

Gabriel Garroum Pla

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PERSONAL PROFILE

Inter-disciplinary, creative researcher specialised in International Relations and Middle East Politics. My main research areas are political violence, critical IR theory, contemporary security issues, and critical geopolitics. Currently pursuing an ESRC-funded PhD in War Studies (KCL), I regularly contribute to different Spanish and International media outlets regarding Middle East politics and security issues. Member of the Research Centre in International Relations (RCIR) at KCL, and co-director of *Això era casa meva/This was my Home* (2019), a documentary on the Syrian civil war premiered at the British Film Institute (BFI). I have lived in Spain, the United Kingdom, Turkey, and Lebanon.

EDUCATION

October 2016 - Present

PhD Researcher, War Studies, King's College London

- Fully funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). **Fieldwork conducted in Syria and Lebanon, archival work conducted in France.**
- Started in October 2016 and expected to submit the thesis by October 2020.
- Research title: 'On Material Destruction and Political Subjectivity: A Political Inquiry into the Cityscapes of Wartime Syria'. Supervised by Professor Vivienne Jabri (primary supervisor) and Professor Claudia Aradau (secondary supervisor).
- The thesis aims at unraveling the impact of the Syrian civil war onto the formation of political subjectivities in the cityscapes of Damascus and Aleppo. It proposes a poststructuralist, postcolonial understanding of political subjectivity that seeks to explore the constitutive role of the materiality of space and its centrality in the mechanisms and technologies of state power in the urban postcolonial.

September 2013 - September 2014

MSc Middle East Politics, School of Oriental and African Studies, London (Distinction)

- **MSc Dissertation:** 'Rebel Governance amid Civil War: A Black Flag in Raqqa' (A+) (supervised by Professor Laleh Khalili). Quoted in Anne Alexander, 'ISIS and Counter-Revolution: Towards a Marxist Analysis', *International Socialism* 145, January (2015).

September 2009 - June 2013

BA in Political Science, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona (8.5/10)

- **Exchange student at King's College London** under the ERASMUS framework between September 2013 and June 2013.
- **BA Dissertation:** 'The Arab Uprisings and their Impact on the Regional Order' (9.0/10)

TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

October 2020 - June 2021

Visiting Scholar, Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI)

- Full-time research stay awarded by the IBEI (Visiting Scholars Programme), from October 2021 to 31 May 2021.

October 2017 - Present

Teaching Assistant, Bachelor in Global Governance, Economics & Legal Order, ESADE Barcelona

- I regularly teach on several Middle Eastern issues within the modules on **Geopolitics and Geoeconomics**.
- Currently supervising two Final Degree Dissertations.
- Convenor and teacher of the module on International Security in ESADE'S 2020 Global Governance Summer Programme.

October 2018 - May 2019

Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA), War Studies Department, King's College London

- Full-year Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) on **International Relations Theory** (30 credits module). Run three seminar groups, amounting to 70 students.
- Nominated for the King's Education Awards.

April 2019 - June 2019

Overseas Institutional Visit, Middle East Centre, Carnegie Beirut

- Fully-funded Institutional Visit to Carnegie Beirut under the supervision of Prof. Yezid Sayegh.

October 2016 - Present

**Administrator for RCIR, War Studies
Department, King's College
London.**

- Tasks include the organisation of public events and seminars, the assistance of visiting scholars, and running the centre's social media.

EMPLOYMENT

October 2014 - Present

**Freelance political analyst for
different Spanish and International
media outlets and think tanks.**

- Among others, these include *Al-Jazeera English*, *Radio France International*, *Vice News*, *Spanish Institute of Strategic Studies (IEEE)*, *El País*, *El Mundo* and *La Vanguardia*.
- **For a full list of contributions and public engagement, see my personal website reorientats.com.**

January 2015 - September 2016

**Foreign Trade Specialist, Spanish
Commercial Office, Istanbul, Turkey**

- Management of international cooperative commercial and R&D *EUREKA* projects.
- Provision of market analysis, political risk and trade assistance to Spanish companies.
- See Gabriel Garroum, "Informe e-País Turquía 2016", *ICEX España Exportación e Inversiones*, 2016.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCES

- Gabriel Garroum, 'Nuevos conflictos en Siria: Rehabilitación, Reconstrucción, Retorno y sus Dilemas Políticos', *Fundación Alternativas* 243, May (2019).
- Gabriel Garroum, 'Researching Conflict and Ruination through Photography: A Personal Reflection', *Strife Journal* 10, Spring (2019), 84-89.
- Gabriel Garroum, "Whose Aleppo? The Politics of Representing, Experiencing, and Researching the City at War", presented at the *Millennium Annual Conference*, 19-20 October 2019, London, United Kingdom.
- Gabriel Garroum, "The Everyday Impact of Foreign Presence in Wartime Urban Spaces: Lived Experiences and Political Subjectivity in Aleppo and Damascus", presented at the *International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention*, 27-30 March 2019, Toronto, Canada.

- Gabriel Garroum, “On Material Destruction and Political Subjectivity: The Case of the Christian Community of Aleppo”, presented at the *International Political Science Association (IPSA) World Congress*, 21-25 July 2018, Brisbane, Australia.
- Gabriel Garroum, “Syria Between War and Peace under Bashar al-Assad”, *Istituto di Alti Studi in Geopolitica e Scienze Ausiliare (IsAG)*, April (2018).
- Gabriel Garroum, “El conflicto de Siria y la crisis de los refugiados”, Orbis Working Paper for *La gestió de la crisi dels refugiats sirians: Una perspectiva de seguretat humana*, Research Group on Public International Law and International Relations, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF), May (2017).

AUDIOVISUAL AND ARTISTIC CONTRIBUTIONS

May 2019

Això Era Casa Meva/This Was My Home

- Co-director and leading character of *Això Era Casa Meva*, a documentary on the Syrian Civil War and its effects upon the cities of Aleppo and Damascus.
- Premiered in Barcelona (23 May 2019), broadcasted in TV3 (9 June 2019, *30 Minuts*), and internationally premiered at the British Film Institute (24 July 2019) under the *Tales of the Silk Road* series (Bagri Foundation and Shorts on Tap).
- Among others, see Mònica Planas, “Guia imprescindible per entendre la guerra”, *Diari Ara* [Online] 11 June 2019. Available: https://www.ara.cat/opinio/monica-planas-guia-imprescindible-entendre-guerra_0_2250375104.html.

September 2018 - October 2019

Collaborator of the Visual Embodied Methodologies Network (VEM), King’s College London

- Participant in a student-curated Photographic Showcase, September 2018. I displayed several photographs of my work on material destruction and its effects upon political subjectivity in Aleppo.
- Panelist in the “Hybridity & Identity: Using photography to communicate research” conference, October 2018.
- Participant of the ‘Art & Exclusions Exhibition’ with a screening of *Això Era Casa Meva* and panel discussion on war, aesthetics, and political subjectivity.

LANGUAGES

- Native languages: Catalan and Spanish
- Proficient: English
- Advanced: Arabic
- Basic: Turkish and French

REFERENCES

- Available upon request.