

WORKSHOP “ISLAMISM AND POLITICAL ACTIVISM IN THE GULF PENINSULA” (8 hours)

The workshop is organized by the Master in International Studies of the Department of Culture, Politics and Society in the frame of Erasmus Plus exchange programme. The evaluation to obtain certificate of attendance is based on active participation to the workshop and on the writing of a short essay (1500 words). One absence (2 hours) is tolerated.

The workshop is open to MA students of the Department of Culture, Politics and Society and particularly to those of International Studies that have 25 places reserved. The workshop has limited places (30). To apply write to carine.lahoudtatar@usj.edu.lb from the 19 of October. The deadline for the application is the 31 of October. Students will be admitted on a first come first served basis. The admitted students will receive a confirmation mail. **NOTE:** due to limited places, students who decide to not participate are requested to provide a notification as soon as possible in order to facilitate the repechage.

The workshop’s language is English.

When and where: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (6 and 7 November 10,00-13,00 and 8 November 10,00-12,00). Room 3D233 (3rd floor, Department of Culture, Politics and Society).

Lecturer: Carine Lahoud Tatar, Institute of Political Sciences, USJ Beirut

Rationale

The seminar is about Islamism, elections and political activism in Gulf monarchies. It will examine three main topics: 1/ Islamist politics and social movement; 2/ Islamist electoral participation; 3/ political regimes and elections in Gulf Monarchies. We will be concerned with elections in non-democratic contexts, which appear to be an increasingly important phenomenon and how the main Islamist movements, including the Muslim Brotherhood and the various Salafi groups, respond to new political challenges and what strategies and resources do they mobilize to achieve their political objectives. We will attempt to explore a number of questions surrounding Islamists and politics in Gulf Monarchies. What explains the electoral success of these movements? Why do Islamists participate in authoritarian elections? What electoral strategies do Islamists employ? How have the different regimes dealt with these movements at different times? How do regimes manage or manipulate electoral systems for their benefit and preservation? How have different regime-Islamists dynamics affected the development and trajectory of Islamist movements? Does inclusion in the political process lead to moderation? Were Islamist movement at the forefront of the 2011-mass mobilization?

Learning Objectives

By the end of the seminar, the students will be expected to:

- comprehend the specific nature of Gulf monarchies
- discuss and compare different types of political government and political activism in the Gulf peninsula
- provide a contextualized analysis of Islamic movements and the role they play in Gulf settings

Structure

Session 1: Introduction to Gulf Countries: Political Regimes and Political Activism in Authoritarian Setting
 Session 2: Islamism-s: Fragmentation of Political Representation and Islamist Electoral Participation
 Session 3: Muslim Brotherhood in Gulf Countries: Allies or Enemies?
 Session 4: Islamism and the Arab Spring: Reinvention of Authoritarianism?
 Each session is 2-hour long

Evaluation

Course evaluation will be based upon the completion of a brief note (1500 words maximum).
 Students are asked to answer to the following question: “*Why do Islamists participate in electoral politics? Did they succeed in achieving their political goals?*”
 Due on November 8th (in class and/or via email by the start of the class)

Reading list

In English

Freer, Courtney, “Exclusion-Moderation in the Gulf Context: Tracing the Development of Pragmatic Islamism in Kuwait”, *Middle Eastern Studies*, 01/2018, Volume 54, Issue 1, pp. 1-21.
 -, *Rentier Islamism: The Role of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Gulf*, LSE Middle East Centre Paper Series 09, 2015. <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/64446/1/RentierIslamism.pdf>
 Kepel, Gilles, *Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam*, Belknap Press, 2003.
 Lacroix, Stéphane, *Awakening Islam: The Politics of Religious Dissent in Contemporary Saudi Arabia*, Harvard University Press, 2011.
 Lahoud Tatar, Carine, “Youth Engagement in Kuwait Political Arena: Old and New Dynamics of Activism”, in Jones Marc, Porter Ross and Valery Marc (ed.), *Hegemonic Boundaries and Asymmetric Power in the Gulf*, Exeter Critical Gulf Studies, Berlin, London, Gerlach Press (to be published in 2018)
 Matthiesen, Toby, *The domestic sources of Saudi foreign policy: Islamists and the State in the wake of the Arab Uprisings*, working paper, Brookings Institutions, Rethinking political Islam Series, 2015, https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Saudi-Arabia_Matthiesen-FINALE.pdf
 Monroe, Steve L, “Salafis in Parliament: Democratic Attitudes and Party Politics in the Gulf”, *The Middle East Journal*, 07/2012, Volume 66, Issue 3, pp. 409-424.
 Mouline, Nabil, *The Clerics of Islam: Religious Authority and Political Power in Saudi Arabia*, Yale University Press, 2014
 Roberts, David, “Qatar and the Muslim Brotherhood: Pragmatism or Preference?”, *Middle East Policy*, 2014, Volume 21, Issue 3, pp. 84-94.
 Seikaly May, Mattar, Khawla (ed.), *The Silent Revolution. The Arab Spring and the Gulf States*, Gerlach Press, 2014.
 Wiktorowicz, Quintan (ed.), *Islamic Activism: A Social Movement Theory Approach*, Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2004.

In French

Lahoud Tatar, Carine, “Koweït: Salafismes et la question de l’autorité”, dans Rougier Bernard (ed.), *Qu’est-ce le salafisme ?*, Paris, Puf, Middle East collection, 2008, p. 123-136.

-, *Islam et Politique au Koweït*, Paris, PUF, 2011.

-, *Les Frères musulmans dans les monarchies du Golfe : entre intégration politique et répression*, 2017, Fondation de la Recherche Stratégique, report,

<https://www.frstrategie.org/programmes/observatoire-du-monde-arabo-musulman-et-du-sahel/les-freres-musulmans-dans-les-monarchies-du-golfe-entre-integration-politique-et-repression-16>

In Arabic

Lahoud Tatar, Carine, *Islam et politique au Koweït [al-islam wal siyassa fil-koweït]*, Beyrouth, Centre d’Etudes de l’Unité arabe, 2017.

Mesbar, *The Muslim brotherhood in the Gulf [al-Ikhwan al-Muslimoun fil-Khalij]*, al Mesbar Studies and Research center, s.d, <http://www.almesbar.net/1/770.pdf>