

**WORKSHOP ON**  
**THE PULSE OF THE ARAB STREETS**  
**APRIL 3-4, 2014**  
**CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, USA**

**CONTEXT**

Three years into the transition following the political upheavals in the Arab world, the new rulers in several countries are facing daunting challenges. These include a difficult democratization process and deteriorating social and economic conditions. In most cases, there is little understanding about the ongoing transformations taking place in society, which complicate policy-making further.

The Economic Research Forum (ERF), as an impartial regional network, is well positioned to help address the above challenges and has embarked upon carrying out a research project on “The pulse of the Arab Street: Understanding the Political Economy of the Arab Uprisings Using Novel Public Opinion Data”. This innovative research program proposes to study the various dimensions of the ongoing social, economic, and political transformations in Arab societies through its use of nationally-representative opinion surveys to examine developments and transformations on the “Arab street” through the eyes and voices of the most relevant yet most under-researched actors – ordinary Arab citizens.

This project, carried out in collaboration with Silatech, is led by Ishac Diwan in the context of ERF’s thematic research agenda on the political economy of transformation in the Arab region. A team of researchers with a deep understanding of the region and its specificities will seek to fill an existing gap in rigorous, quantitative, evidence-based research on the political economy of contemporary Arab societies.

**WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the workshop is to provide a platform for discussing the draft papers and their preliminary findings among authors and experts in political economy in order to improve the final output.

**AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION**

The workshop will convene for 2 days at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, on April 3-4, 2014, gathering around 25-30 participants.

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**AGENDA**

**DAY ONE: THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2014**

*Fainsod Room (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Littauer Building, HKS)*

**09:00-09:15 Welcome Remarks**

**Speaker:** Ishac Diwan (Harvard University and ERF)

**9:15-11:00 Session 1: Grievances**

**Moderator:** Ahmed Galal (Economic Research Forum)

**Speakers:** Melani Cammett and Nisreen Salti, *Memories of Redistribution: Welfare legacies and Political Attitudes and Behavior.*  
Anya Vodopyanov, *Loyalty and Exit from the Authoritarian Economy: What Public Attitudes Towards Regime Distributive Politics Can Tell us about Contention During the 2011 Uprisings.*

**Discussants:** Filipe Campante (Harvard University)  
Raj Desai (Georgetown University)

**11:00-11:30 Coffee Break**

**11:30-01:30 Session 2: Redistribution**

**Moderator:** Maged Osman (Baseera Center)

**Speakers:** Tarek Masoud, *Between Dictates and Dispensations: Experimental Evidence on Religious Legitimacy and Policy Attitudes.*  
Mahmoud El Gamal, *Redistribution, Political Islam and Uprising.*

**Discussants:** Jeffrey Nugent (University of Southern California and ERF)  
Mark Tessler (University of Michigan)

**01:30-02:30 Lunch**

**02:30- 03:30 Special Guest Speaker:** Mark Tessler, *Islam and the Search for a Political Formula: The Attitudes of Middle Eastern Muslim Publics.*

**03:30-05:30 Session 3: Religion**

**Moderator:** Malika Zeghal (Harvard University)

**Speakers:** Sami Atallah and Jad Chaaban, *Impact of Societal Polarization on Civic Trust.*  
Jeff Nugent, *Socio-political Attitudes Across the World: To What Extent Are They Affected by One's Religion, Its Importance, Majority Status and Relative Income?*

**Discussants:** Mahmoud El-Gamal (Rice University and ERF)  
Melani Cammett (Brown University)

**DAY TWO: APRIL 4, 2014**

(MEI Conference Room)

**9:00-11:00**

**Session 5: Gender**

**Moderator:** Lant Pritchett (Harvard University)

**Speakers:** Rania Salem, *Gendering the Costs and Benefits of the Arab Uprisings in Six Arab Countries Using the Gallup Surveys.*

Jeni Klugman and Ishac Diwan, *Patterns of Veiling: Some Emerging Correlations from Gallup World Poll.*

**Discussants:** Nader Kabbani (Silatech and ERF)  
Sanam Anderlini (ICAN)

**11:00-11:30**

**Coffee Break**

**11:30-02:15**

**Session 6: Mass Movements**

**Moderator:** Nader Kabbani (Silatech)

**Speakers:** Mohamed Al-Ississ and Samer Atallah, *Anatomy of Dissent in Arab Public Opinion.*

Stephen Kosack, Evan Smith, Ashley Fabrizio: *Economic Conditions and Mass Movements: Determinants and Effects.*

Raj Desai, Anders Olofsguard, and Tarik Youssef, *Exclusion and Dissent: Explaining Political Action Among Youth.*

**Discussants:** Lant Pritchett (Harvard University)  
Hadi Esfahani (University of Illinois and ERF)  
Anya Vodopianov (Harvard University)

**02:15-03:30**

**Lunch**

**03:30-05:30**

**Session 7: After the Revolution**

**Moderator:** Roger Owen (Harvard University)

**Speakers:** Magued Osman, *Measuring Public Opinion During Egypt's Struggle to Democracy.*

Ishac Diwan and Mohamed Al Ississ, *After the Uprisings.*

**Discussants:** Sami Atallah (LCPS and ERF)  
Zafiris Tzannatos (Silatech)

**05:30-06:00**

**Wrap up and next steps**

**Speakers:** Ishac Diwan and Nader Kabbani

**Open discussion**

## List of Participants

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Email</b>
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