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**ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM**

**June 27, 2024**

# **Arab Migrations**

**Maison de l'Amérique Latine**

**217 Boulevard Saint Germain, 75007 Paris**

**Organised by the Centre arabe de recherches et d'études politiques de Paris (CAREP Paris), in partnership with The European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) and The Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission (EuroMeSCO).**

**Languages: English & French (with simultaneous interpretation)**

**Organizing Committee: Leïla Seurat, Asma Nouria, Isabel Ruck, Salam Kawakibi (CAREP Paris).**

## Argument

The mere act of "crossing borders" can transform migration or exile into an issue of international security. Yet, the political stakes of migration also reside indisputably at the national level. Migration and asylum raise questions of integration, otherness, and cultural diversity that are largely understudied in non-Western contexts, despite recent empirical research. This symposium aims to overcome the Western-centric bias of migration studies by offering approaches and analyses from the Arab region. The conference seeks to grasp the diversity of migration dynamics and their effects on Arab societies, which have often been viewed as stages for "exceptional" migratory phenomena. Far from merely experiencing migrations, Arab states have been very active in managing both, forced or voluntary mobility. They have also imposed increased control over their migrants, or their citizens living abroad.

The first panel of this conference focuses on protracted wars and conflicts in the region (Syria, Yemen, Libya, Sudan, Palestine, etc.), which have significantly increased the number of forcibly displaced people, whether within their own countries or across national borders. Academic work has primarily focused on the threats posed by these population flows at the borders and the impact for receiving countries' cultures. This panel aims to focus on the local consequences of internal displacements by including also a legal perspective.

For several years, climate change has also been putting intense pressure on cultures and water resources, two phenomena that are likely to increase migration trends and the risk of future conflicts. The second conference panel aims to explore the presumed links between climate change and Arab migrations by proposing to introduce the idea of migration as an "adaptive response" to increasingly harsh living conditions that no longer warrant human security. These environmental migrations also affect urban development: regional political authorities must increasingly regulate city development in response to climate change and cope with the demographic pressure intensified by the massive arrival of migrants or exiles.

The third panel proposes to explore the reconfigurations of cultural and religious identities through the prism of migration: how migrants and their descendants perceive their cultural and religious identity, practice their religions, and also their interactions with the societies in which they settle. The identity and cultural dimensions of migration are largely obscured in the context of the Arab world, either because migrants or exiles are not seen as settling permanently in host societies, or because cultural proximity in Arab or Muslim immigration is considered to erase the distance between natives and newcomers. Yet, both emigration and immigration contribute to the transformation of Arab societies.

The fourth and last panel focuses on the mechanisms of migrant control in border areas. It aims to reflect on the implementation of surveillance policies involving state institutions, companies, individuals, or social groups. This diversity of active players is more relevant than ever in the age of digital surveillance, which relies on a system of algorithms to identify so-called «high-risk» populations. This panel also wishes to engage in a discussion about renewing conceptual frameworks for thinking about border surveillance.

This symposium, which seeks to contribute to the debate on Arab migrations, is aimed at researchers, policymakers, civil society organizations, and the media.

# Program

**8:15**                    **Welcome and coffee**

**8:45**                    **Opening remarks**

**By Salam Kawakibi, Director of CAREP Paris**

**9:00-9:30**            **Keynote**

**By Senén Florensa, Executive President of IEMed :**

*The Arab World and the Mediterranean. Migratory movements in a changing geopolitical environment*

**9:30-11:00**        **Panel 1: Conflict, migration and forced displacement**

**Chaired by Haizam Amirah-Fernández, IE University in Madrid**

## Speakers:

**Ghassan Elkahlout**, Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies / Doha Institute: *Plans Old and New: the Forced Displacement of Palestinians from the Nakba of 1948 to the Al-Aqsa flood of 2023*

**Mutasem Syoufi**, *The Day After: Aspects of the forced migration in the case of Syria*

**Morgann Pernot**, EHESS-IRIS/Institut Convergences Migration: *A « Herstory » of Migration in Yemen. Three generations of women and girls facing social change and war*

**Azza Ahmed Abdel Aziz**, SOAS: *Forced migration as a salient marker of the multiplicity of dynamics of power and identification within the Sudanese context*

**Ayat Hamdan**, Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies Doha : *The Israeli War Against UNRWA and Its Impact on Palestinian Refugees*

**11:00-12:30**        **Panel 2: Environment, Climate Change and Migration**

**Chaired by Christiane Fröhlich, GIGA Hamburg**

## Speakers:

**Marwa Daoudy**, Georgetown University: *Environment, Climate Change and Migration in the Arab World*

**Ahmed Sadiddin**, FAO: *Environmental degradation and food insecurity as drivers of internal and international migration in the MENA and Sub-Saharan Africa*

**Juliette Duclos-Valois**, EHESS (ANR-IMAGIN-E - CéSor, CETOBaC, fellow IC Migrations): *Depopulated territory : how climate change and political conflict affect the habitability of Iraq's Sinjar district*

**Laurent Lambert**, Doha Institute: *The need for a new research agenda on climate migrations and the role of Arab cities in the late Anthropocene*

**12:30-14:00**      **Lunch break**

**14:00-15:30**      **Panel 3: Mutation of cultural and religious identities through migration**

**Chaired by Mehdi Mabrouk, CAREP Tunis**

**Speakers:**

**Sophie Bava**, IRD: *"God will open the sea": African migration, Christian framing and theological constructions in Morocco*

**Solenn Al-Majali**, TELEMMe (Aix-Marseille Université) et Ifpo Amman: *The eruption of the racial question in Jordan through East African refugees*

**Mona Hedaya**, Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies: *Cultural Heritage Preservation and Hybrid-identity Generation: The Case of Palestinian Diaspora in Qatar*

**Didem Danis**, Galatasaray University: *Religious itineraries on the move: Christian migrants in Istanbul*

**15:30-15:45**      **Coffee break**

**15:45-17:15**      **Panel 4: Migration and Border Surveillance**

**Chaired by Thibaut Jaulin, Sciences Po Paris**

**Speakers:**

**Damien Simonneau**, INALCO: *Digital adjustments in Customs programs : the case of France, Belgium and the United Kingdom*

**Özgün Topak**, York University: *Europe's Racist Drones: Border Externalization and Bio/Necropolitical Surveillance at Libyan-European borderzone*

**Margaret Cheesman**, King's College London: *On being financialized: 'mish baraka' or aid beneficiaries' critique of a blockchain pilot*

**Sophia Goodfriend**, Duke University / Harvard Kennedy School : *Algorithmic Supply Chains and State Violence*

**17:15**                      **Conclusion**

# Speaker Biographies

## Azza Ahmed Abdel Aziz

### SOAS

Azza Ahmed Abdel Aziz is a social and medical anthropologist with long experience working among diverse groups who have been the subjects of forced migration. Her work has spanned continents within Sudan and the UK. She has worked on the diversity of identifications within revolutionary processes, gendered aspects of political participation and the role of music and art in times of political flux and conflict.

## Solenn Al-Majali

### IFPO Amman

Solenn Al Majali holds a PhD in Anthropology from the Aix-Marseille University and is affiliated with the Ifpo in Amman and the Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies. She conducted extensive ethnographic immersion with Yemeni, Somali, and Sudanese refugees in Jordan to explore interethnic relations in Amman. She defended her PhD dissertation entitled *Proving and Experiencing Ethnicity: Refugees of African Origin in Jordan* in May 2024. Her work focuses on the influence of ethnic relations through the broad network of humanitarian and social actors with whom Somali and mixed Yemeni refugees interact daily.

## Haizam Amirah-Fernández

### IE University in Madrid

Haizam Amirah-Fernández is Professor of International Relations in the School of Politics, Economics and Global Affairs at IE University in Madrid. Between 2003 and 2024, he was Senior Analyst for the Mediterranean and the Arab World at the Madrid-based think tank Elcano Royal Institute. He specializes in international relations and political economy of the Middle East and North Africa, political Islam and transitions to democracy in the Arab world, where he has lived for over sixteen years. Professor Amirah-Fernández has published extensively on Middle Eastern and North African affairs, and he is co-editor of books on North Africa and Euro-Mediterranean relations. He has lectured in universities in Europe, MENA countries and the U.S. He has worked for the United Nations and for Human Rights Watch in Washington DC. Professor Amirah-Fernández is a frequent commentator in the Spanish and international media.

## Sophie Bava

### Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD)

Sophie Bava is a socio-anthropologist at IRD, AMU-LPED. She serves as the scientific advisor for the 'Migrations' knowledge community at IRD, as the coordinator of the international Movidia Laboratory, as co-editor-in-chief of the journal *Afrique(s) en Mouvement*, and as responsible for Africa-Mediterranean missions at the SoMuM institute. Her research focuses on African migrations and religious constructions, both Muslim and Christian, between Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan Africa. She proposes a religious anthropology of movement that also re-examines the role of religion in migration within societies crossed by migrants and the reshaping of religious landscapes. Sophie Bava has authored numerous publications: *Migration and religious institutions: (re)arranging itineraries and imaginaries* (2023), *Le Maroc au carrefour de la formation religieuse entre Europe et Afrique Religion'* (2022). She edited the volume *Dieu, les Migrants et l'Afrique* (L'Harmattan, ed. Mobilités Africaines, 2018) and co-edited *Migrations et transformations des paysages religieux* (Autrepart, 2010).

## Margaret (Margie) Cheesman

### King's College London

Dr. Margie Cheesman is a Lecturer in Digital Economy at the King's College Department of Digital Humanities. Her work examines digitalisation projects in humanitarian aid, asylum, and welfare, as a way of understanding the contested horizons of global governance. She uses ethnographic methods to engage with elite and marginalized groups, from aid organizations to asylum seekers and refugees. Her latest studies have investigated the social and political implications of **web3 tech**, including digital identity and currency experiments.

## Didem Daniş

### Galatasaray University

Didem Daniş works at Galatasaray University, in the sociology department. She is the founding president of the Association for research on migration (GAR) and a member of AmiMo (Axe de migrations et mobilités) of the French Institute of Anatolian Studies (IFEA). She defended her PhD thesis at EHESS in 2008, in which she analyzed the social networks of Iraqi migrants in transit in Istanbul. Her research interests include migration, urban sociology and social demography. She has published various articles in academic journals as well as book chapters and co-edited books in Turkish, English and French.

## Marwa Daoudy

### Georgetown University

Dr. Marwa Daoudy is an Associate Professor of International Relations at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service (SFS) and the Seif Ghobash Chair in Arab Studies at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies (CCAS). Dr. Daoudy's research and teaching focus on critical and human security studies, environmental politics, climate security, water politics, negotiation theory, peace negotiations, and Middle East politics. Dr. Daoudy's second book on *The Origins of the Syrian Conflict: Climate Change and Human Security* (Cambridge University Press, 2020) won the 2020 Harold and Margaret Sprout Prize by the International Studies Association. Her first book *The Water Divide between Syria, Turkey and Iraq: Negotiation, Security and Power Asymmetry* (CNRS Editions, 2005) received the Ernest Lémonon Prize by the Institute of France at the French Academy (Académie Française). Her third book entitled *Climate Justice in the Middle East and North Africa: Rethinking Vulnerability* is currently under contract with Cambridge University Press.

## Juliette Duclos-Valois

### EHESS

Juliette Duclos-Valois holds a PhD in anthropology from EHESS (Paris) where she is currently a postdoctoral researcher as part of the ANR IMAGIN-E project. She is also a fellow at the Institut Convergences Migrations, the CETOBaC and CÉSor research centers. Her research focuses on (im)mobility, the everyday, habitability and uncertainty in contexts of conflict and climatic stress. She has been conducting research in Iraq for ten years.

## Ghassan Elkahlout

### Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies - Doha Institute

Ghassan Elkahlout is the Director of the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies. He is an Associate Professor in Conflict Management and Humanitarian Action at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. He has extensively worked in the areas of humanitarian response, post-war early recovery, and capacity building. Dr. Elkahlout received his PhD in post-war reconstruction and development studies from the University of York, United Kingdom, in 2001.

## Sénen Florensa

### Institut Européen de la Méditerranée (IEMed)/ EuroMeSCo

Senén Florensa is the Executive President of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), Chair of EuroMeSCo General Assembly, and director of



the quarterly *afkar/ideas* and of the *IEMed Mediterranean Yearbook*. He has been Ambassador Permanent Representative of Spain to United Nations and other International Organisations in Vienna, Spanish Ambassador to Tunisia, Consul General of Spain in Rome, Consul General in Berlin and Diplomatic Counsellor at the Office of the President of the Spanish Government. He holds a degree in Economic Science and in Law from the Universitat of Barcelona. He studied for his doctorate in Economics at the Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne; as a Fulbright scholarship holder at New York University, Ph.D. Program, and at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM), where he presented his doctoral thesis with Summa Cum Laude Honor Degrees. He has also been Director of Economic Studies at the Escuela Diplomática in Madrid and Professor of International Economics and Development at Universidad Complutense de Madrid. He is member of the Board of Trustees and of the Governing Board of the Universidad Antonio de Nebrija in Madrid.

## Christiane Fröhlich

### German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA)

Christiane Fröhlich is a senior research fellow at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) in Hamburg. She is particularly interested in the intersection between forced migration, global environmental change, and socio-political upheaval, and in related questions of mobility and climate justice. Her regional focus is mainly on the Middle East (Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel/Palestine, Turkey), where she has conducted extensive field research. She is also engaged in cross-regional comparative projects, including the EU-funded consortium *Migration Governance and Asylum Crises (MAGYC)*, in which she led a work package on *Comparing Crises. Lessons from 'migration crises' in North Africa, the Middle East and the Greater Horn of Africa*. Fröhlich holds a PhD from the Center for Conflict Studies at Marburg University.

## Sophia Goodfriend

### Duke University, Harvard Kennedy School

Sophia Goodfriend is a PhD student in Cultural Anthropology from Duke University and an incoming post-doctoral fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Middle East Initiative.

## Ayat Hamdan

### Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies - Doha Institute

Ayat Hamdan is a researcher at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies and Editing Director of *Ostour* journal for historical studies. She received her PhD from the Institute of Arab & Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter, UK, where she served as an assistant lecturer in the Political Science department. She was also awarded

a fellowship at the Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford. She edited *Jerusalem: Ethnic Cleansing and Forms of Resistance* (ACRPS, 2023).

## **Mona Hedaya**

### **Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies (affiliated with the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies)**

Mona Hedaya is a Research Fellow at the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies (CHS). She received her master's degree in Conflict Management and Humanitarian Action from the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. Her research focuses on forced displacement, humanitarian policies and practices, conflict analysis, mediation, post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding, with a special emphasis on the Arab world. Her work has been published by the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) and Third World Quarterly. In 2019, she published a book entitled *Refugee Women: Adaptation of Syrian Refugee Breadwinners in Istanbul (2011-2018)*. As a research fellow at CHS, she contributed to various research and peacebuilding initiatives and projects. Besides, she has participated in numerous conferences and workshops on topics of conflict, politics, social movements, and humanitarian action.

## **Thibaut Jaulin**

### **Sciences Po Paris**

Thibaut Jaulin is an educational director and lecturer at the School of International Affairs at Sciences Po. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from Paul Cézanne University (Aix-en-Provence). His research has focused on migration and diaspora policies in the MENA region and Sub-Saharan Africa. He has led and coordinated research projects at the Migration Policy Center (MPC, European University Institute), the Center for International Studies (CERI, Sciences Po), and the African Diasporas Chair (Sciences Po Bordeaux). He also served as a Protection Officer at the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA).

## **Salam Kawakibi**

### **CAREP Paris**

Trained as a political science researcher, Salam Kawakibi is the director of CAREP Paris, and was previously deputy director of the Arab Reform Initiative. He holds postgraduate degrees in economics, international relations and political science from the universities of Aleppo and Aix-en-Provence. From 2009 to 2011, he was Senior Researcher at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Amsterdam. From 2000 to 2006, he headed the Institut français du Proche-Orient (Ifpo) in Aleppo. He is a member of the advisory board of the Fondation assemblée des citoyens et

citoyennes de la Méditerranée (FACM) and a member of the administrative board of the association "The Day After" for a democratic Syria. He is also a member of the advisory board of Ettijahat-Independent Culture.

## **Laurent Lambert**

### **Doha Institute for Graduate Studies**

Laurent Lambert is a geographer working on climate, water and energy policies, disaster risks, urban vulnerabilities and adaptation, humanitarian innovation and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. He obtained his Bachelor and Master's degrees in Geography from the University of Paris 1 Sorbonne and his PhD from Oxford University's School of Geography and the Environment. He is a former board member and representative of the research community at the United Nations Climate Technology Center & Network (CTCN) and former expert reviewer for the UN's IPCC (AR6). Laurent Lambert worked as the advisory council member of Washington D.C.'s Middle East Institute's Climate & Water Program. He is currently the Head of the Humanitarian & Refugee Unit at the Center for Conflicts and Humanitarian Studies and Associate Professor at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies.

## **Mehdi Mabrouk**

### **CAREP Tunis**

Mehdi Mabrouk is a Tunisian sociologist, academic and politician. He served as Tunisia's Minister of Culture from 2012 to 2014. He was a member of the Migration Research Unit at the Centre d'études et de recherches économiques et sociales (CERES). Between 1999 and 2000, he was a lecturer in sociology at the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences in Tunis, and on illegal immigration and youth. Mehdi Mabrouk is a member of the Scientific Council of the Tunisian Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts (Beit al-Hikma) and Director of the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies -Tunis.

## **Morgann Barbara Pernet Ali**

### **Iris (EHESS) / Institut Convergences Migrations**

Morgann Barbara PERNOT ALI holds a PhD from Iris (EHESS) and the Institut Convergences Migrations. Since 2018, she has been studying the effects of social change and migrations on the reproductive work of several generations of Yemeni women, based on an ethnography conducted in Arabic with migrant Yemeni women and families in Djibouti. Her work has been published in scientific journals and collective volumes in French, English, and Arabic.

## Ahmad Sadiddin

### Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Ahmad Sadiddin is an economist at the Agrifood Economics and Policy Division of the FAO. He holds a bachelor degree in agricultural engineering from Al Baath University (Syria), a master degree in agricultural economics from the University of London, and a PhD in agricultural economics and policy from the University of Naples Federico II. He is a member of the FAO Team responsible for preparing the annual report on The State of Food and Agriculture. He has worked on various topics, including interlinkages of rural transformations and rural migration, economics of water and climate change and the hidden costs of agrifood systems. Before joining the FAO, he worked for the University of Florence (2013-2016) and for the National Agricultural Policy Center in Damascus/Syria (2002-2012).

## Damien Simonneau

### INALCO

Damien Simonneau is a lecturer in political science, researcher on contemporary border security, particularly within the Israel-Palestine space.

## Mutasem Syouf

### The Day After

Mutasem Syoufi is a Syrian activist who has been working for democracy and human rights in Syria since the Damascus Spring in 2000. His focus on analyzing the impact of international and geopolitical competition on the Syrian conflict brings valuable insights to his advocacy work. He currently serves as the executive director of The Day After organization, a Syrian NGO committed to the democratic and human rights future of Syria. Mutasem Syoufi holds a Master's degree in International Affairs and Strategic Studies from King's College London and an MSc in Management in Construction from Kingston University London.

## Özgün Topak

### York University

Özgün E. Topak is an Associate Professor at the Department of Social Science at York University, Canada. He is an Associate Editor of *Surveillance & Society*, and a Resident Scholar at York's Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS). Dr. Topak completed his undergraduate and master's studies at Istanbul University and the Middle East Technical University of Turkey, and later completed a PhD in Sociology at Canada's Queen's University. He is an interdisciplinary social scientist interested in topics of migration, surveillance, authoritarianism, social theory and human rights. He is

primarily interested in the Global South/East contexts and the borders between West/North and East/South such as the Mediterranean. His recent research examines violence, surveillance, human rights, and subjectivity at migrants' long journeys from the Horn of Africa to Europe, through the Sahara and Libya.



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