

# Urban Violence in the Middle East: Histories of Place and Event



International Conference, 13 - 16 February 2013

Convenors:

Nelida Fuccaro and Rasmus Elling

Supported by London Middle East Institute, SOAS

Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council



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# International Conference - Urban Violence in the Middle East: Histories of Place and Event

## Programme

### Day One, February 13, 2013 (Khalili Lecture Theatre)

#### 17.30 – 18.45 Keynote/Public Lecture

Charles Tripp (SOAS, University of London) *Fighting for Space: Theatres of Violence and Emerging Publics*

#### 19.00 – 20.00 Conference Reception

### Day Two, February 14, 2013

#### 9.30– 10.15 Registration/Coffee

#### 10.15 – 10.30 Welcome and Introduction

#### 10.30 – 12.10 Beyond Middle Eastern Cities

**Chair/Discussant:** Stephen Legg (Nottingham University)

Siniša Malešević (University College, Dublin) *Urban Life and Organised Violence*

Freek Colombijn (VU University, Amsterdam) *Urban Violence in Indonesia: a Historical Perspective*

Nandini Gooptu (University of Oxford) *Angry Elites and Urban Violence*

#### 12.10 – 13.30 Lunch

#### 13.30 – 15.10 Encountering State Discipline: Urban Frontlines

**Chair/Discussant:** Charles Tripp (SOAS, University of London)

Benjamin C. Brower (University of Texas, Austin) *Civilian Camps and Shantytowns in Colonial Algeria*

Dina Rizk Houry (George Washington University) *When Basra became a Battle Front (1980-8): War and the Re-Organization of Space*

Claudia Schröder (Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin) *A Tamed Urban Revolution: the 1967 Riots in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province*

#### 15.10 – 15.30 Coffee

#### 15.30 – 17.10 Violence as Event and Communities of Violence

**Chair/Discussant:** Sami Zubaida (Birkbeck College, University of London)

Nelida Fuccaro (SOAS, University of London) *Dissecting Public Unrest: Moments of Violence in Kirkuk as a 'Frontier' Society*

Orit Baskhin (University of Chicago): *Urban Violence and Minoritization in Baghdad: The Farhud, the Wathba and the Iraqi Jewish Community*

Rasmus Elling (University of Copenhagen) *Narrating Ethnic Violence in Abadan: the 1946 Strike*

## Day Three, February 15, 2013

### 9.30 – 11.10 **Urban Networks and Cultures of Political Violence I: Narrating and Interpreting Factional Politics**

**Chair/Discussant:** Dina Matar (SOAS, University of London)

James Baldwin (Queen Mary, University of London) *Intra-Elite Violence in Eighteenth Century Cairo*

Lauren Banko (SOAS, University of London) *Interpreting Urban Violence to Achieve Rights of Citizenship in Mandatory Palestine: between Nablus and Jaffa, 1931-1934*

Franck Mermier (CNRS, Paris) *Political Violence in Aden and Changes in Urban Society*

### 11.10 – 11.30 **Coffee**

### 11.30 – 13.10 **Urban Networks and Cultures of Political Violence I: Imperial Contexts**

**Chair/Discussant:** James McDougall (University of Oxford)

James Grehan (Portland State University) *Sectarianism and Urban Violence in Ottoman Syria and Palestine (c. 1770-1830)*

Nora Lafi (Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin) *Challenging the Pax Urbana: Urban Violence in Tunis. Local Stakes and the Emergence of a New International Context, 1857-1861*

Fati Masjedi (Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin) *Beyond Empire: Violence and Foreigners in Qajar Tabriz, 1905-1918*

### 13.10 – 14.30 **Lunch**

### 14.30 – 16.10 **In Words and Signs: Semantics and Semiotics of Violence**

**Chair/Discussant:** John Parker (SOAS, University of London)

Yair Wallach (SOAS, University of London) *On Writing and Violence*

Jason Mohaghegh (New Jersey City University) *The Poetics of Urban Violence: Avant-Garde Narratives of Spatial Collapse in Tehran, 1952-1979*

Till Grallert (Freie Universität, Berlin) *The Semiotics of Hadatha: Late Nineteenth Century News Reports of Violent 'Incidents'*

### 16.10- 16.30 **Coffee**

### 16.30 – 17.40 **Spatialities of Violence and their Meaning**

**Chair/Discussant:** Salwa Ismail (SOAS, University of London)

Yasser Elsheshtawy (United Arab Emirates University, al-'Ayn) *Urban Ruptures: Modernity and Urban Development in Nasser's post-1952 Cairo*

Are Knudsen (Christian Michelsen Institute, Bergen) *Urbanity and Urbanizing Violence in Beirut, 1958-2008*

## Day Four, February 16, 2013

### 9.30 – 11.40 **Challenging Urban Space and Orders: Rituals of Violence**

**Chair/Discussant:** Madawi Al-Rasheed (King's College, London)

Jeanine Dageyeli (The Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Berlin) *Rioters and Martyrs: Ritual Urban Violence in late 18th-Century Bukhara*

Ulrike Freitag (Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin) *Contestation over Urban Space and Prestige - When Festivals Turned Violent in late 19th/early 20th century Jeddah*

Olmo Götz (Albert Ludwigs Universität, Freiburg) *Henchmen or Honourable Men? Violent Non-State Actors in the 1953 Coup in Iran*

Saghar Sadeghian (University of Sorbonne Nouvelle) *The Tradition of Attacking non-Muslim Quarters in Iran during Moharram and Safar (19th/20th centuries)*

### 11.40 – 12.00 **Coffee**

### 12.00 – 13.00 **Final Panel Discussion and Conference Conclusion**

### 13.00 – 14.00 **Lunch**

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## Dates

13 - 16 February 2013

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## Times

Wednesday	17.30-20.00
Thursday	10.15-17.10
Friday	09.30-17.40
Saturday	09.30-14.00

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## Venue

G2 Lecture Theatre  
SOAS, University of London  
Russell Square  
London WC1H 0XG

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## Admission

Free admission - Pre-registration required

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