YOUNG WOMEN
LEADERS FORUM 2016
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
IN THE MIDDLE EAST

BİLDİRİ ÖZETLERİ KİTABI
WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

GAZİANTEP / TURKEY
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The on-going transition processes in the Middle East and North Africa offer a historic opportunity for the region itself, but also for Turkey as partner of the Arab world. Meanwhile, the transformation countries are faced with considerable political, societal, and economic challenges and the regional security environment is getting ever worse. The building of human capacities and networks of societal stakeholders are seen as key activities to contribute to the continuation and the consolidation of the transformation processes and to support a political culture of accountability, transparency and participation.

Within this background, the Women Studies Research Center (KAD-MER) of Hasan Kalyoncu University, in collaboration with the partners of the Women and Democracy Association (KADEM), Silk and Development Agency, and Gaziantep Trade Association, mainly aim to promote and network young women leaders of representatives of civil society, political parties, media, private sector and academia from Arab countries, Europe and Turkey. The program includes workshops to strengthen conflict resolution and decision-making competences and to enhance communication and management skills. Moreover, it aims at developing further the strategic understanding of the political and socio-economic challenges the transformation countries are faced with.

Together with partners and participants, the program develops ideas, methodologies and models on how to enhance a political culture of participation, civic engagement and political pluralism through the contribution of the women in the countries of MENA region. With this program, we as KAD-MER mainly aim to implement workshops and target mostly young women who have interest in political and social issues and are politically engaged in their communities. They will be offered trainings in methodologies for conducting political and civic education programs as well as chairing and moderating political discussions and citizens forums. This will strengthen them in their capacity as community leaders and enhance a network of experienced trainers for civic education programs, thereby facilitating the dissemination of political skills and competences. The workshops will focus in particular on civil society structures on grass-roots level and on NGOs that represent socially and politically marginalized groups.

On the other hand, the participants will mainly discuss on the recent developments in the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region (especially the Arab Spring), the new political, economic, social, and security dynamics in the MENA region and finally the Turkey’s role in the region. The discussions will be evolved around how the long-term factors such as developments concerning the energy, demography, balance of power, extremism etc. are expected to shape the Turkey-MENA relations in the foreseeable future. While underscoring Turkey’s position towards these dramatic changes, the participants concurrently will deliberate on the possibility of harmonization of the divergent foreign policies and brainstorm about how these policies can be reformulated to handle new challenges. Moreover, Turkey’s capabilities to serve as model for the countries in the region will be put under scrutiny. The participants will also analyze the main agenda items in current relations and find out conclusions on what can be expected in the future from a realistic perspective. Bearing in mind the potential risks, the participants will aim to conclude the panel by discussing what steps could be taken to keep a positive momentum in the relations.

In that framework, the program will focus mainly on five topics: refugees, energy, radicalization, entrepreneurship and women/democracy. Participants will be divided, according to their specialization, into groups where they will have intensive discussions in order to address serious challenges currently facing their countries. Furthermore, participants will introduce and discuss latest political, economic and social updates from their countries: Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon, Tunisia, Qatar, Germany and Turkey.

Furthermore, participants will have an in-depth discussion on Turkish approach towards North Africa and the Middle East. Other visits to several NGOs will be on the meeting agenda, so that participants can be introduced to mechanisms used by their Turkish counterparts. By the end of the meeting, the groups will come up with five different projects and initiatives and identify their next steps to build networks in order to undertake them.
CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION
TOWARD NEW PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

Lately, against the remarkable rise of renewable energy and the common recognition of its huge potential in stimulating local sustainable development, a strengthened participatory approach and an increased awareness among public and private stakeholders to establish a cooperation/partnership framework to foster the development of renewable energies and support the wide diffusion of renewable energy technology was discussed. The transition toward collaboration can be further understood if one focuses on triadic relationships rather than dyadic ones (Arenasetal, 2013). Thereafter, moving beyond the traditional divide and distrust between state-private sector-civil society, require a participatory process to achieve the widely shared goals of renewable energy in the era of sustainable development.

Therefore, partnerships are viewed as an effective solution to address the existing and newly appearing challenges together for the benefit of the country’s population and delivery of better quality services to the public. At the present time, there is a need to open up the decision-making process to actively include all stakeholders to overcome economic, institutional, social and technical barriers that impede local renewable energy deployment. This paper lays the groundwork for developing a participatory approach focusing on states, businesses and civil society relations in the context of sustainable development and highlighting the value of further, in-depth analysis of Stakeholder relationship and interrelations.

Keywords: Civil Society, Renewable Energy, Public private partnership

Short CV

Ms. Raja Akermi, PhD Student Raja Akermi, a PhD student in Management Sciences, specialized in Marketing and affiliated to the Applied Research in Business Relationships and Economics (ARBRE) Laboratory at the High Institute of Management (Institut Supérieur de Gestion (ISG)), University of Tunis, Tunisia. My research interests include sustainable development, Energy policy, renewable energies. I have already published my research work in international conferences to mention: The 2014 British Academy of Marketing Conference (Bournemouth University, Great Britain), and the 24th IBIMA Conference on Crafting Global Competitive Economies (Milan, Italy). My main objective is to join a a high standard research and high education research institution to apply my knowledge in the field of promoting the deployment of renewable energy and the scarcely studied techniques that can capture stakeholders’ values.
**SALAFI DA’WA AMONG REFUGEES IN GERMANY: CHALLENGES AND METHODS FOR INTERVENTION**

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**ABSTRACT**

Although a tiny minority among Muslims living in Germany, the Salafi scene and its activities have caught the attention of the public during the last couple of years. Regardless of whether it is because of their dissemination of the Quran in the pedestrian areas of Germany’s major cities, its notorious attempt to act as a “Sharia police” in the shabby quarters of Wuppertal, its recruiting efforts among prison inmates or its latest attempt to gain followers among the recently arrived refugees: They always achieve to make headlines in the German news coverage.

This article shall give an overview of the history of Salafism in Germany, its main actors, its current activities among refugees and provides some policy recommendations in order to counter its influence.

**Keywords:** Salafism, Radicalization, and Prevention.

**Short CV**

Hazim Fouad studied Near and Middle Eastern Studies in Bochum/Germany, Cairo/Egypt and London/UK. He currently works as an analyst for the Senator of the Interior in Bremen/Germany. In 2014 he published together with Behnam T. Said the first German anthology on Salafism “Salafismus. Auf der Suchenachdem wahren Islam.” Beside his work he is writing his PhD on „Contemporary Muslim Criticism of Salafism” at the University of Kiel/Germany. He publicly lectures on a regular basis on the topics of radicalisation, preventive work, extremist ideologies, Islam in Germany and the political development in Egypt and is a member of numerous expert panels and conferences concerning these topics. He has given various newspaper interviews and also appeared on different radio and television broadcasts.

**TOWARDS TO SUSTAINABLE CITY: SAKARYA CASE**

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**ABSTRACT**

This study is an analysis of Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality’s works as a local government in the content of “The City that produces its Own Energy” project which focuses on reducing carbon emission and energy efficiency. Local governments have a vital importance on achieving sustainable development especially in activating local resources in providing local requirements. And they are also a very strong information source in increasing awareness on sustainable development for inhabitants. Cities are the dynamo of the development and also they are one of the main sources of the emissions that cause global warming. Water and energy demand in cities is increasing permanently. Cities account for two thirds of the global energy consumption and 70% of GHG emissions. Social, political, technical and institutional complexities make emission reduction challenge not only enormous but also expensive for cities. Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality (SMM) with more than a 3% of development rate in 2015 continues to become a critical hub of industry and trade as being exposed urbanization changes of Istanbul in the same hinterland. Increased population and urbanization in SMM brings new challenges in transportation demanding long term sustainable planning while creating opportunities for GHG emission reduction. Low-Carbon and climate policies can create new economic development policies such as renews transportation modes, generalizing energy efficiently construction and urban infrastructure can create economic development challenges based on innovativeness in various fields which related to economy. Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality, in this concept, has had the awareness about climate change and sustainability and continues some studies, such as waste management, renewing public transportation, public environment education, producing energy (hydro power plant) beside some plants such as medical waste sterilization, landfill, waste water treatments.

**Keywords:** Local Government, Sustainable City, Energy Efficiency.
EGYPTIAN WOMEN PARTICIPATION AFTER REVOLUTION

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ABSTRACT

Empowering women participation was one of the Egyptian Revolution aims, also there was an accumulative efforts to support women rights in Egypt, politically, economically, and also in social life. Before the revolution there was an abuse for women rights from those related to the authorities and also some civil society organizations and after the revolution there were many chances to develop and improve women participation but the reality after 5 years of revolution says there are no big changes so the question here is why the revolution did not succeed to improve marginalized groups and women one of these groups? This paper will discuss the relation between socio-economic empowerment of women and its political participation, as in a country like Egypt with such political participation challenges for the emerging marginalized peoples under the past regime it will be difficult to support women or any marginalized group participation politically without supporting their economic abilities and capabilities.

Keywords: Egyptian Women, Arab Uprisings, Democracy, Revolution

Short CV
An Egyptian Political Researcher, holding Bachelor degree of political science, faculty of Economic & Political Sciences, Cairo University 2010. Master researcher in faculty of economics and political science on Topic of “Revolution and Egyptian Foreign Policy: a study in International Political Economy.”

TUNISIAN WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS: CHALLENGES, OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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ABSTRACT

This article seeks to investigate and highlight the obstacles and challenges faced by Tunisian Women Entrepreneurs (TWEs) and to reveal their opportunities as regards their participation in the business world. It focuses on TWEs in the years following 2011 uprising. The article covers the period until April 2016.

Following a gender sensitive approach, this article attempts to explores socio-cultural barriers, the motivational factors of participation and the self-perception of TWEs. Furthermore, it tries to find governmental and NGOs efforts for the enhancement of TWEs.

The results point to the importance of several factors fostering and enabling their involvement, such as issues related to education, training, labour market and the available resources.

Keywords: Tunisian Women, Entrepreneurship, NGOs

Short CV
ABSTRACT

The Libyan exiled community in post-revolution Tunisia represents both a challenge and an economic opportunity for the fledgling democracy. Since the fall of the Ben Ali and Gaddafi regimes in the North African nations, an unprecedented massive human movement of people changed the whole landscape of the two countries, bringing more serious challenges to them, notably the rise of extremist groups such as ISIS and other Al Qaeda affiliates and the outbreak of a civil war in 2014 that displaced hundreds of thousands of Libyans within and outside the country. With between 200,000 and 400,000 Libyans residing in Tunisia since 2011, the community has come to represent the largest Libyan diaspora in the world; the 2nd largest being in Libya’s eastern neighbour, Egypt, with a considerable economic and social weight. Sometimes seen as ‘the elephant in the room’, the Libyan community in Tunisia has become a contentious subject, a tug-of-war within political and civil society members’ circles. Tunisian authorities have been trying to accommodate this community, notwithstanding the deep resentment from the general population, which has been “charging” Libyans in Tunisia of exacerbating the economic situation in the country. A double-edged sword, the exiled Libyan community has found in Tunisia a safe haven for their financial resources, which Tunisia has been tapping to help offset successive blows to its vital tourism industry since the attacks that rocked the country in 2015, in Bardo Museum and Sousse seaside resort.

This paper is an attempt to debunk the myth behind a misunderstood population, that is neither a refugee nor an immigrant community and its role in reviving a neighboring country’s economy in times of successive crises since the 1980s onwards.

Keywords: Libyan community, Tunisia, and economy

Short CV

Houda Mzioudet is a Tunisian journalist, commentator and researcher on Libyan and Tunisian affairs. She carried out research for the Libyan think-tank Sadeq Institute and the Brookings Doha Center since 2013. She contributed to several media outlets since 2011 in Tunisia and Libya including Tunisia Live, Libya Herald, Al Jazeera English, Thomson Reuters Foundation, the BBC, and Radio Canada. She was a guest speaker and participated in conferences and events, including Brookings Doha Center, World Social Forum Tunis 2015, German Fulbright Association, College of Europe and POMED. She earned her MA in Cultural Studies from the University of Manouba in Tunis, Tunisia in 2005. Mzioudet also taught US, British and translation studies at the University of Tunis for 3 years. In 2014, she was a recipient of the International Visitor Leadership Program in Conflict Sensitive Reporting award of the US State Department in the US and UNESCO, in Paris.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP, KEY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE SUCCESS OF DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION

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ABSTRACT

January 11 2010 – January 11th, 2016. 5 years since the Tunisian upraising the country is going through a very hard democratic transition process that unfortunately failed in fulfilling the expectations of youth that led in a very spontaneous and unorganized way the revolution. The ed “Tunisian upraising revealed the actual unemployment situation and its challenges. The first numbers revealed that in 2013 there was 700 000 job-seekers (17.6% of the active population) 69% of them are under the age of 30 and 170 000 of them are university graduated. In 2013, the Tunisian government, having no vision or employment strategy bended to the popular pressure either by creating new job positions in an overloaded public administration or increasing in wages after social movements. This situation exhausted our economic balance and did not fit the reality of the budget, this is reason why the previous government had to submit the 2012 budget, including the project four working days deduction, noting that this fact clearly reflects the difficulty in providing budget allocations, which up today to 8500 million dinars (4250 million dollars). We need to underline that the best for Tunisia, as is the case in the rest of the world, is not to exceed staff ratio of 3% of the active population, “but this ratio has been overcome to reach nearly 7%,” which is in its sole discretion incompatible with the rules of good act which has a negative impact on the budget. After the social movement that took place in the governorate of Kasserine in January 2016, the Government and all the political class became aware that the situation is highly critical and there was a high risk of bigger movements in a moment the country is facing great challenges such as terrorism threats. Many initiatives were developed such us the National Dialogue for Employment and most of them encourage entrepreneurship. As announced on Tuesday march 29th, 2016 the Minister of Employment at the conclusion of the final session of the national dialogue, a number of urgent measures stemming from the dialogue.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Tunisia, Democracy Transition

Short CV

Moez Ali is president of Union des Tunisiens Indépendants pour la Liberté (UTIL), Tunis, Tunisia.
ARMED GROUPS’ RADICALISM IN CIVIL WARS

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ABSTRACT

The proliferation of armed groups in the Syrian civil war has raised many questions regarding their alleged radicalism. Relying on these groups’ stated ideological underpinnings, a common consensus has notably differentiated the so-called moderates of the Free Syrian Army from the jihadis and Islamic State. However, these ideologically-rationalised categories impede more complex understandings of radicalism in civil war and are often misused for political purposes. This paper therefore argues that ideological considerations provide limited understandings of armed groups’ radicalism in civil wars and presents three critical points to consider. First, this research contends that ideological tenets can only be understood within a group’s organisational framework, which shed critical light on their ramifications. Second, it adds that the nexus between ideology and behaviour is highly contested and should not be overtly simplified. Third, this paper argues that, regardless of ideologies, armed groups can be constrained by their interactions with other actors, including other armed groups and the local population. In sum, a fuller understanding of radicalism has to take in consideration armed groups’ internal and external dynamics, which are necessary to correctly assess their potential evolution, including the possibility to be included in peace processes.

Short CV

Jerome Drevon is a post-doctoral fellow of the Swiss National Foundation at the University of Manchester. He completed his PhD at Durham University and is currently completing a book on the management of Islamist armed groups’ strategies based on his doctoral study of the evolution of the Egyptian Islamic and Jihad Groups. Jerome has undertaken extensive field research in Egypt and interviewed numerous members of former militant groups and of the salafi jihadi trend. His research interests include the organisational and networking study of armed militancy, civil wars and insurgencies, social movement studies and social network analysis.”
RADICAL GROUPS IN TUNISIA

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ABSTRACT

Tunisia has taken key steps toward democracy since the “Jasmine Revolution” in 2011, and has so far avoided the violent chaos seen in other “Arab Spring” countries. However, it knew many violent events and terrorist attacks since that date until nowadays. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the effects of radical groups in the democratic process in Tunisia. Even though the concept of extremism, radicalism and terrorism are not limited, I will try in this paper to identify those concepts taking some examples of radical groups in Tunisia. The method used in this research is the case study in one hand, (as I took “Ansar al Shariaa group” as an example to study radical groups in Tunisia but in other hand, I used also the qualitative method.

This study can help researchers from all countries to know more about Tunisian case concerning the radical groups and their effects on security but also it finds out the reasons why Tunisian nationals are involved in violent extremist groups abroad. Notably, Tunisians reportedly constitute one of the largest contingents of Islamist “foreign fighters” in Syria.

Keywords: Radical Groups, Extremism, Terrorism, Democratic Transition

Short CV

Graduated in law, and got a master degree in Common law, pursues her second master degree in Political sciences, just finished her dissertation in “political violence and democratic transition.” She is working as a research assistant in the Tunisian Observatory in Democratic Transition. She is a project coordinator about Human rights and Juridical system in lawyers without borders NGO. Had a number of years experience working in NGOs. Member of co-opinion Policy-Oriented Youth Solidarity Network. She is the President of the Tunisian Association for political science students (TAPSS) and a member of Amnest International and Women and leadership. She speaks English, French, Italian and Persian.
MOROCCAN WOMEN AND DEMOCRACY

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ABSTRACT

Moroccan women played a strong role in the changes brought to the Arab world following the so-called Arab Spring, but the constitutional jurisdiction is still very conservative, and has not become acclimatized to the large-scale changes that societies have experienced, a factor which explains the low rate of women's access to decision-making's positions. Since the 1990s, women in Morocco have acquired progressively greater voice and representation in civil society and the formal political system, and they have become politically active in new ways. Women in Morocco were able to go to the streets, to participate and raise their voices in parliament and fight for their demands and they actually were heard as they were able to put on a lot of pressure. This political engagement has led to a series of institutional, legal and policy reforms that have strengthened women's formal rights. These reforms have, in turn, created further opportunity structures for women to exercise voice, both within formal politics and broader society. Women have mobilized, built alliances and campaigned for change, responding to rapidly shifting political opportunities and positioning their claims within the context of broader political contestations. Women's political voice in Morocco is located within a wider political history of limited democratization, so we can say that the democratic situation of Moroccan women is still developing. More effort should clearly have been made to strengthen female political representation. However having just one female minister is an indicator of the new government's failure to implement the democratic measures that the new constitution promised. It also undermines the credibility of the changes women can bring to the political scene.

Keywords: Moroccan Women, Arab Spring, Democracy

Short CV

My name is EL ADNANI Imane; I'm 25 years old; I’m Moroccan PhD student at The Laboratory Geosciences and Environment Techniques from the University of Sciences EL JADIDA. I’m environmentalist-geologist and I had the master degree on engineering and management of the industrial environment on 2015 in University of Sciences in Tangier. My master's thesis focused on complete study on sewerage and especially an environmental impacts study of a rural town in Marrakech city regions. The central goal of my PhD studies is the monitoring and study of the Plateau of EL JADIDA: groundwater, soil and humans. I'm also a member in the development association and social works “Marrakech Alliance” and “Africans Youth Organization”
MOROCCO’S ENERGY SITUATION

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ABSTRACT

Morocco imports 90% of its energy products, mainly crude oil and natural gas. The energy bill has increased due to higher prices on the international markets. Compared to total imports from Morocco, the share of energy products remains high and varies between 20% and 28% during the period 2008 to 2013.

Oil accounts for 32% of primary energy consumption in the world. Morocco produces marginal quantities of oil and refined petroleum products. The national energy consumption per person is about 0.55 toe (tonne of oil equivalent). Morocco is ranked 49th in the world oil consumption.

Natural gas in Morocco is necessary, it is used to power the central Tahaddart (with 500 million m3 of natural gas per year), Ain Beni Mathar and the Renault-Nissan industrial complex near Tangiers, which requires 20 million m3 of gas per year.

In the other hand Morocco has very favorable conditions for the exploitation of renewable energy:

- A rate of sunshine about 300 days / year
- The territory enjoys average winds of 1 > 9 m/s to 40 m
- Relatively large water resources
- A stand in favor of sustainable development and use of energy renewable with ambitious targets: 12% of the energy mix and 12% energy efficiency by 2030.

Short CV

My name is Kaoutar Doumali, I’m 24 years old, Moroccan PhD researcher at the Laboratory of Geosciences and Techniques of Environment, Department of Geology at Chouaib Doukkali University, Faculty of Science. I’m an environmentalist and I had my master degree on renewable energies and sustainable development at the faculty of science in El Jadida in 2015. Besides academics I participated in different international conferences that were held in morocco where I’ve contributed as a volunteer. I recently took a part in the young leaders Forum program organized by the centre of applied policies in Germany. I’m an association activist Actor as well working with Orphans.
HOW DOES MOROCCO MANAGES MIGRATION INTERNALLY

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ABSTRACT

Considering that the number of migrants on its territory has increased significantly, Morocco is facing a new situation. Indeed, new social and legal issues arise in Morocco today, typical problems of immigration countries. Aware of its transformation, Morocco has chosen to deal with this issue with responsibility and humanism. Thus, all the institutional structures and public policies of migration management that have emerged in Morocco are inserted in a context marked by the complexity of the migration, which provides both a source of wealth and object of conflict. In fact, Morocco has been hailed by UN humanitarian agencies and NGOs defending the rights of migrants for adopting its new migration policy which remains a unique gesture in southern countries, in addition to the wave of regularizing the situation of undocumented migrants and residents on its territory. Moreover, Morocco is undergoing a double pressure as part of its cooperation relations with the EU and Spain. In fact, Morocco has to strengthen control of its borders to prevent the arrival of migrants in Europe and apply the agreement signed with Spain in 1992, which provides that Morocco takes responsibility to accept the readmission of citizens and third country nationals who arrived in the Spanish territory irregularly. Between the official discourse and practices effectively implemented, especially by border management agents: Is it an approach based on human rights?

Keywords : Migration, Morocco, Refugees

Short CV

Adlane Yousra is currently an intern at the Delegation of the European Union in Morocco in governance section - migration sector. This experience allowed her to see closely the functioning of the Delegation in Morocco and provided her with valuable experience and insight into development projects and public aid to development, especially in terms of managing migration in Morocco. She got a degree in political science and a master’s degree in international financing of projects in developing countries from Rabat School of Governance and Economics, with a focus on international cooperation. She also has two other experiences in sustainable development with the German development agency (GIZ-Morocco).

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ABSTRACT

Young entrepreneur plays an important role in the promotion and development of the national economy, and that by giving new energies and new ideas, for the benefit of the national economy. Developed countries are to successfully employ the energies of its youth. Does Morocco was able to do that? Social Entrepreneurship in Morocco did not appear at the same time as it did in other countries, the idea is still new to but it attracting every day ambitious youth in a different entrepreneurship and self-development type, is linked more to social work; it absorbs the proportion of large unemployment among young people in Morocco and develop the lives of thousands of people every day, that what many successful projects tell us in our country, and this is what I will talk about in the second part.

Keywords : Youth, Entrepreneurship, Morocco

Short CV

Nidal benali, he’s a public law researcher, focusing on political sciences and international relations, a worker on the social area where he’s the president of the local youth council of asilah, which allows him to be the chairman of the national network of the local youth councils beside that, he’s one of the leaders on the political area, he’s the secretary general of a political party called he participated on many trainings in morocco and offshore learning a lot about the social work and leadership.
ANALYSIS OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE SYRIAN DEMOGRAPHIC EXODUS ON THE MULTI-SECTARIAN LEBANESE SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

“Syrians” aren’t all one bloc, and naturally, neither are lebanese. Syrian refugees or residents of Lebanon differ from each other based on social class, sect, region, political affiliation and the reasons why they are here, they differ from each other based on their emotional stance vis-à-vis the smaller neighbor and its people, but also differ from each other based on how the Lebanese view them. They are not all “Syrians” or “just Syrians”: the Syrian demographic exodus is affecting constantly the intra-communautarian relations in Lebanon, and the structure of the multi-sectarian society itself. “Syrians” are not the same for christians and muslims, for sunni and shia, but we can observe in the same time many “process” of the lebanisation of the Syrian refugees, paradoxically via the local sectarian perspectives, and in the same time a redefinition of the otherness, not only because of the xenophobic behavior our discourses.

The socio-ethnographic implications of the Syrian exodus on the lebanese society is still a work in progress, and i will try in this perspective to propose some hypothesis and some interrogations.

Keywords: Syrian Refugees, Lebanon, Migration

Short CV

Lecturer at “Saint Joseph University” on Contemporary political thought since 2003. Journalist and op-ed writer at the Beirut based “al mustaqbal” newspaper and the London-based “al quds al arabi.” His writings address communautarism, geo-ethnicity, and political-social dynamics. Keen interest on South Asia where he spend half of his time looking into religious nationalism and revivalism.
INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SYRIAN WAR, WHAT IT MEANS FOR TURKEY AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

In the past five years of conflict and civil war, more than eleven million Syrian people were forced to leave their homes – more than half of them had been displaced inside the country. The unprecedented exodus of whole communities threatens to destroy the pre-War religious and ethnic mosaic of Syria’s society. Moreover, systematic displacement by various conflict parties had shifted internal power positions also in favor or to the detriment of regional and extra-regional powers. Eventually, it also constitutes a major challenge and burden to any political transition that could be achieved within or after the ongoing Geneva and transition process. In a first step, this paper examines the key reasons for the rapid and enormous escalation of the internal refugee crisis, which exceeds observations from other Arab Spring Conflicts by far. In a second step, it will analyze the specific dynamics of displacement and its role as a war strategy by several conflict parties. Third, the demographic implications of the crisis on Syria’s society and its effects on neighboring countries will be outlined. In a final section, the article turns to the question of international engagement in general and of potential resettlement as well as return strategies in particular.

Keywords: Syrian War, Internal Displacement, Arab Spring, Refugees

Short CV

Magdalena is a Transatlantic Fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik) in Berlin. Since 2009, she works as an editorial journalist for the Security Policy Reader, published by the Federal Ministry of Defense. Prior to that, she was an Associate Fellow at the German Council of Foreign Relations, a lecturer at the Institute for Political Science at the University of Heidelberg, and head of the “Conflicts in the Middle East and Maghreb”-Division of the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research. Magdalena gained international work experience in Turkey, Israel, and Jordan and holds an M.A. and a doctoral degree in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Heidelberg.
ABSTRACT

The uprising of the so called Arab spring has not only allowed the democratic transition in Tunisia, it also allowed researchers to observe for the first time in Tunisia, a country known for its state secularism initiated in the time of Bourguiba, the experience of political Islam. This particular experience has marked first Tunisia at the level of political opening up and pluralism as the country saw on its political scene political families that were banned by the previous regime but also through the project that the Ennahda party has tried to build in Tunisia that led the party to lose the elections in 2014. Among the components of this project, we will focus in this article on women’s rights in Tunisia after the accession to power of the Islamist party Ennahda.

Why women’s rights? Because this is almost a cultural marker in Tunisia since the country has always been an exception in this regard in its cultural and religious context (Even Turkey which was a great inspiration for Bourguiba in his vision of the country seems to be more keen to accept religious standards about issues such as polygamy). The personal status code which was the legal instrument of women’s emancipation was promulgated before the first Constitution of the country. Women’s rights are considered as acquired by the majority of the Tunisian society especially in matters of marriage, divorce and parental rights. The project of the Islamist party which was in charge with other parties- of drafting a new constitution included an “Islamic” vision of what women’s rights should be in Tunisia. We will see how it has been managed by Tunisian civil society and we also see how political Islam allowed Tunisian to evaluate their “exception”.

Keywords: Women rights, Tunisia, political Islam

Short CV

Omar Fassatoui is a Tunisian lawyer and Lecturer at Aix Marseille University in France. He holds a Phd in law and Political science obtained at Sciences Po Aix en Provence and just finished a Post Doc research project at the University of Geneva. His main research is on biopolitics and bioethics in the MENA region. He also works on human rights with a special focus on women’s rights, religious and positive laws interactions in the Muslim contexts and Islam in European contexts. He also gives lectures on Islam and democracy, Muslim law and political Islam. He has been working on radicalization with the young leaders’ forum (YLF) and the Arab forum for alternatives (AFA) since 2015.
THE FAILURE OF THE ARAB SPRING AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE REFUGEE CRISIS

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ABSTRACT

The uprisings that swept the Arab World following 2010 have left those countries with new challenges and indeed their neighbouring countries as well. Initially, it was feared that political instability could spill over the borders and affect transnational issues, such as the Kurdish issue. However, it has become clear five years after the so-called revolutions have largely failed to bring about change that the real crisis developing from the Arab Spring is indeed the refugee issue. This crisis includes the influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs), intra-regional refugees and those who make their way to Europe. The legacy left by decades of war and instability is now surfacing, such as the situation in Iraq following the invasion led by the US in 2003, which has left the country largely destabilized. One of the effects of the Arab Spring has been that people flee their countries due to total instability and even war in some cases, such as Syria and Yemen. However, the de-stabilisation the political developments have brought about in countries such as Libya force refugees to keep moving.

So the effect of the Arab Spring can be classified into two categories: first, as the cause for refugees to emerge from the country; and second, as a de-stabilizer for neighbouring countries which in turn are not safe for refugees to stay in. The question this paper therefore poses is whether the countries not affected by the Arab Spring are better equipped to deal with the refugees.

In order to answer this question those countries most affected by the Arab Spring will be looked at individually regarding the effects the refugees are having on the social, political and economic fabric. These cases include Libya, Tunisia and Egypt. In contrast, the host countries that did not see uprisings during the Arab Spring will be scrutinised along the same categories, which include Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. By examining each case, similarities and differences will be highlighted.

Keywords: Arab Spring; refugees; revolution; migration

Short CV

Anna Fleischer works at elbarlament, a political consultancy firm based in Berlin, Germany. There, she was the project officer for the parliamentary support project elbarlament in Egypt in 2014. She has also organised and moderated workshops with Syrian women in Ganziantep (Turkey) and Basra (Iraq). In addition to this, she is a freelancer at the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in charge of organising international delegations. Previously, she worked as a regional manager at the German Near and Middle East Association in Berlin. She holds a Master of Science in Arab World Studies from Durham University and studied in Germany, the United Kingdom and Egypt. Her work mostly focuses on democratization, women's rights and political transformation.
THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS AND RESPONSE IN POLITICS:
THE CASE OF TURKEY AND EU RELATIONS

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ABSTRACT

Human history witnessed many types of migrations with vast influences on society or politics. The 20th and 21st century were not an exception due to mass migrations after the two world wars and caused by other conflicts in various parts of the world. The latest flow is caused by the Syrian civil war, which has and will have long-lasting consequences for the region and also for Europe. The mass migration from Syria not only overstrained the capacity of neighbouring in every aspect; it also led to the revision of policies and international cooperation. It is assumed that more than 2.5 million Syrians sought shelter in various parts of Turkey (the report of the Commission dated 4.3.2016 states that the number is almost 3 million with a temporary protection status now) today; thus, not only affecting the policy makers in Turkey but also citizens in their daily lives. Because the migration flow has risen every year since the beginning of the civil war in 2011, it started to spill over to regions other than the Middle East.

Europe has been the main destination for over a year now, with Germany as the main target country. This paper aims to analyse the responses to the refugee crisis both in Turkey as a country directly affected by the mass migration and the EU as a region confronted with the situation and looking for solutions through cooperation with Turkey. There will be an emphasis on Germany since it is a country involved in the crisis due to its leading position in the EU and a main destination country for refugees. In this context, the paper looks into the present situation in Turkey and the EU and then focusses on the legal, social and political changes and responses; finally it presents the discussions which are likely to shape the solution to the refugee crisis.

Keywords: Turkey, EU-relations, Syrian refugees, migration.

Short CV

Şeyma Akın was born in 1971 in Turkey. She studied English Language Teaching at Marmara University in Istanbul and received her master’s degree in public administration at Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey University with the thesis “The Coup of 28 February and its Perception in the Western Media”. She is a PhD candidate of sociology and conducts her studies (Georg Simmel’s The Philosophy of Money) at Selçuk University in Konya. After working as a teacher and translator in English and German for many years, she presently works as a lecturer at Aksaray University, Department of Public Administration. She is a member of the Association for Women and Democracy (KADEM) in Konya.
WOMEN AND MENA REVOLUTIONS:
5 YEARS, WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

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ABSTRACT

Uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt in the last five years have flashed movements against dictatorships across the Middle East, and North Africa. These movements called for democratization, new reforms that guarantee equality, freedom of speech, political participation of citizens, and fair elections. Women have been an essential part of these revolutions; they organized and marched alongside men. Women were in the streets, women in the demonstrations, women in the media, for women's activists the overthrow of long-standing dictatorships was perceived as an opportunity to bring democracy and social justice, but it was also a chance to make their voices heard in the public arena. The question is where are all Middle Eastern women who fought for new changes in their countries; and who led social movements challenging their governments for concrete political, economic and social changes? It would be impossible to provide a full analysis of the revolution's impact on women's life, mainly because in many instances the revolutions continue in varied forms as the countries endure continually to adjust to new rules of law and governance.

The social movements in the MENA constituted one of the most prominent political developments of the 21st century. In the revolutions that took place all over the Arab world, women played an essential role. In the Middle East and North Africa countries, they started street protests and organized public political movements; they also overthrew powerful dictators that had been ruling for many years. Despite their vibrant participation, the revolution did not bring the political, social, and economic change that these women anticipated. Despite successful elections in Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt, women's political, social, and economic rights in these countries remained stagnant following the ousting of their repressive dictators. Problems like women's low participation ratio in decision making and transition government processes, insufficient representation in social areas, and persistent limitations on many freedoms, hastened many hopes that existed at the beginning of the revolutions.

Keywords: Women, MENA, revolution, and democracy.

Short CV

Sana Afouaiz is an advocate in the areas of women's rights, migration and youth empowerment. She is the Founder of ‘African Youth Advocate Platform’, created this initiative after her intensive 3 years work in advocating and lobbying for youth and women issues, her striving goal to empower young people drove her to travel to more than 20 countries where she spoke and promoted for youth voices in high-level discussion meetings. She is Youth advocate for the meaningful participation of young people within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and other policies and processes and she has been nominated 10 top Youth to work for Restless Development Organization. Sana also assists African development by promoting the economic integration of African youth in Diaspora for ‘African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe’.
ABSTRACT

In the ratio of the Turkish Justice and Development Party’s foreign and economic policy, the idea of Turkey becoming a hub for energy has a superior significance. Maps showing the oil and gas pipelines connecting East and West put Turkey often into the center. They visualize Turkey’s ambition to become what former scholar, Minister of Foreign Affairs and incumbent Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu once called a central country (‘merkezülke’). In this contribution, this ambition which had been materialized in Turkey’s energy policy in the last decade will be examined critically from three points of view: Turkey’s geopolitical location and identity; its geostrategic significance as a transit country; and its potential positive and negative implications for the future of Turkey-EU-relations. The first aspect takes into consideration that geography not only, but in particular in energy affairs still matters. Installations of energy facilities, in terms of energy production, transportation and consumption, are materialized on the ground. The territory of Turkey with regard to energy resources offers certain particularities: it has large resources for renewable energies (hydroelectric, solar, wind, biomass power), but, apart from coal, less in terms of conventional energies. What makes Turkey a potential energy hub, however, is its geographical location in the middle of global regions in the east and south with some of the largest resources of natural oil and gas (the so called ‘strategic ellipse’), and in the west of the world’s third largest market for energy consumption, the European Union.

Finally, in the sections two and three, Turkey’s geostrategic significance as a transit country will be critically examined by pointing to national energy strategies and pipeline projects on the one hand and Turkey’s ambiguous political relations with production countries on the other; and its potential positive and negative implications for the future of Turkey-EU-relations will be further discussed, taking into particular consideration the EU’s plans to create a ‘Southern Gas Corridor’ and an ‘Energy Union’, and the crucial, but so far much neglected Turkish accession negotiations.

Short CV

Ludwig Schulz, born on 10 October 1981, is political scientist and analyst based in Munich (Germany) with special focus on Turkey’s domestic and foreign affairs as well as European and Middle Eastern affairs. He works for the German Near and Middle East Association (NUMOV) and the German Orient Institute Berlin, where he is co-head of the editorial office of the journal ORIENT. In addition, he is associated with the Center for Applied Policy Research (C.A.P.) at Munich University, as well as member of the board of Network Turkey, and of the Middle East and International Affairs Research Group (MEIA Research). He studied at Munich Ludwig Maximilians University and Istanbul Bilgi University, and graduated in 2009 with a Master’s degree in Political Science and International Relations.
SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON: MECHANISMS OF RETURN AND BELONGING

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ABSTRACT

While the situation in Syria doesn't seem to change for those who have fled the killings, their situation in Lebanon tells of a different story, that of instability, frailty and the many narratives of return. More than 2 million Syrian refugees (1.3 million at the beginning of 2015 according to the UNHCR, and more are expected to be unregistered) are currently finding a certain 'safe haven' in Lebanon, while facing a number of stranglelegal measures, economic challenges and social difficulties. The Syrian refugees in Lebanon are torn between stories and imageries of 'home' and returning to Syria from one side, and a reality which they refuse to believe will last, on the other. Their everyday lives, their relationships, their plans as well as their houses, stores and the discourse they convey betray a sad and tough surfing between possible plans and conceivable trips back to the villages and cities, houses and families, friends and neighbors they know might not exist anymore.

The paper will address the issue of precarity which characterizes the status of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, and the ongoing hope of return which reassures them of a less-gloomy future. Through the works of Muhammad Siddiq, Akhil Gupta, Stephen Castles and others, as well as field work informal discussions with Syrian and Lebanese citizens, semi-structured interviews with Syrian refugees and visits to camps and houses, this paper aims at answering these main questions: How do they discursively manage to express these dynamics of stability and instability? What does it, socially and spatially, mean to live this precarity?

When the Palestinians settled in Lebanon following the 1948 Zionist invasion, so the story goes, they made sure to live, set their tents, shacks and later on their concrete houses next to the train track. “Because we thought the war is going to end soon. And whenever it does, as we will be living the closest possible to the train, catch the first one coming and go back to Palestine.” There is no train anymore, and the many roads to Syria seem to be closed by fear and a brighter future abroad.

Keywords: Refugees, space, belonging, and precarity.

Short CV

A leftist researcher and activist from Beirut and Sour, Jana had her Master in Urban Design from the American University of Beirut. Specializing in slums, her thesis was based on a three-year ethnographic study mapping the dwellers’ relationship with space and proposing a blueprint of low-income housing deduced from the existing socio-spatial practices. For four years, she lived and conducted anthropological research in the south of Lebanon and Palestinian refugee camps. She wrote in Al-Akhbar, Assafir and Al-Adab, on art, women, refugee camps, and the city. Jana works with marginalized communities and refugees. She was also active in organizing the latest political movement ‘Al Harak’ in Beirut.
RECOMMENDATIONS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICIES FOR THE GCC COUNTRIES

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ABSTRACT

Energy security was the major driver for several countries in the world to opt for alternative sources of energy and reduce CO2 emissions. Being blessed with oil and gas reserves, the situation in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries may look different, in a way that investments on Renewable Energy (RE) projects do not create adequate short-term financial returns. However, considering the extreme increase of energy demand locally caused by the industrial and economic development in the region will make seizing the emerging opportunity to develop RE projects a strategic decision. This paper targets regional decision-makers as well as multilateral stakeholders, in an attempt to formulate a set of recommendations on policies to promote RE deployment. It presents the results of the study that covered all GCC countries (Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman). The document summarizes GCC countries’ RE targets and highlights the main projects and measures established to start this transition. Furthermore, this paper provides an updated and comprehensive overview of the RE situation in the GCC countries and it includes an assessment of the region’s RE potential, current installed RE capacity and project pipeline, institutional and market frameworks. This study analyses the main gaps concerning RE deployment in the region while discussing the financial, fiscal, political, legislative, technological and environmental aspects. Based on that, a set of recommendations is proposed to fill their gaps and help achieving their politically endorsed targets particularly in the electricity sector. The proposed recommendations will help to accelerate the development rate of GCC RE market, support governments’ efforts towards fulfilling future RE targets, and overcome potential barriers. However such policies analysis should be carried out individually for each country of the GCC region taking into consideration the specificity of each market and economic strategies with more adapted measures.

Keywords: GCC, Policies, Renewable Energy, and Regulatory framework.

Short CV

Zeineb Abdmouleh has completed her MSc in Industrial Engineering from National Engineering School of Tunis. She is currently working as a Research Assistant at Qatar University in the fields of power system optimization, renewable energy integration and energy policies. Zeineb has previous experience as project developer with the British company Nur Energie working on the business model for the submarine cable to export electricity of a CSP project from Tunisia to Italy. In 2012, she received the DESERTEC Best Paper Award 2012 for her Diploma Thesis ‘Technical and Economic Analysis of the Tunisian Transmission Grid with respect to Renewable Energies’.
THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN OFFICIAL AND POPULAR ISLAM AND THE RISE OF RADICALISM - EGYPTIAN CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The paper analyses radicalism as a social process in the context of the division between official and popular "Islams" (Waardenburg 1978). It showcases Egypt as the biggest Arab and Middle Eastern country with the most prominent religious institutions. In the face of political upheaval experienced by Egypt in the past five years, religiosity seems to remain the one constant element of Egyptian life, with practically all citizens declaring faith in God and nearly all asserting that religion is important to them. Throughout Egypt's modern history, the state has always attempted and never entirely succeeded in controlling that sphere of life, although it has been able to use Islam for political purposes via official religious institutions such as the Ministry of Awqaf, the Al-Azhar conglomerate and the office of the Grand Mufti. Official Islam has been a tool of controlling mosques and preachers, and of legitimising political actions as acts in accordance with Islamic law. However, 'popular' Islam as practiced by Egyptians has remained unpredictable and beyond control. Its forms range from a very oppressive and restrictive Salafism, prevalent among lower classes, through a Muslim-Brotherhood-type of rigorous Islam mostly attractive to lower/middle classes, to a 'modern' brand of Islam often propagated by celebrity preachers, appealing to middle/upper classes. Popular culture and the internet are often a source of yet other, more amorphous religious phenomena, and popular sentiment can sway easily. President Sisi regime's alleged attempt to empower a 'moderate' type of Islam may meet with distrust. If the state continues to use religion to justify unconstitutional policies, it can easily inspire various extremist or radical responses. What could be a mitigating role of the clergy, who still wield significant authority, is limited by their dependence, rigidity and conservatism. In conclusion, the dissolution of the religious market, dependence of official Islam on the political government and lack of independent atiyya movements empowers radicalism. This paper argues that misguided political action in the sphere of official Islam combined with existence of a vast religious market and the morphing of religious demand in popular Islam needs to be closely monitored as it may be a catalyst of social transformation but it may also lead to a rise of religious radicalism.

Keywords: Egypt, official, popular, Islam, extremism, radicalism, Azhar

Short CV

Dr. Patrycja Sasnal is head of Middle East and North Africa Project at the Polish Institute of International Affairs in Warsaw, and a member of the advisory European Working Group on Egypt. Fulbright scholar at SAIS, Johns Hopkins University in Washington, DC in 2010 and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Political Science. She was associate at the American University in Beirut and lectures at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland where apart from the PhD she also holds MA in International Relations and MA in Arabic Language and Culture. She has written on U.S. and EU policies in the Middle East, published in Al-Ahram, LeMonde.fr, Insight Turkey, EUobserver and Polityka.
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: A MODE OF STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE IN THE AGE OF NEOLIBERALISM

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ABSTRACT

In the 1960s and 70s, several social movements erupted calling for human rights in different countries across the past-colonizing as well as past-colonized worlds. The consequence was the viral foundation of NGOs that could reclaim infringed upon rights by the bureaucratic state apparatus as well as the global capitalist system. As evident in our life today, many social activists migrated from using the NGO working model to the social enterprise one. They, as activists, believe that escaping the state sovereignty and accepting the economic sovereignty of the free market dynamic would grant them a higher degree of self-autonomy, more sustainability due to more fiscal power supported by national and international investors instead of donors and the works of philanthropy, and more scalability to their projects in order to fulfill their dreams of deep social impact. In this study, and in the age of neoliberalism, I argue that social activists face unprecedented limitations that they may or may not be aware of when they decided to be a part of the vicious category of social entrepreneurship. In order to tap deeper into the construction of the neoliberal side of social entrepreneurs, I present how global and local politico-economic conditions help create individual dispositions from which symbolic violence can be exercised. As such, I conclude that social entrepreneurship opens the door for symbolic violence to make and remake the body of social entrepreneurs, which is one of the limitations that individuals have to be aware of when engaging with the vicious category of social entrepreneurship.

Short CV

Ahmed joined Ashoka in late 2015 to lead its venture program in the MENA region, where he searches for and selects social entrepreneurs to become lifetime Ashoka fellows. He ensures the effectiveness of social entrepreneurship ecosystem in the region through enabling social entrepreneurs (by electing them as Ashoka Fellows) who have systemic solutions to socio-economic systemic problems to envision sustained social and economic development (by mapping and connecting the dots). No one can help lead entrepreneurs more than their peer entrepreneurs. After earning his bachelor degree with honors in Information and Engineering Technology from the German University in Cairo (GUC) in 2011, he set out to startup Trustious.com; a data intensive web application created to ease the choice making process, through providing users with trusted business and product reviews. His efforts were crowned by securing an EGP 2m investment to his product and leading his company to become an EGP 17m business in late 2014. He pursued his independent studies in Public Policy at the American University in Cairo (AUC) since late 2014.
WOMEN’S RIGHTS IN TUNISIA: CONSTITUTIONALIZATION VS IMPLEMENTATION

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ABSTRACT

The widespread opinion is that Tunisian women benefit of their entire or at least many rights in comparison with those in the MENA region. More than two years after the adoption of the new Tunisian Constitution which provides - not absolutely but - a considerable number of women’s rights, the gap is still very noticeable between what should be and what is. The purpose of this paper is to present the inventory of the current situation in comparison with the content of the highest source of legislation in the Tunisian state. The process of harmonization of laws with the constitutional text is struggling while judiciary decisions are not in conformity with the constitution because of its non-implementation in the relevant legal codes, the only source for the judge in taking decision during a case. This is why this paper will examine the non-conformity of several laws with the 2014 constitution on many levels such as political, social and economic. Moreover, it will expose and study some of the reasons leading to such situation. This research is based on the analysis of the Tunisian status quo in terms of women’s rights and the challenges to improve it, where it refers mainly to some legal texts and relevant comments which appeared as academic or journalistic articles. The consecration of women’s rights in the Tunisian constitution was very welcomed by the International Community and judged as an advanced step in guaranteeing the non-regression of the already acquired rights. This study will show that all the efforts made by political actors, civil society and citizens, should be enhanced concretely by the present-day policy makers. This experience can serve as an example only if there is a political volition not to remain ink on paper only so that we can get a successful reference in the Arab world.

This paper aims principally to emphasize where the legal security is unstable, to help political actors and civil society in enforcing the suitable laws and to present some recommendations to overcome the issue and building a harmonized legal framework for women’s rights in Tunisia. In addition, this research will enrich the academic literature on women’s rights in Tunisia for a better implementation.

Keywords: Women’s rights, Constitution, Laws, Implementation, Enforcement, ANC, ARP.

Short CV

Born in Tunis, in November 12th 1988, obtained baccalaureate of arts in 2007; B.A of law from the faculty of legal, political and social sciences of Tunis in 2011; M.A of common law from the faculty of legal, political and social sciences of Tunis in 2013; CAPA from the university of Ben Aknoun in Algiers in 2015; since 2014, Ph D researcher in Law; since June 2015, occupying the position of Community Manager with UGTT-GPSA project; Lawyer since March 2016. Founding member of the Tunisian Labour Party Political Office in charge of youth in 2011; Member of the Executive Office of Al Massar (social democratic path Party) in 2012; Member of the Executive Office of Al Massar in charge of training in 2013; Elected member of the Al Massar Political Office in 2014; Legislative elections candidate in 2014 under the UPT list.
“MY STEALTHY FREEDOM”: IRANIAN WOMEN’S USE OF INTERNET AGAINST THE STATE’S DISCRIMINATORY LAWS

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ABSTRACT

The paper will discuss the Iranian women use of the internet as a way to express their opinion freely, by analyzing new means used through the internet and social media to fight against discrimination and to show the real aspects of the Iranian society and its women’s sufferings which is censored by state’s media outlets. While the main focus is on the Iranian online movement “My Stealthy Freedom” and its Facebook page which is over 900,000 followers and was created on May 3, 2014 by the Iranian journalist Masih Alinejad. The page aimed to create a free space for Iranian women; to express themselves and their lives freely through posting their stories, photos and videos without hijab in the streets of Iran as a way of a challenge to the Iranian dress rule that was enforced after the Iranian revolution in 1979 as since then women have had to cover their head in public. My stealthy freedom is not the only way Iranian women used to resist the government’s laws on their clothing and behavior or to challenge the state’s ability to control public space. And it’s not the first, as blogging took an important role starting from the year 2001 and was a mirror reflecting the status of women in the Iranian society. The paper examines the importance of the internet as a non-traditional tool of resistance, its impact on the society and how it could have an effective role in political change?

Keywords: Iranian Women, My Stealthy Freedom, Blogging.

Short CV

THE WOMEN’S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN TUNUSIA AFTER
THE REVOLUTION: REALITY AND CHALLENGES

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ABSTRACT

Since 1956 the date of independence of the republic of Tunisia, the Tunisian women has obtained revolutionary rights guaranteed by the Tunisian code of personal Status and the constitution of 1956. This situation makes her in frontlines in gender politics and distinguishes her among their neighbors. But, after the revolution of 2011, the women felt that their rights became threatened and were afraid that women-driven secular Arab Spring might give way to women’s winter, due to the action of the conservative groups, especially that history reveals cases in which progress on women’s rights regressed or even reversed in the aftermath of revolution, such as in Central and eastern Europe (early 1990s) and in Iran. Moreover a lack of female voices in Tunisia’s transitional government (only two women present in the interim government) seemed a warning sign of a trend of political exclusion. This fear pushed the Tunisian women and the secularist public opinion to develop a whole struggle to preserve the women’s historical gains and to prevent the women’s political exclusion. A lot of actions were done by different actors to achieve this goal. But the question that must be treated now is “are the results of the Tunisian women struggle good or unsatisfactory, and what must be done to enhance the women’s political participation in Tunisia and to make it more efficient?” In this paper, we will try to answer this question. First, we will examine the gains obtained thanks to the struggle for female political participation in Tunisia after the revolution in the legal framework and according to the effective participation of women in legislative and presidential elections and in constitution’s writing. After that, we will focus on the limit of real political women’s participation based on the statistics, the Tunisian potential to give some recommendations for a better future. Keywords: women and democracy, women’s political participation, women’s rights, elections, female political leadership.

Short CV

December 2013- Juillet 2014 Master in Public Administration, Politic Studies Institute of Strasbourg (University of Strasbourg), Strasbourg.
December 2013- Juillet 2014, Diploma of International Cycle, National School of Administration (ENA), France.
Juin 2013 , Certificate of training in trainer of trainee’s about the United Nations Convention against Corruption, UNDP.
April 2013- Mai 2013, Training to prepare the Professional Diploma of Internal Audit (DPAI), IIA tunisie (called also ATAI).
September 2008- November 2009, 1st year in Master of Tax Law, Judicial, Politic and Social sciences University (Tunisia).
Janvier 2005- December 2007, Post Graduate Diploma, Tunisia National School of Administration specialized in audit and control.
Septembre 2000- Juin 2004, Bachelor Degree in Finance, Institute of high commercial studies (IHEC) of Carthage, Tunisia.
WOMEN: LEADING THE SOCIAL DYNAMISM THROUGH THE ARAB SPRING

Rabia Oter
M.A. student in Women’s Studies department, Istanbul University

ABSTRACT

In the late 2010, a self-immolation of a street vendor in a provincial town of Sidi Bouzid in Tunisia sparked the mass popular protests and demonstrations to overthrow the authoritarian regimes and the protest movements spread across the MENA region in a domino effect. Increasing unemployment, social and political injustices triggered the public outrage. In those popular civil uprisings which was called as Arab Spring/Awakening, the women who remained marginalized and precluded from obtaining equal opportunities played a prominent role by leading the social dynamism for a more democratic transition. Standing side by side by men, a massive amounts of women from different social backgrounds participated in the protests to be a part of political, social, economic and democratic transition and tomade themselves heard throughout the world by means of social media. However, women faced with variety of challenges by the regime and military and subjected to virginity tests and sexual harassments. They were beaten, their clothes were stripped off and they were shouted at as “go home and go back to the kitchen “where you belong.” This oppression points to the fact that there is an intersectionality between social, political and economic factors and discrimination and the oppression experienced in this process. After the revolution, even though the women issues are pushed aside as a secondary issues by most of the post-revolutionary regimes, women’s active functions as non-state actors and their call for freedom, (social) justice and dignity in this democratization process should be reconsidered. Besides, the mobilization of women in parliaments, education, labor force, the legal, constitutional changes and implementations on women rights issues in that post-revolutionary era should be reexamined specifically from gender perspective.

Keywords: Women, Arab Spring, MENA Region, gender perspective, revolution, discrimination, justice.

Short CV

Rabia Oter Candan is an M.A. student in Women’s Studies department in Istanbul University. She is a senior expert of the R&D department in Women and Democracy Association, which is one of the leading women NGOs in Turkey. Her current master thesis is about Secular and the Islamist Women Through the Arab Spring Process at Tunisia. She worked as an assistant producer and coordinator of a tv program about the Middle Eastern politics in TRT Arabic TV Channel. As an NGO representative, she attends UN Women Meetings organized by Commission on the Status of Women every year.
ABSTRACT

In order to prepare and implement an effective counterterrorism campaign an understanding of the strategic logic of terrorism as well as possible risk-management strategies is needed. In my presentation I am going to approach these two issue areas from a conceptual point of view offering heuristics to analyse terrorist- and counterterrorism campaigns.

I will first discuss terrorism as a direct and indirect strategy and elaborate on the fact that terrorism is in most cases an act of provocation seeking to set in motion an escalation process supporting the terrorists’ cause.

To analyse counterterrorism efforts I would suggest distinguishing between preventive actions, activities to enhance the protection of possible targets (i.e. target hardening) and consequence-management (i.e. training of so-called first responders etc.).

Preventive measures can be further differentiated into primary, secondary and tertiary prevention. Primary prevention focuses on ideologies and socioeconomic conditions, processes of radicalization and recruitment; secondary prevention seeks to identify, monitor and possibly arrest individuals who are already radicalized and willing to use violence and to prevent them from committing an attack; tertiary prevention starts after an attack occurred and aims at identifying and arresting the perpetrators in order to stop them from committing another attack.

Keywords: Counterterrorism, Terrorism, Risk management strategies

Short CV

Michael Bauer heads the Middle East Programme of the Center for Applied Policy Research (C·A·P). The focus of his research is on regional security and political, social and economic transformation processes in Arab countries and the role of the European Union. As Senior Researcher of the Research Group on European Affairs he also works on various aspects of German, European and international security policy. He is the academic coordinator of the European Studies Programme of the C·A·P, lecturer at the Graduate School of Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok and at Zeppelin University in Friedrichshafen and was a visiting scholar at the Center for International Relations of the Fundação Getulio Vargas in Brazil. Michael Bauer studied international politics in Munich and Aberystwyth (UK) and holds a degree in educational science from the Munich School of Philosophy.
MOTIVATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN YOUTHS FOR JOINING RADICAL GROUPS

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ABSTRACT

The issue of violent radicalization were moved back again on the European political agenda. As it is believed by the European officials that so far 5000 European youths have joined ISIS in Iraq and Syria for fighting, therefore, the European authorities are on alert. It’s long been known that ISIS has drawn fighters not just from the Arab World but also from Europe, especially from France, Germany and the U.K. However, the EU, a strong economy and political power, fails to adequately address the radicalization problem on its own soil. The attendance rates to radical organizations, such as ISIS, have rapidly risen in Europe and the EU could not adequately address this problem. In that framework, the main threat for European security authorities is that jihadists will use their battle experience from the Middle East for attacks in Europe. There has already been an alarming example in the Paris attack and the attack on the Jewish Museum in Brussels in 2015. These attacks were carried out by the fighters who were trained by the ISIS, which shows how transnational this issue really is. On the other hand, in Paris Charlie Hebdo attack in which 12 people were killed, was done by the Yemeni ISIS also shows that these kinds of terrorist actions could easily happen in Europe. Therefore, European officials must take strong measures on that issue in order to prevent actions of the radical groups.

This study will mainly analyze the motivations of the European youths for joining the radical groups, particularly to ISIS. The reasons are not disconnected from one another, they merge into one push and pull factor. In addition to that the recruitment process of radical groups will be analyzed as well to understand how foreign fighters participate to ISIS. In the final part, there will be several significant recommendations on how the European officials can cope with this threat.

Keywords: Radicalization, ISIS, European Youths, Radical Groups, Recruitment

Short CV

Dr. Sezer Ozcan is Assistant Professor in the field of Political Science and International Relations at Hasan Kalyoncu University, Gaziantep-Turkey, finished his BA in the field of International Relations at Uludag University, Bursa-Turkey, 2007. He finished his MA in the field of Political Science, Defense and Security, at Catholic University of Portugal, Lisbon-Portugal, 2010. Later, he finished his Doctorate in the field of Political Science, at Bielefeld University, Bielefeld-Germany, 2014.
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ABSTRACT

Energy has become the substructure of capital importance for our lifetime. Without it, neither business nor everyday life would work in the way we have become used to. Those energy sources, that are used the most in presence, have a significant impairment. On the one hand they are finite which courses a competition about the remaining resources fuel conflicts. On the other hand their extraction have a devastating impact on the environment. Therefore science focuses on developing alternative energy productions such as exploiting energy from sun, wind and water – supported by politics and business likewise. The middle east region is, because of its geographical conditions and specific features, such as big open landscapes and a high amount of wind, a very suitable location to provide these global structural changes. As the worlds largest energy supplier for oil and gas they are deeply involved in the energy market with corresponding foreign trade activities. Because of the constitutional preconditions for a new kind of energy production, combined with existing partnerships, the efforts of countries of the European Union about investments for renewable energy in this area have increased. A well known example is the visionary project „Desertec“. How high is the benefit of supporting renewable energy production with in the middle east? Initially preserving nature seems to be the necessary advantage of global rethinking. Changing from conventional to renewable forms of energy production reduces emissions of greenhouse gases and conserves the consumption of already short running fresh water stocks, which is used during electricity generation. Thereby natural resources can be preserved for future generations in the long term. Second is supposed, that restructuring the energy market will also cause an economic upgrowth. Sustained produced electricity can substitute fossil fuels and disburden the reduction of finit energy sources. Furthermore the long-term development of the region will be promoted accompanied with job growth, a growing GDP and in general a progressive development of the level of wealth. Besides of the economic aspects the involved states expect, because of stronger economic interdependencies, greater stability regarding foreign affairs as well as security issues domestic and abroad. Alternative energy sources may contain the existing competition about narrow energy resources. Concurrent existing partnerships will be eased and new ways and formats of collaboration will be found. The political alteration within multiple countries of the Middle East will have major consequences. Changing political systems, protagonists or constellations and interests a change in the way of thinking stands up front. This offers the rare opportunity to intensify the discourse for new ways of energy supply.

Key words: Renewable energy, Middle East, Desertec

Short CV

Dinah Elisa Khwais, born 1989 in Munich, Germany, is a scientific officer for a member of the Bavarian State Parliament. Her job-related core areas focus on German Legislative Proposals, International Relations and Security Policy. These key-aspects include research and rework of expert-level consultancy for parliamentarians as well as preparing debates, statements and political contributions. Besides her professional engagement, since finalizing her degree of political science, Dinah works on her dissertation at the University of Cologne. Topic of her graduate thesis is: “State-Building as foreign- and security policy instrument and its implementation in Iraq between 2003 and 2011.”
ABSTRACT

As part of the study, pellet production will be carried out by using industrial wastes (pulper waste, waste sludge and process sludge, olive mill sludge, poultry wastes, textile wastes and cord fabric) and agricultural biomass residues (corn stalk, hazelnut shell and husk, sawdust, tobacco stalks, wheat straw, peanut husks and sugar molasses). Pellets will be produced with different ratios and variations from industrial and agricultural wastes. Optimum pellet production will be determined by analyzing chemical (organic and inorganic), physical, calorific and convectional (moisture and ash content) properties and once obtained most suitable (at least 3 mixture) pellets in terms of higher calorific value and lower pollutants value will be integrated to macro scale production. After optimization and standardization process completed, final product will be manufactured in the plant scale. Environmental pollution will considerably be reduced by reducing the amount of solid waste that leads to recycling of waste materials with using pellets instead of fossil-based fuels. Turkey’s dependence on foreign energy will be reduced by providing pellets on an industrial scale with using alternative agriculture biomass residues and industrial wastes. Besides significant input of foreign exchange will be provided by exporting pellets that our country’s produced. Utilization of agricultural and industrial wastes, much more orientation to renewable sources will be carried out in our country. This orientation will also contribute to chemistry/energy sector and forestry/agriculture sector.

Keywords: Industrial waste, agricultural biomass residues, pellet, energy.

Short CV

Dr. Oguzkan currently works at Gaziantep University as Assistant Professor in the field of Health Services. She finished her BA in the field of Chemistry at Balikesir University in 2001. She finished her MA in the field of Bio-Chemistry at Gaziantep University in 2005. Later she had her PhD at Gaziantep University in the field of in 2009.
SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE CONTEXT OF TURKEY

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ABSTRACT

The war in Syria caused one of the biggest forced migration movements in the world history. Turkey was one of the most affected countries in the world from this incident in the last 5 years and the number of Syrian people in Turkey reached around 2.5 million according to the official data. While 280,000 of those Syrians were placed in the Refugee Camps in Turkey, more than 2 million Syrians are still trying to continue their lives in the cities like Gaziantep, Istanbul, Kilis, Hatay etc. Turkish government provides free healthcare, education and social services as much as possible but there are further problems to be dealt for the Syrians both for living in and out of the camps. Based on previous studies, we can classify the major problems of Syrians in Turkey in 3 headlines. The first issue is about legal problems. Because of the under protection status, Syrians will not be able to get working permits in Turkey. Even there are some facilitating regulations after January 2016, it is still very open for abuse (children workers, unregistered workers, bad working conditions) and very soon there is high probability for conflicts between employers-Turkish employees and Syrian employees due to their lack of information about legal rights and their shy position to look for their rights. On the other hand, they are already experiencing legal problems about relations with public officials and judiciary system as they can’t defend themselves. The second headline is about economic adaptation. Apart from the working permits, the qualifications of Syrians in Turkey and Turkish business society’s expectations will not be fitting. The difference in business culture is creating another challenge for Syrians who will be getting working permits in the upcoming future. This problem also brings economic problems and future anxiety and further willingness to leave Turkey to arrive Europe to get social and economic protection. The third headline is the potential social problems with Turkish citizens. So far there haven’t been observed a major problem but the hikes in apartment rental prices, the decreasing wages in unqualified skill jobs, multi marriages with Turkish citizens are now creating a background for future conflicts.

Key words: Syrian Refugees, Turkey, Integration, Camps

Short CV

She holds a BA degree in Political Science and International Relations from Bogazici University and a MA degree in European Politics from Lund University, Sweden. She continues her PHD in European Union Politics and International Relations at Marmara University, focusing on human security and human trafficking policies of the EU. Güngör has been actively volunteering in national and European civil society and youth organizations. She is a founding member and member of the Board of Directors of Women and Democracy Association.
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ABSTRACT

I grew up in the village until fourth grade. I completed elementary, middle and high school in Denizli. I have graduated from Ankara University. I’m a physics engineer. I worked as an engineer in the energy cable production in Turkey. I worked as a quality control manager and in the same time as a quality management manager. After two years I said that I need to do something different and I quit the job. I went the London to learn English. I have realized that I like to meet people who are from different country. I have also like to travel and I like to sale. So I went to the U.S.A. to do import and export business in 2003. To start and doing business in the U.S.A. was very easy. First impression was “huge”… I first went to San Diego in California. It is fascinating and sunny. People are trustworthy. I have got an attorney to establish a company but it is also available to do it online. Less procedure, you have more time and happiness. When I rent an apartment to get water, electricity, gas and phone line … took me about fifteen minutes to set up on the phone in the U.S.A. At that time those kind of things took about three days in Turkey. In nine months I have done everything; to establish a company, to had working visa, got an order from customer and ship the marble tile into the U.S.A. I had immigration attorney too. There are rules if you follow the rules everything is nice and easy. On the other hand you should be patient. I am very strong and hardworking person. Everybody has social security number, which is very important.

It makes all the rules, all the way and lifestyle. There are three credit score companies. Wherever you go, whatever you do they knew your credit score. For example you rent a car, rent an apartment, purchase a car, purchase a house, you had a traffic accident, you had been hospitalized, how many credit cards you have, how many bank account you have, how much you owe the bank, where are you working or you are unemployed, … everything is on your record so it makes rules and trust. When you apply somewhere they check you in five minutes and have result, it can be done or not it is very simple. You can’t tell a lie. To be successful on the long term, be honest, passionate, be patient and disciplined. Make your decision first; dream, be brave, trust yourself … On the business, customer service is very important such as quality of product, quality of service and quality of delivery time … Personally, I will recommend to do business in the U.S.A. but you can do it in Turkey too. We just need to be together especially we need women’s support. USA’s first female foreign minister (January 23, 1997 - January 20, 2001) who is Madeleine Korbel Albright (1937- ) says that “There’s a special place in hell for women who don’t help each other!” I have twelve years experience in the U.S.A. that experience very difficult to fit two pages. In the future I am thinking to write a book or want to transfer my experiences as a consultant for the people. Dream it, do it