

# 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

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

In spite of its relevance to contemporary events the history of public violence in Middle Eastern cities has not yet been the subject of systematic academic interest and public debate. This international conference explores the violent histories of some of these cities from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the late 20<sup>th</sup> centuries through a variety of actors, themes and historical processes. Covering the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia papers feature crowds and elites; urban space, discipline, discourse and ritual performance; empire, colonialism, war and revolution. Speakers include established and young Middle Eastern historians, and a number of academics specialising in other disciplines and regions in order to foster comparative and interdisciplinary understandings of urban violence.

## Programme

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

17.30 – 18.45	<b>Welcome Address</b>  Graham Furniss (Pro-Director of Research & Enterprise, SOAS, University of London)  <b>Keynote/Public Lecture</b>  Charles Tripp (SOAS, University of London) <i>Fighting for Space: Theatres of Violence and Emerging Publics</i>
19.00 – 20.00	<b>Conference Reception</b>

### Day Two, February 14, 2013

9.30– 10.15	<b>Registration/Coffee</b>
10.15 – 10.30	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>
10.30 – 12.10	<b>Beyond Middle Eastern Cities</b> <b>Chair/Discussant:</b> Stephen Legg (Nottingham University)  Stephen Legg (Nottingham University) <i>Geographies of Colonial Indian (Non)Violence</i> Nandini Gooptu (University of Oxford) <i>Angry Elites and Violence Towards the Poor in Contemporary Indian Cities: an Enquiry into Relational and Historical Dimensions of Emotions in Politics</i> Freek Colombijn (VU University, Amsterdam) <i>Urban Violence in Indonesia: a Historical Perspective</i>
12.10 – 13.30	<b>Lunch</b>
13.30 – 15.10	<b>Encountering State Discipline: Urban Frontlines</b> <b>Chair/Discussant:</b> Charles Tripp (SOAS, University of London)  Benjamin C. Brower (University of Texas, Austin) <i>Civilian Camps and Shantytowns in Colonial Algeria</i> Dina Rizk Khoury (George Washington University) <i>When Basra became a Battle Front (1980-8): War and the Re-Organization of Space</i> Claudia Schröder (Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin) <i>A Tamed Urban Revolution: the 1967 Riots in Saudi Arabia’s Eastern Province</i>
15.10 –15.30	<b>Coffee</b>
15.30 – 17.10	<b>Violence as Event and Communities of Violence</b> <b>Chair/Discussant:</b> Sami Zubaida (Birkbeck College, University of London)  Nelida Fuccaro (SOAS, University of London) <i>Dissecting Public Unrest: Moments of Violence in Kirkuk as a ‘Frontier’ Society</i> Orit Baskhin (University of Chicago): <i>Urban Violence and Minoritization in Baghdad: The Farhud, the Wathba and the Iraqi Jewish Community</i> Rasmus Elling (University of Copenhagen) <i>Narrating Ethnic Violence in Abadan: the 1946 Strike</i>

## 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 Haditha: 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 Daghyeli (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 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> 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 (19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> 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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