2014 Bernheim Summer School on Contemporary Issues on Security, Peace and Conflicts: Building Peace after the Arab Springs

Transitional or politized justice in the "Arab Spring" countries?

First Lecturer

Valerie Rosoux

Department/Unit: ISPOLE

Institution: FNRS - UCLouvain

Email: valerie.rosoux@uclouvain.be

Bio

Dr. Valerie Rosoux is a senior research fellow at the Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS). She teaches International Negotiation, and Conflict Transformation at the University of Louvain (UCL). In 2010-2011, she was a Senior Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace (Washington). As a post-doctoral researcher, she worked at The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in 2002, the Center for International Studies and Research (CERI), Institut d’Études Politiques of Paris (2001) and the University Laval, Canada (2000). Valerie Rosoux has a Licence in Philosophy and a Ph.D. in International Relations.

Second lecturer

Elena Aoun

Department/Unit: ISPOLE

Institution: UCL (Mons)

Email: elena.aoun@uclouvain.be

Bio

Elena Aoun is Assistant Professor at the UCL (Mons) and member of the CECRI research center. She has taught a wide variety of courses over the years in different universities mostly in the fields of International Relations, the European Union Institutions and Policies and Peace and Conflict Studies. Her research interests revolve around EU foreign policy, the Middle East and its various conflicts, the Middle East peace process, and international civil society. She has also worked on International Criminal Justice as a post-doctoral student at the Institute for European Studies (Université de
Montréal and McGill University; 2008-2009). Earlier on, the PhD dissertation she wrote at the Institut d’études Politiques de Paris focused on the EU involvement in the search for an Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

Outline

This course engages the issue of justice in the aftermath of the “Arab Springs”. Transitional justice came to be recognized in recent decades as an important component of post-crisis and post-war situations. Considering the massive human rights abuses and widespread corruption that prevailed under the pre-Arab Spring regimes in the various Arab countries, transitional justice would be a most relevant tool to overcome the past and to build post-revolution societies and polities on fairer and more equitable terms. Focusing especially on the Tunisian and Egyptian cases, the course will show however the extent to which politicized justice rather than true transitional justice has prevailed so far, and the short term and longer term consequences of such politicization. A couple of present situations will be assessed and the problems pertaining to politicized justice and unfulfilled transitional justice will be pinpointed and analyzed. Overall, the course aims at introducing the theory of transitional justice and at familiarizing the students with the relevant challenges in the framework of the Arab Spring.