

*Reset Dialogues*  
*North African Seminars on Pluralism*

**2022 Carthage Seminars on  
Cultural and Religious Pluralism and Political Liberties**

# **The Challenge of Social Change in Arab Countries**

**Summer School and International Symposium  
July 04-08, 2022  
Academy “Beit al-Hikma”, Carthage, Tunisia**

Organized by  
Reset Dialogues on Civilizations (Italy) and Reset Dialogues (US),  
*in collaboration with*  
The Tunisian Academy of Sciences, Letters, and Arts “Beit al-Hikma” (Carthage-Tunis)  
*with the support of*  
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## **Scope**

Social protests in the Arab world have inspired hope and optimism and reminded internal and external observers and scholars of persistent realities that challenge democratization. The divide between secular and religious wings of the political sphere has receded from the forefront, whereas the growing social discontent, the crosscutting need for welfare, prosperity, efficiency in public services and a more dynamic and free social life is transcending old political cleavages. The Jasmine revolution of December 2010 that began in Tunisia and ignited reform movements across the region is remarkable in contemporary socio-political history. It fueled new research across philosophy, theology, legal theory, politics and the history of ideas, and beyond. However, the last decade has been marked by turmoil and backlash. The Covid-19 global pandemic added immense challenges at the socio-political and economic levels. And the rise of tensions between Western powers and Russia, and the latter's occupation of Ukraine have also provoked a major crisis with immense global economic consequences and worsening living conditions in some parts of the Middle East and North Africa, where people have returned to the streets to demand the change promised by the earlier social protests.

The 2022 Carthage Seminars aim first to further study social, religious and political diversity in the Arab world by listening to local scholars and their evaluation of the transformations in the region, and by involving international scholars that have been studying the area for decades. The Seminars aim, second, to bring together an important number of young scholars, researchers, professionals, teachers, young journalists, media activists, from the region and from outside. Finally, the Seminars aim to engage into profound philosophical, theological, legal, and cultural discussions with the participants during the Summer School classes and workshops over the current issues that concern the changing Arab societies, focusing on pluralism in culture and religion, political liberties and freedoms of expression, human rights discourses, global political and environmental challenges, and the role of the social media and the digital world, the youth, and civil society in these historical moments.

### **Speakers and faculty:**

Wahid Abdelmeguid, Stefano Allievi, Lisa Anderson, Meysam Badamchi, Joseph Bahout, Amel Boubekour, Georges Fahmi, Amel Grami, Sharan Grewal, Mohamed Haddad, Sari Hanafi, Mohammed Hashas, Elizabeth Suzanne Kassab, Volker Kaul, Jonathan Laurence, Mohammed Masbah, Nejia Ouriemmi, Renata Pepicelli, Mounir Saidani.

## **Conference Program**

### **Day 1 - July 07, 2022**

09:00-09:30

Registration and welcome coffee

09:30-10:00

### **Opening session**

**Nejia Ouriemmi**, Academician, Academy “Beit al-Hikma,” Carthage

**Jonathan Laurence**, Director, Boston College; Reset Dialogues US

**Mohammed Hashas**, Scientific Coordinator, Reset DOC; Luiss University, Rome

### **Session 1 - Social Change and the Arab-Muslim Intelligentsia**

10:00-11:30

#### **Panel 1**

**Mohamed Haddad**, The social and the political in the Tunisian experience

**Amel Grami**, Academia and social change in the region: What is missing?

**Wahid Abdelmeguid**, Primitive thinking and the Arab social crisis

Chair: **Nejia Ouriemmi**, University of Tunis al-Manar; Academy “Beit al-Hikma”

11:30-11:45 Break

11:45-13:15

### Panel 2

**Elizabeth Suzanne Kassab**, The intellectual challenges for keeping up with the social changes: the case of contemporary Arab political thought

**Mohammed Hashas**, For change in the Arab world: Three projects from Rabat School

**Meysam Badamchi**, The quest for reform in Islamic contexts: A comparative reflection on H. Hanafi and H. Yousefi Eshkevari

Chair: **Jonathan Laurence**, Boston College; Reset Dialogues US

13:15-14:30 Lunch Break

## Session 2: Constitutionalism and Minorities in the Arab World

14:30-16:00

### Panel 3

**Nejia Ouriemmi**, The future of the minorities in the Arab world: What role for the concept of citizenship?

**Volker Kaul**, Arab constitutionalism: Between freedom, identity and the truth

**Georges Fahmi**, Christian churches in the MENA and the Arab Spring (*Online*)

Chair: **Mohammed Hashas**, Luiss University, Rome; Reset DOC

16:00-16:30 Break

16:30-18:00

### Panel 4

**Lisa Anderson**, On the social sciences in the Arab world (*Online*)

**Mounir Saidani**, Is (changing) sociology a social demand now?

**Sari Hanafi**, What does the ethical turn mean for the social sciences?

Chair: **Volker Kaul**, Charles University, Prague; Reset DOC

**Day 2 – July 08, 2022**

**Session 3: Failed social change and the rising challenges: sectarianism, migration, natural crises, and State reactions**

09:00-10:30

**Panel 5**

**Joseph Bahout**, Social change in Syria-Lebanon

**Amel Boubekeur**, Analyzing change in Algeria (*Online*)

**Sharan Grewal**, US reactions to coups in Sudan, Tunisia, and Egypt

Chair: **Sari Hanafi**, American University of Beirut

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-12:15

**Panel 6**

**Stefano Allievi**, Human mobility and plural societies: Migrations, cultural conflicts and social change

**Renata Pepicelli**, Environmental changes and challenges in the Arab world: The case of Tunisia

**Mohammed Masbah**, The bureaucratization of “State Islam”: The case of Morocco

Chair: **Elizabeth Suzanne Kassab**, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

12:15-13:15

Young Scholars Space - Synthetic Presentations of Summer School Workshops.

13:15-14:30 Lunch.

**End of Carthage Seminars 2022.**