

SEMINAR ORGANIZED BY THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH FORUM AND SILATECH

IN COLLABORATION WITH

DREEM EUROMED OF DAUPHINE UNIVERSITY

The pulse of the Arab Street: Understanding the Political Economy of the Arab Uprisings Using Public Opinion Data

OCTOBER 11-12, 2014

PARIS, FRANCE

Three years into the transition following the political upheavals in the Arab world, the new rulers in several countries are facing daunting challenges. These include a difficult democratization process and deteriorating social and economic conditions. In most cases, there is little understanding about the ongoing transformations taking place in society, which complicate policy-making further.

The Economic Research Forum (ERF), as an impartial regional network, is well positioned to help address the above challenges and has embarked upon carrying out a research project on “The pulse of the Arab Street: Understanding the Political Economy of the Arab Uprisings Using Public Opinion Data”. This innovative research program proposes to study the various dimensions of the ongoing social, economic, and political transformations in Arab societies through its use of nationally-representative opinion surveys to examine developments and transformations on the “Arab street” through the eyes and voices of the most relevant yet most under-researched actors – ordinary Arab citizens.

This project, carried out in collaboration with Silatech, is led by Ishac Diwan in the context of ERF’s thematic research agenda on the political economy of transformation in the Arab region. A team of researchers with a deep understanding of the region and its specificities will seek to fill an existing gap in rigorous, quantitative, evidence-based research on the political economy of contemporary Arab societies.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The objective of the workshop is to provide a platform for discussing the research papers and their findings among authors and experts in political economy in order to improve the final output. The papers are organized into four groups: Grievances and Aspirations, religion and politics, gender, and mass movements. There will also be an exploratory panel on emerging research themes of interest given the current dynamics of the region.

AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION

The workshop will convene for 2 days at Dauphine University in Paris, on October 11-12, 2014, gathering around 40 participants. It is co-sponsored by the group DREEM (Development of Euro-Med Economic Research).

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AGENDA

DAY ONE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2014

09:30-10:00 Welcome Remarks

Speakers: Ahmad Galal (Economic Research Forum)

El Mouhoub Mouhoud (Paris Sciences et Lettres, Univ. Paris Dauphine and CNRS DREEM EUROMED)

Ishac Diwan (Paris Sciences et Lettres, Paris School of Economics and Univ. Paris Dauphine, and Economic Research Forum)

10:00-11:30 Session 1: Grievances and Aspirations (1)

Moderator: Elyes Jouini

Speakers: Raj Desai, Anders Olofsguard, and Tarik Youssef, *Exclusion and Dissent: Explaining Political Action Among Youth.*

Mohamed Al Ississ and Ishac Diwan, *After the Uprisings – the Transformation of public opinions*

Discussants: Laurence Louer, Steffen Hertog

Open discussion

11:30-12:00 Coffee Break

12:00-01:30 Session 2: Mass Movements

Moderator: Ahmad Galal

Speakers: Mohamed Al-Ississ and Samer Atallah, *Anatomy of Dissent in Arab Public Opinion.*

Stephen Kosack, Evann Smith, Ashley Fabrizio: *Economic Conditions and Mass Movements: Determinants and Effects.*

Discussants: Anders Olofsguard, Hela Yousfi

Open discussion

01:30-02:30 Lunch

02:30-05:00 Session 3: Religion and Politics

Moderator: Nisreen Salti

Speakers: Mark Tessler, *Mapping and Explaining Attitudes toward Political Islam among Ordinary Citizens in the Middle East and North Africa.*

Mansoor Moaddel. *Religious Fundamentalism in the Middle East: A Cross-National and Inter-Faith Analysis.*

Jeff Nugent, *Socio-political Attitudes Across the World: To What Extent Are They Affected by One's Religion, Its Importance, Majority Status and Relative Income?*

Discussants: Fares Braizat, Adeel Malik, Hafez Ghanem

Open discussion

5:30-7:00

RECEPTION, DAUPHINE

DAY TWO: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2014

9:00-10:30

Session 4: Gender

Moderator: Najat El Mekkaoui

Speakers: Rania Salem, *Gendering the Costs and Benefits of the Arab Uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt Using the Gallup Surveys.*

Jeni Klugman and Ishac Diwan, *Patterns of Veiling: Some Emerging Correlations from Gallup World Poll.*

Discussants: Réjane Hugounenq, Bi Puraren

Open discussion

10:30-11:00

Coffee Break

11:00-1:00

Session 5: Grievances and Aspirations (2)

Moderator: El Mouhoub Mouhoud

Speakers: Melani Cammett and Nisreen Salti, *Memories of*

Redistribution: Welfare legacies and Political Attitudes and Behavior.
Zafiris Tzanatos and Ishac Diwan. *Returns to Education and Civil Servants Pay.*

Anya Vodopyanov, *Loyalty and Exit from the Authoritarian Economy: What Public Attitudes Towards Regime Distributive Politics Can Tell us about Contention During the 2011 Uprisings.*

Discussants: Dina El Khawaga, Philippe De Vreyer, Abubakr Jamai

Open discussion

01:00-02:00

Lunch

02:00-03:30

A discussion of a research agenda: Polarization and Failing States

Moderators: Ishac Diwan and Nader Kabbani

Speakers: Bassma Kodmani
Christian Haerpfer
Mark Tessler
Fares Braizat

Open discussion

Closing reception