

14th SeSaMO Conference

PATHS OF RESISTANCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

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SOCIETÀ PER GLI STUDI SUL MEDIO ORIENTE

TITLE: *RESISTANCE AND SCHOLARSHIP. WHAT RESISTANCE FOR ACADEMICS?*

CONVENOR(S):

- Nicola Perugini
- Gabriele Proglia
- Paola Rivetti

ABSTRACT:

The academe has historically played an ambiguous role vis-a-vis the state and other centres of power. While it served as a site of state reproduction, it has also been a site of contestation, where generations have developed critical skills to protests and mobilise against national as well as international policies, ranging from war intervention to the commodification of higher education. This panel asks what resistance - and what academic freedom that can protect the right to resist -, if any, can survive interlocked financial and political pressures. The panel has an interest in contextualising and discussing campaigns such as the boycott of Israeli universities (BDS's PACBI), the role of academics and the scholarship in anti-authoritarian mobilisations for peace in Syria and elsewhere, as well as the unionisation of precarious lecturers in private universities in the region, with the goal of putting in conversation different struggles located in different temporalities and geographies. The panel looks for empirical papers that contribute real experiences and theoretical papers that connect mobilisations and political imaginations. In particular, we are interested in reflecting at the intersection between the panelists' experiences, their engagement with Middle East politics and their educational philosophy.

CONVENOR'S ACADEMIC PROFILE:

Nicola Perugini is a Lecturer in International Relations in the University of Edinburgh (UK).

Gabriele Proglia is an FCT researcher at the Centre for Social Studies (University of Coimbra). He is an Oral and Cultural Historian. His research specializations include History of the Mediterranean, mobility and borders, migration and diaspora studies, subjectivity and memory studies, postcolonial theory and decolonial thought, colonial heritages in Europe.

Paola Rivetti is an Assistant Professor in Middle East Politics and International Relations in the School of Law and Government, Dublin City University (Ireland).