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CONGRESS

Middle East and Muslim Worlds
Studies

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Panel 57

Rethinking types of religious and non-religious solidarity in the Middle East and the Mediterranean in times of crisis

This panel examines how solidarity mechanisms can emerge, operate and transform contemporary identities in the Middle East and the Mediterranean region in a context of crisis. Specifically, it analyses the role and evolution of Muslim solidarities in the construction of contemporary models of civility and citizenship.

The multiplication of environmental, socio-economic and political crises increased the numbers of refugees and migrants in the countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea. In this context, state policies repeatedly proved to be inadequate to manage completely and/or effectively these movements of population and their consequences, even in the most developed polities. In turn, civil society actors ranging from humanitarian to religious organizations have become regular and often unavoidable actors on the issue.

The fluxes of population and their associated risks are commonly studied from a security perspective but the type of societal responses that are produced in this context is far less investigated. Beyond the immediate responses of state and non-state actors, how are the interactions generated by these movements of population impacting and transforming the humanitarian and religious organizations that supplement state policies? How are these exchanges shaped by public debate and state actions producing new types of civility and citizenship that apply to both people in the movement and to those they encounter?

Person in charge: Volpi Frédéric (Department of Islamic & Middle East Studies, Alwaleed Centre, Edinburgh University)

Discussant: Pierret Thomas (CNRS, Institute for Research and Studies on the Arab and Muslim Worlds, IREMAM)

Program

Pauline Brücker (Sciences Po Paris, CERI),

Endangered solidarities: the difficult rise of a cause of the migrant in the renewed Egyptian authoritarian context

This communication questions the place given in Egypt to solidarity with foreign migrants and refugees. Historically not considered to be a public problem in the country, the migration issue only generated few solidarity movements with regards to migrants until the 2000s. However, from the mid-2000s, the growing repression carried out by the Egyptian state against migrants led to reshaping these solidarities. New and old actors from Egyptian society started engaging within the migration debate and struggle for accountability from the State. This change seems to be fuelled by a transnationalization of struggles for refugee rights imported from Europe on the one hand, and on the other hand, by a new feeling of

rapprochement of social and political experiences between Egyptians and migrants both confronted to State violence. These developments outline the contours of a «space of the cause» for migrants, hitherto absent from the Egyptian political landscape. However, the harshness of the counter-revolutionary movement, which began in 2014, led to atrophy of the solidarity actions carried out by these actors and questions the place they can take in a renewed authoritarian context.

Lucas Faure (Aix-en-Provence Institute of Political Studies, CHERPA/AMU)

Islamic humanitarian solidarities: towards a continuum on both sides of the Mediterranean Sea?

This paper aims to analyze solidarities on both sides of the Mediterranean Sea, through the spectrum of French Islamic humanitarian organizations. Muslim NGOs renew the way French Muslims get mobilized in France and abroad. International issues cohabit with a growing concern for local solidarity. The paper will analyze Islamic « bienfaisance » ('doing good) in the Mediterranean basin, within or outside the Muslim community, through two modalities of interventions. On the one hand, actions in response to structural issues (in this case the issue of disability and the case of autism). On the other hand, it will analyze emergency issues in response to a crisis (natural disasters or armed conflicts). The purpose of the paper is to critically investigate the transnational dynamic of Islamic humanitarian organizations from two perspectives: the penetration of international issues within the French field, and conversely the projection of French NGOs at the Mediterranean scale.

Laura Ruiz de Elvira Carrascal (Research Institute for Development, CEPED)

Sahar Aurore Saeidnia (Free University of Brussels, REPI/OMAM)

The transnational dimension of "doing good" practices in the health sector. Crossed views from the Iranian and Syrian fields

This paper questions how health governance is underpinned by transnational circulations of actors, objects and norms. It is based on a comparison of "doing practices" in the Syrian and Iranian health sectors. In these two contexts, social care widely relies on local and international benevolent actors. For example, the Syrian charitable associations that had already developed during the 2000s as a result of a process of «outsourcing» the state, multiplied during the revolutionary period because of the millions of displaced persons and refugees. Today they intervene alongside international organizations or diaspora networks in the organization of the health sector. Similarly, in Iran, where caring for the «underprivileged» is at the basis of the social contract of the regime resulting from the Islamic Revolution of 1979, charity is invested both by local and international NGOs, the diaspora or even para-public foundations in the health domain. At the end of the day, these two contexts are characterized - although in very different temporalities - by regimes of international sanctions which constrain these circulations.

Camille Cassarini (Aix-Marseille University/IRD, LMI/LPED)

Frédéric Volpi (Department of Islamic & Middle East Studies, Alwaleed Centre, Edinburgh University)

Rethinking models solidarity in democratic Tunisia: the case of the assistance for migrants' market

Tunisia is both a relatively stable destination in the north-south migratory fluxes and a departure point for European destinations. In this context, the issue of receiving and caring for irregular sub-Saharan populations has for several years been a central challenge for the Tunisian humanitarian and associative world. As a result of the increased funding in the field of migration, solidarity initiatives for sub-Saharan migrants are multiplying in the local associative fabric. This paper intends to question the conditions of emergence and structuring of a market of solidarity towards migrants in Tunisia as well as its function in a broader context of a migration management policy. To this end, two lines of analysis will be developed. The first part will explore the structures of the Tunisian associative field involved in assisting migrants based on the trajectories of the individuals who make it up. A second part will explore, based on the analysis of the different tools and assistance mechanisms in place, the function of the associative market of assistance to migrants in the migration management policy. The articulation of these two

parts will make it possible to question, on the one hand, the notion of solidarity in the particular context of post-revolutionary Tunisia and, on the other hand, the management function of associations in the governance of migration in Tunisia.