

Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark

School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, AMMAN, JORDAN

AN ARAB WORLD IN TRANSITION – THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

School of International Studies and Political Science

University of Jordan

21 - 22 April 2013



DJUCO



AN ARAB WORLD IN TRANSITION – THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

Venue: School of International Studies and Political Science,
University of Jordan, 21 - 22 April 2013

Organized by the Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark and the School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan

Organizers

Peter Seeberg, Director of Studies and Associate Professor, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark

Zaid Eyadat, Dean of School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan

Hassan al-Momani, School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan

Bo Vestergaard Thiesen, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark

Introduction

The recent developments in the Middle East have re-ignited discussions about historical transformation. Labeling the events in the MENA-region and reading the scope and significance of the dynamic processes have caused vibrant scholarly debates, as it can be seen from a growing number of academic publications. To take two significant examples: The well-known US-based organization and think tank, Freedom House, published in 2012 their usual annual report “Freedom in the World”; this time with the subtitle “The Arab Uprisings and Their Global Repercussions”. The German Bertelsmann Stiftung, every two years publishing the much used Bertelsmann Transformation Index, in 2012 published a report called “The Arab Spring: One Year After. Transformation Dynamics, Prospects for Democratization and the Future of Arab-European Cooperation”.

The events within the last two years in the Middle East inspire a rethinking of our comprehension of historical change and call for discussions about our conventional theoretical and methodological paradigms. Taking its point of departure in the discussions about how to interpret the events in the Middle East since late 2010 this conference will analyze the theoretical perspectives of an Arab World in transition. The first part of the conference will discuss theoretical challenges related to the understanding of transition processes in a global perspective.

The second part of the conference will focus on actual developments in the MENA-region and – based on case-studies – discuss how the ongoing transformation can be understood and interpreted. Furthermore it is the ambition to analyze the significance of the changes in a regional and international perspective: how and to which degree will the transition of the Middle Eastern states affect the surrounding world?

The academic debates of first two years after the Arab Uprisings have centered around the internal conflicts in the affected Middle Eastern states and the prospects of democratization in the region. It is the aim of this conference to take the discussion further and by focusing on transitional dynamics and their theoretical perspectives to contribute to the wider understanding of historical change.

The conference is part of the DJUCO-initiative – a university cooperation project between Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark and School of International Studies, University of Jordan.

Programme

Sunday 21 April 2013

9.30-10.00 Registration, coffee and tea

10.00-10.15 Welcome

Zaid Eyadat, Dean of School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan
Peter Seeberg, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark

10.15-11.15 Opening speech

Jan Claudius Völkel, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, EuroMed Studies Programme, Cairo University and Regional Coordinator Middle East & North Africa at the Bertelsmann Transformation Index:

[Measuring Democracy in Times of Transformation - An Insight into the Bertelsmann Transformation Index](#)

11.30-13.00 Panel 1. The Arab Spring. Theoretical Perspectives, part I

Chair: Mohammad Al Masalha, School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan

Panel:

Martin Beck, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark:
[Bringing the Rentier State Approach Back In: Oil and the Arab Spring \(Working Title\)](#)

James Sater, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark:
[Citizenship in the Middle East: Old Questions and New Realities](#)

13.00-14.00 Lunch break

14.00-16.00 Panel 2. The Arab Spring. Theoretical Perspectives, part II

Chair: Peter Seeberg, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark

Panel:

Bertold Schweitzer, European Peace University, Austria:
[Modeling Mechanisms of Transition in the Arab Spring](#)

Zaid Eyadat, Dean of School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan:
[Transition: Mapping Theoretical Paradigms](#)

Hassan Barari, School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan:
[The Continuation of Autocracy in the Region](#)

16.00-16.30 Coffee Break

16.30-18.00 Panel 3. Case Studies: Egypt, Jordan

Chair: James Sater, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark

Panel:

Martin Beck, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark and
Simone Hüser, M.A., Research Fellow at the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation in Amman:

Beyond the Arab Spring: Jordan

Mohammed Mahsoob, Professor of Law, Menofia University:

The Egyptian Uprising and its Subsequent Developments

20.00 Conference Dinner

Monday 22 April 2013

9.30-9.45 Registration, coffee and tea

9.45-11.15 Panel 4. International Perspectives, part I

Chair: Martin Beck, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark

Panel:

Patricia Bauer, European Peace University, Austria:

The European Mediterranean Policy after the Arab Spring – Beyond Discourse and Interest

Kirstine Sinclair, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark:

“What They Really Want is a Caliphate!” British Salafi Reactions to the Arab Spring

11.15-11.30 Coffee Break

Chair: Patricia Bauer, European Peace University, Austria:

11.30-13.00 Panel 5. International Perspectives, part II

Andrea Teti, Department of Politics & International Relations, University of Aberdeen:

EU Policy Responses to the Arab Uprisings: Conceptions of Democracy in PfDSP, NRCN and Delivering Democracy

Peter Seeberg, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark:

Europe, the Arab Revolts and the Recent Geopolitical Shifts in the Middle East. The Disconnection of the EU’s Pragmatic Foreign and Security Policy Regime

13.00-14.00 Lunch break

14.00-15.30 Concluding Remarks, further cooperation etc.

Zaid Eyadat, Dean of School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan

Peter Seeberg, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark