

*MUBIT* Inter-University Doctoral Cooperation in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies Basel/Zurich  
&  
Middle Eastern Studies  
The Graduate School of Social Sciences (G3S)  
University of Basel

*MUBIT* Graduate Workshop

# *Arab Revolutions of 2010-2011*

21. January 2015, 14.00-18.00

Seminar für Nahoststudien, Maiengasse 51, Seminarraum E005

Guest Lecturer:

**Prof. Dr. Jack A. Goldstone**

(George Mason University and Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars)

Organized by

Prof. Dr. Maurus Reinkowski, Dr. Selen Etingü, Alp Yenen, M.A.



The workshop will address the causes and outcomes of the revolutions and uprisings that shook the Middle East and North Africa in 2010-2011. The questions we will consider include:

1. Were these uprisings truly unpredictable? That is, did they appear under conditions that were different from those normally associated with uprisings and revolutions? If so, how do these events force us to alter our understanding of the causes of revolutions?
2. What explanation can we offer for events in the countries in the region that did *not* experience revolutions – the monarchies of Morocco, Jordan and the Gulf, the military regime in Algeria, and the Islamic regimes in Iran and the Palestinian Territories? Why were they not affected in the same way as other states in the region?
3. The outcomes of the uprisings in 2011 were greeted with great hopes for a restoration of dignity, economic justice, and the creation of more open, pluralistic, and democratic regimes. In every place except Tunisia, such hopes have not been realized (and even in Tunisia the fulfillment of these hopes remains fragile). Why has it proven so difficult for the emerging regimes that followed the uprisings to become more open and pluralist? Is it mainly a matter of internal forces, or external interventions? Is there anything the international community can do to promote better outcomes at this point?
4. One of the outcomes of the Arab uprisings has been a sharpening of tensions between Sunni and Shi'a groups across the region, including an enmity between Sunni Saudi Arabia and Shi'a Iran that some have likened to a new Cold War dividing the Islamic world. Is this conflict likely to increase and remain a long-term outcome of the uprisings? If so, what consequences will this have for politics in the region?

For registration (MA and PhD students) please write an email to Alp Yenen ([alp.yenen@unibas.ch](mailto:alp.yenen@unibas.ch))!