

14th SeSaMO Conference

PATHS OF RESISTANCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

University of Turin (Italy)

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SOCIETÀ PER GLI STUDI SUL MEDIO ORIENTE

TITLE: Law as Resistance

CONVENOR(S): - Roberta Aluffi
- Gianluca Parolin
- Serena Tolino

ABSTRACT:

In line with the general theme of the 2019 Conference (Paths of Resistance in the Middle East and North Africa), the panel organisers wish to solicit papers engaging with issues of law as resistance in the region.

Law generally plays the role of the villain in most stories of resistance. We believe that there is more to be said. At least, there are instances of law as resistance (beyond and away from Fitzpatrick 2008).

We invite submissions engaging with any of these angles:

(Imperial fiqh) Is there space to argue that imperial jurists devised fiqh as a stronghold able to resist pressures from political authorities and their laws?

(Legal History) What evidence can we conjure to support the counter-intuitive statement that during colonial times law was also used to resist the coloniser?

(Law&Colonialism) Some have started to deconstruct the calls for sharia in contemporary contexts as direct challenges to current illiberal regimes. A form of 'protected' resistance?

(Law&Lit) If literature is an avenue to explore forms of resistance of and to the law, how can we read for example the account of Tawfiq al-Ḥakīm or the citizen-detective in 'detective' stories?

(Law&Language) The language of the 'modern', positive law has largely become the hegemonic language of law triumphant. Where can one find counter-hegemonic challenges to this state of affairs?

(Law&Gender): How law has been used as an instrument of resistance to challenge patriarchal norms and/or hegemonic forms of masculinity and femininity?

(Law&Feminism): What is the relation between feminist demands for legal reforms and the law? What are the conditions that allow for some of these demands to make their way into the law? And what are the conditions that hinder that?

CONVENOR'S ACADEMIC PROFILE:

Roberta Aluffi is a comparative lawyer working on law and religion and law and migration issues. Her research is particularly focused on the Moroccan legal experience in the last century.

Gianluca Parolin is a comparative lawyer currently looking into the transformations of the semiotics of law in Egypt over the past two centuries, and the intersections between law and popular culture in contemporary Egypt.

Serena Tolino is an Islamicist particularly interested in the history of Islamic Law and in law in contemporary Egypt. She is currently working on gender and sexuality in Islamicate contexts in both the past and the present.