

YEMEN: CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

International Conference at the London Middle East Institute, SOAS

11 & 12 January 2013

WELCOMING REMARKS



Dr Noel Brehony: British-Yemeni Society

Dr Brehony is Chairman of the British Yemeni Society and author of a book on the PDRY, *Yemen Divided* (2011). He has followed events in the PDRY throughout its existence. He is a former diplomat and businessman and is currently Chairman of Menas Associates. He was a Research Associate at the LMEI from 2008 to 2011 and is a member of its advisory council. He is a former president of BRISMES and past chairman of the Council for British Research in the Levant and of the Middle East Association. He co-edited *British- Egyptian relations from Suez to the Present Day* (2007).



Dr Hassan Hakimian: London Middle East Institute

Hassan Hakimian is the the MBI Al Jaber Director of the London Middle East Institute and a Reader in Economics at SOAS. Previously, he was an Associate Dean at Cass Business School, where he led EMBA programmes in Shanghai and Dubai. Between 1993 and 2002, Hassan was at the SOAS Economics Department where he directed an award-winning postgraduate international distance learning programme and taught various courses including Applied Economic Development of the Middle East. His research on the Middle East focuses on human resources and demographic change, labour markets and employment policy, and globalisation and economic integration. He is the author of *Labour Transfer and Economic Development* (1990) and co-editor of *The State and Global Change* (2000), *Trade Policy and Economic Integration in MENA* (2003) and *Iran and the Global Economy* (forthcoming 2013). He has published in various academic journals and acted as consultant to international development agencies. He is a Research Fellow at the Economic Research Forum, a network of Middle East economists based in Cairo, and has been an active member of the Middle East Economic Association of the USA. He is the founder and Series Editor for the 'Routledge Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa', which has produced a number of pertinent titles dealing with MENA's economies.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



HE Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber

Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber is a self-made Saudi entrepreneur and philanthropist who has successfully built an international business empire spanning Europe and the Middle East. He is founder, Chairman and CEO of the MBI Group, and founder and sole patron of the MBI Al Jaber Foundation, a UK registered charity focused on education, good governance and cultural dialogue, dedicated to building bridges between the Middle East and the wider world.

Sheikh Mohamed was appointed UNESCO Special Envoy for Education, Tolerance and Cultures in 2005 and UN Spokesman for Global Forums and Reinventing Government in 2007. He has received numerous honours and awards for his business acumen and philanthropy including Honorary Fellowships from SOAS, UCL and Oxford, and ISESCO and ALECSO gold medals.



Dr Abu Bakr al-Qirbi

Dr Abu Bakr al-Qirbi is a Fellow of the Royal College of Medicine and the Canadian College of Medicine and is a member of several medical and scientific bodies. He has published over 30 research papers. He has served Sana'a University as Dean of the Faculty of Science, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sana'a 1982 and as Vice President. In his political life, he has been a member of the National Dialogue Committee, a member of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress, a member of the General Committee of the General People's Congress since 1992 and Head of the Political Department since 2000. He was Minister of Education from 1993 to 1994 and was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1981 and re-appointed to that post in 2003, 2006 and 2011. He is also Vice President of the British Yemeni Friendship association.



Dr Muhammad Said al-Saadi

Dr al-Saadi has a range of teaching qualifications in the field of management and human resources. From 1978 to 1983 he worked at World Assembly of Muslim Youth in Riyadh and later was responsible for management training for two companies at Jubail in Saudi Arabia and ran a company providing consultancy in the field of training and development. He was Deputy Minister of Education in Yemen 1991-93, President of the Open Education Centre and for many years has provided consultancy to companies in the field of human development, change management, engineering and development. In his political life he has been a leading member of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) part of the Joint Meeting Parties. He was appointed Minister of Planning and International Cooperation in 2011.



Alan Duncan MP

Alan Duncan was appointed as Minister of State for International Development on 13th May 2010. Alan Duncan's great passion for international affairs is inspired by a lifetime of global voyage and discovery. Born in 1957, raised in Hertfordshire and across the world tracking his father's RAF postings, he went onto study at Oxford and Harvard. His early career as a crude oil trader spanned the Middle East, South East Asia and Singapore, where he lived for two years.

Alan Duncan has kept a constant watch on the wider world throughout his parliamentary career, reflected in his appointment as shadow Secretary for International Development from 2004 to 2005. He is personally committed to DFID's central goal of combating global poverty and has long been an advocate of well-managed, effectively-spent aid. Alan Duncan joined Parliament in 1992 as the Conservative Member for Rutland and Melton. Five years later he was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party and Parliamentary Political Secretary to the Rt. Hon. William Hague MP. He has held a number of positions in the Shadow Cabinet, most recently as Shadow Secretary for Trade Industry and Energy (2005). In 2009, Alan Duncan was appointed Shadow Leader of the House and shortly after, he became Shadow Minister for Prisons and Probation.

SPEAKERS & CHAIRS



Dr Mohamed Saleh al-Haj: Political and Cultural Mobilisation in the Yemeni Arab Spring

Biography

Dr Mohamed al-Haj was born and grew up in the green pre-Islamic city, Ibb but now lives and work in Sana'a as a lecturer at the Geography Department of Sana'a University. He obtained his doctorate (1997-2001) from the University of Nottingham, having been partly funded by the Chevening Scheme. His research is multi-disciplinary, embracing socio-economic, political and environmental topics, together cultural and natural heritage themes. He has recently focused on how the Arab Spring can be studied as a part of culture geography. Keen to develop joint research projects, he is currently working on the following subjects: a geopolitical analysis of Yemen's strategic maritime location; a cultural view of Yemeni 'uprising squares'; Islamic *waqf*, between politics and sustainable development and districting the heritage of agricultural terraces in Yemen. He is also lectures on geopolitical studies at the High Military Academy, Sana'a Yemen.

Abstract

Yemen, like other countries experiencing the Arab Spring, is currently undergoing unpredictable change. The campaigning squares and their surrounding streets in Yemen have, however, experienced the longest periods of open political, socially and cultural mobility in the world: over 8,000 tents and 5,000 unions and organisations have been involved in demonstrations over the last 14 months, including business, professional and unprofessional associations, unions, tribes, soldiers, intellectuals, journalists and workers. This picture changed with the withdrawal of young people from arenas on the 12th June 2012 though the Yemeni squares represented a significant obstacle to the former authority when excessive force was used against the youth. This paper tries to clarify the Arab Spring in general and display what is missing in the Yemeni context, providing answers for politicians, academics and ordinary people outside Yemen. It reveals the uniqueness of the Yemeni experience of the uprising experience in terms of its political structure, diversity and culture mobility.



Laila al-Zwaini: Civil State, Islamic Law, Tribal Society? Reconstructing Yemen after Saleh

Biography

Laila Al-Zwaini is a Dutch-Iraqi arabist and jurist, specialising in classical and modern *shari'ah*, tribal conflict resolution, rule of law, intellectual and social movements, religious authority, state-society relations and women's rights in the Muslim world. Between 2007 and 2009, Al-Zwaini headed the Rule of Law Unit of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. From 2001-2005 she co-directed the action-research project 'Rights at Home' for the International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World (Leiden). She is also a member of WISE Global Muslim Women's Shura Council. Her publications include *A Bibliography of Islamic Law, 1980-1993* (1994), *Legal Pluralism in the Arab World* (1999), and *The Rule of Law in Yemen: Prospects and Challenges* (2012).

Abstract

Until Spring 2011, the Yemeni state was the product of Saleh's carefully constructed web of patronage-networks of tribal, Islamic, military, and other notable loyalists, backed by foreign support. Saleh often declared Yemen a 'tribal state', and not without reason. His regime likewise responded to internal and regional pressure to (re-)state its Islamic identity. *Shari'ah* has historically been invoked by different Yemeni actors as a powerful discourse to address societal problems, and to legitimize political and legal authority. *Shari'ah* has also been invoked as a counter-discourse, by Huthi-tribes in the north and Islamic militants in the south. The recent popular uprisings drew attention to alternative courses -- secularism, socialism, and the newly heard 'civilism' (*madaniyyah*), to remedy major injustices committed during Saleh's reign, and as a potential basis for a new unitary state. This paper will explore the amalgam of socio-legal (dis)courses - *shari'ah*, *madaniyyah*, *qabaliyyah*/tribalism - by leading actors in the ongoing process of Yemen's transition.

Kais Aliriani: The Role of the Small enterprise Sector in the Yemeni Economy



Biography

Kais Aliriani is Chairman of Mawr Volunteers Foundation, a consultant and a development specialist. He is one of the founders of the Yemen Social Fund for Development (SFD), the largest development agency in the country. He established the small and micro-enterprise development programme and has managed it for more than seven years. During that period he led the introduction of micro-finance in Yemen and the establishment of several micro-finance institutions as well as a specialised organisation to provide non-financial services to small enterprises. He led the formulation of the first National Small and Micro Enterprise Development Strategy-Yemen in 2005. In the region he is one of the founders of Sanabel, a regional microfinance network, and he has been active as a trainer. Mr Aliriani has written a number of research papers on SME development and microfinance.

Abstract

The micro, small and micro enterprise (MSME) sector plays a critical role in the Yemeni economy. MSMEs are the main employer in the country, creating opportunities for thousands of people entering the labour force every year. Yet MSMEs face tremendous challenges including poor infrastructure, difficulties in securing raw materials, lack of technical support, difficulties in finding and adopting new technologies, the lack of qualified employees and the lack of financing opportunities. They also suffer from the excessive licensing requirements of bureaucratic and non-transparent government agencies, in taxation and many more areas.

In a country where large investment projects are very limited and constrained by many factors including the fragile political situation, the only option available to policy-makers is to take necessary measures to help this sector. The government of Yemen has identified MSMEs as one of the economy drivers but it has failed to take the necessary measures to support them. There is a need to establish an official definition for the sector and create a specialised institution to oversee the development of MSMEs in Yemen.

Professor Tony Allan: Chair



Biography

Tony Allan (BA Durham 1958, PhD London 1971) heads the London Water Research Group at King's College London and SOAS. He specialises in the analysis of water resources in semi-arid regions and on the role of global systems in ameliorating local and regional water deficits. In his early career he was concerned with hydrological and environmental issues but gradually turned his attention to the social and political when it became evident that environmental science could not explain why people manage water as they do. He pointed out that the water-short economies achieve water and food security mainly by importing water-intensive food commodities: the concept of virtual water. He provides advice to governments and agencies especially in the Middle East on water policy and water policy reform. His ideas on water security are set out in *The Middle East Water Question: Hydropolitics and the Global economy* and in a new book entitled *Virtual Water*. He is currently working on why the accounting systems in the food supply chain are dangerously blind to the costs of water and of mis-allocating it. He also works on the water/energy nexus. In 2008 he was awarded the Stockholm Water Prize in recognition of his contribution to water science and water policy.

Dr Adel Aulaqi: The Challenges of Yemen's Health Care System



Biography

Adel Aulaqi MB, ChB. FRCSEd. DTM&H, MFPM, MA (History) is a practising physician who qualified in Edinburgh and specialises in tropical diseases and general surgery. He served as Director of Medical Services of the Aden Refinery medical division from 1978 to late 1982 and worked closely with the Ministry of Health of the PRDY. He subsequently spent twelve years in pharmaceutical medicine, initially as medical adviser (Middle East and Africa) after which he took charge of worldwide Phase IV clinical trials programme at the Wellcome Foundation Research Laboratories (UK) until 1995. He currently works in emergency medicine at Wexham Park Hospital, Slough. In 2008 he gained an MA in history at SOAS where his dissertation was on the development of the health services in South Arabia under British rule (1937-1967). He holds a deep interest in Yemen's health care system(s), regularly visits Yemen.

Abstract

Yemen's health care system, a state and private-sector institution, has all the ingredients of a good comprehensive service. Its last serious health care reform took place between 1998 and 2001; the majority of its proposals remained unimplemented. Today it manifests the symptoms and signs of an ailing, poorly regulated system. To make it fit for purpose, it will benefit from a fresh look at fundamental reform of its structures and workings. Irrespective of what emerges from Yemen's present political turmoil, the imperative of reform will apply. Here, it is impossible to offer more than snapshots of the essence of how to approach reforming the system through the concept of evidence-based prioritisation. All proposed solutions will demand hard political and financial decisions and an unambiguous strong will to implement. Reform will almost certainly be met by strong resistance, as did previous attempts. Serious consideration of the inadequacies and inequities will need negotiated, measured, long-term solution policies supported by all stakeholders: while state health care needs better definition, the private sector would benefit from better regulation. Preventive medicine, a focus on childhood, maternity and women's illnesses will most likely offer better long-term health results. An unambiguous focus on medical ethics is in need of stronger establishment and clearer regulation.



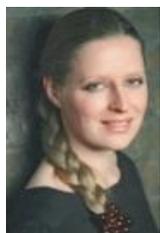
Dr Laurent Bonnefoy: Reshuffling the Cards in the Islamic Field: *Ulama* of the Palace, Salafis and Muslim Brothers

Biography

Laurent Bonnefoy, born in 1980, is a CNRS researcher at the CERI-Sciences Po. He holds a PhD in International relations (2007) and is the author of *Salafism in Yemen. Transnationalism and Religious Identity* (2011). He has also recently co-edited *Yemen. Le tournant révolutionnaire* (Karthala/CEFAS, 2012) and published various articles on the ongoing Yemeni revolutionary process. He has held research positions at the CEFAS in Sanaa (four years) and at the IFPO in the Levant (two years). His work mainly focuses on political dynamics in Yemen, Islamist movements and Salafi politicisation.

Abstract

Religious actors and Islamist movements did not start Yemen's revolution, but they are looming large over its fate. Events are creating the conditions for a reshuffling of cards that is likely to change the ways in which these various actors compete or co-operate with one another and define their identity. Both supporters of Ali Abdallah Saleh and his opponents have tried hard since January 2011 to use the Islamic field to legitimise their own stance and to look for new allies. Associations have been created, new groups have emerged and positions have evolved, particularly among Salafis while Muslim Brothers, as in Egypt, are likely to play an even more central role than they did before. The reshuffling of positions is occurring while the new Yemeni government and its international allies are continuing to focus on the violent trend of Islamism, namely on al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and its offshoot Ansar al-Sharia, at the expense of understanding the evolutions of the Islamic field in a nuanced way. This paper intends to develop an analysis of the current and coming trends inside this field.



Dr Marieke Brandt: Between Tribe and Army: 'Colonel Shaykhs' in the Huthi Conflict

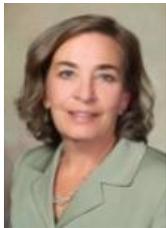
Biography

Marieke Brandt received her PhD degree in Cultural Sciences at the Humboldt University of Berlin in 2004. She has worked for five years in the International Development Cooperation in Yemen and has conducted extensive research on the tribal society of north-western Yemen. She is currently a Marie Curie Intra-European Fellow at the Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA) of the Vienna-based Austrian Academy of Sciences (AAS), working on the first comprehensive study on the role of tribal politics during the Huthi conflict in Sa'dah governorate.

Abstract

The so-called 'colonel shaykhs' are tribal leaders who also hold a governmental military or police position. The co-optation and integration of influential tribal leaders into the republican security sector enabled the Yemeni state to expand its influence deeply into previously inaccessible territories with strong tribal traditions, notably in Upper Yemen. The Huthi conflict, however, revealed that the republican practice of giving important shaykhs key executive positions also contains certain elements of risks for the state's stability, because many

Colonel shaykhs continued the war against the Huthi rebels even after the 2010 armistice. The paper briefly summarises the rise of the Colonel shaykhs following the Yemeni Revolution of 1962 and their role in the Huthi conflict. It examines the motives of these shaykhs to join the governmental army and to struggle against the Huthiz – motivations that often date back deep into the family history of these shaykhs themselves.



Professor Sheila Carapico: Yemen between Revolution and Counter-Terrorism, a Critical View of US Policies

Biography

Sheila Carapico is Professor of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Richmond and Visiting Professor at the American University in Cairo (AUC). She studied at AUC while earning her BA from Alfred University, worked in Yemen while writing a doctoral dissertation at Binghamton University, returned to Cairo as a researcher at the American Research Center in Egypt, was a Fulbright fellow at Sana'a University, spent another year in Sana'a as a Fulbright fellow at Sana'a University and has been a consultant to organisations including Human Rights Watch and a visiting scholar at the Middle East Institute in the US and the Institute for the Study of Islam and Modernity in the Netherlands. Carapico is the author of *Civil Society in Yemen: The Political Economy of Activism in Modern Arabia*. Her forthcoming book is entitled *Political Aid and Arab Activism: Democracy Promotion, Justice, Representation, and Empowerment*.

Abstract

For two years Yemen has been the site of one of the most sustained peaceful popular uprisings in the Arab world but also, at the same time, a major theatre of US counter-terror operations. In backing the GCC-brokered transfer of power from Salih to al-Hadi, the United States attempted to cope by pursuing three contradictory policies. First, the US has backed the GCC effort to quell a peaceful mass pro-democracy movement by engineering a very modest form of regime change that ignores the Yemeni people's demands but serves Gulf interests in keeping democracy at bay. Secondly, and disregarding purported aims of democratisation, America has invested heavily in Yemen's national security establishment. Thirdly, the Obama administration has opened a new front in a semi-covert war against *jihadi* militants, in particular by using unmanned drones for targeted and 'signature' strikes. In combination these policies have stoked anti-Americanism where none existed before.



Dr Susanne Dahlgren: Southern Yemeni Youth, Unemployment and the Idea of a Fair State

Biography

Susanne Dahlgren is an Academy of Finland research fellow at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies. She studied anthropology in the University of Edinburgh, LSE and the University of Helsinki. Her book, *Contesting Realities. The Public Sphere and Morality in Southern Yemen*, was published in 2010. She has written numerous articles on subjects of Islam, law, morality, sexuality and urban space.

Abstract

Her paper will focus on Southern Yemeni young people's expectations on what role the state should play in building the country's future. Born during the turbulent years of Yemeni unity, these young people have learned from their parents about the relatively stable times before Yemeni unity when everybody had a job and no corruption prevailed. In the face of political and economic crisis and massive youth unemployment, a sense of disillusionment has spread among the Southern youth. For young men, unemployment means postponed marriage too, and emotional frustration. In response, the young people I met in the Southern Yemeni town of Aden, the former capital of the PDRY, have created ideas of a fair state by drawing on the imagined fairness of the previous regime and an ideal state. Their parents have told them how during the previous regime, with a state job every young man was able to marry with reasonable cost, as dower payments were legislated in the Family Law (1974) not to exceed the means of anyone. While times are dramatically different today, the ideal state, in the mind of these young women and men, is the one which hires every graduate into the happy family of the national community. The paper explores the discrepancies between youthful expectations and the economic realities that politically active young people have to face in today's Aden. It is based on ethnographic fieldwork in Yemen during the course of the late 1980s, 1990s and 2000s, altogether a total of some three years.



Dr Salma Samar Damluji : Chair

Chief architect and founder of the Daw'an Mud Brick Architecture Foundation, Salma Damluji is a recipient of the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture 2012, Locus Foundation, and an Annual Member of the Clinton Global Initiative 2012. She graduated from the Architectural Association School of Architecture in 1977 and London's Royal College of Art in 1987. She worked with the Egyptian architect Hassan Fathy in Cairo from 1974 to 1975 and from 1983 to 1984 and was Human Settlement Officer with the UN Economic Commission for Western Asia from 1981 to 1982. Since then she has held several posts at the Royal College of Arts: Research Fellow at the Royal College of Art from 1987 to 1989; Tutor, Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts from 1989 to 1994 and Co-ordinator, Morocco-Asilah Studios from 1994 to 1996. She was Senior Tutor, the Architectural Association School of Architecture, Housing and Urbanism, Graduate School from 1989 to 1997. Between 1997 and 2000 she worked on the vernacular architecture of Oman and the UAE. From 2001 to 2004 Dr Damluji was Director of The Technical Office of the Chairman of the Works Department in Abu Dhabi. Since 2005 she has been working in Hadramut, Yemen where she is Chief Architect and founder of Daw'an Mud Brick Architecture Foundation based in Mukalla. She was a recipient of The Global Award for Sustainable Architecture 2012, Locus Foundation. Dr Damluji has published over twelve published books and several articles on the architecture of the Arab region. Her latest on Yemen is *Earth Architecture: Landmarks Wadi Daw'an and Hadramut* (2011) and *The Architecture of Yemen: from Yafi' to Hadramut* (2007). She lives between London and Beirut and travels extensively to lecture on her work.



Dr Francesco De Angelis: The Experience of Yemeni Revolutions and Fellow Citizens' Disillusions in Ahmad Zayn's Qahwa Amirikiyya

Biography

Dr Francesco De Angelis is contract professor in Arabic Language and Literature in Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Naples 'L'Orientale'. His main fields of interest are Arabic Literature from *al-Nahdah* to the present. He has written a monograph on literary production in Egyptian colloquial Arabic and has translated *Bayt al-yasmin* by Ibrahim 'Abd al-Majid. Since 2008 he has focused his attention on contemporary Yemeni literature. He has written some articles on the contemporary Yemeni novel and translated, into Italian, Wajdi al-Ahdal's novel *Himar bayna al-aghani* and many others short stories by Yemeni writers. He is member of EURAMAL and AIDA.

Abstract

Ahmad Zayn's *Qahwa Amirikiyya* is a novel set at the beginning of the 1990s in Sana'a, and follows the story of 'Arif. 'Arif is the symbol of the Arab citizen who fights to reach his revolutionary dream. He could also symbolise those millions of Yemenis, or Arabs, who have suffered and paid a high price for their revolutionary ideas, just to discover that they are nothing but victims of personal interests and weak ideologies. One day the hero accidentally becomes involved in a demonstration. That involvement becomes the sole subject of discussion with his colleague 'Alya, with whom he will later fall in love. 'Arif seeks to prove to her how brave he is by telling her fake stories about his glorious and dangerous past, as 'Arif's sole intention is to get a place in the country's history. The author is trying to pose some awkward questions: do we really undertake revolutions in the name of people's needs or for personal reasons? Are revolutions a means to change history or an excuse to be remembered by future generations?



Dr Marina de Regt: From Bad to Worse? Gender, Labour and Migration between Yemen and the Horn of Africa

Biography

Marina de Regt is Assistant Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Free University Amsterdam. She obtained her PhD from the University of Amsterdam in 2003. Her dissertation *Pioneers or Pawns? Women Health Workers and the Politics of Development in Yemen* was published by Syracuse University Press in 2007. From 2003 to 2006 she did post-doctoral research on migrant domestic workers in Yemen, particularly Ethiopian and Somali women, and their

relations with Yemeni employers and has published extensively about this topic. She also co-produced a short documentary entitled “Young and Invisible: African Domestic Workers in Yemen” together with Arda Nederveen.

Abstract

This paper focuses on migration to and from Yemen, its gendered aspects and the impact of political events on population movements. For a long time Yemen was mainly regarded as a sending country in migration, but since the early 1990s Yemen has also turned into a receiving country. Hundreds of thousands of Somali and Ethiopian migrants and refugees have come to Yemen, often aspiring to move on to the oil-rich countries of the Peninsula or to Europe and North America. The political developments that have taken place since early 2011 have not only greatly affected the local population but also migrants and refugees. The paper analyses the various migration flows between Yemen and the Horn of Africa through the lens of gender and labour, with particular attention on the impact of political events on social inequality. Its data is derived from anthropological fieldwork in Yemen, media reports and secondary sources.



Ludmila du Bouchet: Yemen’s Security Sector: National and Global Intimations of Change

Biography

Ludmila du Bouchet is completing her PhD in International Relations at the University of Cambridge where she has been a Gates Scholar (Trinity College) before taking up the Abdullah Mubarak al-Sabah Research Fellowship at Pembroke College. A graduate of the Ecole Normale Supérieure (Paris, France), she holds a BA and an MPhil in Philosophy (Paris X-Nanterre), a Master in International Organisations (Sciences Po, Paris) and an MPhil in International Relations (University of Cambridge). She currently teaches at Sciences Po. Her research investigates the globalisation of security and state transformation in the Global South, especially in Yemen where she has carried out extensive fieldwork since 2001.

Abstract

This paper examines the role(s) and places(s) of military and security services with an eye to shedding light on Yemen’s present political transition. The nature, pace and direction of political change in Yemen will largely depend on settlements and realignments directly affecting the security sector. The ‘Arab Spring’ threw into sharp relief the existence of parallel, competing military– security apparatuses, some of which had coalesced into critical centres of power under the command of rival elites, as well as their embeddedness within political and economic structures. President Hadi’s efforts to restructure Yemen’s military–security landscape bear out the ways in which authoritarianism and democracy combine and intersect in Yemen’s ‘transition’ to produce ambivalent configurations of power. At the same time, the security sector in Yemen is unintelligible outside a perspective that attends to its international dimension, especially the selective military build-up and containment strategies set in motion by the West since Yemen was declared a ‘frontline state’ in the ‘Global War on Terror’.



Dr Noel Brehony: Welcoming Address and The Role of the PDRY in Forming a Southern Yemeni Identity

Biography

Dr Brehony is Chairman of the British Yemeni Society and author of a book on the PDRY, *Yemen Divided* (2011). He has followed events in the PDRY throughout its existence. He is a former diplomat and businessman and is currently Chairman of Menas Associates. He was a Research Associate at the LMEI from 2008 to 2011 and is a member of its advisory council. He is a former president of BRISMES and past chairman of the Council for British Research in the Levant and of the Middle East Association. He co-edited *British- Egyptian relations from Suez to the Present Day* (2007).

Abstract

The PDRY existed for less than 23 years before unification in 1990. Its rulers pursued policies that were quite distinct from those of the YAR, concentrating power in the hands of a ruling party, building a socialist state and economy, aspiring to become part of the Soviet-dominated world and reducing the influence of tribalism. The south Yemeni leaders wanted to achieve unity by extending their systems to the whole of Yemen and believed

that the 1990 unity agreement would allow this to happen through the ballot box. The paper will examine how the experience of the PDRY added to an existing sense that there was a south Yemeni identity, distinct from that of the north. This remains an important political factor in the Yemen of 2013 and will need to be taken into account in the current discussions in the national dialogue on the future governance of Yemen.



James Firebrace: New Water for Ta'iz: Conflict Prevention and Economic Revitalisation

Biography

James Firebrace graduated from Cambridge University with an MA in Social and Political Science and subsequently, as a London Business School Sloan Fellow, gained an MSc with distinction in International Management. James' early career focused on the development challenges of the Middle East and Africa's Sahel belt, especially the Horn of Africa. This was followed by a spell as Director General of Consumers International and extensive consulting in the energy sector on sustainability challenges. He set up JFA Consulting, now JFA Ltd, in the late 1990s, a firm which offers a service to both business and governments, specialising in the analysis and management of long-term strategic issues, particularly in relation to major social and environmental impacts. In recent years JFA has concentrated on the Arab world, where its work has covered long-term water challenges, economic revitalisation, sustainable livelihoods including fisheries and tourism, conflict prevention and integrated planning.

Abstract

Taiz is one of the three largest cities in Yemen and plays a significant role in the national economy as the country's industrial centre. It has a relatively educated young population, and was the trigger for the popular uprising that led to a change of president and government. Taiz suffers the most advanced water crisis of all Yemen's towns. Only some half of the households of Greater Taiz are connected to the utility network receiving water once every four to six weeks; the other half must buy tankered water at great expense which can take up to 15% of a meagre household budget. This presentation will examine the current conflict between city abstraction of the hinterland groundwater and its traditional agricultural users, along with its implications for destabilising urban migration. It will argue that, given the extreme water scarcity now faced by the region, the only *long-term* solution will be to pump desalinated water up from the coast. It is essential, given Yemen's current political fragility, that such a major change is carefully planned to minimise frictions and ensure that poorer households at least are better off financially from the change. The severe constraints that water scarcity places on Taiz industry will be examined along with the potential 'water dividend' for industry, small businesses and job creation once the water supply challenge is resolved.



Dr Peer Gatter: Politics of Qat: The Role of a Drug in Ruling Yemen

Biography

Dr Peer Gatter is a political scientist and scholar of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies with a focus on water politics and the political economy of the Middle East. Following his studies at the Universities of Tübingen, Tehran and Georgetown, he worked as journalist reporting mostly from Afghanistan, Iran, West Africa and Northern Ireland. From 1999 he worked for nearly a decade in and on Yemen for the World Bank and UNDP. He was an advisor in the Ministries of Planning and Water and Environment and his portfolio included decentralisation, agricultural reform, water, biodiversity and, last but not least, *qat*. He organised Yemen's 'First National Conference on Qat' (2002) and is author of the book *Politics of Qat – The Role of a Drug in Ruling Yemen* (2012). Since 2008 he has worked for the German development co-operation organisation (GIZ) on water policy and intercultural relations in Syria, Lebanon, Algeria, and Germany.

Abstract

For Imam Yahya, one of Yemen's last kings, *qat* was a delight that he praised in poems. For his adversary, the revolutionary al-Zubayri, the plant was the 'devil in the shape of a tree'. Even today views on *qat* diverge greatly. For some, *qat* farming is the *perpetuum mobile* of Yemen's rural economy, for others the drug is to blame for poverty, corruption and the depletion of water resources. With Yemen's 2011 revolution a decade of half-hearted *qat* policies and missed opportunities has come to an end – a decade, however, that has

succeeded in lifting the veil of silence that was cast over *qat* in media and politics after President Salih came to power in 1978. With the forecast depletion of Yemen's oil and gas reserves within the next decade, the economic importance of *qat* will increase further and will bring about an important shift in the balance of power from the central government towards the *qat* producing highland tribes. The challenge of addressing the *qat* problem is thus tremendous for Yemen's policy makers.



Tanja Granzow: Framing Threat, Mobilising Violence: Micro-mechanisms of Conflict Escalation among the Huthis and al-Hiraak

Biography

Tanja Granzow is an anthropologist and PhD Researcher in political science at the University of Tübingen, Germany. As an anthropologist, she has focused on the Middle East, namely Egypt, and has conducted field research on the Zar cult and its current embeddedness in Cairene society. Apart from that, her research interest always included conflicts and crises, and the capability of societies to deal with such events. After a brief period of working for a humanitarian non-governmental organisation, she is currently in the early stages of her PhD research on the effects of threat framing for the escalation of conflict in the Yemen.

Abstract

Why do some intra-state conflicts escalate into open violence while others remain peaceful? Which role do elites play in framing threat perception and the mobilisation of group members for violent action? Under which conditions will such frames be successful?

Identity groups suffering from state repression or the effects of increased state failure sometimes react in a violent way while in other cases they remain peaceful. Granzow's PhD research project looks at 'collective action frames' as an explanatory factor for the success of mobilisation for violence. The model implies that if violent frames are successful, the risk for a rebellion increases; if they fail, there may still be peaceful actions or no action at all. Two contrasting cases will be analysed during the research: While the Huthis have acted with massive violence, al-Hiraak has remained peaceful.



Dr Noel Joseph Guckian CVO OBE: Chair

Dr Noel Guckian is a former British Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman (2005-2011) with over 30 years experience in the Middle East, on Middle East work in London and at universities in the UK. Diplomatic postings in the Middle East were Iraqi Kurdistan, Libya (twice), Oman (twice), Syria, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He studied Arabic at SOAS, and in Tunisia and Yemen. His Msc. Econ thesis at the University of Aberystwyth in 1978 was on the last ten years of British rule in Aden and the Federation of South Arabia. Family connections with Yemen has resulted in a continuing interest in all aspects of Yemen, especially in fisheries. Since retirement in 2011, he is involved in both the private sector and on pro bono activities related to the Middle East. Was appointed Honorary Fellow of Durham University in December 2010.



Dr Christina Hellmich: Sovereignty over their Bodies? The Determinants of Women's Reproductive Health in the Republic of Yemen

Biography

Christina Hellmich is Reader in International Relations and Middle East Studies at the University of Reading. She is a specialist in Middle East politics working on Yemen and the Arab Gulf with a particular research interest in political Islam, international security and women's health. She is the author of *Al-Qaeda: From Global Network to Local Franchise* (2011), *The Epistemology of Terrorism: Knowing al-Qaeda* (2012) and *Sovereignty over their Bodies? Rethinking the determinants of Women's Health in Yemen* (in press).

Abstract

Adopting the international definition of reproductive health as a reproductive right, this paper examines the diverse issues that determine women's reproductive health outcomes in the Republic of Yemen. These include the effect of Islamic conservatism, the prevalence of traditional beliefs about health, illness and procreation, as well as conservative and patriarchal gender and familial relations, which are reinforced by increasingly conservative formulations of women's status and the lack of a coherent health policy. Instead of emphasising the importance of any one particular factor, this paper argues that women's reproductive health outcomes and fertility rates are the result of individuals' strategies and decisions that both reflect, and are affected by, the structure of power within Yemeni society. The paper concludes that sustainable and meaningful improvements in reproductive health outcomes require a move beyond the traditional focus on improving the availability of medical services to include a greater understanding of the complex choices and pressures faced by Yemeni women as well as a greater recognition of and respect for women's rights.



Dr Katherine Hennessey: Yemeni Society in the Spotlight: Theatre in Yemen before and during the Arab Spring

Biography

Katherine Hennessey PhD, is a Fellow and Researcher in Residence at the American Institute for Yemeni Studies in Sana'a. Her research focuses on Middle Eastern literature and drama in general and on contemporary theatre on the Arabian Peninsula in particular. She has received two Fulbright awards, a Mellon grant and a Beinecke Fellowship. Her recent publications include articles entitled 'Staging a Protest: Socio-political Criticism in Contemporary Yemeni Theater' and 'The Inaugural Season of the Royal Opera House, Muscat', and she is currently completing a book entitled *A Century of Yemeni Theater*.

Abstract

Theatre is, perhaps surprisingly, a vibrant genre in contemporary Yemen. In 2009 and 2010, experimental and bilingual dramas and an Arabic-language musical, among other performances, took place in the capital. Such plays contained searing criticism of corruption in the Yemeni government, of the failures of the nation's health care and educational systems, of endemic poverty and of the lack of opportunities available to Yemen's youth and women. This presentation traces the ways in which recent Yemeni theatre has acted as a forum for the free and creative expression of anger, anxiety and hope about the state of the nation. It briefly illustrates the types of socio-political criticism presented in three plays staged in 2009 and 2010, then analyses the types of theatre that unfolded in the Yemeni streets in 2011, and concludes with an examination of the concerns that are finding expression on the Yemeni stage in 2012.



Dr Wai-Yip Ho: The Emerging Yemeni Diaspora in China: Socialist Legacy, Silk Road Broker and the Sino-Model

Biography

Dr Ho Wai-Yip is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Sciences, Hong Kong Institute of Education. He has been the Sir Edward Youde Fellow and was the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar at the Institute of Arab & Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, (2001-2002), a Junior Fellow, Institute of Advanced Study in the Humanities, Essen, Germany (2006), and Visiting Researcher at Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies, Republic of Yemen (2008). His research interests include Islamic studies, Christian-Muslim relations and the sociology of Muslim societies. He recently works on topics in new media and China's Islam, Gulf-China relations and China's Christian-Muslim relations. His articles appear in *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*, *Asian Ethnicity*, *Contemporary Islam*, *Asian Profile*, *Social Identities*, *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* among others.

Abstract

The Yemeni community has expanded to become one of the largest Arab diasporic communities in China. Based on a multi-site ethnography conducted in Yemen (Sana'a and Aden) and China (Beijing and Guangzhou), this paper first explains how strong China's humanitarian aid, infrastructure and other national projects in the socialist era have ensured an ongoing Chinese presence in Yemen and cemented strong bilateral relations from

the 1950s onwards. Secondly it explores the factors that have attracted Yemenis to China since the 1980s: as a result of China's 'Open Door Policy' in 1978 and subsequent economic growth, Yemeni traders, travelling and managing business between China and Middle East, have served as business brokers, mainly for Saudi Arabia. Through studying the lives of people at two ends of the new Silk Road, it illustrates that the transnational circuit of the Sino-Yemeni relationship is never symmetrical. Thirdly, this paper discusses how Yemeni respondents perceive China's economic model to be different from the western model of development. In the midst of Arab Spring in the region of the Middle East and especially in Yemen, it provides Yemenis with an alternative that criticises the leadership of Ali Abdullah Saleh and imagines the future development of Yemen. Finally, this paper explores the everyday challenges the Yemeni community living in China and how they resolve the difficulties inherent in their lives in China.



Sharif Jaghman: Establishing Yemen's Financial Market: Previous Efforts, the Benefits and the Next Steps

Biography

Sharif Jaghman is a Business Development Analyst in the Market Solutions team of NYSE Technologies, the commercial technology arm of the NYSE Euronext group. He has specialised in the development of global financial markets with a focus on the emerging markets of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and has been directly involved in a number of business critical exchange development projects for tier 1 exchanges in diverse geographical regions. His expertise lies in exchange trading technology and infrastructure as well as in developing exchanges' business growth strategies. Sharif Jaghman holds a first-honours degree in business and information technology with professional experience and a certificate in entrepreneurship studies from the Queen's University of Belfast.

Abstract

Financial markets are at the heart of everything we do in our lives. They are the cornerstones of modern-day economics and play a key role in addressing many basic and also more critical necessities. Whether we are aware of their importance or not, they do have a huge impact on us in one way or another, especially from a global perspective. The question that we should be asking ourselves is 'Where does Yemen stand in all this?' Like any other country's economy, Yemen is one of the small building blocks of an ever more integrated global economy. Although Yemen does not have a regulated market, there have been many attempts in the past few years to establish a Yemeni exchange. This paper aims to shed some light on how to establish a Yemeni financial market from various dimensions: specifically looking at previous efforts, obstacles, benefits and the way forward.



P. K. M. Abdul Jaleel: Social Meaning of Diaspora Remittance in Yemen: A Case Study of Mahjars of Singapore in Hadhramaut

Biography

P. K. M. Abdul Jaleel is a senior research fellow at the Centre for West Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, studying for a doctorate on the Hadrami Sayyid Diaspora in Kerala and Singapore. His book with Dr MH Ilyas, *Travel and Transformation of a Hadrami Sayyid Scholar: The Life History of Sayyid Fadl* is forthcoming. He is currently working as a Research Team Leader for the Qatar Unified Imaging Project funded by Qatar Foundation.

Abstract

Yemeni migrants, at different stages in history, have entered into successful diaspora in diverse regions of the world. While Yemeni (mainly Hadrami) communities in Gujarat, Delhi, Hyderabad, Malabar, Java, Singapore and East Africa constitute medieval and early modern diaspora, migration of the similar group in post-oil boom Gulf and recent movements to US and Europe represent a modern diaspora with entirely different push and pull factors. Through faith-based and trade-based networks, Yemeni migrants enjoyed a special status with a wide reach in the political and religious realms in the receiving societies, though the benefits homeland gained out of it were not as apparent or as durable as one might expect. As the émigrés settle as wealthy communities in most diasporic locations and become assimilated into host societies, the massive outflow of

Yemenis seems more of a bane than a boon for the sending villages in Yemen which lose substantial amount of human and economic resources in the process. The study of Hadrami *Mahjars* of Singapore, however, illustrates a different story that makes an exception to the general situation since they invest a large amount of money in various educational and infrastructural activities in Hadramawt region. The present paper seeks to explore how *Mahjars* of Singapore historically emerged as an outstanding community maintaining close ties with the homeland economically and politically. The paper consists of three parts: it explains the successful story of Hadrami *Mahjars* , examines how their remittances are used in Hadramawt and, extrapolating from the past, analyses change in pattern and new avenues of spending.



Jens Kambeck: Adequate Dispute Resolution Methods in Land-Related Disputes in Yemen

Biography

Jens Kambeck graduated from Johann W. Goethe University in Frankfurt and was admitted as an Attorney at Law and member of the Frankfurt Bar Association in 2006. He worked for the Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Taiz as a legal advisor to the Centre for Arbitration and Conciliation (2006-2008), as well as in the Senate of Berlin (2009) and as a legal consultant in East Africa and various Arab countries. Since 2010 he has been an affiliated researcher at the Orient Institute in Beirut and a PhD candidate at University Erlangen-Nürnberg ('Conflict Resolution Based on Customary Law in Yemen'). He works on adequate dispute resolution and Arabic and Islamic law.

Abstract

Every year some 4,000 people die in violent clashes in land-related disputes. Land is a valuable resource, especially if it is farmland or located in or near one of the fast growing cities. There is no comprehensive land registry in Yemen, and claims of land ownership are based on different legal traditions. Court-based litigation is currently dealing with a high number of land-related disputes, but the jurisdiction is constrained by a lack of resources and burdened with a distrust of its neutrality. The effectiveness of a conflict-resolution instrument based on customary law has been weakened in recent years due to various reasons. ADR is a collective term for various communication strategies helping the parties in dispute to communicate and find a legal binding decision. Advantages include procedural flexibility, compatibility with *shari'ah* and similarities with *sulh* and *al-tahkim*. ADR, and arbitration in particular, can be tailored to the specific needs of solving land related-conflicts in Yemen.



Dr Helen Lackner: Water and Governance in the Republic of Yemen

Biography

Helen Lackner has been involved with Yemen since 1973 when she first visited the PDRY. She lived there from 1977 to 1982 and since then she has returned to live and work in all parts of Yemen for varying periods of time. She works as a consultant in social aspects of rural development, mostly in Yemen, but has also worked in 30 other countries. She published *PDRY, an Outpost of Socialism in Arabia* in 1985 and has co-edited *Yemen into the Twenty First Century* (2007) and has also contributed to various other publications on Yemen. Alongside her rural development work, she is currently working on an analysis of governance in Yemen in the past century, using water management as a key to examine relations between the state, the people and external financiers.

Abstract

Water and Governance in the Republic of Yemen

Absolute shortage of water is Yemen's foremost long-term problem (per capita water availability dropped to 90m³ in 2009), with grave social, economic and political consequences. While certain objective facts (3% per annum population increase, climate change, 70% of the population rural, 90% of water used in agriculture) are among the causes, political and socio-cultural factors also share responsibility for this situation. This paper examines the role of the state, funding agencies and social forces in water management since unification in 1990. It is based on available official documentation and other literature as well as the experience of the author working in rural development in Yemen from the 1970s onwards. The paper explores four key governance themes: the role of the state, the multiplicity of institutions and their causes, the influence of foreign development institutions and finally addresses the issue of the future of water management in a post-transition regime.



Dr Gerhard Lichtenthaeler: Customary Conflict Resolution in Times of Extreme Water Stress: a Case Study from the Northern Highlands of Yemen

Biography

Gerhard Lichtenthaeler PhD studied Arabic, ethnography and geography at SOAS. Between 2004 and until the political upheaval in 2011, he worked for GIZ on the water sector in Yemen. In 2011 he moved to Egypt where he is now involved in a new regional initiative funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) which is entitled 'adaptation to climate change in the water sector in the MENA region'. Lichtenthaeler is author of *Political Ecology and the Role of Water: Environment, Society and Economy in Northern Yemen* (2003).

Abstract

This paper will look at a customary practice still applied today by many tribal communities in Yemen to deal with conflict over natural resources. The paper will explore one particular example from farming communities in the extremely water-stressed Amran basin. A tribal document drawn up to resolve the water conflict will be examined. The case study provides evidence of local solutions and community self-regulation in dealing with water stress. The paper will then look at the implications of such customary practices for the decentralisation of water resources management in times of uncertainty – whether political or in terms of anticipated climate change.



Dr Abdulla Abd al-Wali Nasher: Chair

Dr Nasher has an English educational background but his strong passion and loyalty to his home country lead him to return to Yemen in 1984. Following his return, he took up successive surgical and teaching appointments in Yemen. In 1994 he became professor and Chief of the Surgical Department in the Faculty of Medicine, Sana'a University. Three years later he was appointed Minister of Public Health, and served from 1997 to 2001. In 1998, he supervised the designing of the Health Sector Reform Strategy for Yemen. In 2000 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Medicine by the University of Southampton for his reform strategy and his outstanding work in the Ministry of Health. In 2001-2003 he became a member of Yemen Shura Council as well as Chairman of the International Bank of Yemen. Ambassador Nasher is also an Honorary Vice-President of the British-Yemeni Society and was Chairman of the Yemeni British Friendship Association from 1992 until 2003. Over the years Dr Nasher has published numerous scientific research papers, primarily in British medical journals. In 2000, he published a book entitled, *Health Care in Least Developed Countries: The Experience of Yemen*. From November 2003 to November 2008 Dr Nasher served as Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen to Canada. In 2009, Dr Nasher retired and moved with his family to live in Canada.



Kate Nevens: Chair

Kate Nevens is the Head of the Middle East and North Africa Programme at Saferworld, an independent international organisation working on conflict prevention, where she works primarily on community security and political participation projects in Yemen, Egypt and Libya. Kate was formerly the manager of the MENA programme and the Yemen Forum at Chatham House, and holds an MSc in international politics from SOAS.



Thanos Petouris: Southern Yemeni Identity: Between Colonial Myths and Political Ambition

Biography

Thanos Petouris is a PhD candidate at the Department of Politics, SOAS, University of London, researching the nationalist, anti-colonial movement in Aden and the Protectorates of South Arabia and the emergence of South Yemeni identity during the decolonisation process from British rule in the years 1937–1967. The theoretical focus of his thesis is to explain the

emergence of national identities during periods of decolonisation, by using South Yemen as the historical case study. Petouris is a regular contributor to Chatham House Yemen Forum events, having authored the Chatham House paper on the Southern Question and the National Dialogue in Yemen. He has visited almost every part of the country regularly since 2005. He is a committee member of the British-Yemeni Society, and one of the conveners of this conference.

Abstract

The decolonisation process in Aden and the Protectorates of South Arabia which evolved over three decades (1937–1967), led to the formation of a distinct South Arabian, and later South Yemeni national identity. Today, the Southern Question, the idea of self-determination for the South and of belonging to a separate national entity, has acquired a prominent place in Yemeni politics. The aim of this paper is to explore the mechanisms leading to the emergence of a national identity in periods of decolonisation in general, and in South Yemen in particular; to address the reasons for the re-emergence of such modes of identification in the politics of southern Yemen after unity; and to consider the paradox of the glorification of the colonial, and partly of the socialist past of the country, in the contemporary southern political discourse as it is being shaped by the Southern Movement.



Vincent Planel: Doing Ethnography in the Land of Informants: Tribality in Ta'iz and the Epistemology of the Yemeni Situation

Biography

Vincent Planel is a PhD student in anthropology in Aix-Marseille Université. He studied physics and social sciences in the École Normale Supérieure and since 2003 he has conducted fieldwork in Taiz, Yemen. His research focus on the sense of honour and its mutations, approached both from an interactionist perspective and in relation to the town's social history. This includes a methodological interest on the role of reflexivity in the ethnographic learning process, and its conditions of practice in the world post-9/11. His other interests are the anthropology of science, mental health and the thought of Gregory Bateson, epistemology and islamic theology.

Abstract

Under Ali Saleh's rule, Taiz was mostly viewed as the land of shopkeepers, school teachers and 'informants' (translators, NGO founders and modernist intellectuals). It was also considered a tribe of lower status, or not a tribe at all. But the Arab Spring has revealed Taiz as a rallying point, a city that all Yemenis can identify with, along with the rise of a renewed Taizi pride. What are the roots of this recent shift in consciousness? From 2003 to 2010, conflictual situations on his fieldwork in Taiz led Planel to study the role of insults and sexual double-meanings in masculine sociability. He analysed this 'culture of vulgarity' as an expression of Taiz ambiguous role in the regime. Though he often dismissed conflict as expressions of socio-economic antagonisms, its true origin laid in his informants' constant desire to spare him from the tribal dimension of social life.



Peter Rice: Yemen's Transition: Challenges Facing International Community Assistance

Biography

Since graduating from SOAS with an MA in Near and Middle Eastern Studies, Peter has been living in the West Asian region for the past four years. He worked as a research consultant with the UN's Iraq Country Team before moving to Yemen in December 2011 to take up his current role as the first full-time Coordinator of the Yemen International NGO Forum. Peter's previous research interests have included the challenges faced by Muslims living in Europe and North America and the history of the women's movement in West Asia.

Abstract

In September 2012, donor governments pledged a total of US\$7.9 billion to assist Yemen until the end of 2014. Aid from foreign governments will be an important factor in supporting Yemen's transition towards new elections and, in the long term, towards a solid economic, social and political basis. Yemen faces a difficult period where a political transition is concurrent with a humanitarian crisis and low government revenues. The way in which aid is spent should therefore be well-balanced between humanitarian, reconstruction and

development projects and be implemented through effective channels. The presentation will focus on the challenges that face all humanitarian and development actors in their efforts to achieve this.



Faiza Sedeq: Education Reform in the Middle East

Biography

Faiza Sedeq is from Yemen; she is married and has three children. Although Faiza holds a bachelor degree in chemical engineering from Kuwait University, she developed a deep passion for continuous learning education and has a master's degree in life-long learning from Mount Saint Vincent in Halifax, Canada. Her master's programme allowed Faiza to realise the negative impact of 'banking system' of education and traditional pedagogies on learners and community development. She believes that the social chaos in the Middle East is an outcome of their education system, thus a radical education reform is urgently needed. She has decided to work as a freelance education consultant and has dedicated herself to elaborate a vision for education reform in the Middle East and teacher professional training research.

Abstract

Her research paper on the 'Education reform in the Middle East' explores the disadvantages of 'banking-style' education in the Middle East, focusing on the negative impacts it has on peoples' lives socially and economically and showing how it hinders community development. In particular, the work investigates education challenges in Yemen. The deterioration in the Yemeni education system has created social and economic fall-out such as violence, unemployment and poverty. This paper also highlights effective education reform learning strategies that help learners, from childhood to adulthood, transform into active citizens. Additionally, the paper emphasises how Arab policy-makers, especially those in Yemen, should align education reform policies with 21st-century skills and challenges. This includes making substantial investments in teacher training to help teachers become self-directed and lifelong learners. Ultimately, this paper proposes a vision for education reform in the Middle East that can be applied in Yemen.



Adam Seitz: The Arab Spring and Yemeni Civil–Military Relations

Biography

Adam C. Seitz is the senior research associate for Middle East Studies at the Marine Corps University, where he supports the university with his research on the Middle East, concentrating on Iran, Yemen and the Arabian Gulf region. Mr Seitz earned his BA in International Affairs from the University of Colorado at Boulder and is currently working towards an MA in International Relations and Conflict Resolution at the American Military University. His latest works include *Iranian Weapons of Mass Destruction: The Birth of a Regional Nuclear Arms Race?* (2009, with Anthony H. Cordesman), and the "Yemen" chapter of the *World Almanac of Islamism* (2011; 2012 forthcoming).

Abstract

The Arab Spring prompted a wide range of reactions by militaries across the Middle East and North Africa, highlighting significant and diverse changes in Arab civil–military relations in recent decades. In Yemen, the unique brand of praetorianism that characterised the Salih regime's relationship with the army was put to the test as they were confronted by widespread anti-government protests. The fracturing of the armed forces that ensued was reflective of the deep-seated divisions and shifting allegiances which have come to define Yemeni society. This shift in civil–military relations came as a result of various internal and external pressures to the Salei regime's system of tribal control and modifications to the regimes overall governance strategy over the past decade. This paper explores such developments and their impact on Yemeni civil–military relations, highlighting the enduring and emerging challenges the interim Hadi government must contend with as it moves forward with the implementation of the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative alongside its own reform agenda.



Dr Stephen Steinbeiser: Foreigners and Law in Yemen: Culture, Conflict and Recourse

Biography

Stephen Steinbeiser is the Resident Director of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies, an academic research institute that has operated in Sana'a for over three decades, providing support for international and local scholars. In addition to managing AIYS's daily operations, he administers cultural preservation projects and conducts research on Yemeni cultural heritage and law. Most recently, he analysed the interconnections among Yemeni tribal law, Islamic legal principles and international development objectives. In 2010 he oversaw the construction of a four-storey mud brick tower house, in the architectural style indigenous to western Sana'a, where he currently lives.

Abstract

This paper examines the application of law on foreign individuals and entities who live and work in Yemen. It focuses on common legal obstacles and missteps for new entrants into the country and how to avoid or overcome them. Relying heavily on first-hand experience and empirical observation, the paper investigates the types of conflict with which foreigners can become involved and looks at the common dispute-resolution mechanisms among Yemenis, especially for practical issues such as employment, property boundaries and security. It concludes by analysing how useful these mechanisms are to foreigners and by considering how non-Yemenis may avail themselves of alternative methods for resolution of legal issues in the country. Where appropriate, the paper refers to scholarly work in the fields of Yemeni customary and parliamentary law, Islamic jurisprudence and international law.



Dr Helene Thiollet: Migration, Conflict and Revolution: Population Movements in Post-Revolutionary Yemen

Biography

Dr Helene Thiollet is a graduate from the Ecole normale supérieure (Ulm A/L98), holds a PhD in Political Science from Sciences Po and degrees in geography of development and classics from Université of Paris 4 and 1 La Sorbonne. Helene is an associate researcher at CERI-Sciences Po and a research partner at the International Migration Institute at Oxford University. She has been a board member of IR Journal in French, *Critique internationale* since 2009. She was a postdoctoral fellow at Oxford University in 2010-2011 with Oxpo Research Network. Her research focuses on the politics of migration and asylum in the Global South. She works particularly on the Middle East and East Africa. She teaches international relations and migration studies. Helene is co-ordinating, with Catherine Wihtol de Wenden the research project 'MobGlob – Global Mobility and Migration Governance', which is funded by Agence Nationale pour la Recherche.

Abstract

The Sa'dah civil war (since 2004), the Southern rebellion (since 2007), the Yemeni 'spring' (in 2011) and the systemic degradation of economic, social and ecological situation in Yemen have generated internal population movements while the enduring crisis and conflict in the neighbouring Horn of Africa has maintained a high level of refugee and asylum seeker influxes through the Gulf of Aden. These fluxes of forced migration and internal displacement trends have to be analysed in the light of long-term migration and transnational trends that have always shaped Yemen's integration in the Arabian Peninsula and in global migration dynamics. The growing complexity of people's mobility and the dramatic consequences that have come with it reveal the lack of management on behalf of local and international actors. It also reveals the politics of containment that have been developed *vis-à-vis* refugees in the Horn of Africa and Yemen. We will explore population dynamics, especially with regard to their connection to the failures of public policies and the constraints of diplomatic pressures of foreign actors. Migration is therefore a lens through which social impacts of the revolution and enduring conflicts in the region can be envisioned.



Professor Charles Tripp: Chair

Charles Tripp is Professor of Politics with reference to the Middle East, at SOAS, University of London and a Fellow of the British Academy. His research interests include the nature of autocracy, state and resistance in the Middle East and the politics of Islamic identity. He is the author of *Islam and the Moral Economy: The Challenge of Capitalism* (Cambridge University Press, 2006), *A History of Iraq* (Cambridge University Press, 2007) and the joint author of *Iran and Iraq at War* (IB Tauris, 1988) and of *Iran-Saudi Arabia Relations and Regional Order* (IISS, 1996). His most recent book examines the politics of resistance in the Middle East, *The Power and the People: Paths of Resistance in the Middle East* (Cambridge University Press, 2012).



Dr Paola Viviani: Gender and Identity Issues in Yemeni Literature: Habib Abd al-Rabb Sururi's Fiction

Biography

Dr Paola Viviani is Researcher in Arabic Language and Literature, Dipartimento di Studi Europei e Mediterranei, Seconda Università degli Studi di Napoli, Italy. Her main fields of interest are Arabic literature from *al-nahdah* to the present. She has translated short stories from Yemen, Saudi Arabia and the Emirates and novels by Muhammad al-Ash'ari, Liyanah Badr, Bensalim Himmish, Hun' Allah Ibrahim, Baha' Tahir and Miral al-Tahawi. She is a member of EURAMAL, SeSaMO, UEAI and Istituto per l'Oriente 'Carlo Alfonso Nallino', Rome, and of the editorial board of the online review *La rivista di Arablit*, edited by Professor Isabella Camera d'Afflitto.

Abstract

Habib 'Abd al-Rabb Surur is one of the most outstanding Yemeni authors: an intellectual in the broader sense of the term, since he is a man of letters, a scientist and an academic. In his works as a novelist, he manages to mingle these various interests. This happens, for instance, in *'Araq al-alihah*, published in 2008. At a different level and in a different mode, the same takes place in *Taqrir al-hudhud* (2012). Two of the major topics he deals with are gender and identity issues, since, while being greatly interested in the special relationship between men and women, as he showed in *Damalan* (2009) and *Ta'ir al-harab* (2005), he is attracted by the thorny question of identity at large both in Yemen and in the Arabic *ummah* as a whole.



Dr Gabriele vom Bruck: Chair

Biography

Dr Gabriele vom Bruck is a Senior Lecturer in Anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies. She has conducted extensive research in Yemen and published on hereditary elites, consumption, gender, photography and religious movements. She is the author of *Islam, Memory and Morality in Yemen* (2005) and co-editor of *The Anthropology of Names and Naming* (2006).



Dr Shelagh Weir: Tribal Factors in War and Peace

Biography

Dr Shelagh Weir is the former Curator for Middle Eastern Ethnography at the British Museum and is presently a Research Associate in the Department of Anthropology, SOAS. She conducted 18 months' anthropological field research in Sa'dah governorate between 1977 and 1993, and is author of *Qat in Yemen: Consumption and Social Change* (1985) and *A Tribal Order: Politics and Law in the Mountains of Yemen* (2007).

Abstract

This paper offers historical and anthropological perspectives on the so-called 'Huthi wars' which erupted in the Sa'dah region between 2004 and 2010. By way of introduction to the second panel, it summarises the background to the conflict. It then highlights historical precedents and socio-political factors which help

illuminate its complexities. The paper argues that essentialist stereotyping of the chief actors involved, including 'the tribes', obstructs understanding of this conflict as a dynamic ever-changing phenomenon. Instead it suggests a more nuanced and locally-contextualised approach to understanding recent events and devising strategies for peace and reconciliation. It will argue that analysts and decision makers need to appreciate the nature and durability of the political structures and values evidenced during this conflict, and also their potential for adaptation and change.



Madeleine Wells: Huthis as 'Foreign': Threat Perception and Yemeni Regime Decision-Making about Sa'dah, 2004-2010

Biography

Madeleine Wells is a third-year PhD Student at the George Washington University studying comparative politics and international relations. Her research looks at the international dimensions of citizenship and sectarian policies in the Arabian Gulf. She was recently awarded a Boren Fellowship for travel to Jordan and Kuwait for language study and field research in 2013. Prior to attending GWU, Wells worked for two years at the RAND Corporation on issues of rebellion, terrorism and insurgency in the Arabian Gulf and Horn of Africa. She is a co-author of the 2010 RAND monograph *Regime and Periphery in Northern Yemen: The Huthi Phenomenon*. Ms Wells holds an MA in Islamic Studies from Columbia and a BA in Government and Near Eastern Studies from Cornell.

Abstract

The paper identifies how and when the perceived links of non-core groups to external patrons plays a role in elite decision-makers' nation-building choices to accommodate or exclude such non-core populations. Applying a theory of threat perception, Wells addresses the case of the Huthi rebellion in Sa'dah, focusing on government decisions to exclude Huthis and their supporters violently from 2004 to 2010. The paper focuses on justifications about the Huthis as foreign and Iranian backed, and how this narrative and perception played into the government of Yemen strategy about Sa'dah as a part of the Yemeni nation as a whole.