



## CALL FOR PAPERS

Collaborative project between the London School of Economics and the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University

**“Egypt in the Arab Spring: Multidisciplinary Research Perspective”**

**First graduate conference:  
Perspectives from Economics and Democratisation Studies**

London School of Economics, London, 28 September 2012

Submissions are welcome for papers to be presented at the first of two one-day graduate conferences jointly organized by the London School of Economics and the Faculty of Economics and Political Science (FEPS), Cairo University. PhD students enrolled for any PhD programme at FEPS are welcome to **apply by Friday 22 June 2012** with single-authored papers in English on either of the two research themes mentioned below.

The organizing committee aims at selecting at least **six paper givers from FEPS**. The chosen presenters will be assigned a **scholarship** covering air travel costs (up to GBP500) and two-nights accommodation in London, thanks to the generous contribution of the Emirates Foundation for Philanthropy through the LSE Middle East Centre.

### **Theme of the conference**

The conference aims at discussing the causes and immediate implications of the Egyptian revolution in the context of the Arab Spring from an economic / political economy and democratisation perspective. The conference will be structured in two sections; each section will be introduced by a paper by one of the members of the steering committee of the collaborative project and will include at least six papers from both LSE and FEPS PhD students, organized in two panels.

#### **1) Political economy perspectives**

The Arab Spring is considered an inspiring phase for transition in Arab countries like Egypt, Tunisia and Libya. One of the driving forces behind the eruption of the revolutions in those countries was the deteriorated economic situation and living conditions of the majority of people. A multidimensional reform process is

inevitable for governments of these countries if they want to overcome economic problems and build a modern society with high growth prospects.

This section will be introduced by a paper by Dr Ola El Khawaga (FEPS) titled: **The implications of the January 25th revolution on the Egyptian economy.** Submissions are welcomed on any aspects related to the study of political economy of transition, and the following are particularly encouraged:

- Challenges facing the Egyptian economy post the Revolution.
- Poverty and youth unemployment as a panicking problem in Egyptian Economy.
- Revising, as well as harmonizing, the role of the donors' financial assistance and donors to support the Egyptian economy.
- Assessing economic progress post the revolution.
- Managing monetary and fiscal policies in the transition period.
- Political economy dynamics pertaining to the business medium and working class in Egypt

Prospective applicants are encouraged to consult a good manual on political economy such as: The economics of growth, Aghion/Howitt (MIT); World Bank/political economy publications; Trade, growth, poverty and politics toward a unified theory, Gruben (Princeton); Political economy of foreign aid, Hopkins (John Hopkins).

## 2) Democratisation

This section aims at locating the Egyptian revolution, and broadly the Arab Spring, within the main debates on the causes and processes of democratization. It will be introduced by a paper by Dr Marco Pinfari (LSE) titled: **Between preconditions and efficient causes: the Egyptian revolution and its implications for the study of democratic transitions.** Submissions are welcome on any aspect related to the study of democratic transitions, but the following are particularly encouraged:

- Comparative analyses of the role of individual systemic (education, economic development, religion, etc.) or contingent factors (leadership, external intervention, etc.) in the democratization process in Egypt or other Arab Spring countries;
- Assessment of the role that factors such as social capital or economic development can play in these democratization processes, ideally based on primary material (e.g. surveys);
- Analyses focused on "less conventional" approaches to democratization, especially on the role of the so-called "domino" or "snowball effect" or on the importance of media in democratization processes, again with a focus on Egypt or, comparatively, on Arab Spring countries.

Prospective applicants who are uncertain as to whether their theme of interest falls within this field of study are encouraged to consult a good manual on democratization studies, such as Linz/Stepan "Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation" (Johns Hopkins UP); Haerpfer et al. "Democratization" (Oxford UP); Putnam, "Making Democracy Work" (Princeton);

Huntington “The Third Wave” (Oklahoma UP), to become familiar with the themes and approaches used in this field of research.

### **Submission procedure (FEPS)**

Please submit your paper proposal by **Friday 22 June 2012**. The proposal must be submitted via email as a Word document or pdf attachment; the email must be sent to Dr Marco Pinfari ([m.pinfari@lse.ac.uk](mailto:m.pinfari@lse.ac.uk)) and Ms Dahlia AlOrabi ([masteuromed@yahoo.com](mailto:masteuromed@yahoo.com)) as CC.

The proposal should include:

- The title of the paper
- An outline / abstract of the content (max 250 words)
- A brief overview of the academic literature and methodology to be used in the paper (max 250 words)

Please note that the proposals and the final papers must be written (and presented) in English, and that only single-authored papers will be considered.

The coordinators of the project will assess the proposals on the basis of three criteria, which will be given equal weight: 1) overall relevance and importance of the themes and approaches described in the abstract; 2) methodological consistency and evidence of engagement with current academic debates in the chosen issue-area; 3) relevance for (at least) one of the two conference themes.

The coordinators will contact all applicants by Tuesday **26 June 2012**; the applicants who submitted the best proposals will be invited for a short interview, which will take place in Cairo on **28 June 2012**, in which the shortlisted applicants will be asked to elaborate on aspects of their proposal. The interview will be held in English. The committee will then decide which ones among the shortlisted applicants will be invited for the conference (and therefore receive the scholarship) on the basis of both their proposal and the interview. The decision of the coordinators is final and non-negotiable.

If you have any question, please feel free to contact Dr Marco Pinfari ([m.pinfari@lse.ac.uk](mailto:m.pinfari@lse.ac.uk)).