



German  Institute of Global and Area Studies
Leibniz-Institut für Globale und Regionale Studien

GIGA Research Platform Middle East

Workshop organised by Christiane Fröhlich

November 15-16, 2018

GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies

Neuer Jungfernstieg 21, D-20354 Hamburg

Room 519 (5th floor)

Natural Resources in the MENA region – Building a Sustainable Future under Difficult Conditions

Workshop rationale

Since 2011, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) have experienced social and political upheavals that have not only resulted in fundamental changes in the region's political order, but also in changes in social stratification, economic stability and cultural cohesion. Regime changes in Egypt, Libya, Yemen and Tunisia, the wars in Syria, Libya and Yemen, Iraq's continuing fragmentation, authoritarianism in Turkey, the on-going Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and socio-economic and political grievances in Jordan and Lebanon have dominated the news from the region in recent years together with major population movements within the region. However, all of these developments are set against a background of declining natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable, due to a warming climate, rainfall variability, overuse, pollution and degradation. Regardless of where the regional political regimes and societies are heading, they will have to deal with global and regional environmental change.

This workshop aims to recap how the region's resource base has changed since the beginning of the 21st century in the region, draw lessons from history as well as outline scenarios for the future. Drawing on political economy and political ecology, participants from academia and policy-making will engage with how socioeconomic, political and ecological changes interact in different parts of the Middle East and North Africa. Their contributions will be organised in four panels; three of them will investigate the different dimensions of sustainability by comparing different cases within the region. Panel I will focus on physical and geographical space, i.e. the distribution of and access to natural resources; panel II will investigate the changed and changing cultural space(s) in which resources are used in MENA, with a focus on conflict and cooperation over resources; and panel III will focus on the temporal dimension of sustainability, outlining both lessons learnt and future scenarios. A fourth panel will draw cross-regional comparisons between sustainable resource use in the MENA and other world regions, i.e. Africa, Asia and Latin America.

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, ROOM 519

12:00 *Arrival and welcome, light lunch*

13:00 *Introduction*

13:30 **PANEL I: PHYSICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE – DISTRIBUTION OF AND ACCESS TO NATURAL RESOURCES**

Chair: Janpeter Schilling (U Koblenz-Landau)

Hussam Hussein (U Kassel) – The discourse of water scarcity and hydropolitical dynamics in the case of Jordan

Thomas Richter (GIGA) – New Petro-Aggressions in the Middle East: Conditions of Emergence and Continuity

Annabelle Houdret (GDI Bonn) – How water and land governance influences the rural social contract in North Africa

Thomas Claes (FES Tunisia) – Food sovereignty in North Africa: A social justice lens

15:30: *Coffee break*

16:00 **PANEL II: CULTURAL SPACE – COOPERATION AND CONFLICT OVER NATURAL RESOURCES**

Chair: Christiane Fröhlich (GIGA)

Aysegül Kibaroglu (MEF Istanbul) – Conflict and Cooperation Dynamics in the Euphrates-Tigris river basin

Anan F. Jayyousi (An-Najah U, Nablus) - The Use of Water Allocation Models in Managing Transboundary Water Resources: A Case from Palestine

Tobias Ide (Georg Eckert Institute, Braunschweig) – Water Conflict during Drought in the MENA Region

Abdelrahman Sultan (Ecopeace Middle East) – The Water Energy Nexus in the Middle East

20:00: *Workshop dinner* – Restaurant Stricker's KehrWiederSpitze (for directions see map attached)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, ROOM 519

09:30 *Welcome coffee*

10:00 **PANEL III: TEMPORAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY – LESSONS LEARNT AND FUTURE SCENARIOS**

Chair: Thomas Richter (GIGA)

Clemens Hoffmann (U Stirling) – The Social Relations of Nature in the Middle East - Towards a Geo-Political Ecology of Crisis

Ethemcan Turhan (KTH Stockholm) – The politics of carbon market establishment in Turkey: Some insights for the Middle East

Kerstin Fritzsche (IASS Potsdam) – Digitalization and sustainability in the MENA region – a snapshot at interlinkages and potential pathways

12:00: *Lunch*

13:00 **PANEL IV: CROSS-REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES – MENA AND THE WORLD**

Chair: Sabine Kurtenbach (GIGA)

Almut Schilling-Vacaflor (U Osnabrück) – Contestations over resource governance in Latin America: participation, rights and the environment

Kerstin Nolte (U Hannover) – Land use competition in Sub-Saharan Africa's rural areas

Anna Fünfgeld (GIGA) – Governing Resources, Governing People: From Timber to Coal in Indonesia

Christiane Fröhlich (GIGA) – Land, water, power: Assessing natural resources in the post-revolutionary Middle East

15: 00: *Wrap-up discussion*

15:30: *Farewell coffee*

16:00: *End*