



## 10 YEARS ON: THE PEOPLE & THE PROTESTS

17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020

On 17th December 2010 Mohamed Bouazizi, a Tunisian street vendor, self-immolated, triggering a wave of protests that spread across North Africa and the Middle East in what became known as the Arab Uprisings. The ensuing protests toppled rulers in Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen and Libya, opened new spaces of popular contestation, and shook both relations between rulers and ruled and the very foundations of states across the region.

While counter revolutionary processes aided regime survival in Bahrain and Syria, the memory of protests continues to resonate amongst those challenging Assad and Al Khalifa rule. In the years that followed, protests also broke out across Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, Turkey, Algeria and Iran, prompting some to refer to an 'Arab Spring 2.0' but which is perhaps best viewed as an on-going struggle for people to meet their basic needs and assert basic rights amidst often precarious conditions and the entrenchment of authoritarian rule.

As we approach the 10th anniversary of Bouazizi's death, this SEPAD online conference reflects on the legacy of Bouazizi's act and the ensuing struggles that followed. We seek to reflect on the ways in which the uprisings have affected people and political projects across the Middle East and North Africa.

To register please go here: <https://forms.gle/hjw8rMxGAeUVtLXF6>

To engage in discussion please use the hashtag **#TenYearsOn**

For more information on SEPAD please go to [www.sepad.org.uk](http://www.sepad.org.uk).

**Professor Simon Mabon**  
**Dr Edward Wastnidge**  
**Olivia Glombitza**  
**Luíza Cerioli**

*SEPAD receives funding from Carnegie Corporation of New York.*



## 10 YEARS ON: THE PEOPLE & THE PROTESTS

SEPAD CONFERENCE: 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020

### THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:

PARALLEL  
SESSIONS

11:00 - 13:00 GMT

PANEL 1: CONTENTIOUS POLITICS & PROTESTS

11:00 - 13:00 GMT

PANEL 2: SECTARIANISM, CONFLICT & COEXISTENCE

13:00 - 14:00 GMT KEYNOTE: MEHRAN KAMRAVA

PARALLEL  
SESSIONS

14:00 - 16:00 GMT

PANEL 3: STATE BUILDING & PARTICIPATION

14:00 - 16:00 GMT

PANEL 4: GEOPOLITICAL DYNAMICS: INTERVENTION,  
REGIONALISM & RISING POWERS

### FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:

PARALLEL  
SESSIONS

11:00 - 13:00 GMT

PANEL 5: REPRESSION & COUNTERREVOLUTION

11:00 - 13:00 GMT

PANEL 6: DISCOURSES OF POST-UPRISING POLITICS

13:00 - 14:00 GMT KEYNOTE: SALWA ISMAIL

PARALLEL  
SESSIONS

14:00 - 16:00 GMT

PANEL 7: CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES POST THE ARAB  
UPRISINGS

14:00 - 16:00 GMT

PANEL 8: GENDER & SEXUALITIES IN POLITICAL PROTESTS



## 10 YEARS ON: THE PEOPLE & THE PROTESTS

SEPAD CONFERENCE: 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020

### THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:

#### PANEL 1: CONTENTIOUS POLITICS & PROTESTS | CHAIR: Simon Mabon

- Understanding the Responses of Local Elites to the Lebanese October Uprising  
Anne Kirstine Rønn | Aarhus University
- Facing Post-Truth During the War: Agency and Knowledge Practices in Authoritarian Syria  
Adélie Chevé | European University Institute
- A Decade After Tahrir Square: Contentious Mobilization from the Political Peripheries of Egypt  
T. Sharkawi | Lancaster University
- Contentious Politics & Non-Violence: The Effects of Social Media on Non-Violent Protest Movements  
Zakaria N. Imessaoudene | The Graduate Institute Geneva

11:00  
–  
13:00  
GMT

#### PANEL 2: SECTARIANISM, CONFLICT & COEXISTENCE | CHAIR: Ana Kumarasamy

- The Multi Dynamics of Sectarianism: How the Christian Community of the Syrian Governate of Al-Hassakeh Responded to Their Security Dilemma  
Haian Dukan | Central European University
- Shabbhia: Sectarian Violence and Anti-Sectarian Resistance in Homs 2011-2019  
Ugur Umit Ungor | University of Amsterdam
- Observing (the Debate on) Sectarianism: On Conceptualizing, Grasping, and Explaining Sectarian Politics in a New Middle East  
Morten Valbjørn | Aarhus University
- The Shi'a in Qatar: The Subtle Accommodation of Difference  
Paulino R. Robles-Gil Cozzi | Qatar University

11:00  
–  
13:00  
GMT



## 10 YEARS ON: THE PEOPLE & THE PROTESTS

SEPAD CONFERENCE: 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020

### THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:

**13:00** STUDYING THE MIDDLE EAST TEN YEARS AFTER THE UPRISINGS:  
– CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES  
**14:00** KEYNOTE BY MEHRAN KAMRAVA | GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY QATAR  
**GMT**

#### PANEL 3: STATE BUILDING & PARTICIPATION | CHAIR: Anne Kirstine Rønn

- The Social Origins of Opposition to Authoritarian Rule  
Daniel Tavana | Yale University
- Democracy Promotion, State-Building and De-Sectarianization: A Comparative Study of Bosnia and Iraq  
Ismail Zahirovic & Luciano Zaccara | Qatar University
- Power-Sharing and Authoritarian Practices: What Connection?  
Irene Costantini | University of Naples, L'Orientale
- Trajectories of Change: Tensions Between Individual Identities and Organisational Structures in the Muslim Brotherhood After 2013  
Lucia Ardevini | The Swedish Institute of International Affairs

#### PANEL 4: GEOPOLITICAL DYNAMICS: INTERVENTION, REGIONALISM & RISING POWERS | CHAIR: Edward Wastnidge

- The BRICS and the Arab Uprisings  
Guy Burton | Vesalius College
- Regionalisms and Authoritarian Strengthening in the Middle East: The Case of Saudi Arabia  
Itxaso Domínguez de Olazábal | Autonomous University of Madrid
- International Counter Revolution: The Case of Egypt  
Mustafa Salama | Georgia State University
- The Impact of Military Expenditures on Unemployment & Economic Growth: Evidence from Bahrain and Saudi Arabia Post and Prior to the Arab Spring  
Samira Nasirzadeh | Lancaster University & Neda Nasirzadeh | Tehran University



## 10 YEARS ON: THE PEOPLE & THE PROTESTS

SEPAD CONFERENCE: 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020

FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:

**PANEL 5: REPRESSION & COUNTERREVOLUTION | CHAIR: Olivia Glombitza**

- 11:00**  
–  
**14:00**  
**GMT**
  - **10 Years on – Or is it 60? The Case of Kuwait's Stateless Community**  
Drewery Dyke | Salam for Democracy and Human Rights  
Ahmed Jaber | Salam for Democracy and Human Rights
  - **Egypt's 2021, 2011, and 1952: 10 Years After the Uprising**  
Sara Tonsy | University of Nice
  - **Locating Iran-US Relations in the Multipolarity of Middle East Politics**  
Jawad Fairooz | Salam for Democracy and Human Rights  
Andrew McIntosh | Salam for Democracy and Human Rights

**PANEL 6: DISCOURSES OF POST-UPRISING POLITICS | CHAIR: Edward Wastnidge**

- 11:00**  
–  
**14:00**  
**GMT**
  - **Hezbollah Before and After the Syrian Conflict: A Word Frequency Analysis**  
Filippo Dionigi | University of Bristol
  - **Nostalgia and the Politics of Counterrevolution: The Case of the Arab Spring**  
Ala Mohsen | University of Utah
  - **The 'Communicative-Balance' and the Saudi Discourse of Normalisation in a Pre- and Post-Arab Spring Era**  
Aziz Alghashian | University of Essex



## 10 YEARS ON: THE PEOPLE & THE PROTESTS

SEPAD CONFERENCE: 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020

### FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER:

**13:00**  
–  
**14:00**  
**GMT**

**POLITICAL SUBJECTIVITIES AND COLLECTIVE ACTION IN THE ARAB UPRISINGS**  
**KEYNOTE BY SALWA ISMAIL | SOAS UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

**PANEL 7: CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES POST THE ARAB UPRISINGS | CHAIR: SIMON MABON**

- **Fixing the Automobile While Driving It: Contesting Constitutional Process After 2011**  
Nathan Brown | George Washington University
- **Blossoming Political Systems After the Arab Spring: Semi-Presidential Systems in Transitional States**  
Sanaa Alsarghali | An-Najah National University
- **North Africa and the Middle East After the Arab Spring: What Role for Constitutional Courts?**  
Francesco Biagi | University of Bologna

**PANEL 8: GENDER & SEXUALITIES IN POLITICAL PROTESTS | CHAIR: Luiza Cerioli**

- **Lil Watan: Queer Patriotism in Chauvinistic Lebanon**  
Sophie Chamas | SOAS University of London
- **What's Love Got to Do with It? Women, Embodiment and Performance**  
Erika Biagini | Dublin City University
- **The Arab-Spring Inspired Protests in Kuwait: Women, Embodiment and Performances**  
Emanuela Buscemi | University of Monterrey