, Università Cà Foscari, Venice, Italy

Access to Justice in a Displaced Community: The Case of a Palestinian Refugee Camp in Southern Lebanon

Jaber Sleiman, Policy Adviser

Lebanese Ideology as a Driver of Sectarianism

Barea Sinno, PhD Candidate, The University of Texas at Austin

The Sadrist Trend and the Development of Iraqi Civil Society

Damian Doyle, PhD Candidate, Australian National University, Australia

17:30 – 18:30 **Closing Roundtable**
Auditorium



Keynote Speech

The University as a Model for a Fair and Just Society

Fadlo R. Khuri, President, American University of Beirut

Universities can often serve as micro-models of society as a whole, often mirroring their challenges and strengths, and even accentuating them. The American University of Beirut has played an enormous role in the development of education, political consciousness, and medical and business leadership for Lebanon and the Arab world for the entirety of its 150 years. After a period of retrenchment that began during Lebanon's descent into its exhausting and ultimately fruitless Civil War, the university has begun to emerge once more as a force for societal engagement. How the University's influence in education, healthcare, and the economy of Lebanon in the Arab world can be leveraged to provide optimal positive impact is a matter of much discussion. This is particularly important if AUB is to provide the beginnings of a post-sectarian, manifestly secular identity for Lebanon to adopt.

Fadlo R. Khuri, MD, the 16th president of the University, assumed office on September 1, 2015. He previously held leadership positions at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. These included professor and chairman of the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology, the Roberto C. Goizueta Distinguished Chair for Cancer Research, deputy director for the Winship Cancer Institute, and the executive associate dean for research. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Khuri was raised in Beirut while his father Raja N. Khuri served as dean of the AUB's Faculty of Medicine and his mother as a professor of mathematics. Following a year of study at AUB (1981-82), Khuri earned his undergraduate degree at Yale University in New Haven, and his MD at Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. He completed a residency in Internal Medicine at the Boston City Hospital, and a fellowship in Hematology and Medical Oncology at the Tufts-New England Medical Center. He has published over 300 peer reviewed articles, and his work has been cited over 16,000 times. Khuri's work has been recognized with several major awards, including the 2006 Nagi Sahyoun Award of the Middle East Medical Assembly, the 2010 Waun Ki Hong Distinguished Professorship by the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, and the 2013 American Association for Cancer Research Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Memorial Award. He is a member of the Lebanese Academy of Sciences; the American Society for Clinical Investigation, is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and serves as Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Cancer*.

Distinguished Lectures

Universal Human Rights and Social Justice vs. Diversity and Self-Determination: Can they be Reconciled?

Stephen Macedo, Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Politics,
Princeton University

Professor Macedo will speak about some traditions of thinking about social justice and democracy, with a particular eye to the question of how we should think about local and diverse ways of creating a legitimate — morally and not only sociologically legitimate — and cooperative social order. Do leading Western models of constitutional democracy furnish standards for political legitimacy that apply globally? Do they provide guidance as to which social justice demands are morally most urgent? Do human rights furnish such guidance? How great is the danger that such models and traditions of thought might lead scholars or policy-makers to ignore diverse local traditions and conditions on the ground, producing more harm than good?

Stephen Macedo is the Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Politics and the former Director of the University Center for Human Values at Princeton University. He writes and teaches on political theory, ethics, public policy, and law, especially on topics related to liberalism, democracy and citizenship, diversity and civic education, religion and politics, and the family and sexuality. He is author of *Just Married: Same-Sex Couples, Monogamy, and the Future of Marriage* (Princeton University Press, 2015). He is co-author of *Democracy at Risk: How Political Choices Undermine Citizen Participation, and What We Can Do About It* (Brookings, 2005). His other books include *Diversity and Distrust: Civic Education in a Multicultural Democracy* (Harvard U. Press, 2000); and *Liberal Virtues: Citizenship, Virtue, and Community in Liberal Constitutionalism* (Oxford U. Press, 1990).



Trump's Presidency: Islamophobia and the Middle East

Amaney Jamal, Director of the Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, and Edwards S. Sanford Professor of Politics, Princeton University

The Trump presidency has raised anxieties world-wide. What does his election mean for stability and the future of democracy in the Middle East? Will authoritarianism become even more entrenched? What challenges and opportunities might arise under his leadership? And what does his election mean for America's Muslim community?

Amaney A. Jamal is the Edwards S. Sanford Professor of Politics at Princeton University and director of the Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice. Jamal also directs the Workshop on Arab Political Development. She currently is President of the Association of Middle East Women's Studies (AMEWS). The focus of her current research is democratization and the politics of civic engagement in the Arab world. Her interests also include the study of Muslim and Arab Americans and the pathways that structure their patterns of civic engagement in the United States. Jamal's books include *Barriers to Democracy*, which explores the role of civic associations in promoting democratic effects in the Arab world (winner 2008 APSA Best Book Award in comparative democratization). She is co-editor of *Race and Arab Americans Before and After 9/11: From Invisible Citizens to Visible Subjects* (2007) and *Citizenship and Crisis: Arab Detroit after 9/11* (2009). Her most recent book is *Of Empires and Citizens* published by Princeton University Press, (2012).