

**CfP: A Century of Youth Engaging Politics in the Arab World**  
**Workshop to be held at the University of Manitoba, 10-12 December 2017**

Organized by:

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When the Arab revolts began in 2010, popular reports suggested that the prominence of youth mobilization was somehow a novel phenomenon in the Arab and Muslim world. Yet examples of political mobilization by youth in the Arab world abound throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The tactics of such mobilizations have included everything from street protests to written pamphleteering to social media to, most recently, the extreme violence of ISIS. Ideological motivations have ranged widely along the spectrum, from communist to fascist, pan-Arab nationalist to western-inspired democratic, secularist to Islamic salafi. Easy though it may be to rattle off these ideological categories, we contend that the history of Arab youth engagement in politics is ill-served by these categories. This categorization relies on a pre-set ideological spectrum, and one that has tended to originate in the West. Although today's press reports frequently use ideologically-charged adjectives to describe the youth in Arab or Islamist politics, throughout the last century the ideologies and practices of youth-engaged politics have defied facile categorization. Youth-driven political mobilization in the Arab world has frequently drawn simultaneously on different, and apparently contradictory, sources for their practices and rhetoric. The character of youth-driven politics in the region is badly in need of scholarly historical attention to unravel and make sensible the cross-pollination of influences in these movements.

Accordingly, this workshop seeks papers that will present nuanced explorations of the history of politically-motivated youth movements in the Arab world since the First World War. The time is ripe for a synthesis of historical scholarship examining political mobilization of youth as a transnational phenomenon in the Arab world in the last century. In so doing, we would particularly like to situate youth movements and mobilization within their wider political and socio-cultural contexts. These may be colonial, post-colonial or indeed non-colonial. For the purposes of this workshop, we are not a priori assuming a fixed definition of youth movements and mobilizations. Rather papers should consider questions of definition within their case studies, taking into account such factors as the age of members or participants, elements of inter-

generational protest, rhetorical positioning as “young”, or particular activities strongly associated with youth. One underlying objective is better to understand how the concept and practice of political youth mobilization translates across regions and nations, and to explore different frameworks for categorization and comparison of youth movements in general.

Proposals might include:

- National or trans-national case studies of the political significance of a specific youth movement.
- Discourse of youth engagement in politics and the uses of such discourse.
- Tactics of mobilization and recruitment, including outreach and forms of wider community engagement.
- Political opposition and competition between different youth communities
- Positioning in opposition to a generational “other”
- The role of trans-national networks and migration patterns in youth mobilization

The primary focus will be on the Middle East and North Africa region, but we also strongly encourage colleagues who work on Arab populations in the global diaspora to submit proposals. While this is primarily a workshop for historians, interdisciplinary papers that take a historical approach are also very welcome.

Paper abstracts (no more than 500 words) and a brief CV should be sent to Jennifer Dueck (University of Manitoba) and Peter Wien (University of Maryland) by 1 November 2017. Please note that paper presenters will be expected to submit their papers for pre-circulation to workshop participants in advance of the workshop. The organizers are able to cover reasonable travel, accommodation and meal costs for all participants. Please email your submissions to [Jarislowsky.Chair@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Jarislowsky.Chair@umanitoba.ca). If you have any questions, please contact the organizers Jennifer Dueck and Peter Wien at [Jennifer.Dueck@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Dueck@umanitoba.ca) and [peter.wien@gmail.com](mailto:peter.wien@gmail.com). For updates, visit: <http://jenniferdueck.com/index.php/call-for-papers-youth/>

This workshop is sponsored by:



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