



Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter

IAIS Postgraduate Conference 2017

'Conflict, Borders and Contested Space'

24-25 May 2017



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CALL FOR PAPERS

Within the context of conflicts in the Middle East which challenge historical borders, the growth of militarised borders in Europe and the US, and the increasing securitisation of migration and the 'refugee crisis', the need to understand spatial articulations of conflict has become increasingly critical. In this time of a securitisation of civil space and the militarisation of borders, this conference seeks to explore changing formations of conflict, contestation and dissent, as well as their implications for contemporary academia.

We encourage papers that take up the theme in innovative ways, exploring not only conflict, borders and the contestation of space, but also how differing research approaches can stimulate new academic findings and contest the largely neoliberal dominance of studies in the field. We particularly welcome submissions that highlight the connections between the Middle East and North Africa, and other areas of the globe, and aim to foster dialogue and discussion between scholars from a wide array of backgrounds and disciplines. We especially encourage postgraduates and recent PhD graduates to apply.

Potential topics for papers include:

1. Conflict

- Changing patterns of conflict, contestation and dissent in the 21st Century
- Post-colonialism, the modern state and contemporary settler-colonialism
- 'Radicalisation', counter-terrorism and critical terrorism studies
- Borders of identity and sectarianism
- Contentious activism, social movements and tactics of political protest

2. Borders

- The historical development, and changing conceptualisations, of sovereignty, borders and boundaries
- Borders, the economy and the state in a 'glocalised' world
- Migration, securitisation and the 'refugee crisis'
- Borderlands, 'non-space' and 'bare life' in the age of liquid modernity

3. Contested Space

- Securitisation and its spatial projections
- Gender-based, diasporic and minority-community articulations of identity
- Archaeology and geography in the making of contested space
- Spatial approaches to academic practice and their future implications
- Construction and reproduction of contested space(s)

Submission Details

To submit a paper proposal, please send an abstract of maximum 250 words to iaisprconference@exeter.ac.uk by **Friday 7th April 2017**.

Additional Details

The conference will include a key note speech by **Dr. Bassel Salloukh**, Associate Professor of Political Science at the Social Sciences Department at **Lebanese American University**, entitled '**Demystifying Sectarian Narratives of the Middle East after the Popular Uprisings**'.



Dr. Salloukh's current research looks at post-conflict power-sharing arrangements, the challenge of re-assembling the political orders and societies of post-uprisings Arab states, and the geopolitics of the Middle East after the popular uprisings. His most recent co-authored book, *The Politics of Sectarianism in Postwar Lebanon*, examines the ensemble of institutional, clientelist, and discursive practices of governance that collectively produce and sustain the political economy and ideological hegemony of the sectarian system. Salloukh is also a contributor to policy journals and on-line academic forums and newspapers, including *Foreign Affairs*, *Washington Post's the Monkey Cage*, *OpenDemocracy*, *Middle East Institute*, and *The New Arab*.

Dr. Salloukh has served as senior policy consultant to a number of international and private organizations including UN-ESCWA (Beirut), Management Systems International (Washington), International Alert, and Médecins Sans Frontières (Beirut office). He is Senior Nonresident Research Fellow at the Interuniversity Consortium for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (ICAMES) in Montréal, Canada, and expert commentator for a number of media outlets in North America, Europe, and the Middle East.