



Did the Rules of the Game Change?

Organisers: Olivier Roy (SPS/RSCAS), Kevin Koehler (SPS 2nd year), Jana Warkotsch (SPS 2nd year)

External Speaker: Rachad Antonius (Université du Québec à Montréal)

Time: 6-7 June 2011, Emeroteca, Badia Fiesolana

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Abstract: Democratisation studies in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) have focused on the region's exceptionalism, emphasizing the resilience of authoritarian structures and the frailty of liberalization attempts and electoral politics. The recent struggles for political change in the Arab world have radically challenged that picture in two ways. Unlike common depictions, the 'Arab street' was able to spur bottom up change and has set up examples for democratization attempts from below and, in addition, the regimes they challenged appeared to be surprisingly weak.

The Egyptian and Tunisian revolutions that led to the end of President Ben Ali's and President Mubarak's, along with waves of political and economic contestation in Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, Jordan, and Yemen have led to unsettling and deconstructing prevailing assumptions about the structural constellations and the expected patterns paving the ground for political change.

The workshop provides an avenue for reconceptualising academic and policy debates pertaining to questions of authoritarian stability, regime change, and collective action in the MENA. It moreover addresses the possibility of shifting from the teleological approaches of democratization and authoritarian resilience in the quest for alternative conceptual tools in Political Sciences.



6 June 2011

9.00-9.30: Introduction

9.30-10.15: **Olivier Roy**: Did the Rules of the Game Change?

10.15-10.45: open debate

10.45-11.00: Coffee break

11.00-11.45: **Rachad Antonius (Université du Québec à Montréal)**: Revolutions and Regime Legitimacy in the MENA

11.45-12.15: Q&A

12.15-14.00: Lunch break

14.00-14.45: **Daniel Ritter (European University Institute)**: Revolutionary Cells: On the Role of Texts, Tweets, and Status Updates in Nonviolent Revolutions

14.45-15.15: Q&A

15.15-16.00: **Nadia Marzouki (European University Institute)**: *Karama* as a New Form of Mobilization?

16.00-16.30: Q&A

16.30-17.00: Coffee break

17.00-18.00: **Jana Warkotsch (SPS 2)**: Bringing Down the Dictator: Networks of Mobilization in the Egyptian Revolution
Discussant: Bogumila Hall

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9.00-10.00: **Martyn Egan (SPS 1)**: Which Rules Remain? The Role of Cognition in Transition
Discussant: Konstantinos Eleftheriadis

10.00-11.00: **Kevin Koehler (SPS 2)**: The Challenge of Personality Politics: Party Formation and Electoral Politics in Post-Revolutionary Egypt
Discussant: Markos Vogiatzoglou



11.00-11.15: Coffee break

11.15-12.15: Teije Donker (SPS 2): Islamism in a Changing Arab World: A Social Movement Perspective
Discussant: Maria Tedesco

12.15-14.00 Lunch break

14.00-15.00: Conclusion: From Revolution to Consolidation: What Future for Middle Eastern Regimes?
Kevin Koehler (SPS 2): Summary of main challenges/question raised in the WS

Concluding general discussion