Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark

School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, AMMAN, JORDAN

**AN ARAB WORLD IN TRANSITION**

**– THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES**

School of International Studies and Political Science

University of Jordan

21 – 23 April 2013

**AN ARAB WORLD IN TRANSITION**

**– THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES**

**Venue: School of International Studies and Political Science,**

**University of Jordan, 21-23 April 2013**

**Organized by the Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark and the School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan**

**Organizers**

Peter Seeberg, Director of Studies and Associate Professor, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark

Zaid Eyadat, Dean of School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan

Hassan al-Momani, School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan

Bo Vestergaard Thiesen, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark

**Introduction**

The recent developments in the Middle East have re-ignited discussions about historical transformation. Labeling the events in the MENA-region and reading the scope and significance of the dynamic processes have caused vibrant scholarly debates, as it can be seen from a growing number of academic publications. To take two significant examples: The well-known US-based organization and think tank, Freedom House, published in 2012 their usual annual report “Freedom in the World”; this time with the subtitle “The Arab Uprisings and Their Global Repercussions”. The German Bertelsmann Stiftung, every two years publishing the much used Bertelsmann Transformation Index, in 2012 published a report called “The Arab Spring: One Year After. Transformation Dynamics, Prospects for Democratization and the Future of Arab-European Cooperation”.

The events within the last two years in the Middle East inspire a rethinking of our comprehension of historical change and call for discussions about our conventional theoretical and methodological paradigms. Taking its point of departure in the discussions about how to interpret the events in the Middle East since late 2010 this conference will analyze the theoretical perspectives of an Arab World in transition. The first part of the conference will discuss theoretical challenges related to the understanding of transition processes in a global perspective.

The second part of the conference will focus on actual developments in the MENA-region and – based on case-studies – discuss how the ongoing transformation can be understood and interpreted. Furthermore it is the ambition to analyze the significance of the changes in a regional and international perspective: how and to which degree will the transition of the Middle Eastern states affect the surrounding world?

The academic debates of first two years after the Arab Uprisings have centered around the internal conflicts in the affected Middle Eastern states and the prospects of democratization in the region. It is the aim of this conference to take the discussion further and by focusing on transitional dynamics and their theoretical perspectives to contribute to the wider understanding of historical change.

The conference is part of the DJUCO-initiative – a university cooperation project between Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark and School of International Studies, University of Jordan.

**Programme**

**Sunday 21 April 2013**

**9.30-10.00 Registration, coffee and tea**

**10.00-10.15 Welcome**

Zaid Eyadat, Dean of School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan

Peter Seeberg, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark

Ekhlief Tarawneh, President of the University of Jordan

**10.15-11.15 Opening speech**

Jan Claudius Völkel, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, EuroMed Studies Programme, Cairo University and Regional Coordinator Middle East & North Africa at the Bertelsmann Transformation Index:

Measuring Democracy in Times of Transformation: An Insight into the Bertelsmann Transformation Index

**11.30-13.00 Panel 1. The Arab Spring. Theoretical Perspectives, part I**

**Chair:** Mohammad Al Masalha, School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan

**Panel:**

Martin Beck, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark:

Bringing the Rentier State Approach Back In: Oil and the Arab Spring (Working Title)

James Sater, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark:

Citizenship in the Middle East: Old Questions and New Realities

**13.00-14.00 Lunch break**

**14.00-16.00 Panel 2. The Arab Spring. Theoretical Perspectives, part II**

**Chair:** Peter Seeberg, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark

**Panel:**

Bertold Schweitzer, European Peace University, Austria:

Modeling Mechanisms of Transition in the Arab Spring

Mohammad Kheir Eiadat, School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan, Zaid Eyadat, Dean of School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan:

Transition: Mapping Theoretical Paradigms

Hassan Barari, School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan:

The Continuation of Autocracy in the Region

**16.00-16.30 Coffee Break**

**16.30-18.00 Panel 3. Case Studies: Egypt, Jordan**

**Chair:** James Sater, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark

**Panel:**

Martin Beck, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark and Simone Hüser, M.A., Research Fellow at the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation in Amman:

Beyond the Arab Spring: Jordan

Mohammed Mahsoob, Professor of Law, Menofia University:

The Egyptian Uprising and its Subsequent Developments

**20.00 Conference Dinner**

**Monday 22 April 2013**

**9.30-9.45 Registration, coffee and tea**

**9.45-11.15 Panel 4. International Perspectives, part I**

**Chair:** Martin Beck, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark

**Panel:**

Patricia Bauer, European Peace University, Austria:

The European Mediterranean Policy after the Arab Spring – Beyond Discourse and Interest

Kirstine Sinclair, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark:

“What They Really Want is a Caliphate!” British Salafi Reactions to the Arab Spring

**11.15-11.30 Coffee Break**

**Chair:** Patricia Bauer, European Peace University, Austria:

**11.30-13.00 Panel 5. International Perspectives, part II**

Andrea Teti, Department of Politics & International Relations, University of Aberdeen:

EU Policy Responses to the Arab Uprisings: Conceptions of Democracy in PfDSP, NRCN and Delivering Democracy

Peter Seeberg, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark:

Europe, the Arab Revolts and the Recent Geopolitical Shifts in the Middle East. The Disconnection of the EU’s Pragmatic Foreign and Security Policy Regime

**13.00-14.00 Lunch break**

**14.00-15.30 Concluding Remarks**

Zaid Eyadat, Dean of School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan

Peter Seeberg, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark

**Tuesday 23 April 2013**

**1st Annual Young Scholars Conference**

**The Arab Spring: Roles, Causes and Consequences**

**10.00-10:30 Registration**

**10.30-12.00 Panel 1. The Role of Women, Social Media and Youth**

**Chair:** TBD

**Panel:**

Sara Badoura, School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan:

The Role of Social Media in the Arab Spring

Mary Burbara, School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan:

The Role of Women in the Arab Spring

Wijdan Ahmad, School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan:

The Role of Youth in the Arab Spring

**12.00-13.00 Lunch Break**

**13.00-14.30 Panel 2. Regional Roles and Consequences: Israel and Migration**

**Chair:** TBD

**Panel:**

Faisal Warikat, School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan:

The Arab Spring and its Implications on Israel

Ashraf Aldmour, School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan:

Arab Uprising on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 2011-2013

**14.30-14.45 Coffee Break**

**14.45-16.15 Panel 3. International Roles and Consequences: the EU and U.S.**

**Chair:** TBD

**Panel:**

Leah Rogotzke, School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan:

Follow the Leader?: U.S. Foreign Policy Formation toward the Arab Spring

Sheehan Kane, American University in Cairo:

The United States and the Arab Spring: The Case of Syria and Libya

Johnny Rishmawi

Egypt-U.S. Relations in Transition: Examining the Role of the Freedom and Justice Party in the New Foreign Policy

Max Roed Simonsen

Between Ideals and Reality: The EU and Democracy Promotion in the Middle East

**16.15-16.30 Coffee Break**

**16.30-17.00 Closing Remarks**

Bo Vestergaard Thiesen, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies, University of Southern Denmark

Leah Rogotzke, School of International Studies and Political Science, University of Jordan