

# Rethinking Nationalism, Sectarianism and Ethno-Religious Mobilisation in the Middle East

## Conference Schedule

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018, University of Oxford

Convened by Dr Alex Henley ([alex.henley@theology.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alex.henley@theology.ox.ac.uk)), Dr Ceren Lord ([ceren.lord@area.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ceren.lord@area.ox.ac.uk)) and Dr Hiroko Miyokawa ([hiroko.miyokawa@area.ox.ac.uk](mailto:hiroko.miyokawa@area.ox.ac.uk)). General enquiries: [mideastconf@pmb.ox.ac.uk](mailto:mideastconf@pmb.ox.ac.uk).

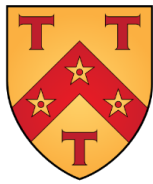
Generously supported by Pembroke College, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, the Middle East Centre at St Antony's College, and The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH).

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### Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January      *The Investcorp Lecture Theatre, Middle East Centre, St Antony's College*

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- 9.00-9.30      Registration; Coffee and pastries
- 9.30-9.45      Opening Remarks and Welcome:  
 Prof Justin Jones, representing the Islamic Studies group at Pembroke College  
 Prof Philip Robins, representing the Middle East Centre at St Antony's College  
 Mr Nobuo Tanaka, chairman of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation
- 9.45-11.15      **Panel 1: Histories of Border-Making and State Formation in the Middle East**  
 Chair: Yaacov Yadgar  
 Karin Loevy: *Non-Sovereign Territoriality in WWI Negotiations Over the Future of the Middle East*  
 Sarah Shields: *Discourses of Identity: The League of Nations in Iraq*  
 Oren Barak: *State Expansion and Conflict in Israel/Palestine and Lebanon*
- 11.30-13.00      **Panel 2: Challenges to the Nation-State in the Post-2011 Era**  
 Chair: Toby Matthiesen  
 Raymond Hinnebusch: *Westphalian Failure? The Case of Syria Since the Uprising*  
 Michael Marcusa & Jerome Drevon: *The Local Global Jihad: Explaining Sub-National Patterns in Salafi Jihadi Mobilisation*  
 Michael Clark: *A Shi'a Commonwealth: The Iranian Deep State, its Affiliates and the Shi'a Community*
- 13.00-14.30      Lunch (provided for speakers)
- 14.30-16.00      **Panel 3: State and Non-State Actors in the Governance of Diversity**  
 Chair: Laurent Mignon  
 Loubna El Amine & Kevin Mazur: *Deprovincialising Multiculturalism, or Why We Should Care About the Politics of Difference in Late Industrialising Societies*  
 Yeşim Bayar: *Expanding Minority Rights and Establishing Societal Peace: What Can We Learn from Constitutions and Constitution-Writing Processes?*  
 Karim Khwanda: *Socio-Religious Pluralism in Syria: The Fault-Line Beyond Secularism Vs. Islamism*  
 Nazli Ozkan: *Sectarian 'Paranoia' or Religious Discrimination: Journalistic Coverage of Anti-Alevi Discrimination in Turkey*



17.00-18.30 **Keynote Lecture:** Max Weiss speaking on *Formations of the Sectarian*

18.30-20.30 Conference Drinks and Formal Dinner (for speakers only)

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**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January**

**Harold Lee Room, Pembroke College**

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9.30-9.45 Coffee and pastries

9.45-11.15 **Panel 4: Building Commonality and Difference Through Time**

Chair: Philip Robins

Henry Clements: *A Very Christian Crisis in the Late Ottoman Empire*

Elvire Corboz: *Shi'i Discourses on Islamic Unity: Reconfiguring Majority-Minority Relations Within Islam*

Vefa Erginbas: *Bridging the Sunni-Shi'ite Divide: A Historical Look at the Appropriation of the Twelve Imams in the Ottoman Empire*

Hussein Abou Saleh: *The Dynamics of Sectarianism Between the Shi'ite and the 'Alawite community of Syria*

11.30-13.00 **Panel 5: Variations of Sectarianisation and Sectarian Mobilisations**

Chair: Eugene Rogan

Toby Dodge: *The Theory and Practice of Sectarian Mobilisation in Iraq*

Fred Lawson: *Why Did the Syrian Uprising Become Sectarian?*

Ceren Lord: *Sectarianised Securitisation and Alevi Mobilisation in Turkey in the Post-2011 Era*

Keiko Sakai: *Competing for Victimhood and Nationhood: Sectarianism in Post-War Iraq as a Legitimisation of the Right to Rebel*

13.00-14.00 Lunch (provided for speakers)

14.00-15.30 **Panel 6: Religious Actors in Negotiating the Nation**

Chair: Ceren Lord

Z. Asli Elitsoy: *Civil Friday Prayers: A Kurdish Challenge to the Religious Political Power in Turkey*

Yoko Uno: *'Religion is a Wall' for What? Riza Nur's Thought on Turkish Nationalism and Religious Authority in the Early Republican Period*

David Warren: *Cleansing the Nation of the 'Dogs of Hell': Nationalist Legal Reasoning Among the Azhari 'Ulama in Support of the 2013 Egyptian Coup and its Bloody Aftermath*

Noor Zehra Zaid: *From Shi'as to Iraqis, and Pakistanis to Shi'as: Nationalism, Transnationalism and Sectarianism in Modern Iraq*

15.45-17.15 **Panel 7: Religious Actors in Sectarian Politics**

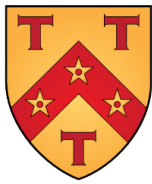
Chair: Justin Jones

Amaan Merali: *Persecution and Partnership: The Ottomans and the Aga Khan Before the Great War*

Alex Henley: *Sectarianisation as the Construction of 'Religion': The Case of 'Religious Leaders' in Lebanon*

Hratch Tchilingirian: *Secularising Effects of Sectarianism: The Case of the Armenian Church in the Middle East During the Cold War Era*

Anthony O'Mahony: *Eastern Christian Perspectives on Religion and Politics in Modern Syria: The Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch after 2000*



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**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

*Harold Lee Room, Pembroke College*

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9.30-9.45 Coffee and pastries

9.45-11.15 **Panel 8: Placing Religion in Protest and Social Movements**

Chair: Alex Henley

Teije Hidde Donker: *Jihadism and Governance in Northern Syria*

Fiona McCallum: *The Changing Nature of Coptic Protest in Egypt*

Yasuyuki Matsunaga: *A Processual Sociological Perspective on Sectarian Insurgency in Iran's Two Border Areas*

11.30-13.00 **Panel 9: Everyday Sectarianism in the Reimagination of Boundaries**

Chair: Walter Armbrust

Şule Can: *Vahed! Nihna u Suriyah Vahed! : Shifting Ethno-Religious Boundaries and Politicization at the Turkish-Syrian Border*

Maria Kastrinou: *From a Window in Jaramana: Sectarianism, Religion and the Impact of War on a Druze Neighbourhood in Syria*

Fouad Marei: *Theatres of Resistance: Shi'i Ritual Practice as Politics and Performance*

Gaétan du Roy: *Everyday Religious Boundaries: Reassessing Religious Revivals from Shubra, Cairo*

13.00-14.00 Lunch (provided for speakers)

14.00-15.30 **Panel 10: Reconciling State and Sub-State Identities in Contested National Spaces**

Chair: Ahmed al-Shahi

Marina Calculli: *Hezbollah's Phoenicianism: From Threat to the Guardian of the 'Lebanese Nation'*

Hiroko Miyokawa: *Coptic Historiography in Colonial Egypt: From the History of Patriarchs to the History of Coptic Nation*

Dylan O'Driscoll: *Iraq, Subnationalism and Militias*

Michael Willis: *Enemies, Allies or Competitors? Islamist-Amazigh Movement Relations in Morocco and Algeria*

15.30-16.00 Coffee