



SUMMER SCHOOL IN GLOBAL POLITICS, DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY 2019

Islam and politics in MENA: ideology, activism and change

Instructor: Lurdes Vidal (IEMED-IBEI)

Date: June 19 - 21

Time: 5.00 pm - 7.00 pm

Room: 24.133 Fred Halliday - Mercè Rodoreda Building 24 (Floor 1)

This course examines the interaction between Islam and politics from different perspectives and disciplines, engaging with the key debates about the nature, evolution and future of political Islam. Students will be introduced to various approaches to the study of Islam and politics and to the diversity and complexity of a multi-faceted phenomenon that has been central to the socio-political life of the MENA region. The role of Islam in regard to the state, political ideology, popular activism and political violence will be analysed in the framework of contemporary challenges. Therefore, major strands of Islamist movements, their historical background, similarities and differences and likely future directions will be addressed. Democracy, gender equality, religious freedom, rule of law, governance and freedom of expression will be cross-cutting axis of analysis that will help students connect the various phenomena that intersect in a region amid change. This course will strengthen students' knowledge and analytical tools to understand the diverse ways in which Islam has operated in the political scenario of the region.

Session 1. Islamic polity: the link between religion and politics in Islam

Required reading:

Armstrong, Karen (2002). *Islam: A Short History*. New York: Modern Library. Chapters 1-2.
http://www.en.islamic-sources.com/download/E-Books/religion_&_sects/Islam-A-Short-History.pdf

Hamid, Shadi (2016) Is Islam “Exceptional”? The Atlantic.
<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2016/06/islam-politics-exceptional/485801/>

Session 2. Islamist movements: origins, evolution, currents, narratives and relation with other political actors. Islamism, revolution and counter-revolution?

Required reading:

POMEPS STUDIES 26 (2017) Adaptation Strategies of Islamist Movements. Islam in a Changing Middle East. https://pomeps.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/POMEPS_Studies_26_Adaptation_Web.pdf

Roy, Olivier. Political Islam After the Arab Spring. Between Jihad and Democracy (2017). November/December 2017 Issue. Foreign Affairs.
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/reviews/review-essay/2017-10-16/political-islam-after-arab-spring>

Session 3. The geopolitics of jihadism or jihadism geopolitics?

Required reading:

Qantara.de (2018) “They love death as we love life: jihad and the roots of terror”. Interview with French extremism researcher Olivier Roy.
<https://en.qantara.de/content/interview-with-french-extremism-researcher-olivier-roy-they-love-death-as-we-love-life-jihad>

Mandaville, Peter and Musser, Micah (2019) Religion and the prevention of violent extremism. Current debates and future Research agendas. Discussion Paper. Berkeley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs.
<https://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/publications/religion-and-the-prevention-of-violent-extremism-current-debates-and-future-research-agendas>

Clarke, Collin (2019) The Future of the Global Jihadist Movement After the Collapse of the Caliphate. The Rand Blog. Corporation <https://www.rand.org/blog/2018/12/the-future-of-the-global-jihadist-movement-after-the.html>

Other suggested readings for the course:

- Bayat, Asef (2007) *Making Islam Democratic: Social Movements and the Post-Islamist Turn*, Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Burgat, François (2016) *Comprendre l'islam politique: Une trajectoire de recherche sur l'alterité islamiste, 1973-2016*. Paris : Ed. la Découverte.
- Burgat, François (2018) *Para comprender el islam político. Una trayectoria de investigación sobre la alteridad islamista, 1973-2016*. Biblioteca del Islam Contemporáneo 50. Barcelona: Edicions Bellaterra
- Cofman Wittes, Tamara (2008) "Three kinds of movements" in *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 19, n. 3, pp.7-12.
- Donohue John J.; Esposito John. L. (2007) *Islam in Transition. Perspectives*. (2nd edition), New York: Oxford University Press
- Filiu, Jean-Pierre (2015) *From Deep State to Islamic State: The Arab Counter-Revolution and its Jihadi Legacy*. Oxford University Press
- Gerges, Fawaz (2016) *The Struggle for the Arab World: The Nationalist-Islamist Long War*. Princeton University Press.
- Gómez. Luz (2018). *Entre la sharía y la yihad. Una historia intelectual del islamismo*. Madrid: Catarata.
- Gómez. Luz (2019). *Diccionario del islam e islamismo*. Madrid: Editorial Trotta.
- Hegghammer, Thomas (2010) *Jihad in Saudi Arabia: Violence and Pan-Islamism since 1979*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kepel, Gilles (2000) *Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam*, Harvard University Press
- McCants, William (2015) *The ISIS Apocalypse: The History, Strategy and Doomsday Vision of the Islamic State*. St. Martin's Press.
- Roy, Olivier (2017) *Jihad and Death: The Global Appeal of Islamic State*, Harvard University Press. C Hurst & Co Publishers Ltd.
- Roy, Olivier (2003) *Globalised Islam: Fundamentalism, De-territorialisation and the Search for the New 'Ummah'*. London: Hurst.
- Sivan, Emmanuel (1985) *Radical Islam: Medieval Theology and Modern Politics* Yale University Press.
- Shehata, Samer (2012) *Islamist Politics in the Middle East: Movements and Change*, New York: Routledge.